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JANUARY 19-25, 2014 | Issue 136

Read.



MISSING THE MARK

50 years after the assassination of JFK, *Parkland* attempts to recreate the story but slips short of the line

LAKE COMO LUXURY



SILVER SCREEN STYLE

Natalie Portman has not only made the transition from child star to screen siren, but she has maintained her spot as one of film's most fashionable females



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Letters

Email: letters@readme.ae

A selection of the letters we've received this week. Write in to have your say.

✉ WELCOME RELIEF

Rain in Dubai! Just splendid! The recent rain and its cool respite truly soothe a weary body and mind. I expected a sunny day the day after it rained, but to my delight, I woke up to overcast skies again. Overcast weather has never been so

comforting and I hope that's a good sign for more cool weather to come in future and bring joy with it.

Carly Heinrich

✉ PROPERTY PROBLEM

Something I find strange about the expensive high-rise and luxury properties here in Dubai is that finished buildings only have a few occupants and are mostly empty. Yet they still keep on building new ones amid the soaring prices. I may

not know a lot about property ownership here but isn't that a bit absurd? Isn't it a waste of resource to create surplus property supply and tag it with exorbitant prices? Plus, if the owners are retirees, doesn't that mean that they are spending so much on something they won't use for a very long time? Think about it.

Mimi Mortensen



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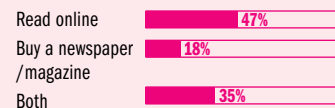
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January 2014 (E)



What's happening this week on **readme.ae?**

Make sure you check out our website for these daily specials, which appear online every afternoon. 'Like' us on Facebook so that we can keep you up to date with our latest online features and fun.

Coming up this week



TODAY

Last week, the nominees for this year's Oscars were announced. From DiCaprio's debauchery in *The Wolf of Wall Street* to Sandra Bullock's space adventures in *Gravity*, the choice of stars and movies for the judging panel to pick from has been more than mighty over the past 12 months. Take a look at the line-up and the hot favourites to win.



MONDAY

Sleeping soundly might be harder than it seems if snoring disturbs your nightly snooze, but did you know that singing could be the cure? Loosen up those vocal cords and find out how.



TUESDAY

If you're struggling to stick to your New Year diet and exercise plan, these handy hints may help, whether it's upping the amount of steps you take or switching your lunchtime snack.



WEDNESDAY

Whether he's doing some serious studying, playing the protagonist in a highbrow flick or causing mayhem in a comedy, James Franco is considered to be one Hollywood's hottest stars.



THURSDAY

After a hard day at work you may find an all-too-familiar pain creeping into your head and tightening its grip. What is a tension headache and how can you try to prevent its occurrence?



FRIDAY

The *Read.* Facebook page has been full of your opinions on our daily question. We find the best responses from our Facebook fans and bring you the answers that matter most to the people of Dubai.

Facebook chatter

Here's what you have been saying on the *Read.* Facebook page.

(Responses only edited for length)

Do you have any rules when it comes to your eating habits, such as 'no carbs after 6pm' or 'meat only twice per week'?

To stay fit and healthy diet and exercise is the bread and butter...i guess eating a variety of foods at its moderation is fine but i would prefer more on fruits and vegetables to live longer...

— Francis Raul Fuentes Barcelo

I have an "Eat all You Can" rule and whenever someone would lecture me on my diet, I would EAT that person, too!

— Clen Nicolas

Wel yes I do have. No to fried snacks and items with cheese, ice cream once in 15 days. and rely more on vegetables and fruits for regular diet. Keep away from too much sugar and too much salt. and yes anything in moderate is ok. Workout 3 - 4 times a week must.

— Vanitha Iyer



DO YOU FOLLOW FOOD RULES?

I've no rule for eating. If I like I will eat, everywhere anytime...

— Siraj Rehman Kaka Khail

I eat well balanced meals with proteins, carbs and complex carbs.

— Arman Hossen

Yes... meat only once in a week.

— Eugene Poulouse

Which actor or actress would you like to see nominated for an Oscar this year and why?

Brad Pitt, cause he is a strong man, good actor and also a good heart.

— Julieann Albofera

DiCaprio - at least this time he should win!!!

— Lahiru Mallikaarachchi

If you are not happy with a product or service do you make your com-

A WIN FOR LEO?



plaints known or do you choose to keep quiet and just write it off as a bad experience?

I'm great at ringing back to complain but awful at complaining at the time.

— Arman Hossen

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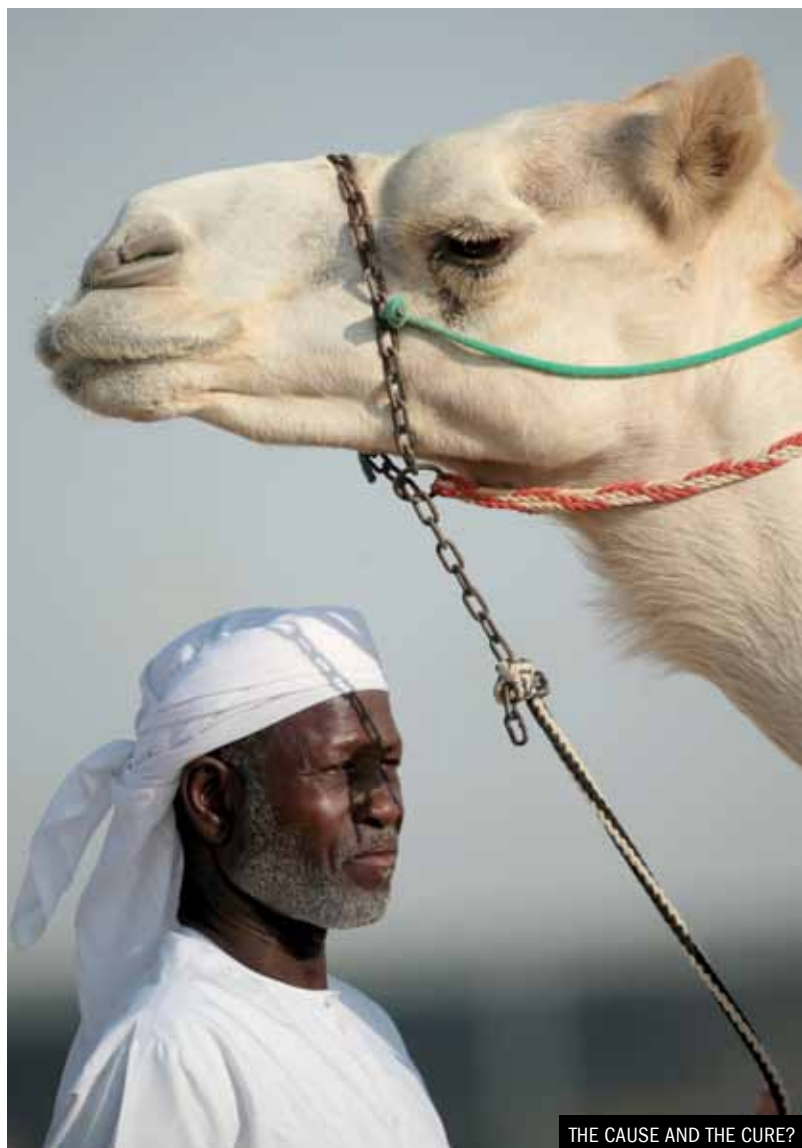
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Does this mean that camels might have passed MERS on to humans, or that humans have done so to their camel companions?

To date, there have been no published autopsies of the 74 people, out of 177 known cases of infection, that have died from contracting MERS. Neither has there been much in the way of detailed reports showing what it actually does to lungs, kidneys and other organ systems.

Early reports have compared the virus to severe acute respiratory syndrome, with highly noticeable symptoms of infection that include renal failure and severe acute pneumonia. The first patient, who was identified as a resident of Jordan in April 2012, had a week-long history of fever, cough, and shortness of breath before receiving a MERS diagnosis.

The risk of transmission seems to be very low, which might explain why epidemiologists' fears that last year's Hajj might result in MERS being transmitted across the world were unfounded.

The link to camels was first suggested after two workers on a camel farm in Qatar were found to be infected. Up until that point, MERS had been linked to bats, following the discovery of a small RNA fragment from a bat that was a perfect match for the human virus.

But once camels were tested for the virus, it was suggested that the virus or a close cousin may have been

infecting the animals across parts of the Middle East for at least a decade. Further research found that almost all of the 651 camel samples that had been tested found antibodies for either MERS or a close relative of the virus.

Beyond this early research, scientists only have general

Did you know?

Due to fears of the MERS virus, attendance in the Hajj was lower last year after Saudi authorities asked elderly and sick pilgrims not to travel to the holy sites. Later, the health minister reported that authorities had detected no cases among the pilgrims.

theories at this stage, and are treating infections in a similar way to how they would with an incidence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) until they become better acquainted with MERS.

Given the low incidence of cases since 2012 and the low chance of transmission, even after coming into contact with an infected person, doctors have stressed that the virus should not be a concern for populations in this region.

For those who are concerned, however, the initial stages of vaccination are still some way off. Existing SARS research may provide a useful template to develop vaccines against MERS, and a selection of vaccinations are currently awaiting clinical trials. Annual influenza vaccinations and five-year pneumococcal vaccinations are currently given to weaken the severity of an infection.

Further studies into both the causes of MERS and the possible treatments are in the process of being performed by scientists in Europe and the UAE, and their findings are expected to be published later

this year. Until then, it is unlikely that anything more alarming than occasional diagnoses of MERS will be identified. Pandemic panic? Not yet at least. ●

Do camels hold the secret?

Could camels provide the key to the MERS virus?

What happened to camels between 2003 and 2011, the year before the

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus started to be noticed among humans? This is the question that many coronavirus experts want to learn in order to better understand the origins of the condition, and, hopefully in turn, find ways to prevent future outbreaks of the—potentially lethal—virus.

But so little is currently known about the virus, other than the fact that camels have been found to carry MERS antibodies, which suggests they have been infected at some stage.

Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae



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Red Line Green Line

TRAVEL NEWS

Mae Fah Luang Park opens Candle Light Museum

The Tourism Authority of Thailand is inviting tourists to visit the special Candle Light Museum at the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park in Chiang Rai. Chiang Rai is the northernmost province of Thailand, 785km from Bangkok.

