

MICHAEL JACKSON'S
THIS IS IT

IN THEATERS 10.28.09



EAST COUNTY
GAZETTE
CLASS ACT

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 10, NO. 22, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Out and about in the County

Thursdays: Farmer's Market, 2 - 6 p.m. at Lindo Lake Park - north parking lot. Local Fresh fruits and vegetables, local fine arts and crafts, California native plants and more. For more information contact: Lakeside Chamber of Commerce at (619) 561-1031.

Through Nov. 15: The Julian Apple Days Centennial celebration kicked off on Sept. 8 with a historic apple display in Town Hall reminiscent of the one held on Oct. 9, 1909. 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.

Nov. 7: The La Mesa Historical Society presents the 4th annual Home Tour on Saturday, November 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tour features five historic homes in the downtown La Mesa area. A free shuttle bus will be provided to transport you to the homes. There will also be a showing of local art and vintage cars. Tickets are \$15 for Historical Society members and \$18 for nonmembers. The tour begins at the corner of Palm and Lemon Avenues.

Nov. 9: East County Art Association's monthly meeting will be held at 1 p.m. at the Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon. Nationally recognized oil painter, Dennis Torzeski, will demonstrate his painting techniques. A workshop featuring Dennis Torzeski will be held on Nov. 23 from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the library. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. For additional information call Jan Stitch, (619) 579-9406.

Nov. 12: Holiday Open House from 5 - 8 p.m. Start your holiday season at Summers Past Farms. Be inspired by our selection of fall and Christmas gifts and home décor. The barn will be filled with lights and the trimmings for the season. The store is a special place to be in the evening with all the Christmas lights and the

scent of Christmas. The soap shoppe will have holiday soaps and gifts ready for giving. Come with all your friends and enjoy an assortment of traditional holiday cookies and wassail while you shop.

Nov. 17: Grossmont Union High School District Marching Band and Color Guard Field Show Extravaganza at 6 p.m. Monte Vista High School Stadium, 3230 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley. Featuring Performances by: El Cajon Valley High School, Santana High School, Granite Hills High School, Mount Miguel High School, Monte Vista High School, West Hills High School, Steele Canyon High School, Grossmont High School, El Capitan High School, Valhalla High School, Helix Charter High School and starring SDSU Marching Aztec Band. Grand Finale Massed Band Performance by All Bands Together on the Field. Refreshments & DVDs of show available for sale. Admission: \$8 at the gate. (Children up through fifth grade FREE. Middle school students 6, 7, 8 grades FREE with school ID or letter from band director. Parents expected to accompany children). Call Patti (619) 368-6130 for info.

Nov. 20: The City of Santee will host its Holiday Lighting Celebration from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Santee Trolley Square, 9884 Mission Gorge Road in Santee. Join in the fun, which includes ice skating, horse-drawn carriage, caroling, concerts, kids' activities, Santa visit, a tree lighting ceremony and fireworks! From 5:30 to 6:15, entertainment by Singing Solo will be provided. at 6:15, the tree lighting ceremony and fireworks will take place, followed by a Navy Band Southwest Brass Quintet concert from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Activities are free, except for ice skating, which costs \$3 a person for participants 5 and up. Other activities include free kids' crafts and cookie decorating, Lowe's workshop, and special appearances by the Sunrise Church Carolers, Santee Historical Society, and Santa and his helpers. For more information, call the event hotline at (619)4100 ext. 201 or visit: www.ci.santee.ca.us

Nov. 22: The 63rd Annual Mother Goose Parade will take place on Sunday, Nov. 22 starting at 10 a.m. on Second Street in El Cajon. This event is free to all

and everyone is invited. This is an exciting event that has traditionally kicked off the holiday season in East County. Bring a lawn chair or pull up a curb, all seating and fun in absolutely free! Check out the Vendors Village on the Promenade where food will be sold and there will be a 'Lego Discovery Land,' for kids of all ages. For more information, call (619) 444-8712.

Dec. 5: Spirit of Christmas Celebration. The Lakeside Chamber of Commerce is seeking volunteers to be on the Spirit of Christmas committee. Contact the Chamber at 561-1031 if you are interested.

Dec. 5: 21st Annual Holiday Home Tour 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy a self-guided tour of four unique homes in the Lakeside area. A reception will be held at 2:30 p.m., for ticket holders only, at the Olde Church 9906 Maine Ave., Lakeside. A \$15 donation is asked to preserve the Olde Church. Contact 561-1886 for any questions.

