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Meeting Venue

Helen Keller Society
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Meeting Time

17h45 for 18h15

Face book page

Pinelands Rotary, Cape
Town Facebook

Chartered 6th October 1992

**3rd July
19th Edition**

Editor:

Tanya Stone
Rotary Club of Pinelands



Dear fellow Rotarians, family and friends

I hope everyone is well and healthy!

July is upon us. I cannot believe how quickly the year has flown by! Winter has arrived, yet we have beautiful sunny days with no southeaster. At least we can now venture outside our homes now. Ok, still wearing face masks, sanitising, keeping one's distance. I constantly find my glasses steaming up with this horrid mask. I feel sorry for the school kids that need to constantly wear their masks while writing exams – how do you cope? Well, better safe than sorry.

We have entered into the New Rotary year.

A huge congratulations to our new District 9350 Governor, Carl-Heinz Duisberg. We at Pinelands Rotary Club wish you all a wonderful year ahead.

I have included an insert from DG Carl-Heinz from the District 9350 Handbook.

It is our incoming President's Induction on Monday, Peter Sharples. He will no doubt shine with his enthusiasm and leadership. It is also Peter's 60th birthday on Sunday, the day before he takes the helm. A birthday milestone!

I have attached a "riddle" for those who have a curious nature at the end of this newsletter. Grab your scissors and rack that brain of yours. The PDF is attached to the email so that you can print the one A4 page.

Have a lovely weekend!

Keep safe and take care.

Tanya



District Governor 2020-2021 Carl-Heinz Duisberg & Caroline

Carl-Heinz has been a Rotarian since 1991 (Charter member of RC Munich-Koenigsplatz) and also became a Charter member of RC Helderberg Sunrise. He has served as President in 2013/14 and as a Board member International/Foundation for more than ten years.

At a District level he has served as District Foundation Chair from 2015 to 2019 and as a member of the Literacy Committee.

Carl-Heinz is a lawyer by profession but moved later into Science Administration and worked as Managing Director of the GSF-National Centre for Environment and Health in Munich. He then went into the business world and was Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Schoerghuber Group of Companies in Munich. From 1998 until 2004 he was Chairman of Arabella South Africa Holdings (Pty) Ltd.

He moved to South Africa in 2005 on a permanent basis and did private equity projects between 2005 and 2009, before he retired and focused on charity projects and his Rotary commitments.

In January 2016 he was awarded the “Rotary Service Above Self Award” by Rotary International President Ravi Ravindran.

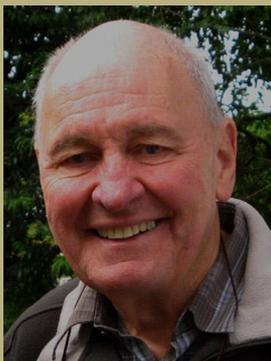
Caroline was born in Germany as well and grew up, like Carl-Heinz, in Bavaria. They got married in 1997 and have two children.

Pinelands Rotary Members

Birthday's Celebrated in June 2020



Peter Van Niekerk
1st June



Mike Ochse
5th June



Marcus Karlein
30th June



Rotary



Some people spend
an entire lifetime
wondering if they
made a difference
in the world. But,
Rotarians don't
have that problem.

@RotarianEvanBurrell



Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak situation 3rd JULY 2020

Statistics from Worldometer and WHO on COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

11,018,642
Confirmed cases
Updated: 3rd July

524,826
Confirmed deaths
Updated: 3rd July

6,174,537
Recovered
Updated: 3rd July

UPDATE



SOUTH AFRICA

Friday
3rd July 2020

South Africa now has **168,061** confirmed cases.
South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA
on COVID-19

168,061

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 3rd July

2,844

Deaths

Updated: 3rd July

81,999

Recovered

Updated: 3rd July

UPDATE AFRICA



3rd July 2020

Africa now has **433,728** confirmed cases.

433,728

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 3rd July

10,661

Deaths

Updated: 3rd July

208,758

Recovered

Updated: 3rd July

NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA



Important things happening in South Africa today

Staff Writer
BusinessTech

Here's what is happening in and affecting South Africa today:



Coronavirus: Global Covid-19 infections are now over 10.6 million confirmed since the start of the year, with the death toll climbing to 516,000. In South Africa, another alarming daily increase takes the country's total to 168,061, with deaths up to 2,844. Recoveries also increased to 81,999, leaving a balance of 83,218 active cases.

Gauteng health score: Gauteng hospitals are starting to feel the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly with the availability of hospital beds, according to reports. The province is now experiencing daily increases of over 3,000 new cases. If these numbers persist, it will triple the province's number of infections by the end of the month, with some projecting that it will hit 300,000 by the end of August. 3 993 new cases were reported in the province on 2 July. [702]



School daze: A rapid increase in Covid-19 cases in South Africa has pushed the Department of Basic Education to delay many grades from returning to school next week, with only grades R, 6 and 11 set to return on 6 July. Despite the delays, the department is still coming under fire from critics for pushing kids back to school at all, saying it is like sending them into a fire. The department says that life has to go on, however, and that most kids should be back at school by the end of the month. [EWN]



Admin issues: The threat of being placed into administration hangs over the head of the City of Joburg, as the municipality failed to pass a budget in time for the new financial year. A municipality cannot spend any money without an approved budget, as it would be recorded as irregular expenditure. The delay is due to the need for party consultations which has been hampered by Covid-19. The council is a hung municipality led by an ANC-coalition, with no single party majority. [TimesLive]



Retrenchments: More tough time for workers in South Africa as TERS payments to assist with Covid-19 have come to an end at the end of June, which is expected to see a flood of new cases to land at the CCMA. The group already reports retrenchment cases almost tripling since last year. Cases representing over 105,000 workers have already landed. Meanwhile, four unions are ready to accept SAA's retrenchment packages. However three are still holding out as the business rescue plan gets reassessed. [M&G, ENCA]



Markets: The dominant sentiment of market optimism remains intact, with little change as this week draws to a close. The rand, along with other emerging market currencies, rallied on the back of strong data and global economic prospects, outweighing any risks in the horizon. Some liquidity constraints are expected today as the United States celebrates Independence Day. On Friday the rand is at R16.97 to the dollar, R21.15 to the pound and R19.06 to the euro. Commentary by Peregrine Treasury Solutions. [XE]

OTHER:



Call to reject: A group of 100 economists, academic and finance experts have called on government to outright reject finance minister Tito Mboweni's emergency budget, calling his plan 'economic suicide'. The experts argue that instead of budget cuts to the tune of R250 billion, government should be increasing spending at this time to invigorate the economy, which is stagnating. This spend could be funded by taxes, increased borrowing and other sources, they said, but to do what is currently planned would only shrink the economy further. [\[BusinessLive\]](#)



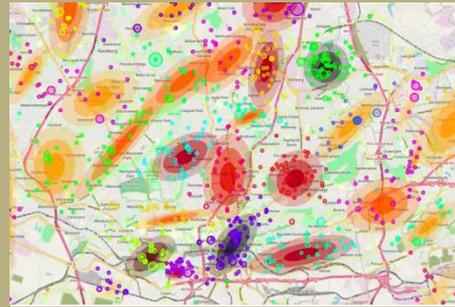
Insurers sweating: Virus-related insurance claims from just over 500 small South African firms battling insurers who have rejected them are worth up to R4 billion rand. They are firms in the hospitality and tourism industry now on the cusp of closure after virus restrictions brought their businesses to a standstill. Loss adjustment firm Insurance Claims Africa (ICA) is pushing a host of big South African insurers including Santam, Old Mutual, Hollard and HIC Underwriting Managers to make payouts under business interruption policies sold to its clients. [\[Reuters\]](#)



Government winning: The government has won several high profile cases related to its lockdown regulations – the latest being the Constitutional Court throwing the DA's push against out, saying it is not in the interest of justice for it to be heard. Earlier, the courts dismissed a challenge against the reopening of the economy, and the fight to unban cigarette sales. Government has also been given leave to appeal a previous court ruling that declared the lockdown regulations invalid. [\[ENCA\]](#)

These are the new 'harder' lockdown restrictions Gauteng is looking at

Staff Writer
BusinessTech



Gauteng premier David Makhura says that the 'Covid-19 storm' has arrived in the province which could necessitate the reintroduction of stricter lockdown rules.

