

God's Haven sluit hul deure na sewentien jaar

Karen Engelbrecht

Die sorgsentrum vir bejaarde persone op Tzaneen, God's Haven, gaan na sewentien jaar hulle deure aan die einde van Augustus sluit.

Dié besluit is wat sowat twee weke gelede deur God's Haven se raad onder voorsitterskap van Johann Potgieter geneem nadat die sentrum nie meer kan byhou met kostes om so 'n fasiliteit te bedryf nie.

Potgieter het verlede week aan die Herald bevestig dat alle partye rakende die sluiting gekonsulteer en ingelig is oor die besluit.

God's Haven is 'n nie-winsgewende vereniging (NPO) wat afhanklik is van die bydraes van inwoners op 'n gegewe tyd asook skenkings van individue, instansies en die gemeenskap.

Hulle moes onlangs hul tarief vanaf R10 000 per maand na R14 000 per maand per inwoner verhoog.

Die sentrum kon twintig inwoners huisves, maar het meestal net ongeveer sestien mense gehad. Ten tye van die

besluit was daar net nege inwoners. Boonop het nog inwoners besluit het om die sentrum te verlaat nadat die tariefverhoging deurgegee is.

Om te voldoen aan regulasies vanaf die departement van sosiale ontwikkeling (DSD), moet God's Haven te alle tye negentien werknemers of versorgers in diens hê wat tot 'n aansienlike hoë loonrekening lei.

Potgieter het aan die Herald gesê dat die finansiële situasie fluktureer van maand tot maand soos wat inwoners kom en gaan of afsterwe terwyl die kostes dieselfde bly.

Kort voor die besluit het bekende inwoners, Henk en Linda Mienie, wat al sedert 2010 by die sentrum betrokke is nadat Linda se ma daar versorg is, verskeie pogings aangewend om die sentrum te red.

'n Skarebefondsingsprojek waarin

'n beroep op inwoners gedoen is om 'n bedrag van R100 per maand-aftrekking aan die sentrum te skenk, kon nie van die grond af kom nie.

Mienie het toe aan die Herald gesê dat dit 'n geloofsaak en 'n lewensdroom van

hom en Linda was om die sentrum op 'n gesonde finansiële voet te kry en na te laat.

Hy het ook gesê dat daar dikwels tye was wat hulle geldprobleme in die oë gestaar het, maar dat daar altyd 'n uitweg was.

Potgieter het gesê dat die sluiting 'n leemte laat in die gemeenskap, maar dat inwoners waarskynlik 'n heenkome sal kan vind by Goue Jare in Modjadjiskloof wat versorging nog teen R10 000 per maand kan aanbied.

Hy sê dat volgens regulasies rondom NPO's, sal die bates soos die beddens waarskynlik verkoop kan word om die sluiting te fasiliteer.

Die perseel van 400 vk/m in Sirkelstraat het 'n maandelikse verband van R9 000 op.

Die perseel was sedert 2005 gehuur van die Tzaneen-inwoners, Deon en Carina Prinsloo, op voorwaarde dat God's Haven die maandelikse verband betaal en alle herstel en onderhoud moes doen.

Dis nog onseker wat van die perseel sal word.

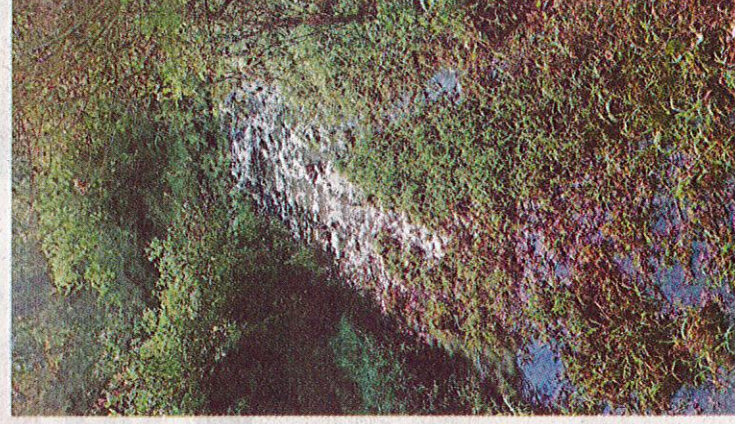
Riool vloei steeds in Aqualaan en Jetty 3



René Pohl wys uit waar daar steeds riool in Aqualaan vloei.