Dec. 5: Lions, Tigers & Bears from 1 to 5 p.m. Why shop at a crowded mall when you can shop with the Big Cats? A variety of vendors will be on hand for our annual Members Holiday Party to help you complete your holiday shopping. So get your friends and family together and come to Lions Tigers & Bears to make holiday shopping fun again! - \$25 donation for adults, \$15 donation for children under 12. Call the office to sign-up (619) 659-8078. More Info: www.lionstigersandbears.org

Dec. 5: Jingle Paws In December, The ACES Foundation & Camp Bow Wow is holding "Jingle Paws First Annual Walk For Pets" event on Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wells Park, located at 1153 East Madison Avenue. Registration and check-in begins at 8am, walk begins at 9 a.m. There will be a Santa's Village with Doggy goods vendors - pictures with Santa, a Santa's playground and agility course and a Santa's Adoption Village with local rescue organizations taking part. For more information call (619) 447-3535, or visit ACES online at www.acesfoundation.org

ON THE COVER: Michael Jackson in *Michael Jackson's This Is It*. Photo credit: Sony Pictures Entertainment

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— DINING —

Viejas Casino proudly presents 'Far East Winds'



Far East Winds is located in the Viejas Casino, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine.

by Diana Saenger

Viejas Casino proudly, opened their new Asian Cuisine restaurant, Far East Winds, last week with a traditional Kumeyaay blessing, birdsinging and smudging from Viejas Tribal Councilmember Virginia Christman.

Far East Winds is a unique concept that expresses some of the past, present and future contributions of the Chinese in developing the West. The unique menu encompasses Chinese dishes from the four main regions of China: Cantonese (Southern China); Szechuan (Western China); Mandarin (Northern China); and Shanghaiese (Eastern China), each offering a variety of unique and exciting flavors. Far East Winds is located near the new poker room, on the main level of Viejas Casino and opens at 5 p.m. for dinner Monday – Friday and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Far East Winds opened with a traditional tribal blessing.

San Diego Symphony presents Barbra Streisand's Song Book with Julie Budd

Barbra Streisand's friend and collaborator Marvin Hamlisch, who is also the San Diego Symphony's principal Pops Conductor, will lead the orchestra in a Winter Pops Concert Nov 6 and 7 at the San Diego Symphony Towers.

Join Marvin Hamlisch and the music of "La Streisand"! as stage, screen and concert hall veteran Julie Budd sings and soars performing the music of the original Funny Girl herself. From *People* and *Don't Rain on My Parade* to *The Way We Were*, Barbra Streisand's song

book is lush and legendary with so many misty water-colored memories. Symphony Towers is located at 7th and B in San Diego.

For tickets or information call 619.235.0804 or go online at www.sandiegosymphony.com

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— AT THE MOVIES —

'This Is It' is a rousing tribute to Michael Jackson

by Diana Saenger

Beyond evoking the enjoyment of watching Michael Jackson sing or dance as well as a feeling of sadness that he's gone, Kenny Ortega's documentary *Michael Jackson's This Is It* proves Jackson was a musical genius the likes of which may never be seen again.

The film includes one rehearsal after another for a planned King of Pop comeback in a series of concerts at London's O2 Arena. From the time he appeared as a young boy on stage with the Jackson five to becoming an accom-

plished and creative music icon in videos such as "Thriller" and "Billy Jean," we've seen and enjoyed Jackson's finished productions.

Although some are now throwing stones at Ortega for releasing what was supposedly to be Jackson's personal video of the rehearsals; we now see behind-the-scenes and fans are eager to salute and honor him. From the beginning of the film where the casting call goes out for dancers to audition to every crew and cast member that appears in *This Is It*, it's mind boggling what goes into these shows.

It's also beyond comprehension how much Jackson understood the dynamics of performance, including pitch, tone, delivery of his songs, lighting and timing of background singers and dancers. He was in control of every single aspect no matter whose names were in the credits, and that's apparent throughout this film.

