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MONTH-END ISSUE



Call to ban advertising and sponsorship that reaches youth

mid startling findings about alcohol abuse among youth in South Africa, the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance in South Africa (SAAPA SA) has called for a ban advertising and sponsorship that reaches youth.

The Alliance has issued a critical new warning: alcohol advertising is not just selling brands — it is shaping children's behaviour, fuelling underage drinking, and driving lifelong harm.

A statement issued by the Alliance brings together local and global evidence, including the 2025 Planet Youth Survey conducted by the University of Cape

Town, which achieved an unprecedented 89% response rate across 49,000 Grade 8 and 9 learners in 123 schools. The findings are stark:

- 40% of learners have already tried alcohol.
- 23% began before age 13.
- 22% drank in the past 30 days; 15% were drunk at least once in the past month.
- Alcohol is most often obtained from shops (53%), friends (43%), and family (34%).
- Drinking peaks during public holidays (72%), after exams (51%), and at friends' homes (54%) showing how deeply entrenched alcohol has become in social life.

This local reality is

r e i n f o r c e d b y international and South African evidence:

- Children exposed to alcohol adverts are significantly more likely to drink (SABSSM 2017 analysis).
- The International Alcohol Control study shows a direct association between adolescent drinking and liking adverts.
- Global studies reveal children are exposed to alcohol marketing every 4–8 minutes in daily life
 — patterns mirrored in South African townships and cities.
- WHO reviews conclude children repeatedly exposed to alcohol advertising start drinking younger, drink more

heavily, and face higher risks of hazardous patterns later in life.

South Africa already suffers some of the world's highest levels of alcohol-related harm. Statistics indicate that alcohol is linked to over half of violent injuries and 27% of road deaths are alcohol related, with the economic costs running into billions of rands annually.

"Every billboard, sports sponsorship and social media post is an invitation to our children to drink. This is predatory marketing—and its effects are devastating: violence in our homes, blood on our roads, and illness in our hospitals. South Africa

cannot continue to let the industry target our children," said SAAPA SA Campaign Director Nomcebo Dlamini, who is also Deputy Chair of the Central Drug Authority.

Dlamini's work with the youth is the catalyst to her consistent pursuance of solutions to the challenges they face including substance abuse, which she sees as the cause of the derailment of many young lives especially in South Africa's disadvantaged urban, peri-urban and rural communities.

SAAPA SA is calling for immediate government action to ban advertising and sponsorship that

reaches youth (billboards near schools, sports sponsorships, online targeting). It also wants to replace industry self-regulation with statutory restrictions aligned with World Health Organisation recommendations and investment in safe, alcohol-free recreational and cultural spaces for youth.

"The science is clear. The harm is measurable. The victims are our children. This is a national public health emergency, and the time for decisive

action is now," the organisation said as it embarks on a national awareness campaign that also aims to involve leaders of all faiths in the exercise.

Editors Note: Eldorado Times and its sister publications Soweto Times, Lenasia Times, Benoni Times and Northern Times, have always had a firm policy of not accepting any alcohol-related advertising or indirect alcohol marketing editorial content.







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Massive Palestine Walk for Freedom 2025 in Lenasia

October 2025 will be an o v e r w h e l m i n g experience for South Africa.

All persons of all races, all colours, all classes, all sizes and all shapes will be gathering and walking, to endorse global human rights for accommodation, food, education, justice and other values. This is

he dawn of 5 in general and for Palestine in particular. Do join the effort to send a clear message to the colonialists and oppressors of the world. The carnage amidst the genocide being perpetrated by the Israeli and other Western regimes in full view of the global community leaves humanity in awe. No proponent of human

humanity witnesses a heinous crime being committed against them. It really does appear as though, in the form of the United Nations, every state of the world is complicit in the commitment of the Palestinian genocide. The levels of murder, starvation, destruction of residential and commercial property, elimination of

unprecedented crimes against humanity. In addition, peace brokers turn out to be biased and in fact facilitate the crime of genocide.