Motoriste vermy die areas en slaggate waar riool in die Aqualaan in die straat afloop.



Water en riool wat vloei naby Jetty 3 en reeds in April gerapporteer is aan GTM.

Liesl Pohl

Tzaneen se rioolprobleme is nog nie op 'n einde nie.

Verskeie lesers het die afgelope week video's en foto's gestuur na die Herald om die voortslepende probleem te beklemtoon. Op die beeldmateriaal is daar riool wat in Aqualaan afloop en mangate wat oorvloei.

Dit na die Herald verlede week berig het dat die Groter Tzaneense Munisipaliteit (GTM) ingegryp het en die saak aangespreek het na rou riool in die Tzaneendam ingeloopt het.

Die GTM het verlede week gesê dat die

probleem opgelos is na daar herstelwerk gedoen is aan die pompstasie waar daar glo vandalisme plaasgevind het.

Die Herald het uitgevra of daar 'n saak te by die polisie oopgemaak is om 'n saak te bou teen vermeende vandale, maar daar is geen duidelike antwoord hierop gegee nie ,behalwe dat daar te veel tyd verloop het sedert die vandalisme om dié mense te vang.

René Pohl, GTM-raadslid en verteenwoordiger van die Demokratiese Alliansie, het die beeldmateriaal wat sy ook ontvang het vir die burgemeester, Gerson Molapisane en die munisipale bestuurder, Donald Mhangwane

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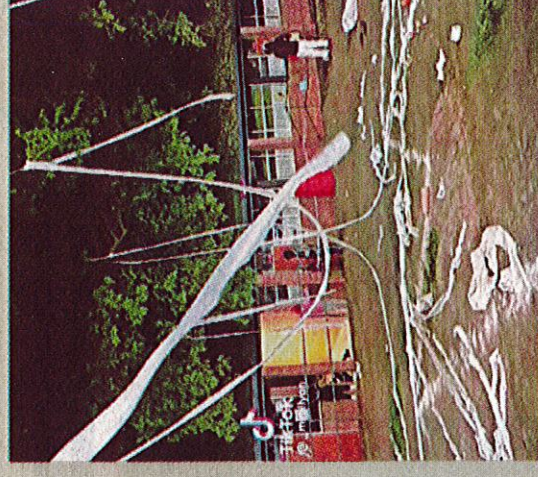


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Vossies loop deur na '40 days' video's



Dit is nog nie bekend watter matrieks van Hoërskool Ben Vorster wat na bewering die skoolterrein verlede Donderdagaand binnegegaan en bemors het, dissiplinêr aangekla gaan word nie.

Jan van Staden, skoolhoof, het Dinsdag teen druktyd gesê die skool sal deur meer as 50 video's en foto's en hul eie CCTV-opnames moet werk om te sien wat presies gebeur het.

Die insident spruit uit 'n video wat verlede Vrydag, 5 Augustus, soos 'n veldbrand op sosiale media versprei het.

Volgens Van Staden sou die matrieks Vrydag hul tradisionele "40 days" gevier het. 'n Groep het gedurende die nagtelike ure van Donderdag 4 Augustus die skoolterrein binnegegaan en die skool bemors met toiletpapier en eiers.

Hulle het ook in klaskamers ingegaan en stoele en tafels omgekeer.

Oud-Vossies het skerp op die video van 38 sekondes, gereageer.

Terwyl die meeste dit veroordeel het, het baie ook gevra vir begrip en kalmte.

Van Staden het hom Vrydagaand ook na sosiale media gewend.

Hy het op die skool se Facebook-bladsy gevra dat kinders, oudleerders en ouers nie die video verder moet versprei nie omdat dit nie die volle konteks weergee nie.

Hy het ook gesê dat daar geen sprake van vandalisme was nie.

Dinsdag het hy aan die Herald gesê dat die insident uit verband geruk is.

"Ek en die beheerliggaam keur nie die optrede goed nie, maar geen skade is aangerg nie.

"Die kinders het Vrydagoggend die skoolterrein en klaskamers skoon gemaak en normale skool is hervat.

"Dit is jammer dat die skool se goeie reputasie nou deur 'n uit-konteks video, en een insident, geoordeel word."

Hy sê een van die grootste oortredings is dat afbrekende materiaal op sosiale media versprei word.

