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Jou Gratis Gemeenskapskoerant | Your Free Community Newspaper | 4 OCTOBER 2024

PANGOLIN RESCUED

IN THABAZIMBI TRAFFICKING BUST

The endangered pangolin rescued from traffickers at Thabazimbi Square Shopping Centre.

A baby pangolin, rescued alongside its mother at the Martins Drift Border Post, now safe from illegal trafficking.

HELP Protect the Endangered Pangolin

A pangolin, one of the most trafficked and endangered mammals in the world. If you've spotted one or witnessed suspicious activity, such as someone attempting to sell or trade it illegally, report it immediately. Simply snap a photo of the animal, note its location, and send the details to the *Pangolert* number:

072 726 4654

Thabazimbi – A pangolin trafficking operation was foiled on Friday, 20 September 2024, at Thabazimbi Square Shopping Centre after a passerby noticed a man in possession of the endangered animal. The pangolin was found alive and hidden inside a white Toyota Corolla.

He immediately contacted the authorities. The South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit based in Ellisras, swiftly responded.

George Dire, a shelf packer at Crazy Plastics, was washing trolleys outside the store when he also noticed unusual activity involving a white Toyota Corolla. "I saw the pangolin in the white Corolla and was shocked," Dire said. "I had never seen anything like it."

Thanks to swift action by the police and endangered species unit, the suspect, identified as 32-year-old Francisco Armando Tembe, was arrested at the

scene. Brigadier Mashaba Hlulani, SAPS Limpopo spokesperson, confirmed Tembe appeared before the Thabamooop Magistrates' Court on 23 September 2024. He was charged with possession of a protected endangered species and remanded in custody until 3 October 2024 for profiling.

In a related operation on 27 September 2024, at the Martins Drift Border Post between Botswana and South Africa, three Botswana nationals were arrested while attempting to smuggle a female pangolin and her puppy. Both animals were rescued and are now safe from illegal trafficking.

The Limpopo Pangolin Collective, which assisted the SAPS in both operations, revealed that this trafficking network is part of a larger syndicate involved in the illegal trade of endangered species, ivory, and diamonds. "These networks operate on both local and international levels," a Collective member stated.

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Thabazimbi – In a devastating fire that broke out on Monday, 23 September 2024 at approximately 21:45, Johan Schutte, a local chicken farmer, and his family lost everything. The fire, which is still under investigation, left no clue as to its cause, but the damage is clear — their house and an adjoining flat burned completely to the ground. Fortunately, all the animals on the farm survived the ordeal. “We’ve lost everything,” Schutte shared, visibly shaken by the destruction. The family’s immediate needs have been met with donations of clothes, beds, and linen from the community. However, their most pressing concern is the future of their farm.

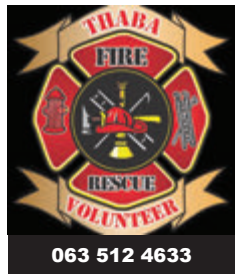
The Schutte family runs a chicken farming operation and urgently requires refrigerators to store the chickens post-slaughter. Johan is currently building a new home on the property, but progress is slow due to limited resources. He is in desperate need of cement and other building materials to speed up the construction. Additionally, the family requires feed for their livestock, which includes sheep, game, and pigs.

Any assistance, whether through donations of farming supplies or building materials, would make a significant difference to the Schuttes as they work to rebuild their lives. Those willing to help can contact Johan Schutte directly at 071 536 5686.



Fire's devastation: a family home and farm left in ashes.

Thick
plumes of
smoke rose
high into the
sky as the
fire raged
across
Thabazimbi.



Thabazimbi – Thabazimbi and Amandelbult residents as well as emergency services faced an intense fire battle over several days, with the flames spreading across multiple areas and requiring a collaborative effort to contain.

According to Pierre Loots, director of Thaba Fire and Rescue, the first fire broke out on Thursday, 26 September 2024, at approximately 13:15. Thaba Fire and Rescue, together with Amandelbult Fire and Rescue, responded with three bakkies to assist Amandelbult with a fire on land bordering their property. The teams worked tirelessly until around 18:45.

Loots shared, “While we were assisting Amandelbult, another fire started between the Thabazimbi Showgrounds and Aandrus Kwekery at about 14:30. When we returned from Amandelbult, we joined the team already fighting the blaze in Thabazimbi, working late into the night until around 23:30.”

