The key

Doha-based Canadian photographer Marie Josée Bédard says light is the most important thing for a photographer.

P4-5

Photo by Jayan Orma
PRAYER TIME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.56am</td>
<td>Fajr</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.20am</td>
<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.37am</td>
<td>Zuhr (noon)</td>
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<td>2.35pm</td>
<td>Asr (afternoon)</td>
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<td>4.54pm</td>
<td>Maghreb (sunset)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.24pm</td>
<td>Isha (night)</td>
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USEFUL NUMBERS

- Emergency: 999
- Worldwide Emergency Number: 112
- Kahramaa – Electricity and Water: 991
- Local Directory: 180
- International Calls Enquiries: 150
- Hamad International Airport: 40106666
- Labor Department: 44508111, 44406537
- Mowasalat Taxi: 44588888
- Qatar Airways: 44496000
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 44392222, 44393333
- Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation: 44845555, 44845464
- Primary Health Care Corporation: 44593333, 44593363
- Qatar Assistive Technology Centre: 44504050
- Qatar News Agency: 44450205
- Q-Post – General Postal Corporation: 44450333
- Humanitarian Services Office: 44464444

Humanitarian Services Office
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
- Ministry of Interior: 40253372, 40253373, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

Quote Unquote
“Whenever people agree with me I always feel I must be wrong.”
– Oscar Wilde

Ruler
**DIRECTION:** K.S. Ravikumar
**CAST:** Raghu Babu, Nandamuri Balakrishna, Chalapathi Rao
**SYNOPSIS:** A business tycoon decides to adopt a stranger after he saves her life when someone tries to kill her. It turns out, the stranger has a murky past and while she tries everything she can to save him from it, fate brings him at crossroads with her past life.
**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza, The Mall

Valiyaperunnal
**DIRECTION:** Dimal Dennis
**CAST:** Shane Nigam, Himika Bose, Joju George
**SYNOPSIS:** People take a particular path out of desperation, which may change their life forever. Movie revolves around a group of people living in a harbor town. The story delve into their love for each other and a certain festival of sacrifices.
**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza

**For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com**
The Colour Run 2020
WHERE: QNCC
WHEN: January 25
TIME: 7am – 10pm
Your Health First is a five-kilometre, untimed event. At each kilometre mark, Colour Runners are doused from head to toe in a different coloured powder. Participants wear white at the starting line and finish the race plastered in colour. Once the 5k is over, the fun continues at the Finish Festival, a larger-than-life party equipped with music, dancing, photo ops, activity booths, vendors, and more massive colour throws, which create millions of vivid colour combinations.

Gems and Jewels Exhibition
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art
WHEN: Ongoing till January 18
TIME: 9am onwards
The exhibition comes in celebration of the Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture and presents a look at magnificent gems and jewellery from India. Set in Stone: Gems and Jewels from Royal Indian Courts showcases jewellery from India. Set in Stone: Gems and Jewels from Royal Indian Courts presents a look at magnificent gems and Jewels from across Qatar.

Metro Street Food
WHERE: DECC Metro Station
WHEN: January 2020 onwards
TIME: 12:30pm
Street Food is the ideal venue for a leisure experience for the whole family offering over 20 dine-in options and 18-hole World Mini-Golf setup.

Public Speaking Classes for Adults
WHERE: Sharq Capital, C Ring Road
WHEN: January 15 – July 1
TIME: 6:30pm – 9pm
Get trained by experts to be a good speaker. Smedley Toastmasters is conducting a six-month speech-craft programme that teaches new members to speak confidently and develop leadership skills. For more information, 66053485, 33232490 or visit www.SmedleyToastmasters.org

Ballet Lessons
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults. Mamangam has become the favourite centre for learning. We offer regular classes in the following disciplines like traditional classical and folk dance forms, art and craft, drawing and painting, personality development and public speaking, Bollywood dance, contemporary, hip hop styles, music both vocals and instrumentals. To develop health consciousness, we train them karate, yoga with special sessions for kids and adults. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience, as they sharpen their minds and brains too.

For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

NYE – Countdown in the desert
WHERE: Al Bahar Camp, Inland Sea
WHEN: December 31
An exclusive getaway this New Year’s Eve to avoid the crowd. Join us in the Qatari Desert and camp under the starry sky by the beach at the most beautiful waterfront camp. Wake up to the most stunning sunrise over the dunes and make your New Year’s resolutions. For further information, call 3339 3323 or visit www.365adventures.me

Spring Festival 2019
WHERE: Song Waqif
WHEN: Ongoing till January 4
TIME: 4pm – 10pm
The third edition of the Spring Festival at features an array of cultural programmes and entertainment activities. Around 60 games and rides are open. Circus shows will be also staged.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change.
Photography for me is not looking, it’s feeling. If you can’t feel what you’re looking at, then you’re never going to get others to feel anything when they look at your pictures,” once said Don McCullin, who is a seasoned British photojournalist, particularly recognised for his war photography and images of urban strife.