"Dit is teen die skool se gedragskode om videos of foto's te plaas wat die skool se goeie naam in gedrang bring.

"Diegene wat dit gedoen het, staar tugsstappe in die gesig."

Van Staden het Dinsdag ook 'n brief aan graad 7-leerders en hul ouers, wat volgende jaar hul by Vossies gaan aansluit, geskryf om hulle gerus te stel oor die gebeurte.



Women rise for women's rights

■ **Joe Dreyer**

As part of their Women's Day campaign the Democratic Alliance in Limpopo held a series of events and outreaches aimed at not only celebrating the power of women, but also highlighting the importance of various issues they face.

Arguably the violence against women and children is at the top of the agenda when one starts addressing serious issues that affect society. In 2021, Statistics South Africa released a report, Crimes Against Women in South Africa, indicating that one in five women (21%) had experienced physical violence by a partner.

"It is because gender-based violence in our country is such a serious matter, and because this matter is not being addressed with the seriousness that it should be, that I decided to host a boxing event for the women in my area," said DA Ward Councillor for Ward 15, Chrizelle Dreyer. "If the government cannot adequately protect our women, then we will learn how to protect ourselves."

The event was hosted at Champs Boxing Academy at the Tzaneen showgrounds and attended by a group of 15 women from across Tzaneen's Ward 15. Coach Gerhard Rossouw addressed the group with a brief motivational talk on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and learning skills that will enable you to react appropriately in a potentially dangerous physical altercation.

"You don't have to be stronger than your attacker, and you don't have

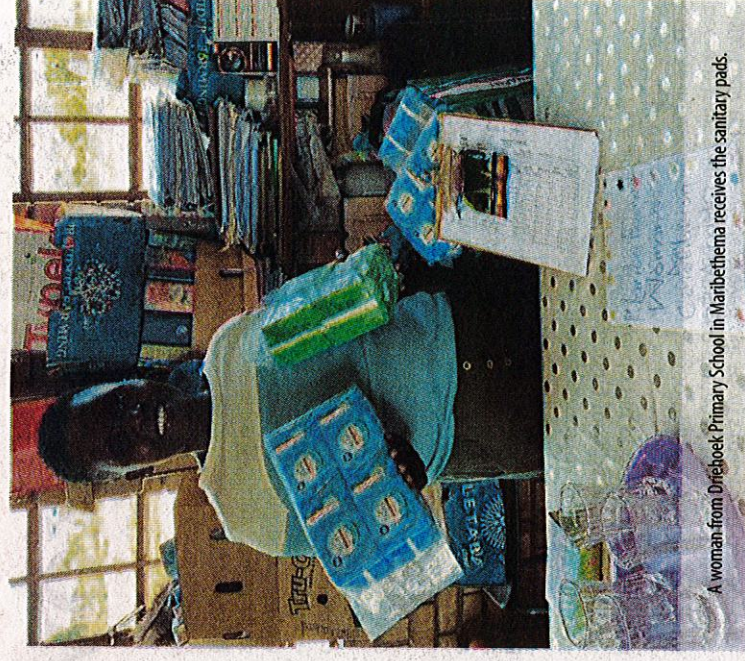
to be a better fighter than your attacker. You only need to be a better fighter than his previous victim," Rossouw explained. "If a predator goes out on the prowl he will focus on the meek and will count on your fear of him. Once you don't fear him, and you don't appear to be a soft target, he will move on to someone else."

The women spent an hour in the boxing gym under the guidance of female coaches Carleine Rossouw and Juan-Marie Pretorius, learning how to throw a punch, avoiding a punch, and enjoying a short introduction to a boxer's fitness regime. After the training programme they were treated to a light lunch before heading off.

