

# PURR-FECT WAY TO THRIFT!



PRE-LOVED:  
Happy customer at  
a past event

**COMMUNITY REPORT**  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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**T**HE second edition of Thrift x Adopt is set to be staged tomorrow, September 25 in Mahooz.

Organised by Project Rifq, in collaboration with The Secret Garden by Thalia Mermaids, the thrifting event supports rescued animals while encouraging adoption and fostering in the community.

The programme will run from 4pm to 9pm and feature new vendors and artists, offering visitors a fun time for a good cause.

"Spurred on by the turnout at our past events, we are excited to organise more," Project Rifq founder Alhanoof Albinali told *GulfWeekly*.

"We're going to have our thrift sales, which feature all the items that people donated



FOUNDER: Alhanoof with one of the rescues

– they are a steal! That way we're able to raise funds through our thrift shop Rifq Thrift.

"We'll be having many local vendors, from pet stores to vets, as well as artists who will be attending. And lastly,

the pets themselves will be there for everyone to interact with. All proceeds from sales will be used for the animals," she added.

Presently, the platform dedicated to rescuing and supporting animals is taking care of six dogs and 13 cats, many of whom are undergoing the 'healing process' so they can be ready for adoption.

"Our rescue cats' immune systems are very weak. Just when we think they are healed, they fall sick again. It has been a constant process. They need individual care so if people can open their hearts and foster them, it will be helpful," she noted.

Alhanoof, who is an entrepreneur and a clinical dietician by profession, highlighted the food and vet bills will be covered.

She pointed out how trying to find 'forever' homes has been stressful for the team, nodding to the communal nature of the project.

"People see Project Rifq and think it's all positive and sunshine but they have no idea what happens behind the scenes. Sometimes the sad state of these animals creeps up on you. Having worked in healthcare as an inpatient dietician, mainly with ICU and elderly patients, I can switch off and not get emotions involved as it will hinder my progress but sometimes, it gets to you," she explained.

Despite the hurdles, the volunteers have a success story since their last event at Hilton

Bahrain in Juffair, which brought together animal lovers across the kingdom for an evening of coffee, pet-themed bites and educational talks about pet care.

"We have two of our cats that have been nursed back to health. Their immune systems are better. Fred recently got adopted, which is great news. And the other one, Penelope, is super friendly. I'm really pushing for her to be adopted first while the others heal," she said.

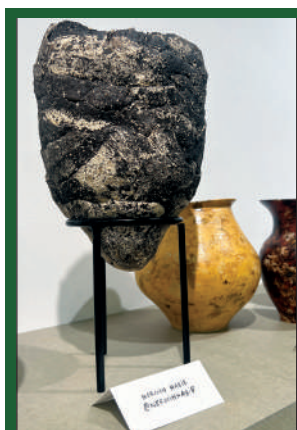
Alhanoof also talked about a pair of sibling dogs that are inseparable.

"They will need to be adopted together or we will need to work on gradually weaning them from each other," she added.

Since officially launching in March this year, Project Rifq has already been involved in several major rescue operations, including 18 cats that were discovered abandoned at a site in Gudaibiya and another case where six puppies and two adult dogs were saved.

The current lot is being fostered by kind hearts from the community but the team is open to more people who can ease the load. "Everyone can rescue and if you can't, you can transport the animals to the vets, donate, or support your local vets, support your local rescue groups, like everyone can do something," Alhanoof remarked.

For more information, follow @project.rifq on Instagram.



ART SPOTLIGHT  
1,000 Vases exhibition  
SEE PAGE 2



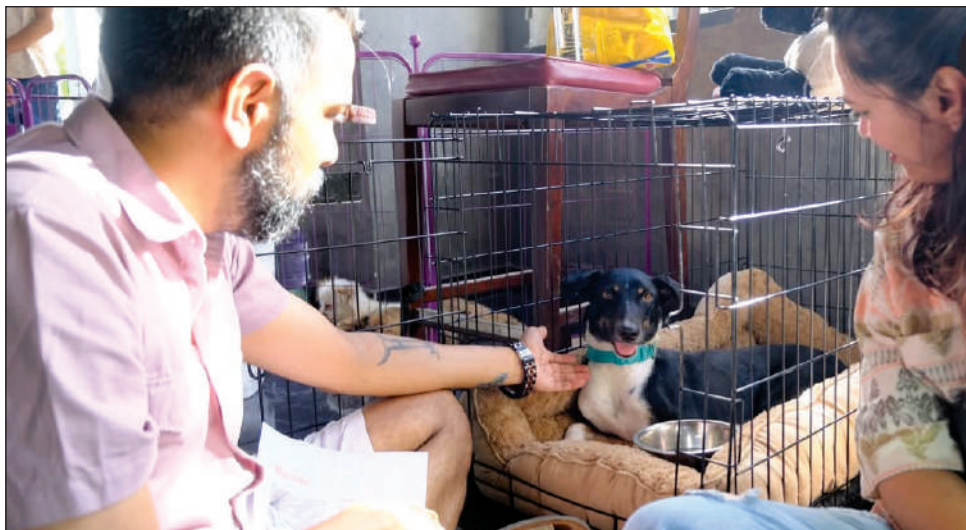
MADE IN BAHRAIN  
Gelato alchemist  
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE  
Dining, fun, etc.  
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP  
TV, books & more  
SEE PAGE 6



