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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 10, NO. 13, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

Out and about in the County

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

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

Sept. 8 - Nov. 15: The Julian Apple Days Centennial celebration will kick off on Sept. 8 with a historic apple display in Town Hall reminiscent of the one held on Oct. 9, 1909. The display, which will run until Sept. 20, will feature

the many different apple varieties found in the Julian area, along with other local produce, fruit preserves, and much more. The display is open to the public free of charge to give people a better idea of the historic agricultural contribution Julian once made to San Diego County.


The Julian Apple Days Centennial celebration, which runs from Sept. 8 until Nov. 15 is a historic community tradition and serves as an excellent opportunity to bring the town together to produce a world-class event celebrating the Fall harvest.

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 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

Sept. 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 Kelson Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942 (619-464-1519, pastorfelix@cox.net, www.uccclm.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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— AT THE MOVIES —

'World's Greatest Dad' is questionable

by Diana Saenger

Robin Williams will probably be able to make films as long as he wants to. Why? Because at one time he was one of the funniest men in movies. However, what kind of movies is the question. His newest film is the dark, edgy *World's Greatest Dad*.

When Lance Clayton (Williams) gets done talking to the only two students in his high school poetry class and stealing kisses between classes with fellow teacher Clare (Alexie Gilmore), his highlight of the day is heading home to the mailbox. Lance, a frustrated writer, hopes one of the gold envelopes in the mail will contain the words "we want to buy" in the enclosed letter.

It's never good news, and if that deflation isn't enough, there's his teenage son Kyle (Daryl Sabara, *Keeping Up With the Steins*). Lance tries to engage his son in some meaningful father/son experience, but Kyle isn't having it. He hates everything — music, girls, movies — and by the way he acts, his dad. He does like his computer, where he can watch porn and perform sexual acts on himself in the bedroom.

Mom is MIA in the story without an explanation.

Maybe Kyle is so obnoxious because everyone at his school treats the doorstep better than him. They berate him, make fun of him and bully him until it gets physical, and he ends up in the principal's office, followed by Lance being summoned as well.

As displayed in his other films — *Sleeping Dogs Lie*, *Stay, Shakes the Clown* — writer/director Bobcat Goldthwait is attempting to set his own style. He tackles opaque themes such as the human circumstances and what happens when you have to reinvent yourself.

That's exactly what Lance has to do when a major twist in the movie talks place. He must change his entire persona. Kyle's best friend, Andrew (Evan Martin), keeps throwing road blocks at Lance's plan, but he hurdles them like a pro. Williams does a good job in making us wonder if he's really buying his own sales pitch or hanging on for his life. The love relationship never works. Lance appears too old — and let's face it — too out of shape for the younger lovely and trim Clare. Their constant giddy dialogue, consisting of calling each other



Daryl Sabara stars in *World's Greatest Dad*. Photo credit: Magnolia Pictures

names such as Cup Cake and Moon Pie, is a turn off. Further evidence of their nonworking relationship takes place when another teacher, the good-looking Mike (Henry Simmons), takes a shine to Clare.

Sabara, (*Keeping Up With the Steins*), does a good job opposite Williams as his totally repulsive teenage son. Lorraine Nicholson (*Princess Diaries 2*) offers up a great performance as Heather, a Goth-looking teen who is unrelentingly cruel to Kyle.

World's Greatest Dad, billed

as a comedy, contains a few laughs. Still, because the material seems more soul-searching

and at times quite startling, I don't recommend it for general audiences.



World's Greatest Dad

Studio: Magnolia Pictures

Gazette Grade: C

MPAA: "R" for language, crude and sexual content, some drug use and disturbing images.

Who Should Go: Fans of edgy movies

CLASS ACT

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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— ON STAGE —

Zany fun heads to the Civic Theater



Merle Dandridge plays Lady in the Lake. Photo Credit: Joan Marcus

Review and Interviews by Diana Saenger

The Broadway show of *Monty Python's Spamalot* ran for three years and earned three Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Director (Mike Nichols) and Best Featured Actress for Sara Ramirez. The touring show, now in its third year, runs Sept. 8 - 13 at the Civic Theatre.