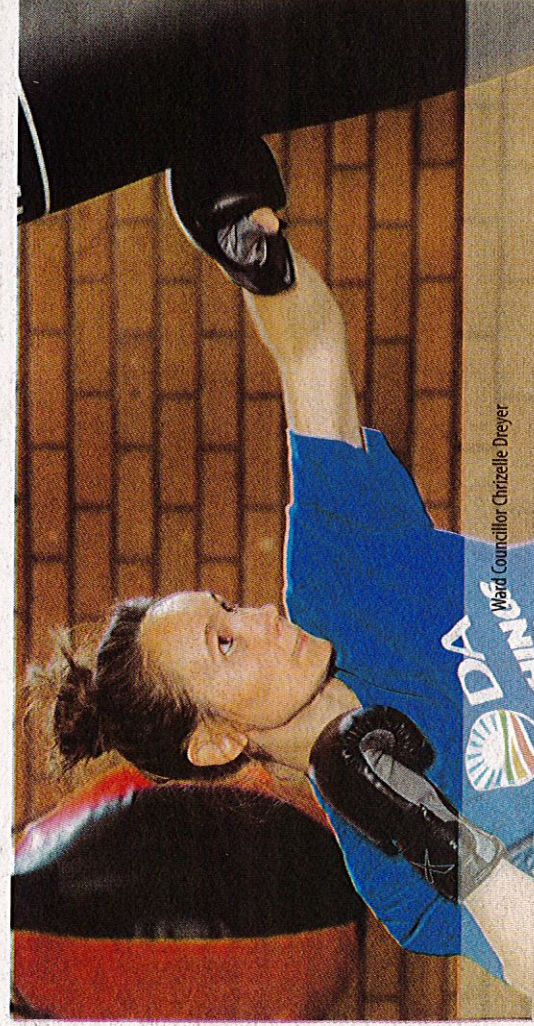
On the same day, the local DA caucus leader, Rene Pohl, hosted an initiative at the Driehoek Primary School in Maribethema just outside Polokwane. Her focus on the day was also aimed at raising awareness around gender-based violence specifically aimed at women in the rural areas where it is far more prevalent.

"We discussed another important issue facing many women in our country today, namely becoming financially independent. We discussed economic empowerment to enable one to thrive in life instead of merely surviving," said Pohl. "It is a very harsh reality in our rural communities that affects women of all backgrounds. The current economic state of our country has exasperated the situation."

The DA donated sanitary pads for the girls at Driehoek Primary to enable them to attend school throughout the year without missing important classes.



A woman from Driehoek Primary School in Maribethema receives the sanitary pads.



Ward Councillor Chrizelle Dreyer



The group of women who joined the DA's initiative with the coaching team from Champs Boxing Academy in Tzaneen.

The "good health" train is back in Tzaneen again

■ **Roelof de Jonge**

For people unable to afford the fees charged by private practices, and who do not have the time to spend an entire day in line at any one of the state hospitals or clinics, the Phelophepa train is in town again this month.

The Transnet-Phelophepa train is a free, mobile healthcare clinic with a host of medical services on offer which travels to rural areas around South Africa. In most of these outlying areas there is just one doctor per 5 000 patients. The Phelophepa arrived at Tzaneen Train Station on Sunday the 7th of August and will be in town to assist patients until Friday the 19th of August.

The manager of the Phelophepa mobile health care clinic who is an optometrist, Thelma Satekge, said they would be offering a wide range of services to the public during the clinic's two week stay in Tzaneen. Aside from the train, there will also be a mobile clinic travelling by road along the same routes as its railed counterpart.

"We have a psychology clinic that will offer counselling and workshops. Our health clinic offers primary health care services and free cancer screenings," she said.

The dental services of the Phelophepa train consists out of two dentists with six dental students as assistants. There are four professional nurses tending to patients with the help of six final year nursing students. The psychology clinic has one psychologist at the helm who is assisted by four social workers. There is also a pharmaceutical service.

"Aside from the established personnel onboard, we also make use of about 70 local employees like general health practitioners,

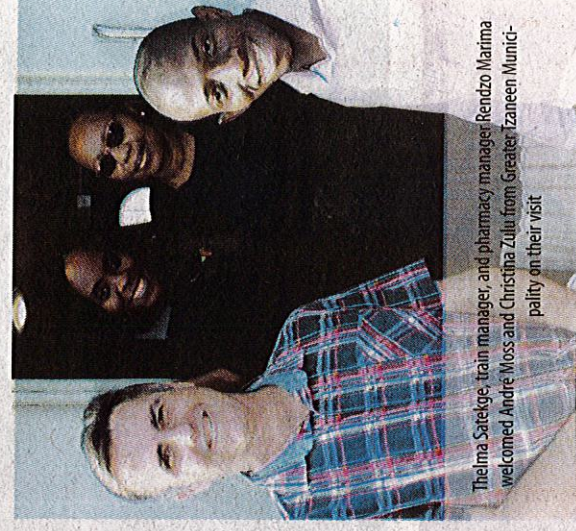
nurses and cleaners," Satekge added.

