

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World...

Today we're talking about South Africa, Hong Kong and Nigeria

**ALANNA LESLIE:** But first...

A Native American tribe in Idaho, U.S.A., is pushing for greater protection of the sacred lake of their homeland.

Lake Coeur d'Alene was initially polluted by mining in the 19th and 20th centuries and it's now also suffering from increased roadbuilding and house construction as the area's population increases.

Lauren Patterson went to visit this beautiful part of northwest America to find out more.

**LAUREN PATTERSON:** Lake Coeur d'Alene is surrounded by forested mountains in the panhandle of Idaho. With nearby ski resorts for winter sports, and beautiful hiking trails and water for summer recreation, it's a popular destination for residents and tourists year-round.

A hotel sits on the shores of the lake near parks where residents and visitors walk their dogs near the water.

Although the view is breath-taking, mining severely damaged Lake Coeur d'Alene from the 1880s until the late 1960s. Silver, lead and other mining operations dumped the waste into area rivers, which carried much of it to the bottom of the lake.

Caj Matheson is the director of Natural Resources for the Coeur d'Alene tribe.



**CAJ MATHESON:** I'm a part of the what we refer to as the Hnch'mchinmsh Clan of the Coeur d'Alene people. The Turtle Clan of the Coeur d'Alene people.

**LAUREN PATTERSON:** His people have lived in the area since time immemorial. The lake was central – and still is – to the tribe's way of life.

**CAJ MATHESON:** Our elders, the way that they talk about it, was really that the lake was our mother and that's where we would go to be nurtured, that's where we would go to be loved and taken care of.

**LAUREN PATTERSON:** When Matheson was young, he says his tribal elders always emphasised the importance of the lake to their culture. And to always protect it. He and his family fished and swam in the lake growing up, and still do.

Now, he goes to work every day to help restore Lake Coeur d'Alene, and the surrounding area. Matheson sees the field of natural resources as a tool to protect his people and their way of life.

Three different groups control the clean-up of the lake. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state of Idaho, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe share responsibility for cleaning up the waste along the banks of the lake.

Dan McCracken works for the Idaho Department of Environmental quality. He says the state is looking at ways to prevent stormwater runoff from parking lots and streets from reaching the water.



**DAN MCCRAKEN:** We're working with a lot of the cities in the watershed to try and find ways to treat their stormwater or divert it so that it's infiltrating into the ground instead of running right into the lake or the river.

**LAUREN PATTERSON:** Matheson says the clean-up of the lake is an environmental justice issue. He says his people were the first to recognize there was something wrong with the lake.

**CAJ MATHESON:** One of those famous quotes from a past leader Henry Aripa said, we didn't need science to tell us that something was wrong, we were able to look around, walk around with our own eyes, and our own ears, hear the cries of the dying birds to understand that there was something wrong.

**LAUREN PATTERSON:** Earlier this spring, Idaho governor Brad Little announced that \$20 million would go toward helping clean and restore Lake Coeur d'Alene over the next few years.

Matheson says it's a good start, but he's going to keep pushing for more funding, more studies, and more respect for his tribe's ancestral knowledge of these lands.

While the state of Idaho, the EPA, and the tribe all agree that more needs to be done to restore Lake Coeur d'Alene, Matheson says Western science is often catching up to where the Coeur d'Alene elders were all along.

**CAJ MATHESON:** For the world to understand if they took that indigenous knowledge and had a deep respect for it, like we do, I think that it would save a lot of time, and point Western science, I think, into new and amazing directions.



**LAUREN PATTERSON:** I'm Lauren Patterson for Newsreel World, reporting from North Idaho.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thanks Lauren.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Over 60,000 South Africans have signed a petition to protest the introduction of unisex toilets in the country's schools.

The proposal was revealed in a leaked document written by the Department of Education. They also suggested that teachers must avoid splitting classes, lines or groups into boys or girls.