ENGAGE: Visitors interacting with a furry friend at a previous programme



ZIR: The reinterpreted water vessel

# Carrying culture and community



## ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA  
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**W**ITH the advent of water bottles, the humble vase may have evolved away from simply carrying water into a home and floral decoration, but Bahraini artist Nermin Habib sees it as something special - a vessel for carrying memory, culture and community.

In her piece *Zir*, exhibited in France from September 11 to 13 during Paris Design Week as part of the *1000 Vases* exhibition, Nermin explores how the vase has existed across cultures and generations, storing and naturally cooling water.

"Inspired by the traditional zir, a large porous clay vessel historically used to cool and store drinking water through natural evaporation, the work draws from a form that once occupied homes, courtyards, streets and gathering spaces throughout the region," she explained.

"Historically, the zir served not only as a functional object but also as a social one, often positioned in shared spaces where people gathered to drink water.

"Its cooling properties, achieved through the natural porosity of clay, reflect generations of material knowledge developed in response to climate and daily life."

*Zir* is a continuation of Nermin's ongoing research into traditional earthenware water vessels - objects that have existed across cultures for centuries as functional tools for storing and naturally cooling water.

The zir is a traditional Egyptian water vessel once embedded in everyday life.

However, instead of just recreating the object, she transformed it into contemporary sculpture.

Hand-built from mixed black and white stoneware, the contrasting clay bodies create an organic, unrepeatable surface, allowing heritage and contemporary expression to coexist within a single form.

"The work considers heritage not as something static or preserved unchanged, but as something capable of continuing, shifting and acquiring new meaning as it moves between generations, places and contexts," she explained.

"The vessel no longer holds water.

"Instead, it carries the memory of what it once was."

*Zir* was presented as part of an international exhibition dedicated to contemporary interpretations of the vessel during Paris Design Week.

The piece was part of a wider conversation between makers, materials and cultural references from around the world.

"This exhibition felt particularly different for me because almost all the work



ARTIST: **Nermin** was ceramic," Nermin told *GulfWeekly*.

"There were so many artists there whose work I've been following and admiring on *Instagram* for years, so getting to finally meet them and see their pieces in real life was really rewarding.

"Ceramics are so tactile, and there is so much you just don't experience through a screen.

"Seeing the scale, textures and details up close gave me a completely different appreciation for the work.

"What I found really interesting was seeing how differently each ceramic artist approached the same object.

"Some focused more on form, while for others the story was really in the technique or process they used.

"I saw artists mixing chunks of glaze directly into the clay body, others gradually building forms from very thin, almost paper-like pieces of clay, and others using sgraffito and glaze to tell

stories across the surface.

"I think what I enjoyed most was being able to speak to the different artists and hear the stories behind the pieces and how they arrived at their techniques. It made you realise how many completely

different interpretations can come from something as familiar and seemingly simple as a vase."

Nermin is a multidisciplinary artist and ceramicist currently based at The Art Station in Muharraq.

Her practice encompasses ceramics, filmmaking, photography and creative strategy, rooted in the concept of the 'in-between' - where cultures converge, identities evolve and traditions encounter contemporary expression.

Ceramics have become her main language through which she explores memory, movement, cultural heritage and material transformation.

Her work has been exhibited internationally across Paris Design Week, Milan Design Week, London Design Festival, Ithra and Diriyah Biennale Foundation.

For more details, follow @nerminhabib on *Instagram*.



EXHIBITION: *1000 Vases* in Paris

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# A scoop of passion



**GOURMET REPORT**  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
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**A** HOME GROWN dining experience inspired by local flavours and evoking memories of growing up in Bahrain has been attracting enthusiasts 'after hours'.

Dubbed 'a love letter to Bahraini evenings', the gastronomical journey has been put together by an all-Bahraini team and features a blend of sweet and savoury delights – all built around locally sourced ingredients. During the day, the space located at Bahrain Financial Harbour brings alive artisanal gelateria vibes and as the sun sets, it transforms into a lounge offering the kingdom's first ever dessert omakase.

At the heart of the nine-course experience is Scoop Creamery founder Alya Al-Ammari whose artisanal gelatos have taken the kingdom by storm. From moreish wood-smoked milk gelato reminiscent of Bahrain's tikka culture to locally inspired toot (mulberry) sorbets and more, the Bahraini chemist-turned-ice cream maker is known for her diverse, out-of-the-box creations.

