Meet the rock star frog breeder vying to save Southern California's rarest amphibian. P4-5

SHOWBIZ
Not easy to recreate iconic songs: Tanishk

BACK PAGE
Serbian basketball coach making his mark in Qatar
PRAYER TIME

Fajr  
Shoroq (sunrise)  
Zuhr (noon)  
Ajr (afternoon)  
Maghreb (sunset)  
Isha (night)  

3.53am  
5.14am  
11.36am  
3.06pm  
5.58pm  
7.28pm  

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  
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888  
Qatar Airways 44490000  
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333  
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464  
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363  
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44504050  
Qatar News Agency 44490205  
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444  

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Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363  
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44504050  
Qatar News Agency 44490205  
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444  

Humanitarian Services Office  
(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)  
Ministry of Interior 40253371, 40253372, 40253369  
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364  
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365  
Qatar Airways 40253374  

OPTIMISM is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”  
— Helen Keller

Angel Has Fallen  
DIRECTION: Ric Roman Wangh  
CAST: Gerard Butler, Piper Perabo, Morgan Freeman  
SYNOPSIS: Authorities take Secret Service agent Mike Banning into custody for the failed assassination attempt of US President Allan Trumbull. After escaping from his captors, Banning must evade the FBI and his own agency to find the real threat to the president. Desperate to uncover the truth, he soon turns to unlikely allies to help clear his name and save the country from imminent danger.  
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

Super Bear  
DIRECTION: Wang Qi  
CAST: Zhengjian Guo, Liang Xiaojian, Mengjian Xu, Lin Qiang, Kang Liu  
SYNOPSIS: Father bear lives in the wilderness with his son Xi Ha, but when the young cub is captured by a human criminal and sold in the black market. Father bear ventures into the big city to search for him.  
THEATRES: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza
EVENTS

Painting Class
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: September 22
TIME: 11am – 12pm
Paint with a rolling ball, or a rolling car, or just stomp and drag your fingers, hands and feet! Little children will explore color and motion using different media in this fun, hands-on activity. Please dress your little ones accordingly.

The Moon and Beyond
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: September 18
TIME: 6pm – 7:30pm
Celebrate 50 years since the moon landing with a special presentation at the Library, in collaboration with the US Embassy in Doha. Dr. Mary Ellen Weber, a former NASA astronaut who flew on two Space Shuttle flights, will talk about her experiences in space and the future of exploring the final frontier. Dr. Weber is a consultant in technology, innovation, strategic communications and high-risk operations, and serves on the Nasa Advisory Council Committee on Technology, Innovation and Engineering.

Yoga Class
WHERE: Lululemon, Mall of Qatar
WHEN: Every Saturday
TIME: 8:30am – 9:30am
Join the complimentary in-store yoga classes. No registration or mat is required. The class runs on first come first served basis.

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, 55448835.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Mohelreb
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.

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

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
WHERE: Atelier
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.

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.

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.

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change
It was happy hour at the “Frog Shack,” a tiny building at the Los Angeles Zoo offering all the amenities that Southern California’s rarest — and perhaps fussiest — amphibians might need to survive.

Aeration and water filtration systems hummed softly in rows of temperature-controlled tanks, where tadpoles of the southern mountain yellow-legged frog binged on a mix of algae flakes and vitamins. Fist-sized adult frogs, some of them bulging with eggs, lounged on pebble beds after a meal of crickets and wax worms.

This is where Ian Recchio, the zoo’s curator of reptiles and amphibians, is performing what some call miracle work in keeping alive a federally endangered species, one of the rarest vertebrates on Earth. Recchio might be unknown to the general public, but in the effort to save and recover these frogs, Recchio is, as US Geological Survey biologist Robert Fisher put it, “a rock star.”

“He’s a no-nonsense, reliable guy who knows what he’s doing and gets the job done,” said Fisher, who notes that southern mountain yellow-legged frogs are notoriously hard to breed in captivity and harder still to reintroduce into their native habitat — the high-elevation streams of the San Bernardino, San Gabriel and San Jacinto mountains.

“The success rate of reintroduced tadpoles and frogs ... has not been great,” added Fisher. “But it has kept this species from blinking out of existence.”

Recchio is more humble about what the Frog Shack is accomplishing. “As long as yellow-legged frogs are needed, I can produce them,” he said.

Named for the bright yellow on their undersides, southern mountain yellow-legged frogs once thrived in hundreds of streams cascading down the high mountains that surround Los Angeles. But since the 1960s, nonnative trout, bullfrogs and crayfish have decimated these frogs. So have wildfires, extreme weather and hotter stream temperatures linked to climate change. With skin as permeable as a sponge, the frog is also highly susceptible to a skin fungus linked to amphibians vanishing around the world.

By 2002, when the species was listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, fewer than 100 adults remained in the region. The situation demanded an emergency intervention, and Recchio is one expert who answered the call.

