What a retired teacher did upon finding some seahorses off Long Beach. P4-5

Pop Spot
Back in harness, The black keys' Let’s Rock is hugely popular. Page 14

Secret world

Cover Story

When Orange is Deep Blue: Named Deep Blue, this seahorse is among those that former school teacher Rog Hanson is studying.

Back Page
‘The Colours of Desert’ exhibition to bring colours of Qatar alive at Katara. Page 16
Crawl

DIRECTION: Alexandre Aja
CAST: Kaya Scodelario, Barry Pepper, Ross Anderson
SYNOPSIS: During a fierce Category 5 hurricane that hits a Florida town, Haley Keller (Kaya Scodelario) goes against the town’s orders of evacuation in order to find her father Dave (Barry Pepper). Through finding him in a crawlspace basement of their family home in Coral Lake, the father and daughter realize that something sinister lives in the town. With absolutely no rescue and impossible escape, Haley and Dave have to escape rising waters and marauding alligators as they try to escape hurricane season.

THEATRES: Royal Plaza, The Mall, Landmark

Crawl

SYNOPSIS: After security expert Ray Breslin is hired to rescue the kidnapped daughter of a Hong Kong tech mogul from a formidable Latvian prison, Breslin’s love interest is also captured. Now he and his team, must pull off a deadly rescue mission to confront their sadistic foe and save the hostages, hidden in the depths of the prison complex, before time runs out.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza
Cultures

In this event, children will enjoy learning different canvas painting techniques, such as dot painting and making silhouette shapes from nature, as they create art featuring their favorite animals, birds or bugs.

MF Husain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition

Under the context of cultural exchange, FBQ Museum brings together the treasures of the museum owned collection in order to promote mutual understanding, recognition and appreciation between Qatar and India. Composed of five main topics, including community, trade, arts, food and incense, the exhibition takes one on a journey to explore the rich and diverse Indian cultures, the long historic links between Qatar and India, and cultural similarities between Qatar and India.

India to Qatar – Symbiosis of Cultures

The exhibition presents Husain’s pluralist approach to the divine and cosmic aspects of being, articulated through the myths, symbols and narratives of the world’s religions and philosophies. M. F. Husain: Horses of the Sun bears witness to a recurrent motif in his art, a personal symbol of self-renewal and vitality.

Hobby Classes

Mamangam Performing Art Centre

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Music and Arts Atelier

Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip hop, Indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimila, Elathalam and Madhalam), violin, harmonium, public speaking.

Additional services include dance education, choreograph music videos and dance cover albums, choreograph dance musical projects, corporate workshops and events, choreograph events for schools, colleges, alumni meets and corporate and choreography events. For details, call 33897609.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop

Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

Artistic Gymnastic Classes

Artistic Gymnastic classes. For details, contact 66523871/33003839.

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After School Activities

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Summer Camp for Special Needs

Step by Step Centre for Special Needs

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Seahorse city

If you get Rog Hanson talking about his seahorses, he’ll tell you exactly how many times he’s seen them (997), who is dating whom, and describe their personalities with intimate familiarity. Bathsheba is stoic, Daphne a runner. Deep Blue is chill. By Deborah Netburn

I swear, (getting to know seahorses) has made me a better human being. On land I’m very C-minus, but underwater, I’m Mensa

— Rog Hanson, seahorse keeper

Rog Hanson emerges from the coastal waters, pulls a diving regulator out of his mouth and pushes a scuba mask down around his neck.

“Did you see her?” he says. “Did you see Bathsheba?”

On this quiet Wednesday morning, a paddle boarder glides silently through the surf off Long Beach. Two stick-legged whimbrels plunge their long curved beaks into the sand, hunting for crabs. But Hanson, 68, is enchanted by what lies hidden beneath the water. Today, he took a visitor on a tour of the secret world he built from palm fronds and pine branches at the bottom of the bay: his very own seahorse city.

The visitor confirms that she did see Bathsheba, an 11-inch-long Pacific seahorse, and a grin spreads across Hanson’s broad face. “Isn’t she beautiful?” he says. “She’s our supermodel.”

If you get Hanson talking about his seahorses, he’ll tell you exactly how many times he’s seen them (997), who is dating whom, and describe their personalities with intimate familiarity. Bathsheba is stoic, Daphne a runner. Deep Blue is chill.

He will also tell you that getting to know these strange, almost mythical beings has profoundly affected his life.

“I swear, it has made me a better human being,” he says. “On land I’m very C-minus, but underwater, I’m Mensa.”

Hanson is a retired schoolteacher, not a scientist, but experts say he probably has spent more time with Pacific seahorses, also known as Hippocampus ingens, than anyone on Earth.

“To my knowledge, he is the only person tracking ingens directly,” says Amanda Vincent, a professor at the University of British Columbia and director of the marine conservation group Project Seahorse. “Many people love seahorses, but Roger’s absorption with them is definitely distinctive. There’s a degree of warm obsession there, perhaps.”