"After Hours is the result of an incredible group of Bahraini collaborators," the 27-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"Our heartfelt thanks to Harbour Heights for providing us with a home for this project, to Amal Humaidan for crafting our visual identity and to Forma Design Studio for transforming our space," she added.

While the four-week experience ends tomorrow, September 25, Alya's passion for gelatos transcends the experience. She is one among a growing pool of local talents who have turned their passion into a fulltime career. Spurred on by her desire to turn her love for science into something bigger, the Saar resident



TASTY: The Croissant Um Ali flavour



FOCUSED: Alya during a previous After Hours event



BOSS GIRL: Alya

## WRITE TO US!

Every business worth its salt starts with a story. What is yours?

If you are a Bahraini or Bahrain-based entrepreneur who turned their passion into a career, reach out to us @gdnonline on Instagram or email the editor on melissa@gdnmedia.bh

launched her own gelateria two years ago.

In the last few years, several young Bahrainis have made the move from a nine-to-five to opening their own business, highlighting self-employment as a fulfilling career path. In fact, the kingdom is home to many initiatives that support and nurture the business environment, fostering innovation.

"Even though I was doing science before, it was still in a big corporation. But the longer that I was working in a corporate setting, the less it became about why I joined in the first place – a love for science and tactile fulfilling work.

"I like working with my hands and I started scratching that itch of wanting to do more hands-on work about something I was passionate about, which was chemistry outside of work. So I started making ice cream at home as a hobby," added the chemistry major from Edinburgh University.

"My management totally understood where I was coming from and gave me a six month leave of absence. However, in the end, I decided I want to make ice cream full time," she recounted.

Alya previously worked at a local energy company as a laboratory scientist for four years before she made the move. Though initially guided by her

knowledge in chemistry and her strong desire to create, she eventually decided to gain formal training in gelato making from Carpigiani Gelato University, a reputed academy in Italy.

Elaborating on what she most loves about her entrepreneurial journey, Alya noted that it offers her more flexibility and opportunities to forge long-term bonds.

"I'm able to kind of design my schedule around what works best for me and the connections that I make with people is all very fulfilling. My team and I work really well together too.

"I feel the wealth of entrepreneurial support in Bahrain comes from the community of entrepreneurs here. For someone who has no F&B background, it was surprisingly easy to tap into the network of other entrepreneurs in Bahrain who valued the same things that I value – transparency, industriousness, ambition and, to an extent, patriotism and love for this island," she said.

Not one to rest on past laurels, the creative talent announced her latest collaboration *A Scoop of Ithra* this week. The series will showcase seven different flavours inspired by the seven art exhibitions on display at the King Abdulaziz Centre for World Culture (Ithra) in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and will be available in Bahrain next month.



DREAMERS: The hands behind the experience

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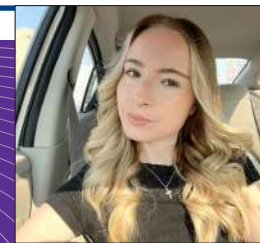
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# Leisure Scene



**What's  
on  
guide**

By Julia Cassano

## ITALIAN DELIGHTS AT RITZ-CARLTON



DELICIOUS: Savour a taste of Italy at Primavera while enjoying the sea views

**T**HE Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is bringing diverse offerings to its dining venues this week, with brunches, themed evenings and live entertainment.

At Primavera, guests can experience the flavours of the Italian coast at its vibrant brunch, featuring favourites such as saffron arancini, fresh seafood and tableside tiramisu, accompanied by live entertainment. Available tomorrow from 12.30pm to 4pm, it costs BD35 per adult including soft beverages and BD45 with selected beverages. Children aged four to 12 can dine for BD17.500 with soft beverages.

For a taste of Thailand, Thai Lounge hosts its weekly Thai Drunch every Thursday, offering

unlimited Thai tapas alongside two hours of house beverages. October birthday guests can also dine free with a valid ID. The experience is available tonight, September 24, from 7pm to 10pm.

Nirvana is serving an unlimited selection of Indian kebabs, with succulent cuts marinated in aromatic spices and grilled to order.

The experience costs BD25 per person, with the option to add three house-selected beverages for an additional BD10. It is available tonight from 7pm to 11pm.

Over at Burlington Club, Gentlemen's Cut pairs a premium steak with a carefully selected beverage designed to complement the dish. Available every Thursday from 6pm to 11pm, it is priced à la carte.



VIBE: Gorgeous poolside at La Terrace

Meanwhile, La Terrace sets the scene for an evening of live music with its Jazz Night, featuring jazz-inspired beverages and an open-air terrace atmosphere. The experience is available tomorrow,

September 25, from 6.30pm to 9pm and is priced à la carte.