Anyone who has seen the show knows it's a laugh fest from beginning to end. A favorite of Monty Python fans, the show is adapted from the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Some of the biggest names in the business are behind this zany production. Broadway veteran Mike Nichols directs; the book and lyrics are by Eric Idle; John Du Prez and Eric Idle wrote the music and Casey Nicholaw delivers brilliant choreography.

Three of shows lead actors agreed to an interview about their roles and the show. Christopher Gurr plays King Arthur and carries out his role ex-

ceptionally well. Gurr has appeared in productions including *The Lion in Winter* and *12 Angry Men*, directed regional theatre and has been a teacher and associate artist with several theatre companies.

Matthew Greer slips into the role of the gallant knight Sir Lancelot as well as The French Taunter/Knight of Ni/Tim the Enchanter. The very funny actor has performed in *Cabaret* and *The Judas Kiss* on Broadway and has many TV, international and national theatre credits.

Merle Dandridge is the beautiful Lady of the Lake. She attended Roosevelt University and has appeared in many stage productions including *Rent*, *Aida* and *Tarzan*. She's had roles in several TV shows and appeared in the feature film *Nothing But The Truth*.

All three actors admit the show is pure silliness and are overjoyed it's being so well received by audiences. "It seems to be a sweet spot for nine-year-old boys," Gurr said. "I've met several father and son teams at the stage door throughout the tour. I think fathers like introducing their sons to the world of Python because *Spamalot* is not as mean spirited and much easier to understand literally."

One thing is for sure said Greer. "If you don't have a sense of humor when you get to the show, you leave with one. It's the kind of show that appeals to die-hard Python fans who show up in full costume or those types that say 'my boyfriend dragged me to it and I didn't get it and he was laughing and we had to break up.' There's something in it for everyone."

Spamalot attempts to retell the legendary tale of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and their quest for the Holy Grail, but forget a normal plot. Get a load of some of the scene names - Mud Castle, Plague Village, The Killer Rabbit - or songs titles such as "I Am Not Dead Yet," and "Run Away" and it's clear these actors have all they can do not to bust a gut while performing.

"You have to learn to be fast and funny at the same time," said Greer, who must deliver a new spontaneous line related to the city of the performance. "Hank Azaria, who played the original role on Broadway and is skilled at improvisation did



Christopher Gurr plays King Arthur. Matthew Greer plays Sir Lancelot. Photo Credit: Joan Marcus

this easily. 'Thanks Hank.' So I have to improv something funny every night. But this is fun for the audience, and the cast is dying to know what I'm going to say as well. Sometimes it throws off their cues, but isn't that part of the fun?"

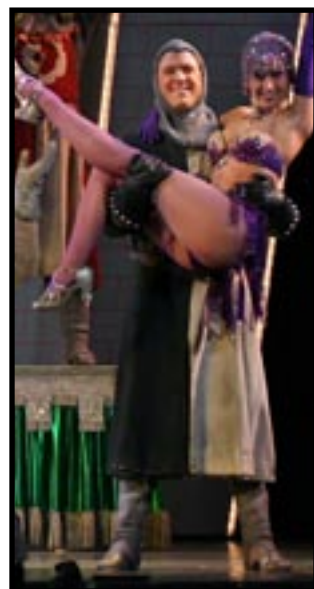
Amongst a chorus line of dancing divas and knights, flatulent Frenchmen and killer rabbits is a breath of fresh air when Merle Dandridge takes to the stage. At several points she's a comedic drama queen complaining about her missing part but when she lets loose of the beautiful aria "The Song That Goes Like This," it creates chills. At first Dandridge didn't feel qualified for the show.

"For my first audition they said bring a musical theater piece and an aria, and there was a serious dance call for the Lady," Dandridge said. "I thought, I don't know if I can be a Lady of the Lake. When I saw the original cast it was not at all what I thought it was going to be, and once they streamlined the character it was clear I was a good fit for it."

