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P6 Community
Al Qannas Society is organising Qatar's second International Falcons Veterinary Conference from January 26 to 28.



P20 Community
Qatari artist Dana Ahmed al-Safar's solo exhibition 'Pink Shadows' captures the underlying emotions of women's facial expressions.

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Tuesday, December 29, 2015
Rabia 118, 1437 AH

GULF TIMES

COMMUNITY



 DOHA  16°C–23°C TODAY

 LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE 13

 PUZZLES 14 & 15



Against the odds

Over-the-counter insulin presents a conundrum for diabetics. **P4-5**





PRAYER TIME

Fajr	4.57am
Shorooq (sunrise)	6.18am
Zuhr (noon)	11.36am
Asr (afternoon)	2.33pm
Maghreb (sunset)	4.55pm
Isha (night)	6.25pm

USEFUL NUMBERS



Emergency	999
Worldwide Emergency Number	112
Kahramaa - Electricity and Water	991
Ooredoo Telephone Assistance	111
Local Directory	180
International Calls Enquires	150
Time	141, 140
Doha International Airport	40106666
Labor Department	44508111, 44406537
Medical Commission	44679111
Mowasalat Taxi	44588888
Qatar Airways	44496000
Weather Forecast	44656590
Hamad Medical Corporation	44392222
	44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation	44845555
	44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation	44593333
	44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre	44594050
Qatar News Agency	44450205
	44450333
Q-Post - General Postal Corporation	44464444
Qatar University	44033333

Quote Unquote

I've always lived by the ocean, and I always will. There's nothing like taking a walk and being able to smell the ocean breeze.

— *Matthew Underwood*

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Belle and Sebastian 2

GENRE: Adventure, Family

CAST: Félix Bossuet, Tchéky Karyo, Thierry Neuvic

DIRECTION: Christian Duguay

SYNOPSIS: September 1945. In the village, everybody is celebrating the end of the war. Sebastian has grown (the boy is now 10 years old). He and Belle are waiting impatiently for Angelina to return. But she never reaches Saint Martin. There is terrible news: Angelina was lost when her plane

crashed deep in the Transalpine forest. All the villagers mourn her. All except César. Sebastian's grandfather knows a man who could help them find Angelina. But before the boy and his dog can rescue the young woman, they must face a thousand dangers, endure a thousand ordeals and confront a secret ... One that will change Belle and Sebastian's lives forever.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza



Room

GENRE: Drama

CAST: Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay, Sean Bridgers

DIRECTION: Lenny Abrahamson

SYNOPSIS: Both highly suspenseful and deeply emotional, *Room* is a unique and touching exploration of the

boundless love between a mother and her child. After 5-year-old Jack (Jacob Tremblay) and his Ma (Brie Larson) escape from the enclosed surroundings that Jack has known his entire life, the boy makes a thrilling discovery: the outside world. As he experiences all the joy, excitement, and fear that this

new adventure brings, he holds tight to the one thing that matters most of all — his special bond with his loving and devoted Ma.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

Mall Cinema (1): *The Peanuts Movie* (2D) 2.30pm; *The Good Dinosaur* (2D) 4.15pm; *The Peanuts Movie* (2D) 6pm; *Belle & Sebastian 2* (2D) 7.45pm; *Morning Star* (2D) 9.30pm; *Room* (2D) 11.15pm.

Mall Cinema (2): *Soukhyam* (Telugu) 2pm; *Love The Coopers* (2D) 4.30pm; *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens* (2D) 6.30pm; *Dilwale* (Hindi) 8.45pm; *Point Break* (2D) 11.30pm.

Mall Cinema (3): *Pasanga 2* (Tamil) 2.15pm; *Paparazzi* (Arabic) 4.30pm; *Point Break* (2D) 6.45pm; *El Leila El Kebira* (Arabic) 9pm; *Thanga Magan* (Tamil) 11.15pm.



Cinema Land Mark (1): *Thanga Magan* (Tamil) 2.15pm; *Paparazzi* (Arabic) (2D) 4.30pm; *Dilwale* (Hindi) 6.30pm; *Point Break* (2D) 9.15pm; *Point Break* (2D) 11.30pm.

Cinema Land Mark(2): *The Good Dinosaur* (2D) 2.15pm; *The Peanuts Movie* (2D) 4pm; *The Peanuts Movie* (2D) 5.45pm; *Belle & Sebastian 2* (2D) 7.30pm; *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2D) 9.15pm; *Morning Star* (2D) 11.30pm.

Cinema Land Mark (3): *Soukhyam*

(Telugu) 2.15pm; *Love The Coopers* (2D) 4.45pm; *Room* (2D) 7pm; *El Leila El Kebira* (Arabic) 9pm; *Pasanga 2* (Tamil) 11.15pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): *The Peanuts Movie* (2D) 2.15pm; *Belle & Sebastian 2* (2D) 4pm; *The Good Dinosaur* (2D) 5.45pm; *Point Break* (2D) 7.30pm; *Morning Star* (2D) 9.45pm; *Point Break* (2D) 11.30pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): *Love The Coopers* (2D) 2.30pm; *Paparazzi* (Arabic) (2D) 4.30pm; *Room* (2D) 6.45pm; *Morning Star* (2D) 9pm; *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens* (2D) 11.15pm.

EVENTS

Aspire Park Cinema

DATE: Dec 24 - Feb 5
TIME: 6pm - 8pm
VENUE: Aspire Park
Aspire Zone Foundation, in collaboration with Jeem TV, is presenting for the first time children movies on its giant screen behind Hayat Plaza, every Thursday and Friday from 6pm to 8pm.

Qatari Agricultural Product Yards

DATE: Until June 30
VENUE: Al Mazrooa, Al Zakheera, Al Khor, Al Wakrah

The Ministry of Environment will open the 4th season of Qatari agricultural product yards for selling locally produced fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish and livestock. Work in these yards will continue for 7 months. The yards will operate three days a week on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7am to 5pm, with livestock vendors in Al Mazrooa operating at the same times throughout the week.

Pink Shadows Exhibition

DATE: Ongoing until tomorrow
TIME: 10am - 10pm
VENUE: Katara

The Cultural Village Foundation – Katara is organising Pink Shadows Exhibition by the Qatari artist Dana al-Safar from 10am to 10pm.

Luc Tuymans: Intolerance

DATE: Until Jan 30
VENUE: Qatar Museums Gallery Alriwaq
Qatar Museums will present a retrospective of the work of Luc Tuymans, the first solo show of the artist in the Gulf region. The exhibition, Intolerance, a comprehensive survey of the artist's work, will include a series of wall paintings and a new body of work, 'The Arena', created specifically for the show. Curated by Lynne Cooke, Senior Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art at the National Gallery of Art Washington.

QBX EXPO

DATE: Jan 10-12
Time: 10am-9pm
VENUE: Doha Exhibition Center
This exhibition is the first of its kind, as it will gather every single business activity starting from start-ups to the most advanced business establishment. It is for everyone who wants to keep up with the latest and most advanced support services and business solution to improve productivity.

VCU Qatar Spring 2016

DATE: Jan 25
VENUE: Al Tadamoun Signal, Doha City
Learn new skills and deepen your understanding of art and culture at VCUQatar. Choose from a large selection of art, design and craft courses at VCUQatar in Education City or at IAID (Academy for Dance, Music & Arts). Register online now, visit www.qatar.vcu.edu/community. For more details you can call IAID at 44320974 / 44411234 / 66710589 or e-mail us at enquire@iaidonline.org.

Reflection event

Better Connections is one of the largest public-private partnerships in Qatar focused on building the skills of low-income workers and providing them with access to the internet and other technologies that would facilitate their needs while living in Qatar. Reach Out To Asia (Rota) cordially invites you to attend The Better Connection Program Reflection Event to celebrate 2015 achievements, held on December 30 in Doha.

WHEN: Tomorrow at 7pm.
WHERE: Ballroom 2, Student Center – Qatar Foundation (KBHU)

2016 Ooredoo Marathon

DATE: Jan 8, 2016
TIME: 10am
Ooredoo officially opened registration for the 2016 Ooredoo Marathon, as the company aimed to make next year's race the biggest and best-ever. Now in its fourth year, the Ooredoo Marathon will take place on Friday, January 8. Ooredoo is working with a range of partners across Qatar to encourage more people to participate. In particular, the company is looking to encourage more kids to run in the children's races and more people from all walks of life to get involved in their first race.



Harem Al Sultan Exhibition

DATE: Until Jan 10
VENUE: Katara Bldg 10
The Magnificent Century series has become a television legend, a historical soap opera on the life of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent that has now been watched by 300mn viewers in 54 countries. This unique exhibition brings the costumes, sets and ambience of the series to Doha, revealing the stories behind the life of the Turkish conqueror and his love for the humble and beautiful Harem Sultan. Exhibition visitors will be transported back to the glorious world of Suleiman the Magnificent and see the artistry and craftsmanship that went into creating the iconic props and decors of the series.

Career development workshop

DATE: Tomorrow
TIME: 5pm - 8pm
VENUE: Katara
The Bedaya Center for Entrepreneurship and Career Development is a partnership between the Qatar Development Bank and Silatech that is closely aligned to their respective visions. Activities are designed to address the needs of youth (aged 18 - 30) wishing to develop their skills and capabilities as entrepreneurs, or their employability and work-based skills.

The Color Run Qatar

DATE: Jan 9, 2016
VENUE: Qatar National Convention Center
You can join the Color Run this year and enjoy the time of your life. For team runners (4 or more friends): registration will cost QR160 per runner. For solo runners: registration will cost QR170. Kids under the age of 4 years run for free. The Color Run is a 5km, un-timed fun run in which thousands of runners are doused from head to toe in different colors at the end of each kilometre. It is open to all of Doha's residents regardless of age and ability.

Harrods Doha

DATE: Until Jan 24
TIME: 4pm - 1:55pm
VENUE: Katara Cultural Village
Harrods celebrates their inaugural launch of the Harrods Doha Village. Be there and experience luxury in style.

Circus Of Sound

DATE: Dec 31
TIME: 8pm
VENUE: Al Majlis Ballroom
Behold the greatest show on earth: Circus Of Sound! Join our ringmasters and circus party animals for an immersive experience under the big top this New Years Eve! Witness our spectacular circus performers and take part in traditional carnival games whilst bringing in the New Year in style with the original superstar DJ Judge Jules and Defected's leading lady DJ RAE.

IAID Winter Workshop

DATE: Until Dec 31
TIME: 8am
VENUE: Al Tadamoun Signal, Al Hilal Street
IAID Winter Workshop 2015 offers an exciting range of courses for Dance, Music, Arts and Fitness for ages 3-18 years. Your kids will surely enjoy each class with our highly-professional instructors and facilities. Classes will run from 19-31 December 2015, so hurry and enrol now.

Contemporary Traditional

DATE: Until Jan 5
TIME: 7pm
VENUE: Katara
This exhibition is the result of Johnatan Machado's experience in Qatar, who has produced a series of works inspired by Qatari traditional art forms. In this production, the artist utilises traditional local materials such as Sedu – Bedouin's fabrics – and transforms them into great contemporary pieces, creating new patterns and building a bridge between past and modern times.

Operation Keep Syrian Children Warm

DATE: Until Dec 31
TIME: All day
VENUE: Al Suhail St, Al Mansoura
All For One, a community service organization, gives you the motivation you need to clean out your closets for a good cause. Participate anytime throughout the year by donating any items for winter in the aid of Syrian children refugees! This campaign runs year round so anytime you fancy a clear out, bring in a bagful and help beat the cold of the winter for our Syrian children sooner.

Pottery workshop for kids

DATE: Every Monday
TIME: 5pm - 6pm
Kids will learn a new hand building technique for creating and finishing artworks in clay. For more, call 44865201.

