

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za



A Very Orchestral Christmas

The mighty KZN Philharmonic and the Durban City Orchestra join forces for a joyous Christmas sundowner concert featuring a beautiful range of festive tunes and singalong carols at St Agnes, Kloof on Sunday 7 December at 5.30pm. The concert will be under the combined batons of Charl van der Merwe (resident conductor of DCO) and Chad Hendricks (resident conductor of KZN Phil). There will be special guests and soloists. The teams from both orchestras have planned for this concert to be especially memorable and a fully festive experience. Dress festive! Tickets R130 / R110 / R90 through Quicket. On site parking. There will be light refreshments on sale. Seen on the left Chad Hendricks

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by Kasia Yoko

Confuses said: “Every man has two lives and the second starts when he realises he has just one.”

I woke up in a sweat, heart racing, terrified by a dream I could not remember. Only the fear remained - raw, physical, electric. As I tried to piece it together, a voice rose up out of the darkness, clear as morning light: “Wake up and live. Act as if it is impossible to fail.” A sentence like a command. A sentence like a lifeline. Dreams have a way of exposing what we hide from ourselves. They break through the noise, the exhaustion, the pretence. They force us to face what our waking mind avoids. So if this one shook me to the bone, perhaps it was because it was telling a truth I have been

dancing around: we are living half-asleep, afraid, distracted, numbed by uncertainty. And we live in uncertain times indeed. Corruption, lies, pretence, scams and a world increasingly split into camps of rigid belief. Truth has become slippery. People cling to opinions as if they are lifeboats, even when those opinions drown the very humanity we need to stay afloat. In all of this noise, staying focused feels like swimming upstream. Staying positive sometimes feels naive. But life itself remains a miracle - an impossible gift handed to us each morning whether we deserve it or not. And

with that gift comes a responsibility: to live consciously, courageously, and with an open heart. How we live is how we create our reality. To live fully is to step into the light of celestial consciousness - the deeper wisdom, the sacred pulse beneath the chaos. It is choosing to be awake. Choosing to be present. Choosing to lean toward the better version of ourselves even when the world gives us every excuse not to. We forget sometimes that life is built on the ancient balance of yin and yang. Not perfection. Not endless light. But the dance between opposites. The good inside the bad.

The beauty hidden inside the ugly. The lesson embedded inside the pain. When we train our eyes to see that balance, gratitude becomes our anchor. Love becomes our compass. Fear loosens its grip. Maybe that is why the voice came to me so sharply in the early hours, slicing through the remnants of a nightmare: a reminder that life is short, unpredictable, and magnificent. A reminder that courage is not a mood - it is a decision. And a reminder that the only way to rise above the uncertainty of our times is to act as if failure is impossible and purpose is non-negotiable.

Top 10 finalist for Mr India South Africa - Yorick Taye Reddy



Top 10 finalist for Mr India South Africa - Yorick Taye Reddy

At just 23, Yorick Taye Reddy has already carved out an impressive path as both a legal professional and a model. A Top 10 finalist in the Mr India South Africa pageant, he simultaneously completed a BCom in Accounting and an LLB, a feat that reflects his discipline, ambition, and commitment to excellence. He is currently a candidate attorney at a criminal law firm, gaining practical courtroom experience while completing a Master's degree in advanced criminal law. Alongside his legal career, he is a professional model signed with I Model Management in South Africa and represented internationally by 33 and Me Talent Agency, working in fashion, commercial, and lifestyle modeling. Being named a Top 10 finalist for Mr India

South Africa is a proud moment, representing the South African Indian community on a national platform. He aims to inspire young people to pursue their passions fearlessly, showing that it is possible to excel in multiple fields with dedication and hard work. Beyond law and modeling, he is actively involved in charitable work, focusing on breast cancer awareness and support for women facing domestic violence. He has partnered with Reach for Recovery to provide hampers to disadvantaged women and has conducted educational talks on legal rights and protection orders. The Mr India South Africa finale takes place on 12 December 2025. Tickets for the prestigious event, attended by the Who's Who of KZN, are available via 062 490 5289.

Dear Ed,

Re: WELLNESS AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Heartfelt thanks are extended to Drs S Gopal, R Singh, S Harilal and N Ramjas of Tongaat who organized a Wellness Day in Tongaat recently. They, together with others in the medical and allied fields, along with volunteers, did a sterling job offering free medical advice and testing of diverse kinds, together with providing some medication and toiletries and sundries for the benefit of over 700 local residents. Well done folks in giving back to the community. The yeoman efforts of the

abovementioned benefited the community, especially the aged and indigent, many of whom have financial constraints that preclude them from having required medical care ordinarily. It is acknowledged that similar ventures are launched from time to time by religious and community organizations and are much appreciated. May all these persons and organizations continue with their noble and altruistic efforts and noteworthy campaigns. They are indeed a big blessing, especially to our hard pressed senior citizens, many of whom barely survive on their meager state pensions. Some of them have double jeopardy- firstly by being sick

and secondly by having financial limitations, especially for required medical care. Acts of kindness and compassion and much needed help provided, such as the aforementioned, are welcome ones and alleviate the plight of those in dire need. May such good Samaritans continue their humanitarian efforts and may GOD bless them in their service to mankind. Many elderly folk are lonely and need to be assisted and acknowledged and have their dignity restored, particularly in their twilight years.