Over the last three years, Hanson has made the two-hour trek from his home in Moreno Valley to the industrial shoreline of Long Beach to visit his “kids” about every five days. To avoid traffic, he often leaves at 2am and then sleeps in his car when he arrives.

He keeps three tanks of air and his scuba gear in the trunk of his 2009 Kia Rio. A toothbrush and a pair of pink leopard print reading glasses rest on the dash.

Hanson makes careful notes after all his dives in a colourful handmade log book he stores in a three-ring binder. On this Wednesday, he dutifully records the water temperature (62 degrees), the length of the dive (58 minutes), the greatest depth (15 feet) and visibility (3 feet), as well as the precise location of each seahorse. His notes also include phase of the moon, the tidal currents and the strength of the UV rays.

“Scientists will tell you that sunlight is an important statistic to keep down,” he says.

He has given each of his four seahorses a unique logo that he draws with markers in his log book. Bathsheba’s is a purple star outlined in red, Daphne’s is a brown striped star in a yellow circle.

He’s learned that the seahorses

When Orange Is Deep Blue: Named Deep Blue, this seahorse is among those that former school teacher Rog Hanson is studying.
NOTES FROM A SEAHORSE LOVER: Rog Hanson makes careful notes after all his dives. He has given each of his four seahorses a unique logo.

TWO TO TANGO: Rog Hanson, 68, teamed up with dive instructor Ashley Arnold two years ago to keep watch over a small colony of Pacific seahorses that he discovered back in 2016. He has been studying colony ever since.
Asha’s launches new ‘Mumbai’ menu as part of 15th anniversary celebrations

Ashas, Award-winning contemporary Indian restaurant, recently marked its 15th anniversary celebration in the region with the launch of their second exclusive menu ‘Mumbai’. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Brimal Subedi, member of MRNA ICC; Bishwo Bandu Thapa, Chef of Adarsha Welfare Society; Bhim Taramu Magar, Spokesperson of Gulmi Welfare Society; and Anuradha Pawade, Station Head of Olive FM.

Speaking at the press conference, Prasad Chaulagain, Chief Organizer of the event, told everyone to come and enjoy the event. The press conference was attended by notable personalities, including Brimal Subedi, member of MRNA ICC; Bishwo Bandu Thapa, Chef of Adarsha Welfare Society; Bhim Taramu Magar, Spokesperson of Gulmi Welfare Society; and Anuradha Pawade, Station Head of Olive FM.

The second special menu, ‘Mumbai’ pays homage to the city’s vibrant culture, food and heritage that was rediscovered and reinvented by the Asha’s team during their adventurous escape to the city. The limited-time menu will be available from June 23rd until September 5th across all Asha’s restaurants.

The new menu, available for a limited time period, features an array of ten new items such as Mumbai’s most famous street food, the Vada Pav Slider, and the exotic Mumbai Juhu Style Biryani, generously flavoured with India’s finest pav bhaji masala. The limited-time menu will be available from June 23rd until September 5th across all Asha’s restaurants.
Recovered beauty: bold prints and second-hand treasure

The owners’ love of vintage shopping and revitalising furniture with bold prints gives this house its character, explains Jo Leivers

“In theory, I like the idea of living in a sleek minimalist box,” says Ruthie Hudson. “But in reality, I’m too sentimental. I like collecting ‘stuff’, especially things that feel as if they have a back story.” With second-hand furniture, artists’ prints and end-of-line fabrics, her 1930s house in Stamford, Lincolnshire, might be short on echoey white spaces, but it’s got plenty of personality.

Ruthie, her husband Michael and their sons Jasper, seven, and Felix, five, live in a house that was originally built as accommodation for a police officer. It hadn’t been lived in for many years, but instead had been used as an overflow storage space for the police station a few doors down. “The rooms were full of recovered stolen bikes,” Ruthie says. “And I don’t mean just one or two – there were about 50, all in different shapes and sizes.”

Weeds and plants had taken root in the window frames and the garden was so overgrown they couldn’t see where it ended. That abundance of space out the back was a bonus, as it meant that over the next few years they could extend the original two-up, two-down house, adding a larger kitchen, a garden room and two bedrooms.

The newest addition is the garden room, a space that was inspired by a 1969 photograph of David Hockney and Sir Cecil Beaton, taken in Beaton’s conservatory at Reddish House. “Ever since I saw that image of the two men surrounded by plants in a room with an elegant black and white tiled floor I’d thought, ‘I’d love to sit in a space like that,’” Ruthie says. In her version, leafy fronds drape down from shelves, but in lieu of Beaton’s mass of pink geraniums, Ruthie opted for a flowing floral wallpaper. “Some patterns look lovely as a small sample, but when you get them on the wall the repeat can look too orderly. This one feels more natural, as if there’s no beginning and no end.”