Sketching with pencil and charcoal

DATE: Sunday and Wednesday
TIME: 5pm - 6:30pm
If you can hold a pencil, you can draw ... Discover techniques to make your drawing more realistic. Every Saturday and Wednesday from 5pm - 6:30pm. For reservation: arts-crafts@live.com.

Works from Mathaf Collection

DATE: Until February 14, 2016
TIME: 11am to 6pm
VENUE: Arab Museum of Modern Art
The artworks collection to be exhibited will reflect a number of important defining moments in Arab history and artistic innovations in the region.

Hip Hop for kids

DATE: Every Sunday
TIME: 5 - 6pm
VENUE: Hilton
Join our Hip Hop classes instructed by Beats and Bytes every Sunday at 5pm @ Hilton Hotel, Efora Spa. For more info, call on 33003839 www.salsancandela.com

Salsa Beginners

DATE: Tuesday, Friday
TIME: 8 - 9pm
VENUE: Hilton Hotel
Whether you've danced salsa before or not, you will find what you want. Different salsa classes with different levels at your service, taught by the best instructors in Doha at Eforea Spa, Hilton Hotel. No need for a partner, no need for reservation, come as you are. Prices are QR60 per person per lesson. Visit: www.salsancandela.com

Ladies day at Beach

DATE: Every Monday
TIME: 9am - 7pm
VENUE: Sheraton Doha
For all the ladies in Doha! Do you feel like taking some time off for yourself? Come join us at the Sheraton Resort for an all-day-access to the beach and pool, along with aqua gym aerobics for free. Nestled on the edge of Qatar's West Bay with an unbeatable and uninterrupted views of the blue sea. Our pool and beach adds a tempting and exciting experience to enhance your senses of relaxation. Enjoy only for QR100 per person.

Swimming lessons for kids

DATE: Saturday to Thursday
TIME: 10am - 6pm
VENUE: H2O Swim club
The Swim Club's goal offers a variety of swimming programmes for adults and kids. They run the following programmes from competitive squads, leisure swimming for kids, up to adult swimming. Operating hours: Saturday to Thursday between 10am and 6pm. To find out more, please visit their website: <http://www.h2oswimclub.com>.

Fitness Training

DATE: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday
TIME: 6pm - 7pm
VENUE: MIA Park
There are fitness classes in the park on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights between 6 and 7pm. Open to all levels of fitness, Bootcamp is an intensive and fun way to train and also meet new people in the open and friendly group atmosphere. More information from Bootcamp Qatar or info@bootcampqatar.com

The Hunt: Princely Pursuits In Islamic Lands

DATE: Until January 9, 2016
VENUE: MIA
The act of hunting, rich with symbolism and pageantry, was – and in some places continues to be – an essential element in the lifestyle of rulers throughout the Islamic world. As such, images of the hunt are commonly found in Islamic art, whether in lavishly illustrated manuscripts, inlaid metalwork or colourful ceramics.

Join in our Walk-in Weekends

DATE: Every Saturday
VENUE: MIA Atrium
MIA art education and calligraphy teams offer walk-in workshops in MIA's atrium every Saturday. These walk-in workshops are for open for all family members.

FOODIE CHOICE

RESTAURANT: Nonna Zannon

LOCATION: Sara Tower, West Bay
Nonna Zannon Doha is an authentic Italian restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows all around, a fantastic terrace, its glorious sunlight only matched by its food. Delicious, authentic, home cooked, comforting food, just like Nonna (grandmother) used to make! Reasonably priced.



Just not what the doctor ordered

Many patients are turning to nonprescription insulin because it's cheaper and all they can afford, writes **Sarah Jane Tribble**



As anyone who needs insulin to treat diabetes can tell you, that usually means regular checkups at the doctor's office to fine-tune the dosage, monitor blood-sugar levels and check for complications. But here's a little known fact: Some forms of insulin can be bought without a prescription.

Carmen Smith did that for six years when she didn't have health insurance, and didn't have a primary-care doctor. She bought her insulin without a prescription at Walmart.

"It's not like we go in our trench coat and a top hat, saying, 'Uh I need the insulin,'" said Smith, who

lives in Cleveland. "The clerks usually don't know it's a big secret. They'll just go, 'Do we sell over-the-counter insulin?'"

Once the pharmacist said yes, the clerk just goes to get it, Smith said. "And you purchase it and go about your business."

But it's still a pretty uncommon purchase. Smith didn't learn from a doctor that she could buy insulin that way. Many doctors don't know it's possible. When she no longer had insurance to help pay for doctors' appointments or medicine, Smith happened to ask at Walmart if she could get vials of the medicine without a prescription. To figure out the dose, she just used the same amount a doctor had given her years before.

It was a way to survive, she said, but no way to live. It was horrible when she didn't get the size of the dose or the timing quite right.

"It's a quick high and then, it's a down," Smith said. "The down part is, you feel icky. You feel lifeless. You feel pain. And the cramps are so intense — till you can't walk, you can't sit, you can't stand."

Smith's guesswork put her in the emergency room of MetroHealth, Cleveland's public hospital, several times across six years.

The availability of insulin over the counter presents a conundrum. As Smith's experience shows, without training or guidance from a healthcare provider, it can be dangerous for a patient to guess the best dosage and timing from

version to version of insulin.

On the other hand, being able to afford and easily buy some when she needed it may have saved her life. There are two types of human insulin available over the counter: one made by Eli Lilly and the other by Novo Nordisk. These versions of the medicine are older, and take longer to metabolize than some of the newer prescription versions. They were created in the early 1980s, and the prices range from more than \$200 a vial to as little as \$25, depending on where you buy them.

Dr Jorge Calles, an endocrinologist at MetroHealth, is alarmed to think that some people are self-medicating with any sort of insulin.

"It's a very serious situation if they are selling it over the counter — without any control with a prescription, specifically," Calles said.

According to the medical consulting firm IMS Health, about 15 percent of people who buy insulin in the growing US diabetes market do so without a prescription.

The US Food and Drug Administration declined multiple requests for an interview on this topic. But, in an email, an FDA representative said that the versions of insulin now available over the counter were approved for sale that way because they are based on a less concentrated, older formulation, "that did not require

a licenced medical practitioner's supervision for safe use." The broader availability of this form of insulin allows patients with diabetes to obtain it "quickly in urgent situations, without delays," the FDA said, and is intended to increase patient safety.

Still, some people with diabetes, as well as some doctors, doubt that the benefits of that greater availability outweigh the risks, especially for patients who switch from one type of insulin to another without telling their doctor.

"This is not something that should be done without the help of a professional," said David Kliff, who has Type 1 diabetes and writes the Diabetic Investors blog. Kliff has followed and written about the expanding business of diabetes for years.

FDA officials are "basically sticking their heads in the sand" on this issue, Kliff said, and making a lot of assumptions.

"They look at insulin as a drug," he said, "and say, 'There's this enormous body of evidence that shows that the drug is safe.' But, you know, there's a little asterisk at the end there. What the little asterisk basically said is: 'You know, that's assuming that the patient is trained on it.'"

When asked about safety concerns, the FDA said the agency welcomes more research into the safety of over-the-counter insulin.

One state does require prescriptions for all insulin. Dr Kevin Burke, a health officer for Clark County, Indiana, led the effort to require prescriptions in his state.

"I didn't realise that insulin was over the counter in Indiana until two of my patients, who were in good control, suddenly had increased glucoses," Burke said. He asked them if they had changed their diet, lost weight, altered their workout routines. They had not.

"They both admitted that they had decided to switch to over-the-counter insulin, which was different from what I had prescribed," Burke said.

Over time, taking the wrong dosages destroys your body, Burke said. Poorly managed diabetes can cause complications such as high blood pressure, kidney disease, nerve damage, loss of eyesight and stroke.

Burke said he took his concerns to the American Medical Association. But the doctors' group told him there are no data showing that the drug's over-the-counter availability is a public health hazard. The AMA's board noted that getting insulin without a doctor's prescription may be an important way for some insulin-dependent patients to get access to the medicine they need.

Dr Todd Hobbs is chief medical officer of Novo Nordisk in North America, which makes Novolin, one of the two versions of insulin sold over the counter. His company partners with Walmart to sell its version under the brand name ReliOn. (WalMart declined to be interviewed for this story.)

Hobbs said Novo Nordisk's



version of insulin is for people who don't have insurance, or who have to pay a lot for their other prescriptions — "people who just, for whatever, reason have fallen through the cracks and either don't have insurance coverage at the time, or are without coverage."

With rising co-payments and

premiums, he said, many patients are turning to nonprescription insulin because it's cheaper and all they can afford.

"But we hope to try to help them to not have to do that," Hobbs said. "We clearly think the newer versions are more close to what the body would do on its

own." The prescription versions are better and safer, he agreed, because they make it easier for patients to avoid wild fluctuations in blood sugar.

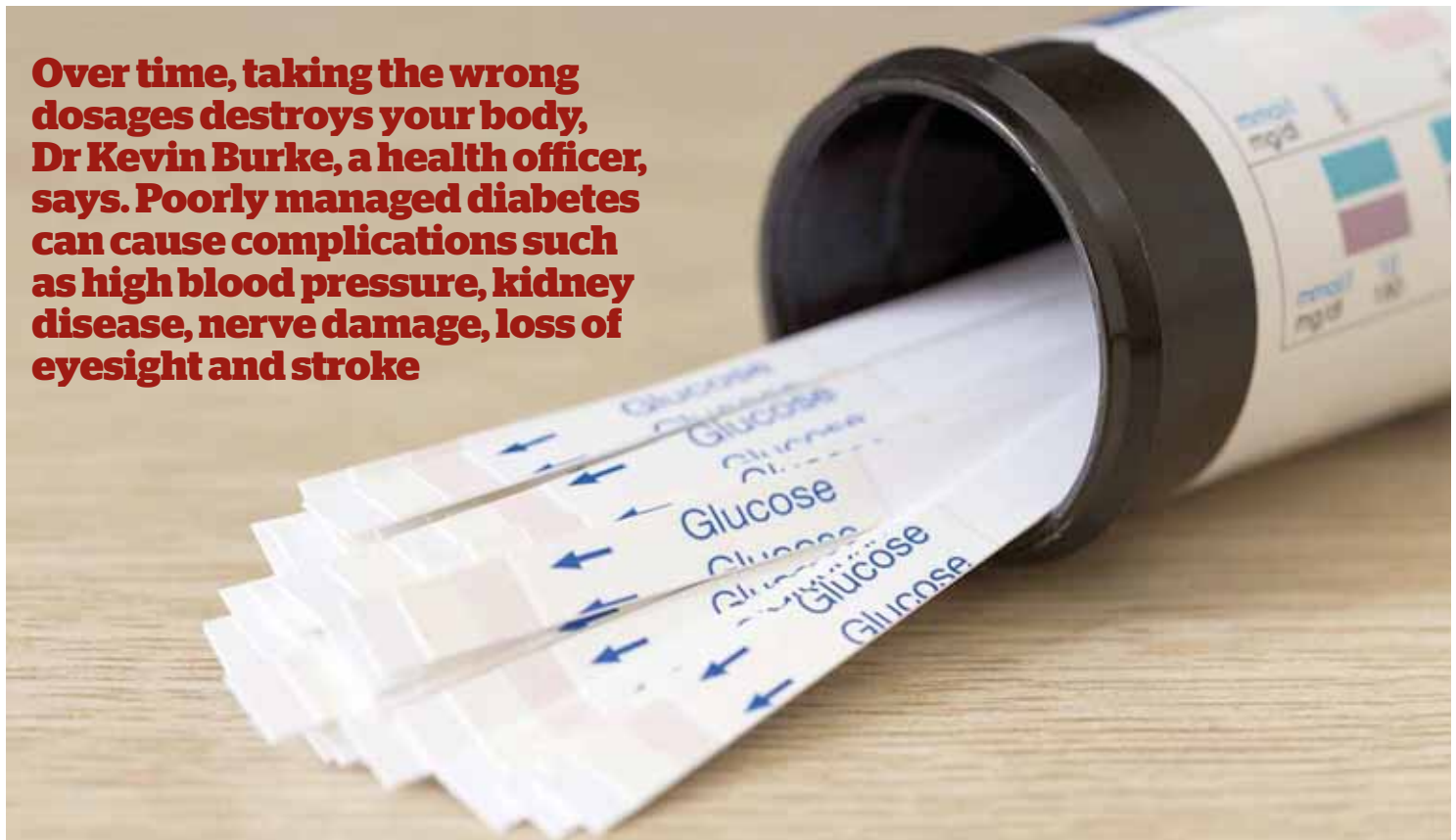
Carmen Smith doesn't blame the insulin she was taking for her emergency room visits.