Simon T Dehal Verulam

Dear Editor,

Re: Leadership must prioritise daily governance

South Africans have just witnessed what our country is capable of when urgency suddenly becomes a priority. In preparation for the G20 meeting - an event that lasted only three days - our urban centres were scrubbed clean, informal settlements were shifted out of sight, and tourist corridors were secured with impressive speed. Millions were poured into creating a

temporary version of South Africa meant to impress foreign dignitaries. What troubles many of us is not the effort itself, but the message it sends. If government can mobilise teams, resources, and political will overnight for visitors, why is the same commitment not directed toward the people who live, work, struggle, and pay taxes here every day? The citizens who carry the country - financial load deserve consistent dignity, safety, and functioning spaces - not only when the world is watching.

South Africa is a rare jewel in a chaotic world, a nation overflowing with natural beauty, human warmth, talent, and resilience. With steady, honest leadership and the same level of intent displayed during the G20 clean-up, this country can rise to its true potential. It begins in our own backyards - but it requires leaders who show up for us, not just for guests.

Kind regards, Wayne Prinsloo Durban

Dear Ed,

Re: POLICING AND ALLIED ISSUES

It is said that at times the truth is stranger than fiction. The Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee and Madlinga Commission that are sitting currently and running concurrently have brought to light malfeasance, criminality and interference and capturing that are quite astounding and unbelievable. These beggar belief and leaves one in shock, disappointment, anger and confusion. How the alleged actions/deliberate omissions of senior officers in the police and allied forces etc and actions of alleged kingpin crooks and charlatans -such as V Matlala, Brown Mokotsi, Shernick and Molefe - could have been committed is startling.. They have acted with impunity and engaged in malfeasance, criminality and corruption amounting to millions over long periods. This is mind-boggling. For the

bulk of my 7 decades of existence I held the firm view that some persons in the policing and allied fields, as well as those in the investigative and prosecuting fields and some judicial officers have been one or more of corrupt, tainted, incompetent and lacked credibility and integrity. They have done the land a great disservice. Thus the general public has no or little faith in the criminal and justice systems. South Africa is a lovely country blessed with natural beauty and abundant resources. However, crime, corruption and poor/ non-service delivery are the main negatives that adversely affect the land, with gross inequality being an injustice and a sad reality. The foregoing has precluded citizens from enjoying basic and other rights that the S. A. Constitution (Act 108 of 1996, especially Chapter 2) ensures. What we have heard thus far in both fora is bad enough. One wonders what other shenanigans and gross

criminality, including capturing and interference will emerge! What is required at that end of the sittings both Parliament and President C Ramaphosa must take necessary positive actions to ensure that those involved in criminality etc are brought to book. They must be imprisoned for long terms following due legal process. How long must the public have to put up with crime 2. And corruption. How much longer must the hard-earned monies of taxpayers be wasted. In all 3 government tiers there must be good governance, clean administration and accountability, with consequence management. Then only will public confidence in the state and its various organs and allied organizations and parastatals be restored. Phansi corruption, interference and capturing phansi, Viva Mzansi viva.

Simon T Dehal Verulam

"Someday somebody is going to look at you with a light you've never seen. They'll look at you like you're everything they've been looking for their entire lives." By Unknown



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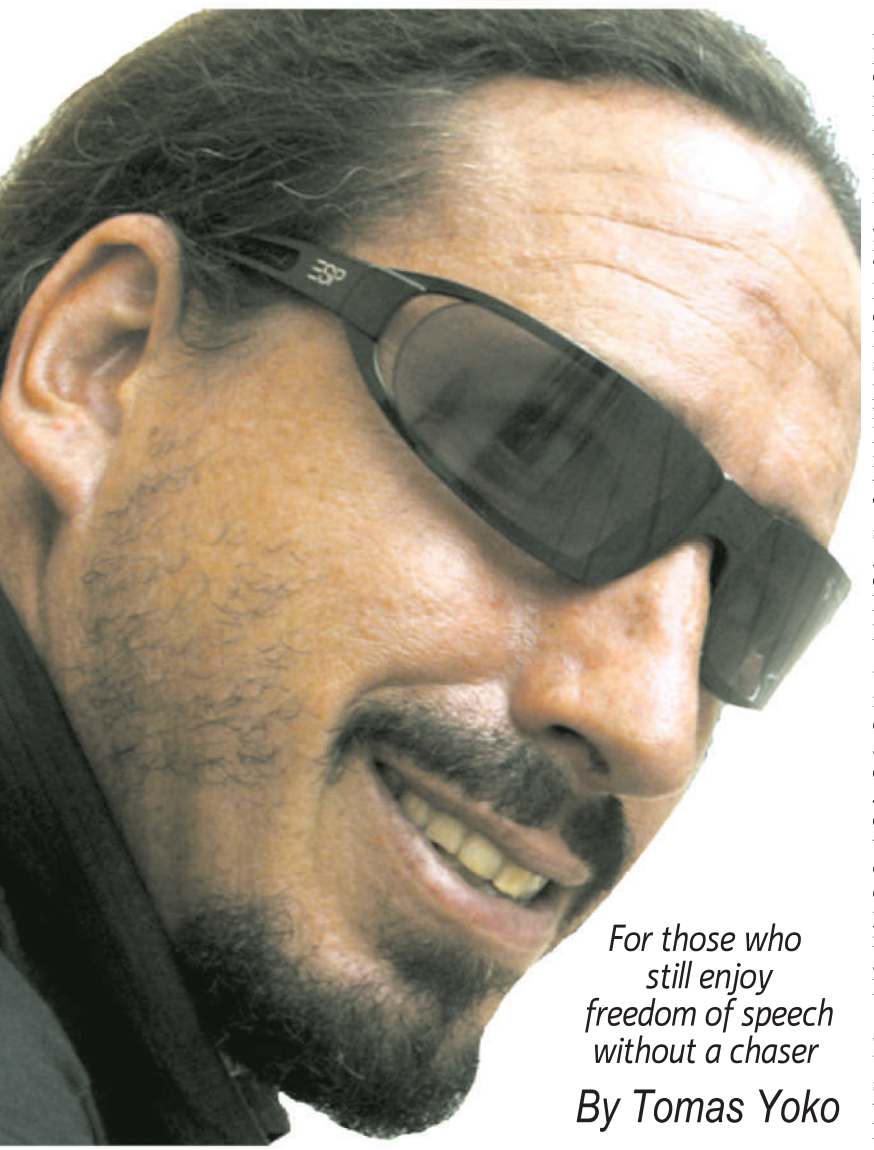
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For those who
still enjoy
freedom of speech
without a chaser
By Tomas Yoko

