

Music awards

'American Idol' winner gets Academy of Country Music nod for vocalist of the year.

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Dog-tired gags drag on in 'Shaggy'

Remake of man-to-canine story lacks Tim Allen's usual humor

By DAVID GERMAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the creative funk that has Disney updating almost anything it can find in its family-film vaults, it probably was inevitable the studio would end up sniffing around "The Shaggy Dog" again.

And since the studio previously struck gold transforming Tim Allen into jolly old fat guy Kris Kringle in "The Santa Clause" flicks, why not mutate him into a goofy old sheepdog, too?

While "The Santa Clause" and its sequel injected moments of clever comic charm into their one-note premise, Allen's "The Shaggy Dog" is a well-dispositioned but forgettable mutt without any new tricks.

The movie's sight gags are annoyingly monotonous.

Allen plays Dave Douglas, an assistant district attorney in the middle of a big case prosecuting a teacher accused of setting a fire at a corporate lab where animals may or may not be undergoing abuse in the name of research.

A mysterious bearded collie that escapes from the lab ends up at the Douglas home, where wife Rebecca (Kristin Davis) and their kids (Zena Grey and Spencer Breslin) find the pooch adorable.

But Dave ends up taking a bite on the hand from the dog. The results: Dave periodically morphs into man's best friend and back again to human form.

The gags are harmlessly predictable, Allen lapping at his coffee, sleeping at the foot of the bed stretched over his wife's legs and desperately trying to hold his suddenly elongated tongue inside his mouth.

It all comes around to a positive message of family. But shaggy-dog stories — especially one called "The Shaggy Dog" — should be a lot more furry fun than this pack has managed.



AP PHOTO
Dave Douglas (Tim Allen) and his family, (played by, from left, Spencer Breslin, Kristin Davis and Zena Grey) tries to live a normal life though the man of the house sometimes turns into a sheepdog.

'Crash' joins short list of Oscar upsets

San Francisco Chronicle

When host Jon Stewart asked audience members to "raise your hands if you were not in 'Crash'" Sunday during his opening monologue of the Academy Awards telecast, it was just another throwaway line.

But the joke that pointed out the nearly ridiculous bounty of top talent in the movie's cast had a hint of foreshadowing.

It has become one of many explanations being offered to justify the independent film's surprise best-picture win over favorite "Brokeback Mountain."

The victory wasn't the first Oscar upset. Here are other famous surprises:

- "Shakespeare in Love" beats out "Saving Private Ryan" for 1998's Best Picture.
- Roberto Benigni ("Life Is Beautiful") beats out both Ian McKellen ("Gods and Monsters") and Tom Hanks ("Saving Private Ryan") for 1998's Best Actor.
- "Braveheart" beats out "Apollo 13" for 1995's Best Picture.
- "Chariots of Fire" is a surprise winner for 1981's Best Picture over "Reds" and "On Golden Pond."
- "In The Heat of the Night" is the upset winner over "The Graduate" for 1967's Best Picture.



AP PHOTO



Caroline Clark Kurek is a freelance floral designer based in Franklin. Kurek organized the floral-design competition at the Indiana Flower and

Patio Show, which opens Saturday for a two-week run. Kurek and other designers are busy putting together their creations for the contest.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

IF YOU GO

Indiana Flower and Patio Show

What: More than 30 landscaped gardens, a 2,000-square-foot floral display; 79 seminars, three workshops and more than 450 exhibitors

Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavilion and Expo Hall, 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis

When: Saturday through March 19; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays

Admission: \$9; \$7 Monday for seniors; free for children; \$1 discount coupons are available at Key Bank locations and at hsishows.com/indiana_flower_patio

Parking: \$3; free shuttle to buildings

Food: Available at the show

Information: hsishows.com/indiana_flower_patio



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At a past flower and patio show, an Asian-theme garden gave visitors a variety of distinctive colors and styles. One garden at the upcoming Indianapolis show is inspired by chocolate and Willy Wonka.

Creative by design

BY ANNETTE JONES

A Franklin resident who has created floral designs for some of the biggest corporations in Indianapolis will showcase her work at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show.

Carolyn Clark Kurek's creations, along with those of other designers, will be on display starting Monday at the expo, which runs Saturday through March 19 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

Kurek's reputation in the industry led organizers to tap her to coordinate the flower and patio show's first floral-design competition.

A floral designer for 35 years, Kurek has worked for Enflora in Indianapolis, where she was in charge of decorating for downtown Indianapolis, the Indiana Convention Center and corporate clients.

She is now a freelance designer and does work for JP Parker Co., a Franklin floral business.

The flower and patio show competition is for members of the American

Outdoor décor set to make splashy showing at annual patio expo

INSIDE

A host of workshops for adults and children are planned at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show.

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A refresher on who's who in the Soprano crime family

Drama returns to TV after 21-month absence

By JAKE COYLE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

"The Sopranos" last aired in June 2004.

That's 21 long months since Tony Soprano sat down on Dr. Melfi's couch; nearly two years since anyone said "Christophah" quite like Adriana; a virtual eternity since we gazed on Paulie Walnuts' silver locks.

With the familiar faces (except, um, Adriana) returning Sunday for the sixth season of the HBO drama, viewers could be forgiven for lapsing on who's who.

To prepare for the encroaching drive down the Jersey Turnpike, here's a lineup of "the family."



AP PHOTO
"The Sopranos" cast members, from left, Tony Sirico, Michael Imperioli, James Gandolfini and Steven Van Zandt, star in the show about a New Jersey crime family. Its sixth season starts Sunday after a 21-month hiatus.

Tony Soprano: The acting boss of the family also constantly questions his own ruthlessness.

Carmela Soprano: She's taken Tony back. Carmela knows enough about

what her husband does to know she doesn't want to know.

Meadow Soprano: Tony's little girl who recently graduated from college and got engaged to an aspiring den-

tist. So far she's the one uncorrupted product of Tony's life.

A.J. Soprano: Tony's whining pip-squeak son is too encased in comfy suburbia for mob life.

Corrado "Junior" Soprano: Junior ran the business before Tony took over, and he still is a figurehead.

Janice Soprano: Tony's big sister killed her previous significant other after he became abusive.

Christopher Moltisanti: Tony's nephew has struggled with heroin addiction. His fiancée, Adriana, was killed for ratting to the FBI.

Jennifer Melfi: Tony's therapist, she has a unique window into the mind of a murderer, a position of some discomfort. Tony asked her out, only to be buffeted.

Paulie "Walnuts" Gualtieri: Seldom seen without a comb, Paulie is a longtime capo to Tony but has a violent, independent streak.

Silvio Dante: Tony's loyal consigliere. He's the one with the coolest head.