



Meryl Streep Amy Adams

Written for the Screen and Directed by Nora Ephron

Julie & Julia

Based on Two True Stories

THE TIGER/AMY ROBINSON PRODUCTION A LAURENCE MARK PRODUCTION A FILM BY NORA EPHRON 'JULIE & JULIA' STANLEY TUCSI CHRIS MESSINA LINDA EMOND MUSIC BY ALEXANDRE DOLY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SCOTT RUDIN DONALD J. LEE, JR. DANA STEVENS BASED ON THE BOOKS 'JULIE & JULIA' BY JULIE POWELL AND 'MY LIFE IN FRANCES' BY JULIA CHILD WITH ALEX PRODUCTIONS
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August 7
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EAST COUNTY
GAZETTE
CLASS ACT
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 10, NO. 9, AUGUST 6, 2009

Out and about in the County

Aug. 8: Viegas Outlet Center's Movies in the Park will show the 1935 black & white Alfred Hitchcock mystery/thriller *The 39 Steps*. The film is unrated, is free and starts at sundown in the Outlet Center concert area.

Aug. 8: Film Festival. Grossmont College will host a one-day film festival featuring 20 films produced by students and independent filmmakers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend. An all-day admission ticket is \$5. In addition to film viewing, workshops will be delivered on script writing, casting calls and tips on how to make a film for under \$500. Speakers will include actress Mickey Harrison, filmmaker Michael Gier, cinematographer John Snedden and Kathy McCurdy, location manager with the San Diego Film Commission. Films in a variety of genres, including music, videos, horror, comedy, drama, mystery, education and documentary will be viewed at the college' Stagehouse Theatre, located on campus near Parking Lot #1 and the exterior Aztec wall mural. The film festival is organized by the East County Optimist Club of the Performing Arts. For additional event information, visit www.esifilm.org or contact Michael Black at (619) 279-1532. Grossmont College is located at 8800 Grossmont College Drive in El Cajon.

Through Aug. 20: Free concerts each Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Santee Trolley Square Amphitheater, Santee.

Aug. 6: Emerald River Country Hits and Classic Rock
Aug. 13: Bayou Brothers Exciting sounds of Zydeco
Aug. 20: The Corvettes Doo Wop and Motown sounds

This free community event is made possible through the generous support of Barona Resort & Casino along with Cox Communications, Target, and Daphne's Greek Café. Concert goers can also enjoy a trolley ride to the Santee Town Center Station for the summer concerts.

For more information, call the City of Santee Special Events hotline at (619) 258-4100 ext. 201 or visit www.ci.santee.ca.us. For information about Barona Resort & Casino, please visit www.barona.com or call 1-888-7-BARONA

Through Aug. 31: Twenty oil paintings by El Cajon resident Jack Jordan are now on display through the end of August at the Dr. William C. Herrick Community Health Care Library, 9001 Wakarusa St. in La Mesa. The artwork includes landscapes, western themes and portraits. Jordan is a premier oil painter whose work has

appeared in national magazines and many galleries in the U.S. and Mexico. He is the author of "How To Paint The Old West," and has taught many classes on landscape, seascape and portrait painting. Jordan is currently represented by O'Dunn Fine Art of La Mesa. The Jack Jordan exhibit is open to the public during regular library hours, which are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays through Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Admission is free. For more information, phone (619) 825-5010 or visit www.herricklibrary.org.

Through Sept. 4: The 14th Annual Concerts on the Green, the free weekly summer concert series featuring live music for all ages opens Friday, May 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Prescott Promenade in Downtown El Cajon. Opening night will feature the Rock'n Roll sounds of The Cat-illacs. In addition, the original, entertaining and highly popular Ed Waymire returns as Master of Ceremonies. Free to the public, Concerts on the Green is offered every Friday evening through September 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.. Sponsored by Sycuan Resort and Casino and presented by the El Cajon Community Development Corporation, the family-oriented. For more information, call the El Cajon CDC at (619) 401-8858, or visit on-line at www.downtownelcajon.com

