

impact



13 reasons to celebrate for Atlantis winemaker

Darling Cellars walked away with no less than 13 trophies at this year's Swartland Young Wine Show, hosted on Thursday 14 August at the Meerhof wine cellar. "Words cannot really describe how grateful and happy I am. It took me 23 years in the industry to reach this milestone and this accolade is the highlight of my winemaking career. Achieving the title of Best Wine at the 2025 Swartland Young Wine Show makes it extra special." These were the sentiments of Anthony Meduna one of their winemakers. Meduna (46), born and bred in Atlantis, started his school career at Parkview Primary and Atlantis High respectively, from where he launched his career in a sector he loves.

READ MORE ON PAGE **5**

Atlantis residents frustrated with 'chaotic and messy' pipe replacement project

FULL STORY ON PAGE **3**

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Mamre man jailed after hoax bomb threats lead to widespread chaos

● STAFF REPORTER

The Bellville Regional Court earlier this month sentenced Ferdinand Fortuin to five years' direct imprisonment after he contacted the police, telling them that he had planted bombs at three locations in Belville. He gave police hours to evacuate the premises. Fortuin is a divorced father of two children living in Mamre, and working in Bellville.

According to Eric Ntabazalila, spokesperson for the National Prosecuting Authority in the Western Cape, he made these threats following heavy drinking on Sunday, 10 November 2024, and decided that he did not want to go to work on Monday, 11 November 2024. "He left his home in Mamre with the hope that the roads leading to Bellville would be closed because of his bomb threats. They were not, and he worked the whole day." In his plea and sentencing agreement, Fortuin confessed that he bought a cell phone from a drug user, which he used to make hoax calls to the police and a toll-free emergency number

regarding the placement of explosive devices in the buildings, one of which was where he worked. The 50-year-old contacted the Bellville Police Station on 11 November 2024. He informed officers that he had placed explosive devices at the Bellville Department of Water and Sanitation offices, the Transnet Park Building, and the Bellville Taxi Rank. He then disposed of the cell phone so it could not be tracked back to him.

Ntabazalila confirmed that this resulted in the deployment of substantial state resources and the evacuation of thousands of people from the three sites. At the Water and Sanitation Department offices on Voortrekker Road, police assisted by three bomb disposal technicians, the K-9 Dog Unit, using explosive detection canines, and evacuating 164 people. Meanwhile, another 151 people were evacuated from the department's Bellville South offices. Police also evacuated 250 people from the Transnet Park Building offices, and at least 3,000 people were evacuated from the taxi rank.

The area and roads leading to and out of the taxi rank were closed, resulting in widespread panic in the area.

According to the spokesperson, Fortuin was arrested and charged with four counts of contravention of the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorism and Related Activities Act 33 of 2004 (POCDATARA) and for contravention of the Explosives Act 26 of 1956. The prescribed minimum sentence is 15 years' direct imprisonment, unless the court finds substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the prescribed sentence. "He was convicted on three counts of POCDATARA, and for purposes of sentencing, the charges were taken together, and he was sentenced to five years' direct imprisonment. The court found that he was a first offender, he had pleaded guilty, had strong personal circumstances, had shown remorse, and his acknowledgement of guilt made him a good candidate for a rehabilitative sentence." Ntabazalila



- FERDINAND FORTUIN

said the NPA accepts the sentence of the court and warns that anyone who makes such threats will face tough consequences. "The NPA will not hesitate to prosecute conduct of this nature to the full extent that the law allows," he added.

Male body found on Pella road

The partially decomposed body of a male was found in the bushes next to main road in Pella on Wednesday 20 August.

Atlantis police was called out to the scene just after 14h00, where the body was found by children playing in the bushes. He was dressed in a black *Adidas* track suit and covered under a red fleece blanket. Atlantis police spokesperson, Captain Elizabeth Munro, confirmed the body was transported to the Salt River mortuary, where an autopsy and DNA tests will be conducted to determine cause of death and identity. A case is under investigation by Detective Constable Mitchellene

Adams, who can be contacted on 0844 014 206, should any member of the public have information on this case.



