

inbrief

No-go for vehicle battery thieves

A man was arrested on Saturday after allegedly stealing 56 vehicle batteries from a business in Korsten.

The 52-year-old man allegedly tried to evade police by driving over a pavement as he approached the corner of Chase Drive and Uitenhage Road in New Brighton before colliding with a traffic light.

One suspect escaped earlier when the manager tried to stop the vehicle from leaving the premises, while a security guard was also arrested and detained on the charge of theft.

"It is alleged he was in cahoots with the alleged thieves," police spokesperson Colonel Priscilla Naidoo said.

The total value of the batteries is R56,000. – **Devon Koen**

Irish cheer



PATRON SAINT: A man dressed as St Patrick leads the St Patrick's Day parade through the centre of Dublin in Ireland on Sunday. Picture: AFP

Eye injury not the result of negligence, judge rules

Ex-pupil's bid to sue school fails

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A former pupil of Kingswood College in Makhanda lost his bid to sue his former school and a fellow alumnus after a judge found the school had not acted negligently in the incident where his eye was severely injured in a classroom brawl.

Lusakanya Gora, now 20, of Port Elizabeth, brought the claim, alleging that the school was responsible for his injury.

The reason for his claim was that on February 13 2014 when the incident occurred, a substitute teacher had not been arranged to monitor the classroom.

In his judgment handed down on Friday, judge Jeremy Pickering found that Gora had failed to prove that either the school, the Kingswood College Council or its trust were responsible for his injury.

"It is abundantly clear... that there can be no question of the school and its employees having been guilty of gross negligence," Pickering said.

In his papers submitted to the Eastern Cape division of the High Court in Makhanda, Gora claimed that on the day in question there was no teacher monitoring the classroom

The reason for his claim was that a substitute teacher had not been arranged

when a brawl occurred between him and another pupil, Daniel Moore, 20.

Both of the parties were 15 at the time.

According to Gora he had taken Moore's pen as a way... "of trying to get to know [Moore]" so I could hang out with him after school."

Pickering detailed what had transpired in a school disciplinary hearing, where Moore claimed he had been bullied by Gora during the two weeks leading up to the incident.

According to Gora's version, the two ran around the class chasing each other.

The two eventually sat down at their respective desks when, according to Moore, Gora poked him in the back several times.

"Matters escalated and eventually, according to [Gora], Moore turned around, pointed at him and said to him 'I will kill you'."

"[Gora] pushed his hand away and Moore then punched

him in the face," Pickering said. These blows, Pickering said, smashed Gora's glasses, which resulted in an injury to his eye.

Moore denied that he had threatened to kill Gora but conceded that he had warned Gora that if he continued poking him in the back with a pencil he would punch him.

"It was when he was poked again that he turned around and hit [Gora] in the face," Pickering said.

Initially Moore's name was not included in the claim but after the insistence of the school for Moore to be included, his name was entered as a third party in the matter.

Pickering found that the school was not liable or responsible for the injury as Gora's parents had signed and accepted an indemnity clause in Gora's enrolment contract which indemnified the school from responsibility in incidents of this nature.

"Accordingly [Gora's] action cannot succeed," Pickering said. Pickering ordered that Gora pay the costs of the application on behalf of the school, its trust and council, while Moore's cost should be covered by the school "as [Moore] joined as such at the insistence of the defendants".

'Make school physical activity compulsory'

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Physical activity should be compulsory in schools.

That is the view of a joint local and international team of researchers who studied the effects of being active on children's concentration levels.

In their latest publication, the team said data they had collected at Port Elizabeth schools showed that physical activity was beneficial to academic performance.

The research focused on evaluating the difference a 20-week school-based physical activity intervention programme made on the schoolwork of primary school children.

The research is part of the Dash (Disease, Activity and Schoolchildren's Health) study, conducted by Nelson Mandela University in collaboration with the department of sport, exercise and health from the University of Basel, Switzerland, and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

Professor Cheryl Walter, head of the department of human movement science at NMU, said 663 children between the ages of eight and 13 from eight primary schools formed part of the study.

She said the schools were based in township areas and in the northern areas.

Walter said that after the 20-week programme was com-

'The physical activity contributed to the maintenance of academic performance'

Cheryl Walter
NMU PROFESSOR

pleted a test had been done to measure "selective attention" (the ability to concentrate) among the pupils.

End-of-year school results in maths, life skills, home language and additional language were used as an indicator of academic performance.

"The data analysis suggested that the physical activity intervention had a positive effect on academic performance."

This confirms the findings of other studies in the same field.

She said physically active and fit children tended to have better concentration performance than their less fit peers.

"After eliminating other factors that could also possibly have affected academic performance, the physical activity condition contributed to the maintenance of academic performance, whereas a decrease was observed in learners in the control condition.

"School administrators should take care and ensure that their staff implements physical activity lessons, which

are a compulsory component of the school curriculum," she said.

The ongoing research project has provided a number of positive outcomes since it started in 2015.

This included a shock finding that in some schools up to 60% of children were infected with intestinal parasites and that this affected their ability to concentrate and academic performance.

Walters said that following their study, the Eastern Cape department of health started annual mass deworming campaigns in the affected areas.

