





Mentally ill patients cramped in police cells because of underresourced hospital

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo said it has written to the Limpopo Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. General Thembi Hadebe, to question the poor state of Dennilton Police Station cells housing mentally ill detainees, who ought to be in psychiatric care. Katlego Suzan Phala, DA Provincial Spokesperson on Transport and Community Safety, said the discovery was made during the party's oversight visit recently. "During the visit, we found 6 mentally ill detainees all cramped into 1 cell at the police station, hence we enquire from the commissioner what measures are in place to deal with the situation," she said. Phala added that the detainees at the police station are housed on J7 detention warrants, issued by a magistrate due to the shortage of beds at the Thabamoopo Psychiatric Hospital in Lebowakgomo. "After a detainee is certified as mentally ill, the police officers are given the patient's medication and are expected to dispense it correctly. The Dennilton Police Station has six holding cells, which are in appalling condition and one is vacant because it was vandalised by a mentally ill detainee," explained Phala. According to Phala, the Dennilton Police Station is understaffed, under-resourced and services a large geographical area. "A recent report on psychiatric hospitals, adopted in the Limpopo

Legislature confirms that the Thabamoopo Psychiatric Hospital has a staff vacancy rate of 63%, has inadequate medical equipment, shortage of beds and patient clothing and currently has 400 admitted patients. When fully operational, this facility can admit 786 patients," she said. Phala said the party finds it unacceptable that police officers, who already work under severe constraints, have to deal with mentally ill detainees which they are not trained for because of our ailing provincial health systems. "We will further escalate this matter in parliament to probe the collapse of the mental health institutions in Limpopo," concluded Phala. At the time of going to print, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, could not respond to the publication's comment requests.

School administrator arrested for R3.6 Million fraud

The Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) in Limpopo, said they have arrested a Groblersdal Academy's administration officer, Jacoba Johanna Kitshoff (65) for allegedly stealing R3.6 Million from the school's funds. According to Captain Matimba Maluleke, Hawks Spokesperson in Limpopo, it is alleged that in August 2021, the suspect has accessed the school's bank account after school hours and transferred R3.6 Million into her personal account without being authorised. "The school discovered the alleged embezzlement of funds and reported the matter to the Hawks. During the investigation, it was discovered that the accused had actually lost all that money through an investment scam," he said. Maluleke said Kitshoff appeared before the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Wednesday 12 October and was granted a R6 000-00 bail. "She will be appearing again on 18 November 2022 following further investigations," he said.







70 illegal immigrants arrested in Groblersdal

The police in Groblersdal have on Friday 21 October arrested 70 undocumented foreign nationals in connection with violations of im-

The suspects, aged between 17 and 35, were arrested during the police joint operations conducted in the Sekhukhune District, in an effort to reduce the levels of crime and also to ensure compliance with immigration laws. Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the operation commenced in the early hours of the day and focused on undocumented foreign nationals. "The suspects were found on a scrapyard compound and farms around Groblersdal. The 32-year-old scrapyard owner was fined R5 000, for employing undocumented foreign nationals," he said. The Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has lauded the arrests and has thanked community members for providing the information that led to these arrests of the suspects.

Unjani Private Clinic helps to alleviate Moteti water crisis

Unjani Clinic at Moteti has committed to donate water storage tanks for the community to access drinkable water. The clinic said it also supplies clean water to the donated tanks free for the community because water is a basic need. Hilda Tladi, Manager at Unjani Cinic in Moteti, said they have started by buying a 5000 litres water storage tank to provide the community with drinking water. "We have a borehole on the clinic premises and we supply the community with water from it. We have one station so far and the water is supplied for free to the community living close-by," she said. Tladi said after realizing that the demand is high and some of the residents are staying very far to reach the tank, the clinic is planning to buy other water storage tanks and increase the stations. "More people are requesting us to do the same in their areas and we decided to go further and distribute water to families that are led by the elderly citizens free of charge. We have identified four families who have serious financial challenges so far and already started delivering clean water to them, while we are still busy finding other struggling families to benefit from the programme," she said. Tladi said the initiative is aiming to give back to the community that supported the private clinic over all the years. "Our clinic is currently busy preparing to buy more water storage tanks that will be placed at strategic areas for the community to access drinking water," she said. Moteti Village forms part of Moutse and has been hit by serious water scarcity for many years, as a result of an absent plan from the Sekhukhune District Municipality to supply potable water to the village. Those who have money, survive by buying and placing their own water storage tanks and buy water form water tanker trucks owners, while others draw water from boreholes in their yards. Households who are living below the poverty line, get water from the nearest rivers and wells for survival.

