

Out and about in the County



Author Tuckie Fromm Wynne reads from her book *The Canine Picnic* while doggy (Adin) and cat (Kate) real-life characters from her book bark and meow for listeners Paige and Noelle Bertussi. Photo credit: Kathy Foster







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Magical times happen at Bears, Buddies and Toys

by Diana Saenger

The magical Bears, Buddies and Toys store in the Santee Trolley Town Square became even more enchanting on Saturday when children's book author Tuckie Fromm Wynne made an in-person appearance at the store. The delightful story beautifully illustrates what happens when the town's dogs decide to go on a picnic and get a visit from the town's cats. A blueberry pie chaos ensures. Copies of the book are still available at Bears, Buddies and Toys, 9832 Mission Gorge Rd, Santee, (619) 448-9008.

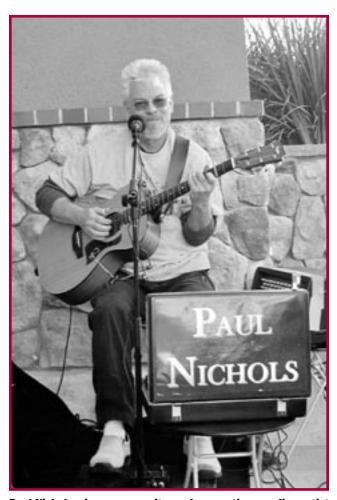
Through Dec. 31: "Wings & Snow" Sophie's Annual Holiday Show featuring angels, winged mosaic pieces and more. A great place to shop for that unique holiday gift. Sophie's is located at 109 Rea Avenue in downtown El Cajon. Call (619) 593-1105 for more information.

Through Jan. 2: The Legend of the Ice Princess at 7:30 p.m. nightly in the Show Court at Viejas Outlet Center, Alpine. All performances are free and open to the public. The holiday show tells the story of Crystal, a young fairy princess whose magical powers bring winter to the holiday season amidst amazing pyrotechnics, dancing fountains, lasers and incredible special effects.

Through Jan. 3: Viejas ice skating. Enjoy Southern California's largest outdoor ice skating rink at Viejas Outlet Center. The rink measures 70' x 140' and is open 5 - 10 p.m. Monday through Friday through Dec. 18, noon to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2010 and noon to 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The rink will be open at 4 p.m. on Christmas Day. Visit www. viejasoutletcenter. com for more information.

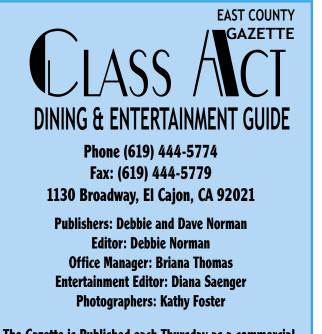






Paul Nichols, singer, songwriter, solo acoustic recording artist performed at the Alpine Albertson's event last weekend as Santa Claus visited with children at the Black Hawk Helicopter.

ON THE COVER: Black Hawk Helicopter made a stop at the Alpine Albertson's store last Saturday with Santa on board to visit the children of Alpine. Pictured are Santa Claus and his Elf and Santa's helper Shantel Gascoigne. The event was sponsored by Kamps Propane, Alpine Albertsons and Black Hawk Helicopter.



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— AT THE MOVIES –

San Diego Film Critics choose best of 2009



Disney-Pixar Film Up was voted Best Animated Film by San Diego Film Critics Society.

by Diana Saenger

nglourious Basterds was voted Best Film of 2009 by the San Diego Film Critics Society (SDFCS) on Tuesday. The film, written and directed by Quentin Tarantino, tells the story of several disparate characters navigating survival and revenge in the chaos of World War II Europe, employing Tarantino's merge of comedy, violence, poignancy and pathos. The critics voted Tarantino as Best Director, and also chose his Inglourious Basterds as Best Original Screenplay. The film won six awards total from the group.

The society's critics, comprising print, television, radio and Internet critics working in San Diego County, voted Michelle Monaghan as Best Actress for her riveting portrayal as a carefree long-haul trucker whose life suddenly changes in the indie film *Trucker*. Colin Firth, playing a college professor devastated by the loss of his longtime partner in *A Single Man*, was voted Best Actor.