Ortega handles the direction with impressive finesse. As director of films such as *Dirty Dancing* (1988) and *Resurrection Blvd.* (2004), TV shows like *Ally McBeal* and *High School Musical* and world events – including the opening ceremony for the XIX Winter Olympics – Ortega knows his business. He also knows his talent. There were times during rehearsal for *This Is It* that Jackson would object to something Ortega said or gently correct him, but always with a "it's for the love" – which Jackson repeats often while giving directions to cast or crew members – or "I Love you," to which Ortega would reply, "I love you, Michael."

They are many things I like

about this film. Although it's obvious Jackson was only giving about 80 percent of his efforts in both his singing and dance routines – and he offered comments about this ("I'm saving my voice and my strength") – it was still equal to 120 percent compared to other performers. And there are many instances when the music is Jackson's real director, when you can tell he's caught up and can't quite hold himself back. No matter how many times he's performed songs such as "Beat It," "Black or White" or others of his popular songs, he and the music are forever paired and it seems impossible to control his own needs of self preservation when the band starts up.

I enjoyed Jackson's tender sparring with keyboardist and musical director Michael Bearden when he made a slight change to the tempo change on "The Way You Make Me Feel." Bearden replied with a quick exchange of not being able to always predict how Jackson wanted the song to sound, which Jackson replied, "I want it like I wrote it." And that was the end of that conversation.

Some of the visuals in this documentary are terrific. I think the ghouls and makeup



Michael Jackson in *Michael Jackson's This Is It*. Photo credit: Sony Pictures Entertainment

in the scenes of "Thriller" are far more exciting than in the original video. The entire audience seemed enthralled when Jackson began his rendition of "Smooth Criminal" with clips of black and white classic films

such as *Gilda* (1946) with Rita Hayworth and *His Girl Friday*. It's through the magic of CGI in these scenes that, Jackson, in an appropriate fedora, becomes immersed right into the action along side Edward G. Robinson and Humphrey Bogart.

Also rousing is Jackson's passionate Earth sequence where images of beautiful scenery from the world are shown as Jackson sings "Human Nature" and "Earth Song."

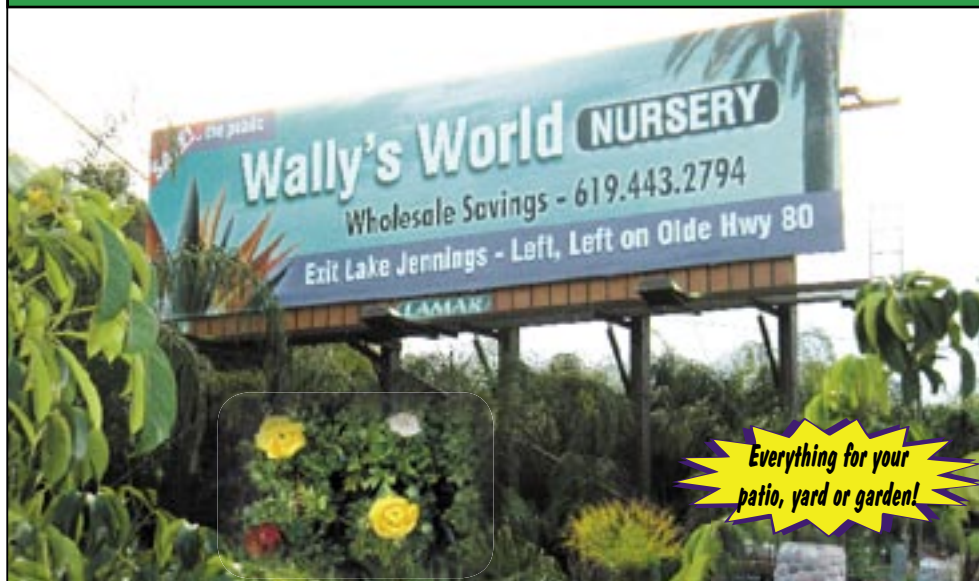
Ortega refers to *This Is It* as a musical mosaic. "Michael did like pushing the limits...with new inventions in technology," he explained. "In this case, we could make steps forward with video, costuming, lighting, sound, and pyrotechnics. So whenever we approached a number, our first question was 'Can we do that better,' because I knew that Michael just wouldn't accept it if it wasn't original. But the truly amazing thing is that as big and loud as things got on that stage, he made everything seem like it was just an extension of him. You never lost him -- you could create big visuals, spectacle on a stage, but you never lost Michael."

I believe *This Is It* brings the "Man In The Mirror" full circle. We may not have realized what a true musical genius Michael Jackson was, but now we'll always have this terrific reminder.