The Candle Light Museum is the first of its kind in Thailand and is unlike any other exhibition elsewhere in the world. Visitors to Chiang Rai should not miss this magnificent exhibition, where exquisite centuries old wooden crafts are decorated with candle light.



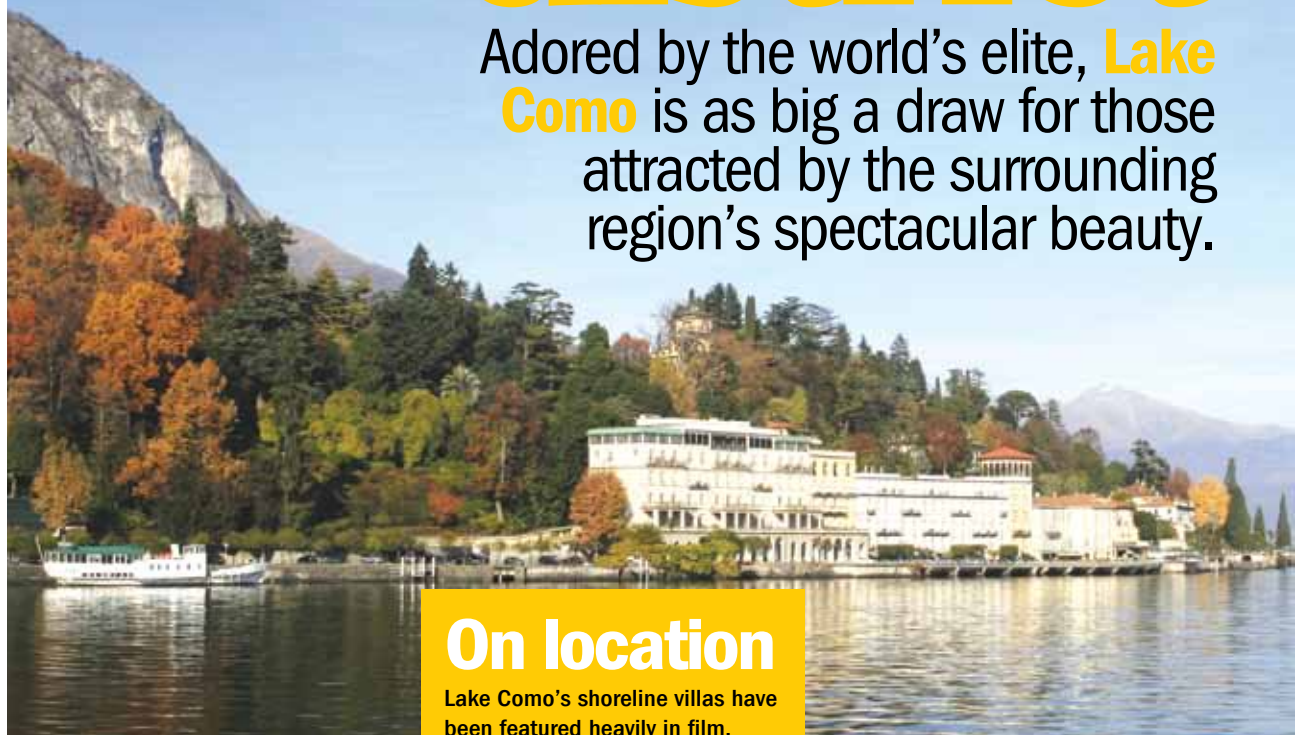
A pioneer of sorts, the Candle Light Museum features candles that are lit to spectacularly illuminate the exquisite wooden Lanna-style candlesticks and artefacts that are several centuries old. Visitors will be impressed with the romantic atmosphere around the art and cultural park as the candles are lit to illuminate the entire premises in a warm and soothing way.

The museum, which is set to exhibit until January 31, is open daily (except Monday). Saturday, Sunday and public holidays have a special feature as visitors will be served with complimentary welcome drinks and will have the chance to enjoy Lanna traditional performances.

After January 31, when the Candle Light Museum concludes, visitors can still marvel at the many interesting attractions offered at the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park (seen). Initially, the project was aimed to be a training camp for 450 hill tribe youths appointed to lead their communities for sufficiency economy and sustainable living.

Italy's lake district

Adored by the world's elite, **Lake Como** is as big a draw for those attracted by the surrounding region's spectacular beauty.



On location

Lake Como's shoreline villas have been featured heavily in film.

Star Wars fans often make the pilgrimage to Villa del Balbianello, where Anakin Skywalker and Padmé Amidala clandestinely wed in *Attack Of The Clones*. In *Ocean's Twelve*, the infamous Night Fox resides at the Villa Erba estate. And in *Casino Royale*, James Bond himself recuperates at Villa del Balbianello.

Few areas outside of Los Angeles and Mumbai can have as many celebrity residences as Lake Como, but that doesn't make this glittering section of Italy's Lake District inaccessible for regular folk.

Located in the far north of the country, Lake Como is a spindly, inverted-Y-shaped water body that is known for its beauty and tranquility. But despite the wealth of stunning scenery along its shores, it is still only

a 90-minute drive from the massive Milan conurbation, which is well served with flights from Dubai.



STUNNING SCENERY

If it is good enough for the likes of George Clooney, Madonna, Richard Branson and Ronaldinho, it should be have a price tag to match the millions of its residents, right? Sure, many places aren't cheap, but if you steer clear of the glitz and glamour of some of its more notable resorts—and any resident will be able to tell you where these are—it is surprising how affordable the lakeside villages can be.

A ferry on the lake between the main towns of Bellagio, Varenna, Menaggio and Cadenabbia should provide enough justification for anyone to visit. From the heart of the lake, the majesty

of the hilly banks rising up to become the peaks of the Grigna Mountains is picture postcard stuff that is sure to take the breath away.

But as always is the case in this region, there is a huge gulf between the expensive and reasonably priced vessels that ply the waterway for a similar service. As is so often the case in Italy, it is worth comparing rates.

Away from the lake, a trip on the funicolare, a hillside trolley car, will take you to Brunate for spectacular views of the waters, and those who enjoy rambling can continue through the green and challenging hillside paths for even more stunning vistas.

History lovers will take a bee-line to Villa Belmonte, the residence in Mezzegra where Benito Mussolini, the Italian wartime dictator, was captured with his mistress on their way to Switzerland in 1945. Inside, Il Duce's room is said not to have changed since the morning he left it.

The lake also features in a number of literary works, from Mark Twain's *The Innocents Abroad*, in which the American wanderer describes Lake Como in detail, to Ian Fleming's novel, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, in which Ernst Stavro Blofeld retreats to the area after his plans are foiled by James Bond.

And then, of course, many tourists will follow the Clooney trail, trying to 'bag' as many snaps outside celebrity residences as possible. There is nothing wrong with that, but most find the allure of Lake Como to be far from its famous residents and more about its transfixing beauty. ●



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NEWS ON WHEELS

Abu Dhabi Motors records growth in BMW Group sales

Abu Dhabi Motors has consolidated its position as the best performing BMW Group importer in the Middle East with 15 per cent growth over 2012 by delivering 6,155 vehicles across two brands. The growth was driven by an increase in sales of BMW's top-of-the-range models; the BMW X5 Sports Activity Vehicle (2,028), X6 Sports Activity Coupé (1,216), BMW 5 Series (917) and the BMW 7 Series (575) which consistently remain the best performing models.



"Our positive year-on-year results demonstrate the continued growth of the UAE's automotive industry and in particular, the strength of the Abu Dhabi Market," said Arno Husselmann, General Manager of Abu Dhabi Motors.

The MINI brand grew with 300 cars sold during 2013, an increase of 20 per cent, an impressive achievement deserving of the range of models MINI now offers. The most popular model was the MINI Countryman – the first MINI with four doors and a four-wheel drive option. In addition, contributing to the outstanding results was the MINI Hatch and the MINI Coupé with the news of the imminent arrival of the all-new MINI hatch due in the region by February.



This year, Abu Dhabi Motors will receive the all-new BMW 2 Series Coupé, 4 Series convertibles and the M3 Sedan all-new BMW M4 Coupé. The year will also feature the introduction of the all-new BMW 4 Series Gran Coupé, the six-cylinder variants of the BMW X5, the new BMW i8, and all-new BMW X4 and MINI hatch.

Box of tricks

GMC's top-end Terrain requires you to look past appearances to find its real qualities.

Let's get the negatives out of the way first: from the outside the GMC Terrain is no beauty. With its boxy shape and bulbous rear end, it's definitely not an example of form over function. There are some pleasing exterior design elements, such as the rugged but simple fog and headlight clusters, but they get lost in terrain's overall appearance.

But get past this and climb inside, you will be pleasantly surprised by general ambience of the interior. Crisp, red mood lighting spills out like a welcome mat, making it clear that the interior is obviously where the R&D money has been spent.

In the Denali version tested, the centre console includes a DVD player (with flip-up screens for the rear passengers) as well as a quality Pioneer sound system, Bluetooth connectivity, inputs for a wide range of electronic equipment, and a comprehensive sat nav.

The comfy leather seats

feature 8-way electronic adjustment and there is plenty of room for both front and rear passengers. Not to mention the added luxury of a powered tailgate which opens to give you 1,800 litres of cargo space with the second row of seats flattened.

Out on the road, the Terrain Denali offers a rather sedate ride and copes effortlessly with changes in terrain thanks to its fully independent suspension, 18-inch rims and four-wheel drive. The downside of this—despite the suspension being apparently sport tuned—also results in it being a bit soft in corners. It's difficult to judge the IQ of the intelligent all-wheel drive too, as it was all too easy to create and sustain understeer on Dubai's infamous cobbled roundabouts both in the dry and the wet.

This is surprising, as so much of the Terrain's other gadgetry is designed for road safety. There is the speed variable collision alert which warns when you are too close to the vehicle in front: lane depar-

ture alert which senses when you are drifting out of your lane without indicating; blind spot alert which warns you of vehicles approaching either side from behind; as well as the usual ABS, Stabilitrak, tyre pressure monitoring, rear video camera, sensors and numerous airbags.

The 3.6-litre V6 is the same engine as the heavier GMC Acadia, so the Terrain has a 0-100kmph time very close to the BMW X3.

