The Uniondale Post

NINTH EDITION APRIL 2025

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

On the 12th of March, Uniondale saw the opening of a brand new business - the ‘Die Weet Jy’ farm stall/plaasstal. On the corner of the R339 leading out of town towards the Willowmore turnoff. The owner - Ruan Oberholster has made it an unmissable destination with prominent, bold signage leading out and into town from the N9.

A neat, modern complex meets you as you drive in. A purpose built smoker catches the eye first, the epicentre of many great meat dishes created from some of the Angus cattle in Ruan’s herd. Wheat and potatoes from his farm also play a solid part in inspiring the stock he makes and carries in his shop.

This is however not just a lone plaasstal, but a place to sit and eat while your children play on the jungle gym and climbing wall. Something sorely needed in this area. Have a look through the freshly pressed juice selection, sourced locally of course, the homemade chilli sauces, handcut potato crisps, fruit leathers, cake and coffee. If nothing else stop in for a vreetkoek, a unique creation that you will be hard pressed to find anywhere else.

Not only does Ruan cater for his own desires but has plans on the horizon to create a place where the local community can join him in his long term vision for entrepeneurship, supported with his experience and commitment to excellence.

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

THE PLANT REPORT

South Africa’s Succulent Smuggling Crisis: The Threat to the Karoo’s Unique Biodiversity PART 2

In recent years, global demand for these rare succulents has surged, driven by trends in ornamental gardening, home décor, and the popularity of low-maintenance indoor plants, whether for lazy students or avid plant collectors. Unfortunately, this demand has fueled a growing illegal trade that is depleting the Karoo’s natural resources at an alarming rate.

According to TRAFFIC, a leading non-governmental organisation working to ensure the legal and sustainable trade of wild species, the illegal succulent trade has severely impacted biodiversity in South Africa. Since 2019, authorities have seized over one million illegally harvested succulents, representing more than 650 species, transiting Southern Africa en route to overseas markets. This trade imposes immense pressure on conservation agencies, which must process over 3,000 confiscated plants per week for criminal cases. TRAFFIC notes that the illegal trade, largely done online, has devastated ecosystems like the Succulent Karoo, which hosts over 6,000 succulent species—40% of which are endemic. In some cases, single poaching incidents have led to the extinction of entire species.

THE SUPPLY CHAIN: HOW THE ILLEGAL SUCCULENT TRADE WORKS

The illegal trade of succulents from the Karoo follows a sophisticated supply chain involving multiple factors across different regions and countries.

Poaching: The process starts with local harvesters, often hired or recruited by organised crime syndicates. These poachers, knowledgeable about the terrain, illegally uproot succulents from remote areas, sometimes at night to avoid detection. Many of these succulents are slow-growing and delicate; thus, their removal can devastate local populations. Local poachers are paid minimal amounts compared to the profits further down the supply chain.

Transport and packaging: Once poached, succulents are transported to urban centres, typically hidden within vehicles to avoid detection. In many cases, smugglers bribe local authorities to pass through checkpoints without inspection. The plants are then prepared for international shipping, often disguised as legal goods or concealed among other plants. Proper packaging is crucial to keep the succulents alive during transit, which can sometimes take weeks.

