



MEER AS MUSIEK

Dit is geen geheim wanneer 'n motorfiets klub by die dorp in trek nie. Die onbepaalde perdekrag en staar van voetgangers gee 'n duidelike aanduiding van wie pas aangekom het. Meer kragtig en minder musikaal was die klank van die Guns 'n Roses motorfiets klub, wat ons onlangs besoek het.

Op Sondag 16 Februarie het hulle by die Hungry Ghost opgedaag om meer as net 'n ontbyt te geniet. Hulle het 'n meer ernstige saak op hul agenda gehad.

Die Guns 'n Roses Motorfiets Klub is baie betrokke by fondsinsamelings vir gestremdes, en hulle het 'n funksie op die 8 Maart om 16h00 by die MCC se klub huis in George. Die fondsinsameling is ten bate van Eljada Huis. Wayne Labuschagne die President van die Club sal die gasheer vir die funksie wees. Sluit by hulle aan vir 'n gesellige aand, alle opbrengste sal na Eljada-sorg gaan in samewerking met The Warlocks MC! Kos sal beskikbaar wees, musiek, kroeg fasiliteite, groot spesiale aanbiedinge op alkohol, en beste rep klub trofee! Vind die geleentheid op Facebook as Guns 'n Roses MCC Charity Bike Night.



Thank you Davkor, AVT Fuel and the Uniondale Pharmacy for your support!

* R5.00 * theuniondalepost@gmail.com *

THE PLANT REPORT

South Africa's Succulent Smuggling Crisis: The Threat to the Karoo's Unique Biodiversity

PART 1

Endless expanses of rugged terrain stretch before me, dotted with succulents in every conceivable shape. I'm near Nieuwoudtville, in the Northern Cape and Karoo region of South Africa—a town named after my forefathers, which for so many years was just a family name on a map. The Karoo is succulent central. Many of these plants are slow-growing, often taking years—or even decades—to reach maturity; some are over 50 years old.

As I marvel at the harsh natural beauty surrounding me, it's hard to believe that beneath this tranquil surface lies a hidden crime. Plant poaching, often unnoticed, sees rare succulents being uprooted—even in broad daylight—disrupting ecosystems one specimen at a time. Yet these seemingly small thefts add up, leaving behind empty spaces where thriving plants once stood and raising increasing alarm among conservationists.

Africa, particularly the arid regions of the Karoo, has become a prime target for illegal plant smugglers looking to exploit its rare and diverse succulent species. These hardy plants, prized for their beauty and ability to thrive in harsh climates, have become lucrative commodities for international collectors and black-market traders. The illegal extraction of these succulents is now a growing environmental and economic threat with dire consequences for local ecosystems, biodiversity, and communities.

The Karoo: A Unique Biodiversity Hotspot

The Karoo, a semi-desert region in South Africa, is home to one of the most unique and biologically diverse collections of succulents in the world. Many South Africans often only know it as a place you drive through when driving from Gauteng down to the Cape.

The region's harsh climatic conditions, characterised by extreme heat and limited rainfall, have shaped the evolution of a vast variety of succulent species, many of which are endemic and cannot be found anywhere else on Earth. These plants, including species from the genera *Conophytum*, *Lithops*, and *Aloe*, are highly sought after by collectors worldwide for their distinctive shapes, colours, and resilience.



THE PAGE 3 CUTIE

Hello
Cooper!



Dave Olsen picked this marrow from his garden in Uniondale, weighing in at 11.2 kgs! You really should share your secret Dave.....my marrows weigh 20 grams . 🤔



THE HOTTIE OF THE MONTH



JAM COMPETITION

THE UNIONDALE POST WILL BE HOSTING A JAM OF YOUR CHOICE COMPETITION, AT THE VERY NEXT FAMILY MARKET IN MARCH. FRESHLY BAKED SCONES WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE MESSAGE ME ON 0741912114 OR EMAIL THEUNIONDALEPOST@GMAIL.COM TO ENTER. PARTICIPATION IS R50 PER ENTRANT - NOT PER JAM ENTRY. WE NEED A MINIMUM OF 6 ENTRIES TO HOLD THE COMPETITION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