The midsize crossover segment is extremely competitive with the likes of the Ford Escape, Infiniti QX50, Cadillac SRX and Jeep Grand Cherokee (to name just a few) all battling to lure in similar buyers. But at the end of the day, your choice will always come down to personal preference, and if you can get past the LEGO school of design exterior, then the GMC Terrain Denali may well be the vehicle for you. ●



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TECH NEWS

WD My Cloud allows easy data management

Today, we all enjoy and create gigabytes of digital content in our daily lives, whether it is downloading the latest music singles or movie trailers from iTunes on our notebooks or taking photographs of nights out with family or friends on our smartphones.



As a result, our lives descend into digital chaos with masses of content spread across our smartphones, tablets, notebooks and other computing devices. The question is: how do we make sure that we can access all this data from any of our devices whenever and wherever we want?

WD's newly launched My Cloud is a solution that allows consumers to centralise their data in one convenient location and from there, with the free to download My Cloud app, also allows end users to send data directly to the device from local or remote locations with ease.

As a result, consumers can also enjoy creating content without ever worrying about a lack of local storage on their devices, as My Cloud offers up to 4TB of storage of easily accessible storage.

My Cloud is available at select retailers: Dh588 for 2TB, Dh735 for 3TB and Dh882 for 4TB. The My Cloud mobile app is available for download from the App Store and Google Play Store. A two-drive and four-drive My Cloud configuration will be available in the future.



A whole new range of tech innovations work in tandem with smartphones.

The year of the add-ons

This year's edition of International CES, the biggest consumer electronics show of its kind, which wrapped up in Las Vegas last week, moved away from its traditional base of smartphones and TVs, with many new start-ups showcasing innovative 'add-ons' that add greater utility to gadgets we own.

Indeed, the fact that the show was so strong in its line-up of add-ons suggests that this segment of the tech world might well provide the next big trend.

To name just a handful, CES

brought innovations like a medical self-diagnosis tool, a case that can turn your phone into a stun gun, and another that turns an iPhone into a thermal imaging device.

The first, made by Silicon Valley-based start-up Scanadu, is a natural development of medical technology. Put simply, any type of sensor can be connected to a

Industry leader

This year's International CES ended as the largest in its history with a record 186,000 square feet of exhibit space playing host to over 3,200 exhibitors. More than 150,000 industry professionals made the trip to Las Vegas this year, including more than 35,000 from outside the United States.

smartphone as long as the software is coded correctly, and Scanadu's Scout unit can measure heart rate, respiratory rate, blood-oxygen levels, and skin and core temperature, as well as other important metrics.

The device then beams its readings to a smartphone app, which analyses them and files them away to build a trend line, allowing the user to form a good idea of his or her health over a period of time.

While the Scout is not yet available commercially, it is hoped that it will go on sale very soon following regulatory approval.

Used for completely different purposes, the Yellow Jacket iPhone taser case also made its debut in Las Vegas. Containing a battery and two electrodes to unleash 65,000 volts from the cover, the Dh370 device is designed for close-quarters combat.

However, the current is designed more as a deterrent than a disabler as the voltage will do no more than sting the assailant.

Another interesting innovation comes in the form of the FLIR One infrared, which is the first consumer-focused thermal imaging system for a smartphone, and allows users to literally see in the dark.

Again in the form of a smartphone case, the FLIR One contains a regular camera, an infrared camera and a battery pack. You could use it to 'light up' areas in the dark, check nooks and crannies, like your home's insulation and even play a high-tech version of hide and seek, although a price tag of Dh1,285 might preclude this use for most people.

However, this was all just the tip of the iceberg at CES, where many other gadgets gave tech lovers much to dream about over the coming 12 months. No doubt next year's event will have even more innovation, at the speed with which the world of add-ons is moving. ●

Tell us your thoughts: letters@readme.ae



MAKING SMARTPHONES EVEN SMARTER

Tech beat



BES CENTRAL TO BLACKBERRY

In an interview with phone blog Crackberry, new BlackBerry chief executive John Chen revealed that BlackBerry Enterprise Server is the key to restoring the beleaguered company's name. The idea is to pitch BES aggressively to companies who are still trying to get a better handle on how to manage devices that run on Android, iOS and Windows Phone.

APPS USE STILL GROWING

The app market continues to boom with Apple announcing that it made over \$10 billion in app sales in 2013. According to one analyst, overall app usage has grown by 115 per cent compared to the previous year, with social messaging apps like WhatsApp and Snapchat leading the charge.



GOOGLE SNAPS UP THERMOSTATS

Google has reached a deal with Nest, the smart thermostat maker. Google will pay \$3.2 billion for the company. "[Nest is] already delivering amazing products you can buy right now—thermostats that save energy and smoke/CO alarms that can help keep your family safe," said Google CEO Larry Page.



WINDOWS WORKING ON UPGRADE

With Windows 8 tanking under lukewarm response to the PC operating system, information has leaked from Microsoft that its replacement, going under the codename 'Threshold' will be released in April next year. So far, only 25 million users have upgraded to the latest version of Windows 8, showing a uniform despondency towards the current product.

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Avoiding email errors

As one of the most common forms of workplace communication, make sure your emails are on target.



SCAN BEFORE SENDING

COMMUNICATION

Knowing your way around your email inbox is without doubt crucial for your communication success at work, both internally and externally. In fact, some companies rely totally on emails for communication in order to reduce paper use as well as cut expenses. Since emails offer the convenience of the written word, while serving a legal purpose in case of a dispute, it is highly important to avoid getting caught in an embarrassing mistake that you could have easily avoided with a little more care. Akhtaboot reveals some of the most common work email blunders that you might be making.

NOT REPLYING TO THE SAME EMAIL THREAD

Remember that people receive

dozens of emails on a daily basis, so instead of having the person go back to their inbox to search for the last conversation he had with you, do him a favour and reply to the same thread when responding to keep track of what you previously discussed. This way you make it easier for both of you to skim through the previous conversation to refresh yourselves before responding back.

HOARDING INFORMATION

An evident sign of having trust issues is when employees are secretive, territorial and cautious around other team members. Information hoarding can be a result of personal insecurity or from past dealings with unethical or discriminatory management. It should be a leader's top priority to make communication a commitment for each team member

and assess them on this as part of the annual review. Make sure that the team is recognised for collaborative results and not just individual achievements and ensure that all members know that team success is their priority.

NOT 'REPLYING TO ALL'

Sometimes you send an email to one person and they respond by CCing their boss, assistant or colleague. When you email back, make sure that you 'Reply to All'. Make sure that you only use 'Reply to All' when you are confident that 'all' will be interested in the content of your response or need to be aware of what your reply contains.

RAMBLING ON UNPROFESSIONALLY

Do not repeat your idea over and over again. People will start skimming through your emails and may get bored and confused easily. Keep it short, direct and straight to the point. Focus on the real subject so you do not waste the time of the reader. Also, always keep a professional tone; ensure you have proper grammar, no spelling mistakes and no slang. Make sure you do not write in capitals as it gives

the impression that you are shouting. This can be highly annoying and may trigger an unwanted response.

“If the message is ambiguous, many people will automatically read the most negative emotions and intentions in it.”

ATTACHING UNNECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Before you attach a file to your email, you first need to know its size, format and you need to know if the person on the other side has the proper software to view it. When sending large attachments you can annoy customers and even bring down their email system, so wherever possible, try to compress attachments and only send attachments that are essential to your conversation.

RESPONDING WHEN YOU'RE EMOTIONAL

When we read an email, we attempt to read intention and tone into the words. If the message is ambiguous, many people will automatically read the most negative emotions and intentions in it. Email is simply not suitable for emotional conversations such as firing people, arguing or covering personal and sensitive topics with a medium that is notoriously open to misunderstanding. If you think there is room for misinterpretation of your message, take the time to craft the email to make sure your message is more likely to be received with your true intention. ●

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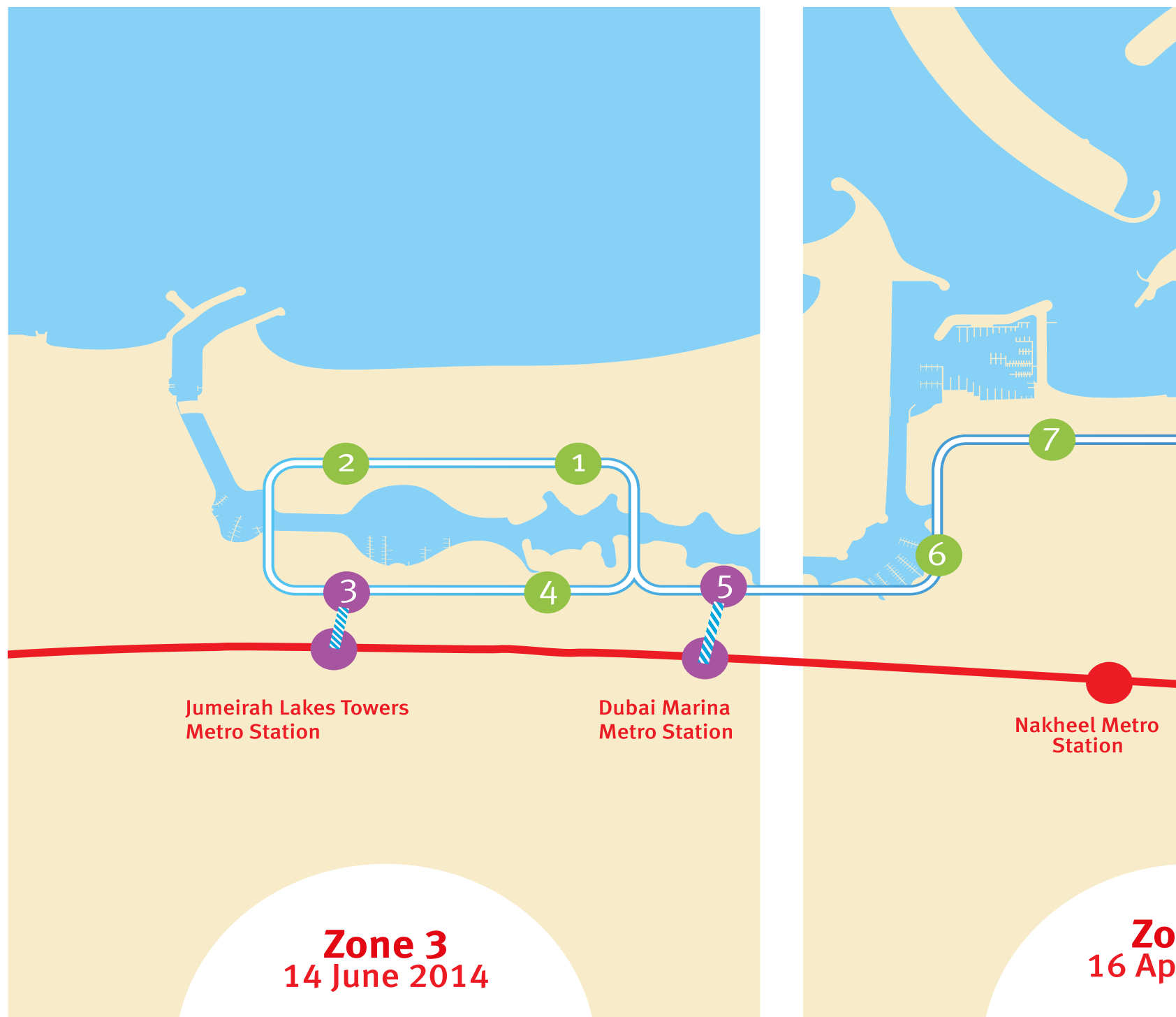
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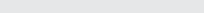


