

José Feliciano
to appear with
San Diego Symphony

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EAST COUNTY
GAZETTE
CLASS ACT
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 10, NO. 11, AUGUST 20, 2009

Out and about in the County

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. 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.

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 Splashtracks, which brings the fountain to life as streams of water dance to music and lights.

Sept. 12: Fiestas Patrias connects past and present 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm for lively activities, including children's games and music performances. Learn historic games such as cascarones, and how early San Diego men's clothing originated from the Charros of the past. Finish the event by joining in a fandango where everyone can dance to early California music. This free event takes place in the plaza of Old Town San Diego



In 1950 students of the class of 1954 entered Grossmont High School as freshmen. By their sophomore year the school was divided with Grossmont students attending classes in the morning, and Helix in the afternoon, on the Grossmont campus. In fall of 1952 Helix students began the school year at the new Helix campus. Friendships, born during high school years, continue to this day, with the Helix Class of 1954 Girlfriend's Lunch every other month faithfully attended by long time friends. The Helix Class of 1954 will celebrate their 55th reunion in late September.

State Historic Park and surrounding buildings. Fiestas Patrias celebrates Mexican Independence with colorful displays of dancing, and storytelling from early San Diego. This event also features live entertainment, branding, corn husk doll making, relay races, vaquero games and other fun activities! Explore the historic roots of San Diego's unique culture that blends traditions from the indigenous people, Spain, Mexico, and other European countries. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, located in the heart of Old Town is open daily from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For additional information call 619-220-5422 or click on www.parks.ca.gov

September 13: Homecoming Sunday, a much loved annual program of the United Church of Christ of La Mesa, will be held at 10 a.m., Sept. 13. Combined this year with Christian Education Sunday, it is a day to welcome friends old and new and to celebrate the return of the Chancel Choir. It also launches an exciting season of Fall programs and Sunday School classes and honors UCCLM's wonderful young people. A reception in Friendship Hall will follow the worship service. The church is located at 5940 Kelton Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942 (619-464-1519, pastorfelix@cox.net, www.ucclm.org).

Sept. 14: San Diego Horticultural Society welcomes horticulturist David Fross, whose very timely a program titled "California Native Plants for the Garden: A Personal Perspective," will inspire us to try native plants as we face increasing water restrictions. The evening starts at 6 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Parking is free and everyone is welcome. Admission is free for members and \$5 for non-members. For more information, call (760) 295-7089 or visit www.sdhortsoc.org.



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— ON STAGE —

José Feliciano to appear with San Diego Symphony

by Diana Saenger

Among names labeled as Latino icons, José Feliciano is rightfully among the top. From a challenged beginning at birth, to being transplanted to America as a young boy, Feliciano found his niche on the strings of a guitar and never looked back. Feliciano spoke to me from his home in Connecticut about his upcoming appearance with the San Diego Symphony Summer Pops August 21 and 22.

His illustrious career as a singer/songwriter has spanned more than 50 years. Feliciano has been nominated for 16 Grammys, winning eight and had more than 45 Gold and Platinum records. Considering Feliciano's humble beginnings, this is an astounding feat.

Feliciano was born on September 10, 1945, in Laredo, Puerto Rico, with congenital glaucoma which caused permanent blindness. A scrapper among 11 boys in the family, he never felt disabled. The family relocated to Spanish Harlem in New York City when he was five, and Feliciano was eager to pave his own path.

"Early on I listened to the music of Alirio Diaz, Julian Bream, Narciso Yepes and Andrea Segovia and wanted to play like them," said Feliciano. He made his first public performance at age eight in his classroom and at nine performed at the Bronx's Puerto Rican Theater. A teacher showed him how to use the strings of the guitar, the instrument that would eventually become a soul mate.

By the time Feliciano was 17 he quit school to play coffee houses in Greenwich Village in order to supplement the family income. People spread the word about the talented young artist who couldn't see, and music critics wrote about his ability to magically work the strings on his guitar. In 1966 Feliciano recorded a Spanish music album of his own interpretation of classic bolero tunes. It became a smash hit.

Suddenly an international and national icon, Feliciano was making appearances everywhere. When music producer Rick Jarrard suggested that Feliciano record the Doors' song "Light My Fire," it proved an overwhelming success and rose to number one on the charts in 1968. His 1970 release of "Feliz Navidad" is a favorite of Feliciano's for two reasons. It became a Christmas

tradition around the world but also a teaching tool that crossed cultural boundaries.