While the Palestinian Catastrophe goes on revealing the nature of the horrendous genocide, Lenasia is busy preparing itself for the annual PSA Walk for Freedom. The Walk will be hosted at Rose Park



will really come alive with most of the local Rose Park. The PSA and PSA Youth League may

bloodbath and genocide. This year Rose Park in Lenasia will be buzzing with a large variety of Pop-up stalls, community organizations, delicious foods and Palestine paraphernalia. Important Guest

Speakers and Palestinian visitors are also expected to be engaged in vibrant Community Dialogue. Most certainly the attention of one and all present will be focused on but only one thing, the genocide. Various aspects of this vicious act of humanity against humanity will be talked about, thought about and deliberated on. In the minds of most people will be massacres of mothers, infants and the unborn; the destruction of homes, places of learning and civic infrastructure; starvation as a weapon of war when there is no war; bombing of hospitals and the assassination of health workers and journalists; the displacement of an entire population; the deprivation of an entire people of water, electricity and other services. These are but some of the stateorchestrated crimes against humanity in desperation.

Abdul Majeed of the PSA has announced an interesting new feature at the Walk for Freedom. This will be 'The Garden of Martyrs' which will feature the names and photographs of many a martyr of the Gaza-Palestine genocide. Visitors and participants are urged to visit the site on 5 October at Rose Park. Entry tickets to the Walk

for Freedom will be available at the entrance to Frontline Hyper every weekend and on Saturday 4 October 2025 at Rose Park.

For further information interested patrons may contact 082 513 3750 083 258 2786 or communicate

also be hosting persons expected to be the rights and human on Sunday 5 October established residents and visitors largest Walk for 2025 at 08:00. It is dignity should be infrastructure and from around South from the areas Freddom for humanity standing by while depopulation are but envisaged that Lenasia Africa converging on experiencing a PALESTINE SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE STOP THE GENOCIDE OCTOBER 2025 LENASIA ROSE PARK - 8AM 0825133750 I 0832582786 WWW.PALESTINESA.CO.ZA FREEDOM - JUSTICE - EQUALITY www.palestinesa.co.za





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Eldorado Park Sees String of Arrests in September Operations



eptember proved to be a busy month for crime prevention operations in Eldorado Park, with local police and Gauteng Traffic Wardens executing several successful arrests in connection with serious offences ranging from copper cable theft to illegal firearm possession.

On the evening of Monday, 1 September, members of the Eldorado Park SAPS Crime Prevention Unit arrested a 49-year-old suspect on the Golden Highway near Union Road. Officers stopped a suspicious Beiben truck

which upon inspection was found to be concealing large quantities of copper cable beneath scrap metal. The driver, who failed to provide valid documentation or permits, was detained. Eskom later confirmed the cables belonged to the utility. The man remains in custody and is expected to appear in court soon.

Just days later, in the early hours of Thursday, 4 September, police m a de a n o t her breakthrough. During a night-long operation in Freedom Park, officers received intelligence about an individual en