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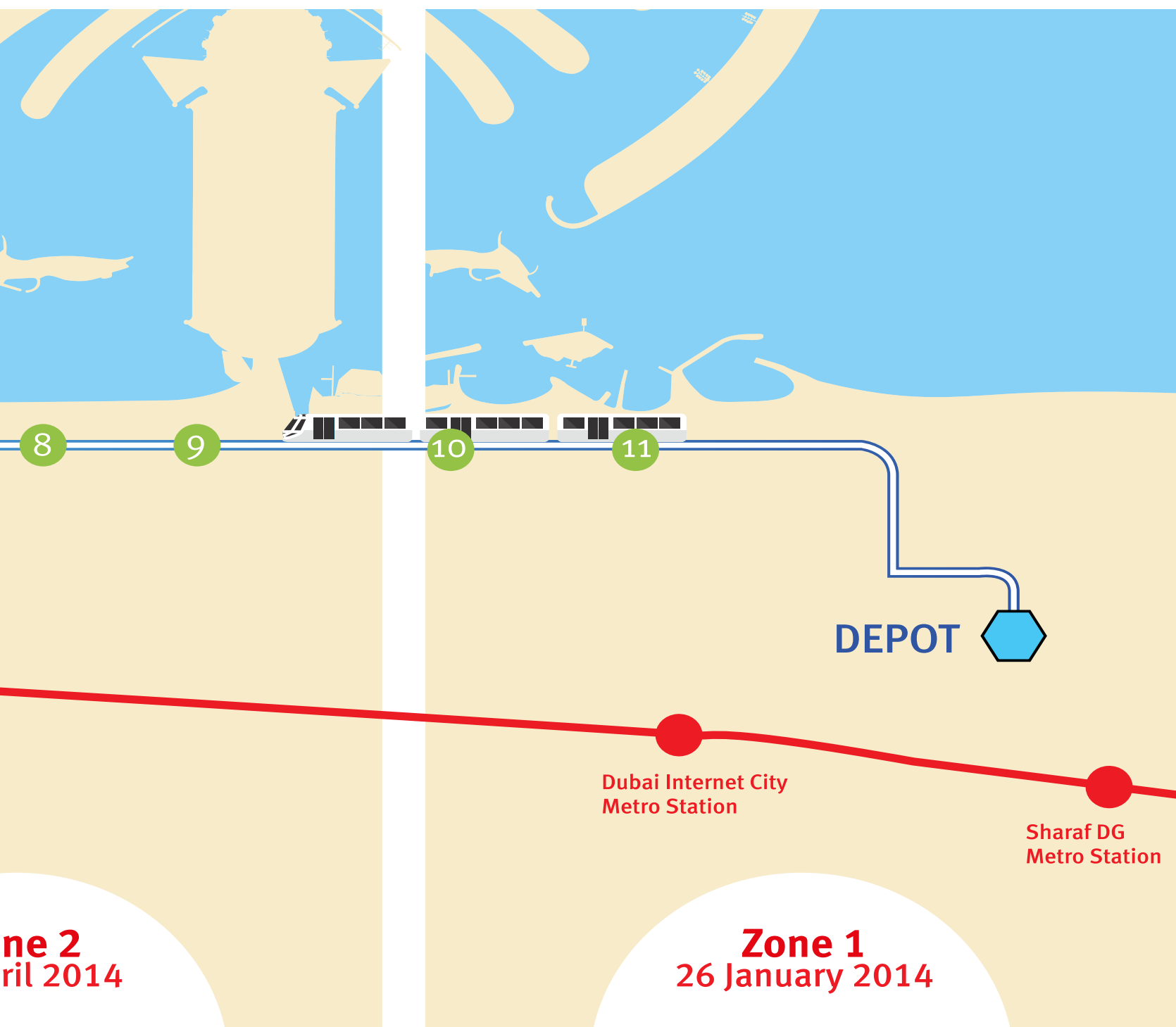
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Losing your locks

Hair loss affects residents in this part of the world for a variety of reasons.

Hair loss is a common problem for both sexes in the Middle East and is caused by several environmental and lifestyle factors. Numerous independent studies indicate that over 60 per cent of all expats who move to the region suffer from hair loss.

Amit Sodha, founder of Perfect Look Centre and a hair loss expert for the past 25 years says, "I've been in Dubai for the last 13 years and there is a significant increase in the number of people complaining about hair loss and hair problems. I attribute hair issues to extreme heat, sunlight, dust and even desalinated water. Additionally, Dubai has grown by leaps and bounds especially over the last 10 years and the fast paced lifestyle causes stress, nutritional deficiencies and even hormonal problems, which further leads to follicle problems."

Francoise Oostuizen, a South African national who moved to Dubai over five years ago reveals, "I noticed an alarming increase in hair fall after moving to Dubai. I discussed it with a few friends and realised that it is a common problem in the region. The heat has definitely affected the quality of my hair and made it thinner than before."

While it's true that men are more likely to lose their hair than women, mostly due to male pattern baldness, hair loss is also becoming common in women. There are many reasons for this such as a vitamin deficiency, an underlying health condition, any kind of physi-

cal trauma which can cause stress, a lack of protein in the diet and hereditary factors.

"There are several treatments available in the market today but they can be expensive or take a long time to show significant results. I treat both men and women and recommend certain products to them. There is one very popular brand in the UK and it has been recently launched in Dubai to provide residents with thicker, fuller hair," says Sodha.

So, if you've noticed that your locks are looking a little less than lustrous since moving to Dubai, it would seem you are not alone. But, for those who wish to hold onto their mane, there is hope. ●

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW?



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THE WEEKLY

EXCLUSIVELY ON THE DUBAI METRO

Style

file

Currently starring in *Thor 2: The Dark World*, **Natalie Portman** has been a firm fashion favourite for many years.

2002

In 2002, Natalie proved that she was made for Hollywood in a fitted, nautical dress. The tailoring complemented her petite frame while the cute kitten heels completed the feminine look. A chic up-do highlighted her naturally pretty features.

“The tailoring complemented her petite frame.”

2004

Natalie proved that she could rock old-school glamour in a stunning 1920s inspired, delicately embroidered cream lace dress. The drop waist suited her tiny frame perfectly and the strappy gold sandals and drop pearl earrings added a touch of opulence to the outfit. The retro hairstyle helped portray the vintage and classic look.

2006

In 2006, Natalie opted for a cropped pixie hairstyle reminiscent of Audrey Hepburn. Proving that a little black dress is a failsafe option on the red carpet, the actress looked beautiful in a dainty black lace prom-style dress. The bustier accentuated the star's tiny waist and showed off her slender arms. The modest length of the dress and barely-there, strappy sandals added to the classic look.

2005

The young actress showed commitment to her craft in 2008 by shaving her head for a role. On the red carpet, she chose to wear a floor-length sparkly black dress with spaghetti straps. The ruffles made the star's figure appear more curvaceous while the dark hue highlighted her fresh, glowing complexion.



“Natalie wore a white ballerina-style dress that was almost foretelling for her future role as the *Black Swan*.”



2008

In 2008 Natalie wore a white ballerina-style dress that was almost foretelling for her future role as the *Black Swan*. Her hair was swept into a side parting and pinned for an elegant style. A pair of strappy ankle heels added the finishing touches.

2009

Like any 28-year-old, Natalie showed off her versatility in a vibrant, patterned mini dress. The hot pink and purple hues looked great against the star's olive skin tone. The actress manages to strike a balance between fun and elegant with the puffball shape.



2011

With a natural pregnancy glow, Natalie looked glorious in an off the shoulder, full-length purple Rodarte gown embellished with Swarovski crystals at the 2011 Oscars. The actress teamed the gown with black strappy Jimmy Choo shoes, Tiffany and Co. jewelry and a Roger Vivier clutch.



2013

At the premiere for *Thor 2*, Natalie showed she is a deserving leading lady in a gorgeous, 1950s inspired dress. The plunging neckline shows Natalie's glamorous side, while the pretty, floral detailing reflects her feminine and elegant style. Portman also showed her love of T-bar sandals in a gold, strappy open-toed pair.



Parkland misses the mark

The latest JFK picture lacks the analysis that audiences are yearning for, even 50 years after the event.

NEW RELEASE

Barely two months after the world's documentary makers had a field day with the 50th anniversary of President John F Kennedy's death on November 22, the first major film on the subject has been released.

Based on the book *Four Days in November: The Assassination of President John F Kennedy* by Vincent Bugliosi, *Parkland* tells the story of the fraught and chaotic events in Dallas following the shooting of Kennedy and attempts by medical teams to save him. It claims to be the 'ferocious, heart-stopping and powerful true story never told of the people behind the scenes of one of the most scrutinised events in history'

However, in spite of an all-star cast that includes Zac Efron, Paul Giamatti, Billy Bob Thornton and Marcia Gay Harden, critics have given the movie a lukewarm reception.