“This year, we hatched out more than 1,000 new tadpoles for the federal effort to recover one of the rarest amphibians on the planet,” Ian Recchio, Los Angeles Zoo’s curator of reptiles and amphibians, tells Louis Sahagun.

“Everything that happens here aims to mimic the conditions of the frog’s natural life cycles of winter hibernation, spring thaw and mating season,” he said. “And this year, we hatched out more than 1,000 new tadpoles for the federal effort to recover one of the rarest amphibians on the planet.”

Part of Recchio’s success has come through trial and error — learning from past setbacks to breed yellow-legged frogs. In 2011, for example, a Fresno Chaffee Zoo effort was tripped up by the deaths of 104 frogs that, two years earlier, had been rescued from the fire-stripped San Gabriel Mountains.

A breakthrough came when Recchio and other scientists learned that the life
cycle of yellow-legged frogs from the San Gabriel Mountains was different than their cousins in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains. For one thing, the San Gabriel tadpoles metamorphose about twice as fast as those in nearby mountain ranges.

“Of our San Gabriel Mountain tadpoles become frogs within about a year — and that was a little bit of an issue,” Recchio said, “because our initial captive breeding protocol was based, in part, on a developed at the San Diego Zoo, which deals with frogs from the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains.”

Recchio and his team had to develop a new template. He developed one from a programme used to successfully breed Armenian vipers, a venomous snake found in Alpine terrain with steep annual temperature changes and light gradients.

The scientists started adjusting conditions in the lab to replicate the frogs’ winter cycle, which begins in mid-October.

“That’s when we start stepping down the amount of light in the room by about an hour each week,” said zoookeeper Marlowe Robertson-Billett, 37, who monitors the amphibians with the attention of a full-time nanny, “and chilling the water temperature in their tanks by 1 to 2 degrees once or twice a week.”

Those conditions mimic what the wild frogs experience in the dead of winter, when they hunker down in a mud bank under a blanket of snow.

“So, by mid-December,” she said, “the facility is in total darkness, the water is chilled to 34 degrees and the frogs are in a state of hibernation, absorbing oxygen through their skin and floating to the surface every hour or so for a gulp of air.”

In April, the cycle is reversed. By mid-August, she said, the water has reached its peak temperature of 60 degrees.

The bounty of the team’s work is hundreds of new tadpoles each year. About 900 of this year’s crop are scheduled to be released in a creek where they’d been absent for half a century. A year ago, about 500 tadpoles were released into a stream elsewhere in the range.

They are the offspring of two genetically distinct groups of tadpoles Recchio took into his care in 2014 as what he described as a “genetic insurance colony” to prevent the species from spiraling into oblivion. This marks the second year tadpoles reared at the zoo have been released into the Angeles National Forest.

Recchio grew up in the San Gabriel Valley, and his fascination with things that crawl, croak and slither began when he was a kid, accompanying his father, an amateur herpetologist, on collecting trips across the American West and Mexico. He absorbed books about herpetology and about naturalists, such as Laurence M Klauber, the first curator of reptiles and amphibians at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

As a teenager, he started volunteering at the Los Angeles Zoo, where he befriended curators and zookeepers, and went on to assist in studying and collecting reptile and amphibian specimens from around the world. A personal highlight came in the early 1990s, when Recchio found a rosy boa — one of only two boa snakes native to the United States — in the shadows of the Hollywood sign.

“It remains the only one ever recorded at that cultural icon,” said Recchio, who has served as the Los Angeles Zoo’s curator of herpetology for 13 years and helped design its Living Amphibians, Reptiles and Invertebrates facility. He is also a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Komodo dragon committee, and an expert on pit vipers.

The federal frog recovery programme he is part of goes beyond captive breeding. Since 2006, federal wildlife authorities have worked to remove non-native trout from some of the frogs’ ancestral haunts and, in certain areas, they have barred public access.

“The collaborative effort includes the Los Angeles Zoo; the San Diego Institute for Conservation Research; the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha; the US Forest Service; the US Fish and Wildlife Service; the US Geological Survey, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

So far, however, tadpoles and frogs reared at the Los Angeles and San Diego zoos haven’t spurred an exponential resurgence in wild southern mountain yellow-legged frogs. Today, fewer than 400 of them are believed to exist in the wild.

“These little guys will face an uphill battle after they’re reintroduced — no doubt about it,” said Recchio. “It’s getting hard to find habitat that isn’t a flood zone or drought-stricken or dominated by invasive predators like trout and bullfrogs.”

Amphibians produce huge numbers of eggs, and one reason is that only the luckiest and hardiest survive. For the same reasons, it has been difficult for biologists to keep track of captive-bred frogs and tadpoles after they are released into their native habitat.

The San Diego Zoo has launched an experiment to resolve that problem: they have surgically implanted microchip radio transmitters, the size of rice grains, into 25 captive-bred yellow-legged frogs scheduled for release in September in the San Jacinto Mountains.

