YOUR PAGE, YOUR STAGE!

There's probably a photographer hidden in each of us, looking out for a platform. Community invites you to grab your chance and send your contributions with contact details and complete description of the images to qatarcommunity@gmail.com — PHOTO ESSAY, Page 10

GULF TIMES

COMMUNITY

Cover Story

Hard yards

Qatari novelist Kummam al-Maadeed says it takes time and effort to get there and that aspiring writers need to stick to their plans. P4-5

Quiz

One giant leap for mankind.

Page 10

Back Page

Project tracking animal movements from space gets underway.

Page 16
We Have Always Lived in the Castle
DIRECTION: Stacie Passon
CAST: Sebastian Stan, Taissa Farmiga, Alexandra Daddario, Crispin Glover
SYNOPSIS: Merricat, Constance and their Uncle Julian live in isolation after experiencing a family tragedy six years earlier. When cousin Charles arrives to steal the family fortune, he also threatens a dark secret they’ve been hiding.
THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

The Lion King
DIRECTION: Jon Favreau
CAST: Seth Rogen, Donald Glover, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Alfre Woodard, Beyonce Knowles, Keegan-Michael Key, John Oliver
SYNOPSIS: Simba idolises his father, King Mufasa, and takes to heart his own royal destiny on the plains of Africa. But not everyone in the kingdom celebrates the new cub’s arrival. Scar, Mufasa’s brother – and former heir to the throne – has plans of his own. The battle for Pride Rock is soon ravaged with betrayal, tragedy and drama, ultimately resulting in Simba’s exile. Now, with help from a curious pair of newfound friends, Simba must figure out how to grow up and take back what is rightfully his.
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark

Quote Unquote
The remarkable thing is, we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.
— Charles R Swindoll

COMMUNITY

PRAYER TIME
Fajr 3.27am
Shorooq (sunrise) 4.56am
Zuhur (noon) 11.42am
Ajr (afternoon) 3.07pm
Maghreb (sunset) 6.27pm
Isha (night) 7.57pm

USEFUL NUMBERS
Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 991
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquires 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406537
Mowassal Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44460000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44490205
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444
Humanitarian Services Office (Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)
Ministry of Interior 40233371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374
EVENTS

MF Husain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition
WHERE: Mataf: Arab Museum of Modern Art
WHEN: Ongoing till July 31
TIME: 9am – 7pm
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.

India to Qatar – Symbiosis of Cultures
WHERE: FBQ Museum
WHEN: Ongoing till July 31
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.

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.

Career Guidance
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday
TIME: 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 5544835.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Summer Camp for Special Needs
WHERE: Step by Step Centre for Special Needs
WHEN: Ongoing till August 1
TIME: 8:00am – 12:30pm
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music and arts activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
WHEN: Saturday – Wednesday
TIME: 6pm
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

Dance and Instrument Classes
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523871/31326749.

Career Guidance
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday
TIME: 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 5544835.

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Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
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.

Compiled by Nausheen Shalik. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
“It is all about finding magic everywhere”

— Kummam al-Maadeed, Qatari novelist

By Mudassir Raja

She loves to create new worlds, new cultures and new peoples. She then creates new characters for her stories. She has constantly been learning about ancient cultures and civilisations.

For Kummam al-Maadeed, a young Qatari story-teller specialising in English fantasy novels, life is all about finding magic everywhere. The only female Qatari English fantasy writer holds a Master of Business Administration (2018) and a Bachelor of Public Relations and Advertising (2011) from Qatar University.

Kummam has worked in several government and semi-government institutions in Qatar, such as the Doha Film Institute, the Ministry of Communications and Transportation, the Qatar National Library and is currently the Head of Media and Publications at Qatar University.

She started writing novels in 2007 as a hobby, then began her writing career with a blog specialising in film critique. Kummam has so far brought out two fantasy novels; *The Lost Rose* and *Calling Magic* — part of a duology.

The *Lost Rose* is a romance fantasy. Clara has a terrible secret, a sin she won’t reveal, not even to Luca, the man who rescues her from the lake where she has thrown herself, hoping death would silence her pain. While Luca nurses Clara to health and tries to gain her trust, mutiny is brewing in Tharun, their neighbouring kingdom. Luca and Clara travel together to stay out of danger. But little do they know that the usurper Adrian — an evil sorcerer — who is determined to magically enslave Clara into marriage, is already on their heels. Clara’s sin catches up with her as she and Luca meet the magical Wanderers who reveal her secret. As they stand in the middle of a battle against Adrian, can Luca forgive Clara’s sin and stay true to his promise of keeping her safe? Will Clara’s own magic and determination prove enough to repel Adrian’s sorcery? And even with the help of unexpected allies, will the couple be able to save the kingdom they have lost to darkness?