Let's begin with the American Senate, where patriotism now comes with a complimentary loyalty card for a foreign government. The level of obedience shown to AIPAC, which, remind me, is a lobby of Israel for Israel in the United States government, has become so intense that calling it "influence" feels sinful. Influence is subtle; this is like cheerleading in the visitors' locker room. When senators stand up and recite talking points that might as well be faxed directly from Netanyahu's office, one can no longer call it lobbying. It's treason with a dental plan. The Founding Fathers are spinning so hard in their graves they could power the entire Eastern Seaboard. And the fire has not ceased for a minute, even if we pretend it has.

And to think, all this is happening while the Epstein "client list", that mystical scroll of the powerful, the depraved, and the conveniently amnesiac, was officially declared non-existent by the U.S. Department of Justice. A brilliant trick: deny the existence of the thing everyone wants, then announce the release of thousands of pages of documents of the list that doesn't exist. It's like a magician telling you there is no rabbit, then pulling a rabbit farm out of the hat. Are we still asking the question of whether or not he was a Mossad agent? Really? Meanwhile, in South Africa, the SAPS leadership saga continues to unfold like a crime novel written by someone who got bored stiff halfway through. The revelation that 121 political-killing dockets sat untouched in Pretoria



isn't just negligence. It's sabotage presented as "restructuring." The explanation? The task team was "no longer required." Yes, because when assassinations are on the rise, the logical move is to shut down the only unit investigating them. It's the policing equivalent of taking the batteries out of the smoke alarm during a house fire because the beeping is annoying. Cross the channel to England, where national pride has returned with the subtlety of a marching band inside a phone booth. The Tommy Robinson-adjacent parade of "we're taking our country back" types are waving flags so aggressively one wonders if they're trying to summon the Queen back from the afterlife to help. God knows the King isn't lifting a finger, he cannot. Keir can't seem to help himself as he desperately tries to ram the digital ID down his people's throat. Sheeple make way for the digital currency soon to

follow. Keir flip flops so badly on these agendas, worse than the boats issue if that is possible. And then the assassination of Charlie Kirk brought America face-to-face with the monster it has been feeding. Candace is coming with the facts, how she ties them together is getting more and more interesting every day, as she fingers the French government. As the number 1 podcaster in the world, Candace is reeling Emanuel and his husband Brigitte, into the debacle with astronomical insinuations flying everywhere. Excuse the pun. Zelensky is desperately trying to keep the lucrative war going at the behest of his masters. "Then he can continue to fight his little heart out," Trump was quoted as saying. Ursula fond of lying weighed in with her 2 cents worth of demands, trying to get "in on the deal" she always looks like she is rubbing her hands together. You know.

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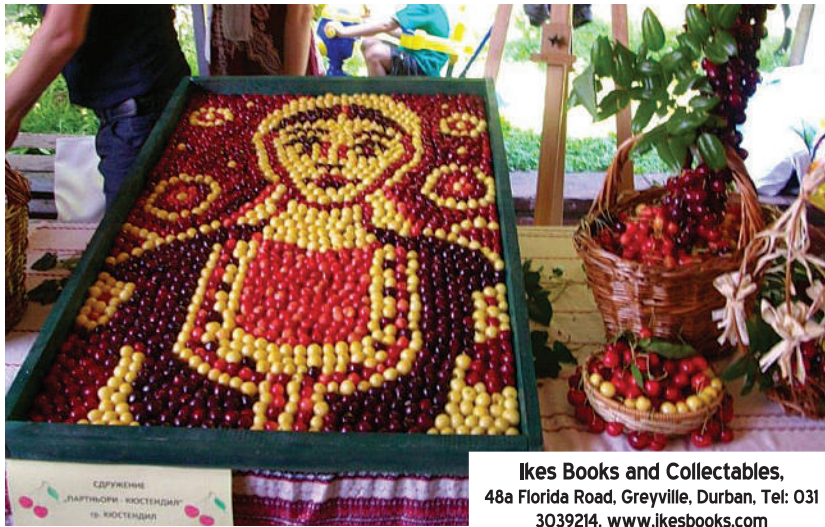
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"Never settle for anything less than your best," By Brian Tracy