“The goal is to chart the progress of reintroduced frogs with real-time data on their movements and locations,” said Talisin Hammond, a biologist at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. “The results could be critical to the ultimate survival of this unique species.”

Recchio would not argue with any of that. “When it comes to saving endangered amphibians here and around the world,” he said, “this is a time of experimentation.”

— Los Angeles Times/TNS
Farhan Sakkir, a student of Grade XII at DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently took part in World Schools Debating Championships in Bangkok, Thailand as part of Team Qatar. Students representing from 62 countries, including China, Bangladesh, India, Canada, Peru, Argentina, Sweden, Germany, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Syria, Venezuela, Qatar and Oman took part in the championship.

Eight preliminary rounds of debate were conducted on issues, including gentrification, zero-day vulnerabilities, recasting minorities in art and popular media, the rise of Amazon, granting amnesty to perpetrators of crimes in post-conflict societies, payday loans, parliamentary reservations for the youth and bride importing. Team Qatar ended the tournament winning four rounds.

Deep Chandra, a student of Grade XII at MES Indian School, recently won the Prime Minister’s Fellowship award for his outstanding performance in the Talent Search Examination 2018, conducted by the Kerala-based PM Foundation, a philanthropic organisation for the students who had completed Grade X. The Talent Search examination was conducted with an aim of identifying talented young students who can be qualified for the award of Prime Minister Fellowship awarding scholarship for the UG and PG programme until the completion of the course.

Deep Chandra was among 51 students including three other contestants of MES shortlisted for Round 2, an online interview conducted. Based on their performance in the round, Deep Chandra was selected for the coveted PM Fellowship among 10 other students. The presentation ceremony of the award will be conducted soon. The fellowship amount will be provided to the students after the successful completion of their Grade XII. Hameeda Kadar, Principal of MES, said, “Deep Chandra has been inspirational for many students in various competitions where he have had represented the school, and now by winning this prestigious fellowship award he has made everyone proud and set a distinct example of himself for others to emulate.”

Two teachers from DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS), including Avishek Jha and Ahsaf Sultana recently participated in the Residential International Conference organised by Next Education at Park Hyatt, Hyderabad, India.

The theme of the conference was ‘Edtech for 21st Century Schools’. The aim of the conference was to bring educators worldwide together on a common platform where innovative ideas, novel methods of imparting education and success stories can be exchanged to formulate new strategies to be implemented in the 21st century classrooms. The workshop featured panel discussions, workshops and exhibition of books based on the sub-themes of the conference, including Learning by Doing, Improving Learning outcomes through Data, Curriculum for Creative and Critical Thinking, Leadership and Collaborative Learning and Lab Kits. The areas of discussion during the conference, included Digital Learning, Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Lab activities, Promoting Excellence in Education, 21st Century Leadership and Rethinking Early Childhood Education.
The ever-blooming bush sunflower with appeal

Suncredible Yellow will keep blooming whether you deadhead or not, writes Norman Winter

is that they are drought-tolerant and have relatively few pests that will inhibit their growth. Taller varieties may need support as the stalks grow because the flower head can become quite heavy and cause the stalk to break. Plant breeding has resulted in dwarf sunflower varieties and a range of flower colours available.

It will be reaching garden centres in mass next spring and I know your first thought will be sunflowers don’t last that long in the garden; but this will simply not be true with this new breeding of our loved native Helianthus. It will thrive in just about any soil and will be riveting as long as you give it good sunlight. Space your plants 18 to 24-inches apart.

Suncredible Yellow will keep blooming whether you deadhead or not. In my garden, I have snipped them off a couple of times.

Because of their bushy habit, they will excel as the thriller plant in mixed containers; or look stunning as a monoculture plant growing with no partners.

The look screams cottage garden but will be simply amazing just mixed in with perennials and other annuals. Of course, those of you working on a backyard wildlife habitat will be pleased beyond your wildest expectations.

The Garden Guy used a layered design up a gentle slope. In the front, I have the Rockin Deep Purple salvia and the Rockin Blue Suede Shoes. Then going up the slope is the Suncredible Yellow. Next is the amazing Summertlic Holy Grail hibiscus. The look is a subtle triadic harmony with blue salvias, yellow sunflowers, and deep red hibiscus.

It has been scoring very well in plant trials. Most trials rate on a score of 1 to 5 with five being the best. In the University of Georgia trials from June through August it has an average of 4.75. It has seen similar scores in the south. When you score well above 4 the consumer can rest assured they are getting a good bang for their buck.

As you can tell from the length of bloom this native is heat tolerant and I can testify it has a strong degree of drought tolerance as our summer in west Georgia has crept into the miserable category. We celebrate however with colourful flowers.