*Calling Magic* can be described as a fantasy, romance and steampunk novel. Tia, the most powerful witch of her time, leaves her position at the Court of Wizards and, with a scarf hiding her purple locks, passes through the ancient walls of Paiza. As an assistant to the court magician, Tia spends her days brewing trickster potions, gossiping with Anna and navigating her way through the inventions and mechanics of Paiza and, most importantly, hiding her identity.
“I am working on my third book called Dwindling Magic. I am also doing a new project of writing 30 stories in 30 days – a kind of flash fiction. I am also working on a comic book”

— Kummam al-Maadeed

Tia’s dream of a calm, simple life starts to become a reality, until the day she meets Rhein, the king of Pains, with his captivating gray eyes and cherished pocket watch, and the whispers of war reach her. Will Tia be forced to reveal her true identity in order to protect her new home? Or will her power erupt and shatter her life once more?

In an interview with Community, Kummam speaks about her writing experience and future plans at length.

She has always been making up stories since her childhood. “When I was at school, I always asked my fellow students what would happen if aliens come to us or if something extraordinary happens. They always applauded my imagination. I have also been reading classical fantasy books translated in Arabic. However, I didn’t start writing until I got to the university. It was in 2007 when I started writing a small book that I never published. Then I joined an online community of writers. I learned a lot from different aspiring writers about the style, different points of view as a narrator, and many technical things.”

After completing her first book, she kept it aside and did not publish it. She got busy with her PR job but later she decided that she had to return to her origin — writing fantasies!

“I found a freelance editor and worked with her for almost two years. The editor was from the US and she taught me so many things. With her help, I moved my book from 23,000 words to 70,000 words making it a 300-page novel!”

Reading a great deal of fantasy stories in English made Kummam write in English. “I got used to the language. I really love English as a language. For me, it is easier than Arabic. There are lots of English readers in Qatar. Doha has a diverse community and a wide range of English readers. I have been receiving pretty good response. People reach out to me through social media and wait for my books. “Besides fantasy stories, I have read classic English writers such as Charles Dickens, Jane Austin, Charlotte Brontë etc. It was necessary to advance my language and writing style. Jane Eyre is my favourite classic English novel.”

For her, fantasy is like creating a new world. “There is magic or no magic. It is just creating new cultures, new peoples, new traditions and new ideologies. So, for me it is creating by going into details and learning about the new culture that I create. Normally, fantasy writers get inspired by ancient cultures. I want to learn and diversify my cultures in my new books. I am interested in learning more about ancient Arab and Egyptian cultures. “There is some magic and different creatures in fantasy stories. For me, it is all about finding magic everywhere. Being with books is also a magic for me. My magic is creating stories — something I and other people are amazed by. Suddenly, a story comes to me and I write it down. A huge world opens up to me and different characters are developed. This is my daily magic.”

The writer likes Tia as one of her favourite characters that she has created so far. “I think I like Tia, the witch. My friends tell me that the character is like me (laughs). “As far as the favourite character by my readers is concerned, people like Luca from The Lost Rose because he is a hero without having superpowers.”

The fantasy story-teller is excited about the prospects of the genre in Qatar. “I am excited because so many girls have come to me saying that I have opened the door. Some of them were too shy and afraid of the community response. I hope there are going to be more writers. I hope this genre flourish in Qatar. Two women from Qatar University have already translated The Lost Rose in Arabic. “I am working on my third book called Dwindling Magic. I am also doing a new project of writing 10 stories in 30 days — a kind of flash fiction. I am also working on a comic book.”

Kummam suggests aspiring writers to stick to their plans. “It is going to take some time. It took me 10 years to bring out a book. I would say work with your process and work with your time and do not give up. Be committed — that is all I will say.

“Building a story and imagining a character is a bit of both inspiration and perspiration. First the idea comes to me. But building it takes time and a lot of effort. I have to learn new things to build my story. Someone said that fiction is a lie that people believe. You have to make them believe that through the details and building a world.”
ESPA at Mondrian Doha has been honoured as a nominated winner for the ‘Luxury Hotel Spa Country Award, Qatar’ by World Luxury Spa Awards 2019. The winners of the 9th annual World Luxury Spa Awards were announced in a glitzy gala ceremony at The State Hermitage Museum Official Hotel in St. Petersburg, Russia on July 6, 2019. More than 200 guests flew in from around the world, representing more than 90 countries, 450 spas and 270 restaurants.