Earning the Best Supporting Actress nod was Samantha Morton for her performance as a grieving war widow in

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"The Messenger." The critics voted Christoph Waltz as Best Supporting Actor for his performance as the ever-deceptive Nazi officer in *Inglourious Basterds*.

SDFCS honored Wes Anderson and Noah Baumbach in the Best Adapted Screenplay category for *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, based on the novella by Roald Dahl.

Chosen as Best Foreign Language Film was *Il Divo*, the story of persevering Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

The critics voted the Disney-Pixar film Up as Best Animated Film.

The Best Documentary award went to *The Cove*, documenting the killing of dolphins in a Japanese fishing village.

For Best Cinematography honors, the critics chose Javier Aguirresarobe for his work on *The Road*," while honoring David Wasco for Best Production Design on *Inglourious Basterds*.

Winner of the Best Editing award went to Alan Edward

Bell for his efforts on the film "(500) Days of Summer."

Winning for Best Score was Abel Korzeniowski for the music in A Single Man, The cast of Inglourious Basterds was honored for Best Ensemble Performance.

The critics honored Woody Harrelson for Body of Work during 2009, citing the actor's performances in the films *The Messenger, Zombieland* and 2012.

LIST OF WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

BEST FILM: Inglourious Basterds

Runner-up: A Single Man

BEST DIRECTOR: Quentin Tarantino Inglourious Basterds

Runner-up: James Cameron (*Avatar*)

BEST ACTRESS: Michelle Monaghan (*Trucker*)

Runners-up: Abbie Cornish (*Bright Star*), Carey Mulligan (*An Education*)

BEST ACTOR: Colin Firth (A Single Man)

Runner-up: Viggo Mortensen (*The Road*)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Samantha Morton (*The Messenger*)

Runner-up: Anna Kendrick (*Up in the Air*)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Christoph Waltz Inglourious Basterds

Runner-up: Woody Harrelson (*The Messenger*)

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY: Quentin Tarantino *Inglourious Basterds* Runner-up: Joel & Ethan

Coen (A Serious Man)

BEST ADAPTED SCREEN-PLAY: Wes Anderson & Noah Baumbach (Fantastic Mr. Fox)

Runner-up: Jason Reitman & Sheldon Turner (*Up in the Air*)



Inglourious Bastards was voted Best Film of 2009 by the San Diego Film Critics Society.

BEST FOREIGN LAN-GUAGE FILM: Il Divo Runner-up: Sin Nombre

BEST DOCUMENTARY: The Cove

Runner-up: Anvil, The Story of Anvil

BEST ANIMATED FILM:

Runner-up: Fantastic Mr. Fox

BEST CINEMATO - GRAPHY: Javier Aguirresarobe (*The Road*)

Runner-up: Robert Richardson (Inglourious Basterds) BEST EDITING: Alan Edward Bell (500 Days of Summer)

Runner-up: Sally Menke (Inglourious Basterds)

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN: David Wasco (Inglourious Basterds)

Runner-up: Anatasia Masaro (*Imaginarium of Dr. Parnas-sus*)

BEST SCORE: Abel Korzeniowski (A Single Man)

Runner-up: Michael Giacchino (*Up*)

BEST ENSEMBLE PER-

FORMANCE: Inglourious Basterds

Runner-up: A Serious Man

BODY OF WORK: Woody Harrelson (*The Messenger, Zombieland, 2012*)

KYLE COUNTS AWARD: Reading Cinemas Gaslamp Stadium 15. Named after the late San Diego film critic, the award honors those who have made contributions to film in the city. SDFCS cited the Reading Cinemas Gaslamp Stadium 15 for its bold and consistent booking of vital new independent and foreign films.





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— DINING —

Fergie steals the show in new musical 'Nine'

by Diana Saenger

ost fans of movie musicals adored Rob Marshall's Chicago (2003) and have anxiously awaited the release of Nine, his new film, which is based on the Broadway musical version of the semi-autobiographical

Fellini film $8 \frac{1}{2}$. With its all-star cast, *Nine* seemed destined to be an immediate success. Yet the movie has received mixed reviews and is not showing up on as many year-end awards lists as expected.