The love these actors have for their art is clear in their enthusiastic performances. Gurr easily sums up his career. It's not like going to the coal mines or war; so there are many things that's its much

easier than. The hardest thing is in not knowing how your life will go and whether you will or will not have money. Being an actor is a constant dance of caring deeply about your work and yet not caring that you are a commodity where people say, 'no that's not the look, or height, etc. that we want.'

Broadway San Diego's *Monty Python's Spamalot* runs Sept. 8 - 13 at the Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave., San Diego. Tickets at (619) 570-1100 or www.ticketmaster.com



Matthew Greer as Sir Lancelot.

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— ON STAGE —

The 19th Annual San Diego Music Awards heads to Viejas



Get Back Loretta. Photo credit: courtesy

The 19th Annual San Diego Music Awards (SDMA) takes place on Thursday, September 10 in the beautiful outdoor setting of Viejas' Concerts in the Park. Included will be performances by Players Inc featuring members of Slightly Stoopid; Scarlet Symphony; Get Back Loretta; Steph Johnson; The Burning of Rome; The Silent Comedy and Lifetime Achievement award recipient, The Zeros. Celebrity presenters in 2009 include the likes of Wayne Kramer (MC5),

Mat Diablo (91X) and many more!

Part of the profits of the San Diego Music Awards goes to the Guitars for Schools program developed by Taylor along with the San Diego Music Foundation. The program seeks to introduce the guitar to public elementary-school music curricula in San Diego County, both as a way to augment existing programs and to offset the loss of arts instruction due to budget cuts.

Suzie Reed oversees the Guitars for Schools program for Taylor Guitars and said the popularity of the program goes hand-in-hand with the guitar's familiarity and popularity among young people. Its ubiquity in both pop culture and American history makes it an excellent

tool for getting kids interested in music and in the performing arts.

By the end of 2008, more than 1,300 "Baby" Taylors had been donated to San Diego area schools since the program's inception in 2000. The technical details of the program, according to Reed, are subject to advance approval and available budget by Taylor

Guitars, who then donate and/or loan a pre-arranged number of "Baby" Taylors to San Diego-area public elementary school applying for use in day classes or after-school music programs.

Tickets for the event are \$25. General Admission / \$50. Reserved Table Seating and available at <http://tickets.frontgatetickets.com/>



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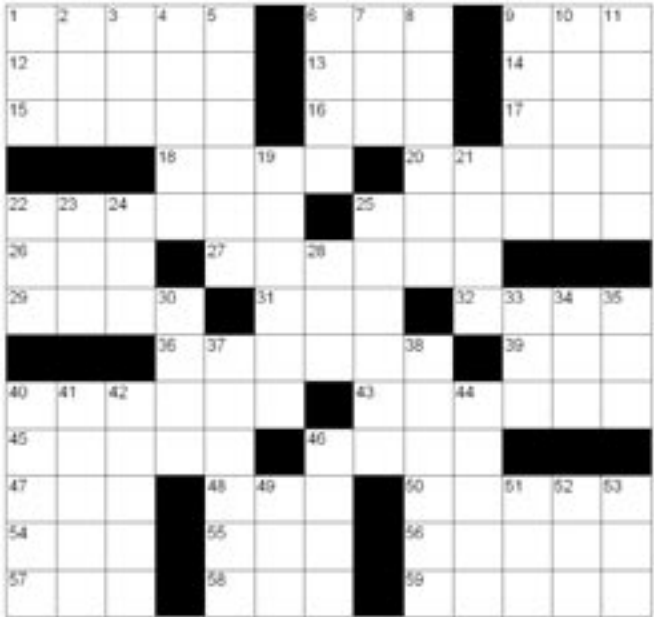
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— PUZZLES AND FUN —

