

Mum stole £1million to beat blues

A MUM of three who stole nearly £1million from her firm to help her "depression" has been jailed.

by DAVID HOUSTON

heard Rees did it as a form of "self medication" to treat her depression.

The 34-year-old, of St Helens, was caught out last November when it was discovered she had stolen a total of £980,673.

Rees pleaded guilty to seven counts of theft and one count of money laundering.

She was sentenced to five-and-a-half years in jail.

Chester Crown Court

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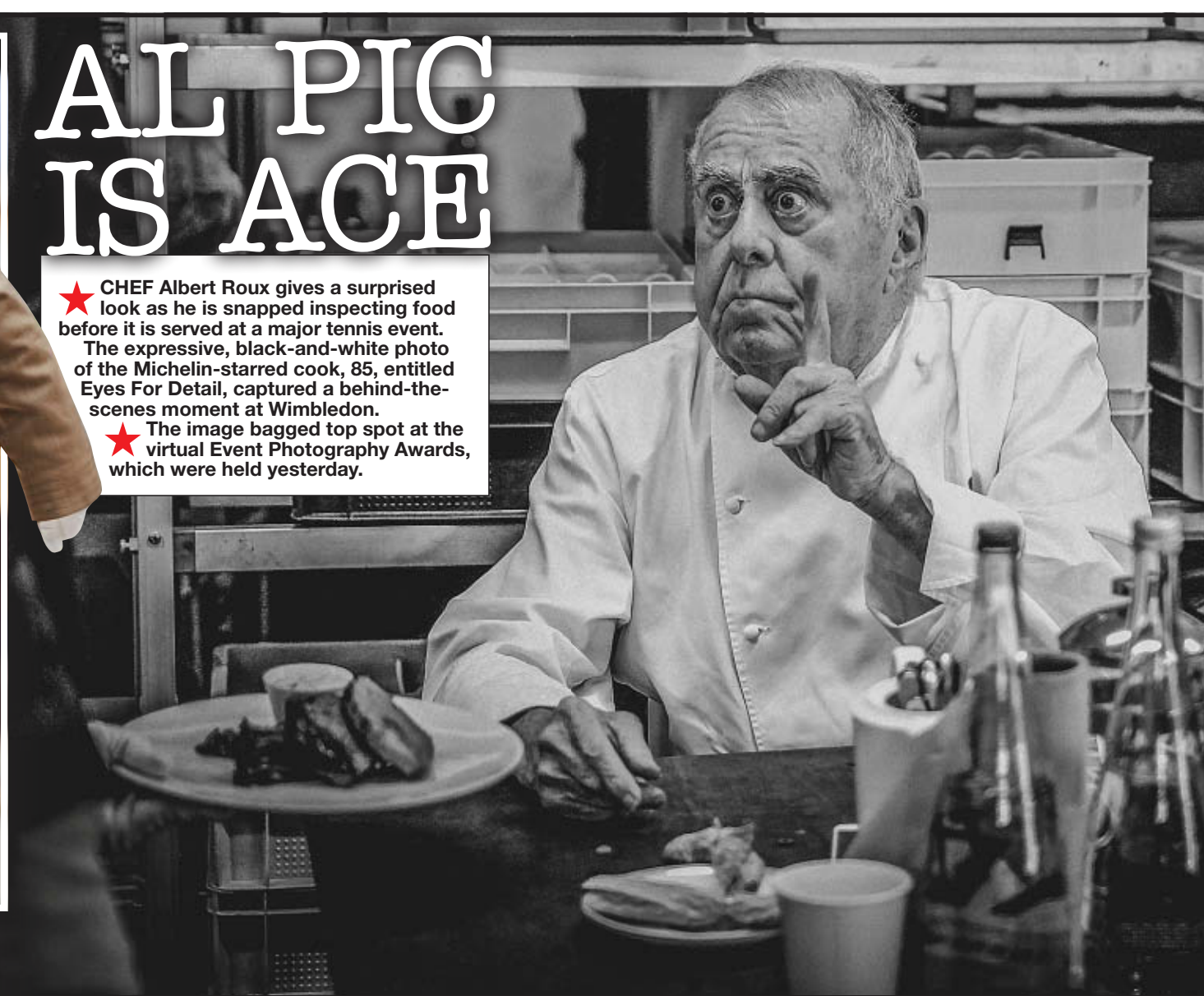
Pictures: SWNS

SERVING UP A TASTY TREAT: Ben Browning of the Poulterers' Company going full steam during the annual pancake race between the City of London Livery Companies in Guildhall last year

AL PIC IS ACE

★ CHEF Albert Roux gives a surprised look as he is snapped inspecting food before it is served at a major tennis event. The expressive, black-and-white photo of the Michelin-starred cook, 85, entitled *Eyes For Detail*, captured a behind-the-scenes moment at Wimbledon.

