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VOLUME 18 · ISSUE 9 · SEPTEMBER 2023
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Debby Friday

DEBBY FRIDAY SECURES 2023 POLARIS MUSIC PRIZE VICTORY

By Stanley Ugagbe

Toronto-based electronic artist, Debby Friday has emerged triumphant, clinching the coveted 2023 Polaris Music Prize for her remarkable album, "Good Luck."

The prestigious accolade, awarded solely on the grounds of artistic excellence, was bestowed upon her by an 11-member jury during a momentous ceremony held at Toronto's iconic Massey Hall on September 19th.

Overwhelmed with emotion, Friday took to the stage to accept the award from the previous year's recipient, Pierre Kwenders, expressing, "I'm in shock. This is something that I didn't realize was even a possibility. I was born in Nigeria, in a small village, and now I'm here today. It just feels like a miracle. I'm just so happy right now."

continued on p(25)

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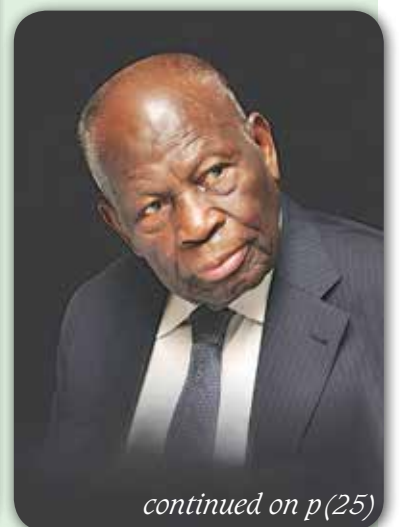
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- CHIOMA NNADI FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO HEAD BRITISH VOGUE - PG. 7

- HYGIENE HABITS: WHEN TO CHANGE TOWELS, BEDSHEETS, AND TOOTHBRUSHES - PG. 11

- GUYANA OPPOSITION LEADER TOWN HALL MEETING - PG. 21

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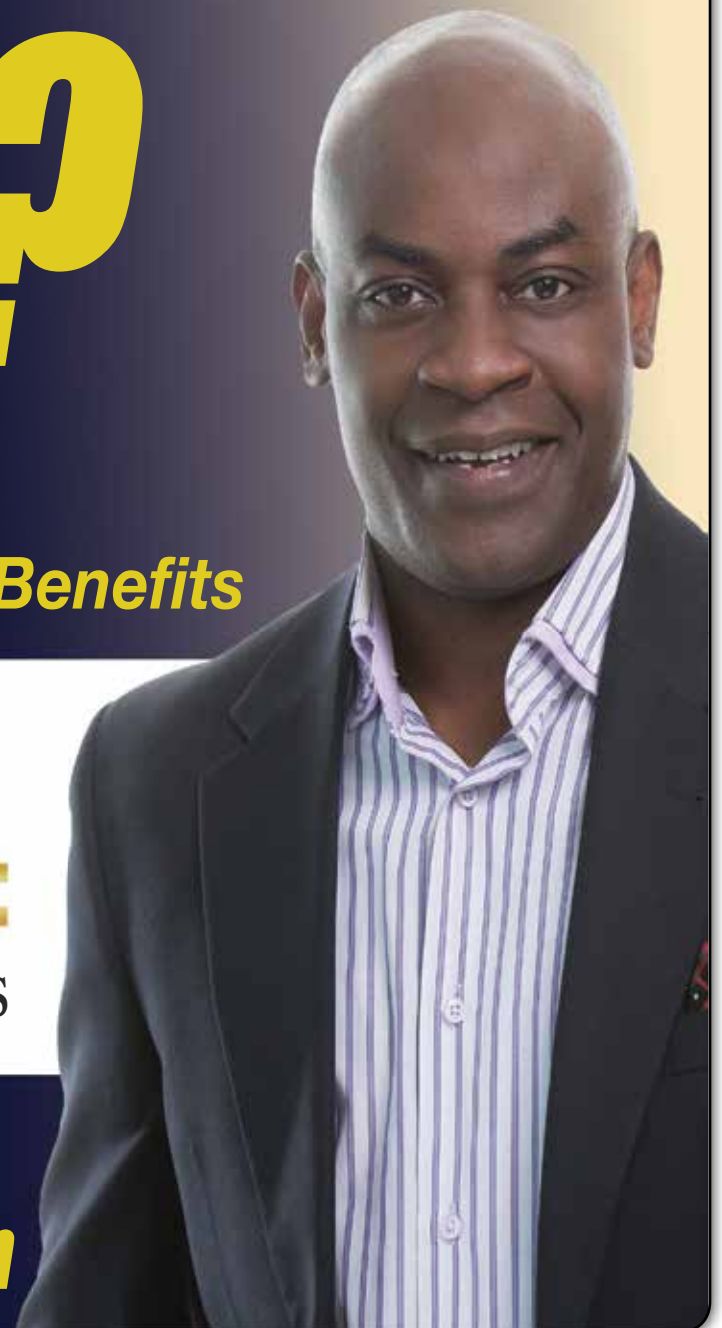


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Addressing The Menace Of 'Rampant' Crime At Local Port In British Columbia

The picturesque coastal province of British Columbia, with its stunning landscapes and thriving communities, is often seen as an idyllic haven on Canada's west coast. However, beneath its scenic beauty lies a growing concern - the alarming rise in crime at local ports, as highlighted by the recent statements from a concerned B.C. mayor. As the region faces the prospect of port expansion, addressing this issue becomes more critical than ever.

Mayor George Harvie of Delta has raised an important red flag regarding the escalating crime rates in and around the local port. His concerns are not unfounded, as reports of theft, smug-

gling, and other illegal activities have been on the rise. This trend not only threatens the safety and well-being of local residents but also puts a dent in the reputation of British Columbia's ports as gateways for global trade.

For emphasis, Delta is home to the Roberts Bank Terminal, and expansion plans over the coming years will see millions more containers move through the Port of Vancouver annually.

Harvie averred that Canada's ports are the federal government's responsibility, but the "total absence" of uniformed police at the facilities makes them obvious targets for criminal elements to set up shop, from Mexican drug cartels to

biker gangs.

In an interview with newsmen, Harvie revealed that "We're witnessing a relentless flow of illegal drugs, weapons and contraband into Canada through our ports and that threatens our national security".

"They need to recognize this. We have a fentanyl crisis going through our community here in Delta, through Metro Vancouver, through the province, across the nation," he said of the federal government inaction. He strongly opined that the federal government's failure to fund a police force dedicated to Canada's ports is a threat to national security that needs to be dealt with immediately.

Meanwhile, a report by the City of Delta said "Recently, ports scored very high in British Columbia's provincial threat assessment with respect to the potential for infiltration and corruption". The report highlights the difficulties of policing the ports since the Ports Canada Police force was disbanded in 1997, and more than a quarter century later, Harvie said the consequences of that decision have become clear.

The report by consultants Peter German and Doug LePard, both former high-ranking police officers, examines the state of port security since then. Harvie alleged that the Canada Border Services Agency checks less than one per cent of container traffic that comes through the region's ports.

In his words, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority hasn't stepped in to bolster security at terminals because policing is not

its responsibility. "They say they have security cameras. Well, they sure don't do a lot for examining containers, and there's also a question with regards to lack of proper security checks for people who work at the port," Harvie said.

B.C. ports have been corrupted by the infiltration of organized crime groups, including the Hells Angels, as well as Russian, Asian and South Asian criminal organizations and Mexican drug cartels, the report says.

The timing of this revelation couldn't be more crucial, given the province's plans for port expansion. Expanding the port facilities could lead to increased economic activity, more jobs, and a boost to the regional economy. However, if the issue of rampant crime is not adequately addressed, this potential growth could be overshadowed by security and safety concerns.

The mayor's call to action must be met with a comprehensive and collaborative response from all stakeholders involved, including local law enforcement agencies, port authorities, the provincial government and more importantly, the federal government.

To tackle the growing menace, there is a need to establish Enhanced Security Measures. Investing in modern surveillance technology, improved lighting, and increased police presence can help deter criminals and ensure the safety of port workers and nearby residents.

While the call for the Federal Government to address the menace is sacrosanct, establishing stronger ties between the port

authority and the local community is essential. Initiatives like neighborhood watch programs can help residents actively participate in safeguarding their surroundings.

More so, coordinating efforts among law enforcement agencies, including local police, federal border security, and provincial authorities, is crucial to addressing cross-border crime and illegal activities. It is also germane that the twin brothers of transparency and accountability are in play. Both the port authority and local law enforcement agencies should provide regular updates to the community about their efforts to combat crime. Transparency builds trust and encourages collaboration.

Investing in programs that target at-risk youth and offer them alternatives to crime is a proactive approach to addressing the root causes of criminal activity.

It is imperative to strike a balance between economic development and security. Port expansion can bring prosperity and employment opportunities to the region, but it must be done responsibly, with a focus on maintaining the safety and well-being of the community. Mayor Harvie's call for action should serve as a wake-up call to all stakeholders involved to address the pressing issue of rampant crime in and around the port.

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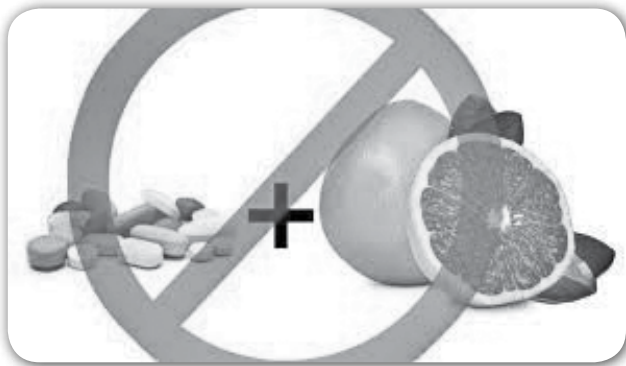
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FAMILY, HEALTH & WELLNESS

FRUIT NAVIGATING FRUIT-DRUG INTERACTIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



By N.Ugoh

rect sunlight.

Here are some dos and don'ts when it comes to certain medicines and fruits:

MEDICINE:

Dos: Follow your doctor's prescribed dosage and instructions carefully.

Take your medication at the same time each day, if possible, to maintain consistency.

Store your medication in a cool, dry place, away from di-

Keep a record of your medication schedule to avoid missing doses.

Be aware of potential side effects and report any unusual reactions to your healthcare provider.

Don'ts:

Don't share your prescription medication with others, as it may not be safe for them.

Don't crush or split pills unless advised by your healthcare provider.

Don't consume

alcohol if it interacts negatively with your medication.

Don't stop taking your medication abruptly without consulting your doctor.

Don't take expired medication; dispose of it properly.

FRUITS:

Dos: Wash fruits thoroughly under running water to remove dirt and pesticides.

Store fruits in a clean, dry place or in the refrigerator to maintain freshness.

Eat a variety of fruits to ensure a balanced intake of vitamins and nutrients.

Consume fruits as part of a healthy diet for added fiber and natural sugars.

Experiment with different ways to enjoy fruits, such as in smoothies or fruit sal-

ads.

Don'ts: Don't consume spoiled or moldy fruits; discard them to avoid foodborne illnesses.

Don't overeat fruits excessively high in sugar if you have diabetes or are watching your sugar intake.

Don't peel fruits unnecessarily, as some of the fiber and nutrients are found in the skin.

Don't rely solely on fruit for all your nutritional needs; maintain a balanced diet.

Don't store fruits with strong odors (e.g., onions) as they can affect the taste of the fruits.

Remember, it's essential to consult with healthcare professionals for specific medication guidance and dietary recommendations based on your individual health needs.

BENEFITS OF FASTING BLOOD SUGAR

Fasting Blood Glucose	Diagnosis	What It Means
Lower than 100 mg/dL	Normal	Healthy range
100 to 125 mg/dL	Prediabetes (impaired fasting glucose)	At increased risk of developing diabetes.
126 mg/dL or higher	Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2 diabetes)	At increased risk of heart disease or stroke.

By N.Ugoh

Fasting blood sugar, also known as fasting glucose, refers to the level of glucose (sugar) in your blood after an overnight fast of at least 8 hours. Monitoring fasting blood sugar has several benefits:

Diabetes Diagnosis: It is a key diagnostic tool for diabetes. Elevated fasting blood sugar levels may indicate prediabetes or diabetes, allowing for early intervention and management.

Disease Prevention: Maintaining a healthy fasting blood sugar level can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic conditions.

Treatment Evaluation: For individuals with diabetes, tracking fasting blood sugar helps assess the effectiveness of medications, lifestyle changes, and dietary adjustments in managing blood sugar levels.

Hypoglycemia Detection: Extremely low fasting blood sugar levels can indicate hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), which can be dangerous and requires immediate attention.

Overall Health Assessment: Fasting blood sugar is often included in routine health check-ups to assess an individual's overall health and risk factors for metabolic disorders.

Personalized Health Goals: It helps individuals set and monitor personalized health goals related to diet, exercise, and medication management.

Pregnancy Monitoring: Pregnant women may undergo fasting blood sugar tests to screen for gestational diabetes, which can affect both the mother and baby's health.

Research and Public Health: Fasting blood sugar data is essential for medical research and public health efforts to understand trends in diabetes prevalence and its associated risk factors.

Overall, monitoring fasting blood sugar is a valuable tool for assessing and managing metabolic health, particularly in relation to diabetes and its complications.

TOP 10 FAMILY-FRIENDLY DOG BREEDS: LOVING COMPANIONS FOR ALL AGES



By N.Ugoh

When it comes to choosing a dog for your family, it's essential to consider their temperament, energy level, and compatibility with children. Here are ten of the most family-friendly dog breeds known for their affectionate nature, gentle disposition, and suitability for households with kids:

1. Golden Retriever: Known for their

friendly and obedient nature, Golden Retrievers are excellent with children and make great family pets.

2. Labrador Retriever: Labs are playful, outgoing, and protective, making them ideal family companions.

3. Beagle: Beagles are curious and gentle, perfect for active families who enjoy outdoor activities.

4. Bulldog: Despite

their tough appearance, Bulldogs are calm, loyal, and form strong bonds with children.

5. Collie: Collies are intelligent and gentle herding dogs, often seen as great family protectors.

6. Poodle: Standard Poodles are highly intelligent, adaptable, and great for families with allergies due to their hypoallergenic coats.

7. Bichon Frise: These small, fluffy dogs are friendly, playful, and well-suited for indoor family life.

8. Newfoundland: Newfoundlands are gentle giants known for their patient and loving nature, especially around kids.

9. Boxer: Boxers are energetic, fun-loving, and protective,

making them great for active families.

10. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel: These affectionate dogs are perfect for families seeking a small, gentle companion.

Remember that individual temperament can vary, so it's essential to socialize and train your dog properly to ensure a harmonious family environment. Always consider your family's activity level, living situation, and the dog's needs when choosing the perfect furry addition to your household.

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Canada's Only Female University College To Wind Down



By N.Ugoh

Brescia, Canada's only women's university college, will wind down its operations as an affiliated university college beginning May 2024. Both post-secondary institutions "agreed to a strategic integration" through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) by the governing boards.

"Today's agreement is about meeting the present needs of students, with an eye to the future," said Laretta Frederking, president of Brescia. "This agreement will better position us to enhance educational outcomes for students with the greatest needs."

The "all-girls" university college was founded in 1919 by the Ursuline Sisters, who were "instrumen-

tal" in expanding education and Catholic institutions in early 20th-century southwestern Ontario.

With 1,200 registered students, the campus offers a variety of subjects in the Schools of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Food and Nutritional Sciences, and Humanities.

"I am proud of the vibrant and welcoming culture that many students have come to know at Brescia, and believe this proposal will allow our students, faculty and staff to build on that legacy in a manner that is responsive to the changing times," said Sr. Theresa Mahoney, community leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Chatham.

"It was really scary": Witness recounts seeing riders stuck upside down at Canada's Wonderland

"We are now at a point where women make up the majority of post-secondary learners in Canada and there is an equally important need to adapt to new realities, including the underrepresentation of equity-deserving groups in

our postsecondary institutions," Frederking added.