Ruthie has furnished this room with an old cabinet that she painted dark green and a vintage French table, a baby version of one in the kitchen. “Both tables came from Newark antiques fair, but bought 10 years apart,” says Ruthie. She found the larger one first, at a time when she was buying and selling vintage and mid-century furniture for a living. “When we were furnishing our first house I kept finding really beautiful pieces of old furniture and couldn’t resist buying a few extras, which I put in the garage,” she says. She began doing this when mid-century sideboards were having a moment and Stamford, Peterborough and the surrounding areas proved to be a rich – and cheap – hunting ground. “I stopped at vintage fairs, auctions and charity shops and prices were far better than in other parts of the country,” Ruthie says.

Some of her best finds have been at auctions, both in Stamford and at more ramshackle barns out in the countryside. “You tend to get better things when you’re there in person, rather than bidding over the phone or online,” Ruthie says. “And there’s something about the buzz of being there that’s great. Well, once your lots come up. In between, there’s lots of just waiting, often in the cold…”

Ruthie progressed from selling to friends to taking pitches at pop-up fairs. “It coincided with people we knew getting their first homes and wanting to furnish them stylishly but without spending loads of money,” she adds.

But some items never made it on to her stall. “There were a few things that I put in our house to photograph in order to sell them, but liked them so much that I kept them. It wasn’t exactly a ruthless business plan,” she says. A stall in Stamford market has also been a good source of fabrics, which Ruthie has used to re-cover old furniture. “Almost all our chairs, the footstool and a sofa have been given new life with end-of-roll materials I’ve bought there,” she says.

Other fabrics came via Ruthie’s first job. She worked in the production department of a publishing company, where samples and offcuts were sold off for charity once they had been photographed. A square of embroidered silk on the couple’s bed is one such cast-off. “It had its moment in the news pages of the World of Interiors and is just beautiful. I’d never have come across it if I hadn’t worked there,” she says.

Ruthie now works as an artist and a printmaker, making linocuts and using a 19th-century lithograph press that she bought on eBay. “It dates from 1856 so it’s slightly temperamental and results can vary each time I make a print,” she says. “But that lack of identikit perfection appeals to me. You know that each print is done by hand.”

It’s that love of personality over production-line “perfection” that characterises Ruthie and Michael’s home. “Whether it’s furniture, clothes or art, I think it’s far more interesting to see some signs of a life well lived!” – The Guardian
Big Blue salvia is big, blue, and wonderful

In the landscape, if you are looking for a way to create more interest in your flower border this year, then, by all means, plan on adding some spiky flower texture from Big Blue, suggests Norman Winter.

Last year Big Blue stunned us at the plant trials. This year, when we’re able to get our hands on it, we can say it is indeed big, blue, and wonderful providing all of the spikes you could want to create excitement in the garden. Botanically speaking, Big Blue is a salvia farinacea × S. longispicata cross. If you are a salvia guru then you recognise this as similar to the Indigo Spires discovered at the Huntington Botanical Garden in 1962.

Big Blue is different, however, it is seed produced; meaning it’s a great value for the garden shopper. It is different, too, in that it is vigorous but controlled, unlike the Indigo Spires. It will reach 24–36 inches tall and 18–20 inches wide and it will bring in pollinators. At the University of Georgia trial where a dozen salvias were grown, this was the only seed variety; the others were reproduced using vegetative propagation. Big Blue won hands down. Pan American Seed has seemingly done the impossible with Big Blue and you’ll love it.

Throughout the US, this dazzling blue salvia is being promoted as an annual, and a fine one it will be. In the landscape, if you are looking for a way to create more interest in your flower border this year, then, by all means, plan on adding some spiky flower texture from Big Blue. In the garden world, round flowers like zinnias, marigolds, and even petunias often dominate. You can almost draw an imaginary horizontal plane or line across the top of your bed. But it’s flowers like Big Blue that rise up above that imaginary line with their glorious spikes of colour and create a real show-stopping moment.

Select a site in full sun for best flower performance. Fortunately, these genera of salvia are tolerant of wide varieties in soil pH. From this standpoint, anyone can grow it. However, like all salvias, they prefer good drainage, especially if you want a return from winter. For this reason, I like to plant on raised beds loosened with organic matter. Space the Big Blue plants 16–18 inches apart. Depending on your space I would use 3–5 in an informal cluster or sweep. They do however work quite well in straight line endeavours. In the South, they will hit 36 inches tall by the end of summer. Though I have touted how drought tolerant they are, do pay attention during prolonged dry spells, watering deeply but infrequently. Start feeding with light applications of slow-released fertiliser about every 6–8 weeks with the emergence of spring growth. Keep the flowers deadheaded for a tidy appearance and to increase flower production.

These salvias look like the quintessential cottage garden flowers. Combine them with white picket fences, and your favourite variety of the old-fashioned Gloriosa daisy. I have seen stunning designs with plants like Wasabi lime green coleus, Compact Electric Orange SunPatiens, Tophat White begonias, and Alocasia elephant ears.