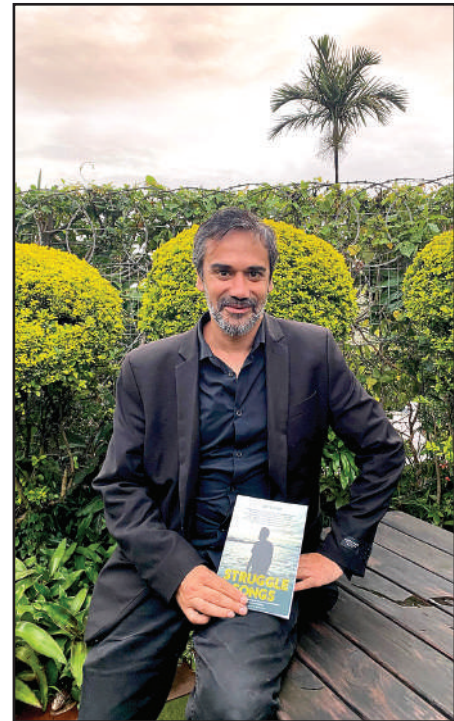
Book Review: Struggle Songs by Jay Gainez

By Kasia Yoko



Ikes Books and Collectables,
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In *Struggle Songs*, Jay Gainez weaves a tapestry of memory, identity, and sound that reflects his remarkable journey. Born in South Africa and smuggled out as an infant, Gainez' life is marked by exile and eventual return. His formative years in Los Angeles' vibrant Sunset Strip imbued him with a rebellious spirit, blending the pulse of the city with his South African roots.



Jay Gainez with his book. For more details and to obtain the book, whatsapp Jay on 067 7081 951

Struggle Songs is more than just a literary work; it's an exploration of cultural memory and the resilience of identity. Gainez' prose is poetic, and his use of sound elevates the reading experience, making each chapter resonate like a song of struggle and triumph.

Gainez' narrative doesn't just look back at history; it reimagines it, blending personal experience with the broader South African struggle. It's a testament to how identity can shape art and life.

In *Struggle Songs*, Jay Gainez invites readers into a journey of

reinvention and remembrance, offering a unique blend of South African heritage and global experience. It's a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of history, art, and identity.

oozes up through the cracks like a thermal spring, silkiness plays around the mouth.

This small ruby fruit and me go back. To the Balkans and fruit gardens of Bulgaria. I lived there for a few years, the first marshmallow blooms of the cherry season heralding summer: at the markets, the carmine coloured fruit piled high in pyramids, trees dripping with fruit. Picnics, days on the beach, a brown bag of cherries at my side.

I scan the shelves at the beginning of November. I'm at my favourite veggie shop in Umgeni Road. The array of produce is bewildering. Kerala. Bhindi. Pawpaws the size of rugby balls...But no cherries. And then the following week, there they are. Glistening in the sun. A whole box. I sit on the promenade

munching, reminiscing. Gorgeous.
Gorging.

I skip through the day. You see, cherries not only signify prosperity and fresh beginnings. They also bring frivolity, a child-like joy. Like their shape, around the world, they hold meaning. In Japan, the wood from a cherry tree symbolises purity and abundance of love. The mother of Buddha is said to have been supported by a cherry tree.

But above all, cherries are the fruit of the libido, and so, there is no such thing as an overdose. How did Pablo Neruda put it:

'I will bring you flowers from the mountains, bluebells, dark hazels, and rustic baskets of kisses. I want to do with you what spring does with the cherry trees.'

Merry, merry,
Take a cherry;
Mine are sounder,
Mine are rounder,
Mine are sweeter.
For the eater
When the dews fall.

And you'll be fairies all (Robert Graves)

It's that time of year in South Africa. Plumped up, for weeks we gorge, nothing more satisfying than a bowl of delicious orbs. Not too sweet, a natural wonder. I can't get enough, de-stoning and making thimblefuls of dark, blood juice that stain the tongue and make me wonder if I'm growing fangs.

A clafoutis of cherries – a classic French batter pudding where garnet coloured juice



Table 3 With Kimmy, Debra, Tomas Kasia Faye and Jay

Denis Hurley Centre 'Sing-along Sound of Music' fundraiser at the Rhumbelow Theatre



'Sing-along Sound of Music' with Denis Hurley Centre

The recent 'Sing-along Sound of Music' fundraiser at the Rhumbelow Theatre delivered both community energy and measurable impact for the Denis Hurley Centre. Held earlier this month, the afternoon drew a full spectrum of supporters: long-time friends of the Centre, families, students, parish groups, and Durban residents who simply wanted to contribute to a good cause.

The theatre created an atmosphere that encouraged participation rather than passive viewing. Costumes ranged from

nuns to curtain-clad Von Trapp lookalikes, and the audience treated the film as a collective experience — singing through the soundtrack, applauding favourite moments, and reveling in the shared nostalgia.

The programme included a raffle that added an extra layer of engagement. Prizes were donated by local businesses and individuals, keeping the proceeds focused on the Centre's work. By the end of the afternoon, the combined generosity of everyone present produced more than R33,000 in support of the DHC's

operations.

The Denis Hurley Centre continues to serve some of Durban's most vulnerable communities through food support, healthcare access, education, and safe-space initiatives. Events like this one are essential: they raise funds, but they also expand the network of people who understand the Centre's mission and commit themselves to it. The success of the 'Sing-along Sound of Music' afternoon reflects a simple truth — when the Durban community gathers with purpose, real results follow.