"Insulin is not the problem," she

said. "It is getting the insulin that is the problem. Once I got connected with my physician, life as a diabetic got a lot less complicated for me."

Smith is now on Medicaid. She has a doctor — and a prescription for one of the newer generation of insulins. — *Kaiser Health News/TNS*

Over time, taking the wrong dosages destroys your body, Dr Kevin Burke, a health officer, says. Poorly managed diabetes can cause complications such as high blood pressure, kidney disease, nerve damage, loss of eyesight and stroke





Al Qannas Society all set for 2nd International Falcons Veterinary Conference

Al Qannas Society is collaborating with the Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital to organise Qatar's second International Falcons Veterinary Conference from January 26 to 28. This was announced by Al Qannas Society's Vice-President Mohammed bin Abdulatif al-Missned in a statement yesterday.

Al-Missned said: "The second edition of the conference will discuss methods in falcons veterinary. The types of diseases that affect falcons specifically in the Gulf region and appropriate veterinary solutions will be also discussed. The conference will also shed light on the outcomes of researches carried out by elite global veterinarians, and scientists and researchers. The conference is unique scientific meeting place in the field of falcon veterinary."

Al-Missned thanked Katara for sponsoring the conference and helping them with the arrangements.

The vice-president of Al Qannas Society pointed out that the holding of the conference stems from importance accorded to falcons in the traditions of Qatar and GCC countries.

He said, "We look forward to contributing at coming up with vital results in terms of falcons treatments and medication. Holding the conference indicates the keenness of Al Qannas Society to spread awareness about falcon veterinary worldwide, to ensure sustainable hunting and maximum benefits for falcons and falconers."

Al-Missned added, "[The



Al Qannas Society's Vice-President Mohammed bin Abdulatif al-Missned.

conference] provides an exceptional opportunity to all veterinarians, scientists, researchers, falconers and decision-makers in government and private institutions involved in falconry to come together to discuss providing the best care to falcons?"

The conference will be

composed of lectures on birds of prey (mainly falcons), endoscopy, orthopaedic, ophthalmology and soft tissue surgery master classes, practical lab, and excursions including "Marmi, the challenge" (falcons' competitions) and a visit to Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation.



A captive Saker Falcon used in falconry in Qatar. Photo by Qatari/Wikipedia

Bangladeshi expats celebrate country's Victory Day

The Qatar chapter of the Awami League Shamsuddin Mondal organised an event to mark the country's Victory Day recently. The people paid tributes to the martyrs of 1971's independence war at the gathering. Ferdous Alam Chow, Abul Kashim, Shed Ullah Haidar, MD Alangir, Rahim Parbez, Muneer U Jaman, Biplob Sharma, Riyaz, KM Julhas, and Mafizur Rahman were some of the prominent members of the Bangladeshi community who attended.



Students attend Balavelicham programme at MES

MES Indian School Principal Mohammed Haroon Khan inaugurated the opening session of Balavelicham recently. Balavelicham, or the light for youngsters, is a programme that teaches the Qur'an to young people, especially from Kerala. Sulaiman Melpathoor, a renowned educational counsellor from Kerala, attended the programme and delivered the keynote speech in the closing session. Dr Mohammed Shaker, manager IT skills development at Qatar Airways, also interacted with the children, encouraging them to plan ahead for their future.



La Villa Restaurant offers set menu for New Year's Eve

Executive Chef Lasaad at the La Villa Restaurant of Mercure Hotel has prepared a special menu to reel in 2016. The set menu, which will be available to guests starting 7pm onwards, can be checked at the hotel's Facebook page.

MOTORING

Infiniti introduces its most advanced V6 engine

At a special media preview ahead of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit next month, Infiniti has showcased an all-new engine: the 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo from the new and exclusive 'VR' powertrain family.

The new compact and lightweight 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo engine is the most advanced V6 engine that Infiniti has ever offered, striking an ideal balance between drivability, efficiency, and performance.

The engine's reduced weight and contained size is credited, in part, to lighter and more compact cylinder blocks. The result is greater mechanical efficiency, while a series of new features and in-house innovations secure superior performance.

"The all-new engine from Infiniti reaffirms our commitment to expanding our powertrain and product portfolio," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East. "Both versions of the all-new engine will make its Middle East debut in the Infiniti Q50 later in 2016. Since launch the Infiniti Q50 has performed exceptionally well – with a sales growth of 124% for the first eleven months of 2015. We are confident that with the addition of the new powertrains, it will help Infiniti to further increase its footprint in the region."

The all-new 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo engine has been developed to deliver optimal power and torque for an engine of its size, together with optimised fuel efficiency. The high-output version of the power unit

delivers 400hp (298kW) at 6400 rpm and 475Nm (350lb-ft) maximum torque at 1600-5200 rpm; while the 300hp (224kW) version (at 6400 rpm) produces 400Nm (295lb-ft) torque at 1600-5200 rpm.

These outputs have been achieved while ensuring an improvement in fuel efficiency of up to 6.7% and this represents a best-in-class power-to-efficiency ratio for the 400hp power unit, says Infiniti.

This power-to-efficiency performance was made possible thanks to a set of newly-developed features. Advanced timing control ensures improved responsiveness, enabling quicker reactions to driver inputs. Power delivery is enhanced through an advanced new twin-turbo system enabling smooth and immediate responses under acceleration, while aiding efficiency.

An optimised turbine blade design helps the engine generate greater overall performance, with faster turbine revolution speeds allowing for an immediate response from the twin-turbo system. In addition, the V6 engine features a new turbine speed sensor, which allows for the twin-turbo system to perform at up to 220,000 rpm – at steady condition and 240,000 rpm at transient condition – higher than ever before for a V6 power unit, says Infiniti.

Selected Infiniti models, among them the upgraded Q50, will be equipped with the new 3.0-litre V6 twin-turbo from 2016 onwards, with the engine being manufactured at the powertrain plant in Iwaki, Fukushima, Japan.



The new engine.



In spooky world of the salt mine



AT WORK: A wheeled excavator picks up rock salt inside the Stetten Salt Mine in Germany.

By Lena Muessigmann

Salt mines are supposed to be terrifying underground hells, but down in one of Germany's main commercial salt deposits, it's strangely calm.

The off-white salt walls gleam like the

snow on a clear winter night. Salt dust glistens in the light and covers everything, including the skin and lips of the miners at work. When the machinery stops, total silence reigns.

The Stetten Salt Mine near Haigerloch in the German state of Baden Wuerttemberg has been in operation for 160 years, extracting salt from under the Swabian Alb mountains.

A vast labyrinth of cool, dry tunnels have been created during this period to extract the vast reserves of salt located 100 to 150 metres below the surface.

The mine's operating manager Michael Schulz has worked in the mining industry for 35 years – 20 of those at Stettin – and gives a tour of the underground complex he knows like the back of his hand.

"It's a world of its own down here," he says.

"Everyone has to be able to rely on everyone else."

The underground tunnel network combines to a length of 200 kilometres and resembles a fish skeleton. It has a broad central road criss-crossed by smaller tunnels to the left and right where the salt is extracted with the help of explosives.

The visiting group has lost total orientation in the tunnel complex by the time



PREPARATION: A miner operates a 7-metre drill that makes holes for blasting in the Stetten Salt Mine in Germany. The drill is mounted on its own vehicle.



A wheeled digger dumps a shovelful of salt onto a conveyer inside the Stetten Salt Mine in Germany.



Michael Schulz, operating manager of the Stetten Salt Mine in Germany, points a torch at a wall of rock salt underground.



Light from a vehicle's headlights reflects from the glistening ceiling and walls of rock salt in the Stetten Salt Mine in Germany.

Schulz has swerved in and out of tunnels and finally stops his vehicle at the active mine face.

A miner is using a 7-metre-long drill to bore holes in the wall before stuffing them with an explosive charge. Once loosened, the rock salt is hauled away by diggers, then transported on a conveyor belt to a huge silo where it is dropped into one of the approximately 14,000 trucks that come to the mine each year to load up with salt.

Much of the 500,000 tons of salt mined here annually is used to salt German roads during the cold winter months. Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water, making ice

and snow on the roads melt so that vehicles will not skid.

Annual output is therefore heavily dependent on climate factors. Not surprisingly, mild temperatures make mine director Frank Joppen slightly nervous.

"We are depending on a good winter," says Joppen, by which he means daytime sleet or freezing rain and night temperatures dropping to between 2 and 3 degrees below zero Celsius.

"It's the kind of weather that no one else wants," he admits.

That sort of weather obliges 350 municipal and local authorities within a 300-kilometre

radius of Haigerloch to send out their gritting vehicles, which in turn results in orders for more salt from Joppen's mine.

The use of salt for gritting has become a controversial issue in Germany due to environmental concerns. Salt in the soil can kill off plant growth.

Modern gritting vehicles now spread salt with less wastage, meaning less is required, but salt sales have remained constant for the Stetten mine because the size of the region's road network keeps increasing, explains Joppen.

The German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union Germany (NABU) argues

that salt on roads alters the surrounding soil's nutrient content. This is most evident when trees wither in spring due to a lack of water, says NABU spokeswoman Anke Beisswaenger.

Whatever legal rules eventuate over salt use, the mine in Haigerloch has sufficient reserves to continue production for another couple of decades.

Even then the mine will not close. Its owner, the Wacker corporation, intends making more profit from the complex by offering the tunnels as an eternal storage site for mineral waste, contaminated earth, ash and chemical residue. —DPA



Tech outlook for 2016



Foot traffic streams past Uber offices on Market Street in San Francisco. In 2016, on-demand service will quite literally be put on trial when a class-action lawsuit against Uber over worker misclassification goes before a jury in a US District Court.



Snapchat users can expect a string of new features in 2016.

Virtual reality, connected cars, e-sports, the on-demand economy — all are becoming important elements in the Southland economy, and all are poised for rapid growth in 2016 — along with some challenges. And then there's Snapchat Inc., based in Venice, and one of the most highly valued companies currently competing in the latest venture-capital-juiced start-up cycle, which many believe is way overheated.

Snapchat

The popular disappearing chat and video app needs to create predictability for investors to increase the odds of going public at a valuation exceeding the \$16 billion at which it's supposedly valued. That includes steady growth in sales.

More time spent on Snapchat means more ad revenue for the company. So a string of new features will certainly be added in 2016. Some possible new additions:

Group chats: Snapchat users must individually select message recipients. Snapchat Chief Executive Evan Spiegel has said eschewing group messaging was intended to make people think deeply about who

they are sharing their lives with. But he's got to keep users thirsting for group chats happy, so expect some streamlined sharing.

