

# WALKERVILLE & SAVANNA CITY TIMES

END OCTOBER 2023

Tel: 011 850 1160 | Email: savannacitytimes1@gmail.com | Website: walkervilleandsavannacitytimes.co.za

## Operation Vala cracks down on non-compliant spaza shops in Savanna City and Lakeside

*In a determined effort to maintain law and order within the Savanna City and Lakeside areas, a multidisciplinary operation led by Midvaal MMC for Development Planning, Mokete Motsamai on 19 October inspected and closed non-compliant spaza shops in Savanna City and Lakeside.*

Law enforcement agencies involved included the Midvaal Law Enforcement Unit, South African Police Services, Immigration officials, Environmental Health Inspectors, and Community Policing Forum (CPF) patrollers. Motsamai, reflecting the township's commitment to the cause, affirmed: "We will not tolerate lawlessness and will continue to conduct these operations in the interest of our residents."

The operation honed in on the essential facets of law enforcement, business licensing, and health compliance within spaza shops. More than 15 establishments were meticulously inspected, resulting in the issuance of various notices for contraventions and non-compliance. These measures underscore the dedication of the local authorities to safeguarding the well-being of residents and ensuring that businesses operate within the bounds of the law. As part of this operation, fines were levied, and in some cases, non-compliant spaza shops faced closure.

"Operation Vala" is committed to upholding the rule of law and preserving the welfare of residents in Savanna City and Lakeside, with zero tolerance for any form of lawlessness or non-compliance among local businesses.

Stakeholders conduct compliance checks at a spaza shop during Operation Vala

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**Hope**

*In the First Epistle to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul delivers a powerful message in 1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing."*

This concise verse holds profound implications for the concept of hope, emphasizing the vital role of prayer in nurturing and sustaining hope in our lives.

Hope is an essential and timeless element of the human experience. It is the beacon that guides us through life's trials and tribulations, inspiring us to persevere, dream, and aspire to a brighter future. In the face of adversity, hope is the force that keeps us going when everything else seems bleak. Pray without ceasing invites us to understand that hope is not a passive emotion but an active and deliberate choice. To pray without ceasing means to maintain an ongoing, open-hearted dialogue with the God, seeking strength, guidance, and solace. It is through this constant connection that hope thrives. When we pray without ceasing, we acknowledge that there are forces greater than ourselves at play. This recognition instills a sense of trust and faith that fuels our hope. It reminds us that we are not alone in our journey and that our struggles are not in vain. This continuous act of prayer keeps the embers of hope burning even in the darkest of times. Hope encourages us to approach life with a grateful heart. Gratitude is closely intertwined with hope, as it shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have. When we cultivate a spirit of gratitude through prayer, our perspective shifts, and we become more attuned to the beauty and blessings that surround us. This, in turn, bolsters our hope, reminding us of the potential for positive change and growth. Hope is a powerful force



Ps Taguta with his wife Diana Dube...  
Walkerville Winds of Change Church

that enables us to move forward with purpose and resilience. It helps us navigate life's uncertainties, confront challenges, and embrace new opportunities with optimism. Through unceasing prayer, we align ourselves with hope, making it an ever-present companion in our lives. Life has a way of presenting challenges and setbacks that can lead to moments of despair. Losing a job, a source of stability and livelihood, can indeed be disheartening. In such moments, it's easy to become overwhelmed by uncertainty, but remember that hope is a beacon that can guide us through even the darkest of storms. I implore you never to relinquish hope, for it is in God that our ultimate hope lies, and events transpire according to His divine timing.

**Emfuleni large power users (LPUs) to pay their electricity consumption directly to Eskom**

*Emfuleni Local Municipality's (ELM) large power users (LPUs) are to pay their electricity consumption directly to Eskom with immediate effect.*

This follows a court order handed down by the Pretoria High Court in July 2023 that the municipality must appoint Eskom as its service delivery agent to perform all functions and services relating to the

municipality's electricity business on its behalf. According to the court order, Eskom and the municipality are to implement and finalise the terms of the agreement within six months from the date of the order subject to the appropriate oversight from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). In the judgement, the court also ordered that in the interim,

industrial customers must pay Eskom directly pending the implementation of the agreement between the power utility and the municipality.

The court judgement came after the municipality failed to adhere to an order issued in November 2018, where relief was granted to eight ELM industrial customers to pay Eskom directly.