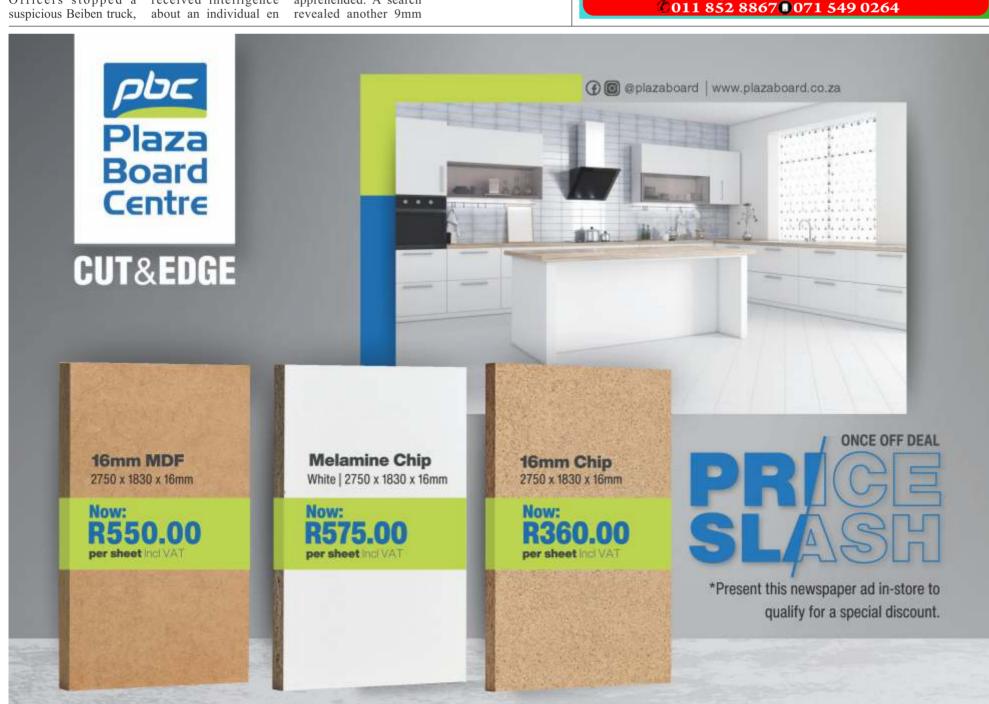
route to purchase drugs while carrying an unlicensed firearm. A suspect matching the description was located and searched, leading to the recovery of a black 9mm pistol. The man, unable to provide a licence, was arrested and is currently awaiting court proceedings.

A further arrest followed in the early hours of Saturday, 6 September, when SAPS members observed a suspicious individual dressed in black on Fontein Street, Old Eldorado Park. Attempting to flee, the man was pursued and apprehended. A search revealed another 9mm

firearm loaded with ammunition, for which no licence could be produced. The suspect appeared in Kliptown Court on Monday, 8 September.

S A P S S t a t i o n Commander Brigadier Maluleke praised the ongoing operations, reaffirming the station's c o m m i t m e n t t o eradicating crime through high-visibility policing and swift action. Authorities continue to encourage residents to report suspicious activity to assist in maintaining safety across Eldorado Park







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esidents Eldorado Park are being called upon to help green the area and also plant fruit trees for sustainability

You can be among the 250 people expected to converge on Boundary Park in Dartmoor Street in Eldorado Park on Tuesday 23 September from 9.30 as Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, in partnership with a local NPO, Go Green Go Clean, plant1000 trees, and distribute 600 fruit trees.

This will be the main event during Arbor Month by City Parks.

"We are honouring the great work that the community of Eldorado Park has achieved in transforming a derelict illegal dumping site into a humble green nook, providing a space of calm, wall murals from local artists and instilling pride in the face of poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and a sense of disillusionment in a community like Eldos. Eldorado Park, in the south of Joburg, is more often than not, described as a violent, neglected and a forgotten community in Joburg., City Parks said in a statement.

Go Green Go Clean, an en viron mental $c\ o\ n\ s\ e\ r\ v\ a\ t\ i\ o\ n$ worked over many years in greening what was formerly an unkempt strip, prone to crime, muggings, and illegal activity. The space now adorns grass, a medicinal garden and images of heroes and heroines of the community.

Go Green Go Clean is a self-funded organisation with minimal capital to effectively run the organisation and is dependent on donations and local volunteers. Your participation is vital in showcasing the power of partnerships and greening disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

With Spring having arrived, bringing with it fresh beginnings and renewed hope across the

city, which is believed to have the greatest number of trees of any city in the world.

Everywhere, trees are bursting into bloom, their leaves glowing with shades of green as the jacarandas prepare to lay clouds of purple everywhere next month. Leading the City's

greening efforts, JCPZ is calling on schools, businesses, and community groups to join a collective initiative to plant indigenous and fruit trees throughout September 2025.

"Trees play a vital role in improving air quality in Johannesburg, a city often challenged by traffic congestion and illegal burning of harmful substances. Indigenous trees not only reduce greenhouse gases but also support biodiversity, creating a healthier, greener urban environment," City Parks said.

