

News briefs

Bite victim recovering

DOG-bite victim, Emma Collier, is recovering well after her ordeal, and has returned to school. According to her mother, Sonje, Emma is feeling much better and is getting back to her routine.

Emma (11) was mauled by two boerbulls in Durban North and survived by dropping to the ground, into a little ball, advice her mother had given her four months ago.

Sonje reiterates her thanks to all who helped the family, from the doctors and Umhlanga Hospital staff, to friends and strangers.

Cat reward raised

A FURTHER R3 000 has been added to the R10 000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who cruelly shot and killed, Susanne Niehaus's cat, Homer. Niehaus, from Rosehill, told how Homer was shot in the face with a .22 gun and how the bullet went through his mouth and down his neck where it got stuck. A detective has offered his services to aid the SPCA's investigating officer, Inspector Roshen Rutee, 031 579 6502.

Quote this...

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

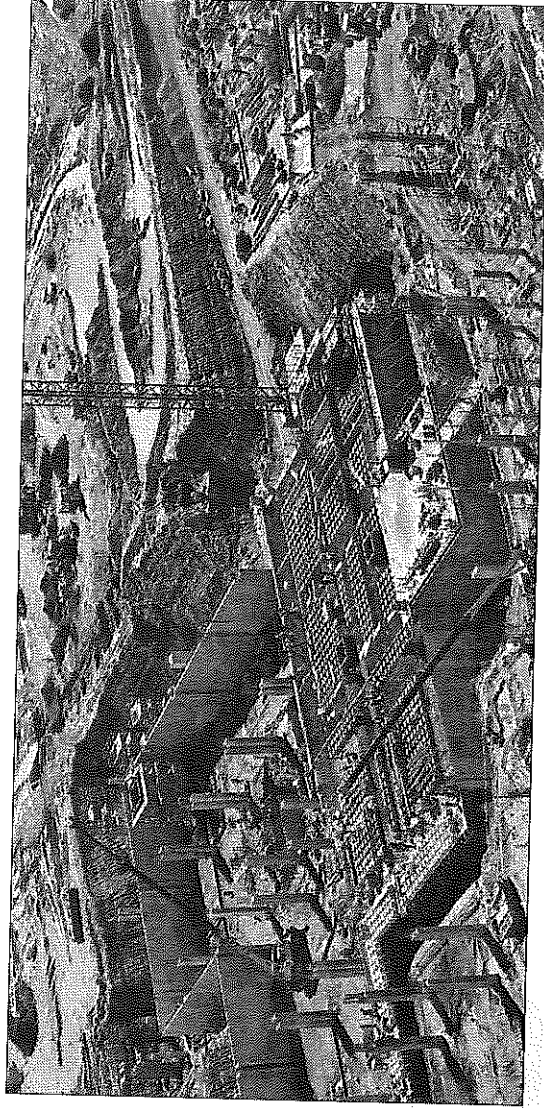
- Bill Cosby, American comedian

High tides

Tuesday, 27 May	7.57am	8.50pm
Wednesday, 28 May	9.14am	10.10pm
Thursday, 29 May	10.41am	11.26pm
Friday, 30 May	11.56am	---
Saturday, 31 May	12.29am	12.57pm
Sunday, 1 June	1.20am	2.05pm
Monday, 2 June	2.12am	2.40pm

Multi billion La Mercy update

Airport to arrive on time



THE new international airport at La Mercy is taking great shape and although it has, historically not been a very smooth ride to get to the level it is now, it is rapidly becoming part of the Durban and KZN skyline.

The magnitude of the multi billion rand project has construction work taking place at about six areas on the vast site.

There are about 100 park homes on site which houses the various contractors and their staff, which consists of over 2100 contractors and sub contractors.

About 200 earth moving machines have already moved about four million tons of earth on the site. Due to the pace of the construction, it is very noticeable that the shape and scale of some of the construction areas on the site take a different shape as the weeks go by.

Considering the fact that the completion target is set for the 1st quarter of 2010, some areas have had some major construction activities recently:

- Piling was completed on the northern elevated roadway ramp.
- The terminal building basement retaining walls have been completed.
- The concrete slab has been poured for the terminal building arrivals hall.
- Work has commenced on the construction of the northern ramp of the elevated roadway to the departures level.
- Casting of concrete for the multi storey parking has commenced, including casing of the retaining walls of the cargo building.
- Work on the control tower and the lift shaft is in progress.

Terminal building, arrivals.

class facility with the co-operation and consultation of all the relevant stakeholders".

Councillor Rory Macpherson said: "While the DA was against the relocation the Durban International airport to the very heart of a potential tourism and residential node, we accept that the La Mercy airport is happening and it is now our role to ensure that the taxpayer and ratepayer get what they are paying for.

"While it is encouraging to read the report that construction is on schedule, uncertainty remains about Mt Moreland and the low cost houses which have been identified for relocation." Macpherson said the DA remains concerned as to what the final infrastructure costs are going to be, as this is going to be for the cost of the ratepayer, already reeling under a barrage of municipal tariff increases.

● The design and construction of the cargo building is in progress.

● The runways and taxiways are on program, with the road bed preparation on the shoulders of the taxiways been completed.

● The Tradezone area is being cut and bush clearing is in progress. Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), together with the Dube TradePort (DTP) has a team on site to work with the contractor, the Ilembe Consortium.

Heading the project for ACSA, Sean van der Valk, project manager, said: "We are working together with the contractor and the professional teams on site to manage the project, and also to ensure the project is delivered on time.

"As this green field project is going to be an historical event, we are working towards delivering a world

Facts and figures

With a project of this nature it is interesting to note the quantity of the materials being used on the site on a daily basis. Some of the interesting facts on the construction site include:

- Material Quantity Equivalent to:
 - Runway and Taxiways 400 000 m² - 100 Soccer Pitches
 - Terminal Floor Area 103 000 m² - 27 Soccer Pitches
 - Earthworks 5.8 Million m³ - 2500 Olympic Swimming Pools
 - Concrete 100 000 m³ - 50 Olympic Swimming Pools
 - Structural Steel 4 700 tonnes - 1/2 the Eiffel Tower
 - Asphalt 230 000 tonnes - 35km of 4 lane highway