HISTORICAL HOUSES OF UNIONDALE - PART 1

APPLEWOOD. THE 2 COTTAGES AT NO 26 AND 28 VICTORIA STREET, DATE FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT IN UNIONDALE, ABOUT 1850. EACH COTTAGE WAS ONE ROOM DEEP WITH AN 'AFDAK' ADDED. THEY WERE FIRST OCCUPIED BY THE SCHOONEES FAMILY FROM AMSTERDAM. HE WAS A CARPENTER AND HIS SON A 'TAALVADER', AND COMPILER OF THE FIRST AFRIKAANS DICTIONARY. THE YELLOW WOOD PLANKS USED FOR THE FLOORS AND CEILINGS WERE HAULED OVER THE PASS FROM KNYSNA, AND SOLD IN RETURN FOR FLOUR.



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MILKTART MARKETING

Traditional Milktart day on the 27th of February was another success at Alwyn Cafe, although this time with an international flavour. A very busy morning at the cafe was shared with visitors Ben and Simona, from Holland and Italy respectively. They had never tasted our famous milktart and the reviews were golden buzzer worthy. What a treat to share such a typically local dessert with tourists visiting our area.



CLOUD OF THE MONTH 'Beethoven'



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AS THE DEMAND FOR RELIABLE FUEL AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE LUBRICANTS CONTINUES TO RISE, ALPHA VIGOR TRADING T/A AVT FUEL HAS POSITIONED ITSELF AS A TRUSTED WHOLESALE SUPPLIER OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, AUTOMOTIVE, MINING, AND INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS IN THE REGION.

STRATEGICALLY LOCATED IN MISGUND, ALONG THE R62, NEXT TO SPRINGBOK ALGEMENE HANDELAARS, OUR COMPANY IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING BUSINESSES, FARMS, TRANSPORT OPERATORS, AND INDUSTRIES WITH QUALITY DIESEL AND LUBRICATION SOLUTIONS TO KEEP THEIR OPERATIONS RUNNING EFFICIENTLY.

AT AVT FUEL, EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR PRIORITY. OUR DEDICATED TEAM ENSURES EVERY CUSTOMER RECEIVES PERSONALIZED ATTENTION AND SEAMLESS SERVICE. WHETHER YOU VISIT OUR PREMISES FOR FORECOURT REFUELING OR REQUIRE BULK FUEL DELIVERIES, OUR EXPERIENCED STAFF IS HERE TO ASSIST:

JERRY WILDEMAN (SALES & OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR) IS READY TO HANDLE ALL INQUIRIES WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND EFFICIENCY.

RAYMOND & JOHANNES (FORECOURT ATTENDANTS) ARE ON HAND TO ENSURE VEHICLES ARE PROMPTLY REFUELED. WARREN PLAATJIES (BULK SALES REPRESENTATIVE) MANAGES ALL EXTERNAL FUEL SALES AND CAN BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY AT 076 486 9217.

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- ✅ **DELIVERY SERVICES** – FLEXIBLE, ON-TIME BULK FUEL AND LUBRICANT DELIVERY, ENSURING UNINTERRUPTED OPERATIONS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS.

DIE WYE WÊRELD IN

Die vulstasie is doodstil toe Sheldon vyfuur die oggend vir werk opdaag. Hy gaap onbeskaamd terwyl hy sy rugsak onder die tafeltjie, wat dien as kombuis, administrasiekantoor en selfoon-laaiarea, indruk. Maandag. Skoolvakansietyd. Nou moet jy weet.

Stokke, so genoem weens sy dun bene, is reeds by die werk en klap hom op die skouer, "Jy weet mos daasie tyd vir patie as dit Desember skoolvakansie issie! Die stadsmense kom dan wild hier op Uniondale aan!"

"Ja, ja," paai Sheldon en strek sy arms voor hom uit. "Dis die bure met hul laatnag Kers-musiek wat my uit die slaap hou."