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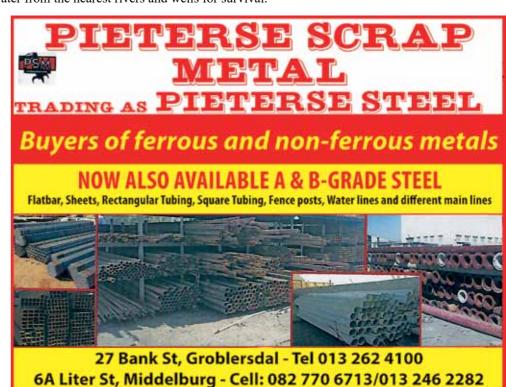
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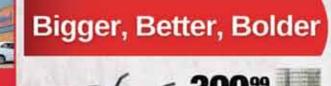
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Prize Giving at High School Ben Viljoen

This year's prestige event, or prize-giving ceremony, took place on Thursday, 20 October. There were many top awards and trophies presented to learners for their excellent achievements.

The gr. 8- to 11-learners received awards for sport- and cultural activities, while the gr. 12 learners' academic achievements were also announced. Here, too, the learners were able to produce excellent achievements. Congratulations to every learner who was recognized at this year's prize-giving ceremony. The school and the community are truly proud of you.

Athlete of the year (boy): Rorisang Rammupudu

Athlete of the year (girl): Vanessa da Silva Rugby player of the year: Quinten Eksteen Netball players of the year: Lehlogonolo Ntobeng & Carla Storm

Junior girls hockey players of the year: Amo Motlatle & Carlia Potgieter

Senior girls hockey player of the year: Neo Mathunyane

Boys hockey players of the Year: Golokile Tshigo & Lethabo Malebana

Tennis player of the year: Ruan Roos Tennis player of the year: Carmen Labuschagne Senior cricketers of the year: Ruan Roos & LJ Jordaan

Swimmer of the year (boy): Mighael Alberts Swimmer of the year (girl): Mari-Zanne Nortje Golfer of the year: Anro Kotze

Public Speaker of the Year: Chanelle Smith Actress of the year: Ameli Groenewald Cultural shield: Dalmari van den Heever Academic Shield: Chanelle Smith

Leadership shields: Dewald Bosman & Izabella **Paissopoulos**

Chamber of Commerce trophy (awarded to the learner who jointly achieves the highest percentage in CAT, Business Studies and Accounting) - Chanelle Smith

Sportswoman of 2022: Vanessa da Silva

Sportsman of 2022: Mighael Alberts

Most versatile sportswoman of 2022: Carlia Potgieter

Most versatile sportsman of 2022: Jaco van der Westhuyzen

Ambassador Award: Chanelle Smith & Ruan

SALK: Chanelle Smith & Anro Kotze



Athlete of the year (boy): Rorisang Rammupudu



Athlete of the year (girl): Vanessa da



Netball player of the year: Lehlogonolo Ntobeng





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Contractor abandons toilet project after pocketing R2 Million of Sekhukhune District Municipality

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo said it demands answers from Sekhukhune District Municipality, after the contractor in a toilet project in Ward 20, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality abandoned the project. According to the party, the service provider was appointed to construct about 150 toilet units from February to May 2022, however, the project was not completed.

The affected places are Stadium View, Monsterlus and Matsitsi. "Some of the toilets in the project do not have doors, 33 toilet pits were left opened after excavation with no structure at all, some households only received toilet materials without toilet pits being excavated and some of the workers who were employed from the community did not receive their salaries," said Sipho Mmaboko, DA Councillor in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. Mmaboko said the problem is further compounded by the fact that the municipality already paid the contractor for the work that was never completed.

Municipal Manager donates wheelchair to destitute family member

Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Manager, Mishack Kgwale, has shown love and support to people living with disabilities within the local municipality.

Kgwale donated a wheelchair to 20-year-old Tebatso Ntuli from Strekfontein Village in Elias Motsoaledi Ward 29. The wheelchair beneficiary, who is struggling to walk on his own, was also struggling to get a wheelchair for many years. The destitute Ntuli was identified by Bolsheviks Party Councillor in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Herbert Radingwana who immediately approached the municipality for help. "I was approached by the mother of the beneficiary seeking my help regarding a wheelchair donation for her son. As a community leader in the area who understood the dire living conditions of the family, I immediately took the matter to the municipality where the municipal manager responded within an hour, assuring me that he will donate the wheelchair to the needy resident," Radingwana said. Radingwana said the same day, Kgwale informed him to go and to collect the wheelchair from his personal assistant in the municipality offices in Groblersdal. "I would like to thank the municipal manager for his golden heart, particularly for his donation and treating all councillors the same without looking at their political affiliation," he said.

"The budget of the project was R2 Million and the municipality remained with only R434,000 retention included. This project has become an eyesore for the households; it was meant to assist and the toilet pits that were left open have become a safety risk, posing a danger to children. Incidents of children in the community falling into these pits have already been reported," said Mmaboko.

He informed that DA will table a motion in the

next council sitting for a detailed report on the toilet project and will also submit written questions for details of the municipality's plans to complete the project, as well as actions the municipality is taking against the contractor.

"The DA is committed to ensuring that residents have access to decent sanitation and that municipal projects represent good value for the money spent," he said. Khomotso Ndlovu, Sekhukhune District Municipality Communications Manager, said the district municipality is currently investigating the claims and will respond once the investigation is finalized.