2009 Concerts on the Green Schedule

Aug. 7: The Heroes (Dance)
Aug. 14: The Variations (Big Band)
Aug. 21: Eve Selis (Americana)
Aug. 28: The Coolrays (Beach Boys Tribute)
Sept. 4: FX5 (Dance)

Sept. 4 - 6: Barona's 39th Annual Powwow
 San Diegans will have the unique opportunity to experience true Native American culture at the 39th Annual Barona Powwow taking place on Friday, Sept. 4 through Sunday, Sept. 6. During this three-day event, Native Americans from across the country will showcase traditional Tribal dances, singing and music, a hand drum contest, authentic Native American cuisine and exquisite handcrafted arts and jewelry. The festivities will take place at the Barona Baseball Field (just one mile north of the Barona Resort & Casino) on the Barona Indian Reservation, located at 1095 Barona Road in Lakeside. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call (619) 443-6612 or visit www.barona-nsn.gov.



'Devine Bovine, The Cow - Then and Now' by Lionel Talaro will be presented at O'Dunn Fine Art Aug. 18-30 at the La Mesa art gallery located at 8342 Las Mesa Boulevard, in the Village of La Mesa. Reception and meet the artist will be Saturday, Aug. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The painting above is "Kiss Cows." For more information, contact O'Dunn Fine Art at (619) 337-8342.

Through September 30: The Cajon Classic Cruise, Southern California's largest weekly classic car show will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Main Street in the heart of historic Downtown El Cajon. Admission is free. More than 500 classic, custom and hot rod cars valued at more than \$10 million will be showcased in a street festival setting every Wednesday evening through September 30. In addition, two special post-season car shows will be held, including a Halloween Show on October 28, and a Holiday Car Show on December 9. For more information, contact the El Cajon Community Development Corporation at (619) 401-8858, or visit www.downtownelcajon.com.

Through Sept. 7: As the weather heats up, Viejas is the place to beat the heat with an array family-friendly events. The summer season officially kicks off this month with the opening night of the annual Power of Nightfire show, along with the start of the popular interactive fountain, both in the Viejas Outlet Center show court, for a nice way to cool down.

The Power of Nightfire will continue with performances nightly at 9 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, until Labor Day. The performance is one-of-a-kind and intrigues the audience with water fountains, lasers, pyrotechnics, special effects and brilliant choreography. The show tells the story of an ancient Kumeyaay Indian who saved his people from the evil "water spirit" and brings the valuable water back to his village. The show is free and open to the public, suitable for all ages and is the perfect way to complete a long summer day.

The interactive fountain at the Viejas Outlet Center

is always the place to beat the heat during the summer months and offers a fun way for children to play and cool off in the water, as parents relax. The fountain will be open to the public daily through Labor Day and will also feature intermittent nightly "wet shows" and Splashtacks, which brings the fountain to life as streams of water dance to music and lights.

ONGOING

Julian Doves & Desperados every Sunday (weather permitting) 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.: Historic comedy skits located at the stage area between Cabbages & Kings and the Julian Market & Deli. For more information please contact Krisie at (760) 765-1857.

ON THE COVER: Meryl Streep stars in *Julie & Julia*. See review on page 6.

EAST COUNTY GAZETTE CLASS ACT DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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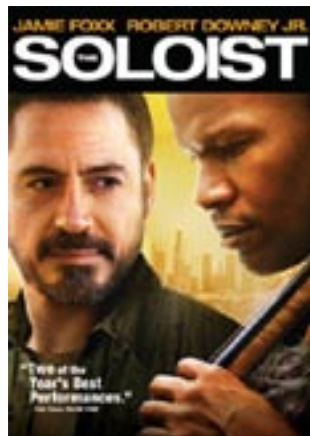
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— HOME ENTERTAINMENT —

Video shelves spill over with new DVD arrivals

by Diana Saenger

Beat the summer heat by staying indoors and watching a newly released DVD. So many new or re-released and updated selections make their way into the market each week the problem is what to bring home. Here are just a few of the August offerings.