Changing tunes: Spiegel is big on music, and has a long-stated interest in helping aspiring musicians and artists. How that translates into chat features is unclear, but expect Snapchat to introduce at least one big thing around sounds. For one, Spiegel can't ignore the smashing success of Dubsmash, an app that dubs selfie videos with popular sound clips. It's soared in big countries including India. Snapchat's foray might be a voice alteration feature.

Growing local: Snapchat has hired aggressively for a "Live Stories" team that organizes user-generated videos into categories like holiday celebrations in London or summer lake parties. But the company can hire only so many "content analysts" without labour costs running wild. Expect Snapchat to begin producing videos aimed at more regional audiences, like surfacing videos from individual towns, by using computer analysis to group content.

Shopping data: Snapchat could better compete with YouTube by making publicly shared user posts

searchable, leveraging data about what users are talking about to target ads, and just allowing people to link out to their websites. It's unlikely that any of that is coming from a company that expresses queasiness about snooping into too much user data. But mounting pressure from advertisers is likely to get Snapchat to create some sort of method for users to buy non-Snapchat goods and services through the app, maybe through celebrity and brand accounts only.

Camera upgrades: The camera screen, through which users can see the scene they're about to capture, is the most-seen feature on Snapchat. Literally, the app opens up to the camera every time. Snapchat now charges users to animate their faces on the camera. Expect more features along that line, ranging from special fonts to object recognition. — Paresh Dave

Virtual Reality

Just this year, Apple, Nokia, Netflix, the New York Times, GoPro, the Discovery Channel and even toy maker Mattel introduced loads of hardware and content for immersive technology — a burgeoning market segment that includes virtual reality,

augmented reality and other means of putting users in an alternate universe, usually with the aid of computer-connected goggles.

Expect 2016 to be even bigger. Right now, Samsung's Gear VR is the only major brand with a headset available to consumers. But come next year, Sony's Playstation VR, Facebook's Oculus Rift and HTC's Vive are expected to be released and rumoured to range in price from about \$300 to \$1,500.

Moviemakers are investing in more sophisticated immersive equipment. Many were rigging cameras together to capture the 360-degree view. Now Nokia is introducing a \$60,000 camera called the Ozo specifically for high-quality virtual reality content.

The challenge will be finding enough games, movies, TV shows and other software to make the technology compelling. Remember when 3-D glasses were supposed to be the next big thing?

On that front are game makers like Ubisoft Entertainment, which is developing "Eagle Flight" for Sony Playstation VR, which allows players to control an eagle over an abandoned Paris, overgrown with trees and vegetation.

German software developer Crytek is producing a game for Oculus Rift, "The Climb," a harrowing adventure in which users climb dangerous mountains and rock faces.

And Samsung's Gear VR — the most affordable of the major headsets at \$100 apiece — is amping up existing mobile games such as "Temple Run" with the VR treatment.

Beyond games, the New York Times' partnership with Google Cardboard demonstrated the medium's potential in journalistic storytelling. Meanwhile, Apple released a U2 music video in VR.

Kinks remain — namely dialing-down the vomit factor when getting disoriented wearing one of the headsets. And here's hoping there's a way to one day look less dorky strapping a plastic block to your face. —David Pierson

E-Sports













Great video game players have competed against others for years with money or trophies at stake. But now that millions of people are watching those e-sports contests in big arenas and other venues, entrepreneurs are perking up.

In 2016, the e-sports industry will see a huge burst of investment and rapid professionalisation, analysts say. Video game competitions will begin running on cable network TBS on Friday nights, sponsors will increase tournament prizes, and those scheming entrepreneurs will try to cash in quickly just in case e-sports turn out to be a fad. For now, industry experts are optimistic that they're onto the next \$1-billion sport.

Three possible scenarios for 2016:

1. NBA star LeBron James just signed a lifetime endorsement deal with Nike worth more than \$500 million. A video game player won't be getting a contract that sweet, but how about a multiyear deal of at least \$10 million? It's possible, says Koh Kim, co-head of business development at game-streaming app Mobcrush. Expect 2016 to provide a

Featured Games Games people are watching now

 League of Legends 95,582 viewers	 Counter-Strike: Glo... 45,093 viewers	 Call of Duty: Black ... 35,845 viewers	 Dota 2 33,236 viewers	 Grand Theft Auto V 30,407 viewers	 Hearthstone: Heroe... 24,565 viewers
 H1Z1 15,711 viewers	 Creative 13,960 viewers	 Minecraft 11,805 viewers	 World of Warcraft 11,044 viewers	 Destiny 9,738 viewers	 Rocket League 8,651 viewers

E-Sports will get a lot more data savvy in 2016, says Kevin Lin, chief operating officer of Twitch.



Right now, Samsung's Gear VR is the only major brand with a virtual reality headset available to consumers, but 2016 will bring a slew of new virtual reality products to the table.

good case study of whether someone like "League of Legends" great Sang-hyeok Lee, known as Faker, can move US consumers.

2. E-sports will get a lot more data savvy, says Kevin Lin, chief operating officer of Twitch, the leading app for videos about playing video games. Event organisers will understand viewers better and make data-driven expansions into markets such as Latin America. Game publishers finally will track how viewership translates to sales. And they'll use the data to innovate marketing, crowdfunding drives and other business initiatives. They'll maybe even get into building arcades and arenas for e-sports.

3. North America's four major sports leagues each has a players union; expect players in one of the top e-sports league to unionise to create fairness in pay and working conditions, says Dennis Fong, founder of e-sports video start-up Raptr and a former professional player. —Paresh Dave

Connected Cars

Whether it's Internet-connected cars or self-driving vehicles, the very definition of an automobile is changing dramatically. Car industry analysts portray a world in which cars

transform into entertainment hubs and people won't have to get driver's licenses anymore.

It'll be years before you can ditch your car and rely on a fleet of on-demand driverless vehicles, but the auto revolution will continue to make big strides in 2016.

California leads the development of autonomous cars, advanced green vehicles and automotive software, including Google's and Apple's growing automotive operations; it's also home to ride-hailing apps Uber and Lyft. The state's aggressive environmental regulation and generous electric car subsidies have nurtured companies such as Tesla and its emerging rival, Gardena electric car company Faraday Future.

To kick off the New Year, Faraday is scheduled to show off a prototype of its first electric car at the Consumer Electronics Show the first week of January. The trade show, historically focused on consumer electronics, in 2016 will devote more than 200,000 square feet — up from 150,000 last year — to automotive technologies.

Still, for all the buzz and potential, there are numerous tensions at play.

Detroit, long the auto capital of the country, for years resisted the bridging



A Google self-driving car travels eastbound on San Antonio Road in Mountain View, Calif. It'll be years before you can ditch your car and rely on a fleet of on-demand driverless vehicles, but the auto revolution will continue to make big strides in 2016.

of the car and tech sectors. Although it has come around — it didn't have much choice — the convergence of Silicon Valley and Detroit continues to be a work in progress.

And Wednesday, California's Department of Motor Vehicles introduced draft rules for public use of driverless cars that would require a licensed driver to be in the vehicle, among other regulations. Google has already voiced its disappointment with the proposed restrictions. —Andrea Chang

The On-Demand Economy

If 2015 was the year the on-demand economy became a mainstay in California, 2016 could be the year the business model powering services such as Uber, Lyft, and GrubHub unravels.

Come June 20, 2016, the business model of using independent contractors to fulfil on-demand service such as taxiing passengers, cleaning houses and delivering meals will quite literally be put on trial when a class-action lawsuit against Uber over worker misclassification goes before a jury in a US District Court.

Other businesses, such as Lyft and DoorDash, face similar lawsuits.

The class actions argue that many workers in the on-demand economy have been misclassified as independent contractors, effectively stripping them of rights to overtime, expense reimbursements and other benefits.

Many workers want to be recognised as employees — benefits and all — a proposition that start-ups are balking at because, in addition to the costs involved, it would require a complete business model overhaul.

The outcome of the class actions could determine the direction in which the on-demand economy heads, although Uber has expressed confidence that it can win the lawsuit and the issue will soon be laid to rest.

Not everyone shares that confidence, though. A number of start-ups in California, such as meal delivery services Munchery and Sprig, on-demand valet service Luxe Valet and grocery delivery service Instacart have already transitioned their workers from independent contractors to employees. —Los Angeles Times/TNS



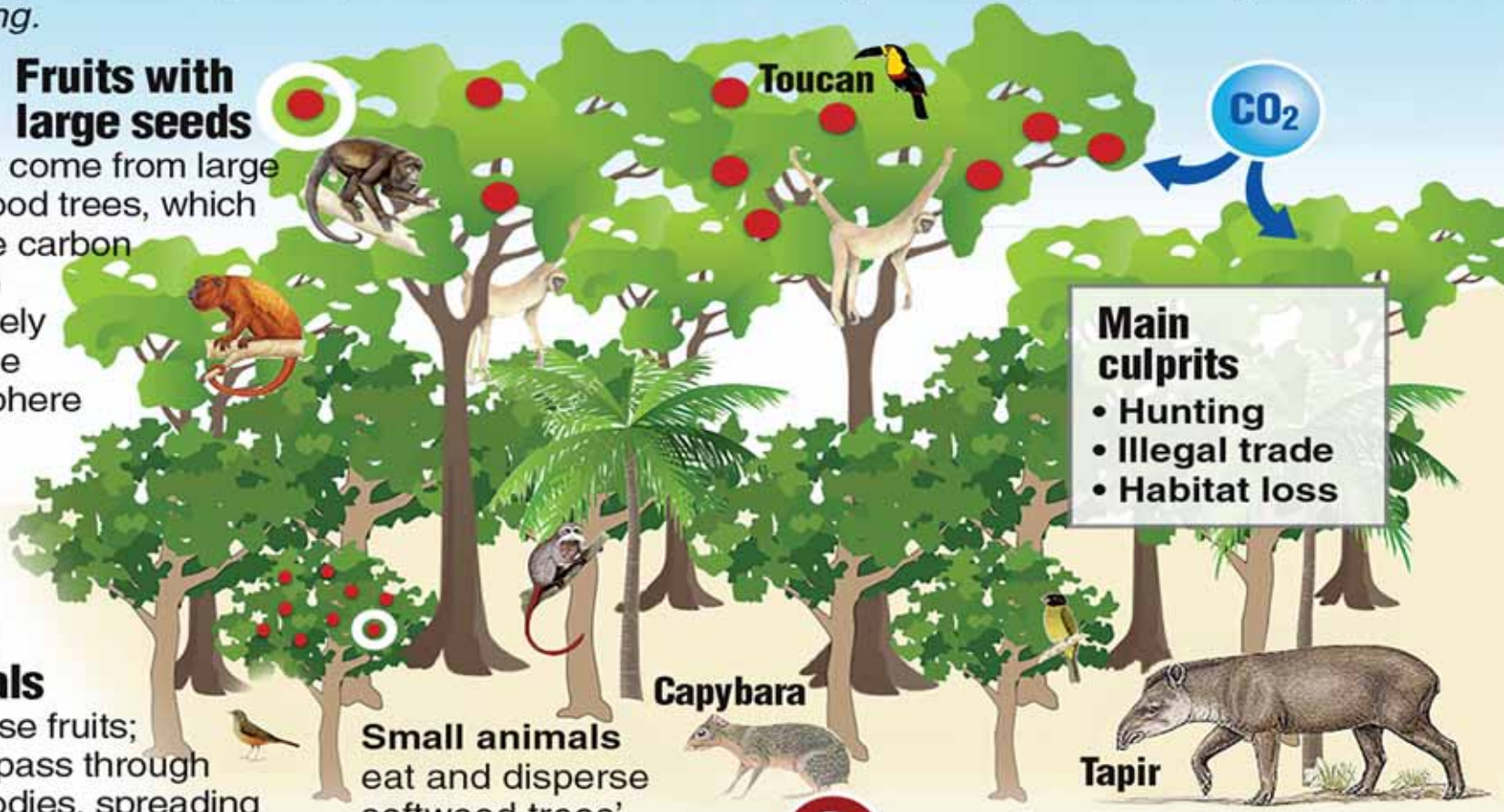
Science Matters

Animals gone, tropical forest fails

When large fruit-eating animals such as monkeys, tapirs and toucans are killed or driven from tropical forests, tree species decline and the forest gives less protection against global warming.