"Arbor Month is a reminder that the simple act of planting a tree is an investment in the future — one that will benefit Joburg for generations to come," it said as it also lamented the challenge facing Joburg's status as the biggest human-made forest in the world, with an estimate of over 3.2 million trees.

"JCPZ is dealing with the organisation based in ongoing illegal felling of Eldorado Park has these precious trees with an already ageing tree canopy. We're calling on everyone to be part of a tree revolution," said Thanduxolo Mendrew, Managing Director of Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo.

Requests relating to emergency fallen trees/branches should be logged with the City of Johannesburg's call centre on (011) 375 5555/ 0860 56 2874 or alternatively e-mail joburgconnect@joburg.o rg.za. Tree emergencies include obstruction of streets, trees that have fallen onto properties or vehicles, or trees that have fallen onto the sidewalk, preventing the owner from entering or exiting their property.

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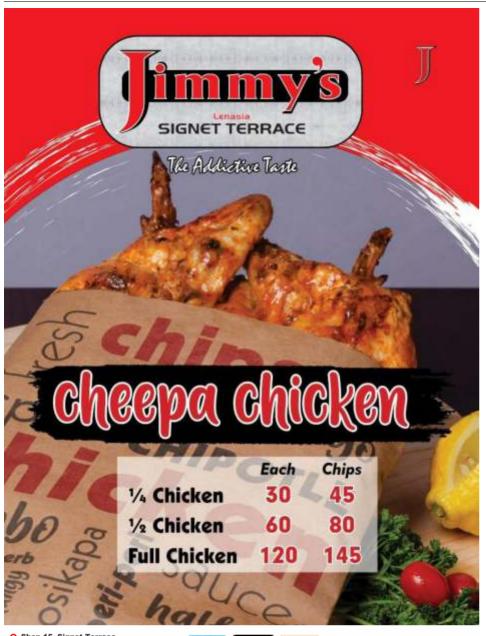








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Breakthrough in Zuma Murder Case: SAPS National Intervention Unit Neutralises Key Suspect in Soweto

development on Sunday, 7 September 2025, the South African Police Service's National Intervention Unit (NIU) moved in, the suspect tracked down and fatally wounded a suspect linked to the 2020 murder of Zwelabantu Zuma, a respected school principal from Msinga, KwaZulu-

The 40-year-old male suspect, also implicated in several other serious crimes including carjacking and unlawful possession of a firearm, had been evading arrest for months. The suspect was located in a hostel in Mapetla, persisted, ultimately securing is held accountable.'

n a decisive Soweto, following an intensive investigation that led to the reissuance of a J50 arrest warrant after new evidence emerged. As NIU officers allegedly opened fire, prompting police to return fire, resulting in his death.

> Zwelabantu Zuma was shot and killed in his school office in 2020 — a case that shocked the community and prompted a lengthy investigation. Although the suspect had previously been arrested in team, affirming law connection with the murder, the charges were dropped due to insufficient evidence. However, SAPS investigators

new information that reopened the case. In addition to his suspected role in Zuma's murder, the man was wanted for other offences in KwaZulu-Natal. The broader investigation into the murder has already resulted in two individuals receiving life sentences, while two other suspects died before they could be brought to trial.

Police confirm that a fifth suspect remains at large. Authorities have appealed to the public for any information that may assist in concluding the case. SAPS national spokesperson Brigadier Athlenda Mathe praised the efforts of the investigative enforcement's ongoing commitment: "We will not rest until every individual responsible for this heinous act

Eldorado Park Sergeant Re-Arrested for Alleged Witness Intimidation in Murder Case

By Priya Ranchod

he Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) on 11 September 2025, rearrested Sergeant Mandla Buthelezi of Eldorado Park at the Johannesburg High Court, where he was appearing in connection with the December 2024 murder of his girlfriend, Gauteng Crime Prevention Warden Chesnay Kepler.

According to IPID spokesperson Lizzy Suping, the arrest follows allegations that Buthelezi violated his bail conditions by intimidating key witnesses in the ongoing murder investigation.