A spokesperson for the government says the plan is intended to make gender non-conforming students feel more welcome. They said it's "so that they don't drop out of school or commit suicide because they feel unwanted."

**ALANNA LESLIE:** A Hong Kong protest song was played instead of the Chinese national anthem at a rugby game between Hong Kong and South Korea earlier this month.

The Hong Kong government strongly criticised the playing of the song, which is associated with the city's 2019 protest movement against the encroaching power of the Chinese Communist Party.

In Hong Kong it is a criminal offence to insult the Chinese national anthem, a law which was passed in 2020 after sports fans started booing it at international games.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

**ALANNA LESLIE:** That was a short clip of “Dinero”, the new single by Jamaican reggae artist Lila Iké.

The 29-year-old singer released her debut EP, ‘The ExPerience’, in May 2020 to wide critical acclaim, and has since been nominated for several international awards.

Speaking to VICE magazine Lila said: “I want to dismantle the idea that you’re expected to make a type of music because you’re from a particular country.”

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Fans of the hit Netflix show “The Queen’s Gambit” will be excited to hear that at this year’s National Sports Festival in Nigeria, one of the most anticipated games isn’t football or kickboxing, but chess.

It’s due to a long-standing rivalry between two of Nigeria’s state teams – Oyo and Delta – who will face each other at the festival later this month.

Lucky Usamah has this report.

**IVIE:** So the first thing they have to learn is the rules of chess.

**LUCKY USAMAH:** I’m here at Royal chess club, located in Kubwa, Abuja where a group of chess enthusiasts – like 8-year-old Ivie – gather to play games of blitz chess and wind down. Blitz chess is a game of chess with the fast time control where each player is given 3 to 5 minutes to win.

While this weekend enthusiasts are just playing for fun, there are chess athletes that play to compete and to win. And in the Nigerian chess world, two rival state teams stand out: the Oyo team, from south-western Nigeria, and the southern Delta team.

In the past, the Delta team was always the team to beat. But something changed recently.

Oluwafemi Balogun, one of the highest rated Nigerian chess players and one of the only Nigerian players to play Magnus Carlsen, the world no 1, took over as coach of the Oyo team.

These two teams, Delta and Oyo, are scheduled to face off among other teams later this month at the National Sports Festival in Delta. I spoke to a couple of chess enthusiasts and chess athletes to hear their thoughts about who they think will dominate this year's national chess tournaments.

**ISAAC OKEKE:** Okay, Oyo has been dominating the festival for quite some time and I think the other states should try their best to change this narrative.

**LUCKY USAMAH:** That's Isaac Okeke, a Chess International Master. I also asked him why he thinks that Oyo has been dominating.

**ISAAC OKEKE:** Well, because they have been recruiting the best players in the country. They have the strongest players. They have been able to work in harmony as well.

**LUCKY USAMAH:** Significant preparation goes into getting ready for chess tournaments. I spoke with Abimbola Osunfyui, a FIDE master playing for the Delta team.

**ABIMBOLA OSUNFUUI:** Winning doesn't start at the venue or the tournament or during the competition, it's about your preparation, your alertness, your mental alertness, and your perseverance, and building up to that moment.

**LUCKY USAMAH:** And it turns out that both mental and physical stamina are needed to compete.



**ISAAC OKEKE:** You know, a strong body is a strong mind. You know sitting on your butt for hours is not so easy. So that physical stamina and mental preparedness is also required as well.

**LUCKY USAMAH:** Beyond mental and physical preparation, there's this very elusive yet effective element that can make or break any athlete's preparation: Luck.

**INNOCENT DAVID:** Chess is one sport that I've realised that no matter how much you prepare, you can never be sure of what's going to happen, no matter how much you prepare. You just need some little bit of luck as well with your efforts.

**LUCKY USAMAH:** I'm Lucky Usamah, wishing all the players the best of luck at this year's National Sports Festival and I'm reporting from Abuja, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thanks Lucky.

That's all from me today. See you all next year, bye!