One last thing very worth touting is this plants ability to give you cut-flowers for the vase. What is better than sunflowers, salvias, and zinnias in the summer vase? It is a great time to be a gardener and the new Suncredible Yellow Sunflower will give you the green thumb and a bounty of flowers too! – TNS
Anyone who grows up in the jet age must feel some yearning for the age of rail; mine was from stories of Sherlock Holmes shuttling across England in pursuit of malefactors and from an Irving Wallace article about the history of the fabulous Orient Express in an anthology called *The Sunday Gentleman*, writes Patt Morrison.
do aboard Canada’s Via Rail

the smooth part of the trip, the other when the going got bumpier. Richard entertained us with The Black Fly Song, an unofficial Canadian anthem about Canada’s unofficial national pest.

We passed the time with amusing banter that strangers engage in. We read books. Lisa and I played games of no-score-keeping Scrabble just to be able to put down the most outre words we could think up.

I was never bored. The concierges were amused at how Lisa and I gawped and stared as the landscape out of Toronto unfurled; for two women from Arizona and California, all that water! Pools of it, rivulets of it, lapping lakes and freshets of it, in a green and timbered landscape – our eyes were always thirsty for the sight of it.

Concierge Kevin had worked aboard the train for at least a dozen years, and even the hours and hours of dry wheat lands stirred him. One night I wandered out to the bar area, and there he was, at a window, gazing into the undifferentiated darkness. He thought he was alone, and I heard him say, with no irony in his voice, “Oh, the prairies.”

It was Kevin who knew where we’d see the nests of bald eagles and ospreys. Now and then, the news would ripple back from the locomotive: “family of five bears, ahead on the left! Moose up on the right!” And from the dining car to the observation cars, passengers swarmed left or right. If we’d been a ship, we might have capsized.

The bears knew to come when the train stopped in some forest clearing to get treats tossed by the crew. Deer knew to graze alongside the tracks after the eastbound wheat-laden trains had passed, scattering fodder behind them. It was wondrous, but a little sad too, that this iron thread through the country had changed their ways.

In Toronto, I had one of the best meals I have ever had, at David Chang’s Momofuku Kojin restaurant. My vegetarian meal was like some kitchen sorcerer’s handiwork; somewhere in there was a corn flatbread like manna and mushrooms that certainly tasted magical to me.

The travel package I bought included hotel stays for two nights in Vancouver and Toronto. May was the ideal blooming season in each – daffodils and tulips in Toronto, lilacs and roses in Vancouver. The gardens perfectly bookended the wild landscape.

As a vegetarian, though, I was hoping for a bit more imagination or perhaps just an understanding of the difference between vegetarian and vegan. The recurring vegan hash got a little wearisome, although I understand that it could be expensive preparing separate vegetarian and vegan dishes. As a protein fallback, there were always warm nuts in the bar, part of a daylong panoply of food and drink.

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That brings me to the food on the train, served on white napery in two seatings in a dining car ornamented with tall etched-glass panels of Canadian birds. Here all the passengers mingled. I found myself sitting variously with an American woman living in Costa Rica, a woman from Turkey and her husband from Glasgow, Scotland, and a man with metallic blue nail polish so coruscating that that’s all I can describe about him.

They served Canadian wines, mostly from British Columbia, including Saskatoon berries with brie and maple-cured salmon bites that were so well received that fistfights might have broken out in first class if there hadn’t been enough to go around.

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After five ta-pocketa-pocketa days and four cradle-swaying nights across a continent, the second-hardest part of the journey was recovering my land legs in Vancouver. The hardest part was leaving the Canadian altogether.

– Los Angeles Times/TNS
YOUR CHANCE TO BE IN THE FRAME

Here’s your chance to let the world know of your skills and create a buzz. The published images will appear on both our Instagram page (@communitygt) as well as this coveted space. Community invites photographers to let their pictures speak the proverbial thousand words! E-mail your contributions with your full name, contact details and complete description of the images to qatarcommunity@gmail.com

The landscaping efforts in Qatar have always been amazing. Flowers bloom in patterns and trees grow with pride. They adapt to seasons for every reason. We may be too busy to appreciate but only if you look closer, the more nature radiates. Spines become artful edges just as petals are beds of droplets. Their pigments come shining through, simply calling out for you.

As you start your day or end with a blue, please remember to open your eyes, look closer and let nature share its wonders with you.

— Photos and text by Vanessa Valencia Almacen, @valentsu

Get closer to nature
Modern technology has revolutionised many aspects of our day-to-day lives. While it is hard for some to imagine a day without social media, smartphones and Wi-Fi, these were not available a mere 20 years ago. Technology has revolutionised the way we order food, purchase clothes and read books. "Technology used to be considered a separate entity from arts and crafts," said Stephanie Leichtweis, CEO of Fibre-Craft, a leader in creative activities. "We believe it is vital to incorporate these together, and are working to meld tech innovations with artistic expression to provide a nuanced version of online and offline activities." To see the full influence of technology on arts and crafts, Fibre-Craft has outlined some ways that classic crafts have been redefined by technology: Design, upgraded: Art projects used to be inspired by books, classes and our own imagination. The world we found ourselves in dictated our crafts of necessity and the ones for fun. With the advent of social media, inspiration and creation are driven from many different platforms. The way that we participate in arts and crafts has changed as we garner ideas from others and share ours with those not only in our neighbourhood but around the world. "DIY and crafts is one of the top three most-pinned and most-browsed categories on Pinterest, one of the leading platforms for inspiration.