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Residents frustrated with unsafe, chaotic conditions and bad planning

● PETER LATEGAN



Residents in parts of Robinvale and Saxonsea in Atlantis, have vented their disappointment with the ongoing delays and apparent chaos in the rehabilitation of water pipes in Atlantis.

In addition to being behind schedule, exposed water pipes, damaged fittings and dangerous road conditions are just some of the challenges residents have to deal with every time they step outside their front doors. Allegations by a whistleblower of reclaimed materials used, were denied by the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Water and Sanitation, Councillor Zahid Badroodien. The contractor, Nejeni Construction, did not comment on questions posed to them via email. Residents say the lack of communication seems to be an ongoing theme when it comes to local construction projects.

Beuron Ranck, who lives in Saxonsea, is one of many frustrated residents in the area. He requested a copy of the project's Critical Path Schedule. "For the sake of transparent communication, I believe this document would assist in informing

us about expected disruptions and the overall project timeline. But I received no response," said a despondent Ranck. He said the local sub-council office also did not have a copy of this document, which he found very strange.

When asked if there were any delays with these projects in Atlantis, Badroodien did not confirm or deny this. Instead he said there are three separate ongoing works projects, one of which has already reached practical completion. The remaining two are scheduled for completion within the next week. "The projects are now in their closure stages, and residents can expect backfilling and reinstatement activities to take place within the next two weeks," he confirmed last week.

Badroodien said the contractor faced significant challenges in maintaining the barricade netting due to ongoing theft. In response, additional security measures have been implemented, and the City's Metro Police were asked to assist. On the matter of alleged reclaimed or used materials being utilised, he said control hold-point inspections are conducted before acceptance and handover, including visual inspections and



hydraulic pressure tests. "The works will not be accepted or handed over until these inspections have been completed and approved."

The use of exposed water pipes with valves, while new pipes are being replaced, is also a concern to residents in these areas. The City claims this is standard practice in projects involving trenchless pipe replacement. "This temporary bypass provides an uninterrupted water supply to residents while the underground water mains are being replaced. Safety measures typically include anchoring it with sandbags, and regular inspections to minimise the risk of tampering or accidental damage, such as from vehicles driving over it," said Badroodien. Residents living in Nelly Lane, Robinvale complained about delinquent children in the neighbourhood randomly opening and closing these valves. When Impact News visited several streets in Robinvale in August, dozens of these valves were

exposed, with sandbags placed only in line with driveways, leaving many of these valves exposed.

Saxonsea residents channelled their concerns to the City via the Community Liaison Officer, Manfred van Rooyen. "The layout of the pipes in the streets is untidy, why were they not laid against the boundary walls or fencing of homes? We drive over these pipes when entering our homes," said one Saxonsea resident. Another added: "On the bend of Kent Crescent, you literally have to drive on the far right, hoping that a vehicle will not bump into your car. I've had quite a few close encounters, especially with the MyCiti buses coming around that bend. The same goes for the corner of Lisboa Street, where you have to swerve to the right to pass the dugouts, and move into the bus lane. This is very unsafe, especially in rainy weather. Residents agreed that it is unfair of the City to always expect residents to foot the bill for poorly planned and executed work by contractors."

"Early warning signs should have been noted, and the City should have intervened and reconsidered the contractor's ability to execute the project. What happens when the project moves to other streets in Atlantis? Will the same mistakes be made?" they asked.

Janel van Vliet

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Library's Science Week sparks new curiosity

● MONIQUE HANSEN

To celebrate National Science Week during the first week of this month, 33 libraries in Cape Town hosted a series of events.