'The Soloist'

Available on Blu-ray and DVD, this emotionally packed drama is about the redemptive power of music. While questioning homeless Nathaniel Anthony Ayres (Jamie Foxx) and watching him play a violin, journalist Steve (Robert Downey, Jr.) discovers Nathaniel is a Juilliard dropout. Over the next few weeks, Steve learns through their disjointed friendship that Nathaniel is mesmerized by both Beethoven the man and his music. Rated "PG-13" – Paramount Home Entertainment.



'Green Lantern: First Flight'

When pilot Hal Jordan accepts a mysterious, powerful ring from a dying alien creature, it transforms him into a Green Lantern - one of an elite force of heroes. These heroes patrol the universe to ensure peace and justice under the leadership of the Guardians of the Universe. Unsure of their newest recruit, the Guardians assign Hal to their most-honored Green Lantern Sinestro

for training, unaware that Sinestro wants to overthrow the Guardians and create a new order he'll control. Rated "PG-13" – Warner Bros. Home Entertainment.



'Race to Witch Mountain'

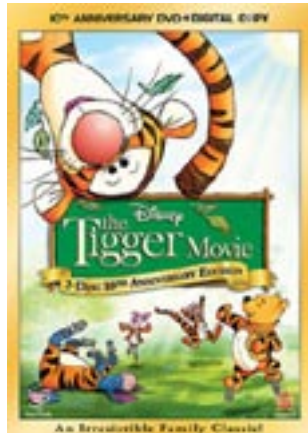
Nearly 30 years since *Escape to Witch Mountain* debuted, Disney's *Race to Witch Mountain* finds new ground that makes it suitable for young children. Jack (Dwayne Johnson), once a petty crook, wants to go straight. Hoping to get a career with NASCAR sports, he becomes a cab driver. When two young kids suddenly appear in his back seat, Jack is surprised and even more shocked when the kids explain they're from outer space and want his help to find their space ship, which the U.S. government has hidden. A fun adventure for the entire family, the film is available on DVD, Deluxe DVD and Blu-Ray with some fun bonus features. Rated "PG" – Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment.



'Sling Blade' Blu-Ray

Since its release in 1996 *Sling Blade* has remained one of the most impressive efforts of writer/producer/director/actor Billy Bob Thornton. The exceptional saga of a mentally challenged man's reintroduction to society after 25 years in prison is entrancing, heartfelt and harrowing. Karl (Thornton) finds life challenging upon his release but befriends a young boy (Lucas Black) who

is living with his mom and her abusive boyfriend. Along with a family friend (John Ritter), Karl makes decisions that affect everything he's spent 25 years trying to forget. There's a reason why Thornton earned an Oscar for his script; the film is incredible. The great bonus features on the DVD offer hours of fantastic watching. Rated "R" – Miramax Home Entertainment.



'The Tigger Movie' 10th 2-disc Anniversary Edition DVD

It's hard to believe it's the 10th anniversary of this delightful children's movie. Tigger is bouncy and happy but he wants to learn about his true family. He takes an empty golden locket, his only family heirloom, and a heartfelt letter written by his friends and sets off on an adventure. So what happens when he finds there is no family? He learns important lessons about who he is and what's important in life. Games, a music video

and activities are part of the DVD's bonus features. Rated "G" – Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment.



'My Cousin Vinny' Blu-Ray

When two college-bound New York boys head down south a series of coincidences lands them in jail charged with first degree murder. They can't afford for an attorney so they call Vinny (Joe Pesci), a lawyer and cousin of one of the boys.

Vinny is a stereotypical New Yorker and has never handled a murder case. He is a complete disaster, but things get more bizarre when he brings his fiancée (Maria Tomei) along. The movie is loaded with laughs and the director's commentary is very interesting. Rated "R" – Fox Home Entertainment.

'BattleStar Galactica' Season 4 & 5

This exciting series continuation is available on DVD and Blu-Ray. The bonus features on the DVD are almost as excited as the series. After losing the war against the Cylon robots, the Battlestar Galactica crew speed toward the fabled 13th colony, Earth. Galactica Commander Adama (James Olmos) and President Laura Roslin (Mary McDonald) face waning supplies, crushed morale, and the credible threats. Not Rated – Universal Studios Home Entertainment.