Speaking in a media briefing on Thursday (2 July), Makhura said that the province saw an exponential rise in the number of coronavirus cases in June, as well as a significant increase in fatalities.

And, he warned that July will be 'even more difficult'. "We don't want to do something for dramatic purposes without achieving results. But it is quite clear that we are going to have to do something extraordinary given where we are now. "This may mean asking the national command council to introduce some of the restrictions we had in the earlier phases (of the lockdown)."

Makhura said that Gauteng now has the largest number of active cases at more than 3,000 new cases daily. This means that the pandemic is running 'slightly ahead' of the projected models.

This could have implications for the peak of the virus which may now arrive in August instead of September, he said.

While Makhura said that his provincial government will continue to push for 'behavioural change' at a ward-level, he noted that this will likely not be enough. "We are also making presentations to the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) at reinstating some of the harsher and more stringent (lockdown) measures. "We think there may be a case for harder localized lockdown in areas where the infection rate is getting out of hand and people are not observing the measure being put in place."

Specific issues which are set to be discussed include:

- The sale of alcohol – including the hours when it may be sold;
- The return of more school students, with an estimated 1 million expected to return as of 6 July;
- The reopening of churches and other specific sectors.

Makhura said that consultations on these issue will be held on Saturday, while the final decision will have to be made at the national level by the NCCC.

"A risk-adjusted strategy means that you look at the hotspots and make a case that a different approach may be needed (in these areas). "Given what we are going through now, and the fact that things will get worse in July, we cannot just throw our hands in the air and say that there is nothing that we can do."

At least three people killed following explosion at Milnerton refinery

By [Qama Qukula](#)
Cape Talk



Sirens could be heard shortly after the massive explosion which took place around 4am on Thursday.

The City of Cape Town's fire and technical rescue services responded to the explosion and are still on the scene. The technical crews will remain on-site for the next two days, according to City's Executive director of safety and security, Richard Bosman.

Bosman says at least three people died in the explosion, while several others have been seriously injured and taken to hospital.

Meanwhile, Western Cape Environmental Affairs MEC Anton Bredell says an investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the explosion.

In a [media statement](#), Astron Energy says all work on the plant has been suspended until further notice. "Our priority is to ensure the safety of all those on-site and further information will be provided as soon as we have confirmed the details", the company says.

Covid-19 death rate in parts of Cape Town among world's highest

By Dave Chambers
TimesLIVE

Gugulethu is part of the health subdistrict with one of the world's highest Covid-19 mortality rates.

Poverty-stricken parts of Cape Town are heading for Covid-19 mortality rates that rival the worst-hit areas of the world, it emerged on Thursday. Epidemiologist Prof Andrew Boule said the Klipfontein health subdistrict already had a mortality rate of about 700 per million people, and in Khayelitsha it was 500 per million. In the UK, the Covid-19 mortality rate - by far the world's worst - is 660 per million, and in the US it is 390. In SA as a whole, it is just under 48.

The disclosure by Boule, who works at the University of Cape Town Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research, came during a weekly news conference hosted by premier Alan Winde.

The epidemiologist said "recalibrations" by groups of modellers tracking the Covid-19 trajectory indicated that the pandemic's peak in the Western Cape was likely to be flatter, longer and later than previously predicted. However, this did not affect the extent of the crisis the province was facing, he said.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Stay home: Education department halts return to school for some grades

BY TimesLIVE



Basic education minister Angie Motshekga.

The government has decided not to allow all pupils who were scheduled to return to class next week to do so.

In a statement on Thursday afternoon, the national basic education department said that only grades 6, grade 11 and grade R would be allowed to return as planned on Monday.

The decision was taken following a meeting of the Council of Education Ministers earlier on Thursday. "The decision affects all provinces," said spokesperson Elijah Mhlanga.

The department on June 29 gazetted regulations that would allow the following grades to return on July 6:

- grade R;
- grade 1;
- grade 2;
- grade 3;
- grade 6;
- grade 10;
- grade 11;
- schools of skill: years 2 and 3, schools for learners with severe intellectual disabilities (SID): grades R, 1, 2, 3 and final year (occupational); and
- schools with learners with severe and profound intellectual disabilities (LSPID): years 1 -3; and
- schools with autistic learners: junior group (below 13 years) and final year (18 years and above).

However, this will no longer be the case. "After careful consideration of all the reports, the CEM took a decision that only grade 6, grade 11 and grade R will return to school on Monday July 6, 2020. The other grades will be phased during the month of July," said Mhlanga.

Education minister Angie Motshekga said the exact return to class would be determined by a number of factors, including the spread of the coronavirus across the country.

"We will adjust the reopening phases based on the risk-adjusted strategy which is a considered attempt to balance our approach to school reopening, taking into account all factors that affect the work we do," she said.

"We are guided in this by an observation of the rising numbers of community transmissions throughout the country.

"We recognise that schools are based in communities and learners live in the same affected communities and therefore a careful balancing act must be maintained."

‘Our health system has been overwhelmed’ – Eastern Cape premier calls in the army

By Estelle Ellis
The Daily Maverick



Admitting that the province’s health system has been overwhelmed, Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane asked the President on 30 June to deploy the South African Defence Force’s Medical Corps to help. Gift of the Givers has also stepped in to assist the beleaguered province.

Humanitarian organisation Gift of the Givers has offered the Eastern Cape provincial government the use of two of its ambulances to supplement the fleet in Nelson Mandela Bay and have deployed another six nurses to assist with testing one of the province’s outbreak hotspots, with founder Dr Imtiaz Sooliman adding that they are engaging with authorities to see where they can help. This comes as the Department of Health admitted that several patients in Nelson Mandela Bay and East London were abandoned by healthcare workers who refused to work.

The Eastern Cape Department of Health has admitted that the few doctors and nurses who were working at the province’s maternity hospitals as huge numbers of healthcare workers stayed away, were in quarantine or were ill, were forced “to play God” and decide which patients to help.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Government needs to ditch the paternalistic approach to prevent flouting of Covid-19 regulations

By Greg Nicolson
Daily Maverick

When President Cyril Ramaphosa eased lockdown restrictions, his message was clear: individuals had to take responsibility for fighting Covid-19. But as the country hurtles towards its peak infection rate, the health system is at risk of being overwhelmed because people are flouting regulations and ignoring guidelines. As more and more people put their loved ones at risk, the government’s ability to arrest the downward spiral is continually diminished.

The South African healthcare system is at risk of being overwhelmed as Covid-19 spreads rapidly, while adherence to regulations and physical distancing and hygiene guidelines has reduced since the economy reopened under Level 3 of the lockdown.