Wesfleur Library, in Atlantis, celebrated a successful Science Week of Discovery and Innovation, in collaboration with Eskom, Regional Coding, the University of Cape Town (UCT) Department of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, the Forensics Department of the South African Police Service, and the Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ). The event aimed to inspire young minds from grades 7 to 11 through hands-on activities, expert talks, and interactive workshops across various scientific disciplines.

The event included exploring the fundamentals of programming and digital problem-solving skills, cutting-edge research and the role of science in combating diseases, crime scene investigations and the science behind solving crimes, robotics demonstrations, engineering and automation. It concluded with learners receiving a Computer Skills Course facilitated by the Learning Empowerment Network, providing

students with vital digital literacy skills to support their academic and future career pursuits. The program coordinator, Octavia Kotzee, said that this year's event was a tremendous success. "It was inspiring to see how engaged the students were and how these experiences sparked new curiosity about science and technology. It not only celebrated innovation but also provided a platform for learners to connect with professionals, explore future careers, and understand how science shapes our everyday lives," she explained.



Local educators recognised for their commitment at awards event

● MONIQUE HANSEN

At the 2025 Metro North National Teaching Awards, held recently, several local teachers were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to education.

Alizhaan Jantjies, Language teacher and department head at Kerria Primary School, Elizabeth Gouws, Grade R teacher from Berzelia Primary School, Tashwin Geswindt from Avondale Primary School, and Witsand Primary School principal, Gerhard Matthyse, were all participants. Jantjies won first runner-up for Excellence in Primary School Teaching. She hopes her achievement will inspire more teachers to enter future nominations. The award focuses on innovative teaching methods and going the extra mile to help learners grasp their work. Jantjies explained how she always

adapts to what learners understand, using e-learning, technology, song, and visuals. "I get to live my passion in teaching kids more than just what is in the textbook. When they excitedly understand the work, it's an 'aha' moment, and that makes me so happy. The work we do is valuable, and this award is proof of that," she added.

Berzelia Primary's Gouws, a Grade R teacher, facilitator, and advocate with over 30 years in early childhood education, champions creative learning, community upliftment, and the preservation of indigenous wisdom. "My work blends storytelling, leadership, and legacy – empowering young minds to rise with purpose and pride, and I am honoured to be acknowledged," she said. Gouws won third place for Excellence in Grade R Teaching,

recognised for her innovative and creative ways of bringing indigenous pride into lessons.

Technophile Geswindt, who teaches Natural Science and Mathematics at Avondale Primary, won third place for Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning. His innovative methods prepare learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics. "We are using laptops and tablets, applying software that teaches coding, creative use of Microsoft applications, and even video game development. Change is happening now, and I am excited to explore it with the learners," he explained. Matthyse won the award for Excellence in Primary School Leadership. He said the award reflects not only recognition but also the positive impact on the

school, learners, and community. "Regardless of the challenges we face and the environment we find ourselves in, I try to stay one step ahead and always think of new ways to make the community better. I strive for the enhancement of education for all learners, regardless of race, ethnicity, or cultural differences. I want to empower my staff and be an example for young people in the community."

All four educators agreed the awards humbled them and reminded them that, with determination, God's grace, and community support, great things can be achieved.



RECOGNITION: FLTR is Alizhaan Jantjies, Tashwin Geswindt, Gerhard Matthyse and Elizabeth Gouws.

Meduna celebrates 23-year journey to top wine award

● PETER LATEGAN

One of the 13 trophies includes the prestigious Absa Grand Champion Trophy for its Sauvignon Blanc, class 14, unwooded.

Meduna graduated in 2001 from Elsenburg Agricultural College with a Diploma in Cellar Technology, which qualified him as a winemaker. "My journey started even earlier. After finishing Matric at Atlantis High in 1996, I wanted to study further, but my parents couldn't afford it. After several unsuccessful bursary attempts, I nearly gave up. Then my principal and maths teacher at Atlantis High arranged interviews at Stellenbosch Vineyards. In 1998, I started as a general cellar worker at Welmoed. They later funded my studies, and I worked there for four years before moving to KWV in Robertson and Paarl. In 2011, I joined Darling Cellars as a harvest intern, became assistant winemaker, and for the past 13 years, I've been privileged to serve as winemaker."