For more information, call 17580000 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



SPLASH: Enjoy a lovely day by the pool

## A DAY OF RELAXATION

**A**QUA Vista Bahrain is kicking off the new season with a selection of experiences from stays to dining options and leisure offers.

Guests can choose

between a bed and breakfast package at BD55net per room per night or a half-board package at BD65net per room per night, both

including a complimentary room upgrade.

Those who book an executive suite will receive an upgrade to a club suite with a balcony, with the bed and breakfast package priced at BD75net per room per night.

Those looking for a day of relaxation can opt for the pool day pass, which includes pool access from 8am to 7pm, waterfront

views and a complimentary beverage. It is priced at BD9.900 per person.

Weekend mornings can be spent with The Waterfront's breakfast buffet, featuring fresh ingredients, live cooking

stations and sweeping views. The buffet is available tomorrow and Saturday from 6.30am to 11am, priced at BD10 per person.

As the day winds down, Maestro Lounge offers a chance to relax with its Happy Hour, available daily from noon to 2am. The Lounge's Ladies' Night features three complimentary drinks for the ladies, daily from 5pm to 9pm.

For bookings and more information, contact 17177333.



GORGEOUS: Room with a sea view

## ARABIC FAVOURITES

**H**ILTON Bahrain is marking Saudi National Day with a series of celebratory and dining experiences, starting with activities in the hotel lobby today, September 24.

The celebrations will include family-friendly activities, entertainment and special offers across the hotel, with something for guests of all ages.

At Origin Kitchen and Culture, enjoy a Saudi-inspired breakfast featuring Arabic favourites and a dedicated children's corner. It is available today through Saturday from 6.30am to 10.30am, extending to 11.30am on Saturday at BD13.

The restaurant also hosts its weekly seafood night on Wednesdays, featuring seafood dishes, live cooking stations and Saudi-inspired favourites. It runs from 7pm to 10pm and costs BD32net, including soft beverages.

Origin Kitchen and Culture will host a brunch celebrating South African Heritage Day tomorrow, September 25, from 1pm to 7pm. It is priced at BD29net per person with house beverages or BD38net with premium beverages. Guests wearing South African sports shirts or presenting a Republic of South Africa ID can enjoy the premium drinks package for BD31net.

Over at CLAW BBQ, visitors can enjoy food, games, entertainment and panoramic



CELEBRATE: Saudi National Day delights

views of Bahrain's skyline from the 44th floor.

Sundays come with an extra dose of indulgence, with two hours of unlimited beverages for BD12.500. The offer can be extended for another two hours for an extra BD10, while also enjoying 20 per cent off the full menu.

Monday is dedicated to the ladies, with Ladies' Night running from 8pm to 11pm. The offer includes four complimentary drinks and a sharing platter for BD15, along with 30pc off the full food and beverage menu.

CLAW BBQ turns up the flavour midweek with Taco Tuesdays, running from 6pm to midnight. Enjoy unlimited tacos and drinks for BD16, with the option to add unlimited selected beverages for an additional BD3.500. Come Friday, CLAW's signature brunch brings together food, drinks and entertainment from 12.30pm to 4pm, with tickets starting at BD24. The fun continues afterwards with two additional hours of Happy Hour from 4pm to 6pm.

For bookings and more information, contact 33692013.

PURPLE: Delights at Noor Lounge

## TABLESIDE FEAST

**T**HERE is plenty to savour at InterContinental Bahrain this weekend, with brunches, leisurely dining and indulgent treats on offer.

Tomorrow, September 25, Legendz SteakHouse is serving up a tableside brunch affair from noon to 4pm, with every course brought straight to the table. The feast begins with sharing platters featuring oyster and shrimp bocal and Peruvian salmon ceviche, followed by mains including grilled gambas and roasted seabass, with a selection of decadent desserts to round things off.

The Friday brunch is priced at BD28net with soft beverages or BD38net with unlimited selected beverages. Children under six dine for free, while those aged six to 12 receive 50 per cent off.

For a weekday treat, Legendz SteakHouse is offering its Two for One Steak Monday, where guests can enjoy a second steak of

equal or lesser value when purchasing one. The offer runs from 6pm to 10pm.

Mondays become a little more indulgent at Elemen Pool and Lounge, where ladies enjoy 50pc off food and beverages from 9am to 8pm, ideal for a poolside escape.

At Noor Lounge, ladies gather with friends and enjoy 50pc off food and beverage every Monday from 9am to 10pm. Whether it is coffee, a leisurely meal or a post-work catch-up, the offer provides an easy excuse to socialise.

Noor Lounge is also putting a vibrant twist on afternoon tea. Purple Afternoon Tea will be available today, September 24, and tomorrow, September 25, from 2pm to 7pm, with the spread featuring handcrafted pastries, savoury bites, freshly baked scones with jam and signature desserts served alongside premium teas and speciality coffees.