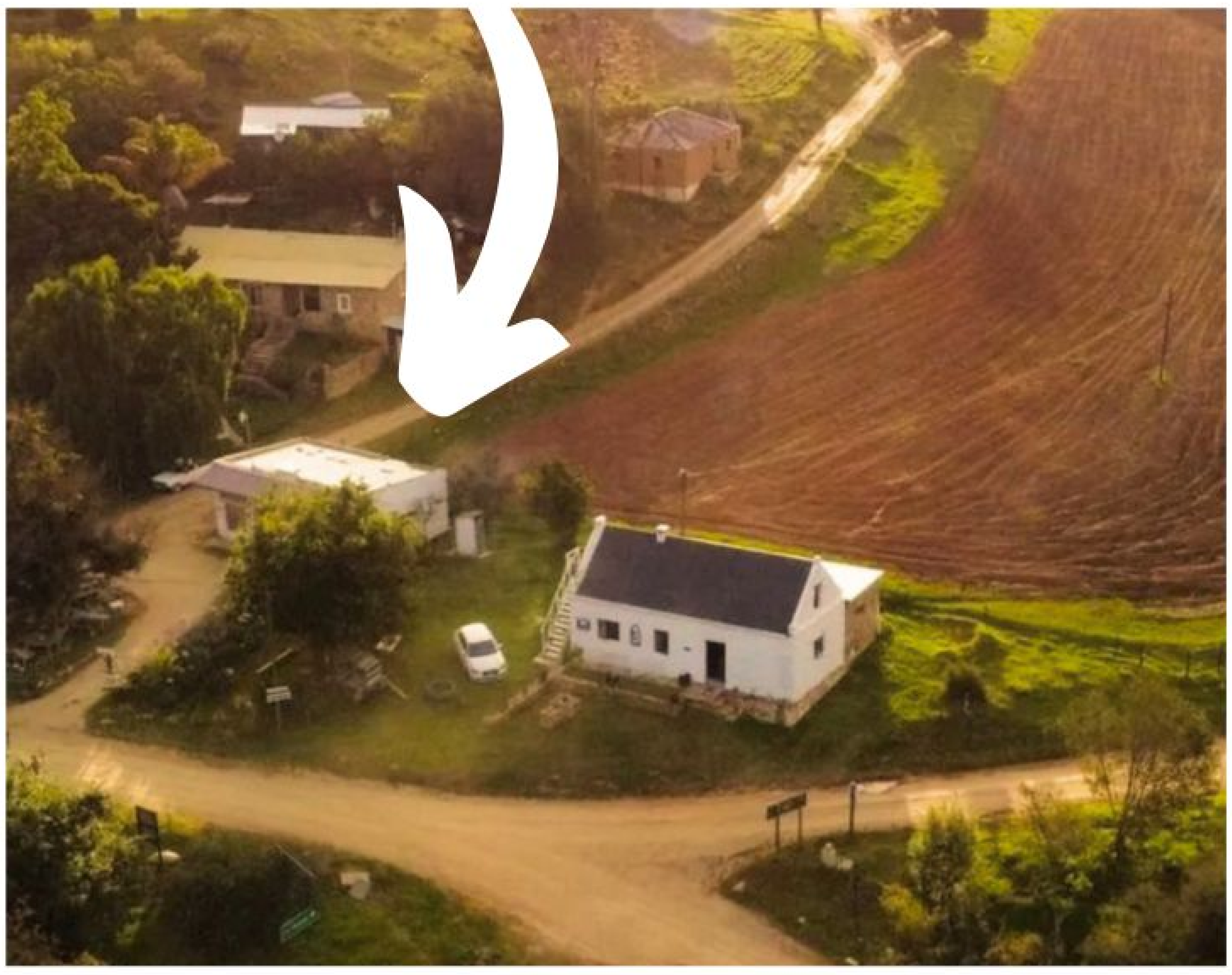
TIELMAN NIEUWOUDT

THE PAGE 3 CUTIE

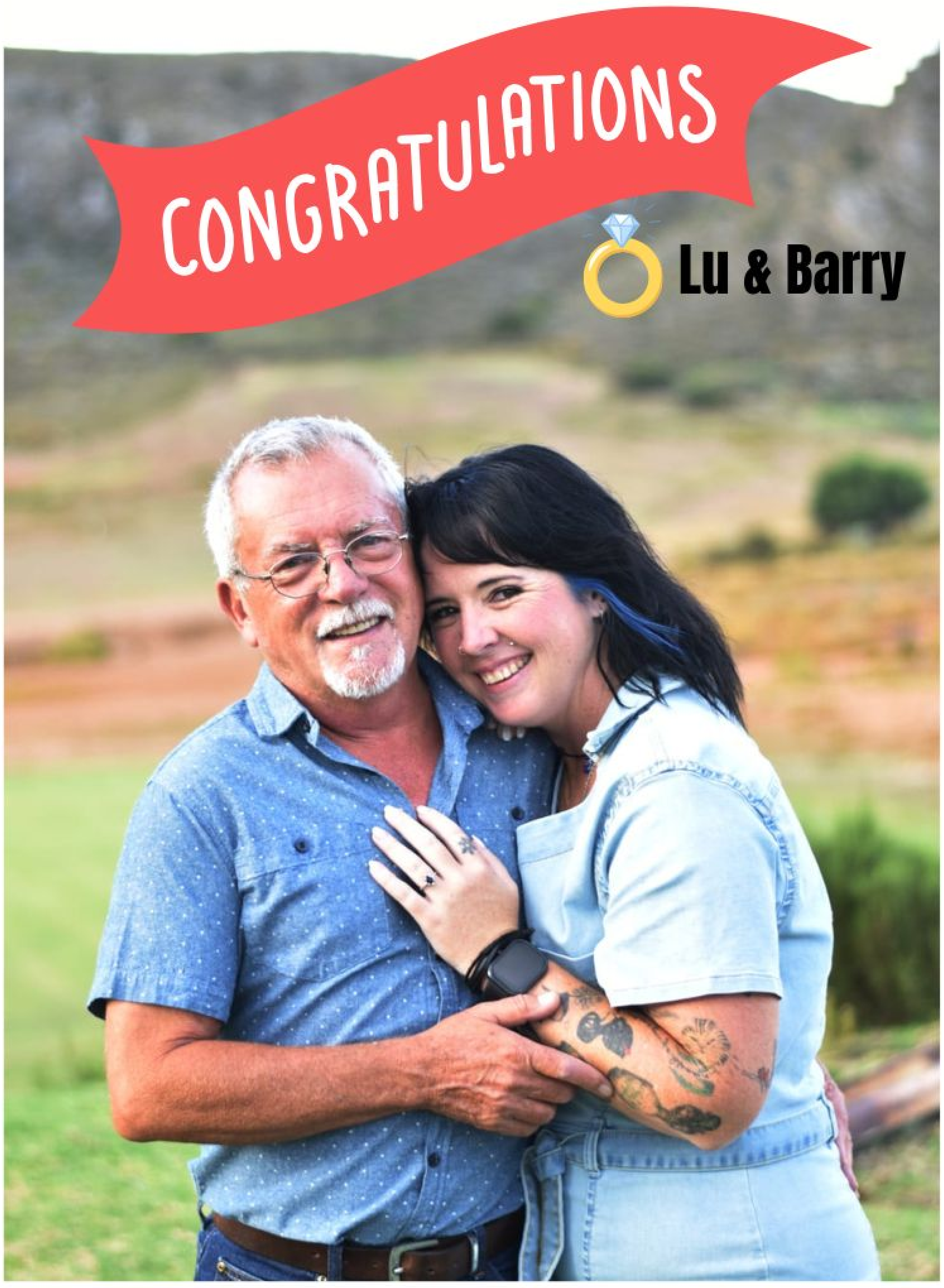
TUISKOLERS UITSTAPPIE

Daar was onlangs 'n uitstappie vir tuiskolers by Mountain Pastures wild en gaste plaas.
'n Plaaslike dierekundige het ons tuisskool gemeenskap van Uniondale en omliggende areas, op Vrydag 21 Maart 2025 op een fantastiese uitstappie gevat. Ons het die mooiste klein diertjies gesien van skerpione tot en met Zebras wat oor die berg vir ons loer. Die kinders het die uitstappie só geniet al het ons twee keer nat gereën, nie eers die weer kon ons pret stop nie.
Met 'n doktersgraad in dierekundige het ons gids baie jare se ervaring, sy help baie plase met staproetes en haar liefde vir die natuur en al die klein diertjies is iets om na op te kyk. Haar passie is baie aansteeklik en het sommer almal opsoek gehad vir diere en goggas. Die kinders het omtrent elke klip op die plaas omgekeer. Ons as die tuisskool gemeenskap wil baie dankie sê aan haar vir haar tyd en moeite. Die "Hewitt's Pygmy Gecko" was ons dier vir die dag, hulle is baie skaars om te sien het sy gesê.