Despite their efforts, the fire reignited in the early hours of Friday, 27 September 2024, at approximately 01:00 behind the nursery. Loots explained that the team quickly extinguished the flames, but by 10:40 that morning, the fire had started again, this time spreading further behind the nursery and into the Heuwelkruin area. Later that same day, a fire also broke out at Café Meraki around 14:25, which was fortunately brought under control swiftly. The fire danger

intensified on Sunday, 29 September 2024, when a fire started in the mountains behind Spitskop. Loots described the situation as “extremely difficult,” with the fire burning until Wednesday, 2 October 2024. The fire proved challenging to manage, with limited access to the mountainous terrain.

“On Sunday, the fire was high in the mountains, and there was little we could do. However, on Monday, 30 September 2024, from 16:12 to 21:50, we fought the fire near Diederik Street, where it threatened nearby homes. The fire also spread to 13th Avenue and the Spitskop road,” Loots added. “A massive thank you to especially Wildmed Emergency Services, who worked day and night to contain the fires,” he added.

The total area of land destroyed by the fires is still to be determined.

Various teams played a crucial role in controlling the fires, including Thaba Fire and Rescue, Wildmed Emergency Services, Thabazimbi Local Municipality, and local farmers from the Spitskop area.

Additionally, on Monday, 30 October 2024, Thaba Fire and Rescue assisted with fires at Mandjiesfontein and Perdekop on the Vaalwater road. Loots expressed his gratitude to everyone who assisted in fighting the fires, saying, “Thank you for your support!”

Buffel
Beton

Thabazimbi kantoor
083 296 2916
thaba@buffelbeton.co.za

Koedoeskop Kantoor
083 343 0781
buffelbeton@thabanet.co.za
Posbus 245 | Koedoeskop 0361

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PLAVEISEL - INTERLOCKERS (KLEUR OF GRYS),
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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE SUBDIVISION OF CERTAIN FARM PORTIONS
SITUATED IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE IN TERMS OF THE SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE
MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013 (ACT 16 OF 2013) (SPLUMA), READ WITH SECTION 16(12)
(A)(III) OF THE THABAZIMBI LAND USE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW, 2015**

I, Izel van Rooy from the firm Plan Wize Town and Regional Planners, being the authorized agent of the owners of the under-mentioned properties hereby give notice in terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013)(SPLUMA), read with Section 16(12)(a)(iii) of the Thabazimbi Land Use Management By-Law, 2015, that I have applied to the Thabazimbi Municipality for the consolidation and/or sub-division of the under-mentioned properties:

1. The Remaining Extent of the Farm Dwaalboom, 217 KP, Limpopo Province;
2. The Remaining Extent of the farm Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ, Limpopo Province; and
3. Portion 2 of the farm Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ, Limpopo Province.

Particulars of the applications will lie for inspection during normal office hours at the office of the Manager: Planning and Economic Development, Thabazimbi Municipality, 7 Rietbok Street, Thabazimbi for a period of 30 days from 27 September 2024.

Objections to or representations in respect of the applications must be lodged with or made in writing to the Manager: Planning and Economic Development, Thabazimbi Municipality, at the above-mentioned address or at Private Bag X530, Thabazimbi, 0380 within a period of 30 days from 27 September 2024.

ADDRESS OF AGENT: PLAN WIZE TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS, P.O. BOX 2445, THABAZIMBI, 0380, TEL: 0824497626 E-MAIL: izelvanr@gmail.com

**KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK OM DIE ONDERVERDELING VAN SEKERE
PLAASGEDEELTES GELEë IN DIE REGSGEBIED VAN DIE THABAZIMBI PLAASLIKE
MUNISIPALITEIT, LIMPOPO PROVINSIE INGEVOLGE DIE WET OP RUIMTELIKE
BEPLANNING EN GRONDGEBUIKBESTUUR, 2013 (WET 16 VAN 2013)
(SPLUMA), SAAMGELEES MET ARTIKEL 16(12)(A)(III) VAN DIE THABAZIMBI
GRONDGEBUIKBESTUUR VERORDENING, 2015**

Ek, Izel van Rooy van die firma Plan Wize Stads-en Streekbeplanners, synde die gemagtigde agent van die eienaars van die ondergenoemde eiendomme, gee hiermee ingevolge die Wet op Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruikbestuur, 2013 (Wet 16 van 2013) (SPLUMA), saamgelees met Artikel 16(12) (a)(iii) van die Thabazimbi Grondgebruikbestuur Verordening, 2015, kennis dat ek by die Thabazimbi Munisipaliteit aansoek gedoen het vir die konsolidasie en/of onderverdeling van die ondergenoemde eiendomme:

1. Die Resterende Gedeelte van die plaas Dwaalboom, 217 KP, Limpopo Provinsie;
2. Die Resterende Gedeelte van die plaas Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ, Limpopo Provinsie; and
3. Gedeelte 2 van die plaas Gouvernements Plaats 417 KQ, Limpopo Provinsie.