The ube afternoon tea is priced at BD8 per tray.

For bookings and more information, call 3696770.

# Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

## MEDITERRANEAN FLAVOURS FOR SHARING

**A**S Bahrain prepares for cooler climes, Byblos, Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's vibrant beachfront Lebanese dining destination, has reopened for the season with new dishes and live entertainment.

Set against the sweeping views of Bahrain Bay, the restaurant returns with Lebanese dishes inspired by Mediterranean flavours and designed for sharing.

Chef Tony El Khoury's seasonal menu features new additions including Sawda Djej with lemon butter and pomegranate molasses, Mekanek bi Limon with sautéed onions and mushrooms, Mudardara Bil Lahmeh served with braised lamb shank, onions and pickled turnips, and Moghrabiye with Scallops and Prawns.

Byblos is open every Thursday and Friday for dinner from 7.30pm to 11.30pm, with DJ performances on the outdoor terrace.

For a traditional Japanese experience, re/ASIAN CUISINE offers an intimate Omakase journey led by Chef Kiyoshi Udagawa, where time-honoured Japanese flavours meet contemporary culinary artistry.

Each course showcases the precision, seasonality and craftsmanship at the heart of Japanese cuisine, complemented by views of the Manama skyline. The 10-course Omakase experience is available from Wednesday to Sunday, priced at BD69 per person, with beverage pairing available for BD60 per person.

As the weekend begins, CUT by Wolfgang Puck sets



FLAVOURFUL: New dishes at Byblos

the stage for an afternoon of good company, flowing-bubbly and live DJ beats. The Friday experience features dishes including yellowtail Hamachi ceviche, beef sliders and line-caught black bass.

It is available every Friday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, priced at BD70, inclusive of free-flow bubbly beverages.

Step into a world of chocolate-inspired indulgence with Bay View Lounge's Chocolate Dreamscape Afternoon Tea. The experience brings together savoury creations, handcrafted chocolates and elegant pastries. Available until October 31 from noon to 9pm, it is priced at BD22 for the regular option and BD26 for the royal option, with both including one premium tea and one mocktail or sparkling juice.

Guided by the lunar cycle, guests can unwind with Full Moon Yoga, a calming session focused on mindful movement and restoring balance. The session will be held on Saturday, September 26 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and costs BD6 per person for hotel guests and members, and BD12 for outside guests.

For bookings and more information, contact 17115500.

## SOPHISTICATED ROOFTOP EXPERIENCE

**A**RANGE of dining options awaits at Sheraton Bahrain Hotel, from sunset drinks to Latin American-inspired flavours, traditional dishes and international cuisine.

Step into Brasero Atlántico where 'Atlántico Hour' offers a sophisticated rooftop setting, bringing alive the spirit of Latin America. Enjoy bold flavours, expertly crafted bites and refreshing beverages.

With panoramic views of the Manama skyline, the experience is ideal for after-work gatherings, sunset sips or relaxed evenings with friends. Atlántico Hour is available Sunday to Thursday, from 4pm to 7pm. Brasero Atlántico is open daily from noon to midnight.

Meanwhile, Golestan Persian Grill celebrates the rich cultural heritage and cuisine with its Royal Golestan Feast Platter, created for special occasions and group gatherings.



VIEW: Enjoy expertly crafted bites and refreshing beverages at Brasero Atlántico

The feast features a selection of the restaurant's signature grilled dishes, including Kabab Koobideh, Kabab-e Tikke Masti, Kabab Shishlik lamb chops, served alongside fragrant saffron rice and grilled vegetables.

Available for groups of six or 12, the feast concludes with Golestan's signature saffron ice cream. Golestan is open daily from noon to 11pm.

At WILD, fresh ingredients, bold flavours and globally inspired

cuisine come together in a relaxed yet stylish setting. The menu, prepared by the hotel's culinary team and complemented with herbs grown on-site in the hydroponic garden, takes inspiration from international flavours. Highlights include Peruvian-style smoked cauliflower with lentil chimichurri, char-grilled miso eggplant and a grilled seafood platter.

Guests can enjoy WILD's breakfast buffet daily from 7am to 10.30am, with pool access also available. From Sunday to Thursday, lunch is served from noon to 4pm, providing an option for business meetings and casual gatherings.

During the evening, WILD offers its à la carte menu until 9pm, with both indoor and terrace seating available for guests.

For bookings and more information, contact 17533533 or 38885408.



## EXPLORE THE ISLAND

**A**STAY at Hawar Resort by Mantis offers the chance to experience a private island escape beyond the villa.

The Royal Villa Elements combines a sound healing session with a couples massage and a choice of fishing, dolphin watching, or bird watching at Rubud Island.

A family boat package is also available at BD45 for four adults or more.