“The numbers are increasing because of our behavioural change problem,” Health Minister Zweli Mkhize told 702 on Tuesday.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Yoh! Judge rips SAA business rescue team for ‘faffing around’

By Nick Wilson
Times Select



WINGING IT SA Airways' business rescue practitioners are in court with the government over impending retrenchments.

SAA’s business rescue practitioners (BRPs) have received harsh criticism from Judge Dennis Davis for “faffing around” for six months.

The blow came during an appeal on Tuesday against a May labour court ruling ordering them to halt planned retrenchments at the airline.

Criticising the argument put forward that a retrenchment process was necessary to save SAA before a business rescue plan had been formulated, Davis said this normally took place afterwards “not at the first stage before a plan has been produced”.

Davis, who helped draft legislation surrounding business rescue, said this was “such an odd case” because it was “never envisaged” in the Companies Act that “six months down the line you would still have business rescue practitioners faffing around”. “I have to tell you, I’ve been involved in these things since the beginning – I’ve never seen anything like this.”

The matter in the labour appeal court was heard by Davis, acting deputy judge president Violet Phatshoane and Judge Cagney Musi. It follows a ruling in May by Judge Andre van Niekerk which said a business rescue plan had to be presented before employees were invited to consult in a retrenchment process.

[READ FURTHER](#)

KZN education MEC intervenes after police clash with pupils over Covid-19 testing

By Zimasa Matiwane
TimesLIVE



A stand-off between pupils and teachers which has led to three days of no learning at a school in KwaMashu, Durban, has finally come to an end.

Matric pupils at Nqabakazulu High School boycotted classes on Monday demanding that they and all teachers be tested for Covid-19 after they were informed that a teacher was positive. The stand-off led to clashes with police after pupils locked the school gates, allegedly stopping an education department official from leaving.

However, a visit by KwaZulu-Natal MEC for education Kwazi Mshengu on Wednesday seems to have diffused the tensions.

"The source of the conflict was a misunderstanding between learners and teachers on what was the process to follow after a positive Covid-19 case.

"Pupils believe all students and teachers must be tested and show their results to prove they are negative before entering the school, but that is not what the department of health says," Mshengu said, after a meeting with student representatives and teachers.

According to guidelines provided by the department of basic education, only pupils who have been exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19 may not attend school, while fellow pupils who are not contacts of a confirmed case should continue attending school.

However Mshengu said because the department of education has lost a lot of time due to the virus, a decision was taken that all close contacts be tested immediately and not quarantined for 14 days before they are tested.

"Pupils will now go back to class. Those who have been in close contact with the positive teacher will be put in a different isolation room. The department of health will come and conduct tests. The school has been decontaminated, pupils can go back to class," Mshengu said.

[READ MORE](#)

More South African airports to open as aviation industry gradually resume flights

By Riaan Grobler
News24

While more local airports will be allowed to operate for domestic flights from 1 July, all international passenger flights are prohibited except those flights authorised by Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula, and only for repatriation of South African citizens and medical evacuation.

Mbalula made this and other announcements related to the aviation industry during a virtual meeting on Monday. Some regulations on domestic flights were eased, however, with certain conditions.

Mbalula said in addition to the original four airports that are currently operating, the following domestic airports will reopen from 1 July: Bram Fischer International Airport; Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport; Pietermaritzburg Airport; Port Elizabeth International Airport; Richards Bay Airport; Skukuza Airport; and Upington International Airport.

"It has been three weeks since the OR Tambo, King Shaka, Cape Town and Lanseria International airports have been opened for domestic passenger travel.

"Following the announcement of phase 1 domestic operations, the airports and airlines submitted their Standard Operating Procedures to the South African Civil Aviation Authority [SACAA] for approval and this was followed by compliance inspections conducted by the Regulator to all four airports. My team and I visited OR Tambo International Airport and Lanseria for a readiness walk-about and we were satisfied that the airports were ready for operation," the minister said.

Restaurants still feeling the pinch

BY PENWELL DLAMINI AND TANKISO MAKHETHA
SowetanLIVE



Restaurant owners are still struggling to keep up with expenses even though they have now been allowed to operate. Sowetan visited Maboneng Precinct in downtown Johannesburg and Vilakazi Street in Soweto, to see how the areas had transformed since the government allowed restaurant sit-ins. After two months of looking like a ghost town, the buzz at Maboneng is starting to pick up. However, most restaurants remained empty with just a few customers coming in to pick up take-aways.

For most owners who spoke to Sowetan, complying with the lockdown regulations was not a problem; making money was the big issue. Ntobeko Zakwe, co-owner of Shap Braai, said it took him and his staff a week to prepare for their reopening. "Business is still very low but we cannot complain because it is better than sitting at home. We are swimming in debt. We are still trying to recover from all the losses of the early stages of the lockdown.

"We need to pay rent, there is no subsidy for it. We have to buy stock and pay salaries. We are running on negative."

[READ MORE](#)

Cape Town suspends metro cops involved in eviction of naked man

By Lester Kiewit
Mail & Guardian



Cape Town's executive director for safety and security, Richard Bosman, said in a statement on Wednesday night that an investigation into the incident is under way, with disciplinary proceedings expected to be implemented. The City of Cape Town has moved to suspend four metro police officers who were shown on video evicting a naked man from his shack during a demolition of informal dwellings in Khayelitsha on Wednesday.

The video, widely circulated on social media, shows several metro police officers surrounding a shack while two officers push the unidentified man out of his home. The man is tackled to the ground, while another police officer is shown kneeling on his back. Onlookers attempting to assist are pepper-sprayed. It's believed the man was bathing at the time of the eviction.

Cape Town's executive director for safety and security, Richard Bosman, said in a statement on Wednesday night that an investigation into the incident is under way, with disciplinary proceedings expected to be implemented.

"We are in the process of suspending four staff members involved in the incident, pending the outcome of the investigation. The suspension also ensures that staff are not targeted while on duty. We are saddened by the conduct depicted on the video footage, and we do not condone any forceful and dehumanising conduct by our staff members," Bosman said.

The City said their primary purpose was to carry out anti-land invasion operations to protect land earmarked for housing development, but added that it does not condone violence by law-enforcement staff.

"The City takes these allegations very seriously," Bosman said. The land in question in the Empolweni settlement has been subject to a legal battle, with the City acquiring an eviction order to remove people, because the property has been earmarked for development.

The City government came under fire in April after it embarked on evictions in this area, even though lockdown regulations to curb the spread of the coronavirus explicitly ban the exercising of eviction orders.

After a ruling by the Western Cape high court, only 49 households have been given rights to temporarily remain on the land until after the lockdown.

"After the removal of illegally built structures, new attempts are made to invade again on a daily basis ... The City must also maintain this recent court order, which the community is aware of," the Democratic Alliance-led local government's statement said. Social justice group Ndifuna Ukwazi — which has been assisting people since the first evictions in April — said that it will be calling for Bosman, and mayoral committee member for safety JP Smith to be held accountable for the "abhorrent violation of the rights to dignity, privacy, and housing" of the man.

[SAHRC to take city of Cape Town to court](#)

Cape Town trains go the social distance as services restart

BY Esa Alexander and Aron Hyman
TimesLIVE



Hand-sanitiser dispensers and social distancing indicators outnumbered passengers as Cape Town's railways reopened on 1 July 2020.

Three months after passenger railway services were halted by Covid-19 disaster regulations, Prasa resumed limited services on Monday. In Cape Town, Metrorail reopened only the southern line and ran trains only between Cape Town and Retreat stations.