"This agreement will better position us to enhance educational outcomes for students with the greatest needs."

The president of Western University, Alan Shephard, stressed the "deep historical connection" between both institutions, calling the integration "an opportunity to chart a new path that stays true to those roots."

"What we are contemplating together aligns beautifully with Western's strategic plan, including bold innovations in education."

The integration will involve "several commitments," including the Brescia Students to complete the remaining duration of their degree.

"Western will assume Brescia's assets and liabilities and will provide Brescia's full-time faculty, current contract faculty with sessional appointments, full-time staff and permanent part-time staff with employment offers," the statement read.

University Of Alberta Returns Endowment To Veteran Of Nazi Unit



By Yahaya Othman

Recently, the University of Alberta made a decision to return an endowment to the family of Yaroslav Hunka, a Ukrainian veteran who served in a Nazi unit. This decision followed his recognition in the Canadian House of Commons during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to Canada. Hunka, at the age of 98, was honored in the House of Commons by former House Speaker Anthony Rota. However, it later emerged that he had fought in a Ukrainian unit that was established by Nazi Germany to combat the Soviet Union.

The fallout from Parliament's recognition of Hunka has been widely criticized, with some dubbing it the most embarrassing international incident in Canadian history. Consequently, the University of Alberta initiated a review of a \$30,000 endowment fund associated with

the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) in Hunka's name.

Verna Yui, interim provost and vice-president academic at the Edmonton-based university explained the decision: "After careful consideration of the complexities, experiences, and circumstances of those impacted by the situation, we have made the decision to close the endowment and return the funds to the donor. The university recognizes and regrets the unintended harm caused."

Yui also noted that the university is committed to addressing antisemitism comprehensively, including examining how the Holocaust continues to have relevance today. As part of this commitment, the university is currently reviewing its general naming policies and procedures, including those related to endowments, to ensure they align with their values.

The webpage that once described the fund has been taken down, but an archived version from

earlier this year revealed that the Yaroslav and Margaret Hunka Ukrainian Research Endowment Fund was established to support research related to the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Preference was given to research related to the lives and work of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky and Metropolitan (Cardinal) Josyf Slipyj, as well as the history of the underground church.

In response to the university's actions, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton expressed its appreciation for the institution's commitment to addressing antisemitism and reviewing naming policies and procedures. They issued a statement thanking the University of Alberta for its swift and unequivocal response in disposing of the endowment in Hunka's name at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Laurie Adkin, a political ecology professor at the university, raised questions about how the CIUS accepted an endowment in Hunka's name, suggesting that the CIUS should have conducted a more thorough background investigation of proposed honorees. She posted her comments on X, formerly known as Twitter, and asked who was responsible for establishing the Hunka endowment fund.

Pickering's Mayor to Responds To 'Modern-Day Slave' Comments Made by Councillor



By N.Ugoh

In a recent turn of events, the Mayor of Pickering, Kevin Ashe, has responded to a social media post made by Councillor Lisa Robinson. Robinson, in a Facebook post, referred to herself as a "modern-day slave" after her pay was temporarily docked following allegations of bullying.

The controversy began when Robinson identified three citizens by name in another social media post where she announced the cancellation of her annual Halloween charity event. The city's integrity commissioner deemed this action as a "bully tactic," leading to the city council's decision to suspend her pay for 30 days.

Robinson's initial post on her personal Facebook page expressed gratitude to three individuals for their "neighbourly kindness." However, it was later revealed that this post came after the Committee of Adjustment rejected Robinson's request to store a large shipping container in her yard for Halloween decorations. The citizens named in her post had expressed opposition to the container during a virtual meeting on the matter.

Mayor Kevin Ashe strongly condemned Robinson's use of the term "modern-day slave" in her Facebook post. He described it as "wildly offensive and deeply harmful," emphasizing that such a comparison to slavery was inappropriate and insensitive. Ashe

pointed out the historical significance of slavery and its devastating impact on Black communities, stating that using such a comparison was fundamentally wrong and disrespectful.

Members of the Pickering Anti-Black Racism Task Force were also reportedly shocked and upset by Robinson's remarks. Ashe underscored the importance of upholding the integrity of the council and ethical standards. He urged Robinson to take responsibility for her actions, refrain from making false and harmful comparisons, and offer a sincere apology to the Black community for the distress and offense she caused.

In response to Mayor Ashe's statement, Robinson defended her use of the term "modern-day slavery," arguing that she intended to shed light on various forms of modern-day exploitation affecting individuals from diverse backgrounds. She cited her current situation of working without compensation for the government for 30 days as an example of her challenges.

High-Ranking Cop Admits To Helping Mentees Cheat

By N.Ugoh

A high-ranking Toronto police official, Superintendent Stacy Clarke, who holds the distinction of being the first Black woman to attain such a position in the department's history, has admitted to her involvement in aiding her mentees in cheating during a promotional interview process that she was responsible for overseeing.

Clarke has entered a guilty plea in front of a disciplinary tribunal and is facing seven charges un-

der the Police Services Act. These charges encompass three counts of breach of confidence and four counts of discreditable conduct.

According to an agreed statement of facts, Clarke, during her tenure as a member of promotional interview panels in 2021, took photographs of interview questions and answer guidelines and subsequently shared them with six of her mentees who were vying for promotions to the rank of sergeant. Additionally, she engaged in a three-day ses-

sion at her residence with one of her mentees, a close family friend, during which she conducted a mock interview, utilizing questions that were sometimes verbatim from those posed during the official panels held the previous week. It is worth noting that Clarke later participated in this officer's promotional interview panel without disclosing their personal friendship or mentor-mentee relationship.

The sentencing for Clarke will take place at a later date.

her comments continues to be a topic of discussion

in Pickering's political landscape.

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APC Members Wail, Accuse Tinubu of 'Yorubanising' Juicy Appointments



President Bola Tinubu

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a shocking move, some members of the ruling All Progressives Congress have accused President Bola Tinubu of nepotism, stressing that the nation's leader has been favoring a particular tribe in his appointments.

The APC members under the aegis of Progressive Change Ambassadors of Nigeria (PCAN) expressed worry that mainly people from the South West region are being appointed to top positions by the President.

The group, in a statement by its Executive Director, Alhaji Abdulkareem Ubaydah and Secretary, Muhammad Rabiu Awwal E, accused Tinubu of ignoring competent and qualified individuals from other ethnic groups in the country.

The statement reads "Mr. President, we write to you today as concerned citizens of Nigeria and deeply troubled members of your party – the All Progressives Congress (APC) to express our deep concern about the perceived imbalance in your political appointments

so far," the statement read.

"We have observed that a significant majority of these appointments have been made from your southwest geopolitical zone and especially from your ethnic group – the Yorubas, to the exclusion of other qualified and competent individuals from other parts of the country.

"This has led to widespread feelings of alienation and resentment among Nigerians from other parts of the country. While we understand that you are entitled to appoint people you trust and believe in, we as stakeholders in the political party under which you assumed office as President of Nigeria, reserve the right to urge you to consider the importance of national unity and inclusiveness in your appointments.

"It is important to remember always that you are the President of all Nigerians, not just that of Yorubas of the southwest geopolitical zone."

While calling out the President, whose mandate is being contested in court by Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi, the APC group urged the Tinubu to ensure balance in coming appointments.

"Your political appointments should therefore reflect the diversity of our nation and ensure that all Nigerians have a voice in your government," the statement read.

"Unfortunately, your appointments to date have fallen far short of this standard. For instance, control of Nigeria's economy has been ceded exclusively to

South-west Yorubas as all appointments in that sector has been filled by them.

"Additionally, of 20 presidential aides appointed by you, 15 are from your geopolitical zone and ethnicity. Also, in the recent appointments of presidential Senior Special Assistants and Special Assistants, 8 are Yorubas from the South-West! Also worthy of note are the facts that the Inspector-general of Police, Controller-generals of Nigeria Customs and Immigration Services respectively, as well as the Chief of Army Staff are all members of your ethnic group.

"This is clear imbalance which sends a message that you are not committed to building a united and inclusive Nigeria. We need not remind you Mr. President, of the circumstances surrounding your election victory as the South-West, propagandized by divisive, faith-based political rhetoric of the opposition, seemingly abandoned you to your fate leaving the other geopolitical zones, especially the North-West and North-Central to do the heavy lifting needed, votes-wise, for your victory.

"Shunning them for those who stood by and did pitifully little is not how to reward their tremendous labour of love on behalf of your successful aspiration. We urge you to reconsider your approach to political appointments and to make a concerted effort to include people from all geopolitical zones in your government. This is essential for building trust and

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History made as Chioma Nnadi becomes the first black woman to head British Vogue

By N.Ugoh

Chioma Nnadi, a 44-year-old journalist of Nigerian and Swiss-German descent, has been appointed as the new head of editorial content at British Vogue.

She will take over from Edward Enninful, the editor-in-chief who enjoyed a six-year tenure as

both the prestigious fashion magazine's first male and first black editor who announced his resignation in June.

Nnadi, the current editor of the New York-based Vogue, will be head of editorial content, rather than editor-in-chief. She has worked as a writer and news director for the outlet for 13 years.



Chioma Nnadi

The appointment also makes her the first black female head of the fashion magazine.

ensuring that all Nigerians feel represented in their government.

"This is the only way to ensure that all Nigerians have a fair chance to contribute to the development of our country and to live in a united and prosperous nation. One of the

duties of the President is to ensure that the government is representative of the people. By appointing people from all geopolitical zones, you will be fulfilling this duty and living up to the oath you took as President.

"This is the only way

to ensure that all Nigerians have a fair chance to contribute to the development of our country and to live in a united and prosperous nation. We hope you will give our concerns raised in this letter serious consideration and take action to address them."

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Family files lawsuit against Google after father drove onto collapsed bridge while following Google Maps directions

By Bunmi Akintilo

The family of a man who died after driving his car off a collapsed bridge while following the directions of Google Maps is suing the technology company for negligence.

The family claims Google had been notified about the collapse in Hickory, North Carolina, but did not update its navigation system.

According to a lawsuit filed recently, Philip Paxson, a medical device salesman and father of two, drowned on September 30, 2022, after his Jeep Gladiator plunged into a creek.

Paxson was driving

home after his daughter's 9th birthday party through an unfamiliar neighbourhood when he was directed by Google Maps to cross a bridge that had collapsed nine years earlier and was never repaired.

Alicia Paxson, his wife, said: "Our girls ask how and why their daddy died, and I'm at a loss for words they can understand because, as an adult, I still can't understand how those responsible for the GPS directions and the bridge could have acted with so little regard for human life."

Police who discovered Paxton's body in his overturned and partially submerged truck had revealed there were no barriers or

warning signs along the bad roadway. According to the lawsuit, he had driven off an unguarded edge and crashed about 20 feet below.

The North Carolina State Patrol had disclosed the bridge was not maintained by local or state officials, and the original developer's company had ceased to exist. The lawsuit names several private property management companies that are responsible for the bridge and the adjoining land.

The lawsuit also stated that many people had notified Google Maps about the collapse years before Paxson's death and had urged the company to update its route information.

The court filing includes email records from another Hickory resident who used the map's 'suggest an edit' feature in September 2020 to notify the company that it was directing drivers over the collapsed bridge.

A November 2020 email confirmation from Google confirms the company got her report and was reviewing the suggested change, but the lawsuit claims Google did not act further.

Google spokesperson José Castañeda said: "We have the deepest sympathies for the Paxson family"

"Our goal is to provide accurate routing information in Maps and we are reviewing this lawsuit."



Family In Court Over Assets Of Late Army Finance Chief



By Dele Akintilo

The family of the late Abdullahi Muraina, the former Chief of Accounts and Budget in the Nigerian Army, finds itself embroiled in a legal dispute concerning his estate. In a notice published, Ayodele Arotiowa and Jeph Njikonoye, attorneys representing the plaintiffs, have clarified that the assets in question are intended for distribution among the late Major General's rightful heirs.

They caution the public against engaging in any activities related to the acquisition of these assets, as they are currently under litigation before a court in Abuja, identified as suit no: CV/104/2022/Usiagu Muraina and three others vs Aibat Adepuju Bolanle Bamidele and three others.

The properties at the center of this legal battle are as follows:

House at 21, Mohammed Isma Street, Aso-

koro District, FCT Abuja. Mauve Lounge, Ring Road, Ibadan, Oyo.

Mauve 21 Event Centre, Ring Road, Ibadan, Oyo.

Smart Bridge Plaza, Utako, Abuja.

Pathfield Plaza, Gwarinpa, Abuja.

House B26, Palm Estate, Maitama, Abuja.

17, Congo Street, Sun City Estate, Abuja.

19, Congo Street, Sun City Estate, Abuja.

House at 11, Barcelona Street, Sun City Estate, Abuja.

House at Benue Street, Sun City Estate, Abuja.

Dilay Farms, Keffi, Nasarawa.

House at Oka Akoko Close, Garki, Abuja.

Yalid Petroleum, Fuel Station along Abuja-Keffi expressway.

11B, Mahogany Street, Forest Hill Estate, Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo.

Acres of land at Akinajo Village via *continued on p(25)*

Bill C-22 will provide income security to Canadians with disabilities, but it needs to be done right



Canada's first national disability benefit, Bill C-22, received royal assent on June 22, 2023. The bill was reintroduced in 2022 after initially being tabled two years prior. Bill C-22 remains short on details, but has two notable features. The first is that it will focus on poverty reduction and financial security for working-age persons with disabilities. The second is that it will be delivered through the tax system via changes to the Income Tax Act.

When the bill was reintroduced, then-Employment Minister Carla Qualtrough said the bill aimed to create a monthly benefit for working-age Canadians with disabilities modelled after the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Qualtrough also said the benefit is designed to fill a significant income secu-

rity gap that leaves one in four adults with disabilities living below the poverty line.

The Guaranteed Income Supplement is a longstanding and popular refundable tax credit that provides income security to seniors.

This type of income assistance has also been used to offset GST and assist children and workers in low-income families. While this gives us a clue about the form of the Canada Disability Benefit, its ultimate impact on income security for those with disabilities will depend on the details.

DISABILITY TAX CREDIT

While Canada does have economic support already in place for persons with disabilities, they aren't as wide-reaching as they need to be. Canadians with disabilities can apply for the federal disability tax credit on their income tax form if they have certification from a medical practitioner.

The current credit

amount is \$8,870 for those 18 and over and \$5,174 for those 17 and younger. The credit is not refundable, but any unused amount may be transferred to a supporting family member.

However, while about 1.4 million Canadians had obtained a disability tax credit certificate as of 2020, less than 900,000 received any benefit.

This shortfall can be attributed largely to the non-refundable nature of the credit, which means it doesn't provide benefits to persons with disabilities in families with insufficient taxable income. These are precisely the families that are targeted by Bill C-22.

Key questions remain

In a recent study, my late colleague Harvey Stevens and I found that half of those who were eligible for the disability tax credit, either for themselves or for a dependant, received no benefit. Hence, the current design of the disability tax credit doesn't adequately help those with the greatest need for assistance, since the poorest adults with disabilities received very little benefit.

Rather than helping the poorest Canadians with disabilities, the credit becomes more beneficial to families as their incomes rise — the opposite of the intentions of the Canada Disability Benefit.

Our study simulated the effect of making the disability tax credit refundable. This would transfer the benefits to persons with disabilities living in families with the lowest, rather than the highest, incomes.

For the same cost, the refundable credit would improve the incomes of the poorest families by an average of 20 per cent. It would also provide a framework for the provinces to convert their non-refundable disability tax credits to refundable tax credits, further increasing benefits for families most in need by about one-third.

A critical question *continued on p(25)*

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REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

Intimacy and Emotional Connection: Strategies for Keeping the Spark Alive



By Stanley Ugagbe

In any romantic relationship, the initial spark of attraction and infatuation can be exhilarating. However, maintaining that spark over time requires effort, understanding, and a commitment to nurturing intimacy and emotional connection. Whether you're in a new relationship or have been together for years, here are some strategies to help keep the spark alive and deepen your emotional connection.

