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## CAPE TOWN OPENS ITS HEART TO BLAZE VICTIMS

**Zukile Majova**



Wildfires running through urban residential properties at high speed often result in dozens of lives lost.

Not in Cape Town where hundreds of residents worked with firefighters and other emergency services to rescue people, pets, evacuate other residents and even offer free accommodation to students evacuated from the University of Cape Town.

In a matter of hours, the city was sprawling with good Samaritans advising hikers and cyclists to abandon planned trips through the scenic Table Mountain Nature Reserve.

Others helped move cars off street parking to make way for emergency services to fight the blaze unhindered in an otherwise very busy metropolitan city.

“Any UCT student res students who have been directly affected by the fire are welcome to come over to Den Anker this evening. We will serve you a plate of food, you will need to provide us with proof of your res card,” Den Anker Restaurant said on Twitter.

Other residents provided support, water and food to various fire stations as over 150 firefighters, 26 fire trucks, four helicopters, SANPark Rangers and metropolice officers rallied to the front line.

Overwhelmed by the generosity of its residents, the City of Cape Town had to take charge and remind donors that “foodstuffs being donated should be sealed in accordance with Covid-19 protocols”.

“Public donations towards the firefighting efforts can be dropped off at the Roeland Street fire station. Anyone who wishes to provide donations is advised that the four items required are: water, energade, energy bars and eyegene.”

Judy Mckenzie, who even posted her cellphone number on Twitter said: “I am happy to accommodate 4-6 students. I am a UCT staff member and I live in Rosebank.”

Observers said the fire gutted vast areas of the Table Mountain Nature Reserve, parts of the city, the Rhodes Memorial and threatened UCT's African Studies special collections library.

The library houses priceless literature, newspapers and periodicals including the Great IsiXhosa dictionary, the isiXhosa newspapers Izimvo Zabantsundu and Isigidimi Sabantsundu.

Table Mountain National Park confirmed that the Rhodes Memorial fire was reported at 9am.

“TMNP/contract wildfire crews from the Newlands Firebase were dispatched immediately.

“The location of the fire was immediately above Philip Kgosana Drive/Hospital Bend.

“After the initial investigation, it is surmised that the origin of the fire is from a vacated vagrant fire.”

SANParks Acting Head of Communications said: “The Rhodes Memorial restaurant has unfortunately burnt down. The fire has also spread to the veld above the University of Cape Town upper campus and to areas below the M3.”

Video source: @Artii\_M

Picture source: Twitter

## Joburg clinics under pressure as Charlotte Maxeke shut by fire

**Everson Luhanga**



There will be huge pressure on clinics in the Johannesburg region in the next few days as Charlotte Maxeke hospital has been temporarily shut down.

Nurses said the fire that gutted the Special Dispensary Stores section of the hospital will not only hinder services at one of the country’s biggest hospitals, but also the clinics in the city and in the entire province.

Services at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital have been suspended for seven days.

Over 400 patients were transferred to different nearby health facilities due to the fire that broke out on Friday.

A nurse at one Johannesburg clinic said the temporary closure of the main hospital is putting pressure on local clinics.

And the Gauteng provincial department of health said patients should seek help from other health centres in the province.

Provincial health spokesperson Kwara Kekana said the closing of the facility will allow for an assessment of the situation before any on site services can be restored.

“Fire fighters are currently working to bring under control the fire that broke out on Friday morning. We are appealing to walk-in patients to seek medical services at other facilities closest to them.

“Details on the cause of the fire are still unknown. The relevant authorities will immediately commence with investigations once the fire has been extinguished,” said Kwara.

Picture source: @GautengHealth

## South Africans. Do not do this with a crocodile

Joie Henney from Pennsylvania, USA and his alligator, Wally, are the best of pals.



“For some reason he doesn’t kill anything,” says Henney. “He never tried to bite anybody.”

He says Wally is officially registered as an emotional support animal.

“We just hang around and watch television,” said Henney, stroking Wally’s scaly spine.

Perhaps an alligator can be a house pet, but be very careful about trying this with a South African crocodile.

And a word of advice to Joie: it will take only one bite from Wally to end this romance.

Video & Picture source: @GatorsDaily

## Dr Eight Distinctions



Achieving eight distinctions in matric exams was already a special achievement for Lindani Nkosi from King Dinuzulu High School in Nongoma.

He is now taking it to the next level.

The young man from White City in northern rural KwaZulu-Natal is on his way to studying to become a doctor.

The 19-year-old has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence and a laptop to help him with his tertiary studies by the Nongoma Local Municipality at the annual Mayoral Excellence Awards.

Lindani told Scrolla.Africa achieving great results in life you have to give it your all.

“You have to be self-motivated and be in control. You can’t depend on anybody else because when the obstacles come, they hit you and you are alone,” said Lindani who is already doing his first year of medicine studies at the University of KZN in Durban through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

His mother, Zanele Madlopha said Lindani took his school work seriously.