Commenting on the award, Axel Gasser, General Manager at Mondrian Doha Hotel stated: “We are honoured to receive the Luxury Hotel Spa Country Award, Qatar. This is a great achievement for our ESPA spa at Mondrian Doha and recognises the largest independent ESPA Spa in the Middle East. Congratulations to our team of top experts who continue to provide our guests with the best therapies and exclusive range of world-class products, offered in an exquisite luxury setting.”

The Luxury Hotel Spa Country Award, Qatar serves as recognition of ESPA at Mondrian Doha’s sustained commitment to its ethos of luxury, fine service and outstanding achievement in the international luxury spa and wellness industry. The World Luxury Spa Awards recognise establishments for world-class service excellence, unique design, and elegance. Awards are presented on a country, regional, continental and global basis and winners are selected by public vote online.

Rachel Lowe-Mukherji, Director at ESPA, Mondrian Doha stated: “We are pleased and honoured to receive the Luxury Hotel Spa Country Award in Qatar. This is a testament to our ESPA team’s distinguished hard work and dedication to ensure we provide world-class service, signature treatments, intelligent therapies, and incredible products to our guests in a uniquely wondrous design with a touch of sophistication.”

Lowe-Mukherji further stated: “We are truly humbled by the support and loyalty of our customers that voted and are motivated more than ever to continue to deliver excellence and meet the needs of our guests.”

Hidden in a ‘Secret Garden’, ESPA spa fits seamlessly with the unique design at Mondrian Doha and delivers an unforgettable wellness experience offered by highly trained therapists. It features shimmering mosaic walls that lead guests to the 12 treatment rooms, a heated experience garden, relaxation rooms, and a traditional Turkish Hammam.

ESPA therapists pride themselves on getting to know their customer’s skin and body in order to learn what will work best to express their natural beauty by using ESPA products with the very purest extracts for instant, lasting results, every day.

The five-star spa at Mondrian Doha is also the only spa in Qatar to specialise in pre and post-natal treatments such as Hydrotherm, a unique system that provides the most comfortable pre and post pregnancy treatments in the spa world, creating a unique and thoughtful range of treatments to support mothers and mothers to be.

Established in 2010, the World Luxury Spa Awards is the pinnacle of achievement in the luxury spa industry offering international recognition as voted for by guests, travellers and industry players alike. Over 250,000 international travellers vote each year during a four-week period to select the winners. Luxury spas have the opportunity to participate in the World Luxury Spa Awards by entering categories that showcase their unique selling points, destinations, and facilities.

Through exclusive partnerships with cultural visionaries, sbe is devoted to creating extraordinary experiences throughout its proprietary brands with a commitment to authenticity, sophistication, mastery and innovation. Following the acquisition of Morgans Hotel Group, the pioneer of boutique lifestyle hotels, in partnership with AccorHotels, sbe has an unparalleled global portfolio which will see 29 hotels and over 180 global world-renowned culinary, nightlife and entertainment venues by the end of 2019.

The company is uniquely positioned to offer a complete lifestyle experience – from nightlife, food & beverage and entertainment to hotels and residences, and through its innovative customer loyalty and rewards program, The Code, as well as its award-winning international real estate development subsidiary, Dakota Development – all of which solidify sbe as the preeminent leader across hospitality.
I just had a birthday. As usual, I received a homemade card from Beth Catlin, who has been sending me such birthday greetings for more than three decades, even though we’d never met until 2009.

That was the year I decided it was time to finally meet Beth in person. Eager to put a face with her name, I visited her workplace, the C Wilson Pollock Industrial Training Center.

“Hi, Beth,” I said, shaking her hand gently. “I’m Ronnie. It’s wonderful to finally meet you. Thank you for all the cards.”

She looked at me with brief intensity, then her eyes darted away as she said: “Ronnie, July 3.”

Which is my birthday. I mentioned the names of several of my many siblings, to whom she also sent annual greetings, and she recited their birthdays, too.

“That’s right,” I said. “You’ve got them all correct.”

She smiled, pleased, and said, “Yeah.”

Beth, now 59, is an autistic savant. Intellectually and developmentally disabled, she lives on a sweet little block in Mechanicsburg, just south of Harrisburg, with her widowed mother, Barb, who is now 88. Her wonderful dad, Don, passed away suddenly seven months after my visit.

But he was alive and vivacious that day we met, eager to talk about the extraordinary mission Beth began some time in 1972: She sends hand-made birthday greetings to every person she has ever met — and to their friends and relatives, whether she has met them or not (Beth’s sister went to school with my own sister; Beth got my name and date of birth from her).