"I always strive to bring cultures together," he said. "With 'Feliz Navidad' I brought the American and Latin cultures together. A lot of times Hispanics are afraid to speak English because they are afraid other people will laugh at them. So I tried to show them with this song that's not the case. It also helped teach other people a little bit of Spanish."

Feliciano has released more than 40 albums and had other significant accolades. In 1987 he received a star on the renowned Walk of Fames in both Hollywood and Puerto Rico. He performed at The Kennedy Center Presents - *The Americans Concert* as well as for dignitaries around the world. He has received an Alma Award for Lifetime Achievement. In 2006 The Hispanic Heritage Foundation, an organization that identifies, inspires, promotes and prepares Latino role models through national leadership, cultural, educational and workforce programs, honored Feliciano with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

He's proud of his accomplishments and awards, but Feliciano says it's the music that inspires him most. Because faith was a strong part of his upbringing, he is quite proud that he's played for two popes - John Paul twice in Italy at the Vatican, and Pope Benedict at the former Yankee Stadium in New York City.

It's his take-it-on-the-chin attitude and optimistic joy that most assuredly has helped Feliciano forge a successful career and make him an inspiration to all. He doesn't talk much about his disability, probably because he never saw it as one. "When anyone has a challenge, you work with it, if you have any substance," he said. "You can't let anything stand in the way of doing something with your life. I knew at the age of three that music was for me. I had a knack for it. It made me feel good, and I loved it. A lot of young kids today, because they are bombarded with so many things, don't have time to concentrate on a knack. I was fortunate that I found mine."

It's the gentle way he caresses the guitar strings that seems to emit sounds unproduced elsewhere, and that are accompanied by Feliciano's heartfelt voice - that has gotten deeper, but lost little range during his

memorable career - that keeps him continually on the road performing. His appearances with major symphonies around the world include London, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego and Vienna.

"I enjoy working with symphonies," he said. "In a certain way it puts me a cut above the rest. While a lot of performers only perform their hit songs, I perform classical pieces that I've written. I can proudly say I'm a true symphony-trained musician."

He enjoys being on the road but also looks forward to returning to Connecticut, creating music in his own studio and spending time with his family. Feliciano married Susan Omillian in 1982, and the couple have three children - Melissa, Jonathan and Michael. Jonathan plays the drums and electric guitar, and Michael plays base and piano. Feliciano has come out with his own line of guitars which will debut in September on QVC and features nylon strings instead of steel. "Easier for beginners," he said.

He's been called "The greatest living guitarist," and is a mentor to thousands who have followed in his footsteps. Daddy Yankee, one the most recent successful Latin musicians, said about Feliciano, "He's one of my idols - past, present and future."

Feliciano's good works as a



José Feliciano. Photo credit: courtesy

great humanitarian endears him to the world in other ways. Along with his wife who has also helped him write songs for special endeavors, the couple has dedicated their time and talent to Spirit Joy, a children's music ministry.

So what's Feliciano recipe for success? "More than success and fame, the most important thing to me is being able to do the music," he said. "You have to love what you do and enjoy the ride."

See SYMPHONY page 6

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— AT THE MOVIES —

Quentin Tarantino's new film is full of surprises

by Diana Saenger

The off-putting title and Quentin Tarantino's penchant for hard R-rated films might keep some moviegoers from checking out his new film, *Inglourious Basterds*. It includes scenes about war, segments about killing Nazi's and violence. So if it walks like a duck, is it a duck? Not this time. *Inglourious Basterds* is actually entertaining enough to make non-Tarantino fans laugh out loud many times. Those who adore this director will get plenty of the odd, artistic and over-the-

top bits of filmmaking he's known for giving his fans.

Done in chapters, the film starts in the lush countryside of France during the first year of the German occupation there. Nazi Colonel Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz) makes a visit to the home of farmer Perrier Lapadite (Denis Menochet) to check for hidden Jews. He plays a game of cat and mouse with Perrier before ordering his soldiers to shoot through the floorboards and kill the family hiding below. A lone girl gets out and takes off running across a field. Landa stands

amusedly by and yells to her, "Au Revoir Shosanna."