JEAN-MARIE BRIGGS



....and this happened!



JAM COMPETITION WINNER

On the 29th of March The Uniondale Post and Family Market hosted it's very first jam competition, and what a sweet success it was! Our talented community members showcased their considerable skills, each jar telling the story of it's creator.

After much tasting and deliberation we were delighted to announce that Desiree de Villiers took home the prize for her exquisite Plum and Mint jam. Her creation impressed judges with it's balance of flavour, texture and creativity, standing out in a field of truly delicious entries.

A heartfelt thank you to all the participants for sharing their wonderful jams with us, and to Carlien Oberholster for baking and donating the delicious scones.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF UNIONDALE - PART 2

THE SYNAGOGUE

BUILT IN 1903 BY ZELICH SHEAR, A SHOPKEEPER, BOTTLE STORE OWNER AND FARMER WHO HAD EMIGRATED FROM RUSSIA WITH HIS LARGE FAMILY. HE WAS CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOUNDING THE CONGREGATION AND BUILDING THE SYNAGOGUE. THE PLAIN EXTERIOR BELIES THE BEAUTIFULLY DETAILED INTERIOR. WITH IT'S FRESCOES AND PAINTED CEILING. AS UNIONDALE'S FORTUNES DECLINED AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE LEFT, THE BUILDING WAS GIVEN TO THE TOWN ON CONDITION THAT IT WAS NOT BE USE AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP. IT IS TODAY THE PROPERTY OF THE LOCAL LIONS CLUB AND THEY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING THE INTERIOR.

Uniondale Apteek

U TOEGANG NA BETER SKOONHEID >

NUWE REEKS NOODHULP PRODUKTE IN VOORRAAD !!

Hier spook ons om die beste dienste te lewer!

Trading Hours

Monday to Friday 08:00-17:00
Saterday 08:00-13:00
Sunday Closed

Kliniekdienste

- Welstandsondersoeke
  - Bloeddruk Toetse
  - Bloedglukose Toetse
  - Cholesterol Toetse
- Weeg
- Temperatuurmeting
- Griep Inspuitings
- Konsultasies & Berading

WHATTSAPP US TODAY FOR YOUR ORDER

064 966 4260

VOORSPOED KOLONEL

Hoe sê mens Dankie.....
Gemengde gevoelens - hartseer en blydskap op dieselfde tyd......
Na soveel jare as leier van Uniondale SAPD, het dit tyd geword om nuwe uitdagings aan te pak.
Lt Kolonel Anton Stander, stasie bevelvoerder van Uniondale SAPD, is onlangs bevorder na volle Kolonel en aangestel as die nuwe leier van Conville SAPD.
'n Man met integriteit, lojaliteit, respek en dissipliene, met n groot liefde en passie vir sy roeping as 'n lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisiediens.
Kolonel, ons gaan u vreeslik baie mis. Mag hierdie nuwe hoofstuk in u loopbaan net vreugde bring. Weet dat u 'n groot leemte in ons lede se lewens laat, asook in die gemeenskap. Die liefde wat u het vir u medemens, veral vir die ouer gades, sal altyd onthou word.
Kolonel het soveel voetspore gelos en sal altyd deel wees van ons.
Ons wens u net goedheid en guns toe met die pad vorentoe.
Kolonel moet maar sterk wees en sorg dat daar koekies en koffie is, want ons sal gereeld kom gesig wys. ☺

Mag Jesus Kolonel se rots en anker wees. ALTYD. Ons sal Kolonel NOOIT vergeet nie. Ons leier, ons mentor....ons pappa.
Ps121:7-8
"Die Here sal jou bewaar vir elke onheil, jou siel sal Hy bewaar. Die Here sal jou uitgang en ingang bewaar, van nou af, tot in ewigheid."