Miss Graceful Pageant held in Tafelkop

with young beauties between the ages of 5 Church in Dipakapakeng Section recently.

The second annual Miss Graceful Pageant to 20 years, was held at the Tafelkop AFM The beauty event was organized by local community activists, Thabo Pookgoadi and Mogau





(From left to right) Khonto Logistics representative Winnie Mahlangu, Miss Graceful First Princess Zintle Mabona, Miss Graceful Second Princess Itumeleng Radingwana and Queen Miss Grateful Molelekeng Phasha, during the Miss Graceful Pageant event held at Dipapapakeng AFM Church in Tafelkop.

Makofane, through their Miss Grateful Non-Profit Organization, aiming to expose young talented models bigger beauty contests in the modelling fraternity.

According to Pookgoadi, the event was divided into two categories with Junior Miss Grateful accommodating children from 5 to 8 years and Senior Miss Grateful that saw girls from 13 to 20 years taking part. "We started the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) with the purpose to choose a model who will be able to lead the community and uplift young girls to learn and talk in front of the audience. We want to keep these children busy by taking them away from the streets to avoid teenage pregnancies while encouraging them to concentrate on their future through education," he said.

In the senior category, Molelekeng Phasha was crowned Queen Miss Graceful, Zintle Mabona was crowned Miss Graceful First Princess and Itumeleng Radingwana walked away with Miss Graceful Second Princess prize.

The trio has automatically qualified to partake in the Miss Limpopo Region 2022 finalists to be held later this year. In the junior category, Kgaogelo Mgiba was crowned Queen Miss Graceful for the second consecutive time, Omphile Moropa was crowned Miss Graceful First Princess and Ofentse Mgiba was crowned Miss Graceful Second Princess. Other categories in the event included Miss public choice, Miss Congeniality, Miss Entrepreneur, Miss Advocacy, Best Introduction, Best Creating Wear, Best Charity Work, Most Photogenic and Best Fundraiser.

All the winners received a share of R3 100-00 cash, trophies and medals.

Pookgoadi has thanked Khonto's Logistics Company for their donations and parents who supported and allowing their children to partake in the initiative.



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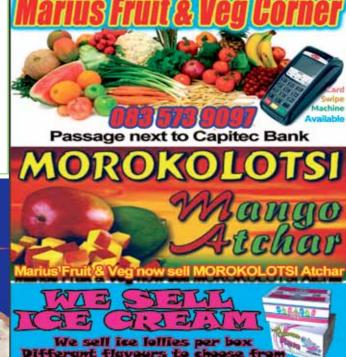




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Heavy rain postpones Nedbank Cup Provincial Playoffs

The Nedbank Challenge Cup Limpopo Provincial Playoffs final match, between Royal Pirates FC from Sekhukhune Region and Star Sign FC from Capricorn, played on Saturday 22 October at Mmapodile Stadium in Steelpoort, was postponed until further notice. This is after the last match of the day, where the provincial champions should have been crowned, was disrupted by the heavy rain that started in the afternoon. The final was part of the Nedbank Challenge Cup Limpopo Provincial Playoffs catering soccer teams that won in the SAB SAFA Football Leagues preliminary playoffs in their respective regions around Limpopo Province. In the matches played earlier on the day, NkowaNkowa Continentals FC from Mopani Region defeated P & S Academy from Waterberg 2-1. The second match saw Star Sign FC from Capricorn defeating Mopani 2-0. In the third match, Sekhukhune humiliated Thsivhazwawulu Peace Makers FC from Vhembe 7-0 to advance to the final of the playoffs facing Capricorn in a match that was later postponed due to heavy rain. By the time the final match was postponed, Sekhukhune was leading with 1-0, however, the match will be restarted with a 0-0 score as a result of being postponed because of a natural course. Limpopo Provincial Playoffs winners will face ABC Motsepe League outfit, Home Defenders FC from Vhembe who currently won the playoffs in their league in the province. Winners of the provincial playoffs will book a place to take part in the Nedbank Challenge Cup last 32, possibly facing teams participating in the South African top flight football league, the Dstv Premier League. Frank Maredi, SAB SAFA Sekhukhune Regional League Coordinator, said their hopes are high that the region will produce provincial winners in this year's Nedbank Challenge Cup tournament. "We are impressed by our team during the provincial playoffs, they were going all out showing determination to win all their matches. It is unfortunate to us that the final match was disrupted by the heavy rain," he said. Maredi said their hopes are still high that Royal Pirates will perform well in their coming match that will be replayed with Capricorn Region's Star Sign FC. Meanwhile Maredi said the SAB SAFA Sekhukhune Regional League matches for the 2022/2023 season, scheduled to start from Saturday 29 October, were postponed to take place during the next weekend. "This is because we want to support the big football tournament in the region to be hosted by FarPost Media Company in various venues in Sekhukhune," he said. Maredi said SAFA in Sekhukhune has finalized the registrations of players, teams and coaches who will be participating in the regional matches in the coming football season. "We have 88 registered teams currently divided into eight streams. The teams are coming from various villages in all the four local municipalities in Sekhukhune District Municipality," he said.