"Van wilde stadsmense gepraat..." sê Sheldon en wys kopknikkend in die rigting van 'n Landrover Discovery hoog met fietse gelaai, wat seepglad sy intrek langs die petrolpompe inneem.

"Toe, laat jy werk!" kamma-raas Stokke en mik om die ketel aan te skakel. Sheldon stap fluks pompe toe. "Môre, Meneer. Hoe kan ek u help?"

"Ja, jisses," antwoord die bestuurder terwyl sy venster met 'n sagte gswmp afsak. "Beter nou vol maak voordat ons heeltetal die beskawing verlaat!"

Spot die man of hoe? Sheldon hak die petrolpyp van die pomp af en begin die tenk vol gooi.

"Waarheen is mnr-hulle oppad?" vra hy beleefd. Daar was juis verlede week opleiding vir al die petroljoggies oor hoe om met onbeskofte klante te handel.

"Ons gaan bietjie Baviaans toe," glimlag die man vriendeliker en loer in die truspieëltjie na die drie tieners in die agterste sitplek wat soos swaeltjies een-twee-drie in 'n ry langs mekaar sit. "Vir die kinders gaan wys hoe oorleef 'n mens in die wildernis."

Hy sien nie hoe die meisiekind wat agter hom sit haar oë dramaties rol nie. Hy draai half skuins na een van die seuns agter hom en hou 'n oranje tweehonderdrandnoot na hom toe uit.

"Gaan koop gou vir almal koeldrank of 'n koffie. En bring my kleingeld terug!" roep hy agter sy seun aan. Ek haat jou!" hoor Sheldon die meisie se skril stem uit die agterste sitplek. "Ma-aa, Jaco het my foon!" (Nou is dit tyd vir ma om haar oë te rol). Ja-jong. Laat die wilde stadsbewoners " in die wildernis maar invaar.

Sheldon is vinnig klaar en staan langs die 4x4 met die kaartmasjien, reg vir betaling.

"Sjoe, sy was 'n dors ou tannie vanoggend," skerts die bestuurder toe hy die uitstaande bedrag op die kaartmasjien se skermpie sien. Grrraff! kom daar skielik van die passiesierssitplek en 'n klein, bruin worsie met 'n astring vlakvark-stertjie, spring op die vrou se skoot van waar hy in 'n maandjie by haar voete gelê het.

"Nou het jy vir Tarzan wakker gemaak," lag die vrou en stamp die man speels aan sy boarm. "Is mamma se soet honne," sê sy en maak soen-geluidjies terwyl die hond haar lippe lek. Teen dié tyd is seunskind terug met iets om te drink en muffins vir almal.

"Geen kleingeld nie," kondig hy aan. Sheldon skeur die betaalstrokie by die masjien af en gee dit aan die bestuurder.

"Geniet die vakansie," sê hy vrolik.

"Dankie," glimlag die vrou. "Wai totsiens vir die man, Tarzan," sê sy met die hond se regterpoot hoog en wiegend opgehou. Die kar trek weg.

"Tarzan..?" vra Stokke terwyl hy wys na 'n koppie koffie wat vir Sheldon op die tafeltjie reg staan. "Weet die antie dannie hoe lief is die bobbejane vir 'n vleisie saam met brekvis nie? In my humble opinion issit nie die kinnars wat sal moet leer om innie wildernis te oorlewe nie!" en hy lag sommer hardop.