Open and Honest Communication: Effec-

tive communication is the cornerstone of any lasting and fulfilling relationship. To maintain intimacy and emotional connection, it's essential to foster open and honest communication. Share your thoughts, feelings, dreams, and concerns with your partner. Be a good listener, and encourage your partner to express themselves without fear of judgment.

Regularly check in with each other to discuss how you're feeling and what you need from the relationship. These conversations can help prevent misunderstandings and foster a deeper

emotional bond.

Quality Time Together: Life can get busy with work, family, and other commitments, but carving out quality time together is vital for maintaining intimacy. Schedule regular date nights or weekend getaways to reconnect and enjoy each other's company without distractions.

During your time together, put away electronic devices and be fully present with your partner. Engaging in activities you both enjoy, whether it's cooking, hiking, or simply cuddling on the couch, can help create meaningful shared experiences and memories.

Physical Intimacy: Physical intimacy is an important aspect of a romantic relationship, and it goes beyond sexual connection. Physical affection, such as hugs, kisses, and cuddling, can strengthen the emotional bond between partners. Make

an effort to show physical affection regularly, even during non-intimate moments.

Sexual intimacy is also crucial for many couples. If you're experiencing challenges in this area, consider seeking professional help or discussing your desires and concerns openly with your partner. Healthy communication about sexual needs can enhance your emotional connection.

Surprise and Spontaneity: Injecting spontaneity and surprises into your relationship can reignite the spark. Plan unexpected gestures, like leaving love notes or arranging a surprise dinner date. Keeping the element of surprise alive can create excitement and keep the relationship feeling fresh.

Shared Goals and Dreams: Having shared goals and dreams can strengthen emotional connection by giving you both a sense of pur-

pose as a couple. Discuss your aspirations, whether they involve career, family, travel, or personal growth, and find common ground. Collaborating on these goals can deepen your bond and provide a sense of unity.

Maintain Independence: While nurturing intimacy is essential, it's also vital to maintain individuality and independence. Each partner should have their own interests, hobbies, and social circles. Encourage each other's personal growth and respect each other's need for space and autonomy. A healthy balance between togetherness and independence can lead to a more robust emotional connection.

Seek Professional Help When Needed: Relationships can face challenges and hurdles, and sometimes, seeking the assistance of a therapist or counselor can be incredibly beneficial.

Don't hesitate to reach out to a professional if you're experiencing ongoing conflicts or difficulties in maintaining emotional connection. Therapy can provide tools and insights to help you navigate challenges and strengthen your relationship.

Maintaining intimacy and emotional connection in a relationship requires ongoing effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. By prioritizing open communication, quality time together, physical affection, spontaneity, shared goals, and individual growth, you can keep the spark alive and deepen your emotional connection over time. Remember that every relationship is unique, and it's essential to tailor these strategies to fit your specific needs and circumstances. Ultimately, a strong emotional connection can provide the foundation for a loving and lasting partnership.

A HOLE IN MY HEART

EPISODE 3 ©FRANCA UWUIGIAREN

It was Monday, Tunde was angry with Lizzy and so he refused to talk to her. Lizzy tried all means to get his attention but she couldn't.

"I am sorry. I didn't know my parents will see it. I hid it under the pillow" She had told him during break.

For the first time in months, Tunde was mad at her. He didn't tell her she was beautiful as usual. He didn't buy her snacks or sit with her during break. She felt all alone. Everyone in her class noticed Tunde was angry with her. They wanted to know but she refused to tell and Tunde too kept a sealed lips.

When she got home, she felt bad and couldn't concentrate. She did her house chores

clumsily and them told her siblings she was coming.

"Where are you going to?" Oghenemine asked.

"It's none of your business where I am going to. I just want to rush out and rush in,"

"Ese, you didn't tell dad or mum you will be going out when you return from school. What if that finds out? You know he will be unhappy with you."

LIZZY SMILED.

"Of course I will be home before our parents return."

She left her siblings at home and rushed to Tunde's house. Tunde wasn't home.

"He will be home soon. He went to get a

haircut" Tunde's elder brother told her.

Lizzy contemplated whether to wait for him or return home. She didn't want the friction between them to linger, so she decided to wait for him.

"COME IN THEN" TOLU SAID.

Lizzy had never entered inside the compound before. It was the first time she saw the beautiful flowers in the compound.

Tunde had always told her his parents are rich, but now she believes. The house itself was beautiful, well decorated and furnished.

"Make yourself comfortable" He told her. I am his elder brother.

"ALRIGHT,"

Lizzy sat on one of the chairs and settled her gaze on the program on the television.

Tolu returned with a glass and five alive juice. Lizzy thanked him and poured it in the glass. She sipped the juice without noticing that Tolu had locked the entrance door and removed the key.

"Do you like the film?" Tolu asked.

"Yes" She said smiling.

"How long have you known Tunde?" He asked.

"About eight month now. He is one of the best in the class. He is really helping me in some of my subjects"

"Wow!. Good to hear. He has never told me that he has a beautiful classmate" He said leaving his seat and taking the seat nearest to her. Lizzy only smiled.

"You are really beautiful"

"Oh thank you. Tunde always say so"

TOLU LAUGHED.

"My brother has eyes for good things"

He left his seat and joined her on the long settee. He placed his hands on Lizzy's lap and started caressing it. Lizzy removed his hand quickly and stood up abruptly.

"I...I.. can't wait for him any longer. It's getting late. My parents will be home soon" She said.

"Alright"

Lizzy got to the door and discovered it was locked.

"Please come and open the door"

"I can't do that!"

"WHY?"

Tolu would not answer. He took the remote control from the table and increased the television's volume. Lizzy's heart began to pound.

"I really need to go now" She said again.

This time she began to panic.

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit
Written by Franca Uwuigiaren*

Please like, comment and share.

Ford repeals Greenbelt decision



By N. Ugo

Ontario Premier Doug Ford completely repealed his government's Greenbelt land grab. He announced the development at a recent press conference today in Niagara Falls.

While making the announcement, Ford said: "I made a promise

to you that I wouldn't touch the Greenbelt. I broke that promise. And for that, I am very, very sorry.

"It was a mistake to open the Greenbelt."

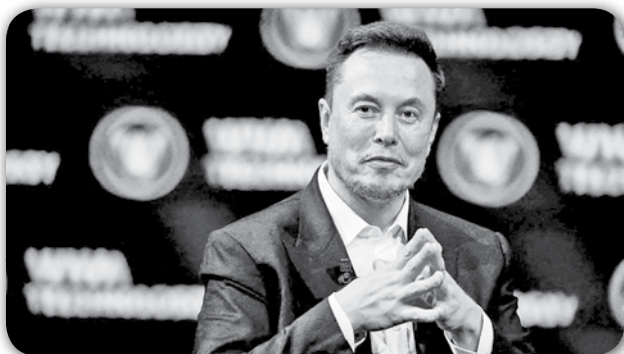
Ford has been under constant media backlash since a damning Auditor General's report in August that was critical of his government's handling of the Green-

belt lands.

He appeared remorseful while explaining that the lands would be returned to the Greenbelt.

He said: "I said when the Auditor General (Bonnie Lysyk) released the report that the process was flawed. (As of) now, we are following the recommendations."

Elon Musk reveals X will charge "small monthly fee" for every user



By N. Ugo

Elon Musk wants to charge users of X (for-

merly Twitter) a monthly subscription fee to tackle bots and increase revenue.

He revealed this during a live-streamed event on X with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Elon Musk wants to charge users of X (formerly Twitter) a monthly subscription fee to tackle bots and increase revenue.

He revealed this during a live-streamed event on X with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

University of North Carolina Embarks on Offering Three Yoruba Language Courses

By Yahaya Othman

In a significant step towards promoting diversity and global education, the University of North Carolina has recently announced the introduction of three Yoruba language courses. This move signifies a commitment to fostering cultural awareness, and linguistic diversity and strengthening ties with Yoruba-speaking communities around the world.

The decision to offer Yoruba language courses reflects a broader trend in higher education institutions worldwide to diversify their curricula and embrace a global perspective. By incorporating Yoruba language courses into its offerings, the University of North Carolina recognizes the importance of promoting multiculturalism and inclusivity.

The newly introduced Yoruba language courses at the University of North Carolina are structured as follows:

Yoruba 401 - Elementary Level: This course serves as an entry point for students interested in learning Yoruba. It lays the foundation for understanding the language's basic elements and introduces students to Yoruba culture.

Yoruba 402 - Be-

ginners' Level (Elementary II): Building upon the skills acquired in Yoruba 401, this course advances students to the beginners' level, further enhancing their language proficiency and cultural awareness.

Yoruba 403 - Intermediate Level: The third course in the series, Yoruba 403, takes students to an intermediate level of Yoruba language and culture understanding. Significant emphasis is placed on oral and aural activities in the Yoruba language, helping students expand their active vocabulary.

Yoruba, one of the major languages spoken in Nigeria and some neighbouring West African countries, has a rich cultural heritage. It is spoken by millions of people globally, and the demand for learning Yoruba has been steadily growing. The introduction of Yoruba language courses aligns with the university's commitment to preparing students for a globally interconnected world.

Language is a gateway to understanding culture, history, and society. By offering Yoruba courses, the University of North Carolina is not only enabling students to acquire a new language but also providing them with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant Yoruba culture.

Language courses often incorporate elements of literature, history, and art, allowing students to gain a holistic understanding of the culture from which the language originates.

Moreover, this initiative will also encourage cross-cultural exchanges and collaborations. Students who learn Yoruba may have the opportunity to engage with Yoruba-speaking communities in the United States and abroad. Such interactions can lead to cultural enrichment and foster a deeper appreciation for diversity.

In today's interconnected world, proficiency in less commonly taught languages like Yoruba can open up unique career opportunities. As businesses, governments, and non-profit organizations increasingly operate on a global scale, individuals with language skills that go beyond the widely taught languages are highly sought after.

Additionally, this initiative may encourage members of the Yoruba community to engage with the university, fostering a sense of inclusivity and collaboration. It can also create opportunities for cultural events, workshops, and exchanges that further enrich the university experience for all students.

Amazon to Introduce Ads in Prime Video in 2024



By Chukwuka Marcel

Amazon has announced its plan to integrate advertisements into its Prime Video streaming service starting next year. The initial phase of this rollout is scheduled for early 2024 and will target customers in the

United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Germany. Subsequently, the inclusion of ads will extend to France, Italy, Spain, Mexico, and Australia later in the same year. This development follows a report from The Wall Street Journal in June, which had hinted at Amazon's discussions

about incorporating ads into its platform.

Amazon has clarified that Prime Video will feature a limited number of commercials, with fewer ads compared to traditional linear TV and other streaming providers. However, viewers in the United States who prefer an ad-free experience can opt for a \$3 per month subscription upgrade, and a similar ad-free option will become available in other countries in due course.

Current Prime Video subscribers will receive advance notification about the impending introduction of ads in the

weeks leading up to the launch. The company also emphasized that there are no plans to raise the current prices for Prime memberships in 2024.

Prime Video offers a range of content, including original TV shows and movies produced by Amazon Studios, as well as an extensive library of titles included with your subscription. Subscribers can also access additional channels like Max, Paramount Plus, Starz, and more for an extra monthly fee. Additionally, the platform allows users to rent or purchase movies and shows.

Prime Video is bundled within the Amazon Prime membership, which costs \$15 per month or \$139 annually, or it can be subscribed to as a standalone service for \$9 per month. While CNET's review regards Prime Video as a valuable inclusion in a Prime membership, it notes that it may not be as robust as standalone alternatives like Netflix and Hulu.

Netflix and Disney Plus introduced ad-supported tiers to their services in the previous year, aligning with the trend among major streaming platforms like Max (formerly HBO Max) and

Hulu, which offer ad-supported plans. Paramount Plus and Peacock have lower-priced ad-supported options starting at \$6 per month, while Max's ad-supported plan is priced at \$10 per month.

Amazon has prior experience with ad-supported streaming through Amazon Freevee, previously known as IMDb TV. This service is free to access and supported by a limited number of ads, featuring a mix of Amazon and Freevee originals, along with other movies and shows. Additionally, there's a Freevee channel available within Prime Video.

Hygiene Habits: When to Change Towels, Bedsheets, and Toothbrushes

By N.Ugoh

Maintaining good hygiene is essential for your health and well-being. Regularly changing certain personal items like towels, bedsheets, and toothbrushes helps prevent the buildup of bacteria and maintains cleanliness. In this guide, we'll explore how often you should change these items for optimal hygiene.

TOWELS:

Frequency: Every 3 to 4 uses (approximately every 3-4 days).

Why: Towels trap moisture and can become a breeding ground for bacteria and mold. Regular washing helps prevent odors and skin issues.

BEDSHEETS:

Frequency: Every 1 to 2 weeks.

Why: Bedsheets accumulate dead skin cells,

sweat, and dust mites. Changing them regularly promotes better sleep and prevents allergies.

Pillowcases:

Frequency: Every 1 to 2 weeks (or more often if you have acne-prone skin).

Why: Pillowcases collect oils from your hair and skin, along with dirt and dust. Frequent changes can help prevent breakouts.

BEDSHEETS:

Frequency: Every 1 to 2 weeks.

Why: Bedsheets accumulate dead skin cells, sweat, and dust mites. Changing them regularly promotes better sleep and prevents allergies.

Pillowcases:

Frequency: Every 1 to 2 weeks (or more often if you have acne-prone skin).

Why: Pillowcases collect oils from your hair and skin, along with dirt and dust. Frequent changes can help

prevent breakouts.

MAKEUP BRUSHES:

Frequency: Every 1 to 2 months.

Why: Makeup brushes collect product residue and bacteria. Frequent cleaning and replacement help prevent skin breakouts.

Contact Lens Case:

Frequency: Every 1 to 3 months.

Why: Contact lens cases can become contaminated with harmful microorganisms. Regular replacements reduce the risk of eye infections.

Maintaining good hygiene practices by changing towels, bedsheets, toothbrushes, and other personal items at the recommended intervals is crucial for your health and comfort. Regular changes prevent the accumulation of bacteria, allergens, and contaminants, ensuring that you stay clean, refreshed, and healthy.

5 tips for safer grocery shopping



(NC) Grocery shopping can be a hectic experience, rushing to pick up dinner for the night or walking through the aisles with your whole family in tow. It's also easy to get distracted by sales and samples.

But without the proper care and handling of food, you could be putting yourself and your family at risk of food-related illness, which is caused by

eating foods contaminated with bacteria like E. coli and salmonella. Most people recover completely, but some - such as pregnant women, children under five, older adults and those with weakened immune systems - can be affected more seriously.

Here are some quick tips for safer grocery shopping:

1. Buy cold or frozen food at the end of your trip.

2. Keep your raw meat, poultry, fish and seafood away from other food in your grocery cart.

3. Put packages of raw meat in separate plastic bags to keep juices from leaking onto other foods.

4. Examine fruits and vegetables carefully, and avoid buying items that are bruised or damaged.

5. If you use reusable grocery bags or bins, be sure to have a specific bag or bin for meat, poultry or seafood. Label each with the type of food it carries and wash it often, especially if you use it for carrying raw meat, poultry or seafood.

Find more information at canada.ca/foodsafety.

Nigerian Woman Nabbed For Criticizing Tomato Paste, FCCPC Summons Company

By N.Ugoh

Police authorities in Abuja have arrested a woman for criticizing

a tomato paste that she claimed was sugary.

A couple of weeks ago, the woman, whose Facebook name is Chio-

ma Egodi Jnr, posted that she went to the market to get her favourite tomato paste. But when she could not get it, she

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bought another one.

Chioma however claimed that the paste tasted sugary when she opened it. She, however, asked her followers to confirm if they had used the product.

She was later arrested and the Chief

Executive Officer of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), Babatunde Iruka, confirmed that the lady had been arrested over the comment.

While confirming the arrest, Iruka tweeted:

“UPDATE: @fccpcnigeria operatives have confirmed the arrest & transfer of the case to Abuja by the Police Force,” the FCCPC boss wrote on his X account Monday.