According to the *New Yorker*, "Kennedy specialists will glean nothing new, and those hoping for sobriety will flinch at the camera's intrusions."

The film's title refers to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy was transferred after the incident, and where a medical team fought against the odds to repair the damage caused by Lee Harvey Oswald's bullets.



Did you know?

Especially considering that *Parkland* is based on a true story and depicts real-life people, it is unexpected to see on the final credits the line: "All characters in this film are fictional and any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental."

Director Peter Landesman has borrowed much from the book, and from reality to put together the disparate events that followed the shooting. We follow the Oswald family, from the time Robert Oswald hears his



FAILING TO DELIVER

brother's name mentioned on the radio for the first time, to the motel where Robert and his crazy mother are taken for their own safety.

We track Abraham Zapruder (Giamatti), who inadvertently caught footage of the shooting on his home video camera, witness the authorities taking him to a nearby Kodak film lab to process his film, and then sit in on Zapruder's attempts to hand over his tapes to *Life* magazine.

And then, of course, we are immersed in the efforts made by doctors and nurses to find some desperate way to bring life back to the president after such a lethal shooting.

The trouble with this picture is that it weaves together these elements of the real-life events with reasonable accuracy, but doesn't give them a sense of place

“It delivers a sense of gravity that is then taken away because it doesn't deliver anything new to a well-told story.”

and relativity. Instead, it tries to be a jack of all trades and ends up as a master of none.

By using real footage from the events that unfolded that fateful day on Elm Street, it delivers a sense of gravity that is then taken away because it doesn't deliver anything new to a well-told story.

Audiences want conspiracy theories and analysis when they are brought to examine historical events—like the 'angle' a good journalist searches to find. But, while not a bad film, *Parkland* is not Oliver Stone's *JFK*, which found that angle. Rather, it is just a series of chapters based on one event. ●



FACT OR FICTION?

Listings

THE READ. WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT THE MOVIES.

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Dedh Ishqiya - 11:00, 17:10, 23:15
Dhoom 3 - 13:50, 20:00
Esh El Bolbol - 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00
Free Birds - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00
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Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Karle Pyaar Karle - 10:00, 14:40, 19:20, 00:00
Lunch Box - 12:20, 17:00, 21:40
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:15, 21:35, 23:45
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
The Past - 21:25, 23:50
Philomena - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
Shoalay (3D) - 12:00, 15:50, 19:40, 23:30
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

Grand Megaplex - Ibn Battuta

47 Ronin - 12:00, 14:20, 16:40, 19:00, 21:25, 23:45
August: Osage County - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Black Rock - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
The Book Thief - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Dedh Ishqiya - 21:00, 23:50
Dhoom 3 - 10:00, 13:10, 16:20, 19:30, 22:40
Drishyam - 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Esh El Bolbol - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00
Free Birds - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30
Frozen - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Homefront - 22:00, 00:00

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 10:00, 12:50, 15:40, 18:20
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:40, 13:10, 14:50, 15:20, 15:50, 17:00, 17:30, 18:00, 19:10, 19:40, 20:10, 21:20, 21:50, 22:20, 23:30, 00:00, 00:30
Jilla - 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Karle Pyaar Karle - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00
Last Vegas - 22:00, 00:10
Lunch Box - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:15, 21:35, 23:45
The Past - 11:45, 14:10, 16:35, 19:00, 21:25, 23:50
Philomena - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
Shoalay (3D) - 12:00, 15:50, 19:40, 23:30
Walking With Dinosaurs - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

Grand Cinemas - Festival City

47 Ronin - 16:30, 19:00, 21:25, 23:50
August: Osage County - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Black Rock - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
The Book Thief - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Dedh Ishqiya - 20:30, 23:20
Dhoom 3 - 11:00, 14:10, 17:20
Esh El Bolbol - 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00
Free Birds - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00
Frozen - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 11:00, 12:00, 13:10, 14:10, 15:20, 16:20, 17:30, 18:30, 19:40, 20:40, 21:50, 22:50, 00:00, 01:00
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00
Out Of The Furnace - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:15, 21:35, 23:45
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 21:00, 23:00
Philomena - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Walking With Dinosaurs - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

Grand Cinecity - Al Ghurair

Dedh Ishqiya - 11:00, 17:10, 23:20
Dhoom 3 - 14:00, 20:10
Drishyam - 17:00, 20:00, 23:00
Esh El Bolbol - 10:30, 15:00, 19:30, 00:00
Free Birds - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30
Frozen - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30, 19:40, 21:50, 00:00
Jilla - 17:30, 20:40, 23:50
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00
Karle Pyaar Karle - 12:20, 17:00, 21:40
Lunch Box - 10:00, 14:40, 19:20, 00:00
The Past - 12:30, 17:00, 21:30
Shoalay (3D) - 19:15, 23:00
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

Reel Cinemas - Dubai Mall

47 Ronin - 11:35, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 23:55
August: Osage County - 11:25
Black Rock - 13:50, 15:40, 17:35, 19:30, 21:25, 23:20, 01:10
The Book Thief - 11:20, 13:55, 16:30, 19:10, 21:50, 00:25
Captain Phillips - 11:05, 16:35, 22:10
Frozen - 13:25, 18:05
Frozen (3D) - 11:10, 15:45, 20:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 11:15, 16:40, 22:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire - 13:45, 19:15, 00:50
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 11:00, 13:10, 15:25, 17:40, 19:55, 22:10, 00:25
Out Of The Furnace - 11:05, 13:25, 15:50, 18:15, 20:40, 23:05, 01:25
Philomena - 11:45, 13:50, 16:00, 18:10, 20:20, 22:30, 00:35
The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty - 14:20, 19:50, 01:20

The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:10, 16:55, 19:40, 22:25, 01:05
Thor: The Dark World - 22:30, 00:50

Reel Cinemas - Marina Mall

August: Osage County - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:05, 21:35, 00:05
Frozen (3D) - 11:00, 13:20, 15:35, 17:50, 20:05
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 12:10, 14:25, 16:45, 19:00, 21:20, 22:20, 23:35, 00:30
Out Of The Furnace - 11:20, 13:45, 16:15, 18:45, 21:15, 23:40
Philomena - 11:10, 13:20, 15:30, 17:40, 19:50, 22:00, 00:10
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:25, 14:10, 16:55, 19:45, 22:30

Vox Cinemas - Deira City Centre

Dedh Ishqiya - 12:15, 15:15, 18:15, 21:15, 00:15
Dhoom 3 - 09:45, 13:15, 16:45, 20:15, 23:45
Drishyam - 10:15, 13:30, 16:45, 20:00, 23:15
Fast And Furious 6 (4D) - 14:30
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 09:30, 11:45, 14:00, 16:15, 18:45, 21:00, 23:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (4D) - 10:00, 12:15, 17:15, 19:35, 22:00, 00:15
Jilla - 10:00, 13:30, 17:00, 19:30, 20:30, 00:00
Justin And The Knights Of Valour (3D) - 10:00, 11:00, 13:00
Karle Pyaar Karle - 11:15, 13:45, 16:15, 18:45, 21:15, 23:45
Lunch Box - 11:15, 13:45, 16:15, 18:45, 21:15, 23:45
Shoalay (3D) - 23:45
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:30, 14:30, 16:00, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Zinda Bhaag - 11:00, 14:15, 17:30, 20:45, 00:00

Vox Cinemas - Mall of the Emirates

August: Osage County - 11:15, 11:30, 13:45,

15:45, 16:15, 18:45, 19:30, 21:15, 23:45
The Book Thief - 09:45, 12:30, 15:15, 18:00, 20:45, 23:30
Dedh Ishqiya - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Frozen (3D) - 09:30, 12:00, 14:30, 17:00, 19:30, 22:00
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:15, 16:30, 19:45, 23:00
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 10:00, 10:30, 12:15, 14:00, 14:30, 16:45, 18:15, 19:15, 21:30, 23:45
Justin And The Knights Of Valour (3D) - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:30
Khumba - 09:30, 11:30, 13:30
Philomena - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:45, 19:00, 21:15, 23:30
The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty - 10:45, 13:15, 15:40, 18:10, 20:45, 23:15
Shoalay (3D) - 11:30, 15:30, 19:30, 22:30, 23:30
Tarzan - 10:00, 12:15
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:00, 12:45, 14:00, 16:30, 17:00, 20:00, 20:30, 23:00, 23:30, 00:30
Zinda Bhaag - 11:00, 14:15, 17:30, 20:45, 00:00

Vox Cinemas - Mirdif City Centre

Dhoom 3 - 16:30, 20:00, 23:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug - 10:00, 13:15, 21:30
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit - 09:30, 10:00, 10:30, 12:00, 12:45, 14:15, 14:30, 15:00, 16:30, 17:15, 19:00, 19:30, 21:45, 00:00
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (4D) - 09:30, 10:15, 11:45, 14:00, 16:15, 18:15, 18:30, 20:45, 21:45, 23:00, 23:15, 01:15
Justin And The Knights Of Valour - 12:30, 17:00
Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones - 21:30, 01:00
Shoalay (3D) - 11:15, 15:15, 19:15, 23:15
The Wolf Of Wall Street - 11:00, 12:30, 14:00, 15:30, 17:00, 18:50, 20:00, 20:30, 23:00, 00:00
Zinda Bhaag - 11:00, 14:15, 17:30, 20:45, 00:00

What's happening this week in the UAE

Africa from Mother to Motherboard



This exhibition highlights the effects of colonisation in Africa through the works of two photographers.
Date: January 21
Time: 7 - 10pm
Venue: The Empty Quarter, DIFC
Admission: Free
More info: 04 323 1210

Texas Live in Dubai

The famous 1990s band Texas will rock Dubai.
Date: January 23
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Irish Village
Admission: Dh175
More info: 04 239 5000



Standard Chartered Dubai Marathon 2014



Whether you participate in the run or cheer on other participants, show your support for this healthy outdoor activity.
Date: January 24
Time: 7am
Venue: Dubai Police Academy, Umm Suqeim
Admission: 42km Dh440, 10km Dh220, 3km Dh55
More info: 04 433 5669

A Musical Evening! Part 2

The Emirates LitFest will celebrate the written and spoken word in its many forms.
Date: January 25
Time: 7pm
Venue: Al Fahidi Historic Area
Admission: Free
More info: 04 353 4002



Dubai Shopping Festival 2014



The Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) is a shoppers' and entertainment paradise.
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Venue: Citywide
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Hollywood news

Happy couple



She may have played second fiddle to sister Jessica on many occasions, but now it's Ashlee Simpson's turn to shine. The singer and her partner Evan Ross, son of legendary soul star Diana Ross, recently announced their engagement on Twitter, with Ross sharing a pic of the couple captioned: "The love of my life said YES!!!!!!"