Colouring + painting redefined: Colouring has been a pastime for decades; the first colouring book was published in the 1880s. It is a great activity for children, as it can provide hours of entertainment and is easy to take on-the-go. Just as painting "by numbers" updated a classic art form in the 1950s, newer technologies are giving colouring and painting a 21st-century twist. The newest way to colour has arrived with the launch of an art/tech hybrid – DabitZ. The latest series from Fibre-Craft, DabitZ merges the artistic spirit with innovative technology to take classic colouring to new heights with "dabbing." Starter sets come with everything you need to try this photomosaic art form and to make your own masterpiece. DabitZ is inspired by the painting technique called Pointillism, so users don't need to be talented artists to "dab it up." Starter sets include templates called DabitDesignZ, and the free DabitZ app can transform any picture into a template design as well. Simply take a photo, create a template, print it and dab it up, connecting technology to offline play and the world around us.

Photography update: Capturing photographs is a treasured tradition that helps keep memories alive long after the moment has passed. As camera phones have become ubiquitous, they have reinvented how photographs are taken, shared and viewed. No longer do you have to wait from an adventure to share your activities – you can post on social media in the moment! And with high-quality lenses on phones and filters on apps, you can create images worth 1,000 words – and likes.

Handmade 2.0: Homemade gifts are one of the most treasured items to receive from a loved one, especially from a child. As they grow, many children provide handcrafted items to relatives, who can treasure these items for years to come. Handmade items are increasingly trendy in home décor, fashion and foodstuffs. Those with special talents are able to capitalise on their craft, thanks to new online stores and marketplaces. This growing trend is a wonderful way to support artisans and causes whether at home or a world away. With new updates to technology, how we create arts and crafts will continue to change as well.

DIY: Tile Photo Coasters

You may be a bit depressed today if you and your partner are going through a difficult time. Maybe there’s something unspoken that brings tension and awkwardness into your life together. Try to find the root of the problem. It will only get worse if you don’t talk about it. Don’t get too emotional when you bring it up. Just ask if your relationship is worth saving.

A short trip might be necessary today, Taurus. This could be disheartening, as it takes you away from your current love interest, but perhaps it’s just as well. A phone call on this emotionally charged day might advance your relationship more than a forced evening together. Acknowledge that you’re looking forward to seeing your friend again and then get on with the job!

You may feel neglected and unloved today, Scorpio. If you’re single, you may feel worse. Cheer up. If you’re running around with such a depressed and dramatic expression on your face, nobody will feel like asking you out. Try to make yourself happy by doing things you like to do. If you smile, you’ll be a magnet for someone who has love to give.

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The strange behaviour of a friend may have you confused, Gemini. Is your friend avoiding you? Do phone calls go unanswered? Forget it. Sometimes people see too much intimacy as a threat to their independence and choose to ignore it. The best way to deal with this is to not press any sensitive issues. Just go out for dinner and act like a friend. Keep complaints of the equation for now!

The absence of direct expressions of love might make your life seem rather empty today, Virgo. If you’re single, there may be nobody around to have fun with. If you’re involved, chances are your current love interest is unable to get together. Don’t waste time fretting over this. Make some other plans.

Are you worried that your family doesn’t love you as much as you love them, Sagittarius? Love has many facets. Not everybody can verbally express love or feel comfortable with public displays of affection. If someone loves you, there are ways you can tell. It might be the just the way they look at you. If you’re uncertain, why not ask?

Today you may substitute chocolate for a lack of love because you feel tempted to treat yourself to something good. This is fine, but confine yourself to a small amount. Overindulgence in sweets could bring tension and awkwardness into your life together. Try to find the root of the problem. It will only get worse if you don’t talk about it. Don’t get too emotional when you bring it up. Just ask if your relationship is worth saving.
**Wordsearch**

SOMASOLEDHBCLGL  
RORFNPHOCSICFOS  
MBIYGMCAIOVOLOS  
YPNHDPHIMMTTXSA  
YLMTCBELAYAEFOK  
SARTAPRPATNEIBI  
VRCESSAUIRCWSN  
EIOMATKATLTAHEO  
USRPHNLNRIEOPLL  
BAIEYVIVONRVEA  
OONEICOGCITFKOS  
ESTMRDNORENURAB  
AVHEEURCUALALIS  
AATSBFZAKYNTHOS  
AENWUUAAGTWLGTEN

