



80-YEAR OLD MAN ACCUSED OF RAPING MINOR

Brits – An 80-year old man is appearing before the After noticing that the two were taking too long to Brits Magistrates' Court for allegedly raping a 7-year old girl.

The man made his first appearance on Monday 17 February, two days after he was apprehended by the police over the allegations.

The man was allegedly caught in the act of raping the girl in the Geluk farming area, located on the outskirts of Brits.

It is the state's case that the suspect accompanied the girl, who is a grandchild of his girlfriend, to the shops on Saturday 15 February.

return, the girl's mother started looking for them. She became worried after failing to

locate them.

It was during another attempt that the mother found the two behind a thick shrubbery area.

"After noticing that the child was half naked, the mother immediately screamed for help and police were alerted. The suspect was immediately arrested and charged with rape," police spokesperson captain Sam Tselanyane said.

Northam - A team dispatched by the

Thabazimbi Local Municipality (TLM) to

patch up potholes is making significant

The team have been busy filling up

potholes on the Thabazimbi road in

Although they still have a long way

to go before completing the job, they

are making good progress under the

supervision of TLM acting satellite area

The municipality has given an assurance

that the initiative will continue until all

Additionally, plans for a TLM general

municipal workers day that will see most

officials taking part in various work-related

Details of this day will be communicated

manager Johannes Matlou.

potholes are fixed.

activities is on the cards.

headway in repairing damaged roads.

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"In Association with North-West Debt Counselling"

AFRICAN MILLION DOLLAR PIGEON RACE South Africa - The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) is again concerned by the low number of

pigeons that have returned to their loft after the South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race (SAMDPR) which took place on Saturday 1 February.

A total of 1 548 pigeons were liberated in the early morning in the Northern Cape and were expected to make their way back to their loft in Sasolburg, some 600kms. However, to date, only 675 pigeons have returned and 60% are still missing.

The pigeons used for pigeon racing are bred in captivity and spend their lives in the care of humans making them completely dependent on humans to survive. They are easy prey to predators and do not know how to protect themselves from the elements or even how to forage for themselves.

The NSPCA is aware that at the beginning of the training season, 3 377 pigeons were liberated during the first training flight. This means that between training and hot spot races, and the actual Million Dollar race, 1829 pigeons went missing or died before the main event, totalling the disappearance of 2702 pigeons during the entire season.

"It is shocking that 80% of the pigeons disappeared during the entire season, and that these losses seem to be accepted by the pigeon racing fraternity. No one is able to confirm the fate of these sentient creatures

- this race takes place in one of the hottest months of the year with scarce water sources along the route and other adverse weather conditions such as thunder storms; one can only imagine the suffering that these birds endure," said senior inspector Arno De Klerk, manager of the NSPCA's Special Projects Unit.

The environmental impact that this could have if surviving birds join South Africa's growing feral population is also cause for concern - the pigeon is considered an invasive species with a rapid reproduction rate, this is a serious concern for the environment as well as the birds' welfare.

The NSPCA remains opposed to animal racing in all

NSPCA press release, 20 February 2020



to municipal employees during the month of March.

All service delivery-related matters will also be attended to on that day with the program expected to be extended to Thabazimbi and other areas.

TLM has expressed their gratitude to all those involved in the project for their commitment and dedication during this period.

the success of this initiative.



A team from the TLM has been patching up

Special mention goes to ward 8 councillor Tshegofatso Ramoabi for putting his schedule aside and contributing towards



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The team is eager to complete the patching up

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