Chapter Two takes us to where a group of Jewish-American recruits are planning "Operation Kino." Led by hillbilly-down-to-his-core Lieutenant Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt), the group appears like a bunch of soapbox derby drivers trying to enter a Nascar race. Their object is to retaliate against the Nazis for the injustices they have committed, and when it comes to dishing out the violence, these guys are no kids. The Lieutenant gives each of his men a quota to scalp 100 Nazis.

Of course, with Pitt's silly Southern accent, a rope mark around his neck and a jugged jaw like the Godfather, none of this can be taken seriously. But the casting is extremely authentic and the ever-unique Tarantino actually pulled actors from the countries of their corresponding characters. The results keep the fable-like story feeling authentic.

In addition to Pitt, two others are standouts in the film. Waltz, whose 88 feature film



Eli Roth and Brad Pitt star in *Inglourious Basterds* Photo credit: Francois Duhamel / The Weinstein Company

career is filled mostly with German movies, is superb as the ruthless Nazi Colonel. In every scene he's like the predator handing a kid candy with a genuine smile only to break his arm if he reaches for it. His best scenes are with the beautiful French actress Melanie Laurent who plays Shosanna.

Years after she escaped death at the hand of the Colo-

nel, she became the owner of a cinema in Paris. She keeps a low profile under the assumed name of Emmanuelle Mimieux and using fake French papers to disguise she's a Jew. Her luck gets tested when Adolf Hitler's (Martin Wuttke) people decide to show a propaganda film, and they choose her theater for the event.

Right before that event,

Raine and a few of his men plan a meeting with popular German actress Bridget von Hammersmark (Diane Kruger), who's really an undercover agent on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich. Their meeting in a basement bar oozes with tension, especially when German officers show up and put a kink in "Operation Kino."

The most dramatic scenes take place in Chapter 5. The night air is filled with tension as German soldiers and top society members enter the theater. Raine and his men, disguised as Italians, have their own plan, but unbeknownst to them Emmanuelle has plans of her own. Laurent's last scenes are so powerful they're reminiscent of starlets of earlier years who have sacrificed everything to live like Vivien Leigh in *Gone With The Wind*.

What I like most about *Inglourious Basterds* is its unpredictability. One moment it's about WWII, the next we're laughing at a silly man with a Tennessee accent and the next we're drawn into the lives of people reminiscent of those who lost their lives for merely being of a particular persuasion. The tread that combines these stories is Colonel Landa, proficiently played by Waltz, and whom I hope to see again soon on the big screen.

I have to admit this is my favorite Tarantino film, but anyone planning to see *Inglourious Basterds* should be aware of the varying subject matters.



Melanie Laurent who plays Shosanna in *Inglourious Basterds*. Photo credit: Francois Duhamel / The Weinstein Company



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— AT THE MOVIES —

‘District 9’ — visually stunning

Review by Michael Black

Director of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the *King Kong* remake, Peter Jackson is back with a computer-generated live-action visual masterpiece. *District 9* is a combination of the fictional movie *Alien Nation* and the real story of District Six, a district in Cape Town that was declared a whites only area in 1966.

In *District 9* an alien spacecraft appears over Johannesburg, South Africa and hovers for three years with no contact with Earth inhabitants. Government officials become impatient and decide to cut into the ship where they find the alien inhabitants malnourished and sick. The government creates a camp for the insect-like aliens they refer to as Prawns. As the years pass District 9 turns into a slum becoming a haven for prostitution, the black market and other illicit activity.

Wikus van der Merwe (Sharlto Copley), a Multi-National United (MNU) employee is chosen to evict the 1.8 million aliens from District 9 to a newly designated area, District 10, outside of the city boarders. While the inhabitants of Johannesburg are tired of dealing with the aliens, other thug groups are actually creating an underground black market exploiting the Prawns for much needed items.

Wikus starts to evict the aliens one by one but after inspecting one shack gets sprayed with a strange liquid. He begins to transform into one of Prawns. This gets the

attention of the MNU who are very interested in the alien's powerful weaponry that no human can operate due to their incompatible DNA. Since Wikus now has partial alien DNA and can operate the technology, MNU executives strip Wikus of his human rights and decide to dissect him in the name of cooperate profit. Once captured Wikus escapes and becomes the most wanted man by the MNU. He has no choice but to hide amongst the aliens, and his only hope of survival relies on an intelligent alien named Christopher who isn't sure he will help Wikus.