There is a photographer in every individual. A good photographer is one who gives some perspective to the captured images.

For Marie Josée Bédard, a Canadian photographer with a degree in photography from Dawson College in Montréal, photography is all about light.

“There are several things necessary for good photography such as technology and equipment but light is the most important. Often light determines the mood. For a photographer that is the most important thing. I do work inside a studio but I prefer natural light. This is my first option. If you have good light, you will have a good photo."

Marie moved to Doha in 2004. Enriched by her long expatriation in Qatar, Marie’s current work displays all the splendour of the local culture. “There is a big contrast from where I come from and where I live now. When I am in Doha I know right away what I want to photograph because it is so different from what I have known. It is most of the time very beautiful. I think the cultural difference is what makes me appreciate, I mean, the desert. There are magical places wherever you go.

“Something that I have noticed is that when you change a country, the light is different in the new country. It differs from country to country. Here depending on the seasons, you see a difference in photos.”

Marie has contributed to several local exhibitions as a photographer and judge in photo contests in Qatar. Her photography can be found on the covers of ‘Qatar Practical Guide’ 2017, 2018 and 2020.

“Coming to Doha, I felt more confident and less pressure. I stopped my photography for some time as I had to give time to two of my kids. Now I enjoy my passion in my free time and have developed my own style,” she said.

“I have done several exhibitions in Qatar with other photographers. I have displayed my work at Sheikh Faisal Museum, Katara Art Centre, and my first exhibition was at Grand Hayat Hotel. I have also participated in different theme-based photography exhibitions such as horses, Qatari culture etc.

“I have so far not exhibited my photos back in Canada. The idea has crossed my mind several times. I think I will soon organise a photography exhibition in Montreal where I come from.”

Marie, who has worked in various visual fields and as a photo editor for the award winning in-flight magazine enRoute for Air Canada, loves doing portrait photography. “I have so far not exhibited my photos back in Canada. The idea has crossed my mind several times. I think I will soon organise a photography exhibition in Montreal where I come from.”

She adds: “When it comes to portrait photography, I really enjoy the connection that I have with the

“Something that I have noticed is that when you change a country, the light is different in the new country. It differs from country to country. Here depending on the seasons, you see a difference in photos.”

– Marie Josée Bédard
subject. That is what determines what you are going to show on a photo.

The qualified photographer believes different angles add different perspectives to a photo. “I agree with the idea that if there is not much around to go for photography, the photographers should work on different angles. It could just be focus on a very small element. There could be lots of things. It is very important to create some sense.

“I am part of an international community of photographers. Each week we are given a theme and we must produce something. It does not need to be a masterpiece. You have just to produce something so that your creativity keeps going. I think about the particular theme wherever I go. I use my photography and I enjoy it. Sometime these themes are not totally my style but they push me out of my comfort zone and that is where you learn a lot. That is really fun.”

The ace photographer believes that the new technologies and smartphone cameras have added something significant to the art of photography. “Now, anybody can become a photographer. What makes the difference though is that a photographer needs to know the light, the equipment and that he or she needs to think out of the box to have a good photo. When something is before me, I analyse it and know that what end result I want and where I want to focus. The difference is getting the exact photo and seeing the results in front of you.

“I think the technology and the cell phones have given people an instant gratification. When you see really good professional photos, these are taken with cameras.” Marie sees photography as a technique that anybody can learn.

Anyone can learn photography. It is just that you have to have the creativity to know what to do with that. If you recognise what is good light, have a good subject and know how to use your equipment to get an output that is great. You also need to be able to sell yourself.”

The long-time resident of Qatar continues to enjoy both her photography and life in Doha. “My priority is to look after my, especially kids. I have the luxury of doing the photography that I enjoy here. For, that is huge. I can make personal projects. I know in Canada I would not have had the same opportunity as I am established here with my family. There is a lot to discover in Doha. There is great feedback and appreciation for art and artists here.”

The corridor.

The beauty of lines interacting with light at the National Museum of Qatar.

The camel’s friendly face.

The eye.

Photos by MJB
Is it even a museum if there’s nothing there?

When people take selfies in front of colourful walls or with fun objects for their Instagram accounts, is that considered art? In any case, museums full of these backdrops are popping up worldwide, writes Larissa Schwedes.

Elena and Melina, known on Instagram as “Joan_twins,” sit in a bright yellow ball pit and suck on an ice pop of the same colour. One room over, another woman poses in a pink convertible; her reflection can be seen in a huge, glistening golden disco ball.