"Phelophepa" translates into "good, clean health" and is owned and operated by the Transnet Foundation. This railway clinic started its first journey all the way back in 1994.

The Phelophepa trains run 36 weeks a year and travel to 70 remote communities annually. In addition to these general health services, individual counselling sessions and group workshops to help people cope with psychological issues such as stress and depression are offered.

The trains also house special coaches for education, where members of the local communities can participate in classes on general health issues such as nutrition, hygiene and dental health. More specialist services have been introduced, including diabetes prevention, hypertension and cancer screening.

The result of the broad reach of Phelophepa is better awareness of common health issues within these remote and often poorly educated communities. There is an increased likelihood of people presenting for examination, and consequently more chance that patients can receive appropriate treatment. Since the first train started its journey more than 25 years ago, the trains have touched the lives of approximately 14 million people, dispensed medication to over 3 million patients and provided health screenings to over 2 million people.



Thelma Satekge, train manager, and pharmacy manager Rendzo Marima welcomed Andre Moss and Chrisipha Zulu from Greater Tzaneen Municipality on their visit



Dr Thabiso Manamela is the Dental Clinic Manager on the Phelophepa since 2015



Nkowankowa stand off a hot potato

■ Joe Dreyer

In Nkowankowa there currently reigns an air of tension as community members embarked on protest action against a group of businesses operating in that area. The situation was sparked by approval from the Greater Tzaneen Municipality which granted a group of unionized residents known as the Dan and Nkowankowa Concerned Group (DANKOW) in partnership with the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO), permission to embark on a peaceful, legal march to certain businesses to hand over memorandums of grievances.

This march was scheduled for the 1st of August and business owners were invited via formal letters on the 26th of July, to attend the plenary meeting a week prior to the march, at the boardroom of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Though not all the businesses attended that meeting.

According to Mulawu Mathye, spokesperson for DANKOW, the residents have legitimate concerns regarding the operations of the businesses in their area, whom they feel do not prioritize the needs and wellbeing of the local community.

"These industrialists use up our roads to transport their heavy hauls because their own roads have been damaged so badly, it is undriveable. Their trucks have destroyed our town's roads and damaged infrastructure like powerlines in our residential areas when they lose their way and need space to turn around. Our roads are not designed for these heavy haulers," he said. "Furthermore, these companies employ foreigners to work for them, when they have many labourers to choose from, living right around them. We don't mind if you are going to employ a foreigner with a scarce or specific skill, but when it comes to general labour, why not draw from the community within which you conduct your business?"

The group's primary focus appeared to be the management of one specific company operating in Nkowankowa, with whom the group allegedly attempted to meet and discuss their grievances but were unable to. In a document sent to the relevant parties, the group stated that they attempted to engage this company in July, and after failing to do so, were left with no other option but to unionize and embark on a protest.

Among the group's concerns listed in their application for the march, were the hiring of local labour from the area in which the company operates, that foreigners only be employed on scarce skills and not general labour, and that the companies become more transparent regarding their contributions to the youth and local community development as well as

their BBBEE status.

Although the group named only one company specifically in their application with the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, DANKOW and SANCO set out to hand memorandums to several identified businesses.

"We secured a legal protest against the industrialists in Nkowankowa and secured an appointment with some of them to sit around the table and discuss our issues. We want to establish and address issues with certain companies for the matters to not repeat in future," Mathye said.

Initially, the march was a peaceful one and in videos Bulletin received, the protestors were seen approaching the gates of one of the businesses in an orderly fashion.

The trouble started earlier this week however, when other videos were circulated over social media showing aggressive and threatening behaviour by protestors towards employers and employees of these companies.

In one video a woman was accosted by a couple of protestors as she was driving to her place of work. In the video, as she drives past them a man shouts "@#k you!" whilst another hits her vehicle. When she winds down her window to ask what the problem is another man, believed to be one of the leaders of the group, shouts "hey what are you doing here? We told you not to come because we are on the strike and I didn't hit your car, you hit me wena!". When the woman's phone is noticed the man threatened her with "you are white lady, you will tell us nothing, we are the community here and you don't have the right to take my photo because I will break that f%#%ing phone" before he smacks the phone from her hand. Another man joins the commotion and shouts "you are a stupid white girl, f%#k you!"