Speaking inside a train waiting for passengers at Cape Town, Western Cape transport MEC Bonginkosi Madikizela said the train service was operating at 15% capacity on Wednesday.

"It looks promising that people are adhering to health guidelines because it's very important for people to get used to the new norm. We must wear masks, we must practise hygiene, we must also comply with social distancing," he said.

But the new norm hasn't done much to change the state of the trains. Though the layer of advertising for abortion services and penis enlargements has been scraped off, seats are still torn or damaged. Cape Town's main Metrorail corridor, the central line, is still non-operational as most of the infrastructure has been looted along kilometres of tracks.

Madikizela said the central line was a focus area for passenger rail agency Prasa as it provides vital public transport for some of Cape Town's poorest and most densely populated communities.

"The important one is the central line. There's a lot of work that still needs to be done there," he said. "I said to Prasa, it's better to delay it and have it done properly than to rush it because of pressure and have it break down again."

Madikizela praised Prasa administrator Bongisizwe Mpondo for the work he had done over the past few months to try to restore rail services in Cape Town which have been severely compromised by arson and vandalism.

He admitted that the state of the trains was not acceptable but said the key issues that needed to be dealt with were security and infrastructure.

Specialist police unit pounce on cable thieves carrying 750kg of Prasa cable

The City of Cape Town's metal theft unit delivered a blow to criminal networks stripping the city's passenger rail network of its copper fibre. The bust came days ahead of the scheduled restart of Metrorail services on Wednesday.

[READ MORE](#)

Take GBV as seriously as Covid-19, Bathabile Dlamini urges government

By Sisanda Aluta Mbolekwa
TimesLIVE



ANCWL president Bathabile Dlamini says the number of people affected by gender-based violence far outweighs the number of Covid-19 infections. She has called on the government to take gender based-violence as seriously as it does the Covid-19 pandemic. She said the government had moved decisively to curb the spread of coronavirus - and that the same decisiveness was needed to deal with the country's GBV crisis.

She said GBV claimed the lives of thousands of people every year, and the number of people affected by gender-based violence far outweighed the number of Covid-19 infections.

"The president has already pronounced that violence against women is a national crisis and a national emergency. Covid-19 had [not] infected 1,000 people and yet government acted decisively to save the lives of citizens, calling for state of national disaster," said Dlamini.

"We are calling on government to take decisive steps to save the lives of women and children of South Africa."

She was speaking during an online ANCWL and alliance partners' event on Monday, where league members and gender and community activists agreed that women's rights were continuously violated and that GBV had to be brought to an end.

Reading out a memorandum during the event, Dlamini said the women call on the government to establish a specialised police unit in every police station dedicated to gender-based violence. South Africa must know that women have the right to be safe. Bathabile Dlamini

"Saps must ensure that members of these specialised units have never been accused of GBV and are appropriately trained to deal with GBV crisis management," said Dlamini.

"We demand that government employs women that are going to intensify the implementation of laws that address violence against women and children and also gender mainstreaming by government institutions. South Africa must know that women have the right to be safe."

[READ MORE](#)

Western Cape's Covid-19 peak could be 'flatter, longer', but that's good news for bed capacity

By Murray Williams
News24



The Western Cape's Covid-19 "peak" is likely to be flatter than first expected, but will also last for longer, which could mean the Western Cape may no longer run out of hospital beds.

This was reported on Thursday in a briefing by Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, and top experts in the province's team. Winde explained the first estimates about hospital beds expected to be required had been based on information available in April. "These projections could not be based on real data in the province, as there simply wasn't enough cases in the Western Cape and South Africa at the time. It therefore looked at international trends, our population size, and factored in reasonable epidemiological assumptions.

"Once the number of cases climbed in the province, and we had more data available to us, we again looked at our provisioning scenarios and checked whether it was still reasonable to follow these original projections."

Next, at the end of May, had come the National Covid-19 Epi-Model calibration.

"To recap, the National Covid-19 Epi-Model (NCEM) calibrated to the Western Cape data, projected at the end of May: A peak towards the end of June, beginning of July 2020, that was notably steeper than our original provisioning scenario. This peak however was not as steep as the ASSA [Actuarial Society of South Africa] model.

"As a result, there was a requirement of approximately 7 800 beds at the peak of the pandemic. We had previously worked on a 6 200-bed requirement."

[READ MORE](#)

READ

[Another Cape Town field hospital near completion as it prepares for Covid-19 patients](#)

Eastern Cape pupil rides bed trolley at Covid-19 isolation facility

By Sisonke Mlamla
IOL

Eastern Cape Health Department spokesperson Sizwe Kupelo has condemned a video of a pupil in isolation at Makaula Senior Secondary School in KwaBhaca seen riding a bed trolley up and down the facility.

He said while they have noted the pupil was energetic and in high spirit, "meaning he will easily beat Covid-19, the video is condemned in the strongest words possible".

He said the pupil, who was part of the 204 people that tested positive for the virus at the school, should rather use that energy to catch up on his schoolwork instead.

"We regard his actions as a sign of ill-discipline and boredom. The pupil should rather use the 14 days in isolation to revise what he has learnt in school this year," Kupelo said. He said being in quarantine or isolation does not mean people are on holiday.

More than 500 pupils, 1 169 staff members and 775 schools in the country have been affected by Covid-19, according to the Basic Education Department.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Why the AA's call on the Minister to extend the licence renewal period to 2021 should be granted

By Layton Beard, Janine Van der Post
News24/Wheels24



- Motorists continue to battle to renew vehicle and drivers' licences.
- The AA calls on Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula to extend the grace period to January 2021.
- Severe backlog and new appointments continue to strain the system for motorists wanting to renew documents.

Day in and day out, we receive hundreds of queries regarding licence renewals and the persistent problems motorists are facing trying to renew their documents.

The Automobile Association (AA) has called on Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula to extend the validity of all licences beyond the 30 August deadline or face a situation where many thousands of motorists do not have the necessary legal driving documents. This is a welcome plea, and we at Wheels24 sincerely hope the Minister takes this request to heart and grants the extension.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Trevor Noah & 'The Daily Show' scoop LGBTIQ+ critics Dorian TV Award nomination

By Kyle Zeeman
Reporter
TimesLIVE



Trevor Noah's show has been nominated for the first Dorian TV Awards.

Trevor Noah and The Daily Show keep collecting award nominations like an A student at a prize giving ceremony, cracking the nod at the Society of LGBTIQ+ Entertainment Critics (Galeca) inaugural Dorian TV Awards on Tuesday.

Trevor is nominated for the prestigious Wilde Wit award, which honours a performer, writer or commentator whose observations "both challenge and amuse". The award's name is a nod to poet and playwright Oscar Wilde.

He is up against Dan Levy, Randy Rainbow, Hannah Gadsby and Cate Blanchett.

The Daily Show with Trevor Noah will go up against Cheer, Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, Visible: Out on Television and The Rachel Maddow Show in the Best Current Affairs category.

Winners will be announced on August 21.

The Dorian Awards were launched in 2009 to "explore and celebrate both mainstream and LGBTQ-centered content". The organisation comprises of about 240 professional journalists. This year the awards have moved from only awarding films to hosting TV awards. Trevor was nominated in both the Grammys and Critics Choice Awards this year, losing in both events.