Crossword Puzzle



- Across
- 1 Ketchup maker

6 Coffee brand

9 Tempo

12 Sugar-free brand

13 Promissory note

14 Before, poetically

15 Tree product

16 Decade

17 Bog

18 Essence

20 Pushed away

22 After seventh

25 Ruled over

26 Male cat

27 Secreting

29 Parlay

31 Passing trend

32 Shaded

36 Stringed instrument

39 Day of the week (abbr.)

40 Accessible

43 Gossip

45 Fish tank growth

46 Island

47 Snake

48 Moved quickly

50 Painter Richard

54 Choose

55 Internal Revenue Service

56 House parts

- Down
- 1 She

2 East southeast

3 That (possessive)

4 Horse noise

5 High point

6 Baseball glove

7 Football player Montana

8 Science lab burner

9 Confuse

10 Clean

11 Fixes

19 Slick

21 Above the ground

22 Airport abbr.

23 Cation

24 Greenwich Time

25 Horseback travelers

28 Morse code dash

30 Jewish scribe

33 Flying saucer

34 Make a mistake

35 Hades

37 European peninsula Spain's peninsula

38 Kings

40 Wealthy man

41 Marry secretly

42 Multi-colored rock

44 Particle

46 Institution (abbr.)

49 Bow

51 Also

52 Flightless bird

53 Fast plane

57 Stinger

58 Feign

59 Schnozzle

Word Search

Labor Day

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	W	O	R	K	E	R	S	AMERICA
C	N	Z	L	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	V	E	R	N	AMERICAN WORKERS
Z	E	R	A	L	T	N	H	B	J	C	M	Y	V	F	BEFORE AUTUMN
S	K	L	H	C	Y	L	B	Y	Z	Z	J	A	R	E	CELEBRATION
V	B	K	E	B	I	C	N	I	X	Y	P	D	P	D	CLEVELAND
B	D	E	J	B	D	R	N	B	A	L	L	K	5	E	EIGHT HOUR WORKDAY
E	R	M	D	R	R	D	E	D	D	D	C	R	G	R	END OF SUMMER
F	T	M	K	E	U	A	I	M	N	N	E	O	N	A	EUGENE DEBS
O	F	D	O	S	N	L	T	A	A	B	J	W	K	T	FEDERATION OF LABOR
R	X	P	T	N	O	E	L	I	M	F	L	R	M	I	HOLIDAY
E	X	R	C	H	D	E	G	E	O	E	Y	U	M	O	INDUSTRY
A	Y	J	H	L	V	A	T	U	A	N	A	O	N	N	LABOR DAY
U	S	N	K	E	V	P	Y	D	E	L	D	H	F	O	LAWS
T	N	L	L	W	E	L	E	K	F	R	R	T	N	F	LEADERS
U	O	C	K	S	R	R	L	N	V	K	O	H	M	L	MONDAY
M	I	L	D	K	S	K	M	C	T	L	B	G	K	A	PARADES
N	N	A	N	Z	K	F	K	J	X	G	A	I	T	B	REVOLUTION
R	U	W	M	L	M	X	T	L	B	H	L	E	J	O	SEPTEMBER
M	X	S	G	S	E	D	A	R	A	P	N	T	R	R	
H	E	N	D	O	F	S	U	M	M	E	R	T	R	M	

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By: David & Doreen Dotson

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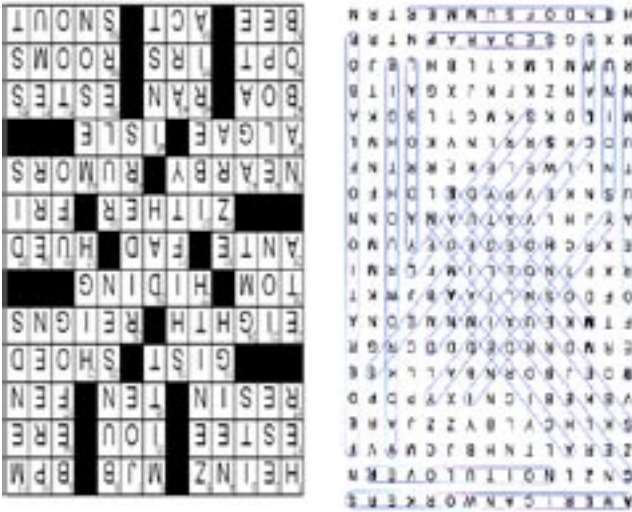