“She was no longer at the station on arrival. Working to determine the exact current location & engaging Force HQ in Abuja.”

Though the company had denied the woman's claim and labelled it as false, the FCCPC, said “summons are being issued” to the firm.



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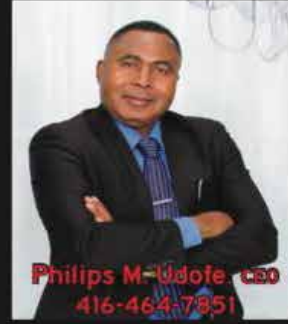
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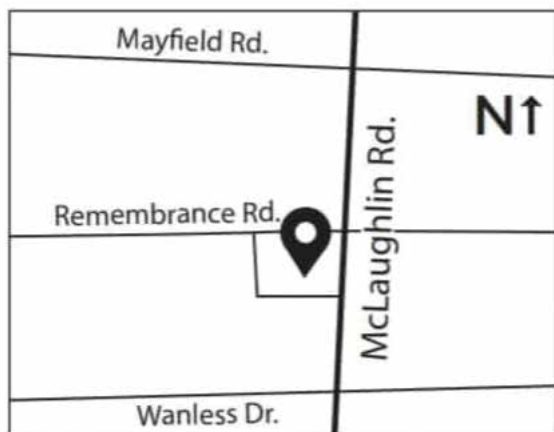


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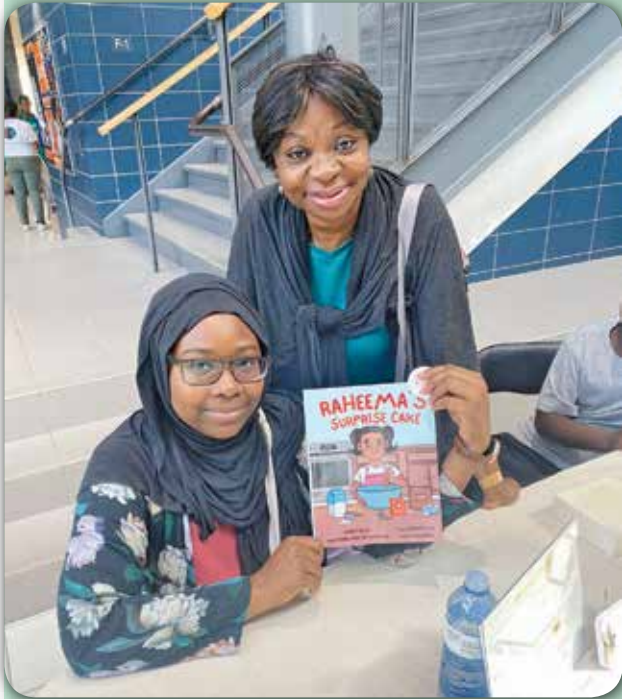
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A LITERARY EXTRAVAGANZA: SHOWCASING BLACK AUTHORS AND COMMUNITY IN BRAMPTON

Photos by NCNC



By N. Ugoh

On September 23rd, the PDSB Black Parent Advisory Steering Committee hosted a remarkable Black Books Fair at David Suzuki College in Brampton. This vibrant event served as a platform to showcase mostly new Black authors and their literary works, ranging from children's books to adulthood. We encour-

age you to patronize these budding authors to support their creative journey.

As the event unfolded, attendees were treated to a diverse array of community agencies, including reading clubs, empowerment programs, fitness initiatives, and more. This gathering truly represented the multi-faceted aspects of the Black community's engagement and growth.

In the spirit of celebrating the power of literature, we leave you with a timeless quote by Frederick Douglass: "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Let us continue to champion the joy and freedom found in the pages of books and the unity of our community. For further event information, please reach out to suzukiheartlake.bpa@peelsb.com.



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THE NUTRITIONAL POWERHOUSE: BENEFITS OF BEETS

By N.Ugoh

Beets, with their vibrant colors and earthy flavor, are not only a versatile addition to your culinary repertoire but also a nutritional powerhouse packed with numerous health benefits. Here are some of the remarkable advantages of including beets in your diet: **Rich in Nutrients:** Beets are an excellent source of essential vitamins and minerals, including folate, manganese, potassium, and vitamin C. These nutrients play crucial roles in maintaining overall health, supporting the immune system, and regulating blood pressure.

Heart Health: The natural nitrates found in beets can help improve blood flow and lower blood pressure. Consuming beets regularly may contribute to a reduced risk of heart disease and stroke.

Improved Athletic Performance: Some studies suggest that beet juice, thanks to its nitrate content, may enhance endurance and exercise performance. Athletes often include beets in their pre-workout routines to boost stamina.

Brain Health: Beets are a good source of antioxidants and nitrates that can improve blood flow to the brain. This may lead to better cognitive function and possibly a reduced risk

of age-related cognitive decline.

Digestive Health: Beets are high in dietary fiber, promoting healthy digestion and regular bowel movements. They can also support gut health by providing essential nutrients for beneficial gut bacteria.

Detoxification: Beets contain compounds like betalains, which support the body's natural detoxification processes. They help eliminate harmful toxins and reduce inflammation.

Anti-Inflammatory Properties: Beets have anti-inflammatory properties attributed to betalains. Including beets in your diet may help reduce the risk of

chronic diseases associated with inflammation.

Weight Management: Beets are relatively low in calories but high in fiber, making them a satisfying addition to meals. Their natural sweetness can also curb sugar cravings.

Skin Health: The antioxidants in beets may

contribute to healthier skin by combating free radicals and supporting collagen production. This can result in a more youthful complexion.

Versatile in the Kitchen: Beets can be prepared in various ways, from roasting and boiling to juicing and blending into smoothies. Their versatility

makes it easy to incorporate them into your diet.

Incorporating beets into your meals can be a delicious way to reap these numerous health benefits. Whether you enjoy them roasted, in a salad, or as a refreshing juice, beets are a natural source of nutrition that can contribute to your overall well-being.

BILL C-22 WILL PROVIDE INCOME SECURITY TO CANADIANS... – PAGE 8

is whether the Canada Disability Benefit will replace, complement or be integrated into the disability tax credit. The maximum impact of a refundable Canada Disability Benefit can only be achieved if the disability tax credit is eliminated.

A balancing act

Any refundable credit involves a trade-off between its maximum benefit and the rate at which benefits are reduced as family income rises. The Guaranteed Income Supplement reduces its payment by 50 cents for every dollar of income, ensuring the benefit primarily goes

to seniors in lower-income families.

For example, if a senior and their spouse have an income above \$27,984 (assuming the spouse receives a full Old Age Security pension), no benefit is paid. In contrast, the Canada Child Benefit has benefit reduction rates

between three and 23 per cent and provides benefits to families with incomes as high as \$200,000.

If the Canada Disability Benefit were to replace the disability tax credit while attempting to maintain most of the benefits currently available to higher income families, it

would need to adopt low benefit reduction rates similar to the Canada Child Benefit.

However, this design choice would result in limited income security for the poorest Canadians with disabilities or a substantially more expensive program. Taking Bill C-22

at its word, the Canada Disability Benefit should provide a large maximum benefit with reduction rates of one-third or more to make sure the target is those with disabilities who are poor and economically insecure.

SOURCE: <https://hr-lawcanada.com/>

FAMILY IN COURT OVER ASSETS OF LATE ARMY FINANCE CHIEF – PAGE 8

Arunlogun area, Oyo.

Block V, Plot 98, New Government Reservation Area, Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo.

Plot 55, Phase 1, Stage III, Ajoda New Town Corporation, Ibadan, Oyo.

A storey building at 16, Awolowo Avenue, Bodija, Ibadan, Oyo.

The vehicles included in the dispute are:

Toyota Avalon 2013 (bulletproof).

Lexus LX 570 2013 (bulletproof).

Ford Explorer 2013 SUV.

Toyota Hiace 14-seater hummer bus. 2015 Ford truck.

One Toyota Corolla. Arotiowa and Njikonye emphasize that the upper area court has assumed jurisdiction and control over these properties until the legal proceedings are concluded.

They issue a stern warning to the general public, advising against

engaging in any transactions related to these assets, as it carries inherent risks.

Before his voluntary retirement after a distinguished 35-year career as a Major General in the Nigerian Army, Abdullahi Muraina held various significant roles. His achievements

include being decorated with numerous honors, such as Forces Service (FSS), Meritorious Service Star (MSS), Distinguished Service Star (DSS), and Grand Service Star (GSS). He was also a recipient of the General Service Medal of Honor, Command Medal of Hon-

or, and Field Command Medal of Honor, among others.

Beyond his military career, the former army officer served as the President of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) and was a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria.

VISIONARY MAN

HOW MY PERSONAL PAINFUL EXPERIENCE LED ME TO BUILD CANADA'S ONLY BLACK-LED, BIPOC FOCUSED DIGITAL BANK – KINGSLEY MADU



Kingsley Madu

By Stanley Ugagbe

Currently one of the men of the moment and the future, **Kingsley Madu** is the founder of Expedier, Canada's only black-led, BIPOC focused Financial institution that is providing services that enable users get local and international bank accounts, Cards, Bill payments, Mortgages and Insurance, all in one app.

In this riveting interview with **Stanley Ugagbe** of The Nigerian Canadian Newspaper, Canada, Madu shared insight on what inspired him to establish the company, the journey so far and what users should expect in the future.

NCCN: CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT GROWING UP, PERSONAL LIFE AND WHY YOU LEFT NIGERIA?

Madu: Right from early childhood, I have always been a curious adventurer and always

attempting to solve big problems. I had always felt I could do more than was asked of me, because I was very small statured as a child. My mantra has always been: If you see a problem, fix it! And if you believe you can, you will.

NCNC: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPED WHO YOU ARE TODAY?

Madu: I remember struggling with learning how to ride a bike. I would fall, bruise, but kept trying. Later on, I met this younger kid, who was a couple years younger than me, and he scolded me for not being able to, since he could (haha). I did not believe him, so I offered him my bike, only for him to ride so graciously, it blew the lid off my mind!. Since that day forward, not only did I begin riding my bike, I also began treating life with that approach. I believe I can, and so I can.

NCNC: YOU NOTED THAT EXPEDIER WAS BORNE FROM YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND PAIN. CAN YOU SHARE THIS EXPERIENCE AND HOW IT INFLUENCED YOU INTO FOUNDING THE COMPANY?

Madu: When I immigrated to Canada, I had a painful but funny experience now that I look back at it. For the first time, on arrival, my ride hailing app would not work, because the app suddenly required a local Canadian card. So I struggled to leave the airport. When I finally managed to get out of the airport and to my hotel, I was told my reservation would not be honored because I did not have a local Canadian Credit Card. For similar reasons, I could not rent a car or a house. The final straw was when banks would not open an account for me, because, as you can guess, I did not have a home address. I considered leaving Canada at that point. But somehow, I persevered and then turned that painful experience into a solution for millions of users – hence the birth of Expedier.

NCNC: WHEN WAS THE COMPANY FOUNDED AND HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE JOURNEY SO FAR?

Madu: I have always been entrepreneurial,

having founded 3 startups previously. Expedier, my fourth startup was incorporated in 2020, although I started working on the idea as far back as 2018. The first few years were especially tough, mostly because of systemic barriers. We struggled pretty much with everything. We built and launched Expedier when I had no job. We worked hard, despite all the odds. Today, we are grateful to be seeing the recognition of our hard work.

NCNC: THERE ARE OVER 200 BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTES IN CANADA AND THERE ARE ALMOST 2 MILLION BLACKS IN CANADA, BUT EXPEDIER IS THE ONLY BLACK LED BIPOC FOCUSED DIGITAL BANK IN CANADA. HOW DOES BEING THE BRAIN BEHIND THIS RECORD BREAKING FEAT MAKE YOU FEEL? AND FOR YOU, ARE THERE MORE TO COME OR THIS IS THE ONE BREAKTHROUGH THAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO ACHIEVE?

Madu: Great Question! So technically, we are not a bank yet – in the traditional sense of the word. We provide tailored banking services through our banking partners, while at the same applying for our own banking license! Yes, we will soon get our

license, and that is the big deal. At the moment, we are Canada's only black-led, BIPOC focused Financial institution that is providing the kind of services that meets and exceeds our needs as a niche demographic.

With Expedier, users get local and international bank accounts, Cards, Bill payments, Mortgages and Insurance, all in one app. And to your point, for sure, there is more to come! A lot more to come. We have only begun.

NCNC: EXPEDIER WAS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED AS A TOP 12 FINTECH BY PLATFORM CALGARY, A PLATFORM THAT HELPS GROWING FINTECH STARTUPS ELEVATE THEIR BUSINESS, MAKE CONNECTIONS AND SCALE THEIR OPERATIONS. HOW WAS IT, EMBARKING ON THE INTENSIVE SIX-WEEK WORKSHOP SERIES AMONG 24 OTHER COMPANIES AND HOW DID EMERGING TOP 12 MAKE YOU FEEL?

Madu: It made us feel humble. Platform Calgary essentially unveiled us from stealth and made the world recognise us. Following that, we got accepted by Google into the Google for Black Funders Accelerator. We are super excited to be backed by Google! Being backed by Google right after Platform Calgary gave us instant validation. But

there is more to come, so we remain humble and hungry.

NCNC: AS A BLACK PERSON RUNNING A BUSINESS IN A FOREIGN LAND, WHAT ARE THE PECULIAR CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHILE DOING YOUR BUSINESS?

Madu: The same personal problems that birthed Expedier, but only on a larger scale. Inclusion. Validation. Access to funds. You will just have to be super strong hearted.

NCNC: PLEASE TELL US ABOUT WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED AND FOCUSED ON YOUR BUSINESS DESPITE THE INEVITABLE ODDS THAT COME WITH THIS LINE OF BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY AS A BLACK PERSON IN A FOREIGN LAND?

Madu: Personally, my joy comes from user reviews, validation and feedback. Hearing how we are solving problems for our customers, in a fashion, scale and ease they never expected, just keeps me going. It's a bigger blessing to be a blessing.

NCNC: DO YOU SEE A POSSIBILITY OF RELOCATING TO LIVE IN NIGERIA SOMEDAY?

Madu: I am Nigerian and will always be Nigerian. I am super proud of my country.

WHAT INSPIRED ME TO WRITE "30 DAYS IN THE WORD" – SHARNA KNOWLES



By Stanley Ugagbe

Born and raised in East Kingston Jamaica and

migrated to Canada at the age of 19 years of age, Sharna Knowles is the author who has penned the powerful devotional book,

"30 Days in the Word." It is a daily devotional with 30 affirmations filled with wisdom and insights to uplift and nourish the soul. Additionally, she co-authored the International Bestseller "Leaders with Impact," where she wrote about the "Life of Victory."

But that's not all—she also brings the transformative experience directly to you through conferences, camps, encounters, and workshops tailored specifically for youths and women. With

her engaging speaking style and interactive sessions, she creates a safe and empowering space for personal growth and empowerment.

Wife, mother, humanitarian, visionary, a woman of Solid Faith with Action in God and a true prayer warrior.

In this interview, she shared insight on what inspired her to write 30 Days in the Word. She also shed light on what the readers stand to gain from devouring the book.

NCNC: CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE "30 DAYS IN THE WORD"?

Knowles: This book was inspired by the Holy Spirit himself.

NCNC: WHAT IS THE MAIN MESSAGE OR THEME YOU WANT READERS TO TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR BOOK?

Knowles The main

message of "30 Days in the Word Daily Devotional" is to encourage readers to engage with the Scriptures on a daily basis, fostering a deeper understanding of God's word and cultivating a meaningful spiritual practice. Through this devotional, readers are guided to reflect, meditate, and apply biblical teachings to their lives, ultimately nurturing their faith and relationship with God.

continued on p(25)

ENTERTAINMENT

SEYI AWOLOWO CRIES AS HE APOLOGIZES FOR HIS COMMENTS IN BIG BROTHER HOUSE



Seyi Awolowo

By N.Ugoh

Seyi Awolowo, the recently evicted Big Brother Naija housemate, has apologized for the foul words he uttered while in Big Brother Naija house.

