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E-MAIL
 savannacitytimes1@gmail.com
 southernnglobe0@gmail.com (Editorial)

WEBSITE
 www.globepost.co.za

FACEBOOK | **TWITTER**
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EDITORIAL DESK
 Viki Stuurman.....(011) 850-1026
 Shirley Govender.....082 772-0989

ADVERTISING SALES
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 **Editors' Notes**

As we step into a new year, we wish our readers, partners and communities a thoughtful and hopeful 2026.

A new year often brings renewed optimism, yet the past week has weighed heavily on our hearts. The chaos around school placements, overcrowded classrooms and

desperate parents has once again laid bare the cracks in our education system. More painfully, we are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of 14 children in a horrific accident on Monday, 19 January. No community should have to mourn its children.

These moments stop us in our tracks and force us to ask difficult questions about the society we are shaping. As community newsroom, we sit at the intersection of grief, accountability and hope. Our role is not only to report tragedy, but to create space for dignity, solutions and truth. In times of fear and uncertainty, communities are especially vulnerable to misinformation and disinformation. We urge our readers to stay alert, verify

sources and resist being seduced by narratives designed to inflame rather than inform.

This year, Globe Post recommits to Solutions Journalism - stories that examine problems honestly while highlighting responses that build resilience and possibility. We will continue tracking local government developments ahead of the upcoming elections, because informed voters are the backbone of accountable leadership.

We are also excited to announce the upcoming launch of our Citizen Journalism Club. An educated, informed community builds healthier democracies. Support local journalism. Watch our socials. The future of our communities depends on it.

 **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Lenz Shree Siva Soobramaniam Thirukoil invites community to Main Day celebration

On behalf of the Lenz Shree Siva Soobramaniam Thirukoil & Educational Society, we are honoured to invite you and your family to our Main Day celebration on Sunday, 1 February at 8am. The community is also welcome to attend Daily Obayams, held Monday to Friday at 6pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 3pm. We look forward to your presence as we come together in devotion and fellowship.

gates are closed. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy an evening of culture and music.

Thai Poosam Kavady Thiro Vishai

Sri Devi Karumariamman Thirukoil, Lenasia South, warmly invites you and your family to observe and participate in our Thai Poosam Kavady Thiro Vishai on 1 February 2026 at 6:30am at Cosmos Street & Impala Street, Lenasia South, 1835. Daily Obayam will begin on 23 January (weekdays at 6:30pm, weekends at 4:30pm), with Thirumurugan Maalai Deeksha starting on Friday, 23 January at 6:30pm. Prasadham from Pazhanimalai Murugan Temple will be distributed. Devotees wishing to contribute toward expenses or conduct an Obayam may contact Siva Sri M. Sivaraman Gurukul: 072 281 9503 or Smt. Nerina Naidoo: 083 588 5450.

Women's Conference scheduled in Ennerdale

The third annual Iron Sharpens Iron Women's Conference is scheduled for Saturday, 7 February, at Ext 9 Hall, 5449 Katz Road, Ennerdale. The conference features multiple speakers and structured sessions focused on leadership, personal growth, and empowerment. Organisers aim to provide attendees with practical tools, motivation, and insight to support women in their professional and personal development, reinforcing the conference's role as a key event in the local community calendar.

Ramadhaan Festival

The Lenasia Ramadhaan Festival runs from 13 to 15 February at the Baitun Noor Centre in Lenasia. The annual event is expected to attract members of the community with a variety of activities, including food stalls, shopping opportunities, and cultural experiences. Festival organisers highlight that the event forms part of the town's Ramadhaan calendar and provides a space for families and community members to engage in festive traditions and celebrations.

Learn how to get your book published

Join Mel J and Edna Da Diva Nelson for an exciting and informative workshop on How to Get Your Book Published, designed for aspiring writers and authors who want to turn their manuscript into a published book. The workshop will take place on 21 February from 9am to 2pm at Isaacs Décor Design and Plant Nursery, 6 Thor Street, SA Block, Ennerdale, at a cost of R70 per person. For bookings and enquiries, visit www.melj.co.za, email info@melj.co.za, or WhatsApp 062 016 5128 or 066 081 9212.