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— AT THE MOVIES —

‘Amazon’ — an amazing IMAX film



An Amazon Tiger; Shaman getting clean water. Photo credit: Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

Review by Diana Saenger

There’s nothing more exciting than to be entertained and educated at the same time. For anyone who dreams about taking a boating voyage down the Amazon River only has to see this documentary now playing at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center to get a taste of what that trip might be like.

The 4,000 mile journey captures exciting portfolios of nature including the high

Andes, rainforest, and the majestic Amazon basin. Eyes will widen at footage of the enigmatic Machu Picchu, river rapids, waterfalls and stunning wildlife. Did you know the Amazon is the mightiest river in the world? Or more than 5,000 different species of fish can be found in the river, and that it supports more than 60,000 different species of plants? Peeking into many worlds, viewers will witness Tribal shaman Julio Mamani and American ethnobotanist Dr. Mark

Plotkin, two medicine men from vastly different worlds who share a common quest. It’s very interesting to see them search for native plants that will blend Western medical science with the myth and magic of Indian shamanism. “There may be a remedy for every ailment known to man right here,” said Plotkin in the film. “Some argue that the treasure of the rain forest is the plants, but the key to that treasure is the knowledge of the people.”



River Boat on the Amazon. Photo credit: Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

Kids will particularly be fascinated when modern-day explorer Sydney Possuelo meets the Zoë, an indigenous tribe as they experience their first contact with Western civilization. This segment will really open children’s eyes to what Americans have in their lives compared to kids in other parts of the world. One warning – there is some nudity in this segment – the Zoë go utterly naked without regard to age and gender. Only one tribesman, Kuru, speaks some Portuguese, others are adept at sign language. Narration by Academy Award-winning actress Linda Hunt and the music by Alan Williams heighten the enjoyment of this film. The newer giant 76-foot NanoSeam™ Dome screen places viewers right in the middle of the action and wonderment of *Amazon*, and might encourage feature explorers of our vast world. There’s a reason *Amazon* earned an Academy Award-nomination for Best Documentary/Short Subject Film in 1997. For tickets or info visit <http://www.rhfleet.org/site/imax/amazon.cfm>

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REEL FACTS

Michael Jackson's This Is It
Studio: Sony Pictures
Gazette Rating: B+
MPAA: "PG" for some suggestive choreography and scary images.
Who Should Go: Michael Jackson and concert fans

Amazon
Studio: Ogden Entertainment and MacGillivray Freeman Films
Gazette Grade: B+
MPAA: Not rated – good for all ages (note warning above)
Who Should Go: Those who like to learn and be entertained

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— GIFT GUIDE —

Gazette Gift Guide offers shopping solutions

Regular readers of the East County Gazette have come to rely on our annual gift guide. For the next seven weeks our guides will offer suggestions for all ages from a diverse list of fun, unique and desirable products.

Gifts For Kids



Expo Markers – kids can use Expo Click Fine-Point Dry-Erase Markers on Expo's double sided whiteboard to practice penmanship or just doodle! They are AP Certified nontoxic markers that click open and closed, which means no cap to remove or lose! Available at retailers and www.expomarkers.com



Pass the Pup™ – Children will have one laugh after another when they hear the song Who Let the Dogs Out? while playing this game. When kids press the puppy's belly players must then quickly pass the pup around the circle until the music stops. Whoever is caught holding the pup will have to draw a game card which will tell them to bark, howl, roll over or do some other puppy activity. The pup is also a soft and huggable companion for preschoolers or a "pet" to children. For two or more players. Ages three and up. SRP is \$25.00. Available at retailers and for info visit patchproducts.com



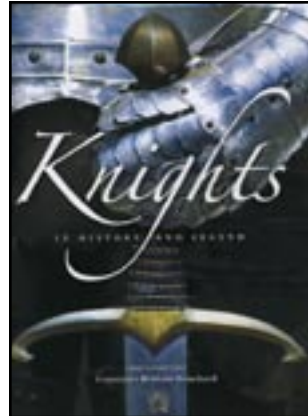
Touch-and-Feel Stroller Cards – Stroller time is more fun when these flash cards come along for the ride! Each set features five double-sided cards with engaging textures and pictures. Easy to attach to a stroller, backpack, or diaper bag, these cards won't get lost, and the interactive touch-and-feel feature makes them great independent entertainment for toddlers on the go. The cards are \$9.99 and come in different designs such as Julius, Big Trucks or the World of Eric Carle. Available at retailers or www.chroniclebooks.com.