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# SPECIAL AWARDS POSITION MIDVAAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT AMONG THE BEST



*Walkerville & Savanna City Times is pleased to report on the recent accolades and recognition bestowed upon the Midvaal Traffic Department for their exceptional commitment to road safety and law enforcement.*

The Executive Mayor, alongside the Mayoral Committee, had the honour of celebrating the Midvaal Traffic Department for their outstanding performance. In a ceremony held on 22 October, the Midvaal Traffic Department was awarded the prestigious Sedibeng District 2022/2023 District Commissioner's Special Award for being the most involved Traffic Department of the Year. This accolade not only reflects the department's dedication but also highlights their crucial role in ensuring road safety in the region. One individual who received significant recognition during the event was Chief Superintendent of Traffic, K van Vollenstee, who was acknowledged for her long-standing partnership with

and unwavering commitment to the South African Police Service. Her dedication to maintaining strong ties between the Traffic Department and the police is a testament to the collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and security of the community. Additionally, Chief Traffic Officer A Mpai was honoured for her remarkable two decades of exemplary service by the Institute of Traffic, Licensing, and Metro Police Officers of Southern Africa. This recognition underlines the Department's tradition of excellence and the enduring contributions of its dedicated officers. The accolades and awards received by the Midvaal Traffic Department reflect not only the department's commitment to ensuring road safety but also their unwavering dedication to upholding the values of integrity and honesty in their work. The Executive Mayor expressed his pride and gratitude for the hard work and passion displayed by the Midvaal Traffic Department in keeping the residents of

Midvaal safe on the road. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and the success of this initiative depends on strong law enforcement officers who are dedicated to upholding the values of integrity and honesty. The local communities, businesses, and civil society in the Midvaal region were also commended for their continued collaboration with the traffic officers by obeying the rules of the road. This collaboration is vital in creating a safer environment for all residents. As the administration continues to strive for excellence in service delivery, their commitment to creating a safe and secure environment for all residents remains unwavering.

The recent awards are a testament to the dedication and commitment of the Midvaal Traffic Department and their crucial role in ensuring the safety of the community. *Walkerville & Savanna City Times* congratulates the Midvaal Traffic Department on their well-deserved recognition and awards and thanks them for their tireless efforts in keeping the roads of Midvaal safe.

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Issued and printed by Greg Krumboltz, DA Federal Head Office, Gardens, Cape Town.

# ACTION-FOR-ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNITY FORUM INSPIRES A CALL TO ACTION

Modiehi Skosana



The pressing need for accountability within governance has become increasingly evident, yet civic engagement and active participation in many South African communities remain relatively low. In response to this challenge, "Action-For-Accountability" (A4A), a project initiated by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF) in partnership with Accountability Lab SA (ALSA) and the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), convened a community forum at the Lido Hotel on Wednesday, 18 October. The A4A project is implemented in four local sites, namely; Finetown, Mondeor, Lenasia, and Makhanda. The forum, attended by local residents of the four sites, councillors, and the advisor to the office of the speaker at the City of Johannesburg, featured presentations from local activists within the project (CivActs) and notable experts in the field of accountability. Modiehi Skosana, Audit Senior Manager at the Auditor General of South Africa, demonstrated the essential roles of accountants and auditors in protecting the interests of the public. Skosana emphasized that efforts from all spheres are crucial in strengthening our democracy, which is currently under threat due to poor service delivery. WaterCAN Executive Manager, Dr Ferial Adam, who has been an advocate on the ongoing water crisis in the City of Johannesburg, called for national government and utility entities such as Rand Water, Joburg Water, the City of Johannesburg (COJ), and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to engage in collaborative

Dr Ferial Adam



discussions. In her presentation, Dr Adam stressed the importance of involving affected communities in these dialogues, recognizing that those on the ground have valuable insights into the situation. She described the water crisis as 'a matter of life and death,' emphasizing that access to water is a fundamental need. Projects like A4A and WaterCan, according to Dr. Adam, should transcend being merely local initiatives and evolve into a nationwide movement. The stories and experiences shared by each of the four communities represented at the forum served as a powerful testament to the potential of coming together to drive change through acquiring accountability skills and calling for accountability in service delivery. The success of the A4A Forum has highlighted the urgent need for more residents and stakeholders to join this cause and make it a national movement. It is a plea to government bodies at all levels to become allies in the joint effort to establish a culture of accountability and good governance across the nation. The A4A project, co-funded by the European Union and the Social Justice Initiative, is determined to continue its mission to empower South African communities to build a culture of accountability. This would ensure that the voices of citizens are not just heard but actively shape the governance landscape. Through strategic partnerships and community-driven initiatives, A4A remains dedicated to driving positive change in the pilot sites while advocating for accountability and participatory governance in communities across South Africa.