What happens here at the Supercandy Pop-Up Museum in Cologne doesn’t just stay in Cologne. With the hashtag #supercandymuseum, all the content produced here finds its way out into the world within seconds, where it is streamed, posted and liked on social media. There are no works of art to be seen in this museum, unless you regard yourself as a work of art. Over three levels, the museum has “exhibits” that have only one purpose: to serve as the backdrops for staged photos. Japanese cherry trees are lined up next to supermarket shelves full of cornflakes and washing machines, pink balloons pile up next to prickly cacti. For three months, countless photos are to be taken here, after which the warehouse will turn grey again. It’s two days before the official opening and the first people allowed to take a picture in the colourful Cologne spectacle have been carefully selected. Those who have been invited, most of whom are young women, call themselves bloggers or influencers; they have tens of thousands of followers online.

“You don’t have to be an influencer to have fun,” says Frank Karch, the man behind the museum. “But you should at least come with the intention of taking pictures.”

However, the museum’s not intended for traditional photographers with professional cameras; instead, most of the images are snapped with a smartphone.

Karch didn’t invent the concept of a museum made for Instagram – the idea came from – where else – the United States. However, the trend has long since spread to Europe. There is a similar museum in Vienna, and the “Call Dreams” museum in the German city of Dusseldorf recently opened with the same concept.

Going to a museum to photograph oneself is nothing new. In the Louvre in Paris, masses of visitors stream in front of the Mona Lisa every day, waiting to grab a selfie with the famous painting. The museum estimates the average amount of time visitors look at the smiling woman to be less than a minute.

At the Cologne pop-up museum, things are different. If you want to get in, you have to set up a two-hour slot online in advance. Photos with people standing around in the background are less likely to attract many likes – the currency for recognition on Instagram.

In principle, Berlin art historian Dorothee Haffner has nothing against the idea of “museum spaces as a backdrop to put oneself in the right light.” Nevertheless, she finds it a pity that viewing the actual content falls by the wayside, as is often the case with the Mona Lisa.

There’s no risk of that happening in the Supercandy world because there are no great works or themes being conveyed. The entire content is the fun of self-dramatisation, no more, no less.

But does this still count in order to be described as a museum? “The term ‘museum’ is not protected,” says Haffner. According to official criteria from the International Council of Museums (ICOM), a museum must have a collection, convey things and be protected, “says Haffner. According to official criteria from the International Council of Museums (ICOM), a museum must have a collection, convey things and be protected, “says Haffner. When designing an exhibition these days, many museums are thinking about how to involve visitors in the process – whether through digital guides, drawers to be pulled out or touchable fabrics.

“This can’t be recommended enough,” says Haffner, adding that it’s not just children who remember things much more clearly when they’ve interacted with them.

As for sisters Elena and Melina, they are using the opening event as a test run. “We are allowing ourselves to be inspired – and will then come back again,” With red lips, necklaces, colourful skirts and lavishly embroidered denim jackets, they are styled to be incredibly photogenic. But their Instagram fashion channel is in constant need of new outfits.

After all, their close to 43,000 followers are waiting. – DPA
The lacebark elm met Old Man Winter’s confrontation head-on and won and is now showing out in the Chattahoochee Valley area of West Georgia. While record cold took its toll by freezing leaves to the tree, these small elms are decorating neighbourhoods with a soft, orange and yellow glow.

The lacebark elm is known botanically as Ulmus parvifolia and is from China and Korea. This foreign beauty is resistant to Dutch elm disease that wreaked havoc on our native American elm. It is also resistant to Japanese beetles that have become a recent scourge in our area. To be honest, this is one of the most problem-free trees for the landscape. It is also a manageable size that over time can reach 50 feet tall and as wide.

As the leaves fall, they create a yellow carpet that is worthy of capturing a shot with the camera. This year, for whatever reason, the bark which always catches my eye is even more beautiful. Perhaps the bone-chilling, 22 degrees had an influence. More than likely it is just me rediscovering the incredible beauty that can make a fall and winter landscape seem so beautiful.

The bark is where it stands apart from the hybrid red maples. While it’s called lacebark which is most appropriate, it would also make the perfect pattern for a camouflage outfit. The bark exfoliates revealing shades of orange, brown, gray, and olive green. Not too many trees can match this one in colour and design.

This handsome, graceful tree has a rounded crown adorned with lustrous dark green leaves that change to yellow and reddish purple in fall. A landscape standout, the lacebark elm has distinctive bark, which is mottled and often creates colorful patterns in its trunk.

Medium to fast-growing, this elm adapts to many soil conditions and is relatively free from the diseases ravaging other elm species, making it a tough and durable tree for any situation.

At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah Ga, where it got its start as a USDA Plant Introduction Station, there was an old specimen that had stood the test of time and was like a living monument to a great and wonderful era of plant exploration.

Those in West Georgia are young relatively speaking and in their prime. After a dozen years, they are about 20 feet tall and 18 feet wide offering a perfect size for the urban environment. In the summer, their leaves are dark green and handsome leading up the fall fling. Some trials report that the colour on this species is better in the south, but, certainly, this is not a deterrent in its colder zone 5 or protected zone 4 regions.

