

NEWS FROM THE BLOCK

Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch

JUNE 2017

24 HOUR NUMBER - 078 813 1391



MIDMAR MADNESS

Ever been in a situation where you are at a party or a braai, people are chatting away and the alcohol has taken over which gives you a sense of bravado? Suddenly in a weak moment someone challenges you to a crazy dare and you accept without even thinking.

This happened to swimming coach and OPSB member John Miller from Plover Street. John, by his own admission is a party animal and on this particular evening he was having a braai with family and friends. After having one too many beers and in a weak moment his daughter, the Midmar Mile. Without challenge. The next morning was quick to remind him of what going back.

John put his pride in his pocket challenge was on. As a swimming John and his family are fitness friendly banter between father brave face, he kept telling Kerry easy. Meanwhile behind all the

Anyway, the day arrived for the swimmers (including two of 7 and 8) set off from Plover youngsters were petrified of children in for.

Upon arrival at the Midmar Dam says that the colour drained from he was up against. From "party perhaps describes John's kept a watch on her father and with herself.



John and his beautiful indoor swimming pool

Kerry, challenged him to do hesitation John accepted the when John woke up Kerry he had done. There was no

and simply agreed that the coach and avid swimmer fanatics. There was a lot of and daughter. Showing a that the Midmar Mile was bravado John was petrified.

big event and a convoy of John's pupils who were aged Street. The parents of the 2 what they were letting their

in Pietermaritzburg, John his face when he saw what animal" to "deadly silence" emotions at the time. Kerry was having a quiet laugh

The Midmar Mile is an annual event which attracts competitors from all over the country. In 2009, there were 13 755 competitors who entered the race. The distance covered is one mile (1,6 km).

John took the plunge together with all the other competitors and set off for the finish line. 52 minutes later John finished and swore that he would never do it again. As John was getting out of the water and struggling to get his breath back, he was staring down the lense of a TV camera. The presenter was trying to ask John questions but he could not answer. In a polite manner, he told them to come back later, which they did. In the background stood the family taking the mickey out of John. At that point, John did not see the funny side of it.

Contrary to John's decision to quit this madness the bug bit him. The following year John and his entourage repeated the exercise and this time John completed the Midmar in 35 minutes using breast stroke as opposed to free style.

Some 14 years later John is still doing the Midmar Mile and last year completed the mile in 37 minutes. John was annoyed because as he puts it "some chick beat him by 40 seconds." His times have varied over the years. This is due to the fact that John helps all his pupils, who attend his swimming academy, to finish the race.

Such is John's passion for the Midmar Mile, he has incorporated the event into his swimming curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to aim for the Midmar Mile when they join. However, pupils simply don't have to aim for the Midmar Mile, they must qualify for the event.

In October every year, all swimming pupils who wish to do the Midmar Mile have to do a 600 metre swim at the Valley of The Waves at Sun City. The final qualifying event takes place in January every year at the Heritage Dam. Pupils must swim across the dam which is 1 km long and if they succeed the pupils may swim the Midmar Mile.

John's motto is IF YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF – HOW CAN YOU TEACH IT. Bearing this in mind, John leads by example and the Midmar Mile is treated as a team event under the banner of the Swimming Academy. All entrants for the race gather at John's place and they all set off as a team for Pietermaritzburg. There are stops along the route before everyone arrives at the Midmar Dam.



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WHAT HAPPENED IN MAY 2017

- 1ST MONDAY - MELVILLE - ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH: Passing motorist threw out a black bag which contained a decomposing fish. Needless to say there was a "PONG.....". Bag was disposed of.
- 2ND TUESDAY - RAND WATER - SUSPICIOUS PERSON: Two males sitting inside Rand Water property with grass cutting equipment - were waiting for transport.
- 3RD WEDNESDAY - BUHRMAN - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Mother and relative of child at Nursery School got into an argument and attacked each other.
- 4TH THURSDAY - JULIANA - SUSPICIOUS PERSON: On leaving premises concerned member spotted male sitting on pavement outside a complex. Investigated but found nobody.
- 4TH THURSDAY - ANDRIES BRUYN - HOUSE BURGLARY: School driver returned home to find lock on gate broken. Lock on sliding door also broken. Flatscreen TV's, laptop and camera stolen. Gardener working on pavement opposite never saw a thing. YEAH RIGHT!!
- 5TH FRIDAY - CUTTEN / ANDRIES BRUYN - VEHICLE ACCIDENT: Mother taking kids to school collided with vehicle that failed to stop at stop sign. One child taken to hospital. No serious injuries.
- 5TH FRIDAY - BICKEL - JOHANNESBURG WATER: Huge water leak noticed by member. Turned out to be backwash from complex swimming pool.
- 7TH SUNDAY - SCHULTZ - FALSE ALARM: ADT notified member alarm activated. She was out and asked Blockwatch to check. Everything in order.
- 8TH MONDAY - CUTTEN - ANIMAL WELFARE: Refuse removal collectors walking down road with dog on a lead. Member was concerned about the dog but upon investigation found animal appeared to be happy with proper collar and chain.
- 8TH MONDAY - MOUTON CENTRE - FALSE ALARM: Alarm going off in centre. Upon investigation found Security company there already. Possibly faulty alarm.
- 12TH FRIDAY - GEORGINIA - INTRUDER IN PROPERTY: On returning home 2 suspects were spotted jumping wall into property. They fled when shouted at. Dunmar apprehended them in Andries Bruyn Str. Denied jumping into property. They were followed out of area.
- 13TH SATURDAY - JULIANA - MEDICAL EMERGENCY: Elderly member fell out of bed and pushed panic button with security company. They had no access to home. Domestic who supposed to look after lady were not at home. Blockwatch went to home but found home locked up. Was informed that domestics arrived.
- 13TH SATURDAY - GEORGINIA - ATTEMPTED HOUSE BURGLARY: On returning home found side window broken. Alarm must have scared them off. Possibly linked to incident day before in same street.
- 17TH WEDNESDAY - FIONA - JOHANNESBURG WATER: Water seeping through pavement. Reported to Johannesburg Water.