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AEGINA</th>
<th>RHODES</th>
<th>MYTILINI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUBOEA</td>
<td>CHIOS</td>
<td>SPARTA</td>
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<td>LARISA</td>
<td>CORFU</td>
<td>ZAKYNTHOS</td>
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**Sudoku**

```
  1 5 8 7
  8 5 7 3 2
  3 9 5 7 8
     6
  6 2 3 5 1
  8 2 5 1 7
  2 9 7 4 5
```

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

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AEGINA</th>
<th>RHODES</th>
<th>MYTILINI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>EUBOEA</td>
<td>CHIOS</td>
<td>SPARTA</td>
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Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Having a rest from being dishonest and low (5,4)
8 Healthy meal as rejected by young fellow (3)
9 Hush as the French entered (7)
10 Endless money? Take it easy (4)
11 Noise on boat was intrusive (6,2)
13 Five argue excitedly, becoming more unclear (6)
17 Insect and fish provoking laughter (8)
19 Silly leading characters in Dad’s Army and Fawlty Towers (4)
21 Better love right in the open (7)
22 Condescend to sound like a European (5)
23 Applying logic makes a sinner go wrong (9)

Down
2 A blazer for Christmas? (4,3)
3 Figure in art is lacking undies when posed? (4)
4 Consternation caused by vegetables I’d raised (6)
5 Mozart’s pack? (8)
6 Eat up, Miss Blyton (4)
7 Funny man trained as singer and film star (4,6)
8 Mouth-watering ice-cream’s first in rescue (10)
12 Words of praise not rare (4,4)
15 Opposition leader’s share in speech (7)
16 Entrance curtailed for French artist (6)
18 Musical animals (4)
20 God with nothing to eat, lacking energy (4)

Solution

Colouring

Wordsearch

Codeword
If you've followed the reports that have ultimately, fought back against – the very bad play, even as they seek shelter from – and, ultimately, fight back against – the very bad men who have turned them into orphans. If you've followed the reports that have emerged from Mexico since 2006, when the government initiated its military crackdown on the drug trade, this violent fictionalised dispatch from the front lines might initially strike you as all too grimly familiar.

But writer/director Iara López is a fantasist as well as a realist. She has the inspiration to refract the brutal atrocities of the drug war through the prism of a fairy tale. Winged insects and slithering reptiles burst forth from the nooks and crannies of Ana Solares' production design. The graffiti on the walls has a habit of singeing to life, especially those growling tigers invoked by the title and dialogue. A thin trail of blood flows down streets and stairwells, wending its way through the story with supernatural stealth and purpose.

The story's young heroine, Estrella (an excellent Paola Lara), first notices that blood trail creeping across the walls of her home after an especially violent day at school. Estrella has already heard gunshots ring out near her classroom and passed by a fresh corpse on her way home, and the blood feels like a warning of more horrors to come. The worst may have already happened: Her beloved mother is nowhere to be found, and Estrella has little reason to doubt the neighbourhood kids who tell her she was abducted and possibly killed by the cartel.

The rest of this fleet, ferocious movie will follow Estrella's quest to find her mother, an adventure she undertakes with the help of those other children, who have also been violently separated from their families. Their ringleader is El Shine (Juan Ramon Lopez), a tough kid who recently swiped a gun and a phone from a local cartel thug named Caco (Janis Guerrero). This sets in motion a turf war, in which Estrella plays a prominent role. Like many a fairy-tale protagonist, she has been granted three wishes, a gift that will reveal itself to be something of a curse as none of her desperate, well-intentioned requests plays out as she'd hoped or expected.

Something similar could be said of Tigers Are Not Afraid, a nervy and imaginative piece of filmmaking that, on a scene-by-scene basis, has trouble living up to its obvious ambition. The fusion of historical trauma and magical realism owes a clear debt to Guillermo del Toro – those insects might have fluttered in from Pan's Labyrinth – and its purpose, in this context, is not all that different: to blur the boundaries between reality and myth, and to illuminate a dark chapter of human history using the storybook archetypes of good and evil.

Like Pan's Labyrinth, Tigers Are Not Afraid is a child's fable that is itself far too graphic and grim to be appreciated by children. Far from being a problem, this contradiction is evidence of a certain integrity, a determination to use a young girl's perspective to amplify rather than diminish the response is superfi cially harsh, it's true – and López never quite gives it the dreamlike fl ow and propulsion it needs. The filmmaking, with its fi dgety editing and wobbly handheld camerawork, often suggests a self-conscious approximation of gritty authenticity rather than the real thing.