As a youngster he wanted to become a wine taster, but soon realised it would make more sense to become a winemaker instead. "I was always curious about what happens to all the grapes I would see in the vineyards." For learners and those interested in following a career in winemaking, he recommends they excel in mathematics, chemistry, and physics. He adds that for those who are not that good at these subjects, there are colleges that offer bridging courses.

To get a better understanding of the industry, we posed a range of questions to Meduna after the cellar's historic victory.

Darling Cellars has collected many awards in recent years. What do these accolades mean for the brand?

The awards boost our reputation, signalling high quality and building consumer trust. They strengthen our marketing, support global expansion, and set us apart in a competitive market.

What is your winemaking philosophy, and how do you balance tradition with innovation?

Blending is one of the most important steps. Knowing which cultivars complement each other can elevate a wine to another level. At the same time, a winemaker must stay updated with technology and market trends to ensure we keep producing wines people love and want to buy.

How do you capture character in your wines?

It starts with knowing the quality and potential of your vineyards. Passion, dedication, and attention to detail pay off in the end. Teamwork is also crucial during harvest—it's a Sunday-to-Sunday effort.



BEST OF THE BEST: FLTR is Darling Cellar's Managing Director, Riaan de Waal; André Scriven (head winemaker) and winemakers Maggie Immelman and Anthony Meduna.

Among the award-winning wines, is there a particular bottle you feel especially proud of?

All our wines are award-winning in their own way, but this year our Sauvignon Blancs truly stood out. Winning three gold medals for three different Sauvignon Blancs at the Young Wine Show is a first in our history. The highlight is our Amphora Sauvignon Blanc, crowned Best Wine of 2025 in Swartland. We'll be bottling it later this year.

How does your team of winemakers work together to maintain such high standards?

Passion, hard work, and attention to detail set us apart. "Quality before quantity" has always been our trademark. Discipline and timing ensure world-class wines. We also believe strongly in uplifting our cellar workers, who play a crucial role during and after harvest.

How do you balance producing everyday accessible wines with building a premium reputation internationally?

By maintaining consistently high quality across all ranges. We craft approachable wines for everyday enjoyment while also producing premium wines that showcase our region's excellence. This dual approach builds broad appeal without compromising brand integrity.

What initiatives has Darling Cellars adopted in terms of sustainability and environmental responsibility?

We've embraced water conservation, minimal-intervention winemaking, and responsible farming practices. Working with growers, we preserve biodiversity, reduce chemical usage, and promote soil health. Most of our vineyards are dryland-farmed, reducing water use and supporting long-term resilience.

How important is the Darling community and region in shaping your wines?

The unique terroir, coastal climate, and old bush vines give our wines distinctive character. Strong partnerships with local growers and respect for the land ensure authenticity and consistency, making our wines a true reflection of the Darling region.

Looking ahead, what excites you most about the future of Darling Cellars and your role in it?

Being part of such a phenomenal team makes everything special. We're no longer running with the small dogs—we're competing with the big dogs in the industry! Winning 13 trophies out of 15 at the Swartland Young Wine Show is the greatest achievement in our history. We've set the bar high, and now the goal is consistency and improvement. My approach is to stay humble, listen to good advice, and bring a positive attitude to work. Challenges will come, but at work we focus on excellence.

Anyone in particular you want to thank?

First and foremost, I thank God, for without Him, none of this would be possible. I also thank our Managing Director, Riaan de Waal, and our head winemaker, André Schröder, for trusting me. After 13 years at Darling Cellars, being given the responsibility to work with these grapes is a big honour. To the youngsters in our communities chasing their dreams, I want to say: Keep God at the centre of your life, dream big and never look back. Your circumstances don't define you.