1 Fruits with large seeds

usually come from large hardwood trees, which remove carbon dioxide effectively from the atmosphere



Main culprits

- Hunting
- Illegal trade
- Habitat loss

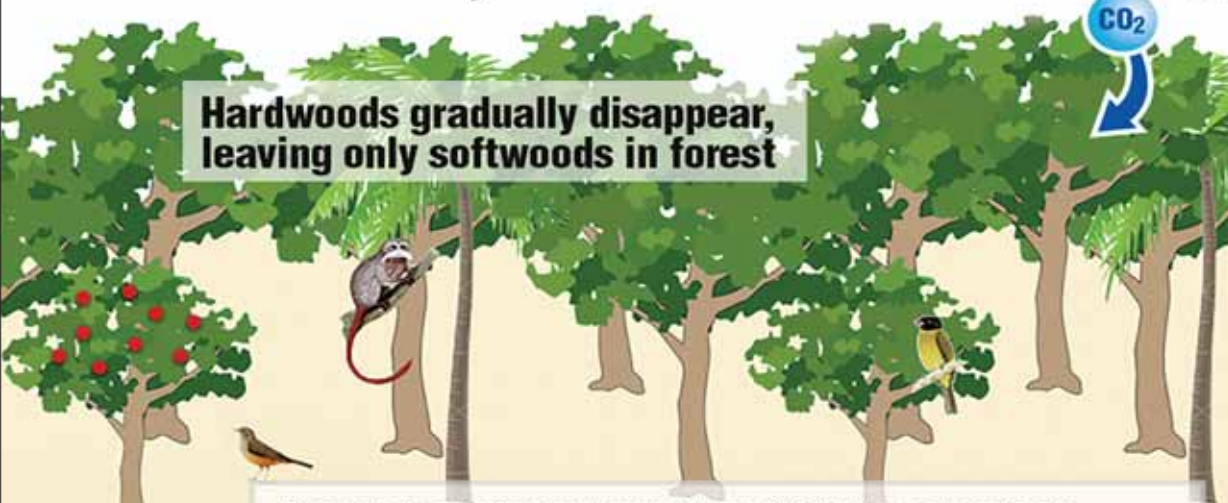
2 Large animals

eat those fruits; seeds pass through their bodies, spreading hardwood trees

Small animals eat and disperse softwood trees' small seeds

3 If larger animals disappear, natural balance is upset; heavy-wooded large trees disappear, only small softwoods remain

Trees thin; Earth warms



Hardwoods gradually disappear, leaving only softwoods in forest

4 Forest is less able to help slow global warming by capturing and locking away CO₂

Researchers studied more than 2,000 tree species in Brazil's Atlantic Forest and more than 800 animal species

Source: São Paulo State University, University of East Anglia, Spanish National Research Council, University of Helsinki, Science Advances journal, NASA
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Renovating a kitchen? These trade secrets can help you achieve your dream kitchen

It's no secret people like to renovate their kitchen — the heart of the home, where many families spend most of their at-home time. However, it can be overwhelming for many homeowners to start designing their dream kitchen without guidance from a professional.

Create character

There is so much inspiration out there, but my rule of thumb is to reach always for what you love — things that tell your story and reflect who you are.

Often that means reaching for what you already live with and love. Think baskets, vases, picture frames, geodes and crystals, woven bowls and brass candlesticks. These are things that will make the room feel layered and lived in. Repurposing what you already own and love is the easiest way to make your design personal without costing you a thing.

Build a beautiful foundation

There are a few things in your kitchen that are truly worth splurging

on. If something has been used for the last 50 years ago, chances are it's still a sure bet. Think white subway tile, marble countertops and top-of-the-line appliances to create a timeless kitchen. Consider a premium appliance line like LG Studio that marries high-end technology with a beautiful aesthetic to serve as the foundation for your dream kitchen.

Lighting is key

Great lighting automatically sets the mood of a room. Since the kitchen is the heart of the home, you want to create a well-lit environment that is functional, but that also looks good. Include lighting in all the places you'll need it — over dining areas, under cabinets and in entryways.

One favourite trick I use in every kitchen I design — a dimming feature that allows you to set the scene, whatever the occasion.

Save smartly

When it comes to designing any space, it's all about well-designed basics such as stainless steel appliances and marble countertops,

but certain elements like vintage bar stools and lighting fixtures can add so much character to your space, and can be picked up in an afternoon at your favourite flea market. Vintage and antique stores in your neighbourhood are a great place to find one-of-a-kind pieces that feel special.

Switch up your seating

Something that feels unexpected and interesting in the kitchen is to mix up the seating. Experiment with different seating configurations, like adding a bench to a traditional or farmhouse-style dining table, or mixing and matching vintage dining chairs.

You can even go a step further and create a seating area with a sofa and area rug to really set the scene and create a space that can be hardworking for your family. Kitchens are where people gather to eat and spend quality time together, so you want the design to reflect your family's personality.

© Brandpoint



ARIES

March 21 – April 19

Think of the big picture today, Aries. Don't think of the day to day grind like having to go grocery shopping or water the garden or pay bills. Think of where you see yourself in a year, 2 years type thing. It's one of those days when picturing yourself sitting Oceanside with your dog next to you is okay.



TAURUS

April 20 – May 20

Be present today bulls. If you feel you have been more than a bit caught up in your life lately, open yourselves up to what other people have to say. You might have missed out on something really great with all of your internalness.



GEMINI

May 21 – June 20

If you can't think of one good response to what is rather harsh criticism or words today, then stay silent. Sometimes silence is the best way to blow someone off and let them know that you're not going to bite on their rod!



CANCER

June 21 – July 22

FUN is your second name for the day, Cancers. What are you going to do with your day? Make sure it involves YOU time. The planets are lining up in your favour and you should take as much time out as you want.



LEO

July 23 – August 22

Now that Jupiter the planet of lucky breaks and opportunity has settled well and truly into your second house of money and self-esteem sign for the next 12 months, what are your plans Leos? Jupiter is the door opener for you, however once you step through that door, you have to do something with whatever gifts he sends your way.



VIRGO

August 23 – September 22

Don't be tempted to take a shortcut today. You will end up regretting it as it will end up being more work than you had imagined or wanted. Plus, it's not like you to try to take the easy way. If you work hard like you always do, you will get where you want to get Virgos.



LIBRA

September 23 – October 22

Be careful that you don't alienate someone today by being overly pushy or underwhelming in your response. Either one can have other people wondering why you're not as excited for them as you are for themselves. It's probably because you have your own things going on, but try to muster as much enthusiasm as you can, Librans!



SCORPIO

October 23 – November 21

If you aren't sure about something, don't attempt it today. There is nothing worse than going against your intuition and doing something only to fail. You will wish you had listened more closely and next time you won't be so quick to dismiss your inner voice.



SAGITTARIUS

November 22 – December 21

There is nothing worse than getting involved in a complicated love triangle or friendship triangle. However, that's exactly how some of you will feel today. With Saturn the planet of focus and discipline in your sign, you are good at sorting things out and people might be coming to you with their issues.



CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 19

If you don't think you and someone you work with are on the same page today, say so. Speak up and be open and honest goats. Rather than be passive aggressive and go along with someone just to keep the peace or to keep the project going smoothly, stand up for yourself.



AQUARIUS

January 20 – February 18

If you don't want to miss out on something, you had better get in line and be prepared for a lengthy wait today Aquarians. There's a lot happening in your relationship zone and friends and family are booking in time with you - so there isn't a lot of downtime or solo time for you.



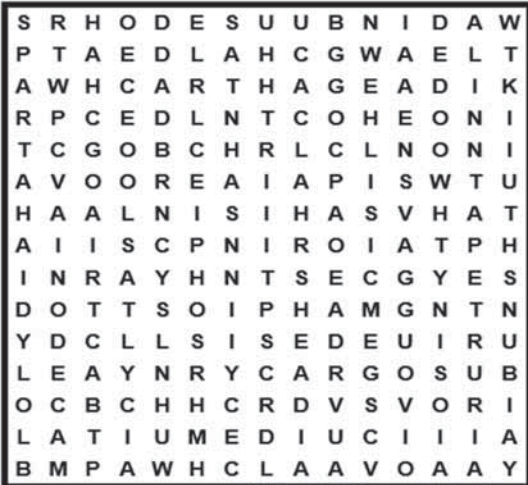
PISCES

February 19 – March 20

Sometimes you get way too ahead of yourself Pisces and this is one of those times. People are egging you on and on and on and you might have to put some affairs in order and get things done one at a time!



Wordsearch



The Ancient World

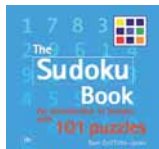
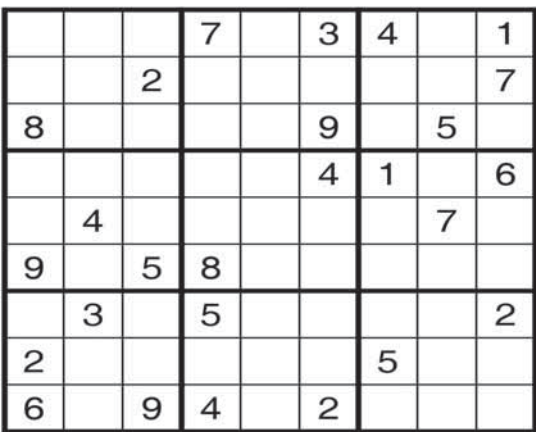
- | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| ACHAEA | COLCHIS | LYCIA |
| AEOLIS | CORINTH | LYDIA |
| ARGOS | DELPHI | MACEDONIA |
| ASSYRIA | EGYPT | NUBIA |
| ATHENS | ETRURIA | PERSIA |
| BABYLON | IONIA | RHODES |
| BACTRIA | ITHACA | SPARTA |
| CARTHAGE | KNOSSOS | SUMERIA |
| CHALDEA | LATIUM | THEBES |

Codeword

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Squares with the same number in have the same letter in. Work out which number represents which letter.



Sudoku



Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9.