Protect yourself, protect your future: STI Condom Week Campaign

Kagiso Migson Manor Health Care Organization, Zenzele Counselling Project and Finetown Clinic are teaming up to host an STI Condom Week Campaign on Thursday, 12 February 2026, from 8am to 2pm at the Finetown Lenz Taxi Rank. Under the theme RED, the campaign promotes the message "Condoms: Your Best Defense Against STIs" and will offer a range of free health services including immunisation, HTS, TB screening, cervical screening, PrEP initiation, family planning, Vitamin A and deworming, linkage to care, information sharing and condom distribution. The initiative is led by the Zenzele Counselling Project (Gauteng, Johannesburg). For more information, contact Thandi Shongwe on 083 359 6542, Ancy on 078 542 1494, or Rodah Sangweni on 084 426 7454

King Kabaza celebrates 5th Annual Birthday Extravaganza in Arabian style

NawalamaPiano in partnership with Peace Corner Venue presents King Kabaza's 5th Annual Birthday Extravaganza, an exciting Arabian-themed experience in February, at Peace Corner Venue, 123 5th Avenue, Grasmere, Finetown. The event will feature live performances, including headline act Nkosazana Daughter. Tickets are available online and at the gate, with General and VIP options. Coolers are allowed until 7pm. Join us for a night of music, celebration, and unforgettable vibes.

Lenasia Yuvak Mandal hosts Bhakti Beats, a cultural music evening

Lenasia Yuvak Mandal invites the community to Bhakti Beats, a vibrant cultural music and devotional event taking place on 7 February 2026 at Patidar Hall, 24 Salvia Street, Lenasia. The programme starts at 4:30pm, with doors opening at 4pm. Attendees are encouraged to wear Indian cultural attire. Kindly use the Willow Street or Poppy Street entrance if the Salvia Street

Annual Maha Draupadi Firewalking Festival

Shree Adi Parasakthi Thirukovil extends a personal invitation on behalf of our most honoured and revered Guru, officials, and devotees to the Annual Maha Draupadi Firewalking Festival on 21 March at 4pm. The Kulsum Foundation Prayer will be held on 4 March at 6pm, and daily prayers will be observed from 4 March for 18 days. Devotees participating in the firewalking are reminded to do so at their own risk. Donations can be made to SGPK at Standard Bank, Account No: 062771604, Branch: Midrand. For more info, call our Spiritual Head, Gure Deera Goverder, at 072 760 9021.

Local Government Elections set for late 2026 to early 2027

The next Local Government Elections are scheduled to take place between November 2026 and no later than January 2027. Preparations for the elections are already underway, and communities are encouraged to get involved early, as meaningful participation starts now. For enquiries: IEC on 0800 11 8000.

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 Helen Joseph (JG Strydom).....(011) 489-1011
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These notices are free. Please WhatsApp GLOBE POST on 062 500 9985 or email: southernnglobe0@gmail.com

Chaos as grade 8 learners stranded



Image: Globe Post

Local parents looking to enroll their children for Grade 8 classes at Lenasia South Secondary (LSS) have expressed outrage citing demands of R1 500 payment before learner registration

GLOBE POST reporters witnessed first-hand the desperation of parents begging to get their grade 8 children placed at Lenasia South Secondary in the days before and after the school opened.

The United Democratic Movement (UDM) released a statement expressing deep concerns over the recurring failures in school placement, leaving thousands of learners, particularly Grade 8 learners, without access to education as the 2026 school year begins.

In a hard-hitting statement, UDM's Zandile Phiri, said parents are forced to queue, protest, and plead for placements that should have been completed well before schools opened. "This is not just an administrative issue, but a systemic failure of planning, coordination, and accountability, denying children their constitutional right to basic education. Education is a constitutional right, not a privilege to be contested at school gates," she added. The UDM stands amongst other organisations and political parties who continue to call on national and provincial

authorities to act urgently in placing all unplaced learners. This to ensure transparent, consistent placement criteria, and communicate clearly with parents. The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) echoed this sentiment, saying this undermined educational development. It has called on the public and civil society organisations to submit information assisting in determining the scale of the problem.