In the south, Drake is among the most popular varieties as it is considered semi-evergreen. Northern gardeners instead, choose Emerald Isle and Emerald Vase in addition to a new release called Burgundy. The Bosque variety with its straight central-leader would be excellent for parks, street-side, and shopping centres.

Once you select the variety for your region choose a site with plenty of sun. The soil should be fertile and well-drained. They are not picky about soil pH which is great for everyone. Even though they are quick to acclimate dig your planting hole two-to-three times as wide as the root ball. This allows for the quickest root-expansion into the adjacent soil. The lacebark is considered a fast grower for a quality tree. Normally fast-growing is in connection with inferior, short-lived trees.

The winter reveals whether or not we planned for form and structure in our gardens and the use of bark is important. If we choose the right trees like the lacebark elm, we will realise that even though they are deciduous they will make a dramatic landscape impact. – TNS
Bored with white? Use paint with passion

A dash of rhubarb, a bright yellow wall or a whole room painted orange?

Swap safe neutrals for bold hues and feel your mood lift, writes Nell Card

IN THE PINK: A rhubarb bedroom with dark gloss floors.

The feature wall – that seemingly bold decorative decision to paint one wall in the room a stand-out colour – is dead. Colour is now spreading through our homes, up staircases, across woodwork and ceilings, filling in neutral spaces with rhubarb, verdigris green, aubergine and orange. Is it a terrifying trend we’ll all pay for in gallons and orange. Is it a terrifying rhubarb, verdigris green, aubergine moment in time. That’s the alchemy level, they can transport you to a can key into something on a deeper to feeling. “Certain combinations Harding & Read, colour correlates to feeling. “Certain combinations can key into something on a deeper level, they can transport you to a moment in time. That’s the alchemy of colour? More than a mere surface decision, it seems we are searching for something altogether more enriching when we pop the lid on a tester pot.

How to begin If you are tempted to try colour on some of your neutral walls, the advice is refreshingly simple: choose a colour you actually like. “It sounds stupidly obvious,” says interior designer Francesca Rowan Plowden, “but don’t go for a colour because it’s on trend, or you’ve seen it in a magazine. You have got to live with it.”

Rowan Plowden, whose colourful, cussing interiors can be experienced in the heritage rental properties at Goodnestone Park, Fattel Hall and Elmley Nature Reserve, suggests you seek inspiration from your natural surroundings, a treasured accessory, favourite fabric or painting. “Paintings are quite often a starting point for me,” she says. “If there’s a painting you love, look at the palette and choose your colours based on what’s in it. A recent palette of yellow woodwork and rust-coloured chairs was based on the colours in a painting I found at Ardingly Antiques Fair.”

Studholme agrees with this approach: “You must do what resonates with you.” If you’re wary of full colour, she suggests testing your tolerance with smaller spaces, such as the inside of a cupboard, or a bright window reveal. “If every time you open the cupboard it gives you joy, you can start to take it further,” she says.

Make an entrance For Studholme, the hallway is the best place to use bold colour because “It gives you drama when you first enter your home.” Studholme, who offers customers personalised colour consultations, has seen a proliferation of “sexy” deep green, charcoal and inky blue hallways (“Although I think blue is slightly on the wane now,” she confides).

Artist and designer Luke Edward Hall, who has painted the entrance to his Camden flat a glossy, yolk yellow, agrees: “When I come home and it’s grey and grim, it instantly puts a smile on my face. Colour for me is linked to optimism. It’s about bringing joy and cheer into the home.” Hall and his partner, designer Duncan Campbell, are currently decorating their cottage in Gloucestershire. It’s still a work-in-progress, but so far every room in the house has been painted a different colour.

“We knew we wanted an olive-green living space and a mustard-coloured dining room. From there, we’ve chosen light, bright blue and arsenic rooms – it’s completely mad,” he admits. Each room has been approached individually, but there is an overall sense of balance. “You see glimpses of the rooms throughout the house, so you do have to think about which colours will work together.”

Both Harding and Studholme know to take colour above the eyeline, too. “A painted ceiling is a magical thing, without being too in-your-face,” says Studholme. “I love using ceilings, rather than letting them become an afterthought!” Harding adds. “A painted ceiling affects how the space feels.”

Filling the room When choosing a colour, the advice is to paint a large, thick piece of card in your test colour and move it around the room at different times throughout the day. Even so, you
with personality in your home

should be prepared for some shocks, says Rowan Plowden. "When the colour [Farrow & Ball’s Eating Room Red] for the library in Battel Hall first went on I thought: ‘Oh my God, I’ve created a womb!’ Seeing the room empty in the colour you’ve chosen will scare you," she warns, "but you need to push through that and start filling the room. If your colour choice has come from a place of inspiration, be brave and stick with it."

