

SOCIAL

20-Year-Old Wins \$451 Lottery Jackpot, Promises To Do Some Good For Humanity

The unknown winner of \$450 million Mega Millions jackpot finally came forward in Florida, according to his lawyers that spoke with WFLA.

Shane Missler is only 20-years-old and resides in Port Richey but became the winner during the Jan. 5 Mega Millions drawing.

Missler wrote a Facebook post last week that indicated he was aware of his winnings last week but did not come forward at first. Missler said he was not totally shocked to find out he had won since he "just had a feeling" that he may win.

"I'm only 20, but I hope to use it to pursue a variety of passions, help my family and do some good for humanity," Shane said.

The winning ticket was sold at a 7-Eleven on Ridge Road in Port Richey.

Missler's lawyers said he purchased one winning scratch-off lottery ticket and then bought another five Mega Million quick pick tickets in that amount, with the winning combination found on his fourth ticket.

The ticket was claimed at the lottery offices in Tallahassee with Missler selecting the option for a one-time, lump-sum payment in the amount of \$281,874,999.

Fear and Doubt Should not Determine Response to Immigrants, Pope Says



Pope Francis leads a special mass to mark International Migrants Day in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican January 14, 2018.

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Mutual fears between immigrants and their new communities are understandable, but must not prevent new arrivals from being welcomed and integrated, Pope Francis said in a special Mass to mark the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Francis, a keen defender of the rights of migrants, was addressing a congregation including migrants and refugees from some 50 countries, whose flags festooned the area around the altar in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

"Local communities are sometimes afraid that the newly arrived will disturb the established order, will 'steal' something they have long laboured to build up," he said, while "the newly arrived ... are afraid of

confrontation, judgement, discrimination, failure."

"Having doubts and fears is not a sin. The sin is to allow these fears to determine our responses, to limit our choices, to compromise respect and generosity, to feed hostility and rejection."

As politicians and civil society grapple with the mass movement of people around the world, with flashpoints including in the Mediterranean, and between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the pope has repeatedly urged support for those who migrate.

Argentina-born Francis, who was the first non-European elected to the post in nearly 1,300 years, has criticized President Donald Trump's stated intention to build a wall to stop illegal migrants crossing the U.S. border with Mexico.

The leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics also met Muslim refugees in Myanmar and Bangladesh last year and called for decisive action to solve political problems that cause many to flee.

Pope said newcomers must "know and respect the laws, the culture and the traditions of the countries that take them in".

Communities, meanwhile, have "to open themselves without prejudices to (newcomers') rich diversity, to understand the hopes and potential of the newly arrived as well as their fears and vulnerabilities".

Celebrating Berber New Year Marks Shift in Algeria's Identity Politics

Algeria will become the first North African country to celebrate the Berber new year as a national public holiday.



An Algerian man waves the Amazigh flag as mourners attend the funeral procession and burial of Hocine Ait-Ahmed, one of the fathers of Algeria's struggle for independence and a key opposition figure in 2016

Algeria will become the first North African country to celebrate the Berber new year as a national public holiday. The move signals a major shift in identity politics, which had been dominated by strife and tensions between the government in Algiers and most of the Berber-speaking population in the restive north-eastern Kabylie region.

Berber activists hailed Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's decision making the Berber new year day, Yennayer, a public holiday as the crowning achievement of a historic struggle and a victory against what they described as Algeria's "cultural tyranny of Arabism and Arab Ba'athism." The holiday will be on January 12 this year.

Analysts said Bouteflika announced the recognition of the Berber holiday before the 12th anniversary of the implementation of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation to strengthen social and political stability ahead of the presidential election next year.

The charter, proposed by Bouteflika to end the civil war by offering amnesty for most acts of violence committed in the conflict pitting Islamist jihadists and the military, was endorsed by a referendum in 2005 and implemented in February 2006.

The conflict broke out in December 1991 after the army-backed government scrapped elections radical Islamists were poised to win. It claimed the lives of an estimated 200,000 people, mostly civilians killed by Islamists.

"The decision over Yennayer came in these moments of doubts and multiple crises. It reinforces the cohesion of the nation by putting an end to unnecessary misunderstandings that are the result of a governance that lacked farsightedness and anticipation," said Algerian writer Brahim Tazaghart. It followed the recognition of the Berber language as an official and national language alongside Arabic.

Language and culture issues go to the heart of Algeria's identity. It has been a determining factor in relations with other countries.

The French colonial authorities banned Arabic in primary schools in Algeria, dismissing it as a backward language. After independence, in 1962, nationalist leaders adopted an Arabisation policy to undo the linguistic legacy of 132 years of French occupation. Towards that end, they recruited thousands of teachers from Egypt and Syria to fill positions left by fleeing French teachers.