The BBNaija star brewed controversy after making some foul remarks, one of which suggested what his sons would do to other people's daughters.

Also, he made multiple threats on the show, including one to his Kiddwaya,

which made Kiddwaya's mother threaten to drag him to court.

During a post-eviction interview with Ebuka Obi-Uchendu, he was asked if he had any comments for Nigerians who were stunned by his language and behaviour on the show.

He became emotional and remorseful while answering the question as tears ran down his cheeks. He apologized by saying all he had to say at the moment was just that he's sorry.

WHITEMONEY: MY TEAM BETRAYED ME, SOLD MY VOTES – WHITEMONEY



Hazel Oyeze Onou

By N.Ugoh

Recently evicted Big Brother Naija All Stars housemate, Hazel Oyeze Onou, popularly known as Whitemoney, has disclosed that his team betrayed him while he was in the Big Brother House.

In a recent interview with media personality, Hero Daniels, Whitemoney disclosed that his teams sold his votes.

He said: "I was dealing with a lot of pressure.

Things were happening to me. My page was hacked, and my votes were sold by my team.

"I knew I was not going to win. I already knew that the winner for this edition would be a woman, but I was prepared to get to the last stage of the competition, which I did. I got to the eighth week.

"When I came out, I saw that people who I trusted did me dirty, hacked my page, and demanded \$10,000 ransom."

TENI: MY FATHER WAS ASSASSINATED IN MY PRESENCE



Teniola Apata

By N.Ugoh

Popular Nigerian singer, Teniola Apata, aka Teni Makanaki, has said that her father, late Brigadier Gen. Simeon Apata (retd.) was assassinated in her presence and that greatly affected her.

While speaking in a recent interview with media personality Taymesan, Teni revealed that she was two years old when gunmen invaded their Lagos home and murdered her father in the presence of the family.

She stated further that this affected her grow-

ing up as she has since developed trust issues.

Teni said: "Growing up with my father passing at such a young age, the trauma of losing my father at a young age affected me.

"You know, him being assassinated in the presence of all of us and all that stuff. I was 2 at the time.

"Him passing away robbed me of a father figure. It sort of made me have trust issues growing up. Because they [gunmen] came into our house purposely to kill him."

Late Brig. Gen. Simeon Apata (retd.), was assassinated on January 8, 1995.

GOODBYE

Britain's Got Talent's Director Of Production, Dean Jones, Died At 56



Dean Jones

Visit www.nigeriancanadiannews.ca for the full article

Nigeria Police to investigate singer Mohbad's death



By N.Ugoh

The Nigeria Police Force has promised to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the death of singer Ile-

rioluwa Oladimeji Aloba, also known as Mohbad.

The 27-year-old singer died recently and has been buried.

The Nigeria Police Force has promised to undertake a comprehen-

KANAYO O. KANAYO: NOLLYWOOD NOT A PLATFORM FOR BBL, S3X WORKERS, GAYS

By N.Ugoh



Kanayo O. Kanayo

Famous Nollywood actor, Kanayo O. Kanayo, has revealed that the movie industry shouldn't be a place or an opening for Brazilian Butt Lift (BBL), sex workers and gays.

He said the Nigerian motion picture industry must be a ground for creativity.

During an interview with Afia TV, the actor also said the movie industry should not be a playing ground for amateurs, but rather, a ground for talented professionals.

He however stressed that everybody is welcome to join the movie industry and added that they should make sure they've "calling for acting".

He said: "Nollywood should not be a ground for BBL; bum bum enlargement. Nollywood should not be a ground for people doing runs. Nollywood should not be a ground where people's dollars are stolen in hotels. All these Nollywood girls, it is not a ground for gay or lesbianism.

"It is a ground for creativity. Nollywood is not a ground for learning how to act. Many people come to Nollywood to learn how to act. You are supposed to come to the industry to better and hone your talent. Many girls after hearing Genevieve Nnaji is a millionaire, Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde is a billionaire, would go and borrow wigs and come to the movie industry deceiving themselves.

"We all have different sectors. Everybody is welcome but the fact is, find out whether you have a calling for acting. That your neighbour says you

know how to act, doesn't mean you are an actor. You need some element of education to come to Nollywood.

"It doesn't really matter if you studied medicine and you want to act. But for goodness sake, don't come to it because you are struggling; your business stopped booming. Because most people, once their businesses crumble, they join acting. No na. For you to be a medical doctor, you need to have put in seven years. I put in six years to become a lawyer. So, why do you think you would just come and say you want to act?"

"These days, you know what happens? If you're a girl, whether you are fine or not. And you have a jeep SUV, filmmakers will ask you to become an actress because they want to use your car non-stop in that movie and another movie. They will give you one role to play.

"People are bragging about the industry because some want to sell sex, some want to sell their body, some want to do this and so on. And it's not healthy for the industry. But everyone is welcome. But Instagram Stars are the ones who are giving the industry a bad name. And I don't want anybody to join them because they've a little time and they'll fade out."

sive investigation into the death of singer Ile-rioluwa Oladimeji Aloba, also known as Mohbad.

The 27-year-old singer died recently and has been buried.

"The Nigeria Police Force is committed to a comprehensive investigation into this matter, as the Lagos State Commissioner of Police has been tasked to unravel the circumstances surrounding his death. Rest assured, updates will be provided as investiga-

tions unfold.

"We encourage family members or close associates with valuable information to approach the Lagos State Commissioner of Police to assist in the process.

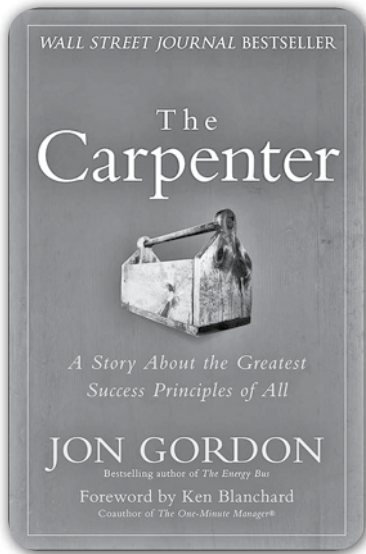
"In the meantime, we kindly request that individuals refrain from making statements or engaging in activities that could jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

"Your trust and support are deeply valued."

BOOKS

"Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people – people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book." - E.B. White

The Carpenter: A Story About the Greatest Success Strategies of All Hardcover



By Jon Gordon

Michael awakens in a hospital room, a bandage adorning his head, and a profound sense of unease in his heart. The relentless pressures of building a thriving business alongside his wife, Sarah, have taken a toll on his health, leading to a harrowing collapse during a routine morning jog. However, fate has a surprising twist in store for Michael when he discovers that the man who rescued him is not just a Carpenter by trade but a master builder of lives, careers, individuals, and teams.

As Michael seeks the Carpenter's guidance, he embarks on a journey to salvage his imperiled business, facing adversity, rejection, fear, and failure along the way. Through their interactions, he uncovers the timeless principles that are the bedrock of enduring success. Michael discovers that while there may be no such thing as instant success, there are enduring principles that can empower you to distinguish yourself, excel, and leave a lasting impact on both people and the world.

Drawing upon Jon Gordon's extensive experience working with leaders, sales professionals, college and professional sports teams, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions, "The Carpenter" delivers a captivating and enlightening narrative that will kindle your motivation to construct a superior life, career, and team by harnessing the most potent success strategies of all.

The Dutch House: A Read with Jenna Pick: A Summer Beach Read

By Ann Patchett

"The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett is a powerful novel that explores the enduring bond between two siblings and the impact of a grand house from their childhood.

The story revolves around Cyril Conroy, who, after World War II, builds a real estate empire and buys the opulent Dutch House as a surprise for his wife, setting in motion a series of events that unravel his family.

The narrative is presented by Cyril's son, Danny, and his sharp-witted sister, Maeve, who are ousted from the house by their stepmother, plunging them back into poverty.

The story spans five decades and delves into themes of inheritance, love, forgiveness, and self-identity, highlighting the unbreakable connection between Danny and Maeve as they navigate the challenges of their past and confront those who left them behind.

Wilderness Survival Guide for Kids: How to Build a Fire, Perform First Aid, Build Shelter, Forage for Food, Find Water, and Everything Else You Need to Know to Survive in the Outdoors

By Rick Bayne

It is a practical guide aimed at children, offering essential skills and knowledge for safely navigating the wilderness and handling challenging situations. Here are the key points from the book:

It provides basic techniques and strategies for children to navigate and survive in potentially dangerous wilderness situations. It acknowledges that being a kid comes with its own set of challenges, and it's important to equip young readers with the skills to handle these challenges effectively. The book emphasizes the value of con-

101 Things Every Boy Needs To Know: Important Life Advice for Teenage Boys!



By Jamie Myers

It is a resourceful guide aimed at teenage boys, providing essential life advice and valuable insights into navigating the challenges of boyhood and preparing for adulthood. Here are the key points from the book:

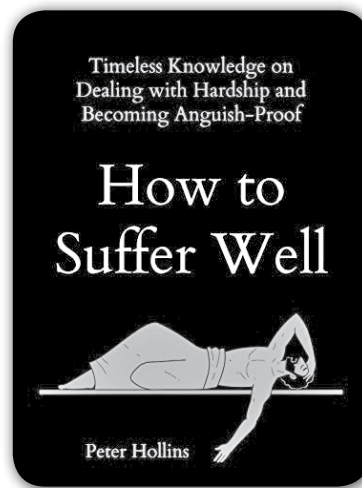
The book acknowledges that being a boy can be challenging and often misunderstood, offering teenage boys a valuable resource to help them navigate this phase of life. It emphasizes the importance of self-awareness and self-acceptance, encouraging readers to accept themselves for who they are. The book guides young men on building respectful and wholesome relationships with others, emphasizing the importance of healthy connections in life.

Readers are encouraged to set themselves on a path to success, helping them envision and work towards their desired future. The book offers advice on coping with life's changes and challenges as they arise, teaching resilience. It provides insights into building stronger relationships with siblings, parents, and grandparents, recognizing the importance of family

continuous learning and personal growth, encouraging young readers to become wiser and more capable with each passing day.

It addresses the issue of information overload by offering a comprehensive and

How to Suffer Well: Timeless Knowledge on Dealing with Hardship and Becoming Anguish-Proof



By Peter Hollins

The book highlights the idea that emotional, mental, and physical discomfort can be trained and that individuals can develop resilience to suffering. It encourages readers to replace negative inner voices with those that provide reassurance, reminding them that tough times will pass, and life will continue positively.

Hollins suggests that suffering can be mastered through teachable skills, helping individuals become more composed and serene. It also aims to help readers increase their mental pain tolerance to extraordinary levels, making them more resilient in the face of adversity.

The author, draws on his extensive knowledge in psychology and peak human performance to provide insights into overcoming suffering. He has a background in coaching and research and has worked with individuals to unlock their potential. Readers are encouraged to broaden their comfort zones and develop mental fortitude to ensure lasting happiness.

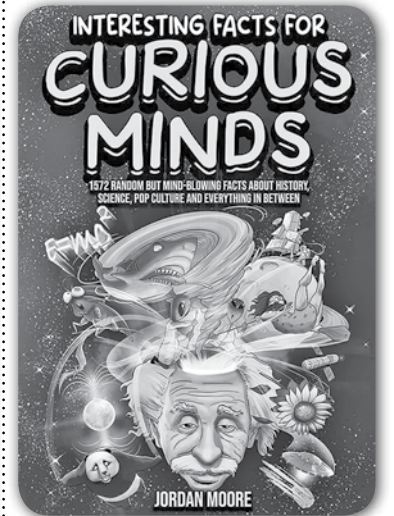
The book provides practical strategies to defend against negativity, manage expectations, and cope

bonds.

101 Things Every Boy Needs To Know serves as a valuable resource for young men as they transition from adolescence to adulthood, offering

reliable source of survival knowledge tailored specifically for children. Readers will learn about various survival topics, including how to stay safe, seek help when lost, defend themselves, build a fire, and handle encounters with

Interesting Facts For Curious Minds: 1572 Random But Mind-Blowing Facts About History, Science, Pop Culture And Everything In Between



By Jordan Moore

The book covers a vast array of topics, including history, science, pop culture, and more, providing readers with a rich mix of information. It presents intriguing questions and answers them with interesting facts, sparking curiosity and encouraging readers to think about the world around them.

The book is ideal for sharing with friends and family, whether you want to impress them with unique facts or simply enjoy a good conversation starter. It serves as a valuable tool for passing the time, relaxing alone, or connecting with others while learning intriguing facts.

"Interesting Facts For Curious Minds" is a book that combines entertainment and education, making it a delightful read for those who enjoy uncovering the mysteries and wonders of the world through interesting and mind-blowing facts.

with factors beyond one's control. It teaches the importance of living in the present moment, unburdened by past regrets or anxieties about the future.

guidance, wisdom, and practical advice to help them become the best versions of themselves. It encourages self-reflection, self-improvement, and a positive outlook on the journey ahead.

animals. The book aims to make young readers feel more prepared and confident in facing unexpected situations, allowing them to impress their parents with their newfound knowledge of safety and survival.

SOURCE: AMAZON.COM
BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE TORONTO & MISSISSAUGA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

YOUTH CORNER

..... Oluchi Ugoh

“YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR PRESENCE MORE THAN YOUR PRESENTS”. – JESSE JACKSON



Laugh! Live! Bloom!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

WORD QUIZ

How knowledgeable are you?

- Which is a synonym of intuitive? (a) perceptive (b) sincere (c) open hearted (d) close hearted
- Which is the synonym of gall? (a) shame (b) deceit (c) courtesy (d) nerve
- Which is the synonym of flaccid? (a) limp (b) neat
- Which is the synonym of enmity? (a) Intelligence (b) hostility (c) battle (d) love
- Which is the synonym of ensue? (a) start (b) offer (c) follow (d) shut
- Which is a synonym of (c) smooth (d) meaningful
- Which is a synonym of intrigue? (a) expectation (b) interest (c) hope (d) faith
- Which is a synonym of insurrection? (a) hatred (b) rebellion (c) crisis (d) revival
- WHICH IS A SYNONYM OF FRAY? (a) music (b) crowd (c) motion (d) brawl

ANSWERS ON P(25)

BRAIN GAMES

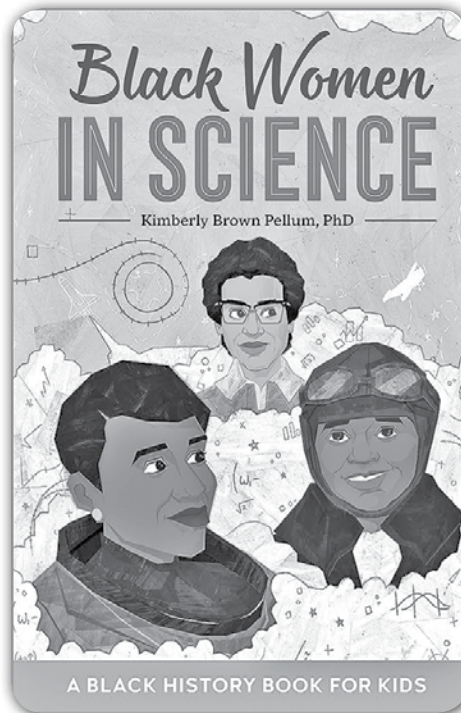
WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG. CIRCLE THE ITEM THAT DOESN'T BELONG WITH THE OTHERS.

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| ARIZONA | CARDINALS | MIAMI | DOLPHINS |
| SEATTLE | SEAHAWKS | PHILADELPHIA | PHILLIES |

ANSWERS ON P(25)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Black Women in Science: A Black History Book for Kids Paperback



Learn about amazing Black women in STEM—15 fascinating science biographies for kids 9 to 12

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

GOOD HABITS FORMED AT YOUTH MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE - ARISTOTLE

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Which letter replaces the question mark?

Sample:

Now can you answer the following?

