



Outery over rat in swimming pool - p6

Birds of a feather flock together



Learners at Laerskool Rustenburg proved their creativity, skill and wit when "Idioms Day" was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Thursday, 22 April. The initiative led to some incredibly imaginative costumes. These learners and one of the school's teachers were chosen as the winners for the day, although it was an arduous task do so. From left at the back are Marnoux van der Schyff, Ané Christie, Miss Marelize Hanekom, Danielle Snyman, Ricardo Fourie, Tyron Theron, Mandy-Lee Naude, Desiré Schoeman and Miané Coetsee. Which one is your favourite?



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# Municipal tariffs up again - assessment rates through the roof

Waldie Volschenk

BONUS - RUSTENBURG - It is common for Rustenburg consumers to be somewhat edgy towards the end of April every year as the annual budget of the Rustenburg Municipality is being awaited.

This year however, with virtually each and every consumer already in deficit due to the disastrous effects of Covid-19, Rustenburg residents and property owners in particular are the proverbial cat on a hot tin roof as the 2021/22 budget has nothing but a nasty shock in store - especially with the official inflation rate at only 3.5%! From the end of this month, the "final" chapter in the Rustenburg Municipality's contentious Municipal Valuation Roll will come into play in that it will dramatically affect assessment rates on property owners' monthly municipal accounts.Of course - this will be in addition to the usual hikes in tariffs and fees of which most are generally accepted as inevitable. According to the Municipal Budget the value of property in Rustenburg has risen by 69% in comparison to 2020/21. Though there is no tariff adjustment, assessment rates on your monthly municipal account will increase by 69%! It however, appears that the municipality is planning on implementing the increase over a four year period. The effect of this will be that your assessment rates will rise by 17.25% over the next four years in succession if there is indeed no tariff adjustment. The budget however provides for an increase in 2022. The observation in the records is that the municipality will be implementing the 69% over a four year period though in the budget records the income from assessment rates will increase by 25% - this could see yet

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another hike in your municipal account. Expenditures that would lift the evebrows are: An increase in the salary account by 9.6% (budgeted increase?). Salaries for Councillors will increase by 6.1% at a time in which the private sector had to settle for much less or none at all! Another big concern is the increase in finance charges of 220% while the municipality indeed has a surplus following government subsidies of R780 000.00. An increase of

## ROPHETAHMED

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44% in contracted expenses is also noted. With that said - how will your municipal account be affected in 2021/22? (Remember that assessment rates on your municipal account will be increased by a minimum of 10% annually over the next four years). To illustrate we use an example of property valuated at R2 000 000.00 (2020/21) on a stand of 1 000 m2. Water and electricity consumption is 25 kl and 900 units respectively.

Water basic: R94.27 (2021/22) - R89.44

(2020/21)

First 12 kl: R176.77 (2021/22) - R167.76

Following 13 kl: R202.67 (2021/22) -R192.27 (2020/21)

Total water: R473.82 (2021/22 - R449.47 (2020/21) - (5.4%)

Electricity basic: R363.97 (2021/22) -R342.72 (2020/21)First 50 units: R56.00 (2021/2022) - R52.50 (2020/21)

Following 300: R420,00 (2021/22) -R396.00 (2020/21)

Following 250: R465.00 (2021/22) -R437.50 (2020/21)

Following 300: R678.00 (2021/22) -R639.00 (2020/21)

Total electricity: R1 982.97 (2021/22) -R1 867.75 (2020/21) - (6.2%)

Refuse removal: R152.94 (2021/22) -R145.10 (2020/21) - (4.6%)

Sewerage: R182.98 (2021/22) - R173.10 (2020/21) (5.7%)

Assessment rates: R1 559/43 (2021/22) -R1 330.00 (2020/21)

Total Acc: R4 352.14 (2021/22) - R3 965.42 (2020/21) (9.8%)

(NB) - The increase of 17.25% is used as the 69% will be implemented over four years although the Municipal Budget provides for an income of 25%. See the Annual Municipal Budget elsewhere in this

## Munisipale begroting - ons word vir 'n "nege" geslaan!

# Die grootste styging in vanjaar se begroting is eiendomsbelasting nadat die nuwe waardasierol onlangs vrygestel is. Hierbenewens gaan die begroting vir 'n reuse skok onder verbruikers sorg - veral omdat die amptelike inflasiekoers vanjaar slegs 3.5% is.

# Volgens die begroting is die waardasie van eiendome in Rustenburg gemiddeld 69% meer

# Verhoogte eiendomsbelasting gaan oor

'n tydperk van vier jaar ingefaseer word dit beteken dat eiendomsbelasting oor die volgende vier jaar met 17.25% jaarliks gaan styg indien daar geen tariefaanpassing is nie.

# Verhogings wat die wenkbroue gaan lig, is 'n toename in raadslede se salarisse van 6.1% - dit terwyl die privaatsektor weens Covid-19 met veel kleiner verhogings (indien enige) tevrede moes wees.