No matter your choice of companion plants, it is sure to be Big Blue salvia that will produce that proverbial Kodak moment. There are a lot of hot days left in the growing season why not get them planted this weekend? – TNS
Artisan loaves and supermarket chains pile pressure on German bakers

It’s not uncommon for Germans to eat bread for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Why, then, are bakers in Germany worried about falling sales? asks Burkhard Fraune

Walk into almost any German supermarket and you’ll hear a whirl of mechanical knives that’s reminiscent of the sound effects from the famous shower scene in Psycho. Don’t worry – it’s just a customer using the in-store bread-slicing machine. Yet for some of the country’s bakers, the state of the bread market is indeed a horror scenario.

Germany’s famous bread culture, awarded intangible cultural heritage status by Unesco, is being threatened by supermarkets, they say, which offer mass-produced bread in only a few different varieties.

“Due to their extreme pricing policies, the biggest competition today is grocery stores,” says the main association for German bakers.

These stores don’t reveal how much bread they sell, but it’s safe to say the concept does work. Part of the issue is that more and more people are working and therefore have less time to make that separate trip to the baker.

It also doesn’t help that bread consumption has been dropping in traditionally bread-obsessed Germany. The average German household consumed only 42 kilograms of bread in 2018, found a consumer research centre.

The trend towards eating less bread has been going on for decades, blamed on smaller households as well as changing lifestyles.

Yet while alarm bells are going off, the consumer trend towards artisan products has bakers believing that things might be OK.

“One target group usually goes for classic bread sorts or sandwiches, while the other searches for speciality breads with rare or unusual ingredients,” explains the central association of German bakers.

That explains why lines form in front of bakeries in certain parts of Berlin or Cologne that offer organic, chemical-free loaves that were allowed a longer rise time – and carry the corresponding price tag.

This search for better bread also keeps its diversity alive: “In Germany there are more than 3,200 bread types, and that number continues to grow – a variety that no other country can top,” brags the baking industry.

But the numbers in Germany’s more rural areas tell a different story: In the list of trade bakers, there are only 11,000 bakeries, which is 4,000 fewer than in 2008. As these bakeries die out, that also means more and more customers are seeing their options shrink to just a handful or two of bread types at the local discount store.

The German Food Beverages and Catering Union said it has observed “increasingly hybrid purchase behaviour” for a while now: A customer might buy 100 grams of a high-quality wholemeal bread at a speciality baker for 1.30 euros (1.50 dollars) one day, and then buy a kilo of white bread at the supermarket for the same price the day after.

On the one hand, consumers do care more about taste and how healthy a bread is, as well as its freshness and whether it’s organic.

“Craft bakers are increasingly focusing on a select assortment of core items,” says the branch association. “Through the use of new or rediscovered grain varieties such as wild emmer, einkorn wheat or spelt, or the addition of fruits or spices, they’ve come up with more types.”

On the other hand, however, there is a core group of consumers for whom such efforts might not make a difference: About 40 percent of customers aren’t interested in eating healthier bread types or trying out new trends, according to a poll conducted by the University of Goettingen and marketing advisers.

People who don’t have the extra resources to buy fancier bread types and men are especially represented in the 40-percent figure. – DPA
My son would always tell me how he wanted to be an astronaut when he grows up. We would read books about space and watch videos of different missions. Recently, we were elated to follow the live-stream of the One More Orbit project on board Qatar Executive, which broke a world record for the fastest aircraft to circumnavigate on both poles.

This was in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission which brought the first man on the moon. What better way to celebrate everything we’ve learned than to go to Al Thuraya Planetarium. He surely had fun looking at life-like figures and had a fantastic, one of a kind 3D cinema experience.

My son’s ambitious mission to space may be far from reality for now but through that museum doorway, one can absolutely dream, and as we know, it only takes one footprint and the rest could be history.

— Photos and text by Vanessa Valencia Almacen, @valentsu
Here we have four tips for you to go green.

**Search out alternatives**
“A bamboo toothbrush is the first swap I always suggest,” says Beth Noy, who founded the online shop Plastic Freedom in frustration at the lack of easily available alternatives to everyday plastic items. She also suggests swapping disposable razors for a safety razor, using bars of soap and shampoo instead of bottles, switching from cotton wool pads to reusable cleansing pads, and seeking out mouthwash tablets. Jen Chillingworth, author of *Live Green: 52 Steps for a More Sustainable Life*, suggests using a mesh “soap-saver” bag. “Put the soap bar in the bag, wet the bag and use it as an exfoliating scrub. Any broken bits of soap are contained and nothing is wasted.” She also recommends a konjac sponge for cleansing because the naturally derived and gently exfoliating sponges are biodegradable and compostable. Plastic-free earbuds are also available.

**Reduce waste gradually**
“Use up what you have before buying anything new,” says Chillingworth. “Start simple and change one thing at a time. It’s useful to see how a new product works for you before changing anything else.”