Email: GPCComplaints@sahrc.org.za

“ How can a public school demand school fees and say our children must not enter the school premises if the fees are not paid? LSS is a no-fee public school. I really don't understand how they operate. A teacher informed parents that Grade 8 learners are required to pay R1 500 before registration can take place. **”**

Lenasia South parent, Lungile Masondo

Gibson Pillay Learning Academy celebrates 100% matric pass rate



Gurleen Singh



Jaylin De Lange



Nadah Nkosi



Anjali Chetty



Megan Chetty



Cassidy Johnson

Gibson Pillay Learning Academy, Lenasia South, has great cause for celebration as not only have they officially opened their Foundation Phase at their second premises, but they are once again beginning the new academic year with a 100% matric pass rate from the phenomenal class of 2025.

The class of 2025 achieved a resounding 42 Bachelors passes from a class of 48 learners, with 66 distinctions amongst them. This is supplemented by 73 B-symbols and the commendable achievement of a 100% pass rate in ten of the eleven subjects offered at the school, including the gateway subjects of English, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences.

Principal, Mahalingam Pillay, said: "In particular, we acknowledge the outstanding individual achievements of Jaylin De Lange,

(6 distinctions), Jehil Ghurbarun (the Head Boy of 2025, who achieved 5 distinctions), Megan Chetty (4 distinctions) and Cassidy Johnson (4 distinctions)."

These superb results are equally complemented by the Head Girl and Dux Awardee - Anjali Chetty, Laaiqa Tyler, Lamique Donson, Gurleen Singh and Nadah Nkosi (each of whom achieved 3 distinctions) and many other learners who each achieved 1 and 2 distinctions each.

Pillay added: "The results of this 2025 class is even more commendable as they are the class that started high school in the COVID era. It is safe to say that the Class of 2025 of Gibson Pillay Learning Academy graduated with excellence from the school whose motto is "Education is Wealth" and from which they have received a springboard to the road of excellence which awaits them now."

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Power crunch: 27,000 power cuts in three months

By Ferrial Haffajee, Associate Editor, Daily Maverick
 The ongoing power crisis suggests City Power remains in a death spiral despite a Presidential Working Group for the City and a so-called "bomb squad" being established to make urgent interventions.
 The latest available report from City Power reveals 27,948 power cuts in three months, slightly down from highs noted in our investigation in July 2025. This chart sets out the details and shows equipment failure as the biggest culprit - the system is in a death spiral. City Power has R4.4-bn in outstanding collections and a deficit of R1.978-bn. In December, our partners Our City News found City Power owes contractors over R1-billion so it takes a really long time to fix outages as suppliers won't give the utility credit lines anymore. Now City Power has suspended the roll-out of prepaid meters and plans to ban their use for customers with solar power because of revenue losses. It's unbelievable: the City can't guarantee a power supply and now wants to punish residents for making a different plan. To report outages, call City Power on 011 490 7911/7900 or 0800 002 587.



Nkateko Moyane is excited to embrace global talent

Daleview learner heads to Global STEM Symposium in India

Nkanteko Moyane from Daleview Secondary School, will represent South Africa at the Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM (IRIS) Global Symposium taking place in India from 27 to 31 January.

Moyane was selected for his innovative research project titled "ECO-HARVEST: Integrated Phytoremediation for Contaminated Soil and Mining Wastewater." The project addresses the growing environmental and public health

threats posed by acid mine drainage (AMD) in mining-affected areas across South Africa. By using phytoremediation, a method that employs plants to naturally remove or stabilise pollutants, the research offers a more sustainable alternative to chemical or mechanical treatments. Moyane will join some of the finest young scientists from around the world, showcasing South Africa's scientific talent on a global stage.

World Cancer Day: "United by Unique"

On 4 February every year, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about cancer, promoting prevention, and mobilising collective action to address the growing cancer epidemic worldwide. The World Cancer Day theme for 2025-2027, "United by Unique," places people at the heart of cancer care. It recognises that every cancer journey is different and calls for a more human centered approach that respects individual needs, experiences, and voices. By embracing diversity in care and uniting communities, health systems, and policymakers, the theme encourages innovative and compassionate ways to make a meaningful difference in the fight against cancer.