Bold walls also affect the objects in a room. "A blue velvet chair against a pale grey wall can look quite tame," explains Rowan Plowden. "Put a blue velvet chair against a deep blue wall and it will immediately look more luxurious."

For Harding, bold-painted furniture is an affordable way of sharpening a scheme and injecting colour. Studholme agrees: "Try taking an old dining chair and painting it a gloss red," Studholme suggests. "It will create a little moment in your house which you can move around or change. What could be more fun?"

– The Guardian

INXY BLUES: A hallway with a gloss 'tide line' painted up to an imaginary dado rail, with matte paint in the same colour.

AFFORDABLE: Bold-painted furniture is an affordable way of sharpening a scheme and injecting colour.

CABINET SHUFFLE: Harding and Read used bold colours below the eyeline for this striking Plain English kitchen.

NOURISHING: Colours like yolk yellow nourish creativity.
A lot of enthusiasm, a lot of fun, a lot of resolutions and plates full of delicacies. It is time to celebrate a bygone 365 days and welcome what lies ahead, in good spirits, and feeling optimistic about the future. It’s the perfect time for celebration with family, friends and loved ones.

New Year celebrations are not new. The earliest known New Year celebrations were in Mesopotamia and date back to 3000 BC. January 1 as New Year was never a standard practice. Romans, for instance, celebrated March 1 as New Year. Some other cultures went for winter solstice or summer equinox.

In order to realign the Roman calendar with the sun, Julius Caesar had to add 90 extra days to the year 46 BC, when he introduced his new Julian calendar and January 1 was accepted as the beginning of the new year. The Gregorian calendar was introduced 400 years ago by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. With most countries now using it as their de facto calendar, January 1 as New Year’s Day is arguably the most celebrated event, often observed with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the new year starts in each time zone.

New Year’s Eve customs around the world are all unique. The superstitions are meant to create good luck, fortune, happiness and overall a better future. Eating black-eyed peas on the day of New Year is believed to bring good luck in several parts of US. Estonians eat 7, 9 or 12 meals on the eve of New Year. Danish throw dishes at the doorsteps of other people. Spanish tradition is to eat 12 grapes at midnight and light up central London for an hour.

Fireworks originated centuries ago and are believed to have been invented by the Chinese. They are said to chase away evil spirits and bring good luck, making them a perfect way to begin a new year! Fireworks illuminate the sky at San Francisco Bay, Las Vegas Strip, Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, the London Eye in Central London, Kremlin in Moscow, Champs–Élysées in Paris, Downtown Beirut, Taedong River in Pyongyang, Opera House and Harbour Bridge in Sydney, Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, Singapore’s financial district and Yogyakarta in Indonesia, to name a few.

Around the world, the Times Square ball drop in Manhattan is considered the ‘official’ countdown to the New Year. One million people gather at Times Square to watch it and another one billion people tune in to watch the ceremony. Starting exactly at 11:59pm, the 11,875 lbs ball with 2,688 Waterford crystal triangles goes through a minute-long descent and hits the ground at the stroke of the midnight.

As the roller coaster that goes through a minute-long descent and hits the ground at the stroke of the midnight.

Auld Lang Syne’ is traditionally sung at midnight on New Year’s Eve. It was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. What does the title ‘Auld Lang Syne’ mean?

Times gone by.

In 2011, officials in the Independent State of Samoa decided to move from the eastern side of the International Date Line to the western side, making it the first country to do what every year with a positive attitude.

Welcome to Nutty Infotainment. YAYS! And our time starts NOW!

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Type 2 diabetes is a condition where glucose builds up in the bloodstream due to insulin resistance and low insulin levels.

**Pancreas**
The pancreas produces insulin and glucagon.

**Insulin**
Insulin is the “key” that unlocks the cells to allow glucose to enter and provide needed energy.

**Glucose**
The food you eat gets broken down into glucose.

**Cells**
Your body is made up of cells, and those cells need glucose for energy.

Glucose cannot enter most cells directly.

**Glucagon**
Glucagon is the “key” that unlocks glucose storage units in the liver.

**Your “blood glucose” (or “blood sugar”) is a measure of the amount of glucose in your bloodstream at any given time.**

Glucagon stimulates the liver to release glucose when blood glucose levels are too low to provide energy for cells.
Wordsearch

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.

BEIJING LOS ANGELES BUENOS AIRES CALCUTTA
RIO DE RIADE MEXICO CITY TOKYO
JANIBER SHANGHAI DELHI
BOMBAY CAIRO OSAKA
MANILA MOSCOW JAKARTA
SAO PAULO TIANJIN PARIS

Adam

S.H.A.Y. YOUR DAD’S WRITING.
WHY ARE WE BEING QUIET?
IT’S THIS MID-HOLIDAY WEEK. EVERYTHING IS HANGING BY A THREAD.
AN ALL-DAY “DIE HARD” MARATHON COULD BREAK OUT AT ANY MOMENT.
RIGHT. RIGHT. I’LL HIDE THE REMOTE.