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"There is a monumental difference between being alive and living. You should never settle for the first." By Matt Corby

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Challah is not just bread. It is invitation, memory, generosity, and the quiet beauty of feeding others



Challah: Bread is Life

There is a reason every culture on earth has a bread that anchors its people. Bread is the first comfort, the daily nourishment, the quiet proof that ordinary ingredients can become something sacred in our hands. Challah carries that spirit. It is the Sabbath loaf of the Jewish table, but its message belongs to everyone: life is meant to be shared, braided together, piece by piece.

Challah is a reminder that baking is not old-fashioned. It is an act of courage in a rushed world. It is slowing down long enough to let something rise. It is offering warmth to family, friends, neighbours, and even strangers. A loaf on a table changes the atmosphere of a home. Bread feeds the body, but it also softens the world.

Recipe & Pics by Kasia Yoko



Bread is my love language

Ingredients:

4 cups bread flour

2 tsp fine salt

1/4 cup sugar

1 packet (10 g) instant yeast

1 cup warm water

2 large eggs

100 gr soft butter

1 extra egg for brushing

Optional: sesame seeds or poppy seeds

Method

1. Combine flour, salt, sugar, and yeast in a large bowl.

2. Mix warm water, eggs, and oil in a jug.

3. Pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients. Mix until a soft dough forms.

4. Knead for 8-10 minutes until smooth and elastic.

5. Place in a lightly oiled bowl, cover, and let rise until doubled.

6. Punch down and divide the dough into three equal pieces. Roll each into a long rope.

7. Braid gently, tucking the ends underneath.

8. Transfer to a lined tray. Cover and let rise again until puffy.

9. Heat oven to 180C. Brush the loaf with beaten egg. Add

10. Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden and hollow-sounding on the base.

11. Cool before slicing, if you can resist tearing into it warm.

seeds if you wish.

Challah is not just bread. It is invitation, memory, generosity, and the quiet beauty of feeding others. Through your hands, flour and water become life. Oh and if you want to make it super special set a gentle intention/prayer while kneading, by that small gesture you will create a sacred nourishment, not just an ordinary Challah.



Heritage, tradition, identity - bread in all it's forms

My second born, Dominic

"Don't settle for anybody just so you can have somebody" By Unknown

Rockpool's Grand Rebirth: A Beachfront Gem in Umdloti



Locals seen at Rockpool
Marcel Roberts, from Cafe 1999 gave the welcome speech



Rockpool owner Morne Fourie with Andre Joubert, Rockpool manager

Last week, Umdloti welcomed a stunning transformation as the beloved Mundo Vida re-emerged under new ownership and a fresh identity. Morne Fourie, who acquired the restaurant two years ago, has rebranded it as Rockpool. Nestled right on the beach, Rockpool, now boasts breathtaking ocean views and an inviting ambiance that promises to become the new favourite gathering spot in the village.

The launch event was a resounding success, with locals flocking to celebrate the occasion.

The vibrant atmosphere, the delightful cuisine, and the warm hospitality of Morne and his team made the evening truly special. Rockpool is poised to be a landmark of both culinary excellence and community spirit in Umdloti.



Gregory Porter delivered a masterful show
The band moved effortlessly through a setlist of favourites

Gregory Porter Ignites Durban with an Unforgettable Night of Jazz

Earlier this month, the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) hosted a powerful evening of music as GRAMMY-winning jazz vocalist Gregory Porter returned to South Africa. The November 15 concert drew an enthusiastic audience who filled the arena with anticipation for one of the most distinctive and beloved voices in contemporary jazz.

The night opened with an outstanding performance by Nduduzo Makhathini and Omagugu, the acclaimed husband-and-wife duo from KwaZulu-Natal. As leading figures in the South African jazz landscape, their collaborative set carried both intimacy and fire. Makhathini's signature piano style—deeply spiritual, rhythmically rich—paired seamlessly with Omagugu's soulful, expressive vocals. Their performance set a reverent tone, grounding the evening in local artistry before the international star took the stage.

Gregory Porter delivered a masterful show, blending his signature warmth with impeccable musical command. His band moved effortlessly through a setlist of favourites, each song met with cheers from the Durban crowd. Porter's presence—steady, generous, and powerful—reminded audiences why he remains one of the defining jazz voices of our generation.

It was a night that celebrated world-class talent, homegrown excellence, and the enduring magic of live music at its finest.

Woman of Stature Awards Launches in Style at Fire & Ice Hotel



KZN's nominees in the Woman of Stature Awards seen here in the back row from left to right are Kholeka Dlamini, Verusha Govender, Jennifer Chetty, Tessia August, Jenni Reddy, Bongive Mhlongo, and in the front row from left to right are Sindi Mokgopha, CEO and organiser Charlotte du Plessis and Carol Reynolds of Pam Golding Properties

The Media Launch of the 'Woman of Stature Awards' took place recently at the vibrant Fire & Ice Hotel in Gateway, setting the tone for one of South Africa's most inspiring celebrations of female leadership and excellence. The event introduced the KwaZulu-Natal nominees for the 2026 awards, showcasing an impressive line-up of business leaders, community advocates, and innovators who continue to uplift and empower through their work.

Among the outstanding nominees is Carol Reynolds, the highly regarded real estate stalwart from Pam Golding Properties Umhlanga, known for her professionalism, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Her nomination reflects the high calibre of women representing KZN in this year's programme.