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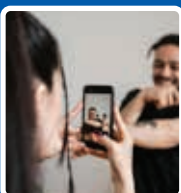
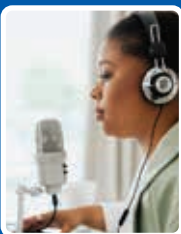
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Casual Day is all about inclusion and diversity

Across South Africa, thousands are gearing up with bold outfits and bright blue stickers to stand proud in support of Casual Day 2025, an annual movement raising funds and awareness for persons with disabilities.

This year, the campaign carries a powerful message: “Beyond the Label: Embracing Unity Through Inclusion and Diversity.” It urges us to look past disabilities, to recognize

each person’s full humanity, and to cherish the differences that form the fabric of our communities. Set for Friday, 5 September 2025, Casual Day invites everyone to wear whatever makes them feel unstoppable, from vintage tees and mismatched socks to superhero capes, paired with the campaign’s signature dynamic blue merchandise

Locally, the Orion Organisation have 250 stickers to sell at R20 each. The organisation's management appealed

that residents purchase as many stickers and show support for this amazing cause. Another organisation that can do with everyone’s support is the Robinhill Special school.

Parents asked to give consent for vaccines



The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness encourages all parents to be on the lookout for consent forms that will be sent home for their children to receive the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine.

HPV is the virus that causes cervical cancer. The department explained that the vaccine does not contain any live virus or DNA from the virus, so it cannot cause cancer or other HPV-related illnesses. The vaccine does not affect fertility. It is also not used to treat HPV infections or diseases caused by HPV, but rather to prevent the development of cancers, as outlined by the World Health Organisation.

More than 1200 schools are visited annually in the Western Cape to administer the vaccine, with strong support from parents and communities to safeguard their children’s futures. As part of the HPV campaign, the National Department of Health has directed that Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine boosters be administered to all eligible children, both boys and girls. This campaign aims to boost protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough by offering a Tdap booster to all Grade 5 learners. It helps prevent outbreaks and supports ongoing school-based vaccination. All that’s needed is a signed consent form. The second round of the school-based vaccination campaign will end on 30 September 2025.

“Parents may have questions about safety and what to expect after vaccination. The vaccines administered at our schools and clinics are safe and have been tested. These vaccination campaigns are not new, and we welcome questions from parents and communities. Like any vaccine, some children might have mild side effects such as redness, swelling, or pain where the injection was given, a mild fever, or feeling a bit tired. These usually go away on their own within a day or two. Serious reactions are very rare. If you’re worried about how your child reacts, please speak to your clinic or doctor,” explained the department in a recent media statement.

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ENTRIES CLOSE 31 AUGUST 2025



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● ALLISON ADAMS



Op Woensdag 7 Augustus 2025 het talle vroue van die God’s Faith Mission Church in Protea Park, Atlantis, bymekaar gekom vir ’n spesiale geleentheid met die tema “Dress Like a Queen.” Die inisiatief is gelei deur die kerk se moederleier, Cathleen Gertse.

Die afgelope paar weke het sy elke Sondag vroue by die kerk spesiaal vereer, met ’n kroon, ’n ere-lint en ’n geskenkie om hulle spesiaal en gewaardeer te laat voel. “Ek wil hê vroue moet trots wees op wie hulle is. By die huis, by die werk, of selfs in die kerk, dra ons dikwels maskers om ons rolle te vervul of sekere status