Met baie liefde xx
Uniondale SAPD
(Kolonel se Kinders) 🙂

Phone:	044-7526600, 044-75266610
Fax:	044-7521004
Email:	uniondalesaps @saps.gov.za

GIF OF GOED - 1

Welkom liewe leser by die eerste artikel in 'n reeks oor die goeie en ook giftige eienskappe van ons area se ryk plantelewe. Maar voor ons die individuele plante van nader leer ken kyk ons eers na die renosterveld bioom waarbinne die groter Uniondale area val. Renosterveld is 'n term wat gebruik word vir een van die hoof plant gemeenskappe en plantegroei tipes van die Kaap Floristiese Area - beperk tot die Suid-Westelike dele van die Kaapprovinsie. Die benaming "Renosterveld" is 'n moontlike verwysing na die groot hoeveelhede renosters gesien deur die eerste Afrikaner setlaars in die area of die feit dat die dowwe grys kleur van die oorheersende renosterbos soortgelyk is aan 'n renoster se vel. Wie sal ooit weet watter een is waar?

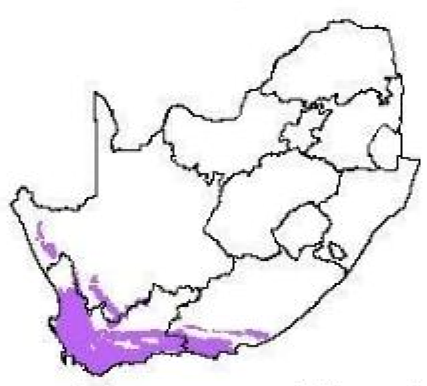
Renosterveld plante groei meestal op ryk grond, wat hul meer voedsaam as tipiese fynbos plante maak en die plante kom grootliks voor op fyn klei, graniet en skalie grond waar 'n gemiddelde reënval van 400-600 mm per jaar voorkom en waarvan ten minste 30% in die winter val. Waar reënval konstant hoër neig in die bioom verander tipiese renosterveld na fynbos en waar dit konstant minder as 250mm per jaar is verander renosterveld na sukkulente Karoo veld.

Flora: Renosterveld plantegroei word oorheers deur renosterbos, maar Proteas, Ericas en Restios, wat meer tipies is van 'n fynbos habitat, kom wel in kleiner getalle voor. Tipiese renosterveld plante sluit in: renosterbos, karee, wilde roosmaryn, wilde olyf, geofitiese plante van die Iris (Iridaceae), Lelie (Liliaceae) asook Orgidee families (Orchidaceae).

Fauna: Die hoë grondvrugbaarheid asook die histories gedokumenteerde voorkoms van groot grasvlaktes dui aan waarom groot troppe wild ook in die renosterveld voorgekom het. Berg sebra, kwagga, bloubok, rooi hartebees, eland, bontebok, swart renoster, Kaapse buffel en selfs olifante het volop in die renosterveld voorgekom, maar is ongelukkig tot 'n groot mate totaal uitgewis in die 18de en 19de eeu.

Ongelooflik om te glo as vandag na ons area se wydverspreide renosterveld gekyk word, maar alle tipes renosterveld word as krities bedreig geag en geklassifiseer as 100% onvervangbaar. In die Overberg area is bv. slegs 4-5% renosterveld behoue agv wydverspreide landbou praktyke en hiervan is minder as 1% ekologies ongeskonde.'n Nagevolg van vee wat die renosterbos grootliks oneetbaar vind is dat ander Renosterveld plant spesies oorbewei word wat die renosterbos komponent gaandeweg steeds laat toeneem en die hele ekologiese balans verder negatief beinvloed.