Much of the awards' success can be attributed to the tireless dedication and commitment of founder and CEO, Charlotte du Plessis, whose vision continues to drive the Women of Stature movement forward. Through her leadership, the platform has grown into a national beacon of recognition and empowerment, shining a light on women who lead with purpose and integrity.

The evening at Gateway offered a preview of the passion and promise embodied by this year's nominees, setting the stage for the crowning ceremony to be held in Johannesburg in April 2026. Judging by the energy and inspiration on display, the event will be a fitting celebration of women shaping South Africa's social and economic landscape with courage, compassion, and conviction.

Sinbad the Sailor coming soon to the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre



Booking through Webtickets for Sinbad the Sailor at Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre

KickstArt presents their 2025 Durban festive panto is Sinbad the Sailor, a riotous romp over the Seven Seas, in the company of the famous sailor, Sinbad, and his madcap crew and family, which comes to the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre on UKZN campus from 4 December until 11 January.

With gloriously colourful sets and costumes that evoke the exotic mystery and magic of the Arabian Nights, and exciting music and dance, inspired by Bollywood, this is a unique, unforgettable pantomime experience for the entire family.

Sinbad the Sailor is written and directed by Steven Stead, and designed by Greg King, with spirited choreography by Evashnee Pillay. This delightful production, that will appeal to all ages, stars Rory Booth as Sinbad, Bryan Hiles as his mother, Dame Donna Kebab, Lyle Buxton as his nemesis, Long John Slither, Belinda Henwood as the scheming sorceress Morgiana the Magnificent, and Roshanda Lewis as his love interest, Marina. The show also stars Marion Loudon, Blessing Xaba and Mthokozisi Zulu.

Sinbad, the Sailor runs from 4 December to 11 January at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre. Performances are at 2.30pm Tues-Sun, 11am and 3.30pm Saturday. Running time is 2 hrs 25 mins (including a 20 minute interval), No under three's permitted.

More Info: www.kickstarttheatre.co.za.



Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

The North Coast Rental Revival



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The North Coast Rental Revival is underway as investors return, fuelled by demand and lower interest rates. Some Ballito suburbs, such as Salt Rock, have been compared to the Atlantic Seaboard, with average household income surging above R100,000 p.m. (from as low as R12,500 a decade ago) as semi-gration from Gauteng continues, supporting demand, as many people rent before committing to a purchase when moving their families to a new province.

With certain product classes, such as two-bedroom apartments, completely overtraded with an oversupply coming from several new Ballito mega-developments, others, such as freehold homes in the R40,000 to R60,000 p.m. bracket, are scarce and in high demand.

The established large-scale estates, which offer a range of world-class amenities and quality environments, attract the most attention and command the highest rental rates. For anybody with a high-quality home with at least four bedrooms, two to three garages and modern interiors, situated in the top estates of Zimbali, Simbithi, Dunkirk and Brettenwood, the demand far outstrips the available supply. Rental rates are consistently being bid upwards. The final quarter of any given year is typically a seasonal peak in rental demand as people try to get settled before the beginning of the following year.

Tenant Profile Network publish interesting vacancy rates across the provinces. The Western Cape is reported as having the lowest vacancy rates at 1.07% as of the 3rd quarter of 2025. This represents sky-high demand and very low supply. As a comparative KZN has a vacancy rate of 7.12%.

The Investor Landscape For investors, this means opportunity. The North Coast now offers a diverse portfolio with specific examples being:

* Zimbali, Simbithi, Dunkirk and Brettenwood Estates: Premium, low-vacancy rental opportunities with high tenant quality. Buy an undervalued home, add some TLC and create a cash generating machine.

* Ballito Central and Seaward Estates: Strong family-rental markets with sustainable returns. Always in demand. Differentiate from older stock by adding character and modern finishes and fittings to lock in premium yields.

* Seatides, La Mercy and Westbrook: Affordable entry points with room for yield growth. Seek out the best buys with good locations to access the large affordable market to ensure you are never without a tenant. Leverage the asset to free capital for further investment. Very attractive as transaction costs are low ad yields are high.

Investor Tips for Success 1. Location before price: Tenants prioritise security, schools, and accessibility. Proximity to lifestyle hubs like shopping, hospitals and schools matters more than ever.

2. Professional management: A well-managed property keeps tenants longer and preserves your asset. At Seeff Zimbali & North Coast, our full-service rental division handles vetting, maintenance, and renewals to protect your investment.

3. Maintenance is money: Keep properties pristine. In this climate, presentation determines whether your home rents fast with little vacancy time or lingers on the market.

4. Long-term thinking: Property remains a growth asset with the magical opportunity to use mortgage finance to grow your portfolio. Even modest yield returns today position you for capital appreciation tomorrow.

A Word on Opportunity The smart investor recognises the cyclical nature of property. The North Coast's fundamentals — limited coastal land, sustained development, and lifestyle-driven demand — make it one of South Africa's most resilient investment regions.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



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Getting Retrenched In The Middle Of A Divorce! What Issues Will Impact On The Court's Decision Of The Changed Employment Status In A Maintenance Claim

In November 2025, the Gauteng High Court presided in a Rule 43 application brought by the wife against her husband in which the wife claimed maintenance of R5 000,00 per month for each the couple's 3 children and asked the father to pay 100% of the children's medical and educational expenses.