# 'n Dramatiese uitgawe is die styging

in finansieringskoste van 220% terwyl daar inderwaarheid 'n oorskot na staatsubsidies van R780 000 000.00 is. Uitgekontrakteerde uitgawes styg met 44%.

# Eiendomme met 'n waardasie van R2 000 000 en 'n erf van 1 000 m2 met water- en elektrisiteitsverbruik van 25 kl en 900 eenhede per maand gaan 'n gemiddelde styging van 9.8% op u maandelikse munisipale rekening

## **Suspects arrested for** drug dealing in Sondela

RUSTENBURG - The police have arrested two suspects in Sondela, just outside of Rustenburg for allegedly dealing in drugs on Monday (12 April).

Information received from Captain Elsabé Augoustides suggests that the police received a tip-off concerning possible drugs kept in a house in the township. The suspect's house was searched and dagga with a street value of R1500 was found. This suspect was arrested for dealing in dagga. Additional information led to yet another arrest of a 29-year-old suspect who was found in possession of five rock drugs, with an estimated street value of R250. The suspects have already appeared before the Rustenburg Magistrates Court.



Recovered dagga to the value of R1500



Five rock drugs, with an estimated street value of R250



edition).

BONUS - RUSTENBURG - A crime intelligence driven operation resulted in the arrests of two suspects, Tlhabane Mhlongo and Ishmael Jose Manyisa for possession of four rolls of copper cables suspected to have been stolen from Impala

According to Captain Elsabé Augoustides, police spokesperson here in Rustenburg, information was followed up on Thursday (15 April) at around 04:00 by Crime Prevention members who then

managed to arrest the two suspects, while the others fled on foot, leaving behind a silver Hyundai loaded some more copper cables. The vehicle was then confiscated by the police. The suspects recently appeared before the Rustenburg Magistrates Court.

## Invitation to **Virtual Special** Meeting of Council

BONUS - RUSTENBURG - Notice is hereby given to members of the public in terms of Section 19 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000 as amended about the Virtual Special Meeting of Council that is scheduled as follows:

Time: 10:00 Date: 7 May 2021

Please note that due to Covid-19 Lockdown Regulations, viewing of the meeting by the public will be facilitated through live streaming on Facebook.



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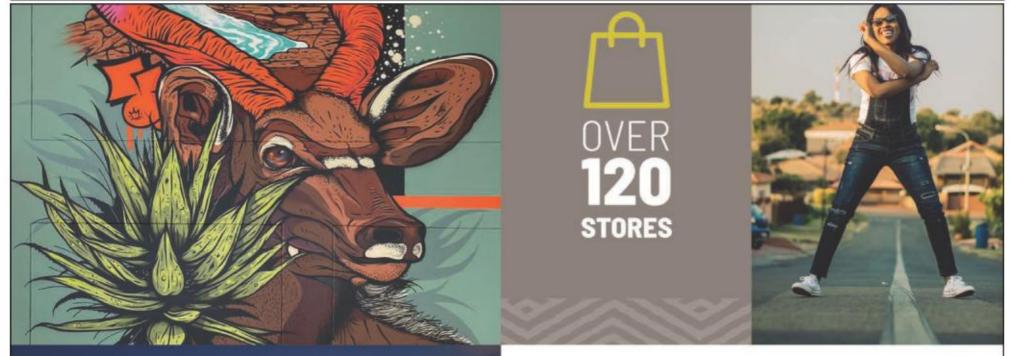
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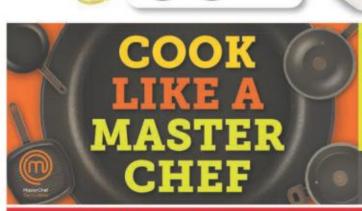


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# Outcry over rat in swimming pool

BONUS - RUSTENBURG - "The NSPCA does foresee a case of animal cruelty being opened against the perpetrator, in terms of the Animals Protection Act no 71 of 1962."This is according to Keshvi Nair, Public Relations officer of the National SPCA.

The investigation follows a posting on Facebook by a Rustenburg woman of how her partner is busy drowning a rat in their swimming pool. An outcry from animal rights activists and animal lovers ensued after the woman's posting and Rustenburg Herald was inundated with complaints about the incident.

For the full story, see this week's Rustenburg Herald.



Some of the comments Facebook following a Rustenburg woman's post showing her partner drowning a rat.



exciting line-up", says Juan Palm, General Manager of the Mall. Entertainment for the opening weekend includes a Marimba band, Pantsula dancers, Mirror Man, Topiary Man, a unicyclist and a balloon twister amongst others. Ready for action! These corridors may still

Other kids'- and not-so-kids' entertainment will include Giant Chess, a beautiful water feature and a children's play area in the Marketplace food court.

its doors to the public. (Photo:

bustling with customers exploring the new Rustenburg Mall. (Photo: Supplied) Want to snap a selfie? You will be spoilt for choice - Rustenburg Mall will

have a giant chair and enormous ice cream that friends

and family can pose at. There are various works of art throughout the

Centre that will definitely be more than selfie worthy. Juan asks all customers to use the hashtag #makeityours and #rustenburgmall on all their photos on social media.