Daniel Day-Lewis stars as Guido Contini, an Italian film

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director trying to finish a film but lacking the creative genius he's known for. Guido believes he has an answer for this problem in his muses: Claudia (Nicole Kidman), Stephanie (Kate Hudson) – a journalist – and his full-time mistress Carla (Penelope Cruz), who is married. No matter how many sexual romps he has, however, Guido doesn't seem to find his resourceful voice - in fact, these arrangements seem purely sexual trysts. I think this is true, especially since Guido is married to the beautiful Luisa (Marion Cotillard), who knows about his affairs and loves him anuwau.

Cotillard (La Vie en Rose) is remarkable as the patient and obviously embarrassed wife. Luisa glows when she shows up at a cast-and-crew dinner and Guido takes her into his arms on the dance floor and says, "I've been dying until just now." Yet later that evening when they are alone in their room, the phone rings and Guido rushes to Carla's side after hearing she's tried to kill herself. Cotillard's touching rendition of "Take It All" speaks volumes about Luisa's situation

Cruz gives one her best performances here. As Carla, she's continually sexy, alluring, insatiably jealous and too tempting for Guido to ignore. However, Kidman and Hudson standout as miscasts in this film. Their singing comes across as mediocre; their roles have no depth or believability, and although their dance scenes might have been enough for some films, Nine required more. They should have been over the top like Fergie, who takes the center spot in a line of the girls with chairs for a Bob Fosse style scene. Singing "Be Italian" Fergie's demeanor boasts everything Kidman and Hudson lacked. She's fiercely sexy, alluringly commanding, and delivers every note with bravado. It's as if the song was written specifically for her.

Two other seasoned actresses play a big part in the film. Sophia Loren portrays Guido's mother who appears in and out of his imaginary visualizations – much like Fellini, who said his films always came from his dreams. Loren is a wonderful actress, but this role does not do her justice. It's been five years since the still beautiful actress has appeared on screen, and seeing her here reminds us of her wonderful talent. Judi Dench plays Lilli,



Daniel Day-Lewis and Marion Cotillard star in *Nine*. Photo credit: David James / The Weinstein Company

Guido's costume designer – a woman who is also his advisor, faux mother and psychiatrist. Dench nails the role of Lilli spouting off advice as if she wrote a book about "How to Guide Guido."

It's hard to find anything negative to say about Daniel Day-Lewis. Since witnessing his Oscar-winning performance in last year's *There Will Be Blood*, his fans have eagerly awaited *Nine*.

He probably won't win a Grammy for his singing in this film or be invited on So You Think You Can Dance. Still, Day-Lewis was brave to tackle these endeavors. He holds his own in Nine by creating a believable character.

Dion Beebe, the incredible cinematographer of *Nine*, said about Day-Lewis's departure

performance, "There's an intensity to the performance, but there's also a lightness, a sense of humor and irony. Guido is a man whose world might be collapsing, but his mind is always ready to fly off into fantasy."

Nine is less about a story than a production. Most of the film is delivered on a set resembling a theatrical stage, and it involves fantasy moments. Plus, remember this film is adapted from the Broadway musical. I found these scenes thrilling in their technical aspects. The lighting mesmerizes, particularly in scenes where the singers enter the set as silhouettes against a blue background with striking artistic accents.

Choreographer and producer John DeLuca had his work cut out for him with this

extended cast and delivers Broadway style entertainment. That sums up my experience of watching this film. I got a hint – through scattered dialogue lines spoken by Guido – of Fellini's take on making a film. I also enjoyed the musical aspects and watching Day-Lewis, Cotillard and Fergie. Fans of musicals will probably like *Nine*; others may not be quite so entertained.



Nine
Studio: The Weinstein
Company
Gazette Grade: B +
MPAA: "PG-13" for sexual content and smoking
Who Should Go: fans of
musicals, Daniel Day-Lewis
or Fergie

THE MOVIES

Gazette film critics pick best and worst of 2009

he Gazette film critics spent endless hours in movie theaters this year, and while movie fans think this is a great job - it entails watching far more bad movies than good and analyzing them. Critics may have critical insight when judging films but ultimately it comes down to personal opinion. That's why it's important to find a critic that mirrors each individual's own taste to help them decide what movies to see. Here are our reviewers TOP and WORST picks for 2009.