She also asked for a contribution towards her legal costs in the amount of approximately R127 000,00. A rule 43 application is a legal process afforded to a couple who were going through a divorce which allows an applicant to obtain certain interim relief pending the finalisation of the main divorce action.

The issues in a Rule 43 application are crisp and restricted to specific relief during a divorce, such as which parent will have custody of any minor children; what contact rights will be given to the non-custodial parent; how much maintenance would be payable per month; payment of the children's educational and related costs; payment of medical expenses and a contribution towards the applicant's legal costs of are usually claimed in this application. In the case under review, the Rule 43 application was argued by the parties legal counsel but before the court could deliver its judgment,

the father was retrenched from his employment. He received a once off lump sum retrenchment package.

The father argued that given the material change in his employment status, he said that his initial offer of maintenance had to be revised and the amount he could now offer was R1 000,00 per month per child. He also said that his medical aid coverage for the family would remain until 31 December 2025, after which it will lapse, and asked that medical expenses not covered by the medical aid be equally shared between him and his wife.

He argued that he could not afford to contribute towards his wife's legal costs. Thus the main thrust of the father's argument was that he was now unemployed, and his severance package was a finite capital resource and that the Court should not speculate on his future employment.

The father refused to use any use of his pension funds, saying he wanted to avoid tax. The court found that even though the father's current income was zero, that the "children's needs for housing, food, medical aid, and education were ongoing and paramount.

To deprive them of these essentials so that the father can preserve his pension is contrary to

established legal principles and the spirit of Section 28(2) of the Constitution". It did not accept the father's reasoning saying that being unemployed did not exonerated the father from his legal obligation to take care of his minor children.

The court cited a number of case authorities in support of its position, including Section 28 of the Constitution which refers to the best interests of the child being paramount. It held that the children's needs could not be sacrificed for the preservation of a parent's capital.

The court said that as the father was a qualified legal professional with corporate and legal experience, his assertion that he will be unemployed for a prolonged period lacked substantiation. The court rejected the father's tender of R1000 per month per child and ordered the father to pay an amount of R3500 per month per child as well as ancillary orders pertaining to the children's educational and medical expenses. It also ordered the father shall pay a contribution of R50,000.00 towards the applicant's legal costs.

Know your rights! The Law Desk of Fawzia Khan and Associates. Giving YOU the Power of Attorney. Email fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za or call 031-5025670 for legal assistance at competitive rates.



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Audi Q7 55 TFSI Black Edition: A Symphony in Motion

By Tomas Yoko



The enigmatic Audi Q7 TFSI, is a glimpse of what it means to go beyond, to excel

Some vehicles don't merely traverse the road — they command it. The Audi Q7 55 TFSI Black Edition is one of those. Draped in Ascari Blue Metallic, it's a sculpture in motion, a rolling reminder that luxury can still stir the soul. Beneath its blue skin, Audi's 2.995cc turbocharged V6 engine delivered 250kW and 500Nm, converting my every intent into effortless momentum. Zero to 100km/h in 5.6 seconds isn't just quick for a seven-seater, it's secretly defiant. The 8-speed Tiptronic

transmission shifts with the kind of poise usually reserved for orchestras and world leaders. The cabin is like a sanctuary and command centre in one. Valcona leather with the Audi S embossed, sport seats that held me like confidence itself, and a heads-up display that makes glancing down feel old-fashioned. Audi's HD Matrix laser lighting cut through even the darkest load shedding night like it was coded to reveal perfection, while the adaptive cruise control and pre sense systems

redefine the idea of anticipation, or was it intuition? This Q7 is engineering elevated to art — a seamless balance of performance, technology, and restraint. With a fuel tank that outlasts impatience and luggage space that mocks compromise, the Q7 remains both a grand tourer and a family diplomat. Progress need not be loud or boastful. It can be the quiet hum of an Audi gliding past, reminding everyone else that excellence still exists.



Chery's new Tiggo 7 Pro Plug-in Hybrid has arrived, a 1.5-litre turbo engine teamed with an electric motor shouldn't feel this lively

Chery Tiggo 7 Pro Plug-in Hybrid: Shockingly Good

By: Tomas Yoko

Chery's new Tiggo 7 Pro Plug-in Hybrid arrives with all the subtlety of a caffeine shot to your morning commute. A 1.5-litre turbo engine teamed with an electric motor shouldn't feel this lively — yet it darts off the line like it's late for its own launch. Acceleration is instant, smooth, and just smug enough to make a few "premium" rivals reconsider their price tags. Inside, Chery's clearly been doing its homework. The cabin feels smart and surprisingly refined, with soft-touch finishes, neat stitching, and tech that behaves like it actually wants to help. The dual screens are

crisp and uncluttered, the connectivity works, and even the voice commands don't confuse "play music" with "please mute." Progress, indeed. For urban dwellers, the plug-in range will handle school runs, grocery hops, and the odd guilt-free dash to the office. Out on the open road, it shifts from eco-warrior to relaxed cruiser, sipping fuel like a polite guest does a martini at a posh cocktail party. Chery's reputation may still be catching up with its ambition, but this Tiggo 7 Pro PHEV doesn't just talk a big game — it backs it with polish, pace, and proper intent.