Rooksana Conradie and Tasneem Kara

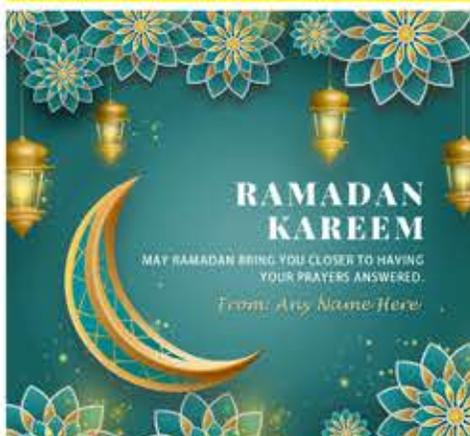
Rooksana Conradie: Survivor to community beacon

This 67-years-old, is a cancer survivor for 13 years amongst several other comorbidities. Here's her story...

I underwent test, biopsy which was a 7.4cm cancerous growth. Chemo and radiation was done at Charlette Maxette Hospital. Though sad and distraught, I was determined not to be defeated. Despite my personal challenges, I decided to give back to humanity through community work. I established and manage many Islamic groups running in succession for 12 years. We read for the sick, Palestine, all Marhooms and when people are seriously ill, we put out special prayer requests. Cancer may change your journey, but it does not define your worth or your future. If my story proves anything it's this, there is life, light and purpose waiting for you. Regardless of what may happen, please don't give up, be a candle to light up the darkness in another's life.



Earlier this month, residents of Lenasia South, Ext4 were left without power for 5 days following alleged cable theft. Within days, parts of Ext 4 experienced another outage. This resident, Sundra Paul, is seen here with his oxygen tank, and one of many vulnerable residents, forced to find alternates to stay alive



Salwaa's Date Truffles

- Ingredients**
 250g dates (pitted)
 1 packet Tennis or Marie biscuits
 110g butter or margarine
 1/2 tsp vanilla essence
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 egg, beaten*see variation below*
 Desiccated coconut



Method

1. Chop the dates ensuring no pits remain.
2. Crush the biscuits.
3. Combine the dates, butter, vanilla essence and sugar in a small pot.
4. Cook over low heat until well mixed and soft.
5. Allow to cool slightly, add the beaten egg and crushed biscuits, and mix well.
6. Shape into small balls using your hand and roll in the coconut. Store in the fridge.

Variation:

1. Use 2 tablespoons apple sauce instead of the egg.
2. Dip the date balls in melted chocolate then dip in chopped nuts. You can use pistachio nuts and almonds.
3. Or, press flat and evenly into a flat baking tray, cut into squares.

Strawberry Turmeric Lemonade

- Ingredients**
 1.5 litres water
 5 lemons
 200 g strawberries, sliced with stems removed
 1 orange
 Sweetener options (choose one):
 1/2-3/4 cup honey (adjust to taste)
 1/2 cup date syrup
 2 teaspoons turmeric

- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Fresh mint leaves



Method

1. Add 300 ml of water and your chosen sweetener (honey or date syrup) to a saucepan.
2. Heat gently on medium-low until fully dissolved.
3. Remove from heat and pour the sweetened water into a large pitcher.
4. Add the remaining water.
5. Squeeze in the juice of 4 lemons and 1 orange.
6. Add the strawberry slices, turmeric, and black pepper. Mix well.
7. Add the lemon and orange peels, then refrigerate for at least 30 minutes to allow the flavours to infuse.
8. Remove the peels after chilling. Serve over ice and garnish with fresh mint leaves.
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Given Radebe



Top performer, Tatum Barth with principal, Octavia de Villiers

Fred Norman shines with 90.14% matric pass rate

Image: Fred Norman Secondary School

This no-fee-paying school rooted in the heart of Ennerdale, reminded us this year, with quiet strength and remarkable courage, that circumstance does not define potential.