Pooch Cafe

UGH, CARMEN’S LEFT-OVER CHRISTMAS CAKE.
MAYBE I’LL JUST “ACCIDENTALLY” LEAVE IT ON THE COFFEE TABLE HERE, RIGHT AROUND PONCHO’S NOSE LEVEL...
I’M NOT TOUCHING THAT THING. PANG.

Garfield

BARK! BARK! BARK!

Bound And Gagged

HOLD IT. I THOUGHT YOU GOT AN ARTIFICIAL TREE THIS YEAR...

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a nine-digit grid. The grid is divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every box contains each number exactly once.

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<thead>
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<th>3</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>7</th>
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</table>

Sudoku courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1Irregular form of PC’s radio (8)
6Lettuce is so cold when turned over (3)
9Organ composition for big ape (5)
10Fish of the non-swim variety? (7)
11We bring ingredients for making beer (7)
13A king, surrounded by several, is captured (5)
14Game for a drink (6)
15The din may have provided a clue (6)
19November 5th effigies, we hear, making appearance (5)
21Record made by Don West (3,4)
22Pirates roving for money overseas (7)
23A bird goes crazy without oxygen (5)
24Little Dorothy demonstrates a part of the Morse Code (3)
25Designer getting into trouble has quit (8)

Down
2High-rise flat? (7)
3American soldier right about outfit (3)
4Injure a woman when grabbing silver (6)
5Study with severe cramp (9)
6Take a look at the timekeeper (5)
7Girl from America entertained by Poles (5)
8Surely you don’t have them? (6)
12One script edited by a police officer (9)
16A couple - a couple getting a few more? (7)
17German article about pub meal (6)
18Flowers provided by teachers when head is absent (6)
19Opening found by journalist opened wide (5)
20Paint may be unsuitable (5)
23Say something funny or keep quiet! (3)

Solution

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword

Pls reformatted the content.
Five ways to avoid spots

By Amy Fleming

I f you are careful about what you use on your face and hair, as well as what you eat, it can help to keep your skin healthy.

Moisturise: “A lot of my acne patients think that, because they have oily skin, they can’t use a moisturiser,” says Bav Shergill, a consultant dermatologist based in Sussex. But if you scrub the oils off your skin, it will start producing more to compensate. “Moisturise your skin so that it is well hydrated and that will turn off your oil production if you scrub the oils off your skin,” says Sandy Skotnicki, a dermatologist based in Toronto, says that even hair products – “in particular argan and coconut oils” – can contribute to facial acne, so “it is important to wash them out before you sleep.” Exfoliation will help to keep pores clear and Shergill recommends skin products with 2% salicylic acid “and a little more glycolic acid, which can help exfoliate dead skin cells that could cause blockages”. Zap spots with antibacterials: “People think acne is an infection, but it’s not,” says Shergill. “It is inflammation of the skin that allows an overgrowth of bacteria. The body tries to kill the bugs and causes the big red reaction, which is the spot.” If one lasts for longer than 10 days, it can scar. “We need to get on and treat spots when they come up,” says Shergill. “We often use drugs such as benzoyl peroxide. If you prefer an alternative treatment, tea-tree oil can be effective.” As well as killing germs, tea tree has anti-inflammatory properties. To avoid irritation, Shergill recommends diluting it to 5%.

Don’t block your pores: “The usual suspects are sunscreens,” says Erica MacCallum of facialists Eve Lom in New York. So if you use one daily, look for one labelled non-comedogenic (non-clogging) or oil-free. “And never sleep in your makeup.”

An unexpected visit or call from a friend could bring exciting news. You might decide to get together with this person and celebrate. Good fortune comes your way from an unforeseen source, but don’t waste time wondering about it. Make the most of it. Future successes may hinge upon it. By day’s end you might be aiming for entirely different goals than you were this morning.

The morning could find you somewhat worried about finances. Past reckless spending may be on your mind. Go through your records and look at them objectively. You’ll probably find that things aren’t as bad as they seem. Write down a plan for handling whatever does need attention. You’ll be able to take care of business without making yourself crazy.

You’re always intellectually curious, but today you might be especially so. Although you’re usually idealistic, today your imagination is in full swing. You might want to try writing or painting. It will be better to go with fiction or impressionism than history or realism. Study of spiritual or esoteric subjects is likely to clear a path between intellect and intuition.

New ideas and opportunities for advancing yourself financially may come your way today, yet this isn’t the day to act indiscriminately or make any definite changes in your financial structure. Your judgment may be a bit clouded. You could have difficulty deciding among different options. Write down all the information, study it, and sleep on it for a few nights before committing to anything.