Lea gets loud

After the tragic death of her boyfriend Cory Monteith last year, Lea Michele is back in the public eye with a strong, defiant approach to life, music and her career. The *Glee* actress last week released the third single from her album, title track *Louder*, to rave reviews from fans.



Shia's copycat showdown



FEELING SHAMEFUL, SHIA?

Actor Shia LeBeouf has been the subject of Hollywood gossip for the past week after a series of bizarre incidents. The drama began after LeBeouf plagiarised the work of artist Daniel Clowes for his own short film.

Clowes' legal team sent a letter to the star that included the line, "he must stop all efforts to create". LeBeouf promptly posted the letter on Twitter, then penned one of his own to apologise.

LeBeouf claimed he would be "retiring from all public life" following "recent attacks against my artistic integrity". He also claimed, "My love goes out to those who have supported me", but his apology wasn't without a hint of a jibe at Clowes' letter as he finished his message with: "#stopcreating".

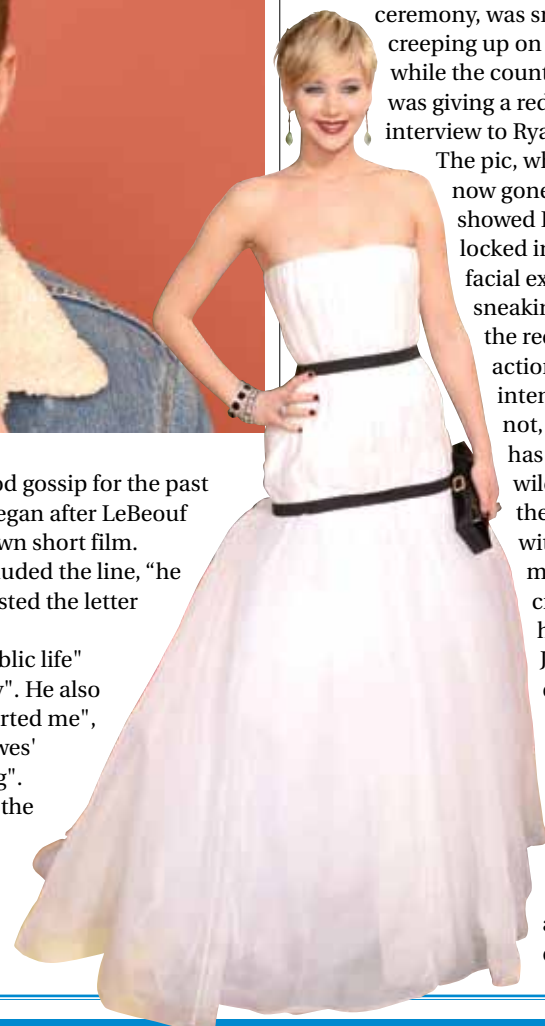
Comedian Jim Carrey then went on to poke fun at the situation at the Golden Globes, after which LeBeouf took to his favourite weapon again—you've guessed it, Twitter—slamming Carrey's parenting skills. He later followed this with an apologetic Tweet. Somebody change his Twitter password, now.

Jennifer the joker

It seems the celebs are still just as fond of a good photobomb as we are, well, that's if Jennifer Lawrence's sneaky pic with Taylor Swift at last week's Golden Globes is anything to go by. The actress, who was famously photobombed herself by Jack Nicholson at last year's Oscars ceremony, was snapped creeping up on Swift while the country singer was giving a red carpet interview to Ryan Seacrest.



The pic, which has now gone viral, showed Lawrence locked in a hilarious facial expression sneaking up behind the red carpet action. Whether intentional or not, the image has spread like wildfire across the internet, with various memes created to honour J-Law's expert timing and comical approach to the often highbrow nature of serious awards ceremonies.



Bollywood news

Katrina vs. Katrina?

After leaving a year gap between her two latest flicks, it seems as though a clash could be on the cards for Katrina Kaif. While her upcoming movie *Bang Bang* has already been finalised for an October 2 release, rumours are rife that another Kaif starrer, *Phantom*, could also hit screens on that date.



No surprises

Rani Mukherjee and Aditya Chopra have made their upcoming wedding public knowledge. Seeing as most Bollywood fans already knew the 'secret', and considering that the pair have chosen to stay private before, the sudden publicity drive is causing many to question the revelation.



Being Salman

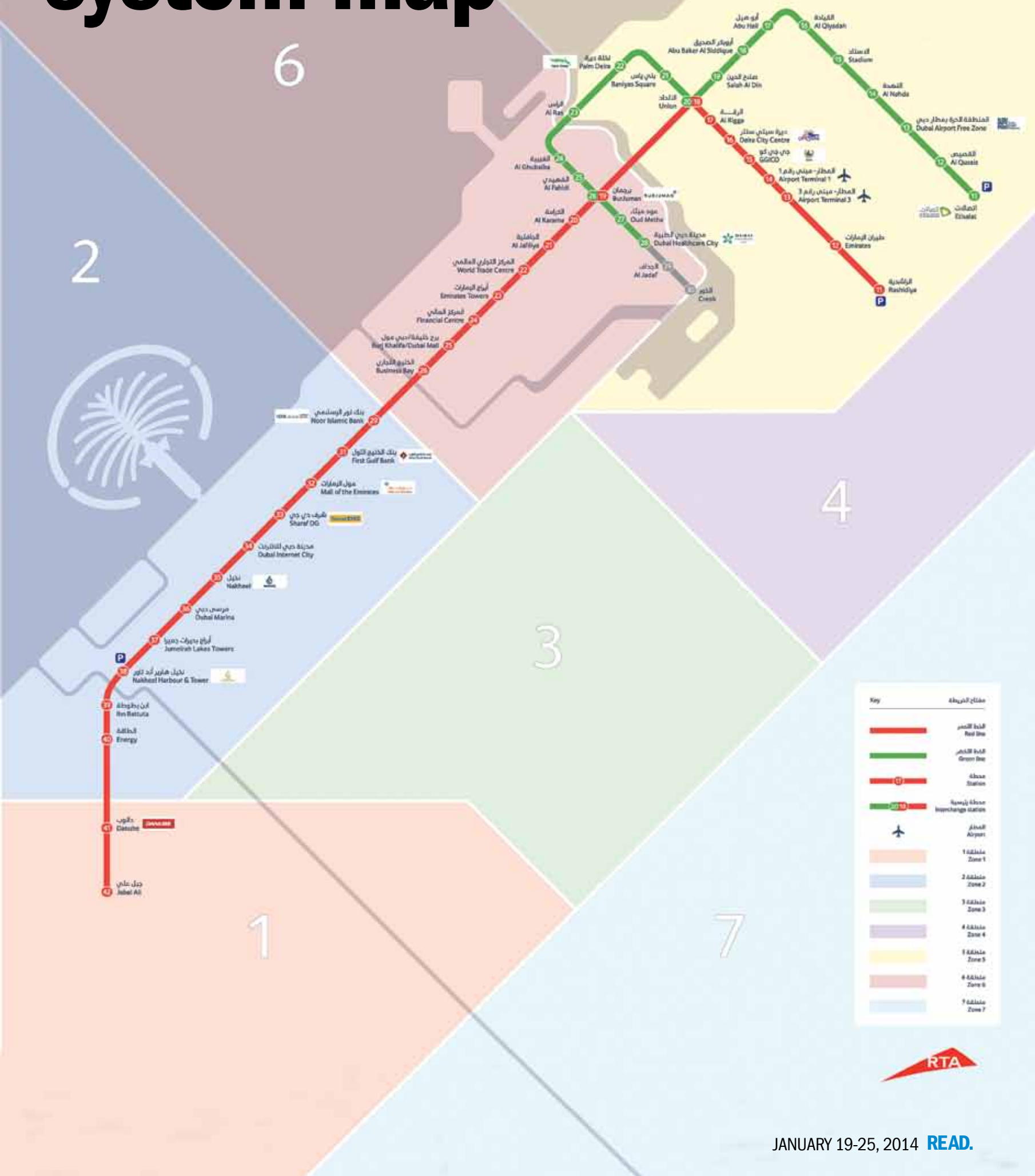
He has proven his philanthropic side with his clothing line, Being Human, but it seems Salman Khan is taking his charity work even further by producing a film, with all revenues (after costs) going to charity. It is not known if Salman will appear on screen, but the production company will be named 'Being Filmy'.



In luck

After a rather turbulent 2013, Bollywood favourite Akshay Kumar seemed as though he could do with a little bit of good luck. And, if sources are to be believed, his fortunes could now be changing after news that his upcoming movie, *Gabbar*, has been locked in for a big money deal with Viacom 18 studios.

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Drop Off: 2:00pm

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- Tanura Show
- Background Music

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Pick Up: 3:00pm & Drop Off: 7:00pm

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Full time job available for a motorcycle rider and pickup driver for a courier company. Must have knowledge of all roads and areas in Dubai. Send your CV to info@armanexpress.com.

Office boy required for a software company. Please send your CV to victoryfalcon9@gmail.com.

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Female nail technician and manicurist required for an award-winning group in spa and beauty industry. Please send your CV to spaoperations@hotmail.com.

A reputed furniture company and The Leather Doctor company are looking for a curtain maker cum installer with Gulf experience in Dubai. Send your CV to theleatherdoctor@gmail.com or call 043806880.

Filipino beautician required for a ladies salon located in Sharjah. Interested candidates call 065752692 or 0505307192.

Looking for an extra income? Flexible timing, simple and legal part-time job available. Preferably Filipinos. For inquiries, call 0555571784.