Gevolglik kyk ons volgende maand na Renosterbos (Dicerothamnus rhinocerotis) en of hy "Gif of GOED" IS.



Renosterveld verspreiding in Suid-Afrika

ANTON SMIT

EASTER CHILDREN'S EVENT

The Uniondale Post will be holding an Easter bunny and egg biscuit decorating competition at the Family Market on the 26th of April. Please pre-order with Lorna on 074 191 2114, Kiewiet on 083 560 8294 or email theuniondalepost@gmail.com.

Bunnies - senior and junior kids R50 each.

Bunnies:
Included - 23cm Bunny cookie puzzle (boy or girl bunny)
- Royal icing (Pink/Blue, White, Grey)
- Basic sprinkles and sweets

Large Easter Egg - toddlers R35 each

Easter Egg:
Included - 16.5cm Easter egg cookie
- Royal icing (blue, yellow, pink)
- Sprinkles and sweets

FAMILIE PRETDAG

Uniondale Akademie Stigting bied 'n Familie Pretdag aan op 12 April 2025 te Uniondale Skougronde.

Die fondse wat ingesamel word sal aan gewend word om n nuwe klaskamer te bou wat benodig word met die stygende leerlingtal.

Die dag skop af met krieket en volleyball. Bring jou spangees!

Deur die loop van die oggend sal daar n poppekas vir die kinders aangebied word wat beloof om baie pret in te hou.

Om 11:00 begin die damesoggend bederf vir mammas en dogters.

Die snoepie sal heeldag oop wees met heerlike eetgoed insluitend pannekoek.

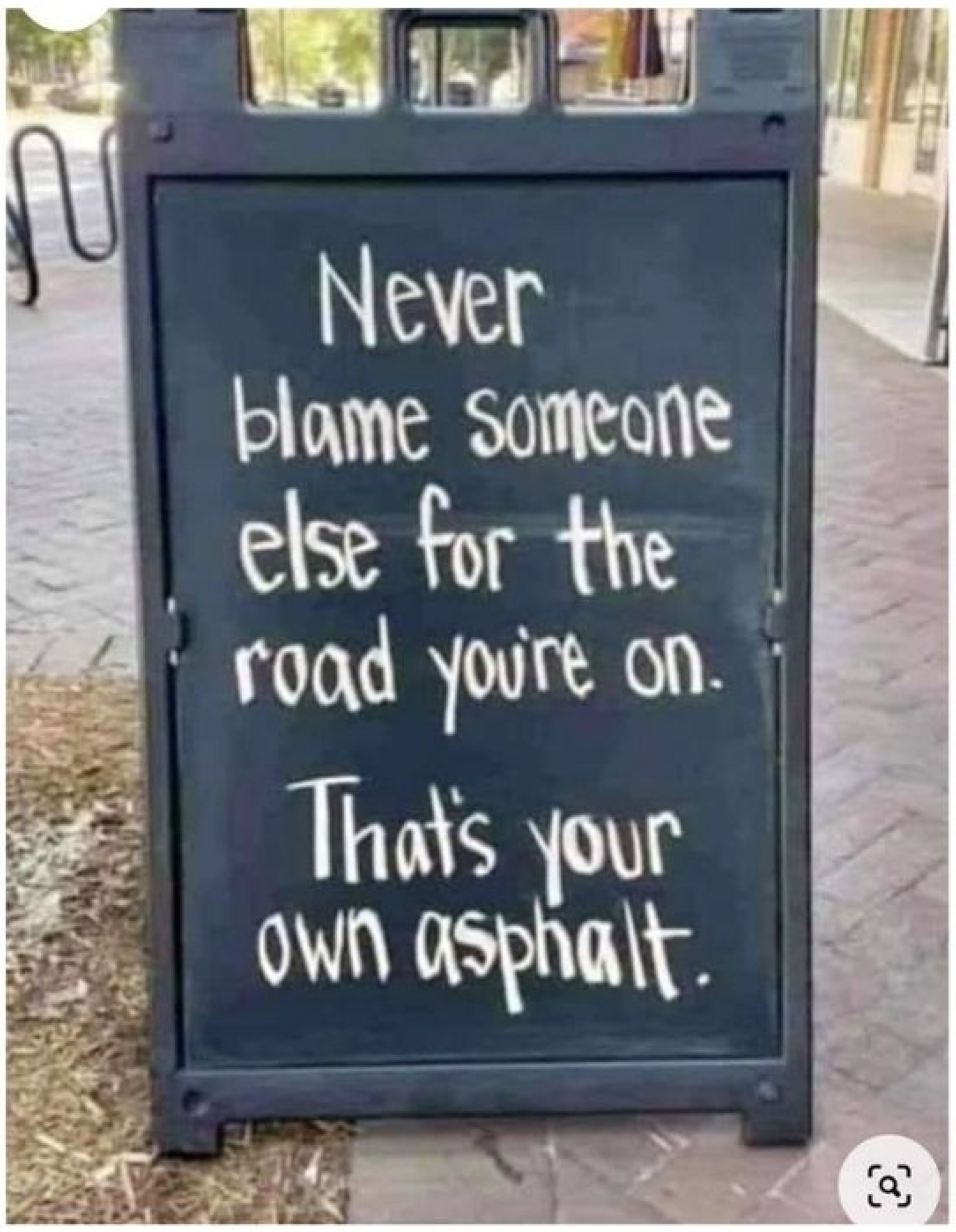
Die aand gaan ons lekker saamkuier om die braaivleisvure en die dag afsluit met n steakete en veiling ten bate van die sentrum.