**Go for refill options**
Many zero-waste shops also offer refill stations where you can top up your own containers. Lush has a wide range of body and haircare bars and a recycling scheme for its black pots, of which all are made from recycled materials. Beauty Kitchen runs a return-packaging return programmes, and same treatment, according to the Recycle Now campaign. One option recommended by the Circular Economy Taskforce is to keep a separate recycling bin in the bathroom. Some beauty brands, including Mac and Kiehl’s, run packaging return programmes, and Beauty Kitchen runs a return-refill-repeat programme for its products. Lush has a wide range of body and haircare bars and a recycling scheme for its black pots, and offers a variety of packaging-free products. — *The Guardian*

**Four ways to reduce plastic in the bathroom**

**Aries**
March 21 – April 19

Many projects to complete before a deadline might have you feeling pressured, Aries, but your determination is likely to drive you to try to get it all done even if it seems impossible. Don’t try to do it all yourself. Ask for a little help. You can accomplish your ends without putting undue pressure on yourself. Try to relax today.

**Taurus**
April 20 – May 20

You’ve been doing very well, Taurus, but today you might feel more focused than ever. The path ahead seems clear and well defined. You’re anticipating the future with motivation. You might be considering a long trip abroad or perhaps going back to school for an advanced degree. This is a good day to research and finalise your plans.

**Cancer**
June 21 – July 22

Today you may put a lot of energy into your relationships, Cancer. The astral energy is encouraging you to focus on love. Give your significant other a special gift to show how much you care, and spend some time together. Any step initiated or advanced today is likely to prove stable and long lasting. Don’t let fear stand in your way. Move ahead.

**Leo**
July 23 – August 22

Too much work and the resulting pressure over the past few days may have you feeling too tired to do anything more, Leo, although your optimism and enthusiasm are still intact. Don’t be too hard on yourself if you’re dragging by the end of the day. If you take care of yourself, you will soon recharge and be your old self again. In the evening, read a good book.

**Scorpio**
October 23 – November 21

Paperwork, perhaps contracts or other legal documents, might need attention so you can move ahead with your projects. Scorpio. These projects could involve writing or speaking. Your mind is in just the right space to participate in anything involving communication, so doors of opportunity may open for you in this area. Lift your chin and get going. You will be glad you did.

** Gemini**
May 21 – June 20

Some kind of settlement, grant, or bonus that you’ve anticipated for a long time may finally show up, Gemini. This should make your day! You may want to celebrate. A chance to attend a large social gathering might come your way. Have fun! Tonight don’t be surprised if wood dreams – some great, some sad - come your way. Keep a notebook and pen by your bed so you can write them down.

**Virgo**
August 23 – September 22

Relationship blossoms for you, Virgo, perhaps after a long standoff. A new stability and security may settle on relationships as well as close friendships. Children could be a great source of warmth and pleasure. You might want to channel some of this blossoming positive energy into a creative activity of some kind, which should increase even further your sense of contentment and well-being.

**Libra**
September 23 – October 22

You might host a social event in your home tonight, Libra. You may be nervous at first, wondering if all will go well. Your efforts should produce the results you want. You might be introduced to new contacts, which could lead to increased professional opportunities. Take a walk after everyone has gone. Your mind will be going a thousand miles an hour and you will want to clear your head.

**Sagittarius**
November 22 – December 21

Your financial picture continues to improve. At some point during the day, Sagittarius, you might have the feeling that you aren’t working hard enough to keep up your current forward motion, and you might worry. This could be a good motivator, but you don’t need to push yourself much harder than you are now. You’re on a roll and it’s likely to continue. Keep moving, but pace yourself.

**Capricorn**
December 22 – January 19

Even though all continues to go well for you, Capricorn, your mood may vacillate today. In spite of all the great things in your life, at some time during the day you might feel a little blue. Don’t read too much into it. It’s probably just the result of low biohythms. Try to distract yourself with physical activity. Go out with some friends and have a good time this evening.

**Aquarius**
January 20 – February 18

Trying to get too much work done in the course of the day could prove self-defeating, Aquarius. Your energy isn’t what it usually is, and you’re probably operating on adrenaline. Consider the situation carefully and list your tasks in order of urgency. The world won’t come to an end if you don’t get them all done by the end of the day. In the evening, watch a movie and order a pizza.

**Pisces**
February 19 – March 20

A despondent friend may need some cheering up. Your ability to nurture and listen sympathetically will definitely prove beneficial, Pisces. Take care not to absorb any of this person’s dejection. Your life should continue to go well with professional successes leading to new friendships and goals. Hang on to your enthusiasm and optimism while showing compassion for others.
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.

| P R S W O E I I N O R A B C | G | P R C E R E I T R U O C A V |
| D R O L N W L F L U N K Y | P | I |
| U W C B Y C T R N D Y W E A O | D B L P T B O S G A U H U C U |
| N Y T L A Y O R T I A G O R D | C T W S M F G A V Q I M Y O P |
| E P B Y F Y P E U B Y G W W F | E N I M R E R E W O N F L N P |
| O V I R U Y E V F E C N I R P | O H W E W N O C E D D V G I E |

Squares with the same number in have the same letter in. Work out which number represents which letter.

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Codeword

Garfield

Hey, Garfield, the delivery guy just told me this is the fifteenth-thousandth pizza we’ve ordered!

Bound And Gagged

I take it the king didn’t get your latest joke...

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a grid sized 9x9. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contain each of the figures 1 to 9 exactly once.