Besonderhede van die aansoeke lê ter insae gedurende gewone kantoorure by die kantoor van die Bestuurder: Beplanning en Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling, Thabazimbi Munisipaliteit, 7 Rietbokstraat, Thabazimbi vir 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 27 September 2024.

Besware teen of verhoë ten opsigte van die aansoeke moet binne 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 27 September 2024 skriftelik by of tot die Bestuurder: Beplanning en Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling, Thabazimbi Munisipaliteit, by bovermelde adres of by Privaat Sak X530, Thabazimbi, 0380 ingedien of gerig word.

ADRES VAN AGENT: PLAN WIZE STADS- EN STREEKBEPLANNERS, POSBUS 2445, THABAZIMBI,
0380. TEL: 0824497626 E-POS: izelvanr@gmail.com

**NOTICE OF AN ATMOSPHERIC EMISSION LICENSE
APPLICATION, IN TERMS OF SECTION 47 OF NEM: AQA, BY
IMERYS REFRACTORY MINERALS SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD
FOR RHINO ANDALUSITE MINE (AEL NUMBER: 12/4/12L-W1/R1)**

Background: Rhino Andalusite Mine (“RAM”), a division of Imerys Refractory Minerals South Africa (Pty) Ltd (“Imerys”), mines and processes Andalusite. RAM is situated approximately 14 km southwest of Thabazimbi, in the Thabazimbi Local Municipality, within the Waterberg District Municipality in the Limpopo province. Mineral processing at RAM occurs in four main processes: crushing and screening, dense medium separation, drying and magnetic separation. The Andalusite is dried in two coal-fired rotary dryers.

Legislative Requirements: In terms of Section 22 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004 (NEM: AQA), no person may conduct an activity listed on a national list anywhere in the Republic of South Africa or listed on a list applicable to a province anywhere in that province without a provisional Atmospheric Emission License (PAEL) or an Atmospheric Emission License (AEL). The Licensing Authority, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) approved a Section 22A rectification application by Imerys on 24 January 2024. LEDET provided that Imerys (RAM) must apply for the renewal of its AEL (12/4/12-W1/R1) with the Waterberg District Municipality as the Licensing Authority, within 7 months from the date of the approval letter (24 January 2024).

Application: RAM submitted its AEL renewal application, via email, to the Waterberg District Municipality as the Licensing Authority on 30 August 2024.

The application in terms of Section 47 of the NEM: AQA is for the following activity in the List of activities which result in atmospheric emissions which have or may have a significant detrimental effect on the environment, including health, social conditions, economic conditions, ecological conditions, or cultural heritage published in Government Notice (GN) 893 in Government Gazette (GG) 37054 dated 22 November 2013 (as amended):

- Category 5: Mineral Processing, Storage and Handling, Subcategory 5.2: Drying, Description: The drying of mineral solids including ore, using dedicated combustion installations. Application: Facilities with a capacity of more than 100 tons/month product.

The listed activity is carried out at RAM's processing plant, on the farm Grootfontein, approximately 14 km southwest of Thabazimbi.

Notice: The purpose of this notice is to bring the AEL application to the attention of relevant organs of state, interested persons and the public to afford relevant organs of state, interested persons and the public an opportunity to submit written representations on or objections to the AEL application.

Access to AEL Application: To obtain access to a copy of the AEL application, please contact the environmental consultant. Representations on or objections to the AEL application should be submitted to the environmental consultant before or on **5 November 2024**.

Environmental consultant:
TIKOTECH (Pty) Ltd, Patricia van der Walt.
Contact details: 225 Crown Avenue, Waterkloof, Pretoria, 0145
Cell: 081 040 7178, Email: patricia@tikotech.co.za

Placing an obituary

Announcing the death of a family member is a time-honoured tradition as life should be celebrated and never forgotten. To help you to celebrate the life of your loved one and share details about the upcoming funeral, place an obituary in our newspaper, free of charge. You can include the date of death, details about their life and surviving family members. You can also write a special message, a poem or a prayer. Please include a photo and the date, time and place of the memorial service.

If you would like to place an obituary in *Platinum Weekly / Platinum Bushvelder*, send the information via WhatsApp to 072 482 6871 or email [news@platinumweekly.co.za/](mailto:news@platinumweekly.co.za) news@platinumbushvelder.co.za.



23-YEAR-OLD SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS FOR RAPING TWO MINOR GIRLS IN THABAZIMBI



Lebogang Letlhake was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for the rape of two minor girls.