Diana Saenger's Top Ten

- AVATAR
 THE MESSENGER
- BRIGHT STAR
- THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR **PARNASSUS**
- SIN NOMBRE
- ME AND ORSON WELLES
- THE COVE
- THE BURNING PLAIN THE HANGOVER
- 10.TRUCKER

Diana Saenger's Five Worst Films 2009

- 1. ALL ABOUT STEVE
- 2. PUSH
- 3. THE BOX
- 4. THIRST
- 5. WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

Michael Black's Top Ten 2009

- 1. AVATAR
- 2. THE HURT LOCKER
- 3. THE HANGOVER
- 4. STAR TREK
- 6. DISTRICT 9
- 7. THE BLIND SIDE
- HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE 9. WATCHMEN
- 10.CORALINE

Michael Black's Five **Worst Films 2009**

- 1. OBSERVE AND **REPORT**
- 2. YEAR ONE
- 3. I LOVE YOU, BETH COOPER
- 4. TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE **FALLEN**
- 5. TERMINATOR **SALVATION**

Happy Holidays from Mother Goose



The Mother Goose Queen and her Court would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Shown above, the Queen and her Court are holding their stockings in hopes of St. Nicholas. Photo credit: Debbie Norman

Viejas Casino's New Year's Eve party

Viejas Casino's New Year's Eve Party features the biggest cash giveaways in the County and free bands.

Viejas is giving away almost \$100,000 in cash and prizes on New Year's Eve. From 6 to 9 p.m., win your share of \$40,000 in our Dash Through The Cash Giveaway.

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Starting at 8 p.m., the music turns up the energy and excitement with free bands, DJs and VJs at the V Lounge, Dream-Catcher and The Hourglass.

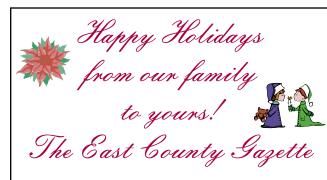
There's only one place in town where it pays to count down to New Year's ... and that's Viejas Casino.

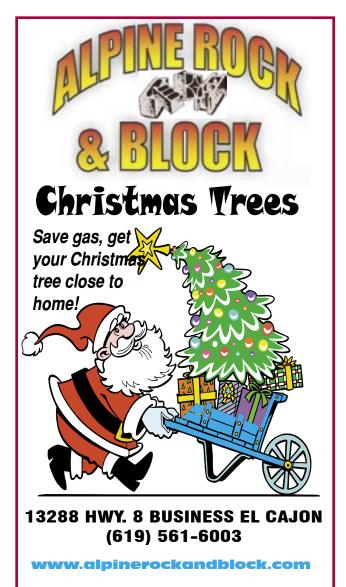
Viejas Casino has been voted San Diego's "Best Casino" for ten years in a row.

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For more information, visit www.viejas.com or call 1-800-









New Year's Day Happy Holidays from the Pernicano's Family

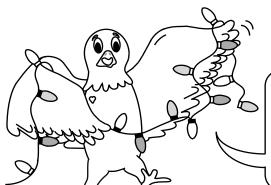
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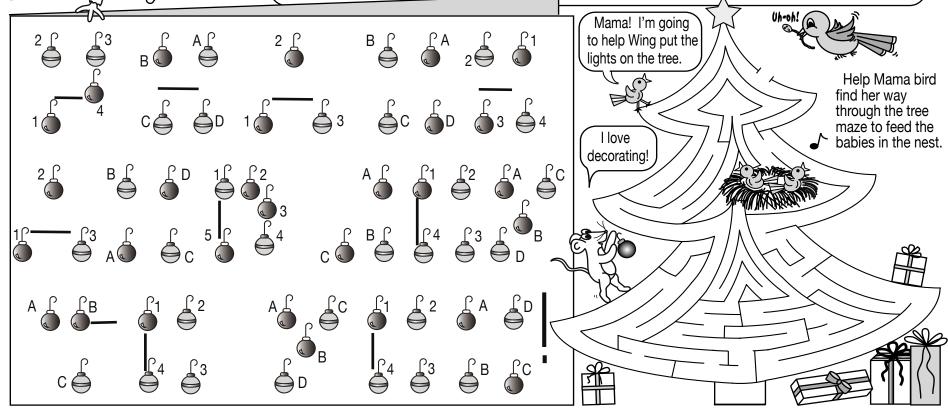




Merry Christmas!