ORGANISER: Thabo 'Da Faro' David

## All set for second annual Savanna Ke Italy lifestyle extravaganza

Savanna City is gearing up for an exhilarating event that celebrates culture, lifestyle, and the roots of Vaal. Organised by Thabo 'Da Faro' David and Tshepang 'Bing Bing' Mthembu, "Savanna Ke Italy" is set to be a one-of-a-kind experience. Mark your calendars for Saturday, 4 November, as the date promises to be a day to remember. The event kicks off at noon and extends into the late hours, ensuring that attendees have ample time to immerse themselves in the festivities. Tizoti's Pub, located at 1496/13 Tizoti's Debonair Park/Savanna City, will serve as the vibrant venue for this cultural extravaganza. "Savanna Ke Italy" proudly labels itself as 'The Biggest Lifestyle Event In Savanna City,' and it certainly lives up to its reputation. The event's slogan encapsulates its essence: it's not just an event; it's about celebrating the rich lifestyle, culture, and the deep roots of Vaal. Moreover, tickets for "Savanna Ke Italy" are readily available online, ensuring easy access for all who wish to be part of this remarkable celebration. For inquiries and further information, don't hesitate to contact Da Faro on 068 025 9441.



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# Cable theft incidents on the rise in Eikenhof, Walkerville and surrounds



A subsequent investigation revealed the grim extent of their crime. Approximately 300 meters of valuable cable had been ruthlessly severed, with the copper stripped away, likely to be sold on the black market for profit. The incident underscores the audacity of cable theft operations in our region, which cause not only financial losses but also disrupt essential services for the community. Law enforcement authorities were immediately notified, and the South African Police Service (SAPS) has taken over the case. Fortunately, no injuries were reported amongst the responding officers. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the need for continued vigilance and enhanced efforts to combat cable theft, which has become a pressing concern for both authorities and the community. It is imperative that we work together to protect our vital infrastructure and ensure that these criminal activities are curbed effectively.

**Cable theft continues to plague our communities as WAR Security responded to a distressing incident in the Carina Road area of Eikenhof.** The alarming incident sheds light on the ever-increasing challenges faced by authorities in combating this illicit activity. Early on Tuesday, WAR Security received multiple security activations from a client site in Carina Road, Eikenhof, setting off a rapid response by their armed reaction team. Upon arrival at the scene, security personnel confronted a grim situation. Three individuals, identified as "3 Bravo Males," were discovered in the vicinity of a transformer. Rather than surrendering peacefully, the suspects escalated the situation by opening fire on the officers before fleeing into the nearby dense bush.

# Swift response by WAR Security thwarts property intruders in Walkerville

**In a recent incident of heightened community vigilance, WAR Security demonstrated their unwavering commitment to safeguarding residential properties.**

Prompted by a call from the Priority One Community Group, the security company responded swiftly to thwart a potential break-in on a property located in First Avenue, Walkerville. Upon receiving the alarm from the concerned community group, the experienced Reaction team wasted no time in taking action. Their immediate response was crucial in ensuring the safety and security of the affected property. The resident, in close coordination with the Reaction team, reported that the suspects had jumped the property's wall and were observed fleeing toward Main Road. Demonstrating both efficiency and expertise, WAR Reaction managed to apprehend two suspects in no time. To confirm their identity, the suspects were promptly presented to the resident, who positively identified them as the individuals seen trespassing on the property. This swift and effective response led to the potential perpetrators being apprehended, preventing a potential security

breach. To further address the situation and investigate the incident thoroughly, De Deur South African Police Service (SAPS) was contacted and dispatched to the scene. Their involvement will aid in ascertaining the full extent of the incident and ensuring that appropriate legal action is taken against those responsible. This incident is a testament to the importance of community engagement and the rapid response capabilities of security services like WAR Security in ensuring the safety of our neighborhoods. It serves as a reminder that the collaboration between residents, security providers, and local law enforcement is crucial in deterring criminal activity and maintaining the safety of our communities.

# De Deur Suspects appear in court for dealing in unwrought gold

**Two suspects aged 35 and 39 appeared before the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court on 20 October following their arrest during a joint operation that was conducted by Hawks based in Vaal Rand, De Deur SAPS, Forensic Science Laboratory and other stakeholders.**

The team executed a search warrant at a plot that is situated on the corner Walker road and First road, Walker Fruit Farms, De Deur. The police interviewed the owner of the plot who indicated that he is renting out a portion of his plot to two men who allegedly used it to bring sand

to make tombstones. The two suspects were not found at the plot, two men that were found are their employees. Police confiscated small amounts of carbon, gold bearing material about 200 tons, empty cyanide drums and caustic bags. Police investigations continue.