"The Sergeant's actions undermine the integrity of the judicial process and pose a serious threat to witness safety. IPID takes these allegations very seriously," said Suping.

Buthelezi will remain in custody at Moroka Police Station until his next court appearance, which has been scheduled for 11 October 2025 for pre-trial proceedings.

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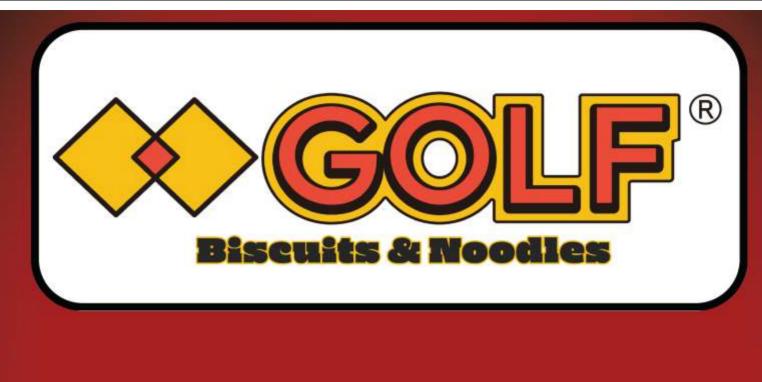




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YAFFL's Final Day Celebrates a Milestone in Youth Sport Development in Eldorado Park



at Willow Secondary School in season on Sunday, 31 Eldorado Park was August. This charged with excitement as the Youth marked a major

he atmosphere American Flag Football League Crescent (YAFFL) concluded its momentous event milestone in the growth of youth sports in Eldorado Park and beyond.

Organised under the Comeback Mission initiative and Project

Pick Six, the day saw four teams representing the local community, led by coaches Simon Ufer, Nasius Kruger, Alistair Fredericks, Keanor Wax, and Kennan Louw.

This year's YAFFL season witnessed a significant leap in participation, with 13 teams and over 116 players taking part—an impressive increase from the four teams and six players that made up the inaugural season. Among the standout teams were the Lions (U14 & U17) and the Willow Crescent Girls (U14), all representing Project Pick Six.

In the U14 final, the Lions from Eldorado Park triumphed over Harlequins of Benoni, securing a 20-6 victory. Meanwhile, the Moor Meerkats from Pretoria narrowly defeated the

winning 13-6. Third place in the respective categories was claimed by the Willow Crescent Girls (U14) and Eagles (U14), as well as the Lions and Battlehawks (U17).

The games were officiated by Stefano Oroni, Fred Kwood, and Stephen Radebe from the South African American Football League (SAAFL), ensuring a high standard of fair play. Radebe, who is also the President of American Flag Football South Africa, addressed the players and supporters, commending the league's growth and the sport's positive impact on youth development.

"This sport is fast, strategic, and noncontact, teaching not just physical skills but also sportsmanship and

Harlequins U17 team, discipline," Radebe noted. "To all the players, coaches, and supporters—your dedication is invaluable in growing this league." The day's highlight was the awards ceremony, recognising exceptional talent across both age categories:

U14 Awards:

- Offensive Player: Jaden Tizora
- Defensive Player: Kgosi Mphenyeke
- Overall Player: Cheswa Adams
- U17 Awards:
- Offensive Player: Bakho Manxusa
- Defensive Player: Nathan Richards
- Overall Player: Tyrell Peterson

Coach Ufer, a key figure in the sport's development in South Africa, expressed his pride in the youth and the league's progress.

"American flag football is more than a sport—it's a tool for holistic development," he said. "We combine coaching, social work, and education to inspire community transformation."

He continued, "This game is inclusive. It's for everyone, regardless of size, background, or ability. What we've seen today demonstrates the incredible potential that lies in youth sports when passion and purpose

As the season comes to a close, the message is clear: American flag football is on the rise, and so too are the aspirations of young athletes in communities like Eldorado Park. With the unwavering support of dedicated coaches, families, and organisations, the future of the sport in South Africa looks exceptionally promising.

Photo credit: Priya Ranchod