te handhaaf. Maar vanaand moedig ons vroue aan om die maskers af te haal, hulself te wees en die koningin binne-in hulle te omhels,” het Gertse by die geleentheid gesê. ’n Lang tafel was gedek, aandete bedien, en so tussendeur die lag en gesels het daar ’n spontane koor van liedere en koortjies uitgebreek. Gertse het gestraal terwyl sy oor alles gesels het. Sy is dankbaar vir die span vroue wat altyd gewillig is om haar te help om oomblikke soos hierdie ’n sukses te maak. Haar inspirasie spruit uit haar eie ervarings as jong vrou. Sy onthou hoe sy een jaar, op Moedersdag, ’n geskenk van pastoors-vrou, juffrou Rachel Adams ontvang het. “Daardie oomblik het my diep geraak. Dit het

my geleer hoe belangrik dit is om mense spesiaal te laat voel, ongeag hul omstandighede. Nou gee ek dit terug aan ons gemeente, net soos diegene wat ons vooruitgegaan het, ons geleer het.”

Kerse is ook aangesteek ter herinnering aan die kerk se twee leiers, Rachel Adams en Sarah Johnson, wie albei vroeër vanjaar oorlede is, twee maande na mekaar. Die inisiatief beklemtoon ook respek vir herkoms en nalatenskap. Die “Goue Oues” van die kerk was eerste om vereer te word vir hul onbaatsugtige rol as pilare van geloof en inspirasie oor die dekades heen. Dit sluit in die 95-jarige Clary

Sauls, Sophy Jacobs, en Frieda Matthews. “Dit is belangrik om dié te eer wat die grondslag gelê het,” het Gertse gesê. Deur haar toewyding skep sy ’n kettingreaksie van bemagtiging, eenheid en erkenning. Die geleentheid het gewys dat ware leierskap en koningskap nie van titels kom nie, maar van mededeelsaamheid, gewilligheid en die opheffing van ander.

Mamre biblioteek bemagtig vroue met talle programme

● COURTNEY ARENDSE



Die Mamre biblioteek het hulle Vrouemaand vanjaar besonders gemaak met ’n reeks programme wat nie net vroue vereer het nie, maar ook werklike geleenthede vir bemagtiging geskep het.

Die vieringe het op 8 Augustus afgeskop met ’n spesiale seremonie vir onderwyseresse van plaaslike kleuterskole en Mamre Primêr. Die biblioteek het saamgespan om ’n gesellige atmosfeer te skep, terwyl Michelle Fortuin, bestuurder van die Basic Package of Support-program, die gehoor geïnspireer het oor die belangrikheid daarvan dat vroue ook tyd maak om na hulself om te sien.

Op 14 Augustus het die biblioteek die dames van TB/HIV Care gehuisves vir ’n emosionele byeenkoms. Gemeenskapsleier en motiveringspreker, tannie Sarah “Baby” Roberts, het die groot waarde van sorgwerkers in die samelewing uitgelig. Sy het beklemtoon dat hulle

dikwels nie net versorgers is nie, maar ook geselskap en steun vir mense wat hulle besoek. ’n Ander belangrike projek is die WISE-program (Women Information Skills Empowerment), wat steeds aan die gang is. Vyf vroue word hier toegerus met praktiese vaardighede soos CV-opstel, aanlyn aansoeke, onderhoudvoorbereiding en e-posgebruik.

Die organisasie Working on Fire ondersteun die program deur deelnemers aan te stuur. Alhoewel begrotings en lokale soms ’n uitdaging was, het die biblioteekpersoneel dit met kreatiwiteit en spanwerk oorkom. Volgens die biblioteek was elke aktiwiteit ’n hoogtepunt op sy eie manier en het dit ’n merkbare verskil in die lewens van vroue gemaak. Baie deelnemers het gesê hulle het dit waardeer om tyd te kry om net te ontspan, erkenning te ontvang en nuwe energie op te doen.

Women’s Month is a time to honour the courage, resilience, and remarkable contributions of women in our communities, our country, and our world. It is not only about celebration, but it is a call to action, to uplift, to create, to teach and to dream without limits. **MONIQUE HANSEN** asked a few of our readers what message they are able to offer to other women.