(1)

(a) 4 (b) 7 (c) 5 (d) 8

(2)

(a) 6 (b) 10 (c) 4 (d) 0

(3)

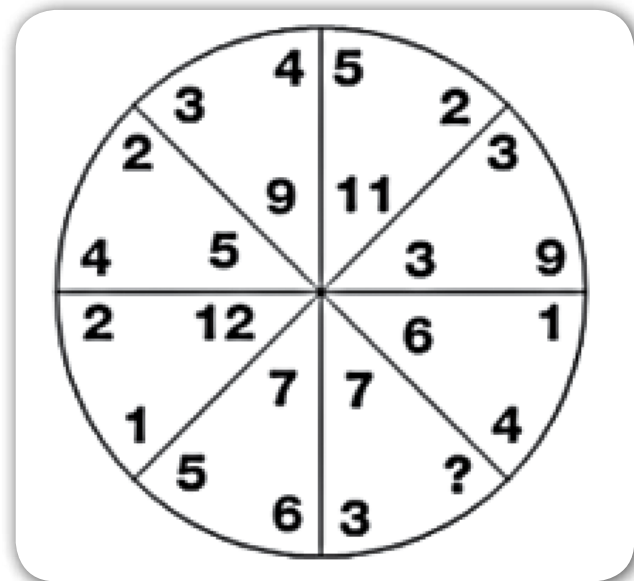
(a) 9 (b) 7 (c) 5 (d) 2

(4)

(a) 4 (b) 11 (c) 0 (d) 8

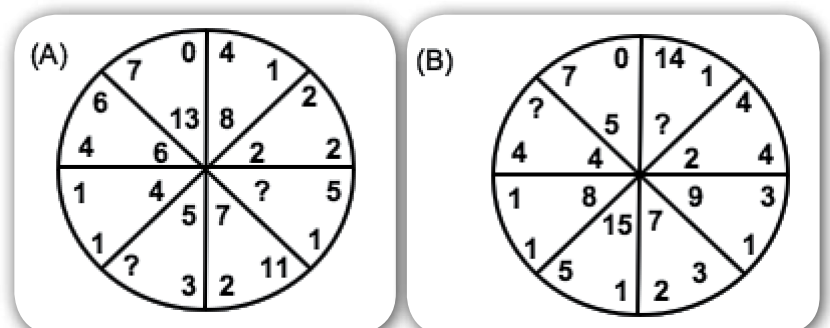
ANSWERS ON P(25)

FIND THE MISSING NUMBER REPRESENTED BY A QUESTION MARK



ANSWERS ON P(25)

Now using the example above. Find the values represented by question marks



ANSWERS ON P(25)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EU TO INVEST €6.5M IN NIGER DELTA

By N.Ugoh

The European Union (EU) has announced that it is mobilizing €6.5m for investment in Niger Delta communities "to transform criminality and violence in the Niger Delta into opportunities."

This announcement was made by EU's Head, Cooperation, Ruben Alba Aguilera, recently in Abuja when he led a delegation to the Minister of Niger Delta,

Abubakar Momoh.

While making the announcement, Aguilera said: "We've been investing in the region for a long time. We're very much encouraged by the plans, vision and the leadership that the Ministry and the new government is putting in place."

While responding, Momoh said the government had a lot of projects and programmes ongoing in the Niger Delta to tackle restiveness there.

GRENADA TAKES BOLD STEP TOWARDS GENDER PAY EQUITY



By Stanley Ugagbe

The government of Grenada has announced a groundbreaking move that will put an end to wage disparity based on gender. Starting from January 1, 2024, the nation will implement a compensation method for both public and private sector workers that ensures equal pay for equal work regardless of gender. Additionally, Grenada will enforce a minimum livable wage, marking a significant milestone in the country's commitment to workers' rights and gender equality.

Claudette Joseph, the Minister of Labour, emphasized the importance of eliminating gender-based wage disparities, particularly in sectors such as agriculture. She stated, "As most of us will know, we have a disparity between male and

female workers in certain sectors, particularly the agriculture sector, and the recommendation is that it should be a thing of the past as we move towards greater equality among our workers."

This progressive step comes after the National Democratic Congress assumed office in June 2022. Within three months of taking office, a committee was established in accordance with the 1999 Employment Act, Section 51, to review minimum wages in both the public and private sectors. The law mandates periodic reviews of minimum wage schedules, at least once every three years, by the Wages Advisory Committee to ensure that the minimum wage rates stay current. The last review of the law, which covers 14 categories of workers, took place in 2011.

Minister Joseph disclosed that the commit-

JOE BIDEN APPOINTS TWO NIGERIAN-AMERICANS AS ADVISERS



By Bunmi Akintilo

United States President Joe Biden has appointed two Nigerian-Americans as advisers.

The appointees are Osagie Imasogie and Chinenye Ogwumike. They are part of the 12 members of the President's Advisory Council

on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States, the White House revealed on the official White House website.

While talking about the appointment, Chairperson of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Abike Dabiri-Erewa, said their appointment into the 12-member advisory

council is a welcome development and it is motivation for other Nigerians.

In a statement issued by the commission's spokesman, Abdur-Rahman Balogun, she said: "The nomination of the two great Nigerians into the advisory council is a welcome development."

Chinenye Ogwumike, a two-time WNBA All-Star for the Los Angeles Sparks and a full-time, multi-platform ESPN commentator cum NBA analyst, was the 2014 WNBA Rookie of the Year and is a two-time WNBA All-Star (2014, 2018).

She is proudly Nigerian-American that graduated from Stanford University with an International Relations degree under Dr. Condoleezza Rice's mentorship.

She became the

first Black woman to host a national daily sports-talk radio show in August 2020.

As a 2021 Forbes 30 under 30 honoree, she also holds the title of Executive Producer, producing an ESPN Films documentary "144" on the 2020 WNBA season.

Osagie Imasogie is the Chairman of the Investment Bank and SEC/FINRA registered Broker-Dealer, Quoin Capital and Quoin Advisors.

Also, Imasogie is a co-founder of PIPV Capital, a private equity firm that is focused on the life sciences vertical and has invested over \$1 billion into that industry.

Imasogie holds LLM degrees from the London School of Economics and the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

SON OF OUSTED GABON LEADER, ALI BONGO, FACES CHARGES OF TREASON AND CORRUPTION

By Stanley Ugagbe

Noureddin Bongo Valentin, the son of former Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba, along with several associates of the deposed president, has been charged with high treason and corruption and placed in custody, according to the state prosecutor's announcement reported by AFP.

In addition to Noureddin Bongo Valentin, Jessye Ella Ekogha, the former presidential spokesman, and four other individuals with close ties to the former

president have also been charged and are now in provisional detention. These charges mark a significant development in the political landscape of Gabon.

Ali Bongo Ondimba, who had governed the oil-rich central African nation since 2009, was removed from power on August 30 by military leaders shortly after being declared the winner in a presidential election. The election's legitimacy had been widely contested by the opposition, and the military coup leaders accused Bongo's regime of widespread corruption



and poor governance.

On the same day as the coup, soldiers arrested one of Bongo's sons, five high-ranking cabinet officials, and his wife, Sylvia Bongo Valentin. National television aired footage of the individuals in custody, alongside images of suitcases purportedly filled with confiscated

cash found in their residences.

This series of events has brought about a significant shift in Gabon's political landscape, with the charges against Noureddin Bongo Valentin and others raising questions about the future of governance and political stability in the country.

tee's findings and recommendations have been presented to the cabinet of ministers. After thorough deliberation, it was unanimously agreed that there should be a second and final round of consultations before the recommendations are enforced.

Among the recommendations put forth by the Committee, chaired by Dr. Curland Gilchrist, is an increase in wag-

es for all categories of workers. One of the key highlights from the final report is the proposal to equalize the minimum wage across genders, effectively ending the historic wage gap that has persisted for years.

"With the agreement of Cabinet, the Committee has embarked on a second round of consultation having made its recommendations to cabinet

with the intent that these recommendations will come into effect on January 1," Minister Joseph said.

"Some of the highlights coming out of the final report are deviations from the current minimum wage structure and includes a recommendation to equalise the minimum wage across gender," she added.

This move by Gre-

nada demonstrates a commitment to social justice, gender equality, and the well-being of its workforce. By implementing equal pay for equal work and establishing a minimum livable wage, Grenada is setting an example for nations around the world to follow in the pursuit of fair and equitable labor practices.

More than 25% of Guyana's budget goes to corruption – Norton

By N.Ugoh

Guyana's leader of the Peoples National Congress Reform (PNCR) and Opposition, Aubrey C. Norton has accused President Mohamed Irfaan Ali of divisive leadership, nepotism, corruption and incompetence.

The leader made the remark on 17th September in Toronto, Canada at a Town Hall Meeting at the Tropicana Community Services, a forum he described as an opportunity for attendees to reminisce on old times, rub minds and share insight on the future.

Addressing Guyanese and non-Guyanese that were present at the Town Hall meeting, Norton averred that the current Ali-led tenure is a corruption-infested administration.

He alleged that more than 25% of the nation's budget goes to corruption. The PNCR boss stated that the nation has the resources to improve the lives of the people but because of mismanagement, divisiveness and corruption, there is suffering in the land.

Norton continued that "In Guyana today, the government allows no competition, everything the government does undermine democracy," vowing that "we can't allow what is happening in the nation to continue".

In his words, a government that marginalizes a large section of the country is not fit to govern the nation.

According to him, 71% of the government's contracts goes to the People's Progressive Party, friends, fans and favorites "and that is unacceptable". He further revealed that another 19% goes to foreigners.

He promised that if he is elected as the nation's leader in the coming election, "We will put the interest of our people first and the goal will be to put resources in the hands of the majority of the people".

Norton was applauded by the audience when he said "we can't continue to make the rich richer and the poor poorer".

The opposition leader expressed worry that the current government does not seem to have interest in developing human resources. "The government continues to destroy the professional competence in Guyana. We need to return Guyana to democracy where people get jobs based on merit".

While promising that a new government in future will serve all the people of Guyana, he stated that the people of Guyana are entitled to free education.

On his part, MP Ganesh Mahipaul who bemoaned the government's divisiveness and nepotism, urged the attendees of the meeting not to be distracted by propaganda

aimed at degrading the PNCR.

"Fundamental mental problem that I have with the People's Progressive Party is that they are not focusing on the needs of the Guyanese. Cost of living is sky high in the nation," he said.

"As a government, one would expect that they would invest in the ordinary people and they would have used the oil resource that we have now to focus on Education, health delivery, agriculture and public works

"Instead we have a cabal that focuses on friends, families and favorites and they are enriching themselves and that is something that we have constantly fought against".

He suggested that "if Guyana is to grow; we have to focus on our ordinary hardworking tax paying Guyanese"

Mahipaul expressed sadness that "My country is not one Guyana, what we have is a one sided Guyana with the only people who are associated with the PPP getting a piece of the party and they fail to honor the constitution of the country".

In his words, the constitution is clear that anybody can associate with any political party or any organization of their choice and people must be respected for their choice

"I am a proud member of People's National Congress Reform. I associate myself with the party because it is the most democratic political party in my country. It is a political party that allows us to gather like this, it allows us to speak our mind, say what we feel but it also allows us to be respectable to each other, respect the opinions of others, and it stands solidly on the grounds of democracy," Mahipaul said.

He noted that if you compare the short time his party spent in office to the "23 years the PPP spent in office, 1992 to 2015, they have not done what we did for our ordinary hardworking people, they did not lift the standard of living, they did not promote social cohesion, they did not bring Guyana together, and bringing the nation together is where our strength lies".

Mahipaul promised that the PNCR will always be about equity and equality for all Guyanese. "Do not be distracted, a lot of information peddling is being done in an attempt to degrade the PNCR...the party has respect for the constitution".

He alleged that the ruling party wants him to join them "but I do not want to become part of a cabal that practices corruption at all fronts, that doesn't respect the other side and doesn't recognize that the resources of the country belongs to every single Guyanese".

Former Rwandan Official Arrested and Charged in France for Involvement in 1994 Genocide



Pierre Kayondo

By Stanley Ugagbe

France has taken a significant step towards addressing its historical involvement in the 1994 Rwandan genocide by arresting and charging Pierre Kayondo, a former high-ranking Rwandan regional official, a source said.

Kayondo, who previously served as the prefect of the Kibuye region and held a position as a former Member of Parliament, was recently apprehended and subsequently charged with complicity in genocide and crimes

against humanity. He has been remanded in custody.

This development stems from an ongoing investigation in France that began in 2021 after a victims' association filed a formal complaint against Kayondo. The investigation uncovered allegations of his involvement in the horrific events of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

It is believed that Kayondo had been residing in the northern port city of Le Havre, France, prior to his arrest. France has, for years, been a preferred destination for individuals seeking refuge from international justice related to their roles in the genocide, during which an estimated 800,000 people, primarily of the Tutsi ethnic group, lost their lives in just 100 days.

Bilateral relations

between Rwanda and France have been strained due to France's perceived reluctance to actively pursue and extradite genocide suspects. In the past, Rwanda, led by President Paul Kagame, accused Paris of not doing enough to bring perpetrators to justice. Additionally, suspicions existed regarding France's alleged complicity in enabling the genocide.

However, recent developments suggest an improvement in relations between the two nations. A report commissioned by French President Emmanuel Macron and released in 2021 acknowledged France's "overwhelming" responsibilities in failing to prevent the atrocities. This acknowledgment marked a significant turning point in the diplomatic ties between France and Rwanda.

The Collective of

Civil Parties of Rwanda (CPCR), a victims' association, played a crucial role in bringing Kayondo to justice. They accused him of participating in organizing massacres and assisting in the establishment of armed groups. Alain Gauthier, co-founder of CPCR, expressed satisfaction that their complaint led to the initiation of an investigation and that justice is finally taking an interest in Mr. Kayondo.

As France continues to address its role in the Rwandan genocide, this arrest and subsequent legal proceedings against Kayondo serve as a testament to the international community's commitment to holding individuals accountable for heinous crimes against humanity, no matter how much time has passed since those atrocities occurred.

DENMARK ISSUES APOLOGY FOR DECADES OF MISTREATMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By N.Ugoh

The Danish government has taken a significant step by offering a formal apology to the thousands of individuals with disabilities who endured mistreatment in state-run facilities dating back to the 1930s. These acts of abuse included forced sterilizations and sexual assaults.

Social Affairs Minister Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil conveyed the government's heartfelt apology during a gathering

of approximately 50 survivors of this dark period in the western city of Horsens on Monday.

She acknowledged the state's failure to adequately oversee these facilities, stating, "The state had an obligation of oversight, and did not sufficiently do its job. In the name of the Danish state, in the name of the government: Sorry."

Rosenkrantz-Theil went on to emphasize that what transpired was wholly inconsistent with Denmark's values and principles, assert-

ing, "What happened to you is far below the Denmark we believe in. We will never forget what happened to you — and what happened to you will never happen again."

Reports have it that between 1933 and 1980, approximately 15,000 children and adults with various disabilities, including blindness, epilepsy, and physical or mental handicaps, were confined to these institutions under the pretext of societal protection, as revealed by researchers who examined their

cases.

Danish law mandated sterilizations for psychiatric patients from 1929 to 1967, and they were required to obtain authorities' permission to marry until 1989.

An inquiry initiated by the previous Danish government in 2020 uncovered a disturbing pattern of abuses within these facilities, encompassing not only forced sterilizations but also instances of violence, psychological and sexual abuse, and significant deficiencies in medical care.

India urges citizens to be careful when travelling to Canada as rift widens over Sikh leader's death

By NCNC Staff

The government of India has urged its citizens to be careful when travelling to Canada as a rift between the two countries widens amid Canada's allegations that India may have been involved in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in suburban Vancouver.

India's foreign ministry in New Delhi released an updated travel advisory, advising its citizens espe-

cially those studying in Canada to be cautious due to the "growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate crimes."

The ministry advised Indians to avoid going to venues in Canada where "threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose anti-India agenda."