Guests can enjoy a cultural desert tour followed by a private barbecue prepared by their own chef at the villa.

Younger guests are catered to as well, with the option of a private Bear Grylls Survival Academy session with certification.

Together, the experiences offer a chance to discover a different side of Hawar, balancing relaxation in the privacy of the villa with opportunities to explore the island's natural surroundings, culture and sense of adventure – all at your own pace.

For more information or reservations, call 32183610 or email reservations@hawarresort.com.

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

**Q**uizmaster and Radio Bahrain host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put GulfWeekly readers' general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon's seven brain-busters.



- 1) In which state does the United States Postal Service still use mules?
- 2) What colour is the sunset on Mars?
- 3) The deficiency of which vitamin is associated with the disease Rickets?
- 4) The Oscars used to give out an award to child performers. What was the award called?
- 5) Which is the only day of the week that has a single word anagram?
- 6) What is the name given to

- green Japanese horseradish?
- Actor Jared Leto is the frontman of what band?

1. Arizona
2. Blue
3. Vitamin D
4. Juvenile Award
5. Monday (Dynamo)
6. Wasabi
7. 30 Seconds to Mars

## ANSWERS

# Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY RIMA ALHADDAD



DUO: Woody, left, shares a moment with Matthew in the new series

## LONG-TIME BOND

**C**OMEDY television series *Brothers* has premiered its first two episodes on Apple TV, with a release schedule running until November 4.

Starring long-time friends Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson, the series follows a fictionalised version of themselves, as their friendship gets put to the test after discovering a decades-old secret.

After Woody's daughter's wedding falls apart, he loads up the family and heads to Austin for an extended stay at Matthew's ranch.

However, the healing getaway quickly spirals when Matthew's mother, Ma Mac (Holland Taylor),

accidentally lets slip a long-buried secret that the two friends might actually be brothers.

According to Apple TV, the show promises a heartfelt, chaotic and wildly funny story about friendship, family, fame and the messy line between myth and reality.

The plot takes inspiration from an interview in 2023, in which the *True Detective* (2014) co-stars revealed that they might in fact be half-brothers.

"In Greece, a few years ago, we're sitting around talking about how close we are and our families," Matthew recounted.

"And my mom is there, and she says, 'Woody, I knew your dad'. Everyone was aware of the ellipses

that my mom left after 'knew'. It was a loaded K-N-E-W," he added.

When asked if they would take a DNA test, the best friends disagreed.

"I've been wanting to, but he refuses," Woody said, with Matthew replying that he might eventually come around to it.

"If it's true, I got a lot to unpack. If it's not true, he's not going to be near as fun to hang out with," he said.

"I'm going to be really sad for a while if it's not true," Woody added.

The two stars became friends while working on *EDtv* (1999). Since then, they have continued to work together, including starring in projects that reflect their real-life strong bond.

## Celebrity culture

**A**MERICAN bestselling author John Green's new novel *Hollywood, Ending* has hit the shelves.

It follows rising stars Kai Laramie and Juniper Castillo who fall in love with each other as they act in a biopic titled *Andy Warhol Never Gets Old*.

As their film soars upon release, so does their popularity, putting them in a situation where they must balance their public and private lives.

Spread across 416 pages, the story is expected to take the reader on a journey from the couple's first days on location to the movie's premiere, juxtaposing their story with the on-screen study of the late American artist and filmmaker's life at the dawn of celebrity culture.

The 49-year-old writer and YouTuber is best known for his young adult fiction, most famously 2012's *The Fault in Our Stars*.

The new release, which follows his nonfiction book *Everything Is Tuberculosis* (2025) and is his first novel since *Turtles All the Way Down* (2017), marks his shift toward adult fiction.

He explained that the decision came from an

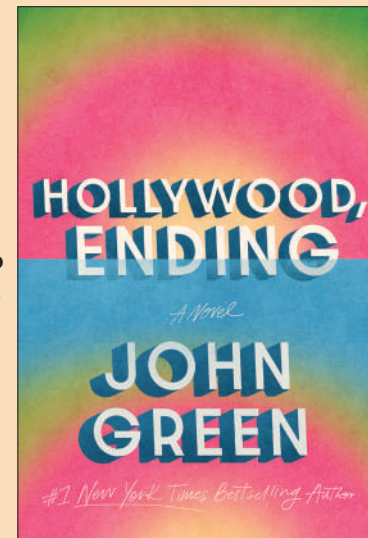
emotional and intellectual disconnection that he currently feels from the age group.

The author also revealed that working on the novel reminded him of why he enjoyed writing fiction at a time when he was not sure if the world needed another book from him.

"I remembered somewhere along the way of writing this book that I love writing stories," he said in an interview.

"I've been doing it for fun since I was eight years old. It's the greatest pure pleasure I've ever known.