**Dr. Kezia Augeal**  
MBBCh (Wits)  
General Practitioner

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# AAN APPEALS FOR DOG & CAT FOOD DONATIONS



By Helen Taylor - Animal Angel Network

*As 2023 is fast approaching the end with the Christmas season beckoning, I would like to appeal to all the animal lovers out there to assist with our dog and cat food drive.*

As everyone is aware and experienced for themselves – times are tough financially for everyone. There have been increases in the cost of basic needs like food, fuel and more. Many have experienced loss of income in one way or another – and this has also affected our animal welfare organisations. As a direct result of these factors, many people have had to give up their beloved pets and surrender them to shelters. But, with the surrendering into a shelter, the shelter then bears the burden of feeding and providing vet care for these animals and is totally reliant on donor funding. Shelters also provide love and attention for these animals, as it is awful to come from a loving home into a shelter and have to adjust to a new and confusing way of life. Please spare a thought for the people who run the shelters, as they have to deal with the emotional side of things, and they work really hard at being able to keep the shelters going so as to provide the public with such an essential service. Most shelters are full and unable to take on any more animals, as funds do not allow accommodating more animals. All of us host fundraising events, use our skills to bring in money. For example, we hold Craft Days where people can come and relax, paint or decorate an item and take something home which can be used or just enjoyed being on display. We incorporate the Cameo Décor Paint for Dot Art, Decoupage, Mixed Media, Junk Journaling, etc. I am a strong believer in upcycling items and am always on the lookout to make useful and unique items from pallet wood, tins, cooldrink cans, plastic containers, etc. This is one of the ways you can support our charities – by booking a class – and the funds raised go into buying food. We cater for private and

public events, as well as hosting children's parties through the crafting. Our Animal Angel Network (AAN) members also have a range of ready made Christmas gifts such as dog and cat blankets, animal sleeping bags, doggy bandanas and Christmas stockings, dog bowl risers (so the oldies don't have to stretch down), personalized mugs which can be made with your pet's picture and your choice of wording, succulent plants in stunning containers, animal meme fridge magnets and more. We also do personalized sugar cookies which are absolutely delicious and a work of art. We extend an invitation to all people – private individuals as well as corporate (we are able to issue Section 18(a) certificates for any donations - cash as well as food) – to donate towards our food drive this Christmas and help to keep furry tummies full. January is set to be the most difficult month, so we will be appealing to all to help from now until January. Please make our Christmas wishes come true by helping us. Kindly contact Helen Taylor on email – [helen@rainbowanimals.co.za](mailto:helen@rainbowanimals.co.za) or 082 553 7700 to find out more information. **Our banking details are: Rainbow Nation Animals NPC, Standard Bank, Meyerton branch – code 014537, account number 331898314.** We are aware of the public's need to ensure funds are not misappropriated and go directly to where they are needed. As such, Rainbow Nation Animals is a registered organisation (since 2014) whose annual financial statements are up to date and available for public scrutiny. We administer the Animal Angel Network which includes A New Hope Dog Rescue (a pro life shelter); Dare 2 Dream (provides programmes that hold healing sessions with horses for traumatized children); Beagle Rescue & Support (a pro life shelter), and Rainbow Nation Animals itself (providing primary healthcare for township animals, including education of owners and children).

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## United Future Stars' U13 victorious in Majazane Soccer Tournament



**IZINJA ZE GAME:** Players celebrate following their win during the recent school holidays

Tshepiso 'Nkunzi' Ncala and Sam Mokoena led their U13 and U17 teams to the Majazane Soccer Tournament during the school holidays from 4 to 15 October.

Coach Ncala shared with *Walkerville & Savanna City Times* that the tournament, hosted by Gunners Sport Academy at Sakhisizwe Secondary School, featured a Top 8 format, with both divisions competing.

In an impressive display of skill, United Future Stars Academy's U13s faced Majazane Juventus in the final

which ended in a 1-1 draw. They then clinched victory in a penalty shootout with a 4-2 score, earning them a trophy, gold medals and a brand new soccer kit. Meanwhile, their U17 team secured third place by defeating Gunners Sport Academy with a 1-0 win, earning bronze medals.

Despite transportation challenges, United Future Stars Academy aimed to showcase the talent of Orange Farm on the soccer stage, successfully putting their community on the map.

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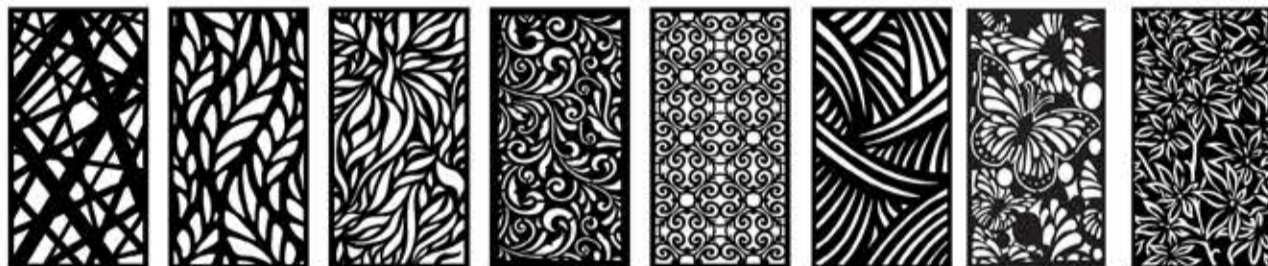
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