Canada and India are two key major partners in security and trade. They are locked

in a diplomatic scuffle after the Prime Minister of Canada alleged that India was connected to the assassination of Sikh independence advocate in the country in June.

Canada has not provided any evidence of Indian involvement in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 45-year-old Sikh leader murdered by masked gunmen in Surrey, outside Vancouver.

India has said for many years that Nijjar, a Canadian citizen

born in India, has connections to terrorism, an allegation he denied, saying he was trying to organize an unofficial Sikh diaspora referendum on independence from India at the time of his death.

The announcement by Trudeau was followed by Canada's expulsion of an Indian diplomat in Ottawa. India responded by labelling Trudeau's accusation as "absurd and motivated" and later expelling a Canadian diplomat.

SPORTS

AIU APPEALS TOBI AMUSAN'S DOPING VIOLATION CLEARANCE



Tobi Amusan

By N.Ugoh

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has made it known that it has filed an appeal against the World Athletics' Disciplinary Tribunal which overturned the provisional suspension imposed on Nigeria's hurdler, Tobi Amusan, last month. The AIU revealed that it filed the appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) on the eve of the expiration of the 30-day window for appeal.

Recall that the World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal had

lifted the ban on Amusan on August 17, claiming the athlete did not violate an anti-doping rule violation for Whereabouts Failures.

In its post, the AIU claimed it would not make further comment on the matter until the conclusion of the appeal.

Amusan, who recently won her third consecutive women's 100m hurdles Diamond League title in Eugene, Oregon, will have to go through a fresh legal battle at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

LEAVE NAPOLI AS SOON AS YESTERDAY - SUNDAY OLISEH ADVISES VICTOR OSIMHEN



Sunday Oliseh

By Bunmi Akintilo

Super Eagles legend, Sunday Oliseh, has urged Victor Osimhen to Leave Napoli amid his current issues with the Italian club.

Recall that Osimhen was trolled by Napoli on their official TikTok page, after he missed a decisive penalty that could have given them all three points against Bologna over the weekend.

Osimhen was not happy with the video and he decided to delete everything related to Napoli on his official Instagram page, followed by ignoring his teammates on his way to the club's facility.

Osimhen main-

tained his professionalism on the pitch and was on target in his club's 4-1 recent win over Udinese.

Former Super Eagles coach Oliseh has expressed his view on the issue.

While reacting to a video of Osimhen snubbing his teammates, shared by Fabrizio Romano, Oliseh claimed that the striker should leave the Italian side.

He tweeted: "Forever proud to be Nigerian; One must show personality, work hard & refuse to be intimidated. Let Racists and ingrates talk! That's why they are eternal losers who secretly wish they were created like you! Osimhen needs to leave Napoli as soon as yesterday."

CANADA DEFEATS JAMAICA IN HUGE OLYMPIC QUALIFIER



By NCNC

Nichelle Prince and Adriana Leon were on target for Canadian National Women's Team in a crucial 2-0 recent away win over Jamaica in the first leg of a two-game Olympic qualifying series.

Nichelle Prince scored in the 18th minute on a crashing header off a sublime cross from Ashley Lawrence while Adriana Leon's stoppage-time goal sealed the victory with Leon running onto Gabby Carle's pass and finishing with a great flip past Jamaica goalkeeper Becky Spencer.

The match was Canada's first match

after the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup campaign where the team failed to survive the group stage after an unexpected 4-0 loss to co-host Australia in the final game of group play.

Canada had won all nine previous meetings with Jamaica, outscoring the Reggae Girlz with a cumulative scoreline of 60-1. But this was a different Jamaican team after their impressive World Cup appearance, making the win all the more sweet for coach Bev Priestman and her squad.

Jessie Fleming captained Canada with 40-year-old soccer legend Christine Sinclair on the bench.

ONTARIO SOCCER REFS NOW WEAR BODY CAMS TO DETER PARENTAL ABUSE



By Stanley Ugagbe

Ontario soccer referees have embarked on a groundbreaking pilot project by wearing body cameras to combat parental abuse, a prevalent issue that has led many officials to quit their roles.

According to reports, approximately 6,000 referees in the

province now have access to 50 body cameras, making this initiative the first of its kind in North America. This innovative approach was inspired by a similar project implemented by the British Football Association earlier in the year.

Johnny Misley, CEO of Ontario Soccer, expressed hope

that this project would help address the pervasive problem of referee abuse, which is the primary reason many officials abandon their positions in sports.

He emphasized the urgent need to curb this culture of abuse, noting that it is unacceptable and reflects a concerning aspect of society.

The pilot project is being conducted in collaboration with Brock University, which will handle the research aspect of this evidence-based trial. The primary goal is to assess whether the presence of body cameras serves as

a physical deterrent against vocal and physical abuse.

Referees had the opportunity to test the body cameras during a match at the Ontario Soccer Centre in Vaughan, Ontario. The trial will run throughout the outdoor season, extending into October, and continue during the indoor soccer season in the cooler months.

Misley shared alarming incidents from the past, including an incident where a 16-year-old female referee was physically assaulted by parents in a parking lot and another where a player who received

a red card in a men's game pursued a referee with a machete.

Referees who participated in games while wearing the cameras noted their positive impact, emphasizing that they felt safer. They recounted instances where they had been threatened, followed to their cars, or subjected to verbal abuse due to their refereeing decisions. The cameras are seen as a potential deterrent and a means to document incidents.

Referee Angelina Baldino, in her fifth year of officiating, acknowledged the challenges referees

face and expressed the belief that cameras could have been beneficial in past situations. She noted that referee abuse has caused some officials to quit the role.

Lara Yassine, a referee since the age of 13, described the toll that abuse took on her in her early years, highlighting the stress it can cause.

A parent at the soccer center, Michael Cotton, supported the initiative and suggested that parents need to exercise more patience during games, emphasizing that it is regional play and not the World Cup.

KIA NURSE SHINES AT BLACK LEGACY AWARDS



Kia Nurse

By Stanley Ugagbe

A renowned basketball star in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and a key player for the Canada Women's National Basketball team, Kia Nurse was celebrated with the Athlete Award at the prestigious Legacy Awards in Toronto.

This remarkable event was dedicated to recognizing and honoring the incredible talent within the Black Canadian community.

Nurse, who currently shines with the Seattle Storm in the WNBA, was presented with the award by her sister, Tamika, a former Canadian junior basketball standout and Uni-

versity of Oregon alumna. In her heartfelt acceptance speech, Nurse paid tribute to the vital individuals who have been the bedrock of her journey, including her husband and her sister, who stood by her side on the stage.

With deep gratitude, Nurse expressed, "At the heart of my village lies the people who deserve the most. Thank you for sticking with me, Tamika; without you, there is no me."

She fondly reminisced about her early connection to the sport, sharing, "I picked up a basketball when I was four years old because she [Tamika] was Michael Jordan; this is who I wanted to be," as she pointed toward her sister.

The Legacy Awards hold a distinctive place as Canada's inaugural awards ceremony dedicated to celebrating the extraordinary talent within the Black community. This momentous occasion unfolded at History, an exclusive venue conceived in collaboration with American events promoter Live Nation and Toronto's own rap icon, musician, songwriter, and entrepreneur, Drake.

RESOLUTION REACHED IN SPANISH WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM DISPUTE



By Stanley Ugagbe

A prolonged dispute between the Spanish women's national soccer team and the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) has finally found a resolution. This development comes after negotiations involving both parties and the government's High Council of Sport (CSD), marking a significant breakthrough in the ongoing conflict.

Recall that earlier, 20 players from the national team squad had publicly declared their refusal to participate in two upcoming UEFA Women's Nations League matches, including one against Sweden scheduled for Friday. However, the latest update reveals that

21 out of the 23 selected players have now agreed to participate and will travel to Sweden. Barcelona Femení players Mapi León and Patricia Guijarro are the exceptions, as they have requested to leave the squad, citing unique circumstances.

CSD President Victor Francos announced the positive outcome, describing it as a "very solid agreement" among all parties involved. He highlighted that immediate changes would be implemented in Spanish soccer, focusing on gender equality, equal pay, improved infrastructure for women's football, and other aspects related to women's soccer.

Importantly, no sanctions will be imposed

SAUDI CLUB OFFER £215M TO LIVERPOOL FOR MOHAMED SALAH



By N.Ugoh

Al-Ittihad, a Saudi club, have offered a mind-blowing £215million to Liverpool to sign Mohamed Salah.

The offer came after a Saudi Arabian delegation arrived in London recently to make a final push to persuade Liverpool to sell Salah this week.

According to The Sun, the Saudi Pro League side is desperate to land the Egyptian and has made an improved bid that will reach a world record £215m with add-ons.

The outlet also claims that Salah has been offered £2.45m a week to quit Anfield with

additional incentives.

He has also been offered a percentage of shirt sales, a £55,000 win bonus and ambassadorial roles for three major Saudi companies.

The ambassadorial roles could fetch Salah an extra £18m as each firm is willing to pay him £6m each.

Liverpool coach, Jurgen Klopp has repeatedly said that the Egyptian is not for sale and is happy at Liverpool.

Klopp said: "I never had any doubt about his commitment. He is our player and wants to play here."

Klopp said: "I never had any doubt about his commitment. He is our player and wants to play here."

on the players who initially refused to play in the two upcoming fixtures. A Mixed Commission, featuring representatives from the players, RFEF, and CSD, will also be established to drive further changes in the future, including addressing the players' demands related to women's football organization and strategic planning.

Montse Tomé, who took over as head coach of the women's national team amid the Rubiales controversy, is set to retain her position following private meetings with the players. Despite earlier misleading statements from Tomé regarding player absences, RFEF officials emphasized their trust in the players and their decisions.

Leaving the squad alongside Guijarro, Mapi León acknowledged the differences in their situation but expressed optimism about ongoing changes in women's football. Guijarro added that while these changes had not yet materialized, they were actively being worked on.

Both León and Gui-

jarro are part of the group of players known as "Las 15" who have been in conflict with RFEF since last year, with most of them excluded from the World Cup squad in July and August.

Additionally, Alexia Putellas, another Barcelona teammate, expressed her discomfort with the situation despite remaining in camp, emphasizing the need for ongoing discussions.

In a related development, RFEF announced a change in branding for both the men's and women's national teams, referring to both simply as the "Spanish National Football Team." This move aims to promote equality between the two squads.

Furthermore, Andreu Camps has been removed from his position as secretary general of RFEF, with Elvira Andrés and Alfredo Olivares stepping in temporarily until a new secretary general is elected.

This resolution marks a significant turning point in the long-standing dispute between the Spanish women's

MAYA TURNER HOPES TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS FOR WOMEN IN SPORT



Maya Turner

By Stanley Ugagbe

Maya Turner, a kicker for the Manitoba Bisons, is breaking down barriers and inspiring women in sports with her historic accomplishments in men's football.

Turner made history by becoming the first woman to play and score in a regular-season U Sports football game during a recent match. As the University of Manitoba's kicker, she successfully made two field goals, including the game-winning kick in overtime, securing a 27-24 victory over the University of Regina Rams at IG Field in Winnipeg.

In a phone interview following team meetings, Turner expressed her belief that her achievement can serve as an inspiration for other women aspiring to excel in men's football at a high level. She emphasized that with dedication and the right support, women can compete and succeed in football.

Her historic moment came with a 21-yard field goal in the second quarter, marking her first points in the game and giving Manitoba a 3-2 lead. Her teammates and coaches celebrated her accomplishment, recognizing the significance of the moment.

Bisons head coach Brian Dobie, who has been leading the team since 1996, shared a heartfelt congratulations with Turner, emphasizing the pride he felt as both a coach and a father of a daughter.

In the crucial overtime period, Turner once again demonstrated her skill by kicking another 21-yard field goal, securing the victory for Manitoba. Her contributions, including successful conversion kicks, amounted to nine points in the game.

Maya Turner had previously made history by

scoring points in a U Sports game when she kicked a 25-yard field goal in a Bisons pre-season game the previous year. Before joining the Bisons, she played NCAA Division I soccer at Loyola University in Chicago. She decided to explore football after leaving the soccer team in her second season in August 2021. Despite her university not having a football team, she tried out for a club football squad, found her passion for the sport, and attended kicking camps.

Dobie and the Bisons were cautious but impressed with her kicking skills when they first evaluated her film. They offered her a tryout in April 2022, during which she displayed remarkable accuracy. She was officially signed to the team with the support of her parents.

Throughout her journey with the Bisons, Turner has continued to improve her skills, with guidance from Winnipeg Blue Bombers placekicker Sergio Castillo. The team's strategy involved having Vinny De Rosa attempt longer field goals, while Turner focused on shorter kicks.

Turner's inclusion in the game against the University of Regina Rams was especially meaningful because her family had planned to attend the match. After the victory, Dobie recognized her contributions by presenting her with a game ball. The school has preserved the balls from her historic kicks in case they are someday displayed in a hall of fame.

While Turner's accomplishment is a significant milestone in Canadian university football, it also reflects the inclusive and supportive environment fostered by her teammates. She feels respected as a valued member of the team and is grateful for the supportive team environment.

Coach Dobie believes that beyond teaching the technical aspects of the game, university sports programs also have a responsibility to teach life lessons. He takes pride in the positive impact this experience has had on the young men in his program.

national team and RFEF, providing hope for a new era of women's soccer in Spain.

The conflict began over a year ago when "Las 15" players demanded extensive changes in the coaching staff, and it escalated following a controversial incident

involving former RFEF president Luis Rubiales. Despite the off-field challenges, the Spanish women's team achieved a historic victory by winning the Women's World Cup. With the departure of key figures, RFEF is now aiming to revamp women's soccer in the country.

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RELIGION

Kie Kie: I was living with my hubby before marriage despite being in choir



Bukunmi Adeaga Ilori

By N.Ugoh

Popular Nigerian content producer, Bukunmi Adeaga Ilori, also known as Kie Kie Kie, has stated that when she was a spinster, she was living with Tunji Ilori, her husband.

She said she decided to live with him while they were engaged because her

house rent was due to expire months before their wedding.

Kie Kie made this revelation during a recent episode of Toke Makinwa's podcast, Toke Moments, Kiekie opened up to media personality Toke Makinwa.

According to the content producer, she was a member of her church choir when she and her

husband were cohabiting in the same house despite the fact that they had not yet married, and the church did not know.

She said: "My husband and I started living together before we got married because my [house] rent was already due. My rent was due in September, and we were going to get married in

January.

So, I can't renew my rent. And we had done our introduction by then. The church wasn't aware that we were already living together. I was even singing in the church choir then."

She revealed further that she was initially scared of getting married but eventually did after a series of prayers.

Outrage in India As Teacher Orders Students To Slap Muslim Classmate

By N.Ugoh

Police in India are currently investigating a teacher after a viral video of her encouraging students to slap their 7-year-old classmate, who is Muslim, generated widespread con-

troversy in the country.

The video of the incident, which happened in the Muzaffarnagar district in northern Uttar Pradesh state, shows the boy standing in front of his classmates as the teacher orders students to hit him.

The boy cried as his



classmates took turns to slap him, while the teacher was telling the students to do it "properly." A man was laughing in the background as the boy cried while the slapping continued.

While talking about the incident, Muzaffarnagar's Superintendent of

Police, Satyanarayan Prajapat, said the teacher told students to hit the boy "for not remembering his times tables."

Prajapat disclosed that the teacher also referenced the boy's religion.

The female teacher *continued on p(25)*

Don't make those gallows!

By Pastor Amos Dada PhD; P. Eng.

"Then Haman added, "And that's not all! Queen Esther invited only me and the king himself to the banquet she prepared for us. And she has invited me to dine with her and the king again tomorrow!" 13 Then he added, "But this is all worth nothing as long as I see Mordecai the Jew just sitting there at the palace gate."

14 So Haman's wife, Zeresh, and all his friends suggested, "Set up a sharpened pole that stands seventy-five feet[a] tall, and in the morning ask the king to impale Mordecai on it. When this is done, you can go on your merry way to the banquet with the king." This pleased Haman, and he ordered the pole set up. Esther 5:12-14

A gallows is a structure, typically of two uprights and a crosspiece, for the hanging of criminals. The story of Haman and the gallows is common. The lessons to learn lessons from it are many, complex, and probably unending.