I can't wait to string the lights on the little evergreen tree. It's the last job I have to do before Santa comes down my chimney to bring presents...and hopefully to stuff the Christmas stocking I will leave hanging there. Last night I finished all of my Christmas cards. I wrote one for you too! It has a secret holiday wish on it.

To read it, you will have to connect the ornaments to make letters. Start with ornament that has the number 1 on it and draw a line to the number 2 ornament and so on to make the first letter. Then, follow the alphabet to make the next letter. There are five letters in the top row – good luck!



Holiday Greens and Plants

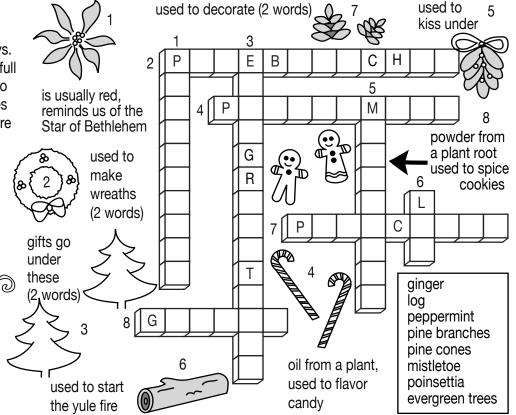
Mother Nature gives us a helping hand during the holidays. We use items from nature to decorate. The grocery store is full of spices like nutmeg, which we use to make tasty treats. Do you know that the cinnamon powder we use to spice cookies comes from the bark of a tree? If we are lucky, Mother Nature

might even send a little snow for those who are dreaming of a white Christmas.

Can you fill in the puzzle with the names of plants or their parts that we use for decorating or making treats?

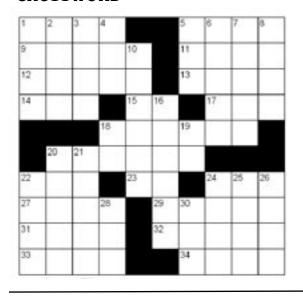


kids reading. Enjoy our seasonal newsletters.



Puzzles & Comics

CROSSWORD



Across

- Far away
- Tides 9 Legitimate
- 11 Birch
- 12 Detest
- 13 Fizz drink
- 14 Compass point
- 15 Ouch!
- 17 Zip
- 18 Nicety
- Crystalline
- Division (abbr.)
- evated railway
- Valentine mo. 24
- 27 Cruel
- 29 Excite

31

- Land-rover
- 32 Expiring
- 33 Association (abbr.)
- 34 Long time periods

Down

- Alack's partner
- Prick
- River (Spanish)
- And so forth
- Mustang
- Misrepresent
- Close off
- 10 Company
- 16 Cried
- 18 New Mexico (abbr.)
- 19 North Dakota (abbr.)
- 20 Exists
- 21 Crawling vines
- vu
- Balmy 24
- 25 Gas burner
- 26 Prays
- 28 Licensed practical nurse
- 30 Caustic

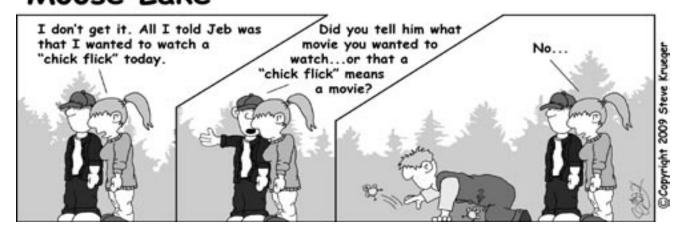
Solution on page 3







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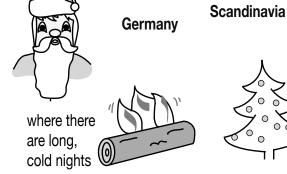
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