Other small and easy-to-implement interventions, focusing on hygiene and activity levels, were also implemented to improve children's ability to focus at school.

The study proposed the designing of tool kits for teachers to improve physical education, health, hygiene and nutrition.

"Our results are in line with previous studies showing maintenance and/or a smaller decline of academic performance in children participating in a physical activity intervention, compared to those experiencing no change in physical activity levels," the study concluded.

"Our findings indicate that the promotion of physical activity may be a strategy to maintain academic performance," the authors said.

Two held for student's death

Two men were arrested after they allegedly pushed an 18-year-old student from the seventh floor of a block of flats in Arcadia, east of Pretoria, in the early hours of Saturday.

"A witness alleged the victim was involved in an argument with the suspects before he was pushed," police spokes-

person Captain Daniel Mavimbela said.

Mavimbela said the student had been taken to hospital but had died the same day.

The duo, aged 23 and 27, were charged with murder and are expected to appear in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court soon. – **TimesLIVE**

Plus-size actresses finally get to take on leading roles

Long relegated to providing comic relief or playing supporting parts, plus-size actresses are finally getting their due with juicy front-and-centre roles in a sign of shifting attitudes towards diverse body types.

New Hulu series *Shrill*, which debuted in the US on Friday and is adapted from the best-selling autobiography of Lindy West, is the latest example of studios willing to depart from the tried-and-tested formula of slender leading ladies.

To be sure, curvy actresses, such as the Oscar-winning Octavia Spencer and Mo'Nique, or hip-hop icon Queen Latifah, blazed an early trail starting more than decade back with a string of starring film and TV roles.

In more recent years, Chrissy Metz has received attention for *This is Us*, Danielle Macdonald starred in the Netflix movie *Dumplin'*, while in cinema, Rebel Wilson (*Pitch Perfect*) and Melissa McCarthy (*Spy and Ghostbusters*) have made them-



HEAVY ROLE: Plus-size actress **Aidy Bryant**, and **Lindy West** on her book cover. Pictures: AFP

selves regular fixtures.

"I think the American public, and probably the public in general, is not used to seeing fat women on TV," Aidy Bryant, the star of *Shrill* who has been a regular on late-night comedy show *Saturday Night Live*, recently told *Elle* magazine.

A professor at the University of Connecticut where she is deputy director of the Rudd Centre for Food Policy and Obesity, Rebecca Puhl, said: "I do think we are starting to see somewhat of a shift".

Heavier actresses are also

taking on new types of roles.

James Zervios, of the Obesity Action Coalition, which fights against weight bias, said: "In the past, people with obesity were often cast in more of a comedic role than a serious one.

"As of very recently, we have begun to see people with obesity, such as Chrissy Metz, cast in more dramatic roles."

But, he said, the progress was more marked for women than for men, who struggled to find leading roles outside of comedic performance. – **AFP**



NOTICE TO ALL SOCIAL GRANTS BENEFICIARIES

DIRECT FUNERAL POLICY DEDUCTIONS

Beneficiaries with direct deductions for funeral policy premiums on their social grants are urged to visit their nearest SASSA offices without delays to sign authorising mandate forms.

In terms of Regulation 26A of the Social Assistance Act, 2004, as amended, social grant beneficiaries are required to give consent by signing mandate forms in person to SASSA for direct funeral policy premium deductions to be processed from their social grants.

This is to ensure that their funeral policies remain intact.

Failure to sign the authorising mandate forms may lead to SASSA terminating the deductions.

SASSA PRACTICES ZERO TOLERANCE TO FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES

SASSA services are free, you should not pay anyone to receive SASSA services.

Selling of SASSA cards is illegal and criminal.

Social grants beneficiaries are urged to be extra vigilant as there are many scams doing rounds on social media targeting the innocent and vulnerable.

Beneficiaries are advised not to send their ID numbers, PINs and SASSA card numbers to strangers as these are part of the scams to defraud them.

Social grants beneficiaries do not have to withdraw all their social grant amount in one day. Funds can be withdrawn on various intervals throughout the month. It is permissible to keep funds in a SASSA card as it is a bank cheque account.

MONEY LENDING AND SOCIAL GRANTS

Social grant beneficiaries are targeted by money lenders.

Beneficiaries must ensure that their cards and PIN's are not in possession of money lenders.

Money lenders can be arrested if they are caught in possession of beneficiaries' original personal documents and SASSA payment cards which are used to serve as security for loans.

Report any suspicious activities regarding fraud, money lending or any other form of exploitation to your nearest office of the South African Social Security Agency or call fraud hotline 0800 701 701 or 0800 60 10 11 or to your nearest police station.

COLLECT YOUR NEW GOLD SASSA WITHOUT DELAY TO RECEIVE YOUR SOCIAL GRANT

Any beneficiary who is still in possession of the old white SASSA card must come to their nearest SASSA office immediately to either receive the new gold SASSA card, or change the method of payment to their own commercial bank account. The old SASSA card expired on 31 December 2018 and cannot be used for any transaction.

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For more information, please contact SASSA on Customer Care line: 043 707 6335 or 0800 60 10 11

paying the right social grant, to the right person, at the right time and place. NJALO!

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