"I love it because it allows me to escape myself. I love it because it allows me to be introverted but still talk to other people. I love it because it gives me the gift of creative expression, and I rediscovered that while writing this book. That's a gift that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life," he added.



## DANCING TUNES

**A**MERICAN R&B artist Leon Bridges drops his new album *Happiness Anytime* tomorrow, September 25.

The collection of feel-good tunes, the musician explained, is influenced by a desire to create music that he could dance to along with his audience at live shows. It is 'something that lingers with people and lingers in people's bones'.

Leon revealed that the inspiration came to him following a previous tour, in which he reflected on the track *Peaceful Place* from his 2024

self-titled release.

"It felt like a reflection of where I was at spiritually," he said in an interview.

"I always loved how that song felt up on stage, so I wanted to bring all that energy into the writing of this new project," he added.

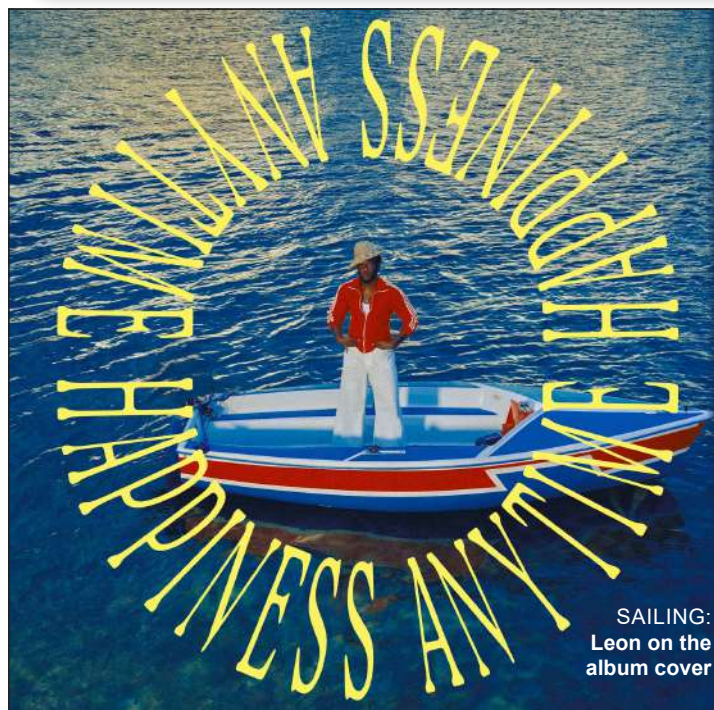
The creative noted that to achieve his goal, he drew from a mixture of genres including soul, disco, Afrobeat and Latin rhythms.

"I have so much reverence for those cultures and wanted to pay homage to them whilst also incorporating my own style. I hope

that when you listen to it you can travel to Lagos, to São Paulo, and to the Jamaican dance halls. Those rhythms and melodies really speak to me, and I felt they were the best outfit to get people moving," he noted.

Born Todd Michael Bridges, the 37-year-old singer debuted as a throwback act with 2015's *Coming Home*, an album reviving 1960's soul music.

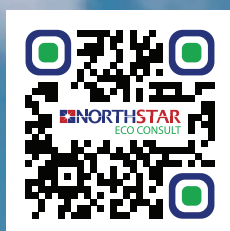
His 2018 single *Bet Ain't Worth the Hand* earned him his first Grammy Award for Best Traditional R&B Performance.



SAILING: Leon on the album cover

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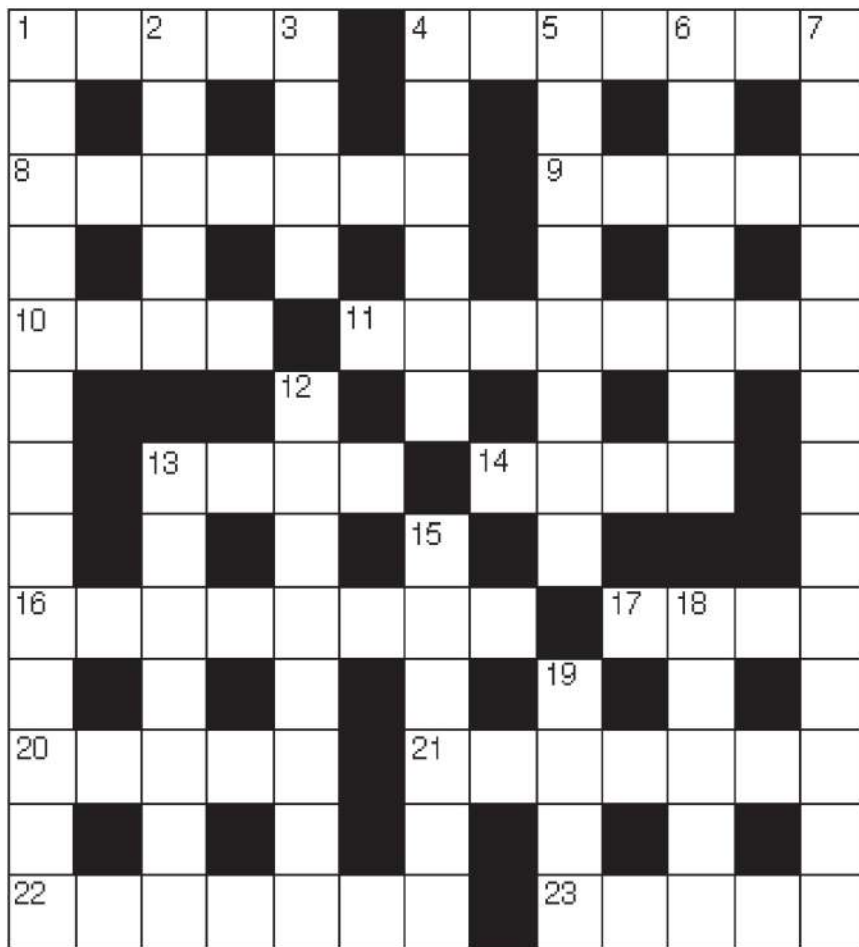
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# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