JOBS WANTED



Recovery and collection officer is looking for a suitable job. Call 0553658449 or send an email to heidwardclark@rocketmail.com.

Indian male diploma holder seeks job as MEP QA/QC engineer. Has 4 years of experience in the UAE. Call 0553224086 or send an email to njnneel@gmail.com.

Job required for an electrical engineer with 2 years of experience in the same

field. Call 0558371317 or send an email to ananthualways@gmail.com.

Indian male on visit visa, BS commerce graduate with UAE experience, is looking for any suitable job. Call 0553254753.

CCNA and MSCE graduate seeks job in networking or in any suitable IT position. Has 5 years of experience in the same field. Call 0561702113 or send an email to aslambcs@yahoo.com.

Male, BS commerce graduate on visit visa looking for a suitable job. Has 7 years of experience in admin, accounts, management and IT fields. Call 0563546762.

Indian male (BE mechanical) graduate seeks job as procurement engineer. Has 5 years of experience in UAE. Call 0566171231 or send an email to faiz.javid@gmail.com.

Indian male on visit visa, BBM CA and MBA marketing graduate, is looking for any suitable job. Call 0567989024 or send an email to jubingeorgek@gmail.com.

Dutch female on husband's visa seeks job as software tester or system administrator. Has 7 years of experience in IT field. Specialised in financial system and web applications. Speaks Dutch, English and German. Send an email to tester@viemail.nl.

CCNA and MSCE graduate and registered computer system engineer seeks job in networking or in any suitable IT position. Call 0566791985 or send an email to muddasirislam@gmail.com.

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Mitsubishi Lancer Ex 2.0 2011 model available for sale. In excellent condition. Fully automatic. Price Dh35,000. Bank loan will be arranged. No down payment. First payment is after four months. Call 0566234236.

Honda Civic 2008 model in white colour available for sale. In excellent condition. Family owned car. Serious buyers please call 0561770113.

Honda Civic 2007 model in silver colour available for urgent sale. Fully automatic. Price Dh23,500. Call 0563699595 or 0554278899.

Toyota Yaris 2011 model available for sale. In excellent condition. Fully automatic. Price Dh32,000. Bank loan will be arranged. No down payment. First payment is after four months. Call 0529398097.

MISCELLANEOUS



Fast approval of personal loan. No salary transfer and bank statement required. Requires a minimum salary of Dh5,000. Call 0504371523.

Apply for a credit card and personal loan with less documentation. Call 0555413834.

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Fast approval of personal and auto loan. No salary transfer or bank statement required. Call 0505590093.

Fast approval of personal and auto loan. No salary transfer required. Call 0563628279.

Instant and easy documentation for loans. Personal loan requires a minimum salary of Dh4,000 and company accommodation. Dh3,000 only for car loan. Call 0567460165.

Apply for Dubai visit visa for Dh499 for 30 days and Dh400 for 14 days. Call 0529229271 or 0552712454.

Personal and auto loan services available. Get a loan for your personal needs or to buy a new or second-hand car. Call 0501554712.

Quick and speedy approval of personal loan. Minimum required salary is Dh4,500 plus accommodation or incentives. Call 0559319105.

Get quick cash starting from Dh25,000 for business, self-employed and personal purposes. Call Alex at 0507622842.

ACCOMMODATION



6 rooms available for Filipino family only. Located near Al Rashidiya Metro Station. For inquiries call 0502547664.

Bed space available from February 1 for Keralite bachelor. Located near Naif area in Deira. Monthly rent Dh650 plus Dewa. Call 0558583010.

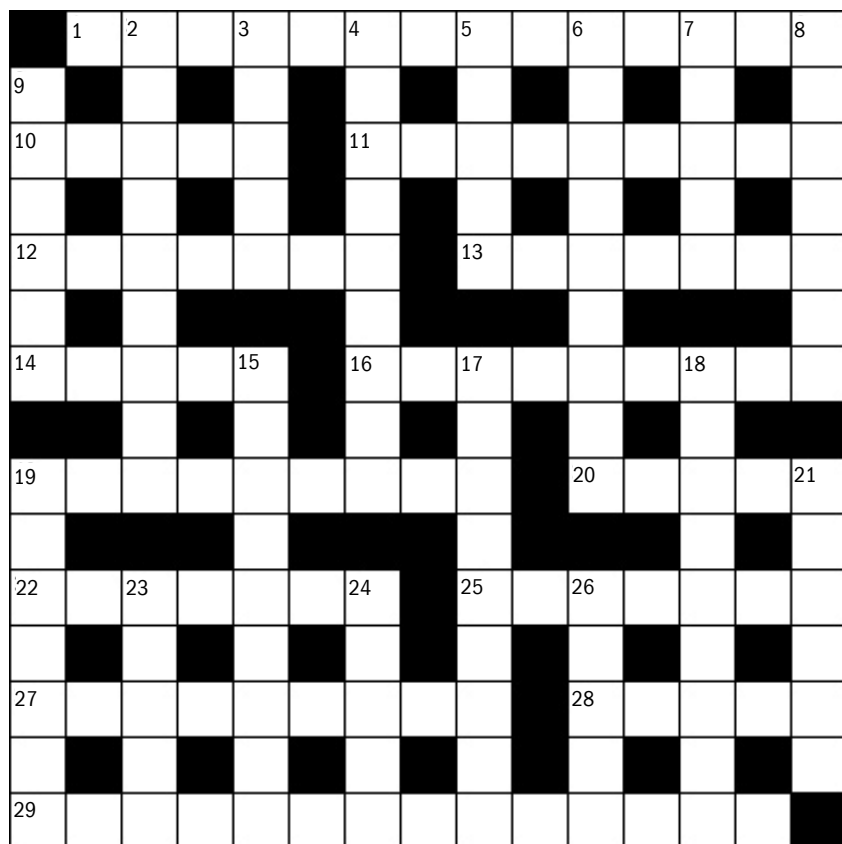
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New room available in February for executive bachelors. Located near Abu Baker Al Siddique Metro Station in Hor Al Anz area. Call 0505285795 or 0553590496.

Room available for a small South Indian family. Located in Naif area near Sunrise and Talal supermarkets. Call 0504952906.

Taking your time

Ponder over our puzzles, relish a new recipe and catch up with our cartoons.



Crossword

Across

1 Leniency (14) **10** Rectify or change (5) **11** A nearby galaxy (9) **12** Rod-shaped bacteria (7) **13** Photographing broken bones (7) **14** Simplified (5) **16** Horribly afraid (9) **19** Dishonoured (9) **20** Boredom (5) **22** Philosopher (7) **25** See (7) **27** Citizen of Reykjavik (9) **28** Coral island (5) **29** Not marked by distinctions (14)

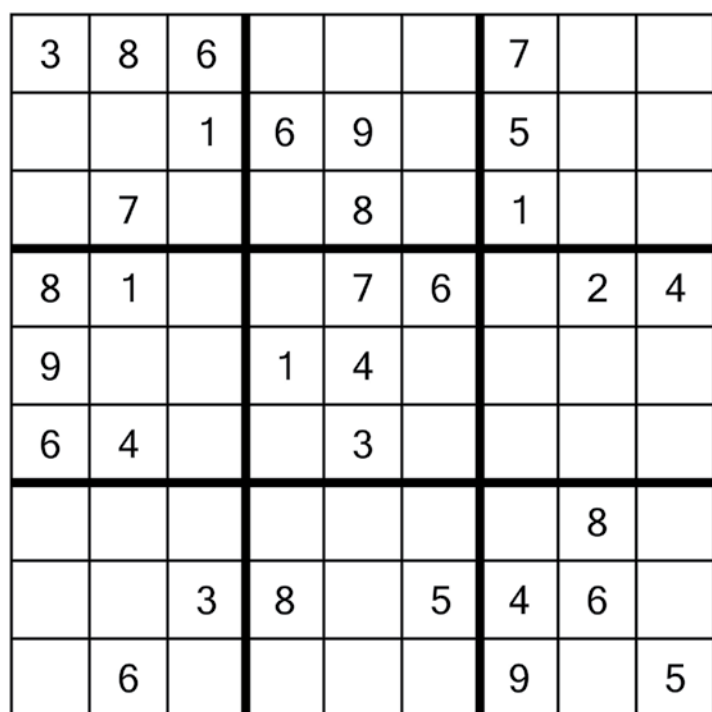
Down

2 Physical work-out (9) **3** Of form, not of substance (5) **4** A piece of numerical data (9) **5** An alphabetical listing of topics (5) **6** Serving to bring to mind (9) **7** A resin used in incense (5) **8** Caught (7) **9** Monkey-bread tree (6) **15** The St. Louis baseball team (9) **17** A message via wireless telegraphy (9) **18** Deepest within oneself (9) **19** A loose African men's tunic (7) **21** Paragons (6) **23** Beg (5) **24** Royal house of Britain (5) **26** Mar (5)

ANSWERS



Sudoku



Recipe

Pecan pie

This nutty and sweet pie makes a perfect, home-comfort dessert.