Adam



Pooch Cafe



Garfield



Bound And Gagged

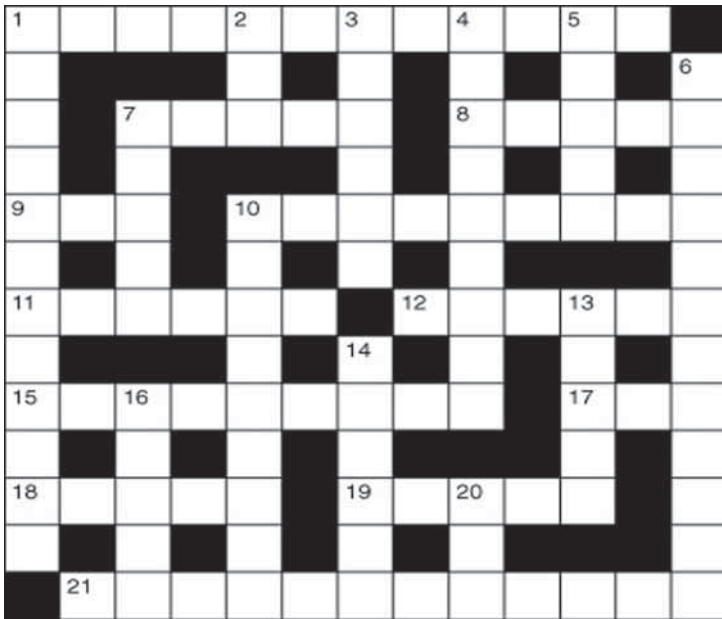


PUZZLES

COMMUNITY



Quick Clues



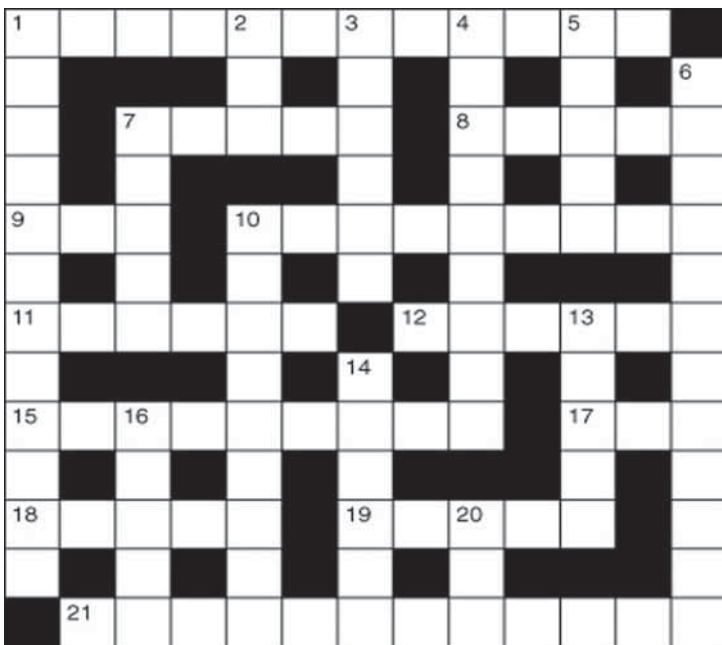
ACROSS

1. Unyieldingness (12)
7. Object (5)
8. Watered silk (5)
9. Employ (3)
10. Envoy (9)
11. Interior (6)
12. After (6)
15. Extreme (9)
17. Thus used (3)
18. Smallest (5)
19. Instil (5)
21. Fear (12)

DOWN

1. Without care (12)
2. Intention (3)
3. Flog (6)
4. Able (9)
5. Object (5)
6. Copy (12)
7. Clothing (5)
10. Arbitrator (9)
13. Children (5)
14. Buff (6)
16. Vagrant (5)
20. Prohibition (3)

Cryptic Clues



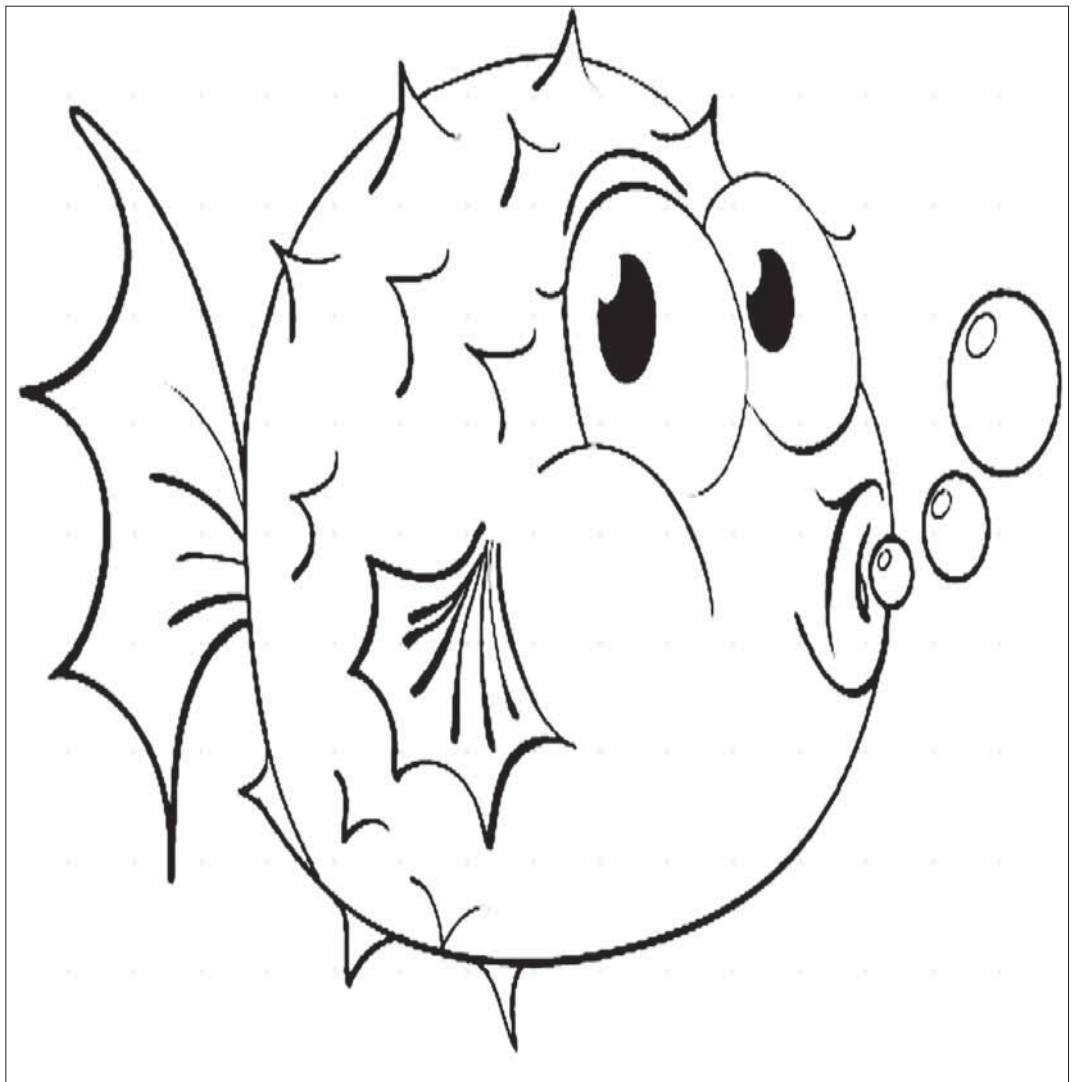
ACROSS

1. See ditch made to go round the house (12)
7. Grown out of being immoral (5)
8. Relative from a French city, we hear (5)
9. Joined in diameter (3)
10. Tailor, perhaps, dismissed in healthier condition (9)
11. Des, run over, got looked after (6)
12. Undeveloped deer? (6)
15. Get through to Peter with neat manoeuvre (9)
17. One pulled in a cardboard box (3)
18. Award that means nothing to Mark (5)
19. He's made a clean break! (5)
21. Pa's dug in deep in order to obtain food (5,7)

DOWN

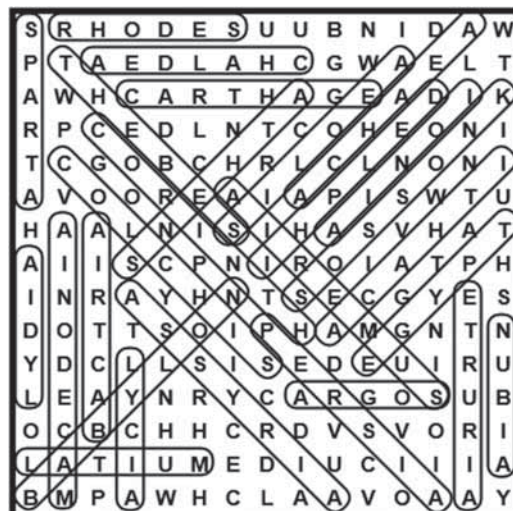
1. Most likely place to have a stroke? (8,4)
2. Pair seen to act out of turn (3)
3. Mean to start shopping for women's wear (6)
4. Can the girl be on time as a contestant? (9)
5. Choose to make cross (5)
6. Martin grew - ah, that's gratifying! (5-7)
7. Drink of tea brewed in Western Region (5)
10. Upsets past performers (9)
13. Promiscuous but insecure (5)
14. Have the impudence to work at a high speed (6)
16. Hotel in nice suitable position (5)
20. Agree to put it on the other way round (3)

Colouring



Answers

Wordsearch



Codeword



Yesterday's Solutions

QUICK

- Across:** 4 Victory; 8 Around; 9 Deviate; 10 Motion; 11 Pilots; 12 Nominate; 18 External; 20 Beaten; 21 Ebbing; 22 Ascribe; 23 Resist; 24 Angered.
- Down:** 1 Payment; 2 Costume; 3 Enjoin; 5 Inexpert; 6 Trials; 7 Rotate; 13 Amenable; 14 Inhibit; 15 Flighty; 16 Reason; 17 Starve; 19 Emblem.

CRYPTIC

- Across:** 4 Stopgap; 8 Hangar; 9 Scorned; 10 Set out; 11 Litmus; 12 Llanelli; 18 Night owl; 20 Varied; 21 Fabric; 22 Pioneer; 23 Defeat; 24 Prelude.
- Down:** 1 Whistle; 2 Initial; 3 Nature; 5 Tackling; 6 Pirate; 7 Avenue; 13 Land's End; 14 Worried; 15 Placate; 16 Caviar; 17 Lionel; 19 Hoaxer.



GUNNING FOR TOP: The 22-year-old launched a Twitter campaign urging fans to buy *Shut Up* in the hope of preventing *X Factor* winner Louisa Johnson from earning her expected pole position.

Stormzy aims for the top spot in UK this Christmas

By Geoffrey Rowlands

Could a grime track become the UK Christmas number one? South London MC Stormzy decided to give it a shot with his song, *Shut Up*. The 22-year-old launched a Twitter campaign urging fans to buy *Shut Up* in the hope of preventing *X Factor* winner Louisa Johnson from earning her expected pole position.

"I knew there had been other attempts to keep the *X Factor* winner out of top spot," smiled the man born Michael Omari. "Some had actually been successful. But none of these had ever involved a grime track. I thought it would be interesting to see how far I could get with *Shut Up*."

The song had already become part of his first UK top 20 hit last September. Using the music from XTC's track, *Functions On The Low*, Stormzy freestyled the lyrics on a song which was originally included on his "WickedSkengMan 4" EP.

"Getting in the top 20 with my EP was a big thing for me. I'm not one of those artists who only want to be popular with hard-core grime fans. Some people think you're selling out if you want to be known to more mainstream music fans. I don't see things in those terms. Good music is

good music, it doesn't matter what the style might be. If enough mainstream fans can appreciate good grime music then that's fine by me."

Having decided to release *Shut Up* as a standalone single, Stormzy's attempts to reach the Christmas number one got off to no more than a steady start when the song debuted at number 59. But a live performance accompanying British heavyweight boxer Anthony Joshua's walk to the ring for his fight against Dillian Whyte really got the ball rolling.

"Everyone in the stadium and watching on TV had the chance to hear *Shut Up*. I'm sure a lot of those people would have said they had no interest in grime music. But many of them must have enjoyed what they heard because sales really picked up after the fight.

"That's when I decided to aim at getting the Christmas number one. It hadn't been much more than a token gesture at first but the leap in sales made me think there might just be an outside chance of achieving the seemingly impossible."

This is something which Stormzy has done throughout his career. He began MCing at the age of 11 clashing with, and getting the better of, older MCs at his local youth club in Thornton Heath. Despite having no record deal, his self-released tracks were enough to earn Stormzy the Best Grime Act award at the 2014 MOBOS

and a spot on the prestigious *Later with Jools Holland* BBC TV show.