Gifts For Him or Her



Katharine Hepburn: A Life in Pictures – is perfect for any classic fan of this iconic star. From silent films to her last feature film (Love Affair) in 1994, Hepburn blazed a career unparalleled today. This extraordinary book offers intimate views of her life in Hollywood. Some photos are so beautiful it's startling. Others like her dressed in a sci-fi looking evening gown or

taking a cigarette break at a London hotel, remind us how versatile she was. Published by Chronicle Books, this is a gift to be enjoyed again and again. *Katharine Hepburn: A Life in Pictures* can be found at retail or online bookstores or at com www.chroniclebooks.com ISBN 9780811869478 - ISBN10 0811869474



Knights: In History and Legend – will seduce any man who jugged his chest out while leaving the movie 300. This large exquisite coffee table book covers anything anyone would want to know about these men who ruled battlefields in the Middle Ages and to this day are iconic figures of history. More than 15 historian /scholars and author Constance Brittain Bouchard contribute to tell the true story of these mounted warriors, who evolved from simple soldiers on horseback to defenders of the faith during the Crusades. The book includes beautiful illustrations

of equipment, regions, actual knights and palaces and has a section on knight-themed TV and movie shows. Available at book stores and online retailers or www.fireflybooks.com/ ISBN13: 9781554074808 - ISBN: 1554074800

Gifts For Teens



Expo Markers – Teens can use Expo Bright Sticks Wet-Erase Fluorescent Markers to write silly notes on whiteboards, car windows, mirrors and more! The Expo Markers come in bright, fun colors that come off easily with a wet cloth – they even show up neon under black lights! Available at retailers and www.expomarkers.com

Harper's Island 4-disc DVD – You are cordially invited to a wedding on Harper's Island where this horror-inspired CBS drama reveals a group of friends and family who are about to meet to and celebrate a wedding on an island famous some unsolved murders. All 13 episodes are on this DVD and intensify the fear when one by one visitors end up dead. As the "big day" approaches, se-



crets are revealed, relationships are tested and guests are being murdered. No falling asleep during this one! Paramount Home Entertainment and unrated but not recommended for 12 and under.

Gifts For Family



Expo Markers – Parent will fine the Expo Low-Odor Fine Starter Set great for leaving contact information for the kids and babysitter in case of an emergency. The kit includes five markers, an eraser and

cleaner so list can be updated as needed. Available at retailers and www.expomarkers.com



Air Bud Special Edition – the story of Buddy, the sensational real-life hoop hound with 22,000 career baskets under his collar, stars in this hilarious and touching Disney comedy that's irresistible family entertainment! When 12-year-old boy Josh Framm finds himself in a new city with no friends, he meets Buddy, a runaway golden retriever, who has the ability to score baskets. Josh and Buddy make the school team, but Buddy's greedy former owner wants to cash in on the dog's notoriety. Will they make it to the state finals! Get ready to be delighted, moved and amazed with this timeless Disney favorite from Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment. Available at DVD retailers.