All of the actors in the film are relatively new but do a remarkable job. Copley is a little hard to understand at times with a heavy foreign brogue, but does an impressive job in his first feature film. What's most impressive about this film is the seamless interaction between the actors and the computer generated aliens. It does get gory involving everything from limbs being torn off to whole beings being blown up into small bits. There

is also a fair amount of strong language.

Despite being a little too long and a little slow at times, *District 9* is an excellent movie visually. It's a harsh look on how revolting humans can be to any race that overstay its welcome but in the end, a few good humans are enough to make a difference.



Inglourious Basterds

Studio: The Weinstein Company

Gazette Grade: B+

MPAA: "R" for strong graphic violence, language and brief sexuality

Who Should Go: Tarantino fans

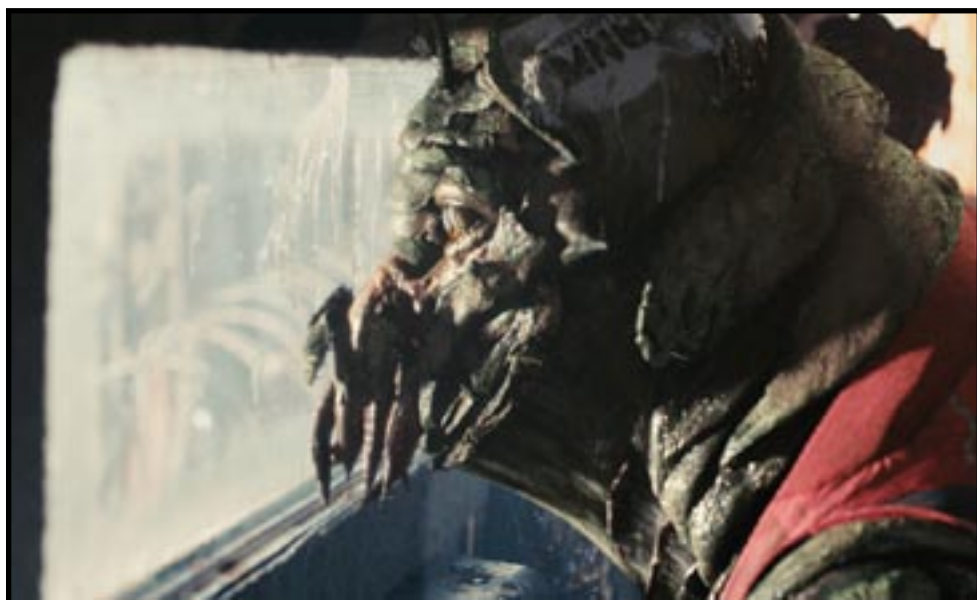
District 9

Studio: TriStar Pictures

Gazette Grade: B

MPAA: "R" for bloody violence and pervasive language.

Who Should Go: Peter Jackson fans content, graphic nudity and language.



A Prawn worries about his safety in *District 9*. Photo credit: Columbia TriStar Pictures

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ON BLU-RAY™ HI-DEF & DVD AUGUST 25

— DINING / CONCERTS —

How to eat out with kids for free every night of the week

by Jessica Janae

Just when dining out may be nixed from a tightened family budget, there are some tasty solutions that won't deprive you the pleasure of sitting down, relaxing, and having your meal served to you.

Did you know that if you spent an hour on the internet today, you could uncover a week's worth of free meals at local restaurants for your kids? Do a Google search for "family restaurants" and "kids

meals" in your area. Then go to their website and find the dates they offer their "Kids Eat Free" night. Many restaurants offer free kids meals one and sometimes several nights a week. These websites either list restaurants where you can find free meals or where you can download coupons for great discounts.

Every restaurant purposely develops experiences just for their target customers, and for family restaurants that means doing everything they can to attract more families. That

goes for everything from putting items on a menu that are most loved by moms, dads and kids, to décor that engenders a family atmosphere, and activities that keep kids' attention while Mom and Dad have a few moments to share over a meal. "Kids Eat Free" promotions help restaurants create loyal consumers and for you, it's one night you don't have to mess up the kitchen.

"Some of these free meals are not just macaroni and cheese, mind you," says Heather Gardea, executive chef for Coco's and Carrow's restaurants. "I became known as the 'family value chef' because I have a knack for finding the highest quality foods at affordable prices and pairing them into multi-course meals for under \$8. I carefully balance proteins, fats and carbs so that the optimal nutrients can be had in one sitting." Heather created the promotional offer at her restaurants of one free kids meal for every adult entrée two nights a week. For example, you can find free kids meals at any Coco's Bakery Restaurant in California, Arizona, Nevada or Colorado

on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after 4 p.m. (www.cocosbakery.com) and at Carrows Restaurants on Wednesdays and Thursdays after 4 p.m. (www.carrows.com).