 Astonishingly, each of our five-thousand plus names, addresses and birthdays are not listed in a personal address book but are instead permanently encoded in Beth’s brain. The spellings are exact, the birth dates precise. And not one card has ever been returned to her because of a wrong address, says her mother.
Art lovers throng Colours of Diversity at display at the exhibition being held at Building 19, with works of 51 artists including 22 Qatari writes Mudassir Raja

The art works displayed at the exhibition ‘Colours of Desert’ recently inaugurated at Building-19 in Katara truly portrayed the futuristic vision of Qatar and flamboyancy of the assorted artists.

The opening ceremony saw a huge attendance of art enthusiasts to witness the works of as many as 51 Qatar-based artists presenting a rainbow of creative ideas and thoughts. The galaxy of 102 twinkling stars – creative art pieces – provided a real attraction for the visitors who remained engrossed in the unique creativity that highlighted four aspects of Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030.

The atmosphere at the gallery 1 and 2 was electricizing as the art lovers, mostly Qataris and South Asian expatriates thronged the venue in large numbers.

The exhibition – the sixth in the series of Colours of Desert – was organised by MAPS International in collaboration with Katara Cultural Village. The exhibition saw the participating artists hailing from countries namely; Qatar, Kuwait, Russia, India, France, UK, Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Pakistan, Morocco, Iran, South Africa, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago.

The exhibition, which will be open until August 1 every day from 10am to 10pm, saw as many as 22 Qatari artists both seasoned and budding ones. As the gathering was mostly comprised of Qatari nationals, many ambassadors and diplomats were also conspicuous among the art lovers. The inaugural ceremony also featured a musical performance by violinist Svetlana, a female violinist.

Saad al-Dosari, Katara HR Manager, and Rashmi Agarwal, President MAPS International inaugurated the exhibition. Hamad Mohammed al-Zakeebba, Director of Culture and Arts Department, Ministry of Culture and Sports, also attended the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Hamad Mohammed al-Zakeebba lauded the creative ideas presented in attractive ways by the participating artists. He appreciated the exhibition for showing diverse the colours of Qatar. He also appreciated Rashmi Agarwal, an Indian artist also, for organising the exhibition regularly every year and bringing together artists from different backgrounds.

Speaking to Community, Rashmi Agarwal said: “We at MAPS always give our member-artists a chance to shine before they step into the real world as practising artists and this is very evident at the exhibition. I am happy to see the overwhelming response from the art enthusiasts and artists’ community to 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 with diverse backgrounds highlight one theme – QNV. 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.”

Ashud Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Qatar, said: “I am 25-year-old. I started doing painting five years ago. It is a hobby for me. I am however trying my best to calm down on my own self and to take out what is inside me.

“I am exhibiting three art pieces in the group exhibition. My paintings speak about gazelle. I have used oil colours. I have also used some water colours. In my paintings, I have focused on the eyes of gazelle. The art works...”
Desert exhibition at Katara

show that the eyes of the animal speak about something.”


INauguration: Officials, organisers and guests during the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition.

Photos by Uthman Khalid
That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind! It has been a half-century since Neil Armstrong stepped out of a lunar module and set foot on the surface of the moon and spoke his famous words.

The moon landing was arguably one of the most critical landmarks of human civilization and remains to be hugely popular both in the scientific world as well as in pop culture. What is most remarkable is that it happened before the cell phone was invented and before there was the Internet. The onboard computer had less computing power than what we carry around in our pockets today.

Eight years earlier, in an urgent address to the Congress, President John F Kennedy said, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal before this decade is out of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.” The speech came at a time when America and the Soviet Union were locked in a battle for dominance—each trying to prove its superiority by conquering space. Clearly, the US was lagging behind. Apollo 11 was launched from Cape Kennedy, Florida, on July 16, 1969. To ensure they were in control at all times, NASA worked with 3 antennas around the earth: one each in Spain, Australia and California. And, in order to regulate the temperature on Apollo 11, crew had to perform a manoeuvre what some called a “barbecue roll” in which crew rotated sideways like a chicken on a spit.

After travelling 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Apollo 11 entered into a lunar orbit on July 19. Mission control waited with bated breath as you can imagine, in the section asking further conduct?

1. How many bones are there on a Skull & Crossbones flag?
   Three

2. What oath is sworn by graduates of medicine to regulate their profession at security. As you can imagine, in the section asking further conduct?

   a) Abstemious
   b) Abominable
   c) Abjuration
   d) Abatement

   (Ekram Saba, Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait)

   3. Nosegay:
      (a) Blacken
      (b) Desiccate
      (c) Remarkable
      (d) Possessive

   (Malcolm Stephens, Bhavan’s Public School, Doha)

   4. Where can you find Sea of Serenity, Sea of Tranquility and Sea of Nectar?
      Moon

   5. What is common to armalcolite, tranquillityite and pyroxferroite? And, what is so special about armalcolite?
      Three minerals discovered from samples of rocks and soil gathered from the moon by the crew.