HAVAL H6: China's Power Play Goes Premium

By Tomas Yoko



The awesome offering that is the H6, and there's more, call 032 300 0000 to test drive or buy one

There are moments in motoring when you realise the game has shifted. Driving the new Haval H6 in South Africa is one of them. It's not a whisper of progress — it's a thunderclap. From the moment I slid behind the wheel, the H6 felt less like a budget upstart and more like a confident heavyweight contender. The cabin's a revelation: clean lines, soft-touch surfaces, and an infotainment system that no longer requires an IT degree to operate. It's plush, properly quiet, and—dare I

say—elegant. But you won't be going anywhere until you buckle up, this H6 safety feature really appealed to me. Out on the road, the 2.0-litre turbo punches well above its weight, with acceleration that catches you mid-thought. It's brisk, linear, and free of the usual lag that plagues turbocharged wannabes. The steering is composed, the chassis settled, and the ride quality borders on European refinement. I started to wonder whether the badge on the nose had been swapped as a prank.

And then there's the tech. Adaptive cruise, lane-keeping, and a suite of driver aids that would once have lived on a brochure for twice the money. This isn't a value-for-money story anymore — it's a quality-for-less revolution. The H6 doesn't feel like China trying to catch up. It feels like everyone else is suddenly behind. And now the H6 is available from GWM Ballito. Take one for a test drive and experience something impressive. Call them on 032 300 0000.



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Nissan Navara Pro4X Double Cab — A Reverent Ode From Afar

By Tomas Yoko

I've never sat behind the wheel of the Nissan Navara Pro-4X, and yet somehow, every fibre of my being reveres it. This isn't just a bakkie — it's a legend of rugged utility, sculpted strength, and raw diesel power. From where I stand, this is the workhorse and adventurer in one: a bakkie that whispers in diesel and growls and roars in torque.

At its heart the Pro-4X has a 2.5-litre turbocharged diesel engine capable of delivering 140 kW of power and a monstrous 450 Nm of torque. Matched to a 7-speed automatic transmission, the Nissan 474 system and locking rear differential give it off-road prowess that puts it in a class of but a few models. With an 80-litre fuel tank there is a long range between refuelling, and the Navara can boast fuel economy of around 8.1 L per 100 km.

What truly sends a shiver down my spine is its capacity: a braked towing capacity that rivals the giants, backed by Nissan's rugged ladder frame and off-road electronics. According to Nissan's own specs, the Pro-4X is built with coil-spring rear

suspension, not the leaf springs many rivals still use, providing a smoother ride and impressive load-handling.

Think of this machine as a modern-day pioneer's chariot. As legendary 4x4 expert Ian Callum once said (if he were talking about this Navara), "True capability isn't measured in speed — it's in the confidence to go where others fear to tread." I may never have driven it, but I can almost taste that coil-sprung comfort, hear the turbo spool, and feel the torque in my bones.

In a world of flashy bakkies, the Navara Pro-4X double cab remains a beacon of earnest strength. It's more than a bakkie, it's an idea: that you can haul hard, climb high, and still come home in comfort. One day, I'll test drive one. And I suspect the moment will feel less like an occasion, more like a pilgrimage.

If you are interested in test driving the Navara then contact Bidvest McCarthy Nissan Umhlanga's Sales Manager, Preshalin Pillay, on 073 518 5652 or visit their showroom at 2 - 11 Sunset Close, Umhlanga Ridge.

Seen on the right: The Nissan Navara Pro-X4 has proven its place on top of the pile of performance bakkies, speak to Bidvest McCarthy Nissan Umhlanga



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Don't settle. Either they will wake up to the fact that you are worth more & or you will. Charles J. Orlando



Ford Everest Platinum – Strength, Luxury, and Now... an Unmissable Opportunity

By Tomas Yoko

Every now and then, a vehicle comes along that doesn't merely enter a segment — it elevates it. The Ford Everest Platinum is exactly that kind of machine: a sophisticated, full-sized SUV built for people who don't just travel, but seek experiences worth remembering.

Its heart is Ford's mighty 3.0-litre V6 turbodiesel, delivering 184 kW and 600 Nm of torque through a crisp 10-speed SelectShift automatic gearbox and permanent AWD system. This is power with grace — the kind of smooth, effortless strength that turns mountain passes, towing duties, and long coastal hauls into things of ease rather than a challenge.

Ford's Terrain Management System offered me a selectable command over the elements of Sand, Mud & Ruts, Slippery, Tow/Haul, Eco or Normal, allowing the Everest Platinum to morph into exactly what the terrain demands. Whether crossing gravel plains or gliding along the M4, the Everest feels calm, planted, and reassuring.

Inside, luxury takes the centre stage. Soft-touch materials, tech-rich displays, segment-leading comfort, and an almost cathedral-like quietness transform the cabin into a space where every occupant feels considered. This is not just an SUV; it's a traveling sanctuary.

And then comes the part that truly shifts the landscape: CMH Ford Ballito is currently offering the Everest Platinum 3.0L V6 AWD HR 10AT at a massively reduced Black Friday special offer of R1 159 000.00. That is a staggering saving of R150 000 on one of the most capable and luxurious SUVs in South Africa.

If you've ever imagined yourself behind the wheel of something powerful, elegant, and built to go anywhere with conviction — this is your moment. You know you deserve it, you've earned it. The road is calling, and the Everest Platinum is waiting in for you at CMH Ford Ballito, 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito, or call them on 087 723 9278 to arrange a test drive.

The Ford Everest Platinum combines Ford V6 3-litre muscle with a level of luxury and spec that really turns your world into your oyster, where every horizon is attainable. Speak to CMH Ford Ballito on 087 723 9278



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