"I've got a lot of people to thank for helping me along the way. Many of them were my grime heroes. I'm a true child of British grime music. I didn't really listen to the American rappers, it was always British artists. Many of these people offered me the chance to work with them on their songs and in their videos.

"Being on their tracks raised my profile. But I couldn't have reached the point where I am now without a lot of hard work. I learned that the hard way. I breezed through school. I hardly attended class but turned up for the exams and smashed it no problem. I tried to do the same at college and it didn't work. That's how I learned it's not all about talent. If you don't focus and work hard then it won't pay off."

With his "WickedSkengMan" series, the "Dreamers Disease" EP, his singles and the "168" mixtape, not to mention a host of guest appearances on tracks by other artists, Stormzy has become far more than an up and coming name on the UK grime scene. No less an artist than Wiley, perhaps the godfather of UK grime, has described him as "the number one grime don in this new era."

"That was the ultimate compliment. I have so much respect for Wiley. I can't tell you how much it meant to have him say that about me."

in
brief

Wendy James

Former Transvision Vamp frontwoman Wendy James has been cited by Miley Cyrus as her original pin-up. It now seems 49-year-old Wendy has taken a leaf from Miley's book. With the former squeaky clean *Hannah Montana* star becoming known as much for her revealing videos and photographs as her music, so Wendy has chosen a topless picture of herself to adorn the cover of her forthcoming solo album, "The Price Of The Ticket."

The photo was probably selected to ensure Wendy's album received the kind of attention that has previously been denied to so much of her work since the demise of Transvision Vamp. If so, it was a wise decision. Despite her new album not being released until February 12, the cover photo has become a hot topic.

But if the picture has gained publicity, sales for "The Price Of The Ticket" will be all to do with the quality of Wendy's new songs. Seven of the 13 tracks are available to hear at (no www.) soundcloud.com/the-wendy-james Also here is the non-album track, *Schneider's Ride*, which can be downloaded for free.

The video for lead single, *Bad Intentions and a Bit of Cruelty*, was actually released several months ago. It is posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUdErF5YR_k

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson's "Thriller" has become the first album in American music history to be certified 30 times multi-platinum for US sales.

Released on November 30, 1982, the album won a record-breaking eight Grammy Awards including Album of the Year. Worldwide sales have now passed the 100 million mark.

Seven of the nine tracks were released as singles. They all reached the top ten on Billboard's Hot 100. *Billie Jean* and *Beat It* both hit number one.

Antonio 'LA' Reid, Chairman and CEO of Epic Records, paid a glowing tribute to Michael. "Not only are his chart hits and sales statistics staggering, his pure musicality was other-worldly. 'Thriller' was ground-breaking and electrifying, it was perfection."

Nicole Moudaber

Nicole Moudaber is giving away her new single, *More Ways Than One*, as a free download.

This is the first time the London-based Lebanese-Nigerian techno producer/DJ has made her music available for free. She has done so as a means to say thank you to her fans.

"I've had so much love from everyone this year," Nicole explained. "I wanted to give something back. My music is very precious to me and I don't like the concept of artists just giving their music away as if it means nothing to them. But I've just received so much from my fans that I thought giving them the gift of a track was the least I could do for those who appreciate my work."

The track is available to hear and download at (no www.) soundcloud.com/moodrecords/nicole-moudaber-more-ways-than-one-original-mix-free-download-1

If you enjoy the single, much more of Nicole's music, along with that of other artists on her record label, can be heard at (no www.) soundcloud.com/moodrecords

Baroness

The good folks at Stereogum have scoured an assortment of Internet websites to piece together each song on "Purple," the newly released fourth studio album from American heavy metal quartet Baroness. All ten tracks can be heard at www.stereogum.com/1849504/stream-baroness-purple/mp3s/

This posting includes a lyric video for *Shock Me*, the first official single. A music video has also been made for *Chlorine & Wine*. This can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnYO7iQfQDQ

The band's previous LPs, "Red Album," "Blue Record" and "Yellow & Green," are all posted in full on YouTube.

Historical saga, spooky elements rule TV in '15

By Sugandha Rawal

It was not a usual humdrum year of "saas-bahu" sagas on the Indian television. From stepping into the past for a historical affair, giving visual transition to the tales of Indian mythologies to a dose of horror, the stories on the small screen opted for non-conventional path to entertain audiences in 2015.

The fiction canvas of the small screen was filled with myriad hues but love stories with fresh approach, daily soaps reflecting changing times, mythological subjects and supernatural twists surged ahead of the rest. This is evident from the success of *Ye Hai Mohabbatein*, *Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi* and *Bharat Ka Veer Putra – Maharana Pratap*.

When Bollywood's 'Desi girl' Priyanka Chopra was busy making inroads into the international fiction TV space, a bevy of stars like Shahid Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan and Sonakshi Sinha took a plunge from the big to small screen. They were seen judging reality shows. And Arjun Kapoor also was charged up to make his television debut with "filmy keeda" through *Khatron Ke Khiladi* in January.

It was also a year of comebacks. Amitabh Bachchan became host for *Aaj Ki Raat Hai Zindagi*, Salman Khan came back as a host of *Bigg Boss*, Shah Rukh Khan donned the host's hat for *India Poochega - Sabse Shaana Kaun?* and Farhan Akhtar was seen hosting *I Can Do That*.

IANS lists out shows that clicked with the audience. While some might have gone off air, they have surely left behind an impression.

Ye Hai Mohabbatein: Launched in 2013 with Divyanka Tripathi and Karan Patel as main leads, the Star Plus show has managed to maintain a grip on audience's attention. The



show initially revolved around how the protagonists come together for the sake of a child, but has gradually moved ahead.

Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi: As the name aptly suggests, the show, aired on Colors channel, is all about love, romance and mushy stuff. It narrates how two best friends find love in each other, and how their bond gets challenged by various circumstances and conspiracies. The show found its way onto the small screen in 2014 with Radhika Madan and Shakti Arora as the lead.

Kumkum Bhagya: It was a lucky year for the Zee TV show. The serial is about how fate brings together two individuals who have different way of looking at life, and their bumpy journey towards finding an understanding and love. It hit the jackpot by winning hearts of the audience with its simple, realistic story. The performance by Shabbir Ahluwalia and Sriti Jha is also appreciated.

Feriha: After entertaining audience with Pakistani stories last year, *Zindagi* brought Turkish drama *Feriha* to the small screen. The show capturing the subtle nuances of Turkey's culture while narrating story of a girl named Feriha, was a winner.

Sankat Mochan Mahabali Hanumaan: Bringing the untold story of Lord Hanuman to the small screen, the show was a hit

among diverse age groups including children and senior people. The show on Sony Entertainment Television is told from Lord Krishna's point of view.

Savdhaan India: Based on true crime stories, the show is credited for making people more alert about their surroundings, and how they can fight back the evil things happening. The Life OK show is currently hosted by Sushant Singh.

Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah: Just the mention of Jethalal and his wife Daya is sufficient to explain the popularity of the show aired on SAB TV. It is a ride full of fun and entertainment for viewers as they enter the world of Gokuldham Co-Operative Housing Society.

Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat: This Colors show turns back the clock and revisits the life of Ashoka and his rise in ruling a kingdom. Siddharth Nigam, who plays the title role, has become a household name with the show.

Bharat Ka Veer Putra – Maharana Pratap: The show opens another historical chapter on the small screen. The Sony Entertainment Television show chronicles the life of Rajput ruler Maharana Pratap and narrates tales of his valour. Both child actor Faisal Khan and Ssharad Malhotra, who essayed the title role, were loved by the viewers.

Saath Nibhana Saathiya: Be it for



"Gopi bahu" or "Kokila Modi", the serial has managed to maintain a connection with the audience since its launch in 2010. The Star Plus

show started with the focus on the relationship of two sisters and how it changes after they get married in the same household. — IANS

Nikita Sharma to enter *Swaragini*

Nikita Sharma will join the cast of *Swaragini*, and will be seen essaying the role of Kavita in the Colors show. Kavita would be the past love interest of the show's lead character Sanskaar.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Colors and the *Swaragini* family," Nikita said in a statement.

"I always wanted to do a powerful role and I am glad that I got the opportunity to perform the character of Kavita which has a lot of emotional layers. I am sure the audience will love this character," she added.

Swaragini features Helly Shah and Tejaswi Prakash Wayangankar, who play Swara Bose and Ragini Gadodia. They are seen with Tanima Sen as Shobha Bose, Parinita Borthakur as Sharmishtha Bose and Sachin Tyagi in the role of Shekhar Gadodia. — IANS



NEW VENTURE: Mohit Suri

Mohit Suri in NY for *Half Girlfriend*

Director Mohit Suri is scouting a location in New York for his next film titled *Half Girlfriend*, an adaptation of Chetan Bhagat's book by the same name.

"In #NYC for #half girlfriend recce! It's Christmas season @chetan_bhagat @EkmainaurEktu7," Suri tweeted about his stay here for the upcoming romantic movie, which is being produced by Ekta Kapoor.

He even shared a photograph of the film's director of photography. "My DOP vishnu Rao at work #half girlfriend recce! #NYC @chetan_bhagat @EkmainaurEktu7 @tushar1307 @tansworld," tweeted the director.

Bhagat's novel *Half Girlfriend* is about a Bihari boy falling in love with a girl from the upper class society.

The author's other books have been made into films. While *3 Idiots* was based on *Five Point Someone*, *Hello* was based on "One Night @ The Call Centre". *The Three Mistakes of My Life* was adapted as *Kai Po Che!* and *2 States* was based on *2 States: The Story of My Marriage*. — IANS



'This part is mine'

Actress passed on dream job for chance to be Lady Edith on *Downton Abbey*



PERIOD DRAMA: Laura Carmichael plays Lady Edith Crawley on *Downton Abbey*.

By Luaine Lee

It hardly ever happens. But the daughter of a software engineer and a diagnostic radiographer became a wealthy aristocrat overnight – at least on paper.

Actress Laura Carmichael, who plays Lady Edith Crawley on PBS' *Downton Abbey*, was working as a receptionist in a doctor's office when she heard about the audition for the costume drama.

She had no clue what the character was like. "We didn't see a breakdown about Edith because it was all so confidential," says Carmichael, seated in a meeting room at a hotel in Pasadena, California. "At that point they weren't sending out scripts or character descriptions. I really read everything when I was in the

room (auditioning)."

She remembers the script said something about her being "the middle child, the awkward child," but little else. Carmichael wasn't eager for the role since she'd already earned the part of Viola in a touring company of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The troupe was to trek to Dubai, Syria and other places, and she was excited about the prospect.

"A few days later my agent said, 'You have an audition for a period drama.' I thought it was going to be a 'Yes, milord,' a half-day's filming, one line maybe. But it would be good to have on your CV that you'd done telly. And I thought, 'I'm going to have to turn down this dream Shakespeare for this TV job. What a disaster!' And it was *Downton*. So I went and read and realised it was for a lead part. And I don't know how it happened.



From left: Laura Carmichael as Lady Edith Crawley, Elizabeth McGovern as Cora, Countess of Grantham and Michelle Dockery as Lady Mary Crawley in *Downton Abbey*.

"I had a tiny agent and no theatre – the casting director had seen me at drama school. I re-auditioned on a Thursday, and on Friday I found out they were going to take the tapes and think about it. And *Twelfth Night* said, 'We can't wait. We have to put an offer out to another actress if you're not going to do it. We need to let her know now!'"

"So I went, 'OK, I have to stay in the race for this job! I didn't tell my mum until the following week when she saw my name had been removed from the play's list. But I was really confident. I thought, 'I can do this' and 'This part is mine.'"

It was hers, all right. As the mostly overlooked middle daughter of the courtly Crawleys, Carmichael added just the right amount of timidity and bravado to serve as a foil for her older sister, Mary, and as a sympathetic rebel in the series, which returns Sunday for its last season.

