



CONFIRMED INCIDENT OF BACTERIAL MENINGITIS AT NWU POTCH

Potchefstroom – The North-West University's campus in Potchefstroom confirmed a case of meningitis. On Monday 21 October, a fourth-year student was admitted to a local hospital after which a case of bacterial meningitis was confirmed. The student is not involved with a campus residence and all indications are that it is an isolated incident. The hospital and the university are busy following up with all close contacts of the student. Free prophylaxis has been made available. "I want to encourage all students and staff not to panic and to stay focused on the upcoming exams. The university is taking all the necessary precautionary steps to manage the situation. We will keep all students and staff timeously informed of any new developments," said prof Daryl Balia, deputy vice-chancellor of the campus in Potchefstroom.

NWU press release, 22 October





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MIXED FUEL PRICE PICTURE



SA – Fuel prices are showing a mixed picture for November, with some prices predicted to climb and others falling. This is according to the Automobile Association (AA), which was commenting on unaudited mid-month fuel price data released by the Central Energy Fund. Diesel is forecast to climb by 2c while illuminating paraffin looks set for a 2c decrease, 93 octane petrol is showing a 5c drop, while 95 octane petrol is set to rise by 10c. "The Rand, which lost considerable ground against the US dollar in the second half of September, has stabilised around the R15.20 mark and has generally offset slight rises in international oil prices. In its turn, oil has retreated from the price spike arising from last month's Saudi oil refinery attacks, painting a more stable picture for the motorist," says the AA.

AA press release extracts, 15 October 2019

RUSTENBURG SAYS GOODBYE TO JESSICA



The late Jessica Bender

Rustenburg – Jessica Bender, a local resident and dedicated member of the Community Policing Forum (CPF) sadly passed away on Saturday 19 October due to cancer. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

RUSTENBURG WATER SUPPLY UNDER PRESSURE

Rustenburg – In a Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) press release, they apologised to residents of Upper Tlhabane West (Lentswe, Mmilo and neighbouring avenues) on Tuesday 21 October, for the lack of water supply.

The water crisis was attributed to the breakdown of a pump at the industrial reservoir pumping to Geelhoutpark. In addition to the pump breakdown, the situation was worsened by the 24-hour shutdown of Water and Sanitation Services South Africa (WSSA), while the water restrictions was actively implemented.

RLM has implemented water restrictions for more than a week as water demand in the area exceeded supply. In the early hours of the same morning, Barnadsvlei recorded only 14% of water supply in the system. The Barnadsvlei reservoir is the Rand Water command reservoir supplying water into Rustenburg reservoirs.

"We urge residents to use water sparingly during this period by not watering gardens, filling swimming pools or washing motor vehicles," said RLM spokesperson David Magae.



ZEERUST ACCIDENT KILLS 8 LEARNERS



The truck hit a tree before overturning.

Zeerust – The death toll of the recent horror accident, in which an open truck hit a tree before overturning, outside Zeerust, has risen to eight.

On Saturday 19 October, six learners from Rietpan village died on scene after the driver of a Hyundai truck lost control of the vehicle and slammed into a tree.

Two learners sustained serious injuries and were rushed to Bophelong Hospital for emergency treatment. One of them died shortly after arrival while the other succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday 22 October.

Freddy Sepeng, spokesperson for the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management said the kids were part of a football team travelling from Lehurutshé. "There were actually 30 people on the truck. Survivors of the accident sustained various injuries, including the driver of the Hyundai truck," he added.

Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, spokesperson of the police in the North West, said the 26-year old driver did not have a licence at the time of his arrest. Besides illegally carrying the passengers (open vehicles are not allowed to carry people), the driver faces other serious charges.

"He was arrested on Monday 21 October. He will appear before court to answer to charges of culpable homicide, reckless and/ or negligent driving and driving without a driver's licence," Sabata said.

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