Sudoku courtesy: Puzzleboxer.com
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Cocktail drunk before dance (8)
6 Bread roll baked and presented for starters (3)
9 Harbour with own pole (5)
10 Cross words in castle (7)
11 Shakespeare suffering from animosity? (3,4)
12 Fish amidst rotten chips (5)
13 Demure fashions - start of trend (6)
15 Cake I clear off (6)
19 Caged bird one lost in move (5)
21 Explain in detail former currency (7)
23 Setback for the other side (7)
24 Selection from Parisian designer range (3)
25 It's required in hearing! (3)
26 Slow Tory laid out (8)

Down
2 Poorly person at home, OK? (7)
3 In Uttar Pradesh, indigenous language (5)
4 Initially awesome? Excellent, too (2,4)
5 Crazy person involved in a cult (7)
6 Buffalo Bill's beginning with one child (5)
7 Resting place for fish (5)
8 Religious belief set him off (6)
14 Directed a horse without hesitation (7)
16 Separated, as below (7)
17 Salad ingredient, possibly, is hard (6)
18 Uncover most of red meat (6)
19 Seize revolutionary eastern boat (5)
20 Start to drink too much port (5)
22 Factory to design aircraft's tail (5)

Yesterday's Solution

Codeword

P R S W O E I N O R A B C G
P A R C E R E I T R U
D O L N W L F L N K Y P I
E S R T U V N G K R Y P G R A S
A B R O O K N I G H T R L C
U W C B Y C T R N O Y W E A O
D B L P T B O S G A U H U C U
I R F E U H M L E R N M K G E N
E T H R O N E L G E T T
N Y T L A Y O R A G O R D
C T W S M F G A V O P M D K P R
E P B Y F Y P E L U B Y G W N D
E N I M R E E W O N F L N P
O V I R U U E V F E C N I R P
Q H W E W N O C E D D V V G I E

Wordsearch

Answers
Back in harness, The black keys’ Let’s Rock is hugely popular

Ashtville, Tennessee, is known as the country music capital of the world. But ‘Music City’ is increasingly becoming home to artists whose music covers a wide range of other genres. Two of these are Akron, Ohio, natives Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney who together make up Grammy Award-winning indie-rock duo The Black Keys.

“We’ve lived in Nashville for just short of ten years,” stated 40-year-old Dan. “I’d known and loved the city since childhood. My dad was an antique dealer and he often did business in Nashville. I’d accompany him on many of these trips and always had a great time. “Every time I’d go, I’d see some awesome guitar player who would blow my mind. I might be a rocker but I love all kinds of music. I was raised on my family’s bluegrass collection so I always loved visiting the Station Inn in Nashville to see all those wonderful bluegrass bands.

“But more than anything, there is a great family atmosphere about Nashville. It seemed like the right place to raise my daughter and now my son. Nashville was simply the place I wanted to be.”

Dan is not just a singer, songwriter and musician, he loves producing songs for bands. The Black Keys and other artists. It was to this end that he quickly set up a studio in downtown Nashville and created his own record label.

“These things are investments on several different levels. I don’t know if I will and I will still be making music together as The Black Keys when we’re old and our album, Let’s Rock, will do I know! I always want to be involved with music in some way. So, leaving aside everything the studio and label gives me now, I’ll always have a musical outlet no matter how old I might be.”

Dan and Pat have known each other since they were children.

“Dan is just under a year older than me,” Pat revealed. “We first met when I was about eight or nine. My parents got divorced and my dad moved to Dan’s neighbourhood in Akron.

“I’d sometimes play tag football with Dan and his friends. But we didn’t really hang out together too much until we were at Firestone High School. We bonded through music but still didn’t become the friends you’d call the best of friends.”

Despite this relationship, there was certainly no expectation that Dan and Pat would form a band together. Their younger brothers, Geoff Auerbach and Michael Carney, were very close friends. It was they who encouraged their older siblings to start jamming together in 1996.

“We had an immediate connection,” Dan recalled. “Pat’s drumming was all over the place. But I listened to a lot of blues music where time signatures would stretch so that was also all over the place. This meant I could follow Pat!”

The boys still failed to develop the great friendship which they now share. Dan was more interested in performing as a solo artist but needed a backing band to record a demo. Pat had recording equipment in the basement at his house so a session was set up with musicians which Dan had recruited to help. The fact that these unreliable musicians failed to turn up was the most fortunate thing that ever happened to Dan and Pat.

“We ended up just jamming together,” Pat remembered. “We realised we really did have something special. We eventually recorded a six-song demo. It was old blues rip-offs and words made up on the spot but we pressed some copies and mailed them to record labels. We were offered a deal by Alive Records in Los Angeles before we’d even played our first show.”

Their 2002 debut album, The Big Come Up, was recorded entirely in the basement at Pat’s house. A mix of eight original songs and five covers, it established the duo’s blues-rock sound and attracted enough attention to earn the boys a deal with Fat Possum Records.