For more of Diana Saenger's DVD reviews go to www.reviewexpress.com Saenger Syndicate

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— DINING —

Fred's Burger's expands its Alpine success at new restaurant in El Cajon

by Diana Saenger

Fred Loegel started at the Beef and Bun fast food restaurant in El Cajon, worked his way up to manager and in his 20 years there became such a fixture many customers thought it was his restaurant.

Like many people who think "everyone has to eat," Fred and his wife Linda decided to take the step to entrepreneurial ownership with their own fast food place. The difference between the Loegel's along with their business partner Bo Lem-

ber and many people who take that big step is that the Loegel's have beat the odds and have a thriving business. Next week marks the five year anniversary for Fred's in Alpine, and a few weeks ago the Loegel's opened their second eatery at a former Taco Bell in El Cajon.

"We try harder, and offer a great product for a reasonable price," Fred Loegel said about the businesses success.

Anyone who has tried the restaurant business knows it takes more than that to keep the doors open. In my many

visits to Fred's in Alpine there are always repeat customers enjoying their food, and on the day I visited Fred's in El Cajon it was standing room only and the drive-through was busy.

Serving a good product is key, and with many competitors serving hamburgers it's a challenge to create a better one. Fred's burgers – including a half-pounder, quarter-pounder, junior and monster choice – are made fresh and come with a selection of ingredients. Patrons rave about the burger's flavor.

Shirley Dorworth and her family have been Fred's patrons for years. "The food is delicious, the service great and the atmosphere is friendly," she said while watching her granddaughter eye a gumball spiral through a classic machine.

Both restaurants are decorated with a 1950s décor, play 50s and 60s pop tunes and look and feel like by-gone days. With vintage signs on the tables



Fred's Burgers located in El Cajon. Photo by Diana Saenger

and walls, classic car images on the Fred's El Cajon tables, it's a fun and pleasant place to dine. I've always found the restaurants kept clean and the service more than accommodating to special requests.

Smart restaurant owners know not to offer too much on a menu but enough to satisfy every palate in the family. Fred's extended menu includes a grilled chicken, patti melt, Philly cheese, hot dog, corn dog, fish and chips and chicken nugget choice. Fred's crispy fries are another favorite customers rave about.

The Alpine Fred's is home

to monthly car shows and the drivers have found the Loegel's so special that when the Alpine restaurant was robbed a few days before Christmas in 2006 while Fred was in the hospital, the car clubs rallied to clean up the mess from the robbery, serve customers and replaced the stolen money.

A 50s' diner is nothing without shakes and malts. Fred's has them in assorted flavors including banana, vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, peanut butter, chocolate peanut butter, Oreo cookie and mocha. Jason Taub, one of a group of business men who came to Fred's during my visit,

said he comes for the shakes. "They're the best in town. My favorite is the peanut butter."

Loegel puts in long hours but knows it's paid off in the past. "We offer something unique, and I think we've found a niche in the community," he said. "Sales are good and our willingness to be a good community partner is coming back to us. Of course it helps that they like our food, too!"

Fred's Burgers is open daily 10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. at 2754 Alpine Blvd, in Alpine (619) 445-1264 and 1285 E. Madison Ave. in El Cajon, (619) 447-2300



Food on the table at Fred's Burgers. Photo by Diana Saenger

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— AT THE MOVIES —

'Funny People' is not that funny

Review by Michael Black

After seeing the previews of *Funny People* I was under the impression that this movie would be about funny people making us laugh. Once the movie started I slowly discovered that this is more of a drama than a comedy. *Funny People* is a gruesome 90 minutes long that will test moviegoer's remain-in-your-seats tolerance.

George Simmons (Adam Sandler) is a successful stand-up comedian and movie star who loves the easy life. He's a self absorbed womanizer who finds out he has an almost incurable blood disorder. Now

facing death, he quickly starts to reexamine his life and realizes he has no friends or family to rely on.