Moose Lake

By Steve Krueger




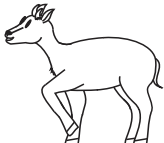




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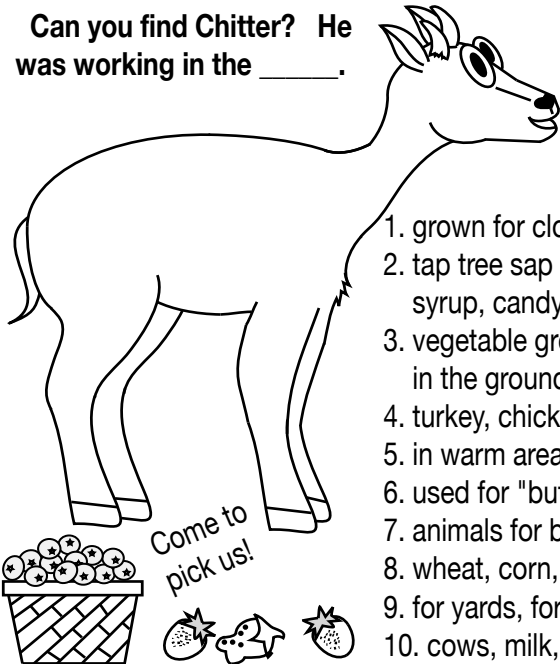
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Farming Is Hard Work!

Farming is a lot of hard work. Farmers need to think about the condition of the soil, the weather, caring for plants or animals, harvesting, shipping and selling products at the market. The days are long!

There are many kinds of farms. Read the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle with the names of different kinds of farms.



- 1. grown for clothing, bedding
- 2. tap tree sap to make syrup, candy
- 3. vegetable grown in the ground; has "eyes"
- 4. turkey, chicken
- 5. in warm areas, fruit, juice
- 6. used for "butter," oils
- 7. animals for beef
- 8. wheat, corn, oats
- 9. for yards, forests, Christmas
- 10. cows, milk, cheese, butter

Labor Day is a day when we crow about all the hard work our Moms and Dads do to keep our families going.

What's a combine?

Oh, that's a machine used in a field to cut wheat or corn.

Hey, hay! Hey! You found me!

Can you find and circle 5 words that are spelled with "ee" and have the long "e," or "ē" sound?

Use the word list below if you get stuck!

- dairy
- cattle
- orange
- potato
- grain
- tree
- maple
- sugar
- peanut
- poultry
- cotton

Did you know that there are ____ farms?



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Working and Running a Farm

Farms have buildings for shelter, storage and sales. It also takes many pieces of equipment to run a farm. Can you find and circle the items below that you can find on different farms?

- rake

silo

barn

plow

pump

truck

fences

reaper
- combine

tractor

buckets

ladder

planter

windmill

milking machine

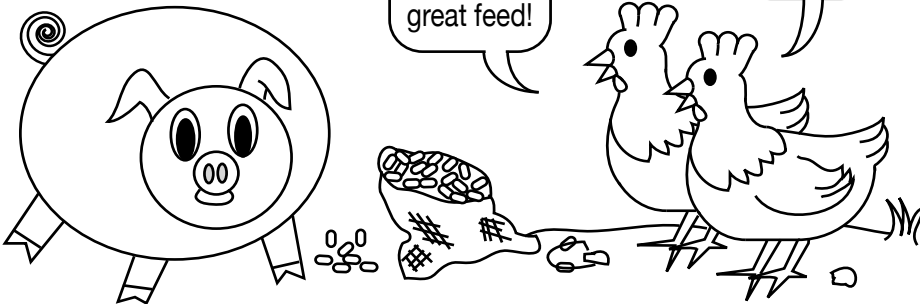
drainage system

Excuse me! I also separate and gather the seeds from the plant!

Can you find and circle 10 words that begin with the consonant blends cr, dr, fr, gr, pr and tr?

This farm puts on a great feed!

Indeed!



Next week, Newspaper Fun is all about Going to the Fair!

Our new, free puzzles are ready for you on our website: www.readingclubfun.com Come to print them out!

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

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