She can be heard calling for the police who were present at the time, but the video cut off shortly thereafter. Earlier on in the altercation caught on video, the man presumably referred to the police at the scene stating that they would not intervene as it was not their territory.

In another video, a man was in a similar situation on his way to work when protestors prevented him from entering the premises by threatening to burn him and his vehicle if he did not turn around. Yet another video showed protestors brandishing rocks, preventing trucks from moving in and out of the area. In yet another video, another businessman was threatened by a protestor with a pole.

Bulletin spoke to a representative of one of the companies who requested anonymity. According to this representative, the companies in the area were expected to engage the communities who demand-

ed certain labour practices be followed in accordance to the law, but they themselves were not following the laws as per their approval letter for a peaceful march.

"When two parties want to engage on any platform legally, to discuss legal matters such as employment protocols, it is important that both parties abide by the law. You cannot break the terms of your approved protest march and expect the other parties to prioritize your cause. You cannot hurl racial abuse or threaten to assault or burn the person that you expect to later employ you. It just doesn't work that way, relationships go both ways. Obtain approval to march legally, abide by the conditions of that approval, march to my gate and hand me your grievances so that we can setup a meeting with the relevant parties and their representatives and have a documented discussion to find a common ground. But once you break any of those conditions which approved your march, that action becomes an illegal march and then no discussions can take place."

In the week since these incidents were first recorded, DANKOW and SANCO have managed to engage with three of the companies in civil meetings at their premises. According to some representatives of these companies, the matters were tabled and discussed, and the community was satisfied with the outcomes.

Currently the situation is balancing on a knife's edge as some of the businesses have reportedly grouped together to approach the situation as a united front from a legal angle.

"We have said that we will not intimidate workers or prevent anyone from going to work, but we will not allow these trucks to continue driving through our communities and damaging our infrastructure anymore," said Mathye. "We live right next to one of the companies' water treatment plants and the stench is unbearable. The dust from their trucks makes matters even worse and despite us trying to engage them on this, they have ignored us. One company's representative refused to read our memorandum and tore it to shreds right in front of us. We have a legal team onboard and we are prepared to fight this in court if need be."

Mathye said that the group was satisfied with the meetings that they managed to secure with some of the companies this week and stated that they will continue their efforts to secure meetings with the rest of the institutions.

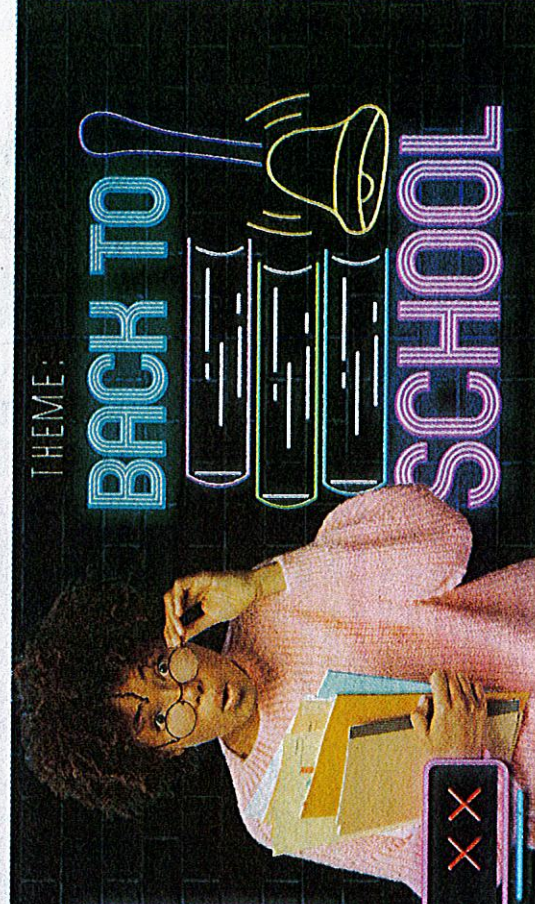
This is a developing story and Bulletin will keep our readers updated as the matter unfolds. We will continue communicating with members from both groups to offer balanced reporting on this delicate situation.

BULLETIN
QUIZ
NIGHT

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18:00

HIGHGROVE
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QUESTION Who will be the ultimate boffin in the bunch? XX



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