Thabazimbi – The Thabazimbi Regional Court has sentenced 23-year-old Lebogang Letlhake to 25 years imprisonment for the rape of two minor girls, a crime committed in January 2022. The sentencing took place on Monday, 30 September 2024, following a detailed investigation by the Thabazimbi Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences (FCS) unit. According to brigadier Hlulani Mashaba, on 1 January 2022, at approximately 03:00, two girls, aged 14 and 16, were walking home from a New Year's celebration in Regorogile. They encountered Letlhake, who threatened them with a firearm and forced them to his residence. He raped the 16-year-old and locked her in a toilet before dragging the 14-year-old to another house, where he also raped her. The girls managed to escape and reported the incident to the police, leading to an investigation. The case was assigned to warrant officer Daniel Lotter of the Thabazimbi FCS Unit. Following his swift and thorough investigation, Letlhake was arrested and charged with two counts of rape, two counts of kidnapping, and two counts of pointing a firearm. During sentencing, Letlhake received 25 years for each count of rape, along with additional sentences for the kidnapping and firearm charges, which will run concurrently. The acting provincial commissioner of police in Limpopo, major general Samuel Manala, welcomed the sentencing and praised the work of the investigating team.



Warrant officer Daniel Lotter of Thabazimbi FCS, whose thorough investigation led to the arrest and conviction of the accused.



Did you know?

Residents of KwaZulu-Natal woke up to an unusual sight this October – snow! While snow occasionally dusts the Drakensberg mountains, seeing it in KZN this late in the year is highly rare. The surprising snowfall was caused by a strong cold front that swept across the region, bringing cold, polar air from the south. Typically known for its subtropical climate, KZN's unexpected winter wonderland has left locals both amazed and baffled. Climate experts suggest this could be linked to shifting weather patterns. Enjoy the snow while it lasts!



FORMER THABAZIMBI MUNICIPAL MANAGER FACES CHARGES IN COURT

Thabazimbi – Morutse Edward Ntsoane (50), a former municipal manager of the Thabazimbi Local Municipality, appeared before the Thabazimbi Magistrates Court on 23 September 2024. He is facing charges related to the contravention of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). Ntsoane's arrest was carried out by the Hawks' Serious Commercial Crimes Investigation unit, based in Polokwane, at OR Tambo International Airport on 20 September 2024. The charges stem from alleged financial mismanagement dating back to 2013 when Ntsoane served as municipal manager and accounting officer for the Thabazimbi Local Municipality. According to warrant officer Lethunya Mmuroa from the Hawks, Ntsoane is accused of facilitating a contract between the municipality and a service provider for goods and services procurement



without adhering to the required tender processes outlined in the MFMA. It is further alleged that he neglected his duty as an accounting officer by failing to take reasonable steps to prevent irregular expenditure, resulting in a financial loss of over R3.8 million to the municipality. The investigation also uncovered a similar incident from 2012. A service provider, who had previously worked with the Waterberg District Municipality, was offered a contract for placement and benchmarking services at Thabazimbi Local Municipality. Unlike the Waterberg contract, the Thabazimbi tender was never publicly advertised, and the service provider involved allegedly did not submit any formal tender documents. The investigation continues as the court awaits further proceedings.

NG Kerk Thabazimbi nooi jou uit om die Bybelse Skeppingsreeks by te woon.

Oorspronge:
Skepping of evolusie?

13 – 16 Oktober 2024

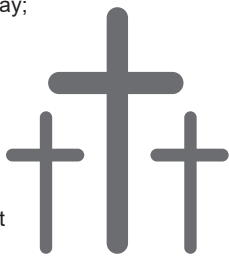
1 Oggenddiens en 4 aanddienste
Kom luister en rus jou toe met die ware feite rondom die Skepping en evolusie

SOULFOOD

ECCLESIASTES 12

Seek God in Early Life

12 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": 2 While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain; 3 In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim; 4 When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low. 5 Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.



NEW KING JAMES VERSION (NKJV)

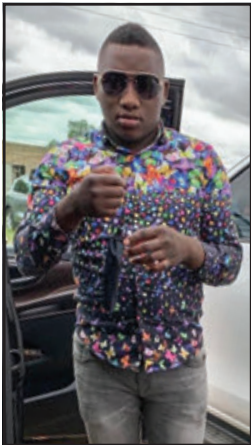
HAVE YOUR SAY

Are there any inexpensive entertainment options or fun activities available in your area or nearby?