The great question is are we actually learning from it? I expect society to be more tolerant of one another and make less gallows for one another if we are indeed learning. It's also important to neither condemn nor commend them, remembering bible characters are long dead and that they are examples for us to change our lives in a posi-

tive direction.

Jeremiah said the human heart is very deep and wicked, who can know it? Jer 17:10-12.

In the story of Haman and Mordecai, we are told that Haman's grouse with Mordecai is that he refused to bow in greeting when Haman is passing by. In the Canadian language, he refuses to say "Hi" in the morning.

Honestly, I don't know why that is a problem for a gateman to his vice president! But Biblical scholars have proffered reasons why Mordecai refused.

Talking about cultural values, recently some of our CAC Bethel children went to camp and were brought to my living room, awaiting their parents to pick them up. I had to pass through my living room to my room and I expected these children, ages between 8 and 12 years to greet me as their pastor, or grandfather, but they didn't. I asked them - "What do you say?" - One of them said " Nothing!" My expectation was that they would say "Good afternoon pastor" But they didn't!

Now should I go and build gallows to destroy them? I know these are just ignorant children who are not grounded in our cultural values!

Maybe Haman did not accept the argument that Mordecai could be ignorant of the Babylonian laws vis-a-vis the Jewish laws, but was his plan to kill all the Jews the solution to some-

one not paying him simple expected courtesy?

Friend you don't need to kill a fly with a sledgehammer. Haman's evil plot against the nation of Israel boomeranged against him. Most times wickedness boomerangs.

Also, don't play God. God elevated Haman according to his testimony and made him the Vice President! God made you the President, VP, Senator, MP, MPP, Professor, MD, Engineer, Premier, Director, Manager, Chairman, that prestigious and high position. Why don't you focus on using that position to build the life of the staff, the organization, the church, and the nation, to improve the productivity and efficiency of your organization? Why do you major in the minors? Why are you leaving leprosy to be treating ringworm or skin rashes at the expense of cancer? Why are you bent on destroying another person?

People will bruise your ego, people will offend you, everybody will not give you the respect due to you, and so what?

Apart from the wisdom of Esther and her prayer teams who began to pray for God to

save the Jews, God also gave a warning to Haman when through the king he was told to decorate Mordecai and parade him around the city "So Haman took the robes and put them on Mordecai, placed him on the king's own horse, and led him through the city

square, shouting, "This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honour!" Esther 6:11

When God gives you a warning about not building gallows for your subordinate, staff citizen, or relations do you listen?

Many are in search of prophecies, a word of knowledge from a man of God or woman of God. God sent one to Haman through his wife- Mummy GO, Prophetess Zeresh: "When Haman told his wife, Zeresh, and all his friends what had happened, his wise advisers and his wife said, "Since Mordecai—this man who has

humiliated you—is of Jewish birth, you will never succeed in your plans against him. It will be fatal to continue opposing him." Esther 6:13

Are you surprised he did not back down? There is a saying "The ones the gods will destroy he will first make mad"

I don't support insubordination from Mordecai to Hama, but why will you destroy a nation because someone did not greet you or greet you well?


Haman was insensitive to prophesy, insensitive to humanity, staff, and nation he was consumed with pride, ego, greed, selfishness, and many other vices. This was how Haman ended: "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified. Esther 7:10. Be warned.

Conclusion: Since it is common for humans to build gallows for real or perceived enemies, the

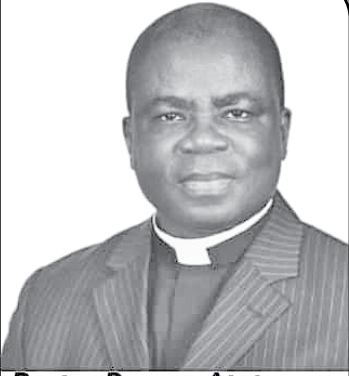


Pastor Amos Dele Dada

Bible teaches us to develop the fruit of the Spirit to help us out: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Gal 5:22-25. Stop making gallows to destroy others so that you will not end up on those gallows. Shalom.



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WHAT INSPIRED ME TO WRITE... – PAGE 16

NCNC: How did you come up with the idea of a 30-day journey? What do you hope readers will gain from this approach?

Knowles: The inspiration of a 30-day journey in the “30 Days in the Word Daily Devotional” 30 days is a manageable timeframe for individuals to commit to a consistent practice. It’s long enough to create a habit and experience transformation, but not so long that it feels overwhelming.

The approach aims to provide readers with a structured and gradual immersion into daily scripture readings and reflections. Over the course of 30 days, readers can expect to develop a more profound connection to the Bible and its teachings. This concentrated focus on the Word enables them to gain insights, perspective, and spiritual growth that can be carried forward beyond the 30-day period. Ultimately, the goal is for readers to cultivate a lasting habit of engaging with the Bible regularly, deepening their faith and enriching their spiritual lives

NCNC: What makes

your book unique or different from other similar books in the market?

Knowles: Unique Content: The book offers a distinctive selection of scripture passages and themes, providing readers with fresh insights and perspectives on familiar verses.

Engaging Reflections: The devotional present daily reflections that are relatable, contemporary, and applicable to readers’ everyday lives, fostering a deeper connection between the ancient scriptures and modern experiences.

Practical Application: This devotional emphasizes practical ways to apply biblical teachings in real-life situations, encouraging readers to translate spiritual insights into actionable steps.

NCNC: Did you encounter any challenges while writing this book, and how did you overcome them?

Knowles: A few challenges along the way that affected the deadline a bit. I’ve experienced days when I blanked out/writer’s block and had to wait. Overcoming that is

taking myself away from writing for a few days and enjoy nature and listening to music.

NCNC: How did you decide on the content for each day in the book? Is there a specific structure or progression you followed?

Knowles: Honestly I was guided by the Holy Spirit himself and walking in wisdom starting with the Alpha and Omega as Day 1 and ending with The Great Commission as Day 30.

NCNC: Can you share a memorable moment or personal experience related to the writing process or the book’s content?

Knowles: Day 16 Refusing to quit. I had to discipline, encourage myself while refusing to quit.

As I was instructed by the Holy Spirit to write this book and he will use it to take me out of Nazareth. At one point I honestly was questioning myself and saying that I’m not capable. I refused to quit and stand on Matthew 19:26, that states: With men it is impossible, But with God ALL things are possible.

YOUR ANSWER – PAGE 19

WORD QUIZ

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (a) | 4. (b) | 7. (b) |
| 2. (d) | 5. (c) | 8. (d) |
| 3. (a) | 6. (b) | |

WHICH LETTER REPLACES THE QUESTION MARK?

(1) = c (2) = a (3) = b (4) = d

EXPLANATION: the numbers in each row and column add up to the same number E.G Answer to No.1 is 5 (C) which is 20.i.e 8 + 7 + 5 = 20; 6 + 9 + 5 = 20. e.t.c .

FIND THE MISSING NUMBER REPRESENTED BY A QUESTION MARK

The answer is 6

NOW USING THE EXAMPLE ABOVE. FIND THE VALUES REPRESENTED BY QUESTION MARKS

Answers: (A) = 5 & 10

(B) = 5 & 6

EXPLANATION:

The number at the center of each segment equals the sum of the numbers on the outside of the opposite segment.

BRAIN GAMES

Answer: PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES. The others are football teams.

NCNC: Who is the target audience for “30 Days in the Word,” and what do you believe they will find most valuable in your book?

Knowles: For all ages and levels. Simple yet deep, quick and easy to read with daily scriptures and reflections to meditate on daily.

NCNC: How do you envision

readers using your book? Is it designed for daily readings, group discussions, or personal reflection?

Knowles: A valuable resource for evangelizing, discipleship classes, conferences, family studies and high school religion reference guide.

NCNC: Are there any additional resources or tools you

recommend for readers who want to delve deeper into the topics covered in your book?

Knowles: In the Devotional, I recommended the Purpose Driven by Rick Warren. The bible.

She can be contacted via Instagram @sharnaknowles and on Facebook @sharnaknowles.

OUTRAGE IN INDIA AS TEACHER ORDERS STUDENTS TO SLAP MUSLIM CLASSMATE – PAGE 24

reportedly said: “When the mothers of Mohammedan (one who follows Islam) students don’t pay attention to their children’s stud-

ies, their performance is ruined.”

Police in the district have initiated a case against the teacher and an investi-

gation has commenced. Though the teacher has not been formally charged, district officials have ordered the school to shut down,

While talking to CNN, the boy’s father said his son felt “restless and scared” after the incident.

He said though the

boy is doing much better now, he “was unable to sleep earlier and was left in shock” afterwards.

The incident has gen-

erated widespread anger and upset in India.

Watch the video online at:www.nigeriancanadiannews.ca

DEBBY FRIDAY SECURES 2023 POLARIS MUSIC PRIZE VICTORY – PAGE 1

Friday, reflecting on her unique journey, continued, “I’ve always been a little bit strange, a little bit different from other people. And it’s only in retrospect that I’ve been able to see that this has been a superpower all along. This is actually a gift, and I just want to say that I think it’s very important to protect your strange-

ness, protect the things that make you different. These are gifts that you’ve been given in this lifetime.”

Her debut album, “Good Luck,” which graced the music scene in March, has been lauded as a captivating exploration of Friday’s psyche, brimming with contradictions and revelations. Combining an

eclectic array of influences spanning techno, punk, and more, the album was co-produced by Friday and the Polaris-nominated composer and producer, Graham Walsh. Notably, it garnered significant attention from media outlets such as NME, Pitchfork, and Stereo gum.

The Polaris Music Prize gala featured a mes-

merizing performance by Friday, who rendered her songs “What a Man” and “So Hard to Tell” accompanied by a string ensemble. Other nominees, including the Sadies, Aysanabee, Begonia, and Snotty Nose Rez Kids, also graced the stage with their outstanding talents. Unfortunately, Feist and Daniel Caesar, both

shortlisted for the award, were unable to attend due to prior touring commitments.

The gala was marked by heartfelt tributes to cherished individuals. The Sadies paid homage to their late founding member, Dallas Good, who passed away in February 2022, while Aysanabee’s album art-

work, featuring a painting of his late grandfather, Watin, held a prominent place on the stage alongside him. Additionally, Dan Mangan delivered a poignant rendition of “In Your Corner (For Scott Hutchison),” a tribute to Scott Hutchison, the lead singer of Frightened Rabbit who passed away in 2018.



AKINTOLA WILLIAMS DIES – PAGE 1

By N.Ugoh

Akintola Williams, Nigeria’s first indigenous chartered accountant, has died. According to his family, he died in his Lagos residence in the early hours of Monday, September 11. He died at the age of 104.

He was born in 1919, studied accounting at the University of London and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1947. He came

back to Nigeria and set up his accounting firm, Akintola Williams & Co., now Deloitte & Touche, in 1952. He evolved Nigeria’s accounting profession and contributed in developing the country’s financial sector.

Williams was a strong advocate for developing the accounting profession in Nigeria as he was a founding member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and was

the Institute’s President between 1963 and 1965. He was also a member of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors.

He bagged many awards and honours, including the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) and the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM). Also, he was also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: REMARKABLE ACHIEVERS AWARD - CELEBRATING YOUNG ADULTS!

We are excited to announce the launch of the Remarkable Achievers Award, our inaugural event dedicated to recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of young adults aged 18-30 across all fields. We invite nominations from individuals, organizations, and communities worldwide who wish to honor exceptional young achievers.

The Remarkable Achievers Award is a platform designed to showcase the extraordinary talents, achievements, and contributions of our young generation. We believe that within this age group, there are unsung heroes and trailblazers in every field who deserve recognition and encouragement.

Nominations are open to anyone, regardless of your place of residence. If you know a young adult who has made a significant impact in their field, be it arts, sciences, entrepreneurship, social change, or any other area, we want to hear about them.

To nominate a candidate or for more information, please contact us via email at ncncevents@gmail.com or call us at 416.318.3506. Your nomination could be the key to putting a deserving young adult in the spotlight and inspiring others.

Join us in celebrating the incredible potential and achievements of our young adults. Help us make the Remarkable Achievers Award a memorable event that encourages and empowers the leaders of tomorrow.

Nominations close on the 15th of Oct., 2023, so don't miss the chance to participate in this exciting initiative.

**Signed,
Ngozi Ugoh**

EXCEEDING GLORY: A SPIRITUAL TRIUMPH WITH BISHOPS MIKE AND PEACE OKONKWO



By N.Ugoh

the radiant city of Toronto, Canada. This glorious three-day congregation witnessed an awe-inspiring gathering, where devoted believers from across the vast expanse of Canada and the United States converged, forming an unbreakable bond of faith and unity.

In a historic first, TREM Toronto hosted this remarkable event, and its devoted members adorned themselves with zeal, anticipation, and unwavering commitment, contributing to the resounding success that radiated from every aspect of this divine assembly.

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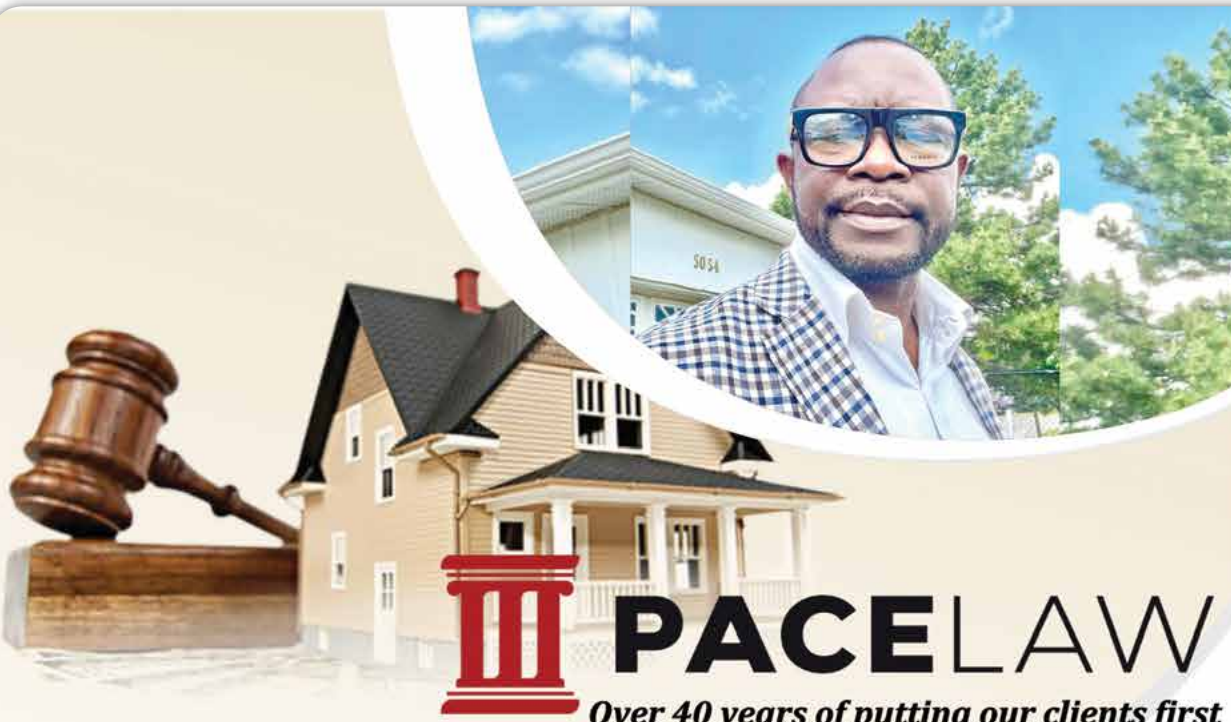
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Director of Client Care

Andrew has formally owned rehab and physiotherapy centers in the GTA and brings over 25 years of experience in the field. He has knowledge in business and marketing and enjoys serving and helping out those within the African and Jamaican communities, where he is well-known and respected.

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