Discuss your relationship with your partner. Your friend may or may not share your opinions, and a compromise may need to be reached. Don’t let this dampen your enthusiasm. Romance looks bright for the near future as long as you keep the lines of communication open.

You have been thinking about remodelling or redecorating your home? If so, this is the day to do it. Your energy and aesthetic sense are high today. Enlist the aid of family members in planning colours, styles, and arrangements. A lot of activity may go on in and around your home, and you’ll be enthusiastic. Make sure on one works to the point of exhaustion.
In conversation with Pedretti, TV’s new horror queen

By Joseph V Amodio

Victoria Pedretti doesn’t scare quite so easily anymore. At least, not since she’s become TV’s favourite new horror queen, a sort of “Jamie Lee Curtis, millennial edition.”

Fans of the acclaimed Netflix series The Haunting of Hill House know Pedretti from her breakout performance as the warm and sympathetic twin Neill Crain. She nabbed that role just seconds after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University in 2017, and her success has led to two more roles: She returns to that series for its second season (called The Haunting of Bly Manor, an all-new spookfest out next year in which she plays a completely different character); and she stars in the second season of You, another Netflix hit, playing the object of Penn Badgley’s affection. Unfortunately, he’s a sweet but obsessive serial killer and in the show’s first season last year, well, things didn’t work out so well for his lady friend. Pedretti, 24, who grew up in and around Philadelphia, also recently appeared as a murderous Manson hippie in Quentin Tarantino’s Once Upon A Time in Hollywood. She recently spoke by phone with Newsday contributor Joseph V. Amodio from Vancouver, on a break from shooting Bly Manor.

**In the first season of You, Penn Badgley plays Joe Goldberg, who falls for a young writer. In Season 2, he’s drawn to your character, Love Quinn, an aspiring chef. He seems to really go for creative types.**

**Seemingly. He’s definitely drawn to women who seem to have their own goals and ambitions. Which...is a good quality. I guess.**

**Sure, aside from the pesky psychopath thing. Right.**

**How are your own skills in the kitchen? Are you much of a chef?**

**Definitely. I love to cook. I spent a lot of time in high school cooking instead of doing my homework.**

**What’s your go-to dish?**

**I think pasta tends to warm people’s hearts, you know? I put a lot of love into making pasta. But I like to try new things, too.**

**You’re getting to be an old pro when it comes to horror stories and thrillers. Do you like to watch those kinds of tales?**

**Not really. Most of my life I’ve avoided things that I find life scary enough. I’m an actor. (She laughs.) I’m already really sensitive, I’ve gotta admit.**

**I’m partial to the classics, like The Shining and Poltergeist. And I have a special place in my heart for The Amityville Horror because my grandparents actually lived in Amityville. Oh, wow! That’s so cool. So much of my experience with horror growing up was with kids trying to get everybody to go to the basement to watch a movie to see who could handle it the most.**

**Like a slashers pic?**

**Yeah. Those movies are all jump-scares...They mean a lot to some people but it’s never been my cup of tea. But I’m figuring it out. I’ve begun to see how horror isn’t so different from the different of the things you experience in a regular drama. And I’m appreciating the fact that these horror stories we tell relate to the folklore with which we’ve explained the world for so long. Monsters and ghosts and ghouls — societies have always been wrestling with the idea of death and what it means to die. So...I’ve been watching a lot of horror, actually, to see how it’s constructed.**

**What was it like working with Gossip Girl heartthrob Penn Badgley?**

**OH MY GOD! I miss him. He’s the most lovely, creative, exuberant, intelligent man. He’s really a great person to work with. A great collaborator and friend. I’m so excited for everybody to see the amazing work he’s done this season.**

**Did he sort of welcome you to You?**

**Honestly, he was kind of on his lonesome, being one of the only people left from the first season. We shot in an entirely different place with an entirely different crew. And almost the entire cast was different. I feel a lot like him now on this second season of Haunting, being one of the only people from the first season. It’s interesting to go into another season of a show with such a different...vibe. There’s a lot of readjusting to do.**

— Newsday/TNS

_Salman bets on Akki’s film doing better than his_

Bollywood Superstar Salman Khan who turned 54 on Friday took out time and thanked his fans and while comparing his film Dabaang 3 with Akshay Kumar’s latest Good Newwz opened with Rs24.50 crore, while asked if he is happy to see his film doing better or Akki’s or of Shahrukh’s film. I say all of our films should do better than mine. “ — IANS

_Moushumi’s son-in-law to file defamation case against her_

Moushumi Chatterjee’s son-in-law Dicky Sinha has declared he will file a defamation case against the veteran actress next month.

Sinha’s decision is a fallout of Moushumi’s decision after the recent demise of her older daughter Payal on December 13. Dicky Sinha was the late Payal’s husband, and Moushumi had recently said she planned to sue Payal’s in-laws, including Dicky Sinha, for neglecting her health and not paying her medical bills.