“The album didn’t sell particularly well,” Dan admitted. “Alive have re-released it several times in limited editions since we became successful. At the time though, we had to take a couple of regular jobs to pay for a tour. We’d drive to every gig in an old van that we nicknamed ‘The Gray Ghost’.

2003 saw The Black Keys release Thickfreakness, their first Fat Possum album. Like its predecessor, this album was also created in Pat’s basement. Most of the songs were recorded during a single 14-hour session in December, 2002. Although it did enter the UK chart, the album did not find a place among the Billboard 200. However, it established The Black Keys on America’s indie band circuit.

songs on the album also attracted the attention of advertising agencies. But the boys rejected substantial sums of money from those who hoped to soundtrack ads with their music.

“We didn’t want to be seen as selling out,” Pat explained. “We felt it would have alienated our fan base. It was only some time later that we began to realise we didn’t have all that many fans to alienate and we really could do with the money.

“That’s why we eventually allowed our songs to be used on ads, TV shows, computer games and films. But this was really only because we couldn’t get our songs on mainstream radio. We saw it as a great way to get our music heard by many more people.”

A combination of solid touring, critical acclaim and the greater commercial exposure of their music saw the duo’s 2004 third album, Rubber Factory, become their first Billboard 200 chart entry. It eventually peaked at number 11. The album was also another UK hit and proved particularly popular in Australia where it reached number 15.

The intervening years have seen The Black Keys steadily rise to stardom. Their 2006 album, Magic & Release became their first number one. But it was 2008’s Attack & Release which earned them their first gold toll. The boys needed a break.

Dan released his second solo album and formed a side band, The Arcs. He also produced and contributed to albums by several artists.

Pat also produced and contributed to albums by other artists. One of these was singer-songwriter Michelle Branch who is now Pat’s wife and the mother of their baby son.

“The boys reunited to make their hugely popular new album, Let’s Rock, after Dan was inspired by a jam session with two of his guitar heroes, Joe Walsh and Glenn Schwartz.”

“I called Pat right afterwards. The time apart made us appreciate the magic we have together. We had no pre-production but 30 minutes after Pat walked into the studio, the first idea we had turned into the song Breaking Dawn.”

Innocent as the album title might sound, Let’s Rock has a gruesome origin.

“Thinking of an album title is usually an annoying and tedious process,” Dan remarked. “But I’d seen a local newspaper story about a prisoner being executed by electric chair. This is really rare nowadays. But this guy, Edmund Zagorski, actually asked to be executed by electric chair rather than a lethal injection.”

His last words were ‘Let’s rock.’

This kept coming back to me as we made the record. We’d created a rock and roll album and it was like Let’s Rock was just meant to be the title.”
SRK to get honorary doctorate

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to become an Honorary Doctor of Letters at La Trobe University, Australia. The honour will be conferred on him in recognition of his efforts to support underprivileged children, his dedication to the fight for women empowerment through his foundation, and his achievement in the Indian entertainment industry.

SRK has worked at effecting change at ground level to build a world that empowers women through Meer Foundation, a philanthropic organisation he named after his father Meherbano Khan. One of the key focus areas has been to support the cause of acid attack survivors.

La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar, said SRK’s philanthropic leadership closely aligns with the University’s values. “Mr. Khan is a champion of societal change. His efforts to support the equality of women in India reflect La Trobe’s values of inclusiveness, equity and social justice.”

Shah Rukh added: “I’m proud to be conferred with (a doctorate from) a great University like La Trobe, which has a long-standing relationship with Indian culture and (an) impressive track record in advocating for women’s equality.”

“I feel truly privileged to receive this Honorary Doctorate and I would like to sincerely thank La Trobe for choosing to recognise my achievements in such a humbling way.”

The honour will be conferred upon the actor during his visit to Australia for the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, where Shah Rukh will be the chief guest. The festival will take place from August 8 to August 17.

Festival Director of the IFFM, Mitu Bhattacharjee, said they were lucky to have La Trobe as a partner. “The University shares our festival’s core values of inclusion, diversity and cultural growth. To be a part of this magnificent celebration of Mr Shah Rukh Khan’s amazing work, with La Trobe, is a matter of great joy and pride for the festival.”

La Trobe will present Shah Rukh with his Honorary Doctorate on August 9 at its Melbourne campus in Bundoora.

Cops visit Sonakshi over alleged fraud case

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha is under the scanner of the law in a cheating case.

A team of officials from Uttar Pradesh Police visited Sonakshi’s Mumbai residence on Thursday, to record her statement in connection of a complaint that a Delhi-based event organiser had filed against the actress last year.

The police team will visit her again on Friday.

Sonakshi, however was not at home when the group of officials from UP Police, with the assistance of policemen from Juhu police station, arrived at her residence, Ramayana.

The police team will visit her again on Friday.

Sonakshi is yet to respond but her spokesperson, speaking to a Mumbai-based English tabloid, said all accusations against the actress were “completely untrue and baseless”, and that this was “just a way of extortion by maligning her spot-free reputation”.

Sonakshi was last seen in the multi-starrer flop, Kalank, and will soon be seen in projects such as Khundoani Shaikhsana, Mission Mangal and Dubangi 3.