Ira Wright (Seth Rogen) is a struggling standup comedian working full time at a deli. After a poor performance at a local comedy club – George, who watched Ira's dismal routine – calls Ira to hire him as a personal assistant at an incredible pay rate. When Ira learns about George's fate the two become close friends. Their friendship is strained, however, when George rekindles his love for his old flame, Laura (Leslie Mann), who is married to Clarke Anderson (Eric Bana) and they have two children.

Had I known this movie wasn't going to be humorous, I might have enjoyed it more. Adam Sandler is not my idea of an actor to take on serious roles. He only has two looks, happy and sad. His career started as a ridiculous nonsensical actor who made funny noises and acted like a child with a potty mouth, and it's hard to see him as anything else.

One major flaw of the movie

is the audience's inability to relate to the main character, George. I didn't find myself cheering for anyone in this movie since I couldn't really relate to any of them. I've seen tons of comedies. Some manage to sneak in a few chuckles here and there but most of them fall flat. Directed by Judd Apatow, *Funny People* is a somewhat enjoyable film as long as the audience doesn't expect what the title suggests.



Leslie Mann and Adam Sandler star in *Funny People*. Photo credit: Universal Pictures



Funny People

Studio: Universal Pictures

Gazette Rating: D+

MPAA: "R" for language and crude sexual humor throughout, and some sexuality.

Who Should Go: Apatow, Sandler and Rogen fans

Julie & Julia

Studio: Columbia Pictures

Gazette Grade: B-

MPAA: "PG-13" for brief strong language and some sensuality

Who Should Go: Meryl Streep and Amy Adams fans

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— AT THE MOVIES —

'Julie & Julia' is delightfully amusing

Review by Diana Saenger

If anyone can over-act a character and get away with it's Meryl Streep. Give the script of *Mamma Mia* to most actresses, and you'd probably hear, "you must be kidding." In the hands of Meryl Streep the film has grossed more than 600 million worldwide. This past week I've heard more people repeat the same comment than ever before – "the woman can play anything."

Those comments are coming from people who have already seen *Julie & Julia*, writer-director Nora Ephron's double story about how Julia Child (Meryl Streep) became a

world famous cook and Julie Powell (Amy Adams), a young girl struggling with her life who decides to write a book while cooking her way through Julia Child's cookbook. The movie is based on the 2005 book *Julie & Julia* by Julie Powell and *My Life in France*, the 2006 memoir by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme.

The story of Julia begins with her life in France in the late 1940s where her devoted husband Paul (Stanley Tucci) has been assigned to work. One can only shop for so long in Paris, so Paul pushes Julia to pursue her love of cooking. The tall, giddy woman is a misfit in any kitchen, but Julia manages to defy the odds

– even landing a spot in the prestigious Cordon Bleu.

Transition fifty years forward and Julie Powell finds herself restless and unfulfilled as a writer. Her love of good food spawns the idea to spend a year writing a blog about cooking the 524 recipes in Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Julie's husband Eric (Chris Messina) isn't sure that's such a good idea but doesn't dissuade his wife. And why would he when he can have dishes like *boeuf bourguignon*, *mousse de foies de volaille* or delightful desserts such as *tarte au citron et aux amandes*.

Julie & Julia constantly juxtaposes

the women's two worlds and shows us they have more in common than food. They have passion. Julia has a *joy de vie* that is present in almost every scene, and she also has a very successful and close-knit – almost storybook like – marriage. Streep said she cried when she read the script and found the character of Julia and her zest for life and curiosity about many things quite appealing.

"The idea that what you put in front of your family, that love, those connections between people, are the real important things," Streep said. "Her approach to her day was one of energy and appetite and a blanket determination not to



Meryl Streep stars in *Julie & Julia*. Photo credit: Jonathan Wenk/Columbia Pictures

CARTOON CORNER

OUTZKIRTS

By: David & Doreen Dotson



Moose Lake

By Steve Krueger



OWEN OWL BY LUKE MEYNDORFF



let troubles get you down. It's a great quality and she really had it."