Lara is a remarkable young actress, with a gaze that magnetises even the camera's easily distracted attention. Even at Estrella's most fearful, her underlying courage is never in doubt, and she rightly occupies this movie's moral centre of gravity. Your heart can't help but go out to her, even when you are left feeling more like a sympathetic observer of her journey than a wholly engaged companion. – Los Angeles Times/TNS

The performances are solid throughout – Dakota Johnson has never been better as the case worker who sets out on Zak's tail, and there are small, vivid roles for John Hawkes, Thomas Haden Church, and

By Justin Chang

Story of a fugitive gives very nice late summer surprise

By Gary Thompson

The Peanut Butter Falcon, the story of a fugitive on the lam with a young man with Down syndrome, is an affecting, appealing piece of Americana.

Zak (Zack Gottsagen) is an orphan housed by the state in a Virginia old folks home. He slips out one night to pursue his dream of Americana.

He hooks up with a self-destructive young man named Tyler (Shia LaBeouf), an unemployed fisherman who's hoofing it out of town because he's dangerously employed a digital trowel. In pacing this thriller at breakneck speed, Lopez never quite gives it the dreamlike flow and propulsion it needs. The filmmaking, with its fidgety editing and wobbly handheld camerawork, often suggests a self-conscious approximation of gritty authenticity rather than the real thing.

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Just: Amitabh Bachchan’s property will be divided equally between his son Abhishek and daughter Shweta.

**BIG B TO DIVIDE PROPERTY EQUALLY BETWEEN SON AND DAUGHTER**

Bollywood Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has revealed that his property will be divided equally between his son Abhishek and daughter Shweta.

The veteran often expresses love for his daughter on social media, and now, the ‘Betichaa, Beti Padhao’ campaign ambassador has said that Abhishek alone will not have the full authority to his property.

Recently, on being asked about his will, Amitabh revealed that his property will be divided equally between both his children, timesofindia.indiatimes.com reported.

Earlier this year, Amitabh penned a heartfelt post for Swheta as her debut novel *Paradise Towers* had become one of the bestselling fiction books. Praising Shweta for the achievement, Big B took to social media and wrote: “Nothing brings greater pride to a father than this achievement of a daughter. Daughters are special. From this little ‘ghunghat (veil)’ to the ‘best seller’.”

Along with the post, the proud father had also shared a childhood photograph of Shweta in which she was seen carrying a red colour veil on her head. – IANS

**EVA LONGORIA TURNS DIRECTOR FOR FLAMIN’ HOT CHEETOS MAKER**

Actress Eva Longoria will direct Flamin’ Hot, a biopic about the man who created the spicy Flamin’ Hot Cheetos.

It was first reported in February 2018 that Searchlight and DeVon Franklin were set to produce the film Flamin’ Hot, which will tell the true story of Richard Montanez, who rose from humble beginnings to being a widely successful businessman when he created a food phenomenon – Flamin’ Hot Cheetos.

The film will follow Montanez, the son of an immigrant, who grew up as a migrant farm worker picking grapes in the fields of Southern California before becoming a janitor at Frito-Lay, reports variety.com.

While working at the company, Montanez came up with the idea to create Flamin’ Hot Cheetos, transforming the brand into a pop culture phenomenon and creating a wildly popular category of crunchy snacks.

Longoria will direct from a script by Charlie St. Cloud and October Sky writer Lewis Colick.

Longoria is also attached to direct and produce 24/7, in which she stars with Kerry Washington. She is also producing My Daughter’s Quinceañera and stars in Don’t Be the Explorer. – IANS

**NOT EASY TO RECREATE ICONIC SONGS: TANISHK BAGCHI**

Music composer Tanishk Bagchi, who is on roll these days by successfully recreating hit songs of the past, says it is challenging to reinvent iconic songs.

“It’s always difficult to recreate hit songs. One might think that recreation is the easiest thing to do but recreating a song actually means double the responsibility. You can’t distort the essence of the original song. So, you have to be really careful while composing the old songs,” Tanishk said.

The composer has scaled Bollywood heights in a short while, with recreated hits such as *The humma song* (OK Jaanu), *Tamma tamma again* (Badrinath Ki Dulhania), *Tu cheez badi hai mast* (Machine), *Dilbar* (Satyamev Jayate), *Aankh marey* (Simmba) and his latest hit, *O saki saki* (Bhoomi House).

Is recreation Tanishk’s main focus?

“Not at all. It’s just that makers love my work and they feel I can do better. So, they approach me for remakes. My focus is not on recreations, my focus is on overall music. I love to do everything. I don’t want to be categorised. Even if you are an actor or a singer, versatility plays an important role for everyone. So similarly I am trying to do everything,” he replied.

Apart from his recreated hits, Tanishk has done original compositions, too. These include *Banno* (Tum Hi Ho Man Returns), *Bolna* (Kapoor & Sons), *Bazaar* (Half-Girlfriend), *Ve maahi* (Kesari) and his latest rage is *Psycho siyojiyan* in Saaho.

Even as his non-film composition for Dhwani Bhanushali, *Vanshe* has crossed 500 million views on YouTube, he has come up with a new non-film track, *Khad se zyada*, which features him in a first stint in front of the camera.