This cohort of 233 learners entered high school at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were the first to encounter disrupted classrooms, shortened curricula, and deep uncertainty at a formative stage of their lives. Yet instead of allowing these challenges to diminish them, they responded with resilience, determination, and an unwavering belief in themselves. Where obstacles stood, they chose resolve.

The Class of 2025 achieved an outstanding 90,14% matric pass rate, accompanied by a significant improvement in the quality of results, including 46% Bachelor's degree passes. A Bachelor's pass is more than a measure of academic success. It is a gateway to higher education, broader career pathways, and the breaking of generational barriers. For a no-fee-paying school, this achievement speaks volumes. Our learners are not only passing; they are prepared to compete, to contribute meaningfully, and to lead beyond the school gates.

Principal, Octavia de Villiers, told **GLOBE POST**: "At Fred Norman Secondary School, we believe in the holistic development of every learner. Academic excellence must walk hand in hand with character, resilience, and a vision for the future. Throughout the

year, learners lived our motto, we strive, balancing academic discipline with creativity and leadership through debating, talent showcases, basketball, and cheerleading. They reminded us that success is not narrow or singular; it is whole, vibrant, and deeply human."

"These achievements were forged through collective effort. Our educators stood unwavering in their commitment, teaching before sunrise and after sunset, on Saturdays and through school holidays, in winter cold and summer heat. Parents gave us trust, encouragement, and steadfast support from home. Together, as a school and community, we created an environment where belief met effort, and where hope was nurtured daily," De Villiers explained.

The school proudly celebrates Tatum Barth, its Top Achiever, who attained six distinctions. This remarkable accomplishment stands as a powerful reminder of what is possible when opportunity meets determination, even in the most challenging circumstances.

She added: "The Class of 2025 promised they would make us proud, they have done exactly that. Their journey affirms a profound truth: excellence can rise anywhere. The school remains a beacon of hope for Ennerdale, inspired by its learners and sustained by its community. Our work continues with renewed purpose, to sustain and rise even higher together."

Lenasia South twins top matric class of 2025



TWIN POWER: Mahdiyyah and Noora El Sharbtli with principal, Bangs Naidoo

Lotus School of Excellence is celebrating outstanding academic success in the 2025 matric examinations after achieving a 100% pass rate and producing some of its strongest results to date with 48% of learners qualifying for Bachelor's degree admission and a total of 35 distinctions achieved across subjects.

Twins, Mahdiyyah and Noora El Sharbtli, emerged as the school's top achievers with Mahdiyyah obtaining an impressive five A's and two B's while Noora scored five A's, a B and a C, making them the school's top learners.

Principal, Bangs Naidoo, praised the twins' effort: "Hard work and dedication have proven it's worth. I thank our teachers, learners and parents for their unwavering commitment and cooperation."

The school also extended its best wishes to the Class of 2025 as they move on to the next chapter of their academic and professional journeys, expressing confidence that their achievements will continue beyond school.

Naidoo said that preparations are already underway to build on this success: "For us, the work starts again as we strive for even better results in 2026."

SOUTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL 2025 TOP TEN

600 AVG%

1	MOLAPO	SIYAMTHANDA	85	72	81	79	83	78	478	79,667
2	NDWANDWE	ESTHER STAR	79	76	82	74	77	86	474	79
3	MSEZANE	SIHLE	78	76	78	73	84	72	461	76,833
4	MAPITSA	ONTHATILE	75	84	72	67	90	69	457	76,167
5	MAVUNDLA	MANQABA	67	80	74	81	80	69	451	75,167
6	SHEIK	AARIFAH	72	73	85	66	65	84	445	74,167
7	HLATSWAYO	NOKUKHANYA	73	84	69	81	73	63	443	73,833
8	MABASO	LINGELIHLE	74	77	75	72	62	83	443	73,833
9	RADZHADZHI	PRECIOUS	79	79	66	47	89	83	443	73,833
10	MANATHA	NOSIPHO	69	74	67	60	93	79	442	73,667

Matric rewrite opportunity

Learners who did not meet the requirements in the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations are encouraged to register for the Second Chance Matric Programme. The programme allows eligible candidates to rewrite selected subjects during the May/June 2026 examination period and registrations close on Friday, 06 February. Learners are advised to visit their nearest District Education Office or designated education centre for registration and assistance.