“Even at crèche he was already serious about his school work,” she said.

“I also want to thank Dinuzulu High School. His teachers also worked very hard and they worked with us as parents,” she said.

“I can’t wait to see him achieving his lifelong dream of being a doctor.”

“I love being at tertiary,” said Lindani.

“But I can’t wait to get back home and serve my community.”

# Man who put abducted girls through hell on earth is arrested

**Kabelo Tlhabanelo**



The parents and relatives of three girls who were kidnapped and trafficked last year say they are delighted and relieved by the arrest of one of the suspected perpetrators.

But the alleged kingpin is still on the loose and a relative of one of the victims said he would only find peace once all those responsible for the crimes are sentenced.

The two schoolgirls were kidnapped last November from Phuthaditjhaba and taken to Sasolburg, Free State where they were forced into prostitution.

One parent said it was hell on earth hearing what her daughter had gone through.

“I was happy that I found my daughter alive. But hearing her ordeal broke my heart,” she said.

“I know this man was not alone. Just as I prayed for an arrest the rest will still face the law.”

Tshepo Ntsabeng was arrested on 14 April by the Hawks and briefly appeared before the Phuthaditjhaba Magistrate’s Court, where he faced charges of human trafficking. More arrests are expected.

The three girls, all aged 17, were reported missing on 20 November and were spotted roaming the streets in Sasolburg on 2 December.

It was later found that one of the three girls was used by suspects to lure the two other girls.

She has been arrested and charged with soliciting and human trafficking. She appeared in court on 7 December and is out under the care of her parents. She will appear again in court on 29 April.

Free State Hawks spokesperson Captain Christopher Singo said: “We are looking for another suspect who is suspected to be the kingpin.”

Ntsabeng will appear again on 22 April to submit a formal bail application.

## Revenge of the elephants

**Kamogelo Muvhenzhe**

A suspected poacher was trampled to death by a herd of elephants at the Kruger National Park on Saturday.



Spokesman for the South African National Parks Isaac Phaahla said the man and his two accomplices were fleeing from rangers when they ran into a herd of breeding elephants.

“Two suspects were spotted by the rangers and when they tried to run away, rangers requested back-up from the Airwing and K9 unit,” Phaahla said.

“When they realised they had been spotted, the suspected poachers dropped an axe and a bag with their provisions and tried to flee.”

One of the suspects was arrested and he informed the rangers that he and his accomplices ran into a herd of elephants and was not sure if his accomplice had escaped.

The rangers discovered the badly trampled body after his accomplice was arrested.

The third suspect who was also injured managed to flee.

Phaahla said a rifle was recovered and the case was referred to police who attended the scene with a pathology team.

Kruger National Park is the largest poaching target in Southern Africa.

Picture source: @SANParksAENP

# Ditch the strollers. These wrinklies can rap

Arthur Greene



They're old enough to be grandads, but they're rapping up a storm in the British rap industry.

Pete & Bas, 67 and 71 respectively, have been an increasingly central presence in UK Grime - a genre of British rap music.

Last week, they dropped their debut mixtape, *Quick Little Mixtape*, which they promise is "the best music you'll ever hear".

In 2018, they dropped their first single, "Shut Ya Mouth," a comedic banger which made light of their age, while rapping about the classic rap themes of violence, drugs and sex.

Their lyrics hilariously contrasted their old age with the youthful and aggressive energy of UK rap, shooting music videos featuring flashy cars, expensive tracksuits and dark shades.

In “the old estate,” they rap “grab the wheel then the axel's spinning, I've been in this game from my hairline thinning”.

Their bars land with as much punch as any rapper in the UK scene, while their gruff cockney tones perfectly complement heavy grime beats.

In their music videos they look like two fearsome London drug lords.

And the duo are notoriously secretive. Very little is known about their lives prior to their successful turn as gangsta' rappers, fuelling online speculation.

They write their songs themselves, with their grandsons and a couple of their friends providing beats and production for them.

“They give us the beat, and we provide the words,” Pete told *South London Press*. “I am a South London boy so talking fast is not a problem.”

Picture source: @SheilaCather

# Putin's arch-enemy Navalny "close to death"

Arthur Greene



The doctors of the imprisoned dissident Alexei Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's most vocal political opponent, have warned that he "will die within the next few days" if not given medical attention.

Four Russian doctors, including Navalny's personal physician, have written an open letter to prison authorities to urgently request permission to treat him.

In the letter, they argue that his recent blood tests indicate that he could suffer cardiac arrest or kidney failure.

They say that his "catastrophically high" potassium levels could lead to heart failure "at any minute."

Navalny has been on a hunger strike for the past 19 days in an attempt to receive medical treatment for acute back pain and leg numbness.

He is being kept in the infamous Matrosskaya Tishina, a prison which is known for the notoriously poor conditions in which its prisoners are kept.

He was jailed in February on old embezzlement charges and handed a sentence of two-and-a-half years.