KORTVERHAAL DEUR DESIRÉE SIVSDOTTIR - JORDAAN

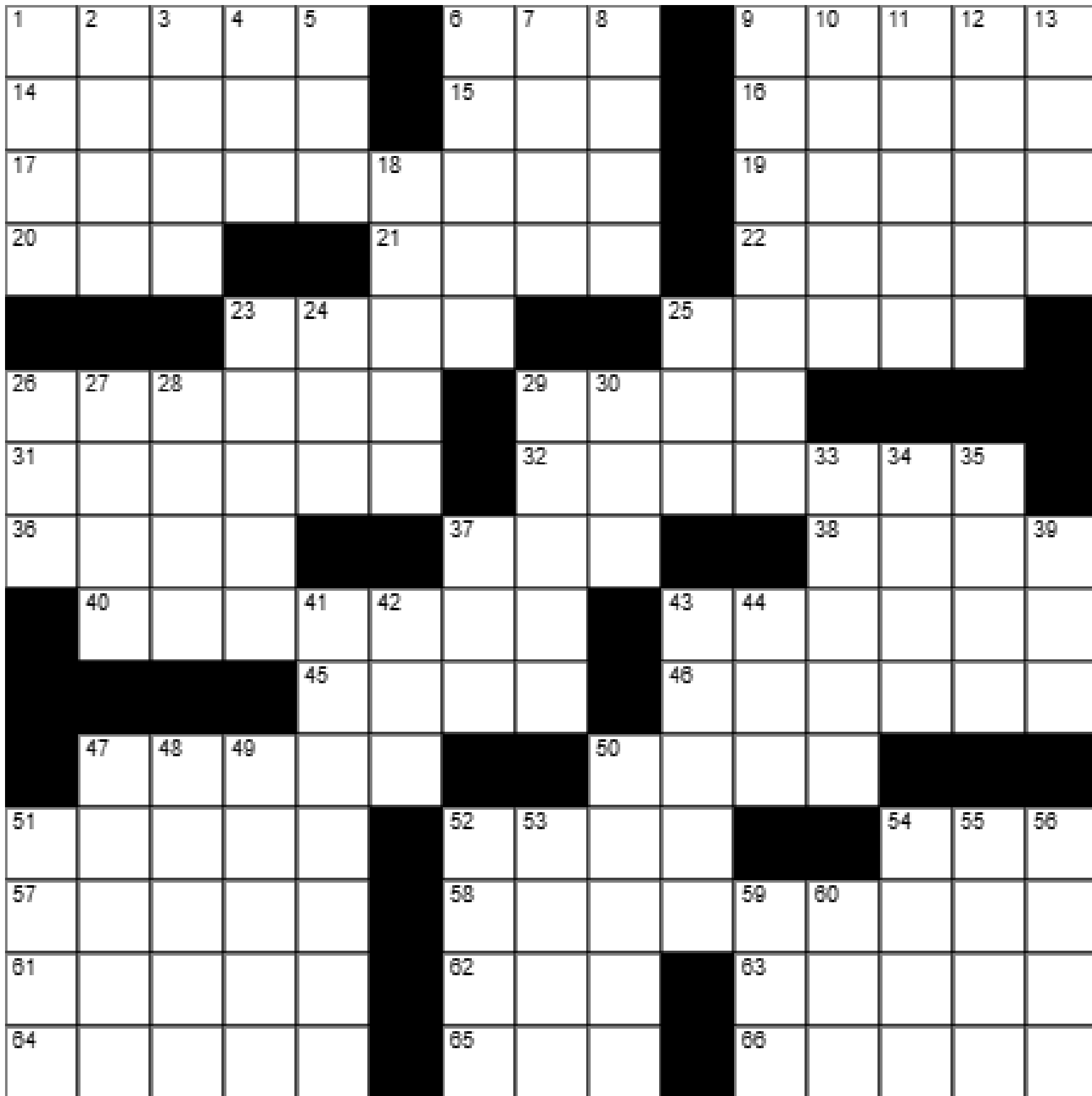
SKOOL NUUS

Op die 1ste Februarie 2025 het Uniondale Akademie Stigting hul jaarlikse atletiekdag gehou by die Uniondale Skougronde. Daar was gehardloop, sak- en aartappelresies gehou, ver gespring en gewig gestoot. Die mammas en pappas het ook 'n beurt gekry vir afloshardloop wat vir groot opwinding gesorg het.

Die dag is afgesluit met 'n prysuitdeling en 'colour run'. 'n Heerlike oggend is deur oud en jonk geniet. UAS wil graag elkeen bedank wat die oggend meegemaak het, asook dankie sê vir almal se ondersteuning en harde werk om die dag 'n reuse sukses te maak.



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