He and The Daily Show did walk away with seven awards in May at the prestigious Webby Awards, dubbed by some as the "Emmy's for internet content"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE GLOBE



THE GUARDIAN
By Tim Walker

The first tourist flights for four months arrived on the Greek island of Crete on Wednesday, carrying travellers from Germany and the Czech Republic. Greece has reopened all its airports for international flights, while Spain and Portugal also reopened their shared border. Yet while Europe is slowly preparing for a slimmed-down vacation season, [US visitors remain banned](#) from the continent because of the country's rising coronavirus infection rate

The Czech Republic has scrapped a strict face mask rule credited with containing the spread of Covid-19 in the country, as Prague residents celebrated the lifting of restrictions [with a vast outdoor dinner party](#).

Amsterdam's sex workers are back in business in the city's red light district, [but under strict new rules](#) designed to prevent the spread of infection.

Oxford University is leading the race for a vaccine, British MPs have been told. The chair of the country's vaccine taskforce said the [Oxford group was the world's best hope](#) to develop a protection against the virus before winter.

Vladimir Putin has won a controversial referendum that resets the Russian president's term limits, potentially allowing him to [remain in power until 2036](#).

Trump called Theresa May and Angela Merkel "losers" and did not treat them with the [deference he shows to authoritarian rulers](#), according to former officials and diplomats who witnessed his phone calls and meetings with foreign leaders.

In Portugal's capital city of Lisbon, the mayor's office has put up posters amid an uptick in cases and reports of [parties that have attracted as many as 1,000 revellers](#).

"You know who also never misses an illegal party? The virus," the posters read.

In June, the country of 10.3 million people recorded 9,441 confirmed cases, according to the health ministry – an average of 314 new cases a day.

Portugal's per capita rate of new infections now ranks among the highest in Europe, second only to Sweden.

The government has responded by introducing restrictions in the Greater Lisbon area.

Starting today, in 19 of the 118 parishes in the Lisbon metropolitan area, residents have been ordered to stay in their homes, allowed out only for food or medicine or to travel to work, play sports or care for vulnerable family members.

Gatherings are limited to five people in these areas, compared with a 20-person limit in most of the country.

Initially hailed for its rapid response to the virus, the Portuguese government has pointed to widespread testing to explain the rise in new cases, with an average of 98,000 new tests carried out weekly. The number of lives claimed by the virus remains relatively low in the country, with 1,576 deaths.

The black-led groups biking against racism



Amid the recent protests over the police killing of George Floyd, several New York cyclists realised their bikes were helping them to evade police kenneling, and to shield fellow protesters. So [they formed a crew, Street Riders NYC, and planned a "justice ride"](#)

How to really repay frontline health workers

Many of the medics on the frontline of America's Covid-19 crisis are also burdened with heavy student debts from medical school. Just applauding them is not enough, write Alissa Quart, Astra Taylor And Brittany M Powell – [we should also clear their debts](#).

How Trump and Facebook let the 'boogaloo' movement grow

The anti-government "boogaloo" movement has been growing for months on private and public Facebook groups, where members openly discuss preparations for civil war. Their extremist rhetoric is linked to at least five deaths – yet the White House and Facebook [did nothing to stunt the groups' growth](#). Lois Beckett reports.

Trump thinks Covid-19 is 'going to sort of just disappear'



Young Trump supporters attend the president's 'Address to Young Americans' in Phoenix last week.

As the US rocketed to another daily case record on Wednesday – an unprecedented 52,000 confirmed new coronavirus infections – Donald Trump repeated his assertion that "at some point" the disease is "going to sort of just disappear".

In an interview with Fox Business, the president also said he was "all for masks", despite his continuing refusal to be seen wearing or promoting face coverings to prevent the spread of Covid-19. In the sunbelt states currently experiencing the country's worst outbreaks, infections are soaring among younger Americans, with young people of colour said to be at particular risk. California's governor, Gavin Newsom, on Wednesday ordered the closure of recently reopened bars and halted indoor operations at restaurants, movie theatres, museums and zoos across most of the state.

CORONA VIRUS TALLY

By Aljazeera

Reporting by Virginia Pietromarchi & Shereena QaziAlja

Brazil surpasses 60,000 deaths from the virus after recording more than 1,000 fatalities over the last 24 hours, the country's health ministry said.

Italy's hard-hit northern region of Lombardy accounted for considerably more than half of the nation's latest confirmed 187 coronavirus cases - raising the total to 240,760 nationwide. The Ministry of Health also reported 21 new deaths, raising to 34,788 the total of known deaths.

Serbia reports new spike of coronavirus cases

Serbia reported 359 new coronavirus infections and six deaths, marking a new spike within a persistent upward trend which has forced the return of some restrictions on public life.

The country had seemed to be on the verge of bringing the Covid-19 epidemic to a close, with the number of new cases in the low double-digits in late May and early June. This week the authorities reimposed a ban on large gatherings and required residents to wear masks in public transport and enclosed areas. But since then new outbreaks have hit Belgrade and the town of Novi Pazar, where the health care system quickly became overwhelmed.

Infection numbers began to rise after the government fully relaxed restrictions, even becoming the first European country to allow spectators at football matches, with one game drawing a crowd of more than 20,000 people.

Israel has recorded 966 new cases, the highest single-day spike since the virus was first detected on February 21. As the number of active cases surged to 8,647 in recent days, after it dropped below 2,000 last month, the country's Health Minister Yuli Edelstein said last week that the country was experiencing a second wave of the pandemic and that he would have imposed new restricting measures. So far, the country registered 26,452 infections, including 324 deaths.

Russia's latest figures

Russia has reported 6,760 new infections, pushing its nationwide tally to 661,165. The authorities said 147 people have died in the last 24 hours, bringing the official death toll to 9,683.

China on Thursday reported three new coronavirus cases and two new asymptomatic cases in the mainland for July 1, compared with three cases a day earlier, the health authority said.

Two of the new infections were imported cases, the National Health Commission said in a statement, while the capital city of Beijing reported one new case. There were no new deaths. As of July 1, mainland China had a total of 83,537 confirmed coronavirus cases, it said. China's death toll from the coronavirus remained at 4,634.

India's tally of coronavirus infections crosses 600,000. India's coronavirus infections surpassed 600,000 on Thursday, with 17,834 deaths, as authorities battled to contain the pandemic while easing lockdown rules, officials and the health ministry said. The increase presents a severe challenge for India's strained medical capacity and overburdened health system, Reuters news agency reported. An easing phase called "Unlock 2" was announced on Monday, allowing more economic activities to resume even as some densely populated containment zones stay under lockdown.

Tokyo confirms more than 100 coronavirus cases on Thursday, NHK says. Tokyo confirmed more than 100 new coronavirus infection cases on Thursday, public broadcaster NHK said, the Japanese capital's highest daily tally in two months. The city of 14 million initially sought to hold new daily cases below 20 since Japan lifted a state of emergency on May 25, but its tally has consistently exceeded 50 recently, according to Reuters news agency.

Colombia's confirmed coronavirus infections tipped across the 100,000 case threshold on Wednesday, as the country's quarantine measures roll on and intensive care units fill, Reuters news agency reported. Confirmed coronavirus cases now number 102,009, the health ministry said, 54,941 of which are active. Some 3,470 people have died. Wednesday also marked the highest-ever daily increase in confirmed cases with an uptick of 4,163.

Mexico coronavirus death toll hits 28,510, exceeding Spain. Mexico's health ministry has reported 5,681 new cases of coronavirus infection and 741 additional fatalities, bringing the total in the country to 231,770 cases and 28,510 deaths. With the additional deaths, Mexico's coronavirus toll exceeded Spain's total number of fatalities from the virus, which on Wednesday was 28,363, according to a Reuters tally.