Streep has that quality as well in her resplendent portrayal of Child. Her mere awkwardness and delightful, "Bon Appétit!" offer constant amusement in the film. Anyone who ever watched the wonderful Child on TV gets a sweet reminder of what a dear and one-of-a-kind woman she was.

Adams has definitely impressed moviegoers the last few years. Including her Academy Award nominations for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in 2005 for *Junebug* and 2008 for the blindsided nun in *Doubt*, Adams has also given us delightful roles as a middle-aged London governess in *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* (2008) and a gutsy single mom in *Sunshine Cleaning* (2008).

In *Julie & Julia* her passion is not really to cook, but to make changes in her life, determine if her career and her marriage are working and set an unrealistic goal for herself – which certainly happens while trying to cook world-class dishes in her tiny New York apartment.

"She's really come to a crossroads, and she's trying to make decisions," Adams said. "That was something I was very familiar with, and I don't think it's reflected very often in films in an honest way. For a more modern woman, there are some very all-encompassing questions, and I thought this character really embodied that journey and that confusion."

Tucci (*Kit Kittredge: An American Girl*) is also a casting plus. He reminds me of Jack Lemmon's everyman because he makes his character viable in almost every film, whether funny, serious or animated. As Paul, Tucci never fails to make us believe he's a devoted husband who always has Julia's back.

With good direction by Ephron – who has been noticeably absent as writer, director or producer for four years – spot on cinematography by Stephen Goldblatt (*Closer*) and Alexandre Desplat's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* great score, *Julie & Julia* has a lot going for it. The movie doesn't knock your socks off but is a delightful treat and will certainly make you hungry. And, after all, it's got Meryl Streep!

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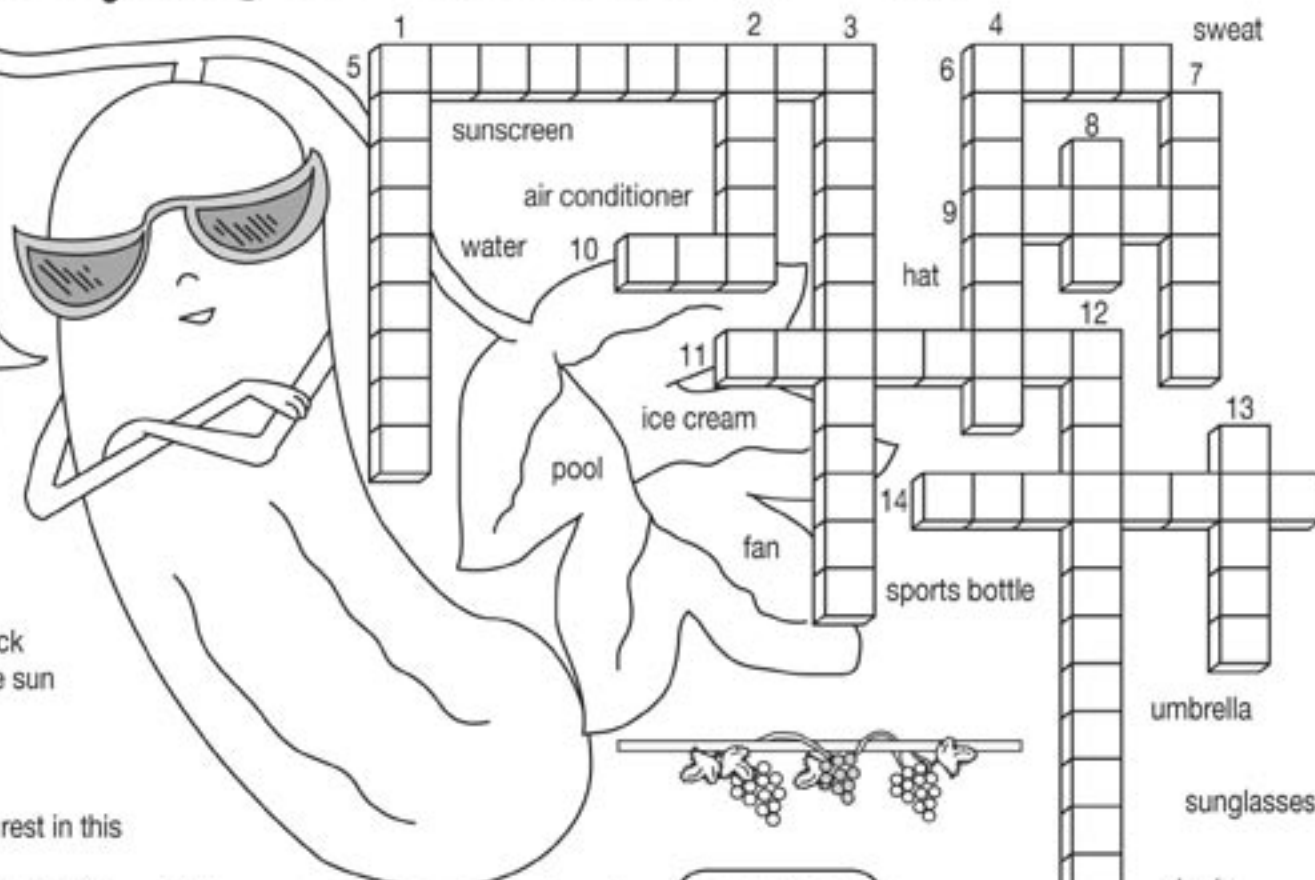
Keeping Cooooooool!