Sharing his experience shooting the romantic number, Tanishk said: “I was really nervous before the romantic number, Tanishk feels it is important for a musician to become a known face. For this, singers and composers should appear in their videos.

“It’s good to see the importance being given to non-film songs. It would have been better had those non-film song videos featured singers instead of actors. There are songs in films for actors, so they get to showcase their skills there. Non-film songs, on the other hand, give facial recognition to composers like us. If you look at previous songs like Silk Route’s Doooba dooba or Lucky Ali’s O sanam, the singers themselves featured in the videos. Those songs were big hits. I hope that phase returns,” added Tanishk.

After creating a niche for himself in Indian music industry, Tanishk still feels he is a student and has a long way to go.

“There is so much to learn and explore. I am still a student and I don’t think I am a great music composer right now.”

——Tanishk Bagchi

Tanishk tells you his favourite genre as a composer is romantic music, because he grew up listening to his father compose love songs. His father worked with the likes of RD Burman and for Satyajit Ray’s films as a guitarist.

“Music is in his genes. Tanishk’s parents, Nandakumar Bagchi and Sharmistha Das, were musicians, which explains his obsession for the musical notes.”

“The composer has scaled Bollywood heights in a short while, with recreated hits such as *The humma song* (OK Jaanu), *Tamma tamma again* (Badrinath Ki Dulhania), *Tu cheez badi hai mast* (Machine), *Dilbar* (Satyamev Jayate), *Aankh marey* (Simmba) and his latest hit, *O saki saki* (Bhoomi House).”

—Tanishk Bagchi
Serbian basketball coach making his mark in Qatar

By Mudassir Raja

As Qatar is fast becoming a hub for all kinds of sports, many professionals and trainers are showing interest to come here in hopes of engaging in different sporting activities. Basketball is a sport that may not be seen as the most popular activity in some parts of the world but Qatar continues to support and promote basketball leagues and tournaments.

Serbia’s Miroslav Zlatkovic is a professional basketball coach and has been working with QSports, a major sport events company, as head of basketball programmes. Community recently spoke with him about how he started coaching basketball players, his career so far and his assignments in Qatar at length.

Miro, better known as Miro, has been coaching basketball players in different countries for over 20 years. “I started playing basketball when I was only eight-year-old. One of my friends suggested that we needed to play and focus on one sport. He took me to a nearby basketball court and that was my first day at the court and since then I have not left the court.”

As far as playing the sport goes, Miro did not play much for the professional teams. “I played only for my home town zajecar where I was born and brought up. I played in my hometown till I was 18-year-old. Even at that time, I started coaching young boys after I received training from my mentor coach. I loved the idea of coaching others for my favourite sport. That’s when I decided to make my career in coaching.

“After finishing my high school, I went to Belgrade, capital of Serbia. I got university degree in coaching basketball. The completion of the degree helped me coach two different teams that had earlier been national champions from former Yugoslavia. It gave me a lot of experience and confidence for my job. Some of my trained player went on to become a part of the national team of Serbia. One of my students even managed to be drafted for National Basketball Association (NBA), America’s professional basketball league in North America. In Serbian capital, I used to coach boys ageing between 16 and 19 years.”

Miro has been building up on his international career as a basketball coach for last five years. “From Serbia, I moved to Romania five years ago. I became part of a second season basketball league. I had real fun there while coaching the enthusiastic players. Then, I moved to Turkey and found the country a huge fan of basketball. I moved up to the third season of the league there. I also became the head coach of professional players in Turkey!”

Miro moved to Qatar two years ago to join QSports. “I would love to mention Adil Ahmed, head of QSports. He contacted me and offered me a position after he learnt about my talents. I took no time in accepting the offer. I joined the company as the head of the basketball programme. I oversee the sport in an academy under the company. I am also an integral part of the company in organising different leagues and community tournaments. We also co-ordinate and collaborate with Qatar Basketball Association.”

Miro said he fell in love with basketball at first sight. He enjoys pursuing his career in a field that he likes the most. “From the day I entered basketball court some 30 years ago, I loved the sport. Since that day, I am in sports one way or another. As we love our parents without being able to explain the reason, I love basketball the same way. Being attached with the sport gives me a sense of satisfaction and a sense of relief that I have been able to follow my dream as a career.”

As far his future plans go, Miro is all praise for Qatar’s passion for sports. “Before joining QSports, I visited Qatar as a tourist and witnessed its sport scenes a few years ago. When I got the offer, I just leapt at it. I see a huge interest in basketball and I am very glad to see young boys carrying balls and playing with enthusiasm.”

As far his future plans go, Miro is all set to cement his career with QSports. “We have been offering dynamic sporting opportunities to the people. In basketball, we offer different leagues and tournaments. We are planning to have some unique basketball events in Qatar in future. I intend to keep working hard with the company in Qatar and make my mark.”