   6. How did Apollo 11 astronauts manage their life insurance, as they couldn’t afford life insurance policy?
      Before the mission in July 1969, all three astronauts signed hundreds of autographs (known as Apollo insurance covers) and sent them to a friend. If anything was to happen to them, the entrusted friend was to send the autographed memorabilia to each of the astronaut’s families. This way they could make some money by selling the signatures of the Apollo 11 crew.

   7. Which country in Western Asia did Andre Agassi’s father represent in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics as a boxer?
      Iran

   8. Name the German tabloid which published detailed photographs of the fatal car crash involving Diana, Princess of Wales?
      Bild Zeitung

   (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: The Boeing BFR rocket in 2023.)

   9. What’s the Good Word?
      a) Ostentatiously learned
      b) Ostentatiously
      c) Ostentatiously
      d) Ostentatiously

   (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: The Boeing BFR rocket in 2023.)

   10. Afflatus:
        (a) Incipient
        (b) Incipient
        (c) Incipient
        (d) Incipient

   (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: The Boeing BFR rocket in 2023.)

   Answers: (a); 7 (b); 8 (d); 9 (a); 10 (c)

   (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: The Boeing BFR rocket in 2023.)

   (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: The Boeing BFR rocket in 2023.)

   (Answer next week. Answer to last week’s photo-quiz: The Boeing BFR rocket in 2023.)

   The mission had such a large risk of failing, in fact, that President Richard Nixon had a speech ready in case of catastrophe. “Fate has ordained that the men who went to the moon to explore in peace will stay on the moon to rest in peace.” Welcome to ‘Nutty’s Infotainment. YAYS! Your time starts NOW!!!

   Where can you find Sea of Serenity, Sea of Tranquility and Sea of Nectar?
      Moon

   “I have to take photos of both the Earth and the Moon by myself for this ZOZO logo,” tweeted Yusaku Maezawa recently. What is his claim to fame?

   Yusaku Maezawa will be the first commercial passenger to attempt a flyby around the Moon onboard a SpaceX BFR rocket in 2023.

   He married four times and divorced three. He left something behind in print for all of his 4 wives, in terms of ostentatiously learned (c) blacken (d) minuscule

   2. Girandole: (a) rival (b) defame (c) poetic (d) a radiating and showy composition

   3. Neosegya: (a) a small bunch of flowers (b) interfering (c) over sentimental (d) composite

   4. Liozine: (a) thicken (b) to treat as an object of great interest or importance (c) mislead (d) demote

   5. Metathesis: (a) dried (d) scholarly (b) độc (c) a change of place or condition

   6. Churilt: (a) vulgar (b) queer (c) intense emotion (d) obscure

   7. Inkhorn: (a) magnetic (b)
Science Matters

The survey
Owners of 5,726 cats of 40 breeds filled out a health and behavior questionnaire
A further study aims at collecting data on 20,000+ cats

The survey
Owners of 5,726 cats of 40 breeds filled out a health and behavior questionnaire
A further study aims at collecting data on 20,000+ cats

Russian blue cats were most likely to be shy towards strangers; Burmese were the least shy

Turkish van/Angora cats were the most aggressive toward family members, strangers and other cats; British shorthairs, Persians and Cornish rex cats were the least aggressive

Cornish rex, Korat, and Bengals were the most active; British shorthairs were the least active

Oriental (Siamese, Burmese and Korat), Norwegian forest cats, Turkish vans, Maine coons and house cats were most inclined to stereotyped behavior (wool sucking, excessive self-grooming); Russian blues were the least inclined to do so

British shorthairs were the cats most likely to avoid contact with people; Korats were the least likely

Source: Milla Salonen and Hannes Lohi, University of Helsinki; Nature Scientific Reports; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Strength of inheritance
Statistical analysis found that inherited factors explained 40% to 50% of variation in behavior traits
Regardless of breed differences, all breeds inherit behavior at about the same rate
Wordsearch

AGASSI  ROSEWALL  LENDL
EDBERG  BORG  WILANDER
MCENROE  HINGIS  CONNORS
ASHE  SAMPRAS  MARTINEZ
GRAF  BUDGE  WILLIAMS
NAVRAILOVA  LAVER  KING
BECKER  SKLES  NADAL
HENMAN  CASH

Codeword

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

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 squares. 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 square contains each of the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

Bound And Gagged

Today's my birthday, and if my husband knows what's good for him, he'll forget the candles.

Bound And Gagged

Adam

Yeah, the fake tree thing kind of played out.