It's important to understand that restaurants buy in bulk, so they can get certain provisions for much less than what we can buy in a grocery store. So, oddly enough, eating out can be cheaper and more nutritious than making food at home. For a restaurant, the benefit of having you in their dining room offsets what a free kids meal costs them. So it's cheap for you, and cost effective for them.

You'd be surprised how many kinds of restaurants have kid friendly and nutritious choices. These websites either list restaurants where you can find free meals or where you can download coupons for great discounts. Check out www.restaurant.com, www.valpak.com, www.moneysavingexpert.com. By following these helpful budgeting tips you can treat your family to a night out and still have a little cash left in your pockets.

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OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson



Moose Lake

By Steve Krueger



The Summer Pops — a great venue

What could be more relaxing than sitting by the bay, watching the boats in the harbor, and listening to some good music? For those who have never been, it's a treat worth checking out. Returnees will not want to miss the remaining appearances at the 2009 Summer Pops Concerts.

José Feliciano, August 21 & 22

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter José Feliciano lights the Summer Pops on fire with his chart-topping hits including "Light My Fire, Rain," "California Dreamin'," "Cuando El Amor Se Acaba" and more! A fixture on the American and international music scene for decades, José returns to serenade us once again.

The Music of The Doors: A Rock Symphony, August 27

The Lizard King lives! The one-night-only tribute to The Doors, musical poets of the 1960s, includes, "Hello, I Love You," "Break on Through (To the Other Side)" "L.A. Women." All this from a live rock band with rock concert lighting, powered by the grandeur of San Diego Symphony, and from the producers of our recent smash hit "Music of Led Zeppelin."

Melissa Manchester, August 28 & 29

Grammy award-winning vocalist and songwriter Melissa Manchester graces the stage with her classy hits including "Don't Cry Out Loud," "Midnight Blue," "Through The Eyes of Love," and more.

1812 Spectacular (Tchaikovsky & Friends), September 4, 5 & 6

Summer Pops would not be complete without our traditional Tchaikovsky season finale. Don't miss the famous cannon "shots," fireworks and the fantastic 1812 Overture over the Bay. Top off your summer with family, friends...and Tchaikovsky—at his most rousing!

For tickets or information call (619) 235-0804 or visit www.sandiegosymphony.com

Concerts fill out the summer

Review by Diana Saenger

What's better than spending a warm summer evening at a top entertainment site such as Viejas and listening to world class musical groups? The acts coming to the DreamCatcher at Viejas showroom and the Concert in the Park area at offer a wide venue of entertainment including music of varied types and laughs, and some tickets are on sale now.

The DreamCatcher at Viejas is inside the Viejas Casino at 5005 Willows RD: Alpine (8-East to Willows Road Exit in Alpine). The Park area is inside the Viejas Outlet Center. There is paid valet or free self-parking available.

DreamCatcher at Viejas & Concert in the Park concert schedule:

August 21: 8 p.m., Tony Orlando

August 28: 9 p.m., the Kims of Comedy

October 3: 8 p.m., Brooks & Dunn

Check out Viejas' full entertainment schedule at: <http://www.viejasentertainment.com/calendarList.php> and for tickets or information call (619) 659-1996 or (619) 220-TIXS.

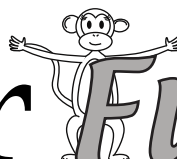
Note: Ticket prices range from \$5 and up and some concerts are free