MARCH CROSSWORD SOLUTION

1 R	2 E	3 E	4 F	5 S	■	6 U	7 T	8 E	■	9 B	10 A	11 S	12 A	13 L
14 O	L	L	A	S	■	15 R	I	T	■	16 A	W	A	R	E
17 A	L	L	O	W	18 A	B	L	E	■	19 L	A	N	E	S
20 D	A	S	■	■	21 N	A	E	S	■	22 L	I	K	E	S
■	■	■	23 S	24 I	G	N	■	■	25 N	A	T	A	L	■
26 S	27 T	28 E	A	L	S	■	29 A	30 G	O	D	■	■	■	■
31 R	E	S	U	L	T	■	32 L	O	B	S	33 T	34 E	35 R	■
36 O	N	A	N	■	■	37 P	O	D	■	■	38 S	T	U	39 D
■	40 S	U	A	41 S	42 I	O	N	■	43 S	44 T	A	T	E	D
■	■	■	■	45 A	M	I	E	■	46 C	A	R	E	S	S
■	47 S	48 C	49 A	R	P	■	■	50 R	A	G	S	■	■	■
51 R	O	A	L	D	■	52 C	53 E	L	L	■	■	54 S	55 E	56 E
57 A	L	I	B	I	■	58 U	N	E	A	59 R	60 T	H	L	Y
61 S	A	R	A	N	■	62 E	D	S	■	63 P	A	U	S	E
64 P	R	O	N	E	■	65 S	S	S	■	66 M	U	T	E	D

Suckrifice

(*n.*) Doing what you absolutely must do, even though you really, really hate it.



CONTACT US

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES, ADVERTS OR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR INCLUSION IN OUR NEXT EDITION TO

theuniondalepost@gmail.com
Whatsapp Lorna 0741912114
or
Kiewiet 0835608294 (the Afrikaans connection)

ADVERTISING RATES

QUARTER PAGE - R125.00
HALF PAGE - R250.00
FULL PAGE - R500.00