18TH THURSDAY - CUTTEN - ANIMAL WELFARE: Black sausage dog found in road. Owner found.

18TH THURSDAY - PLOVER - SUSPICIOUS PERSON: While waiting for grandson outside swimming school, male spotted walking up and down road. Upon investigation turned out to be father of one of the pupils.

19TH FRIDAY - KLIPRAND - SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY: Member noticed neighbours (non-member) gate open. Bathroom window open and dirty towel on window sill. Note was left for owners but they have not made contact with Blockwatch.

20TH SATURDAY - KLIPRAND - SUSPICIOUS PERSONS: 2 Suspects spotted trying to get into property. Report back later - they were vagrants looking for food.

22ND MONDAY - DU TOIT - SCAM: Youngsters walking in street approached and offered work by "caterers". Were made to sit on pavement and hand over phones for "labelling" to prevent theft. Of course "caterers" then disappeared.

24TH WEDNESDAY - GEORGINIA - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE: White Nissan parked outside property. Then moved to Peterson. Blockwatch passed him and followed him to Ontdekkers Service Road. Vehicle then turned around and drove onto Ontdekkers.

24TH WEDNESDAY - ONTDEKKERS - SUSPICIOUS PERSON: Car guard requested help from Blockwatch as they caught a suspect for house burglary. They were apparently beating up suspect. When Blockwatch arrived, car guard and suspect were nowhere to be found.

25TH THURSDAY - JULIANA - RESIDENTS ASSISTANCE: Family stranded at Flora Clinic as car had been stolen from parking. Keys to house in car and family worried suspects may come to house.

27TH SATURDAY - BICKEL - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE: Commotion outside members house. Found Toyota Hilux with couple arguing. Upon investigation, vehicle abandoned. Couple apparently walked in direction of Cutten. Patrolled area but could not find them.

31ST WEDNESDAY - OAKRIDGE - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE: Vehicle parked at entrance. Contacted owner who said she was at home and DSTV was being installed.

31ST WEDNESDAY - PETERSON - JOHANNESBURG WATER: Water leak at corner of Peterson and Du Toit. Johannesburg Water notified..... AND THE SUBSEQUENT MESS THAT HAS BEEN LEFT AFTER THEY FIXED THE LEAK!!



SNIPPETS FROM THE BLOCK



We wish all our students calm nerves, good preparation and constant studying for the mid-year exams.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

<p>Blockwatch Post-box in front of Summit Village. E-mail: committee@blockwatchops.co.za Facebook Page: OPS Blockwatch Web page: www.blockwatchops.co.za Banking details: Ontdekkers Park South Blockwatch, ABSA Bank, Florida branch, Savings Account: 9046621198</p>

CLASSIFIED SECTION

[PLEASE CONTACT TERESA IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE FROM AVON – 079-184-2492](mailto:teresa@avon.com)

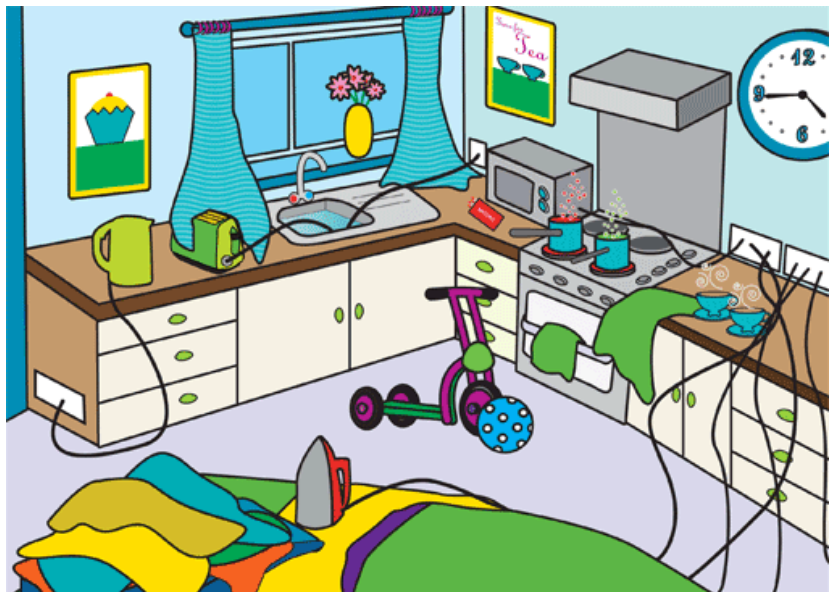


SOME FUN STUFF!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

THERE ARE NINE VERY SERIOUS ERRORS THAT COULD CAUSE FIRE OR PERSONAL INJURY.

CAN YOU SPOT THEM?



C-Track has released its latest hi-jacking and theft report, detailing the most hi-jacked cars and hi-jacking hotspots in South Africa.

The company lists the most hi-jacked vehicles as:

- * **VW POLO** – Passenger vehicle
- * **TOYOTA FORTUNER** – SUV
- * **FORD** – Third most targeted manufacturer.

The data coincides with the best selling cars in South Africa as of May 2017, it says.

The top five hi-jacking hotspots in Gauteng are:

- * HONEYDEW
- * BOOYSENS
- * ROODEPOORT
- * LINDEN
- * BROOKLYN