Summer is here and that means plenty of sunshine and heat! It has been **hot** and we all want to be **cool**. We want to look cool, do cool things and keep cool while doing them.

Have you heard the expression "as cool as a cucumber?" I'm soooo cool that I get to be the guest host on the page this week while all the regular animals are chillin' out on vacation.

Now that's cool!

1. use it to protect your skin from burning
2. your body gives off drops of this to balance its temperature
3. holds liquid for biking and hiking (2 words)
4. brand name for flavored frozen water on a stick
5. protect your eyes from the harmful rays of the sun
6. swim or float in this to keep cool
7. a gentle wind
8. moves air around
9. when the rays of the sun are blocked we can rest in this
10. cover for the head
11. large one for the beach can protect your whole family
12. machine controlling temperature and amount of water in the air (2 words)
13. H₂O
14. sweet dessert, frozen cream and eggs (2 words)



It's important to keep *your* cool and *yourself* cool during sizzling, hot weather. Fill in the crossword puzzle with things that you can use to keep yourself "as cool as a cucumber."

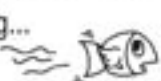
I love the cool greens, blues and purples of the grapes.



I like boating and fishing.



I like swimming... away that is!



"Cool" Things to Do, Use or See!

Find and circle these twenty things that are a lot of fun to do, use or see during periods of hot weather:

arcade games reading boating drive-in
swimming soccer garden tree house
picnicking squirt guns computer miniature golf
auto show movie frisbee golf fishing
batting cages sprinkler badminton go-carts

A R C A D E G A M E S I N E S N I J H F B K S D E F A
B K H T F E S R O L J G V G N I D A E R O P Q I N T U
A N L P U G E C V V P I H G R F E D C B A K U G E V T
N I K H F C B M I N I A T U R E G O L F T J I G D I O
G E K G C V U T E M B E P K N Y T F C W I R R A R E S
Z V J O C T R E I J G N I K C I N C I P N G T O A F H
B I S K H F F I S H I N G I H B G R F E G K G I G J O
F R I S B E E G O L F V S W I M M I N G O J U V I L W
A D O V J H Y A R E T U P M O C H D S P R I N K L E R
J O T R E E H O U S E M N O T N I M D A B V S K M P O
G H J I G R G O C A R T S K G S E G A C G N I T T A B

Enter the Reading Club Fun

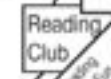
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(no stickers will be sent to children under 5 years old)

Child's name _____
Age _____ Grade _____ Boy ☐ Girl ☐
Street/Apt. _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Which weekly newspaper do you read? _____
Grownup's Last Name _____ First _____
Grownup's signature (over 18) _____
Email _____

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