Coronavirus cases in the United States rose by almost 50,000, the biggest daily increase since the pandemic started, according to the latest Reuters tally late on Wednesday. The number of US COVID-19 infections has surged over the past week, with daily figures setting new records several times in the past week, according to the tally. The United States reported at least 49,286 cases as of the end of Tuesday.

Arizona, California, Florida and Texas have led the increases and were among 14 states that have reported a more than doubling of case numbers during the month of June, according to a Reuters analysis as of the end of Wednesday.

The US has reported at least 2.68 million cases with over 128,000 deaths.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday warned any nation that fails to use every mechanism available to combat the still raging novel coronavirus is in for a "long, hard" battle.

No 10 accused of sowing confusion over Leicester lockdown

By Simon Murphy and Kate Proctor and Denis Campbell
The Guardian

Shadow health secretary says government must pinpoint how new restrictions will work



Downing Street has been accused of sowing confusion and anxiety in Leicester after imposing the first local lockdown to combat a surge in Covid-19 cases in the city, amid growing concern about how the measures will work.

As part of hardened restrictions, the health secretary, Matt Hancock, announced on Monday night that schools would shut to most children and reopened non-essential shops would be forced to close for at least two weeks in Leicester. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats backed the lockdown, but criticised the government's handling of it and called for clarity over the details.

The measures mean the east Midlands city, where more than 300,000 people live, will be on a different path from the rest of England, which will enjoy new freedoms, including the reopening of pubs and restaurants from 4 July. The relaxation of shielding measures, from 6 July, will also be halted in Leicester. On a fast-moving day of developments on Tuesday:

- Police sought to allay concerns that people from Leicester might seek to travel to nearby places, including Nottingham, to escape the lockdown measures.
- Downing Street confirmed that businesses forced to shut their doors again would be able to re-furlough their staff from Wednesday if they have used the scheme before.
- The city's Labour mayor hit out at the government, claiming it was too slow to share vital coronavirus testing data with local officials.
- The NHS trust running the city's three acute hospitals was preparing to announce that it was going on red alert in anticipation of an expected wave of seriously ill Covid-19 patients as a result of the rise in infections.
- The bishop of Leicester confirmed that no weddings or funerals could take place in church buildings.

Speech by Matt Hancock, Health Secretary, UK

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Hong Kong: hundreds arrested as security law comes into effect

By Verna Yu in Hong Kong, Lily Kuo in Beijing and Helen Davidson
The Guardian



More than 370 protesters have been arrested as police fired teargas, pepper spray and water cannon at thousands of people protesting against a national security law imposed by Beijing.

The extent of Beijing's mandate was made clear as full details of the law were released late on Tuesday, giving authorities sweeping powers to crack down on dissent and allowing China new levels of control over the semi-autonomous territory.

On Wednesday, the 23rd anniversary of the handover from Britain to China and the first day under the new law, Hong Kong's chief executive, Carrie Lam, and government dignitaries from the city and Beijing drank champagne in celebration. Lam called the law "the most important development in relations" between Hong Kong and China since the 1997 handover.

Hong Kong's security laws usher in new era of Chinese control

By the afternoon, thousands of people had taken to the streets of Causeway Bay and Wanchai in defiance of protest bans. Police were seen pinning protesters to the ground, shooting pepper balls at people who heckled them, and targeting journalists with water cannon and rounds of pepper spray.

Police said 10 of the arrests were for offences related to the new security law, including holding signs or flags advocating for Hong Kong independence. Of those arrested, one was a 15-year-old girl who was waving a Hong Kong independence flag.

[READ MORE](#)

Coronavirus Victoria: 73 new Covid-19 cases reported as 36 Melbourne suburbs return to lockdown

By Melissa Davey
THE GUARDIAN

Victoria reported 73 new Covid-19 cases overnight, with 10 hotspot postcodes to enter lockdown from midnight as the state tries to bring the cases under control.



Healthcare workers carry out swab tests at a makeshift drive-through Covid-19 testing facility in Keilor, Melbourne, on Wednesday. Twelve new testing sites will be established across the 36 hotspot suburbs as Victoria imposes new localised lockdowns.

While there were 14 new cases announced in New South Wales overnight, all of those were in returned international travellers now in quarantine hotels. Of Victoria's cases, only three were from hotel quarantine, with community transmission becoming a growing concern in the state over the past fortnight. The source of 42 of Victoria's newest cases remains under investigation.

The Victorian premier Daniel Andrews told reporters on Wednesday that the work of public health officials door-knocking the most affected suburbs and offering people free testing was now a key part of the state's strategy to bring the spread under control.

"I can report to you that as of last night we had knocked on some 54,000 doors in those high-risk suburbs and postcodes offering advice, testing information and in some cases the self-administering test kits where people can take the test and it can be collected at a later point," he said. "There will be further door-knocking, quite intensive door-knocking and there will be an update to this end each and every day."

[READ MORE](#)

Myanmar: More than 160 killed in jade mine landslide

By AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

At least 50 also injured after miners 'smothered by a wave of mud' caused by heavy rain, officials say.

A landslide at a jade mine in northern Myanmar, has killed at least 162 people and wounded another 54, officials say, in one of the worst-ever accidents to hit the treacherous industry. The incident took place early on Thursday in the jade-rich Hpakant area of Kachin state, in Burma after a bout of heavy rainfall, the Myanmar Fire Services Department said on Facebook.

"The jade miners were smothered by a wave of mud," the statement said.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Lithuania has issued a new collector's coin to mark the coronavirus crisis, bearing the inscription: "After darkness, I hope for light". The coin features rays of light illuminating the year 2020 while the perspective shadow of the date forms the international distress signal SOS.



A five-Euro nominal silver coin, minted to mark the coronavirus disease outbreak in Vilnius

Asta Kuniyoshi, deputy governor of Lithuania's central bank, said the bank came up with the idea in March when the Baltic eurozone member imposed a lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

She told AFP:

"At the height of the pandemic we witnessed solidarity between people. So the coin marks not only the lockdown period but also the universal human values of hope, unity and solidarity. With this coin we also pay tribute to medics and all the other people who helped during the pandemic, from volunteers who assisted the elderly to teachers who taught kids online."

Thousands of silver €5 coins, as well coins in copper and nickel with a nominal value of €1.50, are now available online and in a number of shops across the country. The bank minted 2,500 €5 coins and 30,000 of a €1.50 version.

The country of 2.8 million inhabitants has now eased most of the anti-virus restrictions imposed from mid-March.

Lithuania reported one new case of the coronavirus on Wednesday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 1,818, including 78 deaths – much lower than in most other EU countries.

Coronavirus: US buys nearly all of Gilead's Covid-19 drug remdesivir

By Richard Warry
BBC News



The US health department announced on Tuesday it had agreed to buy 500,000 doses for use in American hospitals. Tests suggest remdesivir cuts recovery times, though it is not yet clear if it improves survival rates.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



SPORTS NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

CSA announces revised Solidarity Cup date

By Yanga Sibembe
The Daily Maverick



After receiving government clearance to an official return to training and play last Friday, Cricket South Africa has announced a new date for the 3T cricket match, which is a charity orientated exhibition match.

Cricket South Africa on Tuesday announced a revised date for their new, revolutionary format – Three Team (3T) Cricket. It will now take place on Mandela Day, 18 July, the federation said in a statement. CSA thought they had secured the winning wicket when they announced, at a digital press conference, that the inaugural Solidarity Cup match would take place on 27 June, to much fanfare.

However, the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, flagged Chris Nenzani and company for a no-ball when they met with his ministry's parliamentary oversight committee a couple of weeks ago.