Pooch Cafe

I'm getting really worried about Stanley.

Garfield

“Dear ask a dog, what qualifies you to guard a house?”

Bark! Bark! Bark! Bark!

It seems unlikely that it would be your big muscles.

Sudoku courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Codeword courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 View girl embraced by parents (8)
5 Bird kept in by unpopular headmaster (4)
8 Fight for a little bit (5)
9 Reds die, but revolutionary lived (7)
11 Sums worked out, not a sum (7)
12 Passage in the centre of Paisley (5)
13 Fish going round in bowls (6)
15 Lacking money, start to sell sportswear? (6)
18 Unsuitable order for paint (5)
20 Wandering Chinese leader is back in band (7)
23 Quakers in old sitcom (7)
24 Immature bowlers here? (5)
25 American animal circles close to Washington (4)
26 Game allowed to block road (8)

Down
1 Finished a dish from Italy (5)
2 Having butterflies fluttering over sun? (7)
3 Grave letters about Yorkshire city (5)
4 Slough produces gold in bulk (6)
6 Broken heads in the underworld (5)
7 Speech that may be written on an envelope (7)
10 Drastically prune extremely small tree (5)
13 Cheese on the ball in a nutshell (7)
14 Unacceptable idea I rejected (3,2)
16 Object in torn clothing (7)
17 For musicians, very quick break in river (6)
19 Neil Armstrong’s first up from another world (5)
21 Some professional golf star (5)
22 One in Germany, say, raised spirit (5)

Answers

Today’s Solutions

Wordsearch

Codeword

Gulf Times
Community
Puzzles
Super Cryptic Clues

Colouring

Today’s Solutions

Wordsearch

Codeword
Take a hot bath 90 minutes before bedtime for super sleep

Taking hot bath at least 90 minutes before bedtime is your ticket to sound sleep. Just remember that the water temperature should be around 40–42 degrees Celsius, else you may not get better shut-eye.

Biomedical engineers at University of Texas-Austin reached this conclusion after analysing thousands of studies linking water-based passive body heating, or bathing and showering with warm/hot water, with improved sleep quality. “When we looked through all known studies, we noticed significant disparities in terms of the approaches and findings,” said Shahab Haghzehg, lead author on the paper. “The only way to make an accurate determination of whether sleep can, in fact, be improved was to combine all the past data and look at it through a new lens.”

In collaboration with the UT Health Science Center at Houston and the University of Southern California, the researchers reviewed 5,322 studies.

Meta-analytical tools were used to assess the consistency between relevant studies and showed that an optimum temperature of between 104 and 109 degrees Fahrenheit (40-42 degrees Celsius) improved overall sleep quality.

When scheduled one–two hours before bedtime, it can also hasten the speed of falling asleep by an average of 10 minutes.

It is understood that both sleep and our body’s core temperature are regulated by a circadian clock located within the brain’s hypothalamus that drives the 24-hour patterns of many biological processes, including sleep and wakefulness.

The average person’s circadian cycle is characterised by a reduction in core body temperature in order to improve sleep quality is about 90 minutes before going to bed.

“Hot baths are taken at the right biological time – 1–2 hours before bedtime – they will aid the natural circadian process and increase one’s chances of not only falling asleep quickly but also of experiencing better quality sleep,” showed the findings appeared in the journal Sleep Medicine Reviews. - IANS

ARIES
March 21 — April 19

You may feel a nervous restlessness today that’s urging you to get moving. Aries. A journey to one place may send you off to another, which may take you on an adventure to some completely different place. It may seem like you’re on a crazy scavenger hunt. The energy of the day could leave you feeling ragged, but don’t give up. Your persistence will pay off in the end.

CANCER
June 21 – July 22

Don’t automatically think that beauty has to be defined by old-fashioned standards. Cancer. It’s time to change the definition. There is no need to squeeze yourself into a socially constructed mould that doesn’t resonate with who you truly are. Your job isn’t to try and make sure everyone loves you. There’s only one person you need to satisfy and that is you.

TAURUS
April 20 — May 20

A good tip to remember is to be careful about what you say about other people. Taurus. If you’re speaking about someone who isn’t present, act like he or she is. What’s your motivation for saying the things you say? Is it necessary to speak in such a way? A negative comment about someone is going to resonate through the cosmos. People could lose trust in you.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

Issues may get a little heavier than you’d like today, Leo. Your job is to infuse some levity and humour into the situation. Your adaptability will be put to the test as other people remain steadfast in their opinions. Be conscious of how you use your words. Other people, especially superiors or elders, may be offended by careless, offhand remarks.

