

# Give a little, help a lot

## Local Love

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**Rustenburg** – Rustenburg's elderly needs our help. Growing old is not child's play. Besides one's physical health deteriorating almost as fast as the price of health care increases, many of the country's elderly have been swindled out of their life saving by Ponzi schemes and 'sure-thing' investments. For some, little things like replacing a light bulb or sewing a tear has become not only difficult, but a physically painful exercise. Having to depend on others to be able to go to the store or visit a friend, all the while spending your retirement years just trying to stay out of the way... often forgotten and left behind. A large part of the elderly population is struggling to make ends meet on a meagre R1,780 South African Social Services Agency (SASSA) grant allowance per month. R1,800 can only go so far and often these retirees have to make the choice between life saving medication and food. If your grandparents are anything like mine, they would never want to be an inconvenience, giving you the shirts off their backs to ensure that you had a future they were never afforded... Now is the time to give them that future! The municipal flats throughout Rustenburg assist the elderly with affordable housing, but the small allowance from SASSA does not cover medical expenses, food, sundries and general costs. Having to worry about food can be soul crushing and adds to mental stress and a feeling of hopelessness. *Platinum Weekly's* Local Love is a project to help lift the burden off our local elderly living in the various municipal flats in Rustenburg. With this project we hope to donate food to the elderly to assist with their basic needs. We invite you to participate by donating non-perishable food. The handover of the food will take place in July. The logos of companies that donate towards this worthy cause will feature in the *Platinum Weekly* issue after the handover. Donations can be dropped off at *Platinum Weekly's* offices at 50 Marais street. For more information contact Danika Pretorius on 081 579 7000.

# Fake 'cops' murder farm manager

**Hoopstad** – Janus Powell, a farm manager at Rietvlei Farm near Hoopstad, was brutally murdered on Saturday 20 April. According to Vrystaat police spokesperson colonel Thandi Mbambo, five suspects arrived on the farm at approximately 18:30. Janus was working on his white Toyota Camry at the time. Two of the suspects approached Janus; one was fully clothed in Police uniform and the other wore a police reflector jacket. Their vehicle was fitted with a blue light. The suspects introduced themselves as police officers and claimed that they were looking for a person who had skipped bail. "The suspects continued their ruse by acting as cops. As Janus could not assist them with their 'search', he accompanied them to his gate, to see them off," colonel Mbambo said. At this stage, it is unknown what transpired at the gate, but the Hoopstad Police were informed of a shooting incident at Rietvlei farm. When the police arrived, they discovered the body of an unknown man and the late Janus Powell on scene. Both died due to shot wounds. James's private firearm was missing. The suspects fled the scene and a manhunt has been launched. If you have any information regarding the farm murder, please contact detective sergeant Lawrence Mojanaga of Hoopstad detective services on 083 334 0684. We extend our sincerest condolences to Janus's wife, Anemi, their 4-year old son and Janus's parents, Antoon and Tharina. Janus grew up in Brits and attended Hoërskool Wagpos.

# RHINO POACHERS STRIKE AGAIN

**Rustenburg** – A rhino carcass without a horn was discovered by rangers at Pilanesberg National Park on 20 April. Police are pursuing leads after conducting an autopsy at the crime scene. An awareness campaign was held at Mabele-A-Podi village near Mogwase where they asked community members to assist them with information that could help in successfully pursuing the poachers. "The carcass was discovered about a week after the rhino was killed. We believe that the poachers used community members to gain access to the park," police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said. "No arrests have been made as yet and investigations are ongoing." The incident at Pilanesberg National Park comes as South Africa has been making significant headway in the fight to save the rhino through government's Integrated



Police investigators from the Stock Theft Unit collecting evidence.

Strategic Management of Rhinoceros. As reported in the 19 April 2019 edition of *Platinum Weekly*, two men were arrested and have since appeared before the Brits Magistrates' Court for smuggling 180 rhino horns, weighing a total of 150kgs, destined for the Far East. Figures from the Department of Environmental Affairs website revealed that the North West province experienced a total 65 poaching incidents in 2018, compared to the 96 cases that were reported in 2017. However, the figures also put the North West on second position, after Kwazulu Natal, when it comes to the number of poaching incidents that were recorded in 2018 for each province. Members of the public wishing to report rhino poaching and environmental crimes can contact the department's hotline on 0800 205 005 or contact 10111.

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