1. Due (5)
4. In addition (7)
8. Coach (7)
9. Zest (5)
10. Touch (4)
11. Trader (8)
13. Munch (4)
14. Let it stand (4)
16. Maintain (8)
17. File (4)
20. Sluggish (5)
21. Frankness (7)
22. Beg (7)
23. War horse (5)

### DOWN

1. Rusty (3,2,8)
2. Angry (5)
3. Crew (4)
4. Margin (6)
5. Wisdom (8)
6. Far (7)
7. Irascible (5-8)
12. Disparage (8)
13. Vanity (7)
15. Sweet (6)
18. Solitary (5)
19. Responsibility (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... co-founded the computer manufacturer Apple?

WHAT ... nationality is the tennis player Nicolas Pietrangeli?

WHERE ... was the scientist Sir Humphry Davy born in 1778?

WHEN ... did John Wesley, a leader of the Methodist movement, die?

WHO ... scored two goals for Manchester United in the 2006 League Cup Final?

WHAT ... is the book by Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh that was the subject of a copyright case in the High Court in 2006?

WHERE ... in Europe is the royal residence of Drottningholm Palace?

WHEN ... did The Honeycombs have the No. 1 UK single *Have I The Right*?

### just so

1 a.m. 2 a.m. 3 a.m.

**never  
never**

♡  
♡  
♡ or £  
♡

**this**

## darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

### Last week's sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 |

### darn tough sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 |

Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
| 3 |   |   | 7 |   | 2 |   | 8 |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 7 | 3 |
| 4 |   |   |   | 8 |   | 7 | 2 |   |
|   |   | 9 |   |   | 7 | 5 |   |   |
|   | 8 | 7 |   | 5 | 3 |   |   | 9 |
| 9 | 6 |   | 3 |   |   |   | 5 |   |
|   | 3 |   | 2 |   | 8 |   | 4 | 1 |
|   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 |   |   |   |   |   | 3 | 6 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |
| 6 |   | 1 | 4 |   | 2 | 7 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   | 2 |   | 1 |   | 8 |   |
| 4 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   | 2 |
|   | 1 |   | 5 |   | 9 |   | 7 |   |
|   |   | 3 | 8 |   | 5 | 9 |   |   |
|   |   | 6 |   | 9 |   |   | 2 |   |
| 9 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   | 4 | 3 |

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

**Across:** 3 Adversity; 8 Leer; 9 Behaviour; 10 Eluded; 11 Sever; 14 Incur; 15 Rein; 16 Dying; 18 Tire; 20 Radio; 21 Empty; 24 Terror; 25 Disregard; 26 Snag; 27 Celebrate.

**Down:** 1 Alleviate; 2 Sepulchre; 4 Deed; 5 Erase; 6 Shiver; 7 Thus; 9 Beard; 11 Spicy; 12 Rendering; 13 Encourage; 17 Greed; 19 Emerge; 22 Tiger; 23 Lime; 24 Trot.

**JUST SO:** Rise to the bait, The great divide, Female intuition, None of the above.

#### WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg; Sorry; Ruthwell, Dumfries; 1973, Simon Stephens; Fat Tuesday; Exeter, Devon; 1955.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 7 |   | 2 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 3 |   | 5 |   |   | 9 | 1 |
| 5 |   | 1 | 3 | 9 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 5 |   | 4 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 6 | 2 | 5 |   | 3 |
| 7 | 3 |   |   | 4 |   | 8 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |
|   | 9 |   |   |   | 7 |   | 2 |   |