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Newspaper

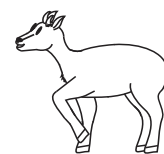
www.readingclubfun.com



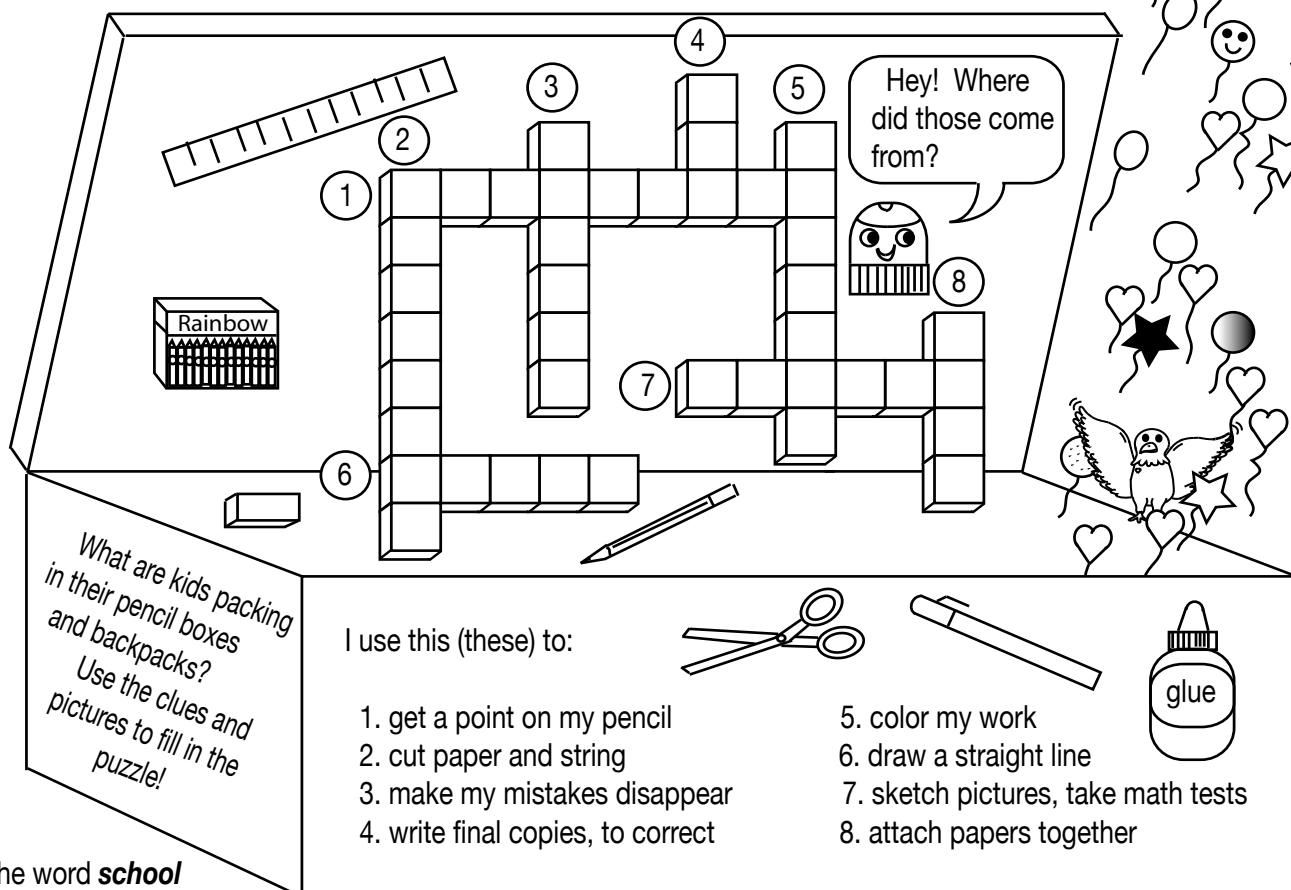
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Free entry forms are on our website.



All Set to go Back to School?



Here are some phrases that people use with the word **school** or **class** in them. What do they mean? **Match each one to its definition:**

1. tell tales out of school
2. school of thought
3. school of hard knocks

- A. way of thinking about something
B. learned through an experience
C. telling secrets one shouldn't

1. old school
2. school someone
3. class act

- A. is the best
B. used to be important in the past
C. teach or train

Getting Your Head Ready for School...



It's time to start thinking about school. I need bigger ears to hear the teachers. I need a better memory to remember my homework. But, what I really need is a good:

My school's colors are blue and gold.
Use them to finish the puzzle below.

G = Gold B = Blue

Hint: If you don't have a gold pencil use a yellow one.



Enter Our **Book Giveaway**

This summer we have been giving away dozens of books to encourage kids to read. **Follow these 4 easy steps** to enter!

1. sign on to our free reading club:
www.readingclubfun.com
2. print out the entry form
3. have Mom, Dad or other adult (over 18)
fill out the form and sign it

4. mail in
your signed
form to:

Reading Club Fun
P.O. Box 646
Canton, CT 06019

[illegible]

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