Mthethwa pointed out that even though CSA had been engaging the government, the date of 27 June was not yet approved. But now all is well after Mthethwa last week officially gazetted cricket as one of the non-contact sports that can return to training and play.

"It's very exciting to get live cricket, featuring our top players, back on our TV screens again," commented CSA acting chief executive Jacques Faul. "I can't think of a more appropriate day on which to hold this game than Nelson Mandela Day when its prime objective is to raise funds for those who have been badly affected by the coronavirus."

As of Monday, franchise players have also returned to training. This will aid those who will form part of the three teams involved in the Solidarity Cup match to prepare and push to be as fit as possible for the game. "It is still nearly three weeks away, so it also gives our players more time to prepare properly and to minimise the chance of injuries," stated Faul. And CSA stated that the return to training conditions are set to ensure the best possible safety of players.

"We engaged with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) who were comfortable with our protocols and responses to their queries for further details in some respects. Our prevention programme, besides the regular testing of players and support staff, is predicated on personal hygiene measures and creating a sanitised ecosystem. Covid-19 compliance managers at each venue have assumed responsibility to ensure all the elements of the protocol are implemented," CSA Chief Medical Officer, Shuaib Manjra said.

The rules! Here's a summary of how *3T*Cricket works, but checkout a more detailed explanation and exclusive content on <https://3team.cricket>

SOLIDARITY CUP

RULES SUMMARY

1. A MATCH BETWEEN 3 TEAMS OF 8 PLAYERS EACH.
2. 36 OVERS IN TWO HALVES OF 18 OVERS.
3. ONE INNINGS OF 12 OVERS EACH PER TEAM.
4. BAT AND BOWL TO ONE OPPONENT IN EACH HALF FOR 6 OVERS.
5. AFTER 7TH WICKET THE LAST BATTER STANDS ALONE.
6. MAX 3 OVERS PER BOWLER TO EITHER OPPONENT.
7. MOST RUNS WINS GOLD, 2ND SILVER & 3RD BRONZE.

PRESENTED BY

Former Springbok hooker Chilibooy Ralepelle handed 8-year doping ban

By Heinz Schenk
News24



Former Springbok **Chilibooy Ralepelle's** rugby career is over after being handed an eight-year ban on a doping charge.

In a statement on Wednesday, the South African Institute for Drug Free Sport (Saidis) confirmed that an independent tribunal, following several adjournments, found no meaningful mitigating circumstances for the 33-year-old testing positive for Zeranol, an anabolic agent, back in January 2019.

"The athlete challenged the doping charge and was afforded the opportunity to seek legal counsel to present his case and version of events to the tribunal panel," Saidis said.

"The panel reached a decision first on the merits of the case where they found the player guilty of a doping offence."

Ralepelle's substantial sanction is down to him incurring a doping-related suspension for the third time in his career.

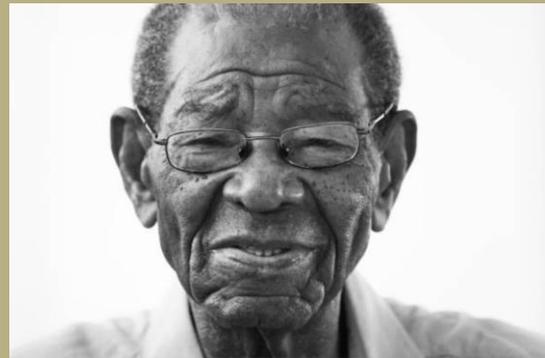
"(He) had previously tested positive on two separate occasions while playing overseas. The Zeranol positive case was his third positive dope test during his playing career within a 10-year period, however the player's first positive case was ruled a No Fault decision and he then received a reprimand," Saidis said.

"The panel had to refer to sports jurisprudence to determine the appropriate sanction which they ruled to be the player's second doping offence."

The former Bulls and Sharks No 2 has 21 days to appeal the sentence. Meanwhile, while there's a more concrete time frame in place, **Aphiwe Dyantyi** is still waiting for an opportunity to state his case against his doping suspension.

Sir Everton Weekes, legendary West Indian cricketer, dies aged 95

By REUTERS/ABC



West Indies great Sir Everton Weekes has died at the age of 95 at his home in Barbados after a long battle with ill-health, local media reported on Wednesday.

Sir Everton made his international debut in 1948 against England in Bridgetown and went on to play 48 tests for West Indies, scoring 4,455 runs at a superb average of 58.61 — the 10th highest in Test cricket history among players who have played more than 20 innings.

He made 15 centuries in his 10-year test career and is the only player to score hundreds in five consecutive Test innings, achieving the feat in 1948 in matches against England at home and India away.

- Sir Everton has the 10 highest Test batting average of any player to play 20 or more innings (58.61)
- Weekes scored five Test centuries in a row, a record that still stands
- He was one of the 'Three Ws', alongside Sire Clyde Walcott and Sir Frank Worrell

"Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of an icon. A legend, our hero, Everton Weekes," West Indies Cricket said in a statement on Twitter.



ENVIRONMENTAL News and Articles



SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Rotary Seventh Area of Focus



The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: **supporting the environment**.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

RI President Mark Maloney says that during his travels around the world as a Rotary senior leader he encountered many Rotary members and Rotaractors who advocated for the environment to be an area of focus.

“I believe strongly that our Rotary Foundation programs now have a valuable added dimension to our efforts,” says, Maloney.

Foundation Trustee Chair Gary C.K. Huang says that with the global population reaching near eight billion, protecting the environment is increasingly important.

“It is time for us to use our collective resources to invest in a smart and efficient way to protecting our environment,” says Huang. “We are qualified to take this initiative because we are a global group of problem solvers with diversified talents.”

In 1990-91, RI President Paulo V.C. Costa made the environment one of his primary causes, creating the Preserve Planet Earth subcommittee, which looked at ways clubs and members could conduct environmental initiatives.

“We have finally caught up to Costa [his vision],” says Past RI President Ian H.S. Riseley, chair of the Environmental Issues task force, which championed the new area of focus.

“As a lifelong environmentalist, I’m delighted that our great organization has recognized that the environment is a worthy and appropriate destination for our project activity,” says Riseley. “This is an exciting moment in Rotary history.”

Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.

More information about this new cause will be announced soon.

Hundreds of elephants found dead in Botswana

By BBC News



Mystery surrounds the "completely unprecedented" deaths of hundreds of elephants in Botswana over the last two months.

Dr Niall McCann said colleagues in the southern African country had spotted more than 350 elephant carcasses in the Okavango Delta since the start of May.

No one knows why the animals are dying, with lab results on samples still weeks away, according to the government. Botswana is home to a third of Africa's declining elephant population.

Dr McCann, of the UK-based charity National Park Rescue, told the BBC local conservationists first alerted the government in early May, after they undertook a flight over the delta.

"They spotted 169 in a three-hour flight," he said. "To be able to see and count that many in a three-hour flight was extraordinary.

"A month later, further investigations identified many more carcasses, bringing the total to over 350."

"This is totally unprecedented in terms of numbers of elephants dying in a single event unrelated to drought," he added.

Back in May, Botswana's government ruled out poaching as a reason - noting the tusks had not been removed, according to Phys.org. There are other things which point to something other than poaching.

"It is only elephants that are dying and nothing else," Dr McCann said. "If it was cyanide used by poachers, you would expect to see other deaths."