Guests visiting the Mall will have access to free Wi-Fi. "For the safety of all our patrons and staff, we kindly request all visitors

be empty, but from 29 April they will be



"We look forward to welcoming all to our beautiful new Mall where everyone can #makeityours," invites Juan.

# Local election day announced

BONUS - RUSTENBURG - The president of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa recently made the announcement that the date on which the local government elections will take place on Wednesday (27 October).

This will be the sixth time under South Africa's democratic dispensation that voters will elect leadership and public representatives at metropolitan, district and local level. "The President urges eligible and

especially first-time voters to ensure they are registered to participate in the elections, which provide the basis for development and service delivery closest to where citizens live," the Presidency said in a statement.

# **Fuel price predictions for May**

BONUS - RUSTENBURG - The Automobile Association (AA) has predicted a slight decrease in fuel prices in the month of May.

According to AA, if the global fuel price and Rand stay on a similar trajectory until the end of the month, there will be a strong chance of a fuel price decrease for May 2021.

The AA said the current data shows the

prospect of a 32 cents a litre drop of diesel, and 27 cents for illuminating paraffin by the end of the month. Petrol hasn't fared well, with a slight increase of six cents a litre predicted," the AA said.

# Here comes Covid-19 - again

BONUS - RUSTENBURG HERALD - Could North West be facing the third wave of Covid-19 infections? Could the province face adjusted restrictions? If the citizens are careless about their health and safety this could be very much on the cards.

On Wednesday (20 April) the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) sounded the alarm after observing a spike in Covid-19 cases in the North West, as well as in the Free State and Northern Cape.

The senior epidemiologist at the NICD, Dr Harry Moultrie, said a team was working with these provinces to ascertain whether the rise in cases was a result of cluster outbreaks. He said the team has recommend increased testing and contact tracing to contain the situation and limit further spread. Moultrie said with the April school holiday season on the horizon and many people planning to travel and the possibility of social gatherings, it was important that people complied with Covid-19 safety protocols:

- \* wearing masks
- \* maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 metres from others
- \* washing hands or using a hand sanitiser.

"Where possible, activities should take place outdoors or in well-ventilated areas/rooms with open windows and doors, as proper ventilation plays an important role in reducing transmission," Moultrie said. The NICD's acting executive director, Professor Adrian Puren, reassured the public that the NCID was monitoring the situation and would keep communities informed of new developments.

According to the statistics from the Health Ministry, the Northern Cape's cumulative cases increased to 38 183, the North West's increased to 66 023 and the Free State's increased to 86 202.



Professor Adrian Puren.



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BONUS - RUSTENBURG - The organisers of two of the North West Province's most iconic off-road events, the Fedhealth Magalies Monster MTB Classic and Fedhealth Platinum Trail Run, are proud to support The Kindness Collaboration, a project aimed at supporting South Africans who cannot afford

Michael Meyer, Managing Director of Stillwater Sports. "Founded by Fedhealth and Operation Healing Hands, to these families by raising funds to cover the cost of preventative and life-saving screenings and/or surgeries.

We are extremely proud to support such a wonderful initiative. Mountain bikers and trail runners can also contribute by making a donation while entering online for the Fedhealth Magalies Monster MTB Classic and/ or Fedhealth Platinum Trail Run. Entrants who donate R400 or more will receive a rider jersey compliments of Operation Healing Hands and Fedhealth."

For more information about Operation Healing Hands visit http://ohhsa.net/Fedhealth Magalies Monster MTB Classic on Saturday 5 June 2021 at ATKV Buffelspoort: Marathon /±65km/R450, Half Marathon/±33km/R350, Fun Ride/±16km/R225, Kids/2.5km/R100. Pre-entries

"Although a necessity, not all South Africans have close on Monday 31 May 2021. All mountain bikers access to or can afford quality medical care," says will receive an official event t-shirt, and medals will be awarded to all finishers.

Fedhealth Platinum Trail Run on Sunday 6 June The Kindness Collaboration Project offers its support 2021 at ATKV Buffelspoort: Long/±24km/R350, Medium/±12km/R250, Short/±8km/R150, Kids/2.5km/ R100. Pre-entries close on Monday 31 May 2021.

> All trail runners will receive an official technical event t-shirt, and medals will be awarded to all finishers.Follow them on Twitter: @Stillwater MTB @StillwaterTrail, on Instagram: @stillwater mtb events / @stillwater\_trail\_running, like the Facebook Page: Stillwater MTB Events / Stillwater Trail Running. Hashtags: #magaliesmonster #fedhealth #fedhealthmountainbiking #platinumtrailrun.For more information on the Fedhealth Magalies Monster MTB Classic or Fedhealth Platinum Trail Run contact Stillwater Sports on 082 991 0045, email: entries@ stillwatersports.com or visit www.stillwatersports.com.

Mountain bikers in action during the 2019 Fedhealth Magalies Monster MTB Classic. (Photo Credit: Tobias Ginsberg)



Givemore Mudzinganyama in action during the 2019 Fedhealth Platinum Trail

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