

Top 5 stories

- ① PowerBall and PowerBall Plus results, Tuesday, 9 June 2020
- ② Virtual party adopts rules for virtual meetings as EFF tries to disrupt it
- ③ Pensioner loses R13K in ATM scam
- ④ Don't punish all of us with another booze ban
- ⑤ WATCH: No writing off of NSFAS debt, says Nzimande

Watch online

No writing off of NSFAS debt, says Nzimande.



Read online

SA filmmakers get international distribution rights for horror *The Unfamiliar*.



Tweets of the day

The North Gauteng High Court [in Pretoria] has rejected the application by the Educators Union of South Africa to close schools across the country amid the #Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. The court found that EUSA's application contained 'material flaws'.
@JacaNews

We no longer need career politicians. We need people who have skills to survive beyond politics. Majority of our politicians are unemployable outside politics. That is the reason they steal so much.
@Jo_Matome

The Democratic Nursing Organisation of SA in the Eastern Cape has come out in full support of premier Oscar Mabuyane's proposal that the ban on the sale of alcohol be reinstated.
@Dispatch_DD

Cigarette ban in court: Lawyers tear into Dlamini-Zuma for 'dismal failure'.
@SABreakingNews

Rise in crude oil stock in US pushes oil down towards \$40 a barrel. @BusinessLiveSA



VIEWING PLEASURE. A Great White shark seen from a steel cage submersed next to a boat in Gansbaai in the Indian Ocean. Shark cage diving attracts thousands of adventure tourists. Picture: EPA

Time to make seas safer for sharks

TECH DEVELOPMENTS: 30% ARE CLOSE TO EXTINCTION

» SA invention SharkSafe Barrier may prove to be most successful yet.

Nica Richards

Humanity is a direct threat for some of the world's deadliest apex predators and due to human interference, the number of sharks in the oceans is declining.

Ensuring that marine species thrive is a difficult balancing act, said Sustainable Seas Trust researcher Lesley Bloy.

Shark Spotters reported that up to 30% of sharks are close to extinction, mainly due to commercial fishing resulting in the accidental netting of sharks.

Shark nets, to protect beachgoers, are another direct threat to the lives of sharks and other

marine life. The KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board (KZNSB) said these nets threaten dolphins, turtles, whales and large fish. The board has prioritised developing alternative methods to stop sharks coming too close to shore.

SA Association for Marine Biological Research conservation strategist Dr Judy Mann said municipalities appeared to want to keep shark nets at protected beaches. "We need to work very hard at communicating the importance of sharks in the ocean and at building people's understanding of the role of shark nets."

She said that until people stopped wanting shark nets to protect them, a change in policies to reduce the shark and marine life fatalities due to the nets was unlikely.

"But in some areas, almost 50% of shark nets have been lifted and replaced with drum lines. This is especially prevalent on the KwaZulu-Natal coast, with the KZNSB reporting a total of 107 drumlines off the coast.

Drum lines consist of a large float anchored from a suspended baited hook. Since these were introduced in 2007, the KZNSB reported a 47.5% reduction in nontarget species being caught. Neither drum lines nor shark nets are 100% safe, however. The only way to ensure no attacks is to build a physical barrier and this is far from practical.

The KZNSB has, since 2014, been exploring shark repellent cables, which emit low-frequency electronic signals that repel sharks. But a South African invention called the SharkSafe Barrier may prove to be the most successful, least invasive solution yet.

SA Environmental Observation Network Elwandle Node manager Professor Tommy Bornman said this new technology was made to look like a kelp forest and would keep sharks out, without injuring any marine life. It includes permanent magnetic stimuli which forms a barrier that discourages sharks from passing through. - nicar@citizen.co.za

Chick born to famed eagles

It's official: Roodekrans' black eagle pair are proud parents.

A new eaglet is the latest addition to Johannesburg's most famous black eagle family.

Black Eagle Project Roodekrans chairperson Gerald Draper confirmed that an egg had hatched at the nest at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens in Roodepoort, Gauteng.

"Sugarbush Ridges Coalition rangers managed to get a glimpse of the chick on Sunday.

"After reporting that an egg had most likely been laid on either 18 or 19 April, we expected hatching to occur in the first few days of June," Draper said.

He said this would be the first chick for mother Makatsa and father Mahlori, which means "miracle".

Mahlori made the gardens his home on 13 July last year after the previous male, Thulani, disappeared at the beginning of June, leaving Makatsa alone with a newly hatched chick.

The chick died at the beginning of August.

Thulani had been living in the gardens since 1998, while Makatsa has been there since 2016.

Black eagles normally lay two eggs, four days apart, and only one chick ultimately survives after what is known as a Cain and Abel struggle, during which the stronger - and in most cases the older - sibling kills the other.

Draper said: "This is the first time that this particular couple have had a chick together, although it is Makatsa's fourth since moving to the gardens.

"Black eagles are typically winter breeders.

"They tend to nest on open cliffs, which means that they are more prone to suffer from heat than from cold.

"Should all go well over the next three months, the juvenile black eagle will possibly fledge in the first week of September if it is a male, or a little later if it is a female.

"Although lockdown regulations curtailing movement are frustrating, the volunteers on the project are ecstatic with the news, and are looking forward to resuming their monitoring duties as soon as possible," he added. - News24 Wire

Triple Tiara win 'all down to incredible Ferraris'

Mike Moon

Paul Peter had just won the Triple Tiara with the filly Summer Pudding - with a disruptive lockdown break between the second and third legs - but the trainer was taking no credit for himself.

"This is all down to Mr Ferraris," he declared immediately after the SA Oaks at Turffontein on Saturday, referring to the elder statesman of Highveld horse racing who has become an

adviser in the Peter yard since handing in his training licence about a year ago.

This week, Peter explained that, at the time of his retirement, veteran master Ormond Ferraris occupied the Turffontein barns alongside his and the two men became good friends.

"Since he packed it in, he's been coming to the track every morning to watch my horses gallop and give advice," said Peter, who enjoyed a hugely successful Derby Day on Saturday with four winners on a 10-race card.

"He's incredibly knowledgeable. We are so lucky to have him. He can read horses' minds, so he knows exactly what they need," said Peter.

"When the lockdown happened, we were a bit panicky about what to do with horses' fitness, but he said: 'Don't worry son, I know what to do.' And what he did was just perfect."

Summer Pudding's path was a case in point. After her victory in the SA Classic in early March and the subsequent shutdown of racing, she "hit a flat spot"

as the resumption of action loomed. Ferraris made a few tweaks to the filly's routine and she bounced back to her best.

The rest is history - South African racing history's third Triple Tiara, in the footsteps of Igugu and Cherry On The Top. The latter was trained by Ferraris, with her 2013 Oaks triumph giving him his 10th success in the venerable classic. Alongside his 10 Oaks trophies, Ferraris has eight for the SA Derby and many other big-race prizes, plus two SA champion trainer gongs.