LIBRA
September 23 – October 22

Your new approach to things might get some flack from superiors today, Libra, but don’t let that stop you. Realise that your independent and somewhat rebellious nature helps to keep the world in balance. Don’t give up the fight when authorities insist that their way of doing things is best when in fact it’s simply old. Use your will and determination to combat the forces from above.

CAPRICORN
December 22 — January 19

Your sense of self may be challenged today, Capricorn, and you might have trouble keeping your seat during the joust. Keep in mind that the way others see you isn’t necessarily the way you are. Don’t feel like you have to change direction to please anyone. Your only responsibility is to you. Bizarre events may occur, urging you to change your thinking.

SCORPIO
October 23 – November 21

You might be called upon to choose between two ways of handling a situation, Scorpio. The old way suddenly conflicts with the new. Which way are you going to proceed? Don’t be thrown off course by fast talk and neon lights just because they grab attention. On the other hand, don’t assume that the way that has worked forever is still the best. Use your intuition to choose the best route for you.

AQUARIUS
January 20 – February 18

As you follow the path toward acquiring the latest, greatest, fastest, and best, you may have left behind some fundamental values, Aquarius. Don’t lose sight of the principles that make up your foundation. Stay in check and be conscious of the way you project yourself to others.

GEMINI
May 21 – June 20

You may need some time alone today to bring yourself back to centre. Gemini. Independence is the key idea to keep in your back pocket. Make sure you’re not becoming a victim to a commitment you made long ago. As the landscape changes, you must also change. Stubborn actions will be detrimental on a day like this. Be honest and grateful for the things you have.

VIRGO
August 23 – September 22

If the doorknob doesn’t turn today, Virgo, don’t force it. You will only break it. Perhaps you need to try another door. If things don’t flow smoothly into place, then they probably weren’t meant to be. Life shouldn’t always be a struggle. Your job is to enjoy it. Remember that the next time you’re in a long line. View the situation as a period of rest.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22 – December 21

Unexpected events could shuffle the cards when you least expect it, Sagittarius. If you haven’t kept a close eye on the deck, you might get thrown for a loop. Don’t be discouraged. Everyone else is playing under the same rules as you. If the dealer seems crooked, go to another table. Don’t fall victim to the same trick twice.

PISCES
February 19 — March 20

Key in to your beautiful nature, Pisces. Take time each day to tend to your soul and make sure it gets the nourishment it needs to radiate into the world. Unexpected people are likely to appear out of nowhere, so don’t be surprised when a former friend comes knocking on the door. Events from the past may travel to the present in order to teach you a valuable life lesson.
Big Little Lies: How Streep redeems a mediocre season

By Lorraine Ali

Mary Louise Wright wasn’t meant to be a superhero. The moyous grandmother, played by a transformed Meryl Streep, looked so neutral when she arrived on Big Little Lies six episodes ago that she may as well have been a clump of seaweed. Beige was the colour of her sweaters, skin — and personality.

Yet it’s this seemingly frail woman who has single-handedly saved Season 2 of HBO’s drama from slipping off the picturesque cliffs of Monterey and washing away to parts unknown.

The series, about five women in an affluent community struggling to keep up appearances — and to cover up a murder — has struggled to reignite the spark of its award-winning first season.

Back then, grade-school mothers Madeline Mackenzie (Reese Witherspoon), Celeste Wright (Nicole Kidman), Renata Klein (Laura Dern) and Bonnie Carlson (Zoë Kravitz) channelled most of their energy toward appearing as young, thin, rich and happily married as possible, no matter how miserable it made them.

Now, two years and one murder later, their mistruths have snowballed into a mess of prosecutable lies. The new set of circumstances has rattled the group (which also includes single mom Jane Chapman, played by Shailene Woodley) — and the show’s confidence.

Big Little Lies was initially meant to be a one-off limited series based on Liane Moriarty’s novel of the same name. But its A-list cast and mix of Desperate Housewives-like storylines with serious issues such as domestic abuse and rape garnered eight Emmys (including outstanding limited series) and ensured the story wasn’t ending in 2017.

Season 2 is less successful in its toggling among satire and melodrama to Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.

The uneven tone and bumpy narrative may be the result of behind-the-scenes drama juicier than any of the feud-onscreen: namely, an Indiewire report that creative control was wrested away from director Andrea Arnold late in production by showrunner/writer David E. Kelley and Season 1 director Jean-Marc Vallée.

If so, the men spliced their visions in using a lifetime’s worth of flashbacks as Scotch tape. To borrow from Bernie Sanders: “The people are sick and tired of all the damn flashbacks!”