Dr McCann has also tentatively ruled out natural anthrax poisoning, which killed at least 100 elephants in Botswana last year. But they have been unable to rule out either poisoning or disease. The way the animals appear to be dying - many dropping on their faces - and sightings of other elephants walking in circles points to something potentially attacking their neurological systems, Dr McCann said.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Warning: Some people may find the images upsetting in the article

Park staff in England tell of litter chaos as 'Super Saturday' looms

By Sandra Laville

THE GUARDIAN



Hundreds of tonnes of additional rubbish, including mountains of single-use plastic, is being discarded by the public in English parks each day as park managers warn of their fears for "Super Saturday" this week.

Officials in Bournemouth said they collected 50 tonnes of litter left by revellers and beachgoers on the beach on one day alone last week, compared with five tonnes on an average June day. The scenes of waste mountains are being repeated across the country, on beaches and in parks – where the partial lifting of lockdown has led to millions more people using the green spaces to meet, exercise, eat and drink.

Park staff across the country spoke out to express concern at the pressure they are likely to face on 4 July, the day dubbed in some quarters as "Super Saturday", which the government has announced will mark the further lifting of lockdown, with alcohol widely available to take away under what are designed to be new feelgood laws drawn up by ministers.

Park managers have shared experiences of the pressure that green spaces are currently under on a nationwide online forum. In Rugby, an extra 10 tonnes of plastic waste, bottles and food packaging are being collected every day from the town's parks. In Salford, council staff collected 200 tonnes more rubbish from the cities parks and streets in the eight weeks between 23 March and 21 June than they did in 2019.

Chris Worman, manager of parks at Rugby borough council, said: "We are collecting seven Transit vanloads extra every day – that's around 10 tonnes more rubbish. People are defecating in the grass, they are leaving rubbish on the ground when there are bins nearby, they are abusing our staff. "And we are key workers. We have worked throughout the pandemic and now they are suffering this. The people coming to the parks don't seem to care about the environment, or the staff that have worked all the way through this. It is bizarre and frustrating behaviour."

[READ MORE](#)

Murder hornets': race to protect North America's honeybees from giant invader

By Leyland Cecco
The Guardian



Amateur beekeepers and scientists do 'the whole CSI thing' to stem the feared onslaught

The hornets have an insatiable taste for honeybees and are capable of destroying entire hives.

It took Moufida and John Holubeshen just a day of tracing alleged sightings and studying map coordinates before the two amateur detectives found their target.

"We did the whole CSI thing," says Moufida. "Plotting points and drawing lines, searching for where the middle of the circle – the nest – would be."

The couple, like hundreds of other beekeepers in western Canada and the US, were hunting the Asian giant hornet, an invasive species whose stealthy advance throughout British Columbia and Washington state is causing growing unease. Scientists and apiarists fear that, if permitted to spread unchecked, the hornets, which feast on honeybee larvae, could have disastrous consequences for tens of thousands of hives.

The couple's investigation began last September, when word spread that hornets had been spotted on the outskirts of the city of Nanaimo where they live. Concerned for the safety of their four hives, they set out one evening towards the suspected nest location in a city park.

As they walked along the trail, they heard a low, rumbling buzz overhead. Moments later John felt a sharp pain in his chest. He had just become one of the first people to be stung by a giant hornet in North America.

"It was like being hit by a two-by-four," he says. "It felt more like a bruised rib than a sting."

They fled the scene – but soon realised they would have to return. "My first thought was I've got to go back and get a sample or a photo because nobody's going to believe us," he says. "It just seemed so surreal."



An Asian giant hornet next to a native bald-faced hornet.

As the hornet continues to spread into the Pacific northwest, government officials and local beekeepers have swapped tending hives for sleuthing: experimenting with homemade contraptions and deploying sophisticated electronics to trace the hornet's spread – and hoping to save hundreds of thousands of honeybees in the process.



Inside the giant hornets' nest destroyed in Nanaimo

Since the first hornet was spotted, British Columbia's chief beekeeper, Paul van Westerndorp, has been keeping a growing list of sightings. So far, the hornets have been seen in the cities of Nanaimo, White Rock and Langley.

He is well aware of the threat they pose, but still Van Westerndorp holds a deep admiration for his adversary. "I look at this animal closely and it's fascinating. Of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder – but it's an incredible piece of engineering," he says.

The Asian giant hornet, [Vespa mandarinia](#), is built to dominate an ecosystem: its massive orange head is equipped with sharp jaws to slice through prey. When its wings flap, they sound more like a hummingbird than a wasp.



With its enormous mandibles, the Asian hornet is a formidable predator.

After their encounter in the park, the Holubeshens returned to the nest later that night, accompanied by entomologist Conrad Bérubé and Peter Lange, president of the local beekeepers' club.

Bérubé eradicated the subterranean hive, receiving several painful stings through his protective layers in the process. But while the Nanaimo beachhead was successfully destroyed, the hornets' incursion continues.

"It's like seeing an incoming storm and battenning down the hatches. But we don't know how strong these winds are going to be," says Susan Cormier, who, with her partner, keeps 17 hives containing about 850,000 honeybees.

Two months ago, a giant hornet was spotted nine blocks from their home in Langley, British Columbia – a city near the US border. "We're trying our best not to panic."

[READ FURTHER](#)

THE RIDDLE FOR TODAY

By *Stephan Pöltner*

See the attached PDF which is attached to your email for the Paparazzi. This allows you to print the A4 picture of the riddle

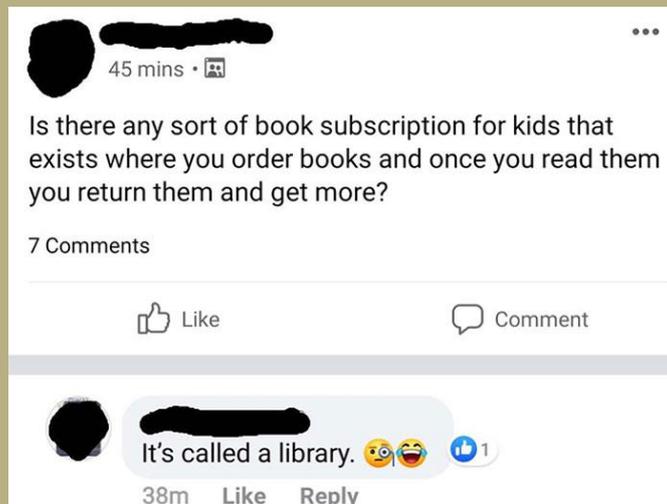
CUT OUT THE THREE PIECES AND, WITHOUT FOLDING,
PUT THEM TOGETHER SO THAT THE TWO RIDERS ARE
SITTING IN THE RIGHT POSITION ON THE HORSES

*There will be a prize for the first one to solve it.
Email the solution back to me and you will receive a virtual hug!!!*

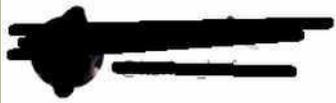
SOME REAL DUMB THINGS

Everyone likes to think that they're pretty smart and at the top of their game all the time, but the truth is, we all do and say some pretty dumb things sometimes. However, sometimes people mess up so badly that they end up on the internet when it looks like brain.exe stopped working for them.

To Ask For A Mysterious Service



Bye, America See You - Never



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✈️ 📍 🇪🇺



4:18 PM - 26 Apr 2018

1 7 56



Tweet your reply



26 - 28m

Replying to [redacted]
New York is still in America js

1 7 56



22m

have you never taken a geology class?? i think i would know, stupid girl.

2 7 56

He's Figuring It Out, Slowly



*Stay safe, healthy and take care.
Till next time.... Tanya*