Use of prosthetics not that easy: Aamir

Megastar Aamir Khan does not mind using prosthetics for a role, but says using it for long gets tiring.

“As the days pass by the comfort in the portrayal gets to be in an ease that shall be so needed in the final rendition... but yes the prosthetics take their pound of flesh, and to underestimate its after effects would be a fallacy!” Big B wrote in his blog.

“In the land of the large movie making industry in the West, there are rules that using prosthetics by law cannot be kept on for more than three days... a break for the face for a day or two before going at it again... But here, it is non-stop one month... was the same with Paa... no complaints... it’s just that the bearing shall become tough as the days go by,” said the cine icon.

“The actor feels prosthetics “do a very good and successful job”’ “The make-up artists, that eventually are all imported from across the Oceans... we will learn in time,” he said.

It seems the actor was talking about shooting for Gulabo Sitabo. He is sporting a grumpy old man’s look. In the first look, the 70-year-old thespian is seen sporting a long beard, spectacles, a head scarf and a prosthetic nose, which made Big B almost unrecognisable.

“It is but strange that the moment you begin to touch the skin of the role assigned to you in film, it gets to be the end of the schedule...not that this one is getting to the end... no not yet...but you get the feel all the same. “That hesitation in the rendering of the character...those moments which pass by and when thought about hours and days later, as I do now, you feel that justice to the role at that moment could have been better done...it shall be shared with the director but, one wonders if they would give it another try...there shall be insistence of course,” he wrote. Gulabo Sitabo, which also stars Ayushmann Khurrana, is set for release on April 24, 2020. The film, being directed by Shoojit Sircar, is written by Juhi Chaturvedi of the Piku fame.

Gulabo Sitabo – a legendary pair of puppet sisters, have been part of Uttar Pradesh’s folklore. The film, apparently, is a takeoff on these two characters and is believed to be a comedy.
‘The Colours of Desert’ exhibition to bring colours of Qatar alive at Katara

By Mudassir Raja

If you are interested to see how people in Qatar view the country’s heritage, culture, development and futuristic vision, the best way is to see how Doha-based artists of different nationalities portray the peninsula through their art works.

One such opportunity is available this coming weekend at Katara where as many as 51 artists will display 102 creative art pieces. The participating artists have tried to express their opinions about Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030 and its four pillars through different creative means.

The exhibition ‘The Colours of Desert – Series 6’ will have its opening at Gallery 1 and 2 in Building 19 of Katara on July 18. The exhibition will remain open till August 1 every day from 10am to 10pm.

An annual feature, the exhibition is organised by MAPS International, a Qatar-based art company, in co-operation with Katara — the Cultural Village Foundation. The art work is said to be inspired and based by the QNV 2030.

The exhibition displays the art work of MAPS members from different countries based in Doha including Qatar, Kuwait, Russia, India, France, UK, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Korea, Pakistan, Morocco, Iran, South Africa, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago.

While talking to Community, Rashmi Agarwal, an Indian artist and president of MAPS International, said: “Exhibitions and galleries are important stepping stones for aspiring artists, and we at MAPS will always give our member-artists a chance to shine before they step into the real world as practicing artists and this is very evident at the exhibition of ‘The Colours of Desert – Series 6’.

“This is our sixth exhibition in the series. With this exhibition every year, we try to highlight the true colours of Qatar basing on different themes. The Colours of Desert is the exhibition that refers to the desert sand as it contains vibrant colours. The talented artists are exhibiting under one roof. They represent various nationalities that display different cultures in an innovative method. We present how different expatriate artists living in Qatar see the country and depict it through their art works.

“The theme of the 2019 exhibition is QNV 2030. The artists have tried to highlight four pillars of the vision – economic development, human development, social development and environmental development. The artists have used different techniques to highlight different features of the QNV in their own way. The artists have used oil colours, coffee powder, digital photography etc. The art works include surrealism, realism and abstract techniques.”

Rashmi further said: “The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but the inward significance. The collection is just a small fraction of what to expect from the members of the MAPS on their sixth annual group exhibition. MAPS is a Qatar based art gallery and 100% Qatari company that provides a significant forum for cultural dialog among all artists from different cultures. MAPS helps the aspiring and budding artists through exhibitions, international festivals, gallery representation, magazine reviews and advertisements, press releases, Internet promotion as well as various cultural projects. It has members from different nationalities coming together to create art under one roof. Like the desert’s different colours, this exhibition witnesses various nationalities showing different cultures through their works.

“Earlier, we have done many group exhibitions for our member-artists. The most recent and the largest one was Qatar International Art Festival held in October last year. The festival was attended by as many as 147 artists from 58 countries. The six-day-long art festival proved to be a success and we plan to hold the event again this year.”


Old Women by Omran al-Raesi.

Yamal by Muna al-Bader.

Horses by Fatima Essa.

I am a Winner by Fouz Saif Taheri.

Nostalgia by Moudhi al-Hajri.

Batoolah by Huda Basahel.