2026

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Maha Shivaratri to be observed across Gauteng on 15 February



Pandita Lucy Sigaban
SA Hindu

Hindu communities across Gauteng will observe Maha Shivaratri on 15 February, one of the most sacred nights in the Hindu calendar, dedicated to Lord Shiva, the embodiment of transformation, spiritual awareness, and compassion.

Maha Shivaratri, meaning "The Great Night of Shiva," is traditionally observed through fasting, prayer, meditation, chanting of sacred mantras, and night-long vigils.

The observance symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and encourages devotees to engage in self-reflection, discipline, and inner awakening.

Temples and Hindu organisations across the region will mark the occasion with special prayers, abhishekam rituals, bhajans, meditation, hawan and spiritual discourses. Members of the public are encouraged to

observe Maha Shivaratri by attending one of the listed temples below or a temple closest to their community.

1. Johannesburg South Hindu Cultural Organisation

Address: 44 Summit Road, La Venue. Time: 5pm

Contact: Deepa Naka – 083 390 1312

2. Sanathan Shakti Society

Address: 26 Mopedi Road, Sebenza, Edenvale. Time: From 6pm

Contact: Nishani - 084 817 4208

3. Sanathan Vedh Dharma Sabha

Address: 33 Penguin Avenue, Ext1, Lenasia. Time: 6:30pm to 12am

Contact: Ishara Singh - 072 436 1376

4. Shiva Shakti Mandir

Address: 61 Klipview Road, Liefde en Vrede. Time: 6pm to 6am

Contact: Navin Ajoodha - 076 401 4593

5. Shree Nath Dham

Address: Lexie's, 39 Pierre Road, Ruimsig. Time: From 5pm

Contact: Pandit Sachin – 082 456 5143

6. Shree Radeshyam Mandir

Address: 2 Gillian Crescent, Marlboro Gardens, Sandton. Time: To be advised

Contact: Kiritbhai Guruji - 083 351 1333

Globe Post and SA Hindus wishes the participating Hindu communities well over the Kavady and Maha Shivaratri celebrations.

If you would like **GLOBE POST** to feature your temple or organisation's prayer event, kindly contact Lucy on 067 638 2008.

HOW DO YOU ENTER CHURCH?



By Ps Radha Moodley
Faith Bible College

Why would you be thankful to someone? Because they did something good for you? God is always good.

Therefore, you enter church to give thanks to God for giving you salvation or maybe healing, peace or strength. What would it be like if you enter church, all upset, looking for someone to pour out your angry feelings? What would it be like if you enter church focused on your troubles and concerns? Your mind will not be focused on God. But you can make a choice to clear your mind. Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise...." The focus should always be, "I want to Thank my God and give Him praise for He is good, for He is caring and loving; for He is mindful of me (Psalm 115:12). If trouble comes your way, He is mindful to make a way out for you.

When Paul & Silas were badly beaten and

thrown into the Philippians jail for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, they didn't enter in swearing and cursing. Instead, they chose, through their pain to enter into God's presence, praising and singing songs to Him. That heartfelt praise got God's attention. Immediately, an earthquake shook the foundation of the prison, the doors opened and the chains fell off all the prisoners. The first reaction for any prisoner would be, 'I will escape.' But that wasn't so with Paul and Silas. Instead, they were peacefully released (Acts 16:25-40).

When you enter church with a heart and mind to praise and thank God, you connect with God. You will find out, access and see, what in the natural you will not be able to. You will find out that God has provided healing and by faith you will access it and then see with joy it's manifestation. Thanksgiving and praise is like your PIN. You access your banking app with

your PIN. Praise and thanksgiving graces you to access the Lord's blessings.

If you have a need, don't enter need minded but enter 'Thankful' minded. By faith, access and receive that blessing. It is the Father's good pleasure to give you His blessings. Praise positions you to win and has power to bring change. In the Old Testament Almighty God received praise & thanksgiving through feasts & festivals, sacrifices & religious days and then God opened the way for man to transition to a new and living way where we express our heart of love to Him.