★ The image bagged top spot at the virtual Event Photography Awards, which were held yesterday.



CUT ABOVE: The hair department at the Paul Costelloe show during London Fashion Week in February last year, above. International Fiscal Association conference at St Paul's Cathedral, London, in September 2019, below



Bouncing baby's car chase hell DRIVER GETS JAIL

by ED CHATTERTON

A THUG driver who led police on a high-speed chase with a young baby "rattling around" in a car seat strapped together with duct tape has been jailed.

Martin McDonagh, 27, sped through red lights and nearly ran over two pedestrians in Rugby, Warks.

McDonagh, of Bamsley, South Yorks., pleaded guilty to child cruelty and dangerous driving at Warwick Crown Court. He was jailed for 26 months and banned from driving for four years and three months after he also admitted driving while disqualified and having no insurance. Judge Barry Berlin said: "This was a deliberate disregard for the welfare of the child."

McDonagh was jailed for a further four months for assaulting his wife.

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★ A DIY "drink and dine" kit for watching the Autumn Nations Cup featuring Jameson whiskey and Homeslice pizzas has been launched for the rugby tournament which begins tonight with Ireland v Wales.

ROCK SHOCK

STONEHENGE will no longer be visible to passing cars after plans to build a tunnel were passed. Environmentalists and archaeologists have opposed the two-mile tunnel, which will form part of the A303, after a ring of 20 large shafts were covered underground at a short distance from the stones.

EXPERT SUBTITLER IS KEEPING THINGS REEL

Sean and Megan have a mission to make films equally accessible to deaf people and others with special needs

PROFESSIONAL subtitler Sean Welsh knows the power of a Hollywood happy ending after spending a decade making films accessible for deaf audiences.

Now he and film festival programmer Megan Mitchell are celebrating one of their own: winning a National Lottery Award for captioning 275 movies during the pandemic for audiences with certain needs – including deaf people.

The pair worked round the clock to help everyone be able to enjoy entertainment while Covid-19 restrictions kept Britain at home, providing subtitles for independent film festivals and cinemas that moved online.

When lockdown hit and their work running cult movie screenings stopped, the duo joined

forces with Film Hub Scotland – funded by The National Lottery – to offer their expertise to others. They also gave online training so organisations could learn to create subtitles to benefit deaf and hard of hearing audiences, people with

English as a second language, and those who find it difficult processing audio information or have autism.

Sean, 38, says: "Having something to watch has been vital in the pandemic – to fill time, to provide an escape and to stop loneliness. Cinema can be a release. It's vital for mental health."

Almost 5,000 incredible individuals were nominated for a 2020 National Lottery Award – the annual search for the UK's favourite National Lottery-funded people and projects. The awards celebrate inspirational people who do extraordinary things with the help of National Lottery funding.

Sean's passion for inclusive cinema has been partly inspired by

his brother Stuart, who has cerebral palsy and mild developmental impairment.

"It's made me more sensitive to the importance of universal access," he says. "Providing subtitles and screen captions should be mandatory."

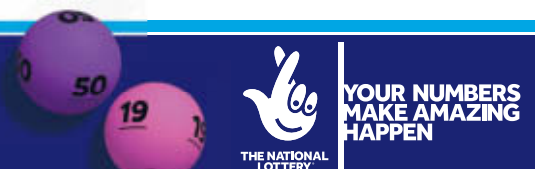
Megan's commitment to growing audience access stems from how cinema has changed her own life. "I was lucky to get on to a young programmer's scheme at an independent cinema," she says. "I got to see art house and foreign language films that I wouldn't have otherwise. It opened doors for me as a young working-class woman."

Sean and Megan, who recently moved from Glasgow to Bristol, believe the work they've carried out in the pandemic has helped them further the cause of accessible cinema.



Meet this year's National Lottery Award winners at national-lottery.co.uk/news

*Based on figures from April 2019-March 2020. Players must be 16+.



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