In this context, the season’s least graceful character has become its saving grace, and she’s garnered more intrigue with each successive episode. Who knew until last week’s episode six that Mary Louise had the physical power to shove her apartment door shut on a woman half her age? (Poor Jane.) While everyone expected a fabulous performance from the world’s greatest actress, Streep’s Mary Louise is a rare TV masterpiece.

The gaslighting senior is a complex mix of old-fashioned etiquette, passive suggestion and nerve-grating menace.

Though frumpy and awkward, she arrives on the scene with the stealth of a phantom. She materialises at the most vulnerable of times, disarming her prey with librarian soft-spokenness as Scotch tape. To borrow from Bernie Sanders: “The people are sick and tired of all the damn flashbacks!”

And above all, she’s beyond weird, a veritable freak among the other put-together ladies of Monterey.

She chews on her necklace like an absent-minded teen. She makes utterly inappropriate comments to relative strangers: At one point, she tells Madeline to her face that she’s “very short” before describing short people as “untrustworthy.”

And over the calm of dinner with her grandkids, she unleashes a cataclysmic primal scream, then returns to eating as if nothing happened. She’s a sociopath of the highest order, disguised as a benign patron of the early-bird special.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
Project tracking animal movements from space gets under way

After years of waiting, Martin Wikelski’s dream of tracking animal movements from space is finally coming true as Project ICARUS begins collecting data from its perch on the International Space Station.

By Kathrin Drinkuth

Martin Wikelski is a man running on adrenaline. He came up with the idea of tracking animal movements from space 18 years ago, and now the project has finally launched.

How does it feel to spend two decades working on something and finally see it come to fruition?

“It’s like a dream,” says Wikelski, director of behavioural biology at Germany’s Max Plank Institute. “You sit there and dream for years – and then you think: ‘Wait, now it’s really happening and that can’t be right!’ We just can’t get our heads round it.”

The idea for Project ICARUS (International Co-operation for Animal Research Using Space) is based on fitting animals such as migratory birds, bears and goats with miniature transmitters and using the International Space Station (ISS) to observe their movements.

Wikelski and his team hope it will provide more information about the migratory routes of animals, thus allowing people to better protect species by developing and improving protected areas.

The information could also help better protect people, since animals can spread diseases. Information about their movements could help scientists prevent, stop the spread of or trace the origin of epidemics.

ICARUS could also serve as an early warning system for natural disasters like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, as there is evidence that animals behave differently before such events.

The key thing about ICARUS is that the data sent back by the many animals monitored will be assessed altogether, to give scientists a completely new understanding of life on Earth.

“We will be able to measure things from this group of animals that we simply couldn’t see before,” says Wikelski. “We’ll effectively be able to tap into the animals’ sixth sense.”

Wikelski originally presented his idea to Nasa, the US space agency, which turned him down. But in 2014, the Russian space agency Roscosmos decided to give it a go.

Aside from the Max Planck Institute, the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) and the University of Konstanz are also taking part in the project. The German partners are financing the technology, while the Russians are taking care of its transportation and installation in space.

In August 2018, the ICARUS antennae were installed on the Russian part of the ISS during a spacewalk. A computer system on the space station will process the data from the animals.

Researchers want to observe the movements of parrots in Nicaragua, goats in Italy and bears on the east Russian peninsula of Kamchatka in relation to volcanic activity, and in the coming years, several tens of thousands of animals are set to be fitted with transmitters.

These won’t just reveal exactly where the animals are, but also their speed, their orientation with regard to the Earth’s magnetic field as well as the surrounding temperature, air pressure and humidity.

All that information is to come from a transmitter just 2 square centimetres in size and weighing only 5 grams, according to the DLR.

“It’s around the size of a thumbnail, will be powered by solar energy and contains a complex transmission and reception unit as well as sensors to record the animals’ movements and a data storage unit.”

The DLR describes communication between the transmitter and the ISS antennae as following: As soon as the ISS gets close to a tagged animal, an integrated timer wakes the transmitter from its energy-saving mode. The transmitter then calculates when the ISS will pass it. At this point the transmitter switches itself on and transmits its recorded data to the space station.

From there the data is sent to the control centre in Moscow, from where it will be passed on to the ICARUS user data centre in Konstanz. “There, scientists will save the data in a global data bank for animal movements, the so-called Movebank,” the DLR writes. “That will make them accessible for scientific analysis.”

From November 2019, the team led by Wikelski and project co-ordinator Uschi Mueller is sending out hundreds of transmitters to co-operating teams elsewhere.

Over the coming years, thousands of transmitters will be fitted to animals, their signals received by the ISS and then sent back down to Earth “like a big data hoover,” says Mueller.

“Lots of groups around the world want to take part in the project,” – DPA