Father, I pray you will by faith be continually Praised and Thanked.

You are a good God, so faithful and kind. Receive their Praises and let breakthroughs infiltrate their lives in Jesus Name! We love and appreciate you Jesus.

COH makes beach holiday dream come true



Image: Supplied



Ennerdale children during the joyful trip to Durban during the festive season thanks to Centre of Hope

A heart-warming initiative by the Centre of Hope (COH), a community-based church from Ennerdale, affiliated with the International Assemblies of God Church in South Africa, took 32 children to experience the ocean for the very first time.

The trip to Durban was filled with excitement as boys and girls saw and felt

the sea. Pst Glynn's Gouws, together with her husband Pst Manuel Gouws, the visionaries of Centre of Hope told **GLOBE POST** that the experience reaffirmed their belief that lives can be changed by touching one child at a time: "We have been working with the children of our community since 2008, and moments

like these remind us why we do what we do." The church expressed heartfelt gratitude to God, COH, G & M Funerals, all sponsors, volunteers and fundraisers who made the trip possible. Their collective support ensured the children could enjoy Durban and create lasting memories.

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Senegal edge Morocco after dramatic AFCON final



On 18 January, Senegal won the Africa Cup of Nations champions after defeating Morocco 1-0.

The match was spoiled by farcical scenes later in the game when Senegal's players stormed off the pitch in protest at a penalty awarded to Morocco following a VAR review. Order was eventually restored, and Senegal returned to the field before midfielder Pape Gueye struck the decisive goal in the 94th minute of extra time to seal a famous victory.

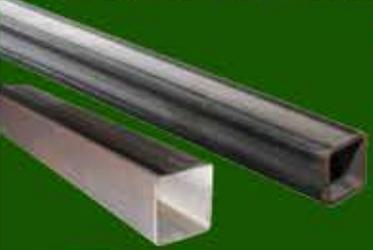
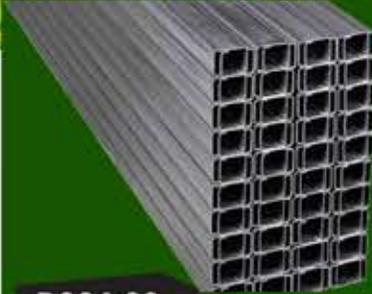
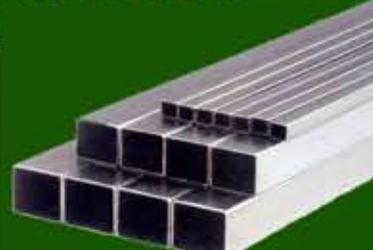
The turning point came deep into stoppage time after a 14-minute delay caused by heated confrontations between players, officials and match officials. Congolese referee Jean-Jacques Ndala awarded Morocco a penalty after VAR ruled that Senegal fullback El Hadji Malick Diouf pulled Brahim Diaz to the ground while defending a corner kick. Senegal coach, Pape Bouna Thiaw, responded by ordering his players off the field in protest, with tempers flaring on the touchline. It was captain and talisman, Sadio Mané, who convinced his teammates to return and finish the match.

When play resumed, Morocco were handed a golden opportunity to clinch the title. But, Diaz squandered the moment in stunning fashion, opting for a Panenka-style penalty that lacked conviction and floated tamely into the arms of Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, drawing gasps from the home crowd.

With extra time under way, Senegal regained composure and control. Just four minutes into the additional period, Gueye struck the winning goal - silencing the stadium and sparking wild celebrations among the Senegalese supporters.

TOP HONOURS: These AFCON champions celebrate by lifting their trophy with pride

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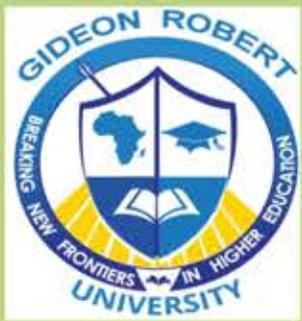
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