Navalny, 44, almost died in August last year, when he was poisoned with the chemical nerve agent, Novichok.

He has openly accused Putin's government of carrying out the attempt on his life, which Putin has denied.

However, Putin's administration has a long and extensive history of being accused of poisoning its political opponents.

Picture source: @Reuters

# Local filmmakers take Limpopo back to the bioscope

Lwazi Nongauza

The Bioscope Yarena showcases Limpopo-based filmmakers and it is breaking records on social media.



Bioscope Yarena, founded by Mashupe Phala and driven by Limpopo citizens, is proving to be a successful enterprise.

The project screenings are done at municipal halls where a large projector is used to create a viewing setup for local audiences.

At Ga Molepo, for example, films such as *After Robot* by Kabelo Shirinde, *I Hurt Her* by Sibongile Mothapo and *Who Should I Call Him* by Larzarous Thema and Setsepu Kgadima are some of the films that were screened by Bioscope Yarena.

In an exclusive interview with Scrolla.Africa, Bioscope Yarena mobile cinema coordinator, Takalani Tshinesa, said they hoped the envisioned national government stimulus funds for arts and

culture would have a meaningful impact on Limpopo-based filmmakers.

“The initial plan was to screen 50 films from Limpopo, with films from each district, but the submissions and overwhelming society appetite has led us to expand our initial scope,” said Takalani.

“We know this needs a lot of resources and this is why we are negotiating with a few strategic stakeholders in the hope of finding others who will add meaningful value to our local filmmakers.”

Bioscope Yarena has created employment for 26 people.

The project has already visited Vhembe Waterberg, Mopani and Sekhukhune, as it journeys across Limpopo.

Takalani said they want to end the sidelining of Limpopo films by existing cinemas.

“More than 75% of Limpopo-based citizens have never been in those cinemas and our local filmmakers don’t have platforms to showcase their films in the province or anywhere else,” he said.

# Zwilenkosi puts the family gloves back on

Linda Ximba



The late boxing promoter Thulani Magudulela had a dream to produce world champion boxers - and that is the dream his son Zwilenkosi Magudulela wishes to fulfil.

Thulani died from Covid-19 complications two months ago.

Zwilenkosi said his father's company, Ludonga Boxing Promotions, staged a historic WBC Cruiserweight eliminator fight between Thabiso Mchunu and Ilunga Makabu in Durban in 2015.

Thulani scooped the best promoter award at the Boxing SA ceremony in 2010.

Zwilenkosi has rolled up his sleeves and is readying himself to continue where his father left off.

“I have just finalised logistics and paperwork with Boxing South Africa and I am officially the new owner of Ludonga Boxing Promotions,” he said.

“It would not feel right to abandon my father’s dreams. I know he would turn in his grave if I didn't follow in his footsteps.”

He said he learnt a lot from his father and that he believes that he won't disappoint.

“Just like by father, my wish is to produce many champions and compete in the Eastern Cape. With the good people around me I foresee great times ahead,” said Zwilenkosi.

Now that he is assuming his new role and trading tracksuits for suits he has appointed Sizwe Mthembu to be in charge of training the boxers.

Picture source: TimesLive / Nick Lourens

# Shocked Sundowns knocked out of Nedbank Cup

**Menzi Magubane**



Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila stunned Mamelodi Sundowns to book a place in the final of the Nedbank Cup. The Polokwane-based team beat Sundowns 6-5 on penalties on Sunday afternoon at Loftus Stadium in Tshwane.

The match finished 0-0 after extra time and it was left to penalties to decide who will meet Chippa United in the final next month. Sundowns were hoping to defend their title they won last season after beating Bloemfontein Celtic but it wasn't meant to be.

On Thursday at the same venue Downs humiliated Orlando Pirates by beating them 4-1 in the quarterfinals. Tshakhuma proved to be a different proposition and Sundowns tried everything they could do to crack them but they couldn't.

Now Tshakhuma will face Chippa in the final. The venue, date and time of the final is yet to be confirmed

To reach the final Chippa beat another Tshwane-based side in Pretoria Callies. They defeated the GladAfrica Championship outfit by a single goal at Lucas Moripe Stadium on Saturday.

Both Chippa and Tshakhuma will now turn their focus on trying to save their DStv Premiership status. They are in danger of being relegated to the GladAfrica Championship next season.

Tshakhuma are in 14th place with 19 points and they have nine games remaining. Chilli Boys on the other hand they are in 15th position with 17 points and they have eight games remaining.

Both these teams have league games on Tuesday to try and get those important points. Chippa will host Baroka at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Gqeberha at 3pm while Tshakhuma will play Maritzburg United at Old Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane at 5pm.

On Wednesday Sundowns will travel to Durban to take on AmaZulu in the top of the table clash at Jonsson Kings Park Stadium. Downs will be hoping to stretch their lead on top of the table to nine points if they beat Usuthu.

Second place AmaZulu on the other hand they will be looking to cut their deficit to three points should they beat Downs.

Picture source: @Masandawana