MELANIE FAROA: Celebrate your strength, resilience, and beauty. You are the backbone of our families, workplaces, and society. Your voices matter, your stories deserve to be heard, and your contributions are invaluable. Empower yourself and others by embracing your uniqueness. Speaking your truth and supporting one another.

MAXINE SMITH: You are stronger than you think, more capable than you believe, and more valued than you may comprehend. Whether you are a mother, daughter, sister, leader, worker, or friend, your role in shaping families, uplifting communities, and inspiring change, cannot be measured.



GILLIAN JACOBS DIRKS: In struggle, it is not too late to break free and create a life that uplifts and inspires you. Take the first step towards healing, growth, and transformation. You deserve a life you love, and there is hope for a brighter tomorrow. Gods got you!



IMELDA TITUS: Aan ons vroue in Atlantis, glo in jouself en glo dat jy enigiets kan doen en enige droom kan laat waar word. Hou aan klop, maak nie saak hoeveel deure toe bly nie, hou net aan klop.



Saxonsea Hoërse o.14 meisies in SA se Top 10

● CAY-LENE COETZEE

Saxonsea Hoërskool se sonder 14-netbalspan het 'n merkwaardige prestasie behaal deur 10de plek uit 150 spanne landswyd te behaal by die onlangse Nasionale Skole-Netbalkampioenskap.

Afrigter Rhodopher Davids sê sy is verskriklik trots. “Dis 'n groot prestasie vir ons skool en gemeenskap. Ons kinders kom uit moeilike omstandighede, maar

hulle het gewys dat harde werk en toewyding groot dinge kan bereik.” Die span het teen van die land se top skole gespeel en sterk gestaan in moeilike wedstryde. 'n Groot uitdaging was fondsinsameling en borgskappe om aan die toernooi te kon deelneem. Die meisies het selfs op 'n sementblad geoefen, dikwels in wind en reën, maar het nooit moed opgegee nie. Volgens Davids is dit die spelers se uithouvermoë en potensiaal wat hulle besonders maak.



Sy beklemtoon dat spanwerk, respek en liefde vir mekaar die kern van hul sukses was. Ouers en ondersteuners het ook 'n groot rol gespeel, van hulp met voorbereidings tot konstante aanmoediging tydens die toernooi.

Die afrigter glo hierdie prestasie is net die begin. “Ons beplan reeds vir volgende jaar. Ons wil nóg beter vaar en Saxonsea se naam hoog hou. Ek is ongelooflik trots – alle eer aan God wat ons so ver gebring het.”

Die meisies se prestasie het nie net hul eie span se naam groot gemaak nie, maar ook ander netbalgroepe in die skool geïnspireer om harder te werk en groot te droom.

Drummies shine again at national championships

● MONIQUE HANSEN

As has become the norm, the Avondale Primary and Senior Majorettes once again delivered outstanding performances at the 2025 National Championships, held in Klerksdorp, North West, last month.

Avondale Primary Majorettes took a team of 27 girls to the competition, while the Avondale Senior Majorettes Club was represented by 19 boys and girls. Both teams returned home with an impressive collection of medals and achievements, reflecting months of hard work and dedication. The primary team brought home a total of four gold, eight silver, and two bronze medals. They competed across various categories and are champions of the Mini Mace and Mini Non-Prop categories. Team

coach Kaylene Cordom specifically acknowledged the remarkable comeback of the primary team, moving from 4th to 2nd place nationally. As for the senior team, Cordom added: “After placing mostly in 7th position in 2024, the team made a dramatic leap into the top three across multiple categories this year.” They are also champions in three categories, namely Mini Mace, Mini Flag, and Mini Baton, and rounded off their campaign with a total of six gold, seven silver, and nine bronze medals. “These remarkable results are a testament to the dedication of the athletes, coaches, and supporters who contributed to their success on the national stage,” said Cordom.



- Some of the senior team members in thier full regalia

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