However, most of the Egyptian and Syrian teachers were members of the Muslim Brotherhood fleeing crackdowns by Arab nationalist leaders in Cairo and Damascus. Their massive presence in the education system sparked a backlash in parts of Algeria, especially in Berber-speaking areas, against what was perceived as Arab domination with claims that the Arab teachers had turned Algerian schools into "factories churning out fanatical Psalmists."

The spread of Arabic influenced the Berbers for centuries, including from the 15th century and through the 17th century when Arabisation of Berbers was accelerated by waves of Andalusian refugees expelled from Spain.

Berbers maintained their traditions, dialects and rituals even after accepting Islam as a religion, mainly in Morocco and Algeria. Their total number in the two countries is estimated at 28 million.

Gradually, Algeria has met the demands of advocates of Berber culture and language.

A Berber uprising involving a school boycott in Kabylie region in 1995 by parents protesting that their children could speak but not write in their native language led Algerian officials to introduce the Tamazight language into primary education.

In 2002, the government recognised the language as a national one following a deadly protest. The language was recognised as a national and official language, on equal footing with Arabic, in 2016.

Berber activists have called on the Algerian government to allocate funding to the promotion and the use of their language. Thousands took to the streets in December to back such a demand.

New Life in Mosul as Scars of IS Rule Begin to Fade

In districts of Iraq's second city not left totally devastated by ferocious fighting to oust jihadists, life is buzzing with more vibrancy than ever



Girls walk towards ceremony for re-opening of the Bab al-Saray market in old city of Mosul.

Even before the Islamic State group took over her home city of Mosul, Iraqi 31-year-old Nesrine never imagined she would have a job working late into the evening at a fashion boutique.

But now, in districts of Iraq's second city not left totally devastated by the ferocious fighting to oust the jihadists, life is buzzing again -- with more vibrancy than ever.

"We have experienced depression, hunger, ruin and oppression. It is a miracle that we are still alive," Nesrine said.

"We went through a long nightmare and now we have woken up transformed."

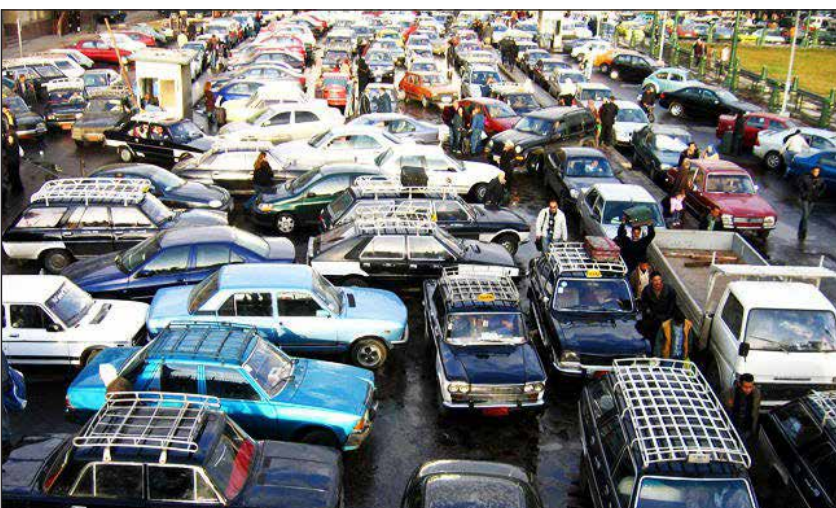
Nesrine is employed at a gleaming new clothing shop that has opened up on the east bank of the river Tigris -- liberated from IS months before the group's final defeat in western districts six months ago selling skinny jeans and colourful tops from Turkey. Mosul has long had a reputation as a bedrock of conservatism and became a hub for Sunni jihadists after the US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

But when IS seized control as it swept across northern Iraq in 2014 the group imposed a radical interpretation of Islamic law far more severe than anything residents had known before.

For years in Mosul, after six in the evening there was no one in the streets. Now you can head home at two or three in the morning without fear.

"A new life is beginning."

Lebanon vs. Egypt: Who are the Worst Drivers of them All?



Traffic chaos on a Cairo street

CAIRO/BEIRUT: Lebanon and Egypt may be two of the Arab world's most contrasting countries, but there is one unenviable trait they do share a reputation for bad driving.

Any visitor to either nation will return with tales of terror on the roads, from the hor-

rifying swerving through Beirut's traffic-jammed streets to the gut-wrenching overtaking on the highways of Cairo.

The huge differences between the two countries did not make it easy. Egypt, of course, is far bigger with far more vehicles and a vast road network; Lebanon has fewer cars but a higher rate of vehicle ownership per head of population. For Lebanon, the figures make grim reading. You are four times more likely to be in a road accident in Lebanon than in Egypt, according to official accident rates for 2016. Deaths in road accidents were also higher with 7.94 per 100,000 people compared to 5.58 in Egypt.

The views expressed in all the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AN-NOUR Newspaper