Ingredients

110g unsalted butter
110g golden syrup
1 tsp vanilla extract
225g brown sugar
3 eggs, beaten
1 x 245g shop-bought shortcrust pastry case
285g pecan nuts, halved

Serves
6



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C and lightly grease a large baking tray or tin that will comfortably fit the ready-made pastry case.
2. Melt the butter, golden syrup, vanilla extract and sugar in a saucepan over low heat.
3. Once the ingredients have melted into a smooth blend, remove the pan from heat and leave to cool for around five minutes.
4. Add beaten eggs to the butter

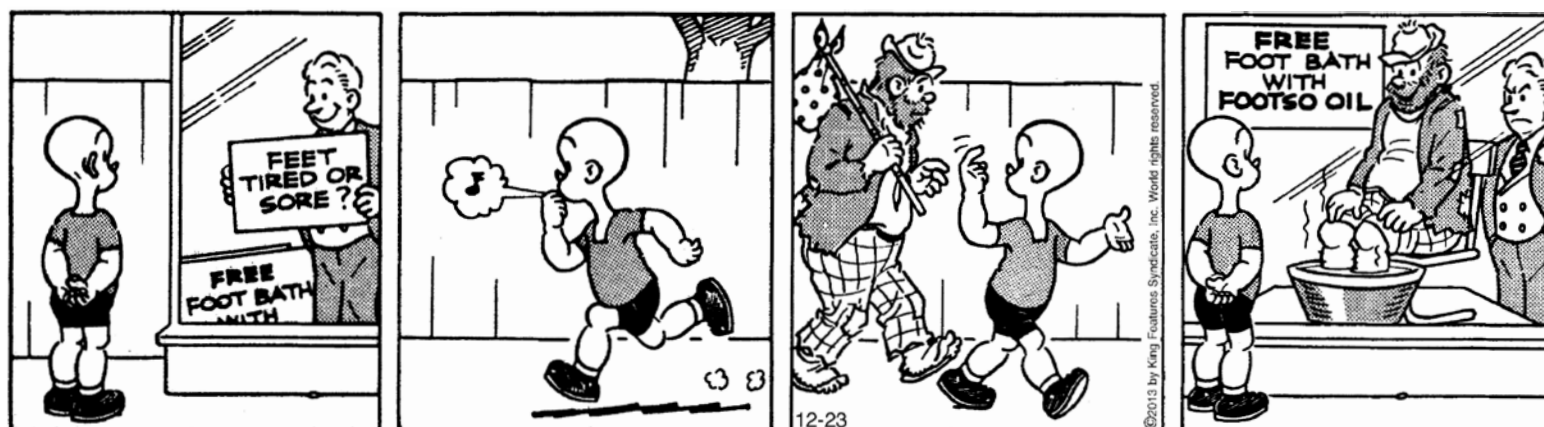
mixture and stir well.
5. Set aside a small handful of the pecan nuts, then arrange the remaining pecan halves evenly in the pastry case. Once the nuts are spread evenly, gently pour the syrup mixture over the top.
6. Place the pie into the preheated oven and bake for around 45 minutes, or until the crust turns golden-brown and the filling is still slightly soft.
7. Remove the pie from the baking tin and leave to cool on a wire tray. Decorate the top with the reserved pecan halves, then slice and serve with a dollop of cream.

ANSWERS

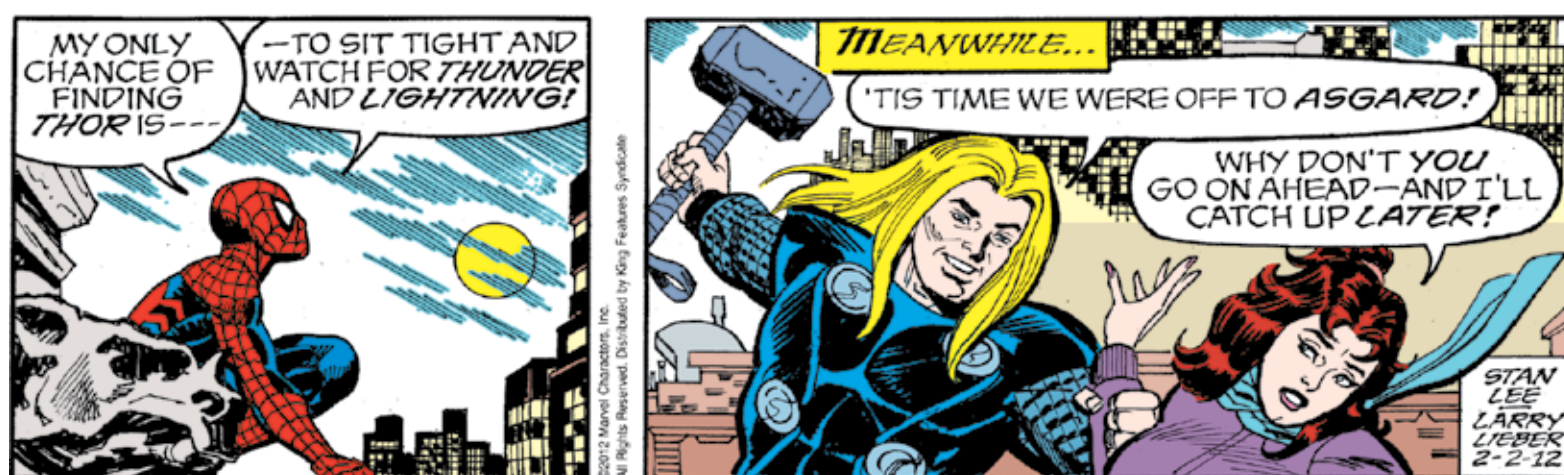
SUDOKU

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

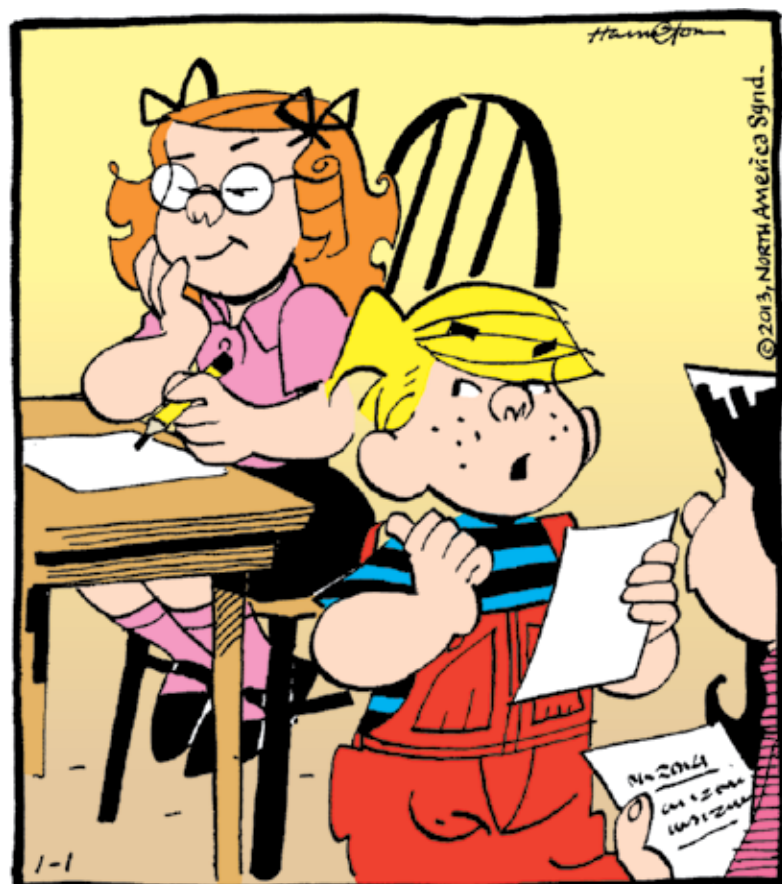
Henry



Spiderman



Dennis the menace



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Spot the 10 differences



What's in your stars?

The *Read.* astrologer tells you what you can expect over the next seven days.

ARIES

(MAR 21 - APR 20)

It may be that a friend could do with some advice and, as always, you will be their first port of call. If it's something you genuinely can't help with, though, be sure to tell him or her straight away. They need genuine advice, not just a few friendly suggestions.



TAURUS

(APR 21 - MAY 21)

For some time now you may have felt as though there is something missing from your life. This void was always filled by shopping or adventure, but as you grow older it's starting to feel more raw with each passing year. Take stock now before it's too late.



GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUN 21)

You might receive an exciting invitation from a close friend that gives you something to greatly look forward to. This couldn't come at a better time, as a lack of money and a large amount of work will leave you daydreaming more than usual.



CANCER

(JUN 22 - JUL 23)

A new project is starting to take shape and there looks to be a busy few weeks ahead of you. Don't get carried away with the excitement of it all however, as you will be required to think on your feet when it comes to making an important decision.



LEO

(JUL 24 - AUG 23)

Patience really is a virtue, although this is something you have always struggled with, Leo. Someone in particular will test your nerves this week but try to keep a calm head and understand that they are not deliberately trying to provoke you.



VIRGO

(AUG 24 - SEP 23)

It might seem as though everyone else is able to go out and party at the drop of a hat, while family or work commitments often prevent you from joining in. It might boost your self-confidence if you set aside one night per week for fun and frolics.



LIBRA

(SEP 24 - OCT 23)

Keep a close eye on your health this week as your erratic schedule could leave you open to picking up all sorts of bugs. Try to rest up as much as possible in order to give your immune system the best chance it can have for fighting off any invaders.



SCORPIO

(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Tensions are building between you and a particular relative. Trying to prove you are right is just not going to work with this person, so try and reach an agreement to disagree. Seeing you bicker is only causing hurt for other family members.



SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

Although you know that it's vital to take it easy every now and then, you often seem unable to hand over control. It is imperative that you start delegating and letting go; why work your knuckles to the bone when there's no need to do so?



CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 - JAN 20)

There could be an exciting announcement on the horizon, which will work wonders to boost your spirits. The good news fills you with hope and a renewed positive energy, so use this boost to start seriously pursuing a goal of your own.



AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 - FEB 19)

A recent drive to get various areas of your life sorted has given you a whole new lease of life and left you feeling as though certain shackles have been broken. There are those who could do with a sprinkle of this positivity, so share the good vibes.



PISCES

(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

A lack of confidence is still affecting you and, unfortunately, hurtful comments from a loved one will only make you feel worse this week. Although it's hard to hear, perhaps they are only telling you the naked truth to help you in the long run?



This week's local weather

SUN

19th

CLOUDY
HIGH 23C
LOW 19C
HUMIDITY 32%

MON

20th

WARM
HIGH 23C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 28%

TUE

21st

CLOUDY
HIGH 22C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 29%

WED

22nd

WARM
HIGH 24C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 27%

THU

23rd

WARM
HIGH 23C
LOW 19C
HUMIDITY 22%

FRI

24th

CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 22C
LOW 19C
HUMIDITY 34%

SAT

25th

CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 23C
LOW 18C
HUMIDITY 31%

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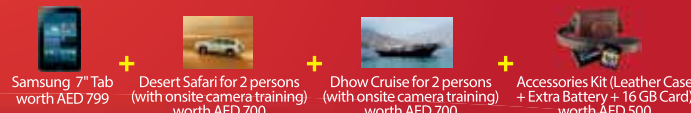
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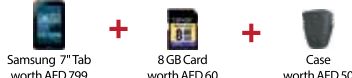
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