Saenger Syndicate

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By: David & Doreen Dotson

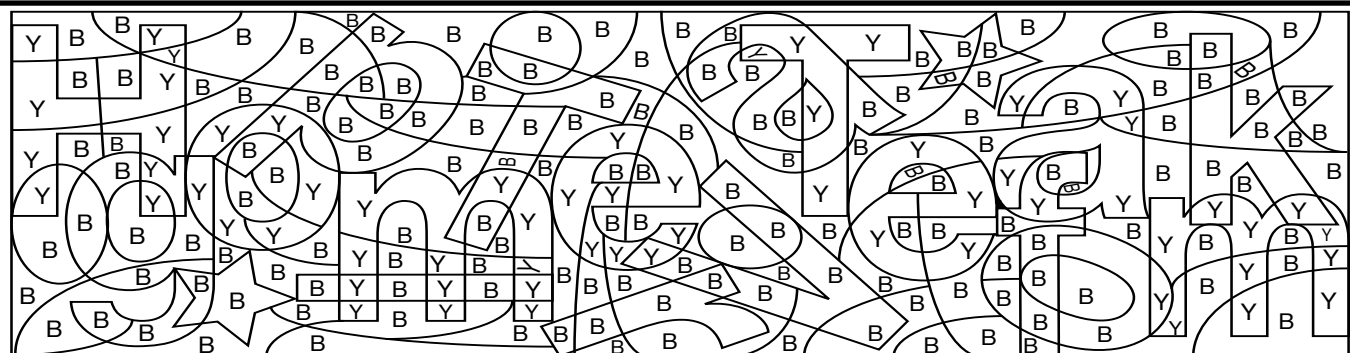


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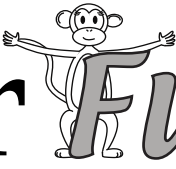


Go Lions The Favorite Team!

All fans have a favorite team that they like to watch all season. Most fans cheer for their:

B = blue
Y = yellow



Mom's making a bubbling hot...



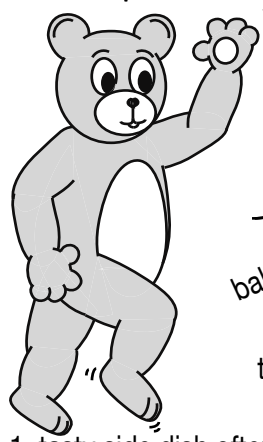
...mac and cheese casserole for the tailgate party!

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Catch, Dad!



Nice throw!



Fall Time Sports!

Fall sports are great fun: football, soccer and field hockey, to name a few. Today, I've got 2 crosswords about the fall game of football. The first one is about the great tailgating parties before the game and the second one is about going to the game. **Grab a friend and work together to fill in each puzzle!**

1. tasty side dish often made with brown sugar

2. people devoted to their teams

3. beef patties cooked over a fire and served on a bun

4. place where tailgate parties take place (and where you keep your car)

5. favorite thirst quenchers filling coolers

6. people decorate their own bodies with the colors of their teams using this

7. vehicles from which 'tailgate' parties get their name

8. people party outside the stadium until this starts the game

9. slang term for football; old footballs were made from this

10. heated surface where delicious food is cooked

1. way to score 3 points by kicking the football

2. leader of the team, usually throws the football

3. slang term for the field teams play on

4. when all the players get together to discuss the next play

5. coaches use these to stop the clock in a tight situation

6. groups of players that work together

7. place where fans go to watch a game

8. when a player starts a play on the wrong side of the field

9. when a player tackles the quarterback before he throws the ball

10. bringing the football into the endzone; main way to score

kickoff

parking lot

grill

drinks

face paint

stadium

touchdown

huddle

gridiron

time outs

teams

touchdown

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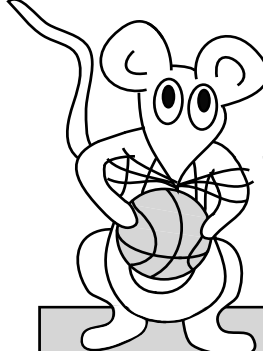
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With **so many choices** of sports and physical activities offered at schools, churches and town rec departments there's no excuse for getting too little exercise this fall! What programs and teams are offered in your area?



CROSS COUNTRY

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FALL BALL

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T H Z E R A Y Q G R N U Q V O W M A O T Z A X P O E G O Z Z A X B S

L V T B N H X W W M D I J R O V B I C Y C L I N G Y J Q L V Q B R C

K T I B F S I R E C C O S N B L Z F N O U I Z U M O Y Y R A F S P A

E U O N Z S J T Z Q A D D Z O H L U F G L O T N B A S K E T B A L L

I P K Y Z W E Y G K P Z P O Z R W E Y T C H A G N I L W O B M B O E

N V L L A B E S A B L L A B L L A F Y R S S I V F M D K P V F M E L

N C L L A B T O O F G A L F V U Y Z Y B T G G D S N X L E H U K Y F

Z M Z A S J G J F L O G B J J J N V H I A H I K I N G B N J A W M C

F I E L D H O C K E Y A Z F H K K Q C K S L R A Z M Z R W X D L Y U

E V N N G G N I D A E L R E E H C S G C G L L W A U F D T Z F E S V

B X P D V H H T J X F F U L L A B T F O S L L A B L L A F U C F D S

B Q W Q C L I O W Y R T N U O C S S O R C V T H V L L A B T O O F O

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