During her daughter’s prolonged illness, the actress had to endure legal battles over her custody.

Now, Sinha claims Moushumi’s allegation is false and that he will file a case against her for defaming him and his family.

“I was quiet all this while because I did not want my focus to shift from taking care of my ailing wife Payal. I waited for so many hours and sent her maternal people SMSes, so that they could attend her funeral,” claimed Sinha, a businessman.

He added: “I have to finish all the rituals, which will take some time. I have to go to Triveni after 40 days to submerge Payal’s ashes in the Ganga. I want my wife’s soul to rest in peace. Then, I will go ahead and file a defamation case against Moushumi Chatterjee in January.” Payal had Type I diabetes and was undergoing treatment for a long time. She was reportedly in coma since last year. Dicky Sinha has claimed Moushumi didn’t visit her ailing daughter in the hospital.

“While Payal was ailing and the doctors had informed us of her serious illness, her mother hardly visited her. Her sister and father would come often and visit Payal.” The businessman has also dismissed allegations that he did not pay Payal’s medical bills.

He also seems to suggest that all was possibly not right between mother and daughter. — IANS
pakistani expat community marks Quaid-e-Azam Day

By Mudassir Raja

pakistani Professional Community (PPC), a group of Pakistani professional expatriates, recently organised an event to mark Quaid-e-Azam Day, 143rd birth anniversary of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Founder of Pakistan and Pakistan’s first Governor-General, at Salt n Pepper restaurant.

The event was attended by large number of people, including families and children. Community representatives and young students highlighted the struggles of Jinnah and his team for creation of a separate homeland and his vision about the future of the country on the occasion, which was followed by various patriotic songs. A detailed documentary film about the life-long journey of Quaid-e-Azam and his political struggle during the British era in India was also presented.

The event also featured a quiz competition about Jinnah and his life. The young students also presented their drawings underlining different aspects of Quaid’s personality.

The event was conducted by Anwar Ali Rana. He introduced various segments of the event and said that December 25 is celebrated every year by the Pakistani expatriate community in Qatar to remember their great leader and pay tribute to him for his selfless struggle for Pakistan.

Arshad Hussain, Chief Co-ordinator of PPC, spoke about the leadership qualities of Jinnah. He said, “I thank all the guests and families to join us in remembering our beloved leader. Quaid-e-Azam’s life epitomizes all the qualities of a real leader. He had very high vision. He had the power to connect to his people and he was selfless in his struggle. There is a great lesson for the young students. They need to have a clear vision about what they want to achieve in life and then struggle for it vigorously.”

Fahad Ismail, a young student, underscored the hopes Quaid-e-Azam had with youth and students of Pakistan. He said, “In his speech to students at Islamia College Peshawar, Quaid-e-Azam had stressed upon the youth to ensure three things: discipline, education, and training. PPC today has given a chance to the young students to pay tribute to their great leader.”

Anushey Tariq, a student of Grade-X, delivered speech on the topic of ‘Leadership role of Quaid-e-Azam prior to the creation of Pakistan’. Speaking on the occasion, she said, “The eldest of the seven siblings, Jinnah was born in Karachi on December 25, 1876. A barrister by profession, he started taking part in politics in London in the last years of 19th century. He gradually developed his own political outlook.”

Jinnah joined Indian National Congress in 1906. He later joined All India Muslim League in 1913 and eventually became its president in 1934. He became successful in uniting all major Muslim political leaders of combined India under the Muslim League banner. Soon, he became the undisputed leader for the Muslims all over India. He had long negotiations with the British rulers and the Congress leaders about how India would shape post-independence. He, however, realised that a separate county for the Indian Muslims was inevitable.

Almas, another student, highlighted how Quaid-e-Azam was able to translate his dreams to reality. He said, “He fought for Pakistan with reason and logic. His selfless struggle went through numerous challenges but the man stood firm and unshaken.”

“His office as first governor general of Pakistan was not a bed of roses. The new state faces multiple problems like refugee rehabilitation, future of princely states, no regular system to run the affairs of the state and financial constraints. He however tackled all these issues unparalleled.”

Tahir Janjil, a noted community representative and an Urdu poet, praised Jinnah and Pakistan via his poetry.

Speaking on the occasion, Janan Khan, a well-known Pakistan community leader, said, “I thank PPC for organising the event to celebrate birthday of Quaid-e-Azam. We need to introduce our younger generation with the ideas and vision of our great leaders.”

Amir Khan, an entrepreneur who sponsored the event, added: “I am happy to be a part of the celebration and see how enthusiasm our young generation is about our leader. We need to follow the ideals of Quaid-e-Azam because that is the only way forward for Pakistan.”

Felicitations: The students were felicitated with certificates on the occasion for taking part in the event.

GROUP: Organisers of the event along with the guests in a photo.

Photos supplied