We're curious about affordable leisure options in our community! Whether it's local parks, cultural events, or other budget-friendly activities, we want to know what's accessible for families and individuals. Share your thoughts and ideas to inspire others seeking affordable entertainment options



Activities in and around Thabazimbi are quite limited. Most are centred around restaurants or hunting. While we do have a golf course, national park, predator park, and lodges, the novelty wears off quickly. What's considered inexpensive really depends on your finances, and for us, life is more about necessities than entertainment. Since it's out of our budget, we don't have many options to participate in local activities. Nicole Murray, Thabazimbi



No, there aren't any real entertainment options in my area. The only so-called "entertainment" is restaurants and pubs, which I see more as leisure activities. They don't engage the community or families, nor do they benefit the broader community — just individuals. Kebareng Kanapi, Thabazimbi

PUBLIC POLL: THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Are there any inexpensive entertainment options or fun activities available in your area or nearby?

NO 95% YES 5%

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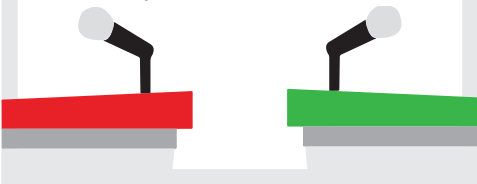
POLL

Do you believe most of the recent fires on smallholdings, farms, and nature reserves were intentionally started (arson)?

With several fires breaking out in rural areas recently, there is growing concern about the possibility of deliberate actions causing the damage. What's your opinion? Here's how you can participate. Email us at news@platinumbushvelder.co.za or WhatsApp your response to 081 579 7000. Include the following:

- Your answer: Yes or No
- Why? We want to hear from you!
- A recent photo – We'd love to publish your pic alongside your answer!
- Your town/city
- Deadline – Be sure to send your response before 12:00 on Monday, 7 October 2024.

Vote results: The outcome of the poll will be featured in our next issue. Be a part of our community's story! P.S.: Don't forget, you can also voice your opinion on our Facebook post about this topic. Join the conversation!





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Rhinos Stampede into ARC Gold Cup Quarterfinals with Crushing Win



The unstoppable Northam Platinum Rhinos team, riding high after their impressive win, now gearing up for the ARC Gold Cup quarterfinals.



Northam Platinum Rhinos' try-scorers, from left, Maverick van der Merwe, Anthony Buys, AJ Friedericks, Darren Fortuin, Warren Williams, Aphelele Bangani, and Jaylen James celebrate their team's triumph.

Setaria – The Northam Platinum Rhinos Rugby Club stormed into the quarterfinals of the African Rainbow Community (ARC) Gold Cup league with a commanding 55-19 victory over Pirates Rugby Club on Saturday, 28 September 2024. The Rhinos took early control of the game, securing a solid 33-7 lead by halftime and never looking back as they maintained their dominance throughout the match. Key try-scorers included Maverick van der Merwe, Anthony Buys, AJ Friedericks, Darren Fortuin, Warren Williams, Aphelele Bangani, and Jaylen James, each playing a crucial role in the team's success. The win has shot the Rhinos into the highly anticipated quarterfinals, where they will face Great Brakrivier Rugby Club this Saturday, 5 October 2024, in Setaria. Supporters are encouraged to come out in full force to cheer on the team in what promises to be a thrilling encounter. For more information, contact assistant coach Flip de Kock on 076 791 4659.



Add some flair to your Fridays with Swartklip Golf Club!

JOIN THE WEEKLY CHICKEN RUN AND DART COMPETITION!

Swartklip – Every Friday, swing into action with Swartklip Golf Club's "Chicken Run" golf challenge starting at 15:30. For just R60 per person, including green fees, golfers of all skill levels can indulge in a lively round of golf, filled with friendly rivalry and the spirit of competition. As the evening unfolds, aim for the bullseye at the club's Dart Competition. The games begin later in the night with an entry fee of R50. Here's your

chance to win some cash and showcase your dart skills! Hannes Dreyer, chairperson of Swartklip Golf Club, invites one and all, "Join us any Friday for our Chicken Run and stay for the darts. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow sports enthusiasts." **For more details or to register, contact Hannes Dreyer at 071 875 2007 or Jonathan at 064 680 5943.**



Doppermark

5 Oktober 2024 08:00 - 13:00
Gereformeerde Kerk terrein, Thabazimbi

Pannekoek
Geborduurde klere en -babaprodukte

Slush puppies, freezo, ysies
Handsakke, parfuum, badprodukte

Soet wafels
Springkasteel & kindervermaak

Lamtjops, pap & sous
Tuisgebak, beskuit & konfyt

Maalvleis & Wors
Chipstix Spookasem

Mini doughnuts
Speelgoed en vele meer...