



TAXI WARS LEAD TO MURDER

Brits – A 40-year old man died at a hospital from injuries sustained during a violent confrontation between taxi operators. At least 11 people were arrested by the police following the incident, which occurred at the taxi rank near Spoorweg Street on Thursday 6 February. The territorial disputes between rival taxi operators for routes between Rustenburg, Mabopane, Ga-Rankuwa and Hartbeespoort Dam are believed to have fuelled the confrontations. Police spokesperson colonel Adelé Myburgh said that during the unrest, four taxis were allegedly damaged after they were hit with knobkerries, iron rods, sticks and pelted with stones. Five men were injured and taken to a local hospital for medical treatment. “Three victims were released from hospital shortly after receiving treatment. One victim was admitted to hospital at the intensive care unit with serious head injuries and another victim died in hospital,” Myburgh said.

“The identity of the deceased is still unknown,” she added. The suspects appeared before the Brits Magistrates’ Court on 10 February. Police are investigating cases of murder, attempted murder, public violence, malicious damage to property and possession of dangerous weapons. North West member of the executive council for community safety and transport management Sello Lehari discouraged taxi operators from engaging in violence to settle their differences. **Anyone with information that can assist police with this investigation is requested to contact lieutenant colonel Pieter Claassens on 082 373 9831, or sergeant Gomotsegang Boikanyo on 060 937 7745 or 012 318 6110. Alternatively, you can call the Crime Stop Hotline on 08600 10111.**



SERIAL KILLER IN RUSTENBURG?

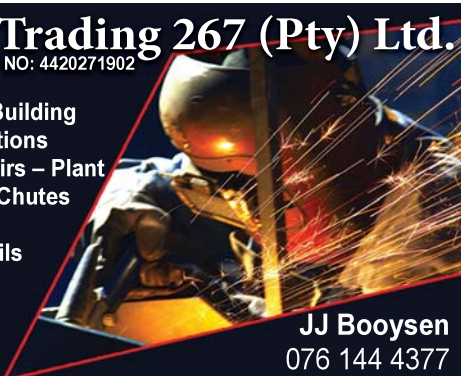
Rustenburg – The level of fear of the Rustenburg community is at an all time high after two men were shot inside their homes in a matter of two days. *Platinum Weekly* reported on Friday 7 February about a 54-year old man that was shot in his house when he confronted a house robber. The second man was shot on 8 February when he found an unknown man in his house. Both men were seriously injured and are recovering in hospital.

According to police spokesperson Elsabé Augoustides there is a strong possibility that these cases may be linked. It is clear that the perpetrator has become ‘trigger happy’ and that he has no problem shooting at an innocent person. The community is warned to be careful and to keep a watchful eye out for any suspect behaviour. **Anyone with information regarding the two incidents can call adjutant officer Jannie van der Walt on 082 772 9226.**

STILL NO CLOSURE FOR JOEY AND ANISHA’S FAMILIES

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Joey and Anisha van Niekerk.

Mooiinoi - The trial against the four remaining people accused of murdering Joey and Anisha van Niekerk of Mooiinoi in 2017 was once again postponed in the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria until Tuesday 11 August. Initially, eight individuals were arrested in connection with the case but three have since turned state witnesses. One state witness, Wilhelm Loubser, died in a motorcycle accident on 3 November 2018. During September 2019, Koos Strydom, the alleged ‘mastermind’ behind the

murders was found unconscious in his cell and was transported to the hospital where he was declared braindead. The murdered couple went missing on 10 December 2017 after leaving their home in Mooiinoi to make arrangements for Joey’s father’s funeral. They were kidnapped, raped and killed, their bodies soaked in acid and burned beyond recognition. The burned-out shell of their vehicle was found on 16 December 2017 in the Magaliesburg area.

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CLOSE YOUR WINDOWS TO AVOID UNWANTED GUESTS

Rustenburg – Rustenburg Police are warning residents to ensure their windows are shut, especially at night, to help safeguard them from falling victim to robbers. Police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said a large number of people living in Cashan and other areas near the central business district (CBD) are losing their

valuables to robbers. “In most of the robberies we have been attending to, homeowners left their windows open, granting easy access to robbers,” Mokgadi said. “Please always close your windows, especially when you go to sleep so that you do not become the next victim,” he added.



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