Carmichael was only 10 when she first thought of acting. Her younger sister and best friend were cast in a pantomime in her native England. But she was rejected. "I said, 'Mum, it's my fault! I didn't smile. I didn't skip high enough! I became obsessed at that time and said, 'I think I need to get better at it. I think I need more training.' It was completely random, but it made me determined," she says.

Though she'd started in

dance, from that point on, acting became her ambition. At 18, she headed for drama school. And Carmichael, who's wearing a black knit top with an embroidered flower at the neck, a black mini-skirt and bright red heels (borrowed for the occasion), says she did all her growing up in the three years she was there.

"Everything happened there. I had my heart broken there for the first time. It's a weird experience, drama school. It was a very small school, 12 people in the year. We were in Bristol, kind of tucked away with one another. They invite you to experience and try things, and you become a bit hypersensitive to things in that way. Also I was 18, and I fell for a guy who was 10 years older than me and had a terrible heartbreak."

After school and heartbreak she worked as a nanny, toiled in a bar and served in the doctor's office. She was not very good at it, she admits. "I remember once I shredded stuff that shouldn't have been shredded, accounting-like things. I shredded them." She wasn't fired. "They were really understanding," she smiles.

She roomed with two people from drama school and dined almost exclusively on Ramen noodles. "It was hilarious, really. I became their mother leaving notes, 'Please, will you wash up?' They both had jobs – which was a nightmare – because I was at

home, very sad and depressed. In hindsight, which is the best thing, to be able to look back and say I'm so grateful for that time because ... I didn't know anything about anything. And moving to London and having to make rent, and the student loan's gone, and now I have to find the money to live in London and support myself."

Carmichael, 29, won't say whether she has a sweetheart or not, but does confess that she's always been a tad shy. "When I tell friends that, they don't believe it. I don't think I'm a natural entertainer. There are actors I know who everyone should meet just because they're hilarious. I don't think that's me. I think I'm sort of interested in the process behind it and the trickery of getting yourself to believe you're someone else."

Series on Special Ops Forces

The war on terror is not new. And the best of the best have been fighting it since 2001. On January 10, the History Channel will present *Live to Tell*, an eight-part series about the missions of Special Ops forces as told by the guys who carried them out. Mixed with documentary film, re-enactments and real-life narration, members of the Green Berets, the Navy SEALs and the Army Rangers will re-live some of their experiences on the front as only they can. – TNS



VIEWPOINT: George Parra

Hollywood's popularity in India due to Web, says George Parra

By Ankit Sinha

As Hollywood films continue to capture the imagination of Indian cinegoers, George Parra, the executive producer of black comedy crime film *American Hustle*, credits this to the advent of the Internet.

"I think the digital medium ... the growth of the Internet has connected the world and made the world much, much smaller and that's possibly a factor why Hollywood has become more popular in India," Parra told in a telephonic interview from Los Angeles.

Parra also said that the interest in Hollywood films has also grown because of different genres. "In Bollywood, you make hundreds of films every year. There is a huge audience for your Why the interest in American films? Because there are different kinds of films

completely, like *American Hustle*. Possibly, the interest is getting broader because of the Internet," he added.

He feels that it is "fantastic" that Hollywood's popularity has grown in India. "I have a feeling that there is surely a growing interest in American films in your country. I just make films to entertain people and bring a smile to their face. If it could become more popular in your country or in China and other countries, that's fantastic," Parra said.

Parra, who is known for his work in films like *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, *Sideways* and *Election*, said that on-demand Internet streaming websites have also helped in making Hollywood films more accessible worldwide.

"Yes, Netflix is huge. Those kind of companies are connecting (us) and making Hollywood far more accessible for anybody in the world. 10 years ago, it was a different world.

"(Today) A 20-year-old is being

able to go online and see what's beyond the country and what's being made in Hollywood. I would guess, 10-15 years ago in any country, you couldn't just go online and do that," he added.

Asked if he would like to collaborate with Indian filmmakers and actors in the future, Parra jubilantly said, "Absolutely!"

"I think filmmaking is a worldwide medium. Whether it is Japanese actors or Indian actors or directors ... I have met a handful of Indian producers in Los Angeles. There is no reason we can't collaborate, and we have successfully, one in particular the Danny Boyle film (*Slumdog Millionaire*).

He said he loves being in a film set "where there are four languages being spoken."

"The one common language would be filmmaking."

American Hustle is all set to make its first ever Indian TV premiere on Saturday on Sony PIX. — IANS

Sam Cooper moves out of marital home

Singer Lily Allen's husband Sam Cooper has reportedly moved out of their marital home and has been seen without his wedding ring. Cooper, who wed the *Air Balloon* hitmaker in 2011, has been seen without his wedding ring, prompting speculation that the two have gone their separate ways.

"He's been socialising a lot and getting on with his life," femalefirst.co.uk quoted a source as saying. "He's

got the new place, but it's big enough to have the kids too. They've been to visit his new place, but not with Lily.

"Lily has her flat she stays in North London. For the last three months, she's been there, Claridge's hotel or in Los Angeles," the source added.

The 30-year-old is also said to have her own private profile on Instagram, which she refuses to show Cooper. — IANS

Katie Price is easy to buy gifts for

Pop star Katie Price's husband Kieran Hayler likes to "treat" her at Christmas and she thinks she's "easy" to buy gifts for. Hayler always likes to "treat" her over the festive season and finds buying her a gift is never a problem because she rarely splashes out on herself throughout the year. "I'm really easy to buy for," femalefirst.co.uk quoted Price as saying.

To which Hayler added: "Everyone must think Kate always buys herself designer shoes and handbags but she never does."

"I like to treat her — in the past I've bought her Louboutins and a Louis Vuitton handbag with matching shoes, things like that." — IANS



NO ISSUES: Katie Price



TUNE IN: Radiohead

Radiohead releases unused James Bond theme song

Rock band Radiohead has offered a surprise to their fans — a new song, which was initially recorded for the latest James Bond film *Spectre*.

Thom Yorke, frontman of the band, said they were asked to write the theme for the 24th James Bond film last year, but it "didn't work out" well, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

"Last year we were asked to write

a tune for Bond movie *Spectre*. Yes we were. It didn't work out. But became something of our own which we love very much. As the year closes we thought you might like to hear it. Merry Christmas. May the force be with you," Yorke posted on Twitter.

Later, singer Sam Smith's single *Writing's on the wall* was chosen as the official theme song for *Spectre*, which starred Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Dave Bautista and Monica Bellucci among others. — IANS



EXCITED: Jennifer Lawrence

Jennifer Lawrence plans Irish road trip

Hunger Games co-stars Jennifer Lawrence and Natalie Dormer are planning to take a road trip together in Ireland.

The actresses have become good friends while working together on the franchise. Lawrence has said that Dormer wants to take her to Ireland and show her the sights as she has spent a great deal of time

there filming *The Tudors* and *Game of Thrones*, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Natalie (Dormer) adores Ireland and talks about it all the time," Lawrence told the Irish Sun.

"And I've never been so we're hoping to do a trip, even a cool road trip there next year. She's been talking about it and saying 'C'mon Jen, I know you'd love it', and I think it could be fun."

"Natalie did *The Tudors* for a few years and is back and forth all the time, so I'll have a proper guide. Off the beaten track, it won't be the blind leading the blind," she added.

Lawrence has insisted that if she does visit Ireland with Dormer, she has a long list of things she wants to do. "If we do it, I'd want to see everything, all the touristy stuff, wear those big green hats and go to pubs. Definitely have Guinness and go to the Guinness factory. You know, I'm going all in."

"Apparently everyone's so relaxed. So you can totally let your hair down. That sounds amazing to me," Lawrence said. — IANS



Many faces of the 'other half'

Qatari artist Dana Ahmed al-Safar's solo exhibition 'Pink Shadows' captures the underlying emotions of women's facial expressions. **By Umer Nangiana**



DEFT STROKES: The exhibition showcases large-sized portraits of women from different cultures.

The canvas is bigger, the strokes on it are bold and the colour combination striking. These life-size portraits of faces of the 'other half of the world' are indeed captivating. In the faces, there is detail. You just look into the eyes in two different portraits and you would literally feel two different emotions emanating from the cold surfaces of the canvases.

It is portraits by Qatari artist Dana Ahmed al-Safar in her solo exhibition 'Pink Shadows' currently on display at Building 18 of Katara Cultural Complex.

"This exhibition represents my artistic experience which having moved between human features and architectures of the nearby and far countries, to find which one deserves to be focused in has gone through my meditation to the other half of the society, women," says the artist in explaining the idea behind her exhibition.

"Where there is momentum of the daily routine, there are shades that walk on the ground with essential vein pumping life. Through a small brush and palette, I painted the features of women on the podium. They did not have big muscles but rosy fingers. They dream, have ambitions and walk in stable steps," says Dana, adding that they struggle sometimes but reached their goals in the end.

In the huge exhibition containing large-sized portraits of women, the artist says she has collected different faces of unconscious women who do not belong to one race or country in particular. They all live in a sense of themselves with unlimited

aspirations and are facing the same obstacles to write new pages in history.

Dana has participated in art workshops for the Qatari Foundation for Orphans, Dhreima in 2013 at Katara Cultural Village Complex. She has provided technical workshop titled Small Paintings at Creative Art Centre in 2014.

Dana has also given art workshop fee for Al-Rashad Elementary Independent School for Boys in 2015. She has also participated in Charity auction for the benefit of blind children sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank 2014-15.

Dana has also taken part in live drawing for the National Day at Qatar Financial Centre besides judging a drawing contest among 16 Indian schools in Qatar for all grade levels. Among her multiple exhibitions, she has participated in the exhibition by the members of Creative Art Centre in 2013 at Creative Art Centre Katara besides taking part in Workshop realist art gallery at Qatar Fine Art Society Katara the same year.

She has also given a workshop on modulation techniques in 2013 a Girls Creativity Centre before participating in Qatari Environment Fine Art Exhibition at Qatar Fine Art Society the next year. The same year, she exhibited her work in Qatar Fine Art Exhibition in Oman at Oman Society for Fine Arts and Qatari Artists' Exhibition at the Qatar Society for Fine Art.

In 2015, Dana has participated in 6 Artists from Qatar Exhibition at Visual Arts Centre, Katara Cultural Complex and has also displayed

her work at 6 Qatari Artists from 2015 at Al Jasra Social Club besides having her work getting exhibited at Darefane Amire Museum in Istanbul, Turkey.

Having a Bachelor of Business and Marketing degree from University of Qatar in 2012, Dana went on to take part in a workshop on Printing Inscription with Artist Nihad al-Azzawi in 2013 at Creative Arts Centre besides moving on to take another workshop, Monotype, with Kuwaiti artist Thuraia al-Baksama in the same year at the same venue.

She has also done workshops on Realistic drawing by Qatar Society for Fine Arts in 2013 and Drawing Portrait with Qatari artist Ali al-Mulla at Creative Arts Center the same year.

She has also done a workshop on Modulation techniques by different materials with Omani artist Omar Moussa in 2013 at Creativity Girl Centre and on 'how to do plate surface treatment' with Moroccan artist Noureddine Daifallah in 2013 at Creative Art Centre.

Besides these participations, the Qatari artist has also done workshops on Realistic drawing and Creative identity besides a Summer Art Workshop at Qatar Society for Fine Arts and Creative Arts Centre respectively in 2014.

In 2015, Dana did portrait drawing workshop with artist Ismail Azzam at Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar-VCU-Q.

Dana also writes stories which are published by local dailies. She has also worked at QF Radio and Al Jazeera Children's Channel.



Dana al-Safar has participated in many exhibitions in and outside Qatar.



The big portraits focus on details in the faces.