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WE WERE SUPPOSED  
TO MAKE THE WORLD  
A BETTER PLACE.

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EAST COUNTY  
GAZETTE  
**CLASS ACT**  
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE  
SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 9, NO. 39, MARCH 5, 2009



# Out and about in the County

**March 6:** Miss Santee Pageant-Sonrise Church, 6:30 p.m.

**March 6 - 8:** Christian Youth Theater Presents HONK at East County Performing Arts Center March 6 & 7 at 7 p.m. and March 7 & 8 at 2 p.m.

**March 7:** It may be un-"herd" of, but it is happening in Crest and it's not a baaad idea. The first ever "Running of the Goats" will take place on March 7, 10 a.m. at the South Lane Park in Crest. This "running" will not reflect the danger as experienced in the "Running of the Bulls" in Pamplona, Spain, but it will greatly reduce the dangers of wild fires in the East County.

The goats are part of an integrated fuel reduction project for the Crest/El Cajon area. The introduction of 250 goats marks the beginning of a 150-acre fuel reduction project. This environmentally balanced project combines the power of man, goat and machine to appropriately reduce (not eliminate) vegetation. The fuel reduction project is paid for through a grant funded by the US Forest service and is the largest project of its kind in the state.

**March 7-8:** La Mesa Soap Box Derby In the seventh year of its Soap Box Derby program, the Drew Ford and the Kiwanis Club of La Mesa will hold two days of Rally Races on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8. The back-to-back races lead to the Annual La Mesa Soap Box Derby in June. Winners of that contest are sent to the National Derby in Akron, Ohio, in July.

About 35 to 40 youngsters from cities throughout Southern California, Arizona and Nevada are expected to participate in the two days of racing down Junior High Drive adjacent to La Mesa Middle School. Nearby Highwood Park will be the staging area and picnic grounds. Being held in cooperation with the City of La Mesa, the rally races are designed to provide drivers with experience and garner points.

Youngsters ages 8 to 17 wishing to enter should contact La Mesa Kiwanis Derby Chairman Dennis Wilkes at 619-469-7353 or online at [dwilkes1@cox.net](mailto:dwilkes1@cox.net) for entry information.

"Each driver must participate in the building of his or her own racer from a kit ordered from Derby Headquarters in Akron," Wilkes said, adding that sponsors are being enlisted to underwrite the cost of

the car kits for those unable to afford the price tag which starts at \$650.

"Rally races are really important for kids who hope to go all the way to Akron," declared Wilkes. "Kids get familiar with the procedures and gain confidence. There's no substitute for experience."

Registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. each day. Each day's derby is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and continue in single and double elimination brackets until about 5 p.m.

**March 14:** St. Patrick's Day Parade, Balboa Park 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**March 14-15:** Daffodil Show - The Blue Heron Garden Shop, 2116 Third St. - Saturday, March 14, 12 to 4 p.m., Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Bring all daffodils for display & judging Friday March 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - names and questions about daffodils answered by National Daffodil Society experts.

**March 16 - 26:** The Grossmont College Art Council is proud to present the first Grossmont Art Alumni Invitational Exhibition. The Hyde Gallery is exhibiting the work of 23 Alumni artists featuring work by both emerging and established artists. Some of the work is available for purchase. The proceeds of any sales will go to the artists and to the Art Council Student Awards Program.

The Evening's Event will include Art Sales, Food, Spirits and Music and is scheduled for March 26 from 7-9 p.m. The Gallery hours are: Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Gallery is CLOSED Friday to Sunday and legal Holidays. Admission is free. Parking is available during the exhibition with the purchase of a permit from the vending machine in lot #1F. Complimentary parking is available ONLY on the evening of the opening in lot #1. Vehicles must be parked in designated parking stalls. The Gallery is located in the 200 Building Main Quad.

**March 21:** Balboa Park-First Ever Family Day. More than 20 cultural institutions will offer hands-on activities, music, performances and special programs for all ages throughout the day. Most events are free with museum admission.

**March 25 - :** The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College will host two Docent Orientation Classes and a 5-week Docent Training Class this coming spring. The word Docent is derivative of the Latin word docēre, which means "to teach". With the ongoing water shortage in California, the Garden's mission of water smart landscape education is increasingly relevant, and the Garden's docents play a critical in communicating our message to the public.

"Anyone interested in expanding their gardening experiences and promoting "water smart" landscaping should join us," said Sherry Johnson, longtime Garden docent and volunteer recruiter. "The Water Conservation Garden provides a venue to share the pleasures of gardening with others. Opportunities range from interacting with the public, to behind the scenes work assisting with Garden maintenance."

Docent Training Classes include a range of topics that prepare volunteers to represent the Garden, including: The California water story, Mediterranean climates, botany and ethnobotany, native plants, and tour giving techniques. Training is free of charge and graduates receive an official Garden shirt, name tag, and discounts in the Gift Shop.

The Spring 2009 schedule for Docent Orientation and Training is:



**Up to 40 youngsters are expected to participated in this weekend's Soap Box Derby.**

Orientation #1: Wednesday, March 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Orientation #2: Wednesday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

.Docent Training: Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., beginning May, 6 (May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27, June 3)

All classes will be held in the multi-purpose room at the Garden. Please contact Docent/Volunteer Recruiter and Trainer, Sherry Johnson at 619-670-5650 or [sljcalyp1@att.net](mailto:sljcalyp1@att.net) for further information. Directions and information about various Garden programs can be found at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

**Now through end of March:** San Diego Harbor Cruise Whale Watching Excursion -Two tours daily, depart at 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 pm. Rates Monday through Friday: Adults \$30, Seniors 55+ and Military \$25, children 4-12 years \$15. Saturday and Sunday rates: Adults \$35, Seniors \$30, children \$15. Call 619-234-4111 for reservations. Vessel Location: 1050 N. Harbor Drive, Downtown SD

**April 11:** Spring Eggstravaganza at Santee Lakes. Visit the Easter Bunny and enjoy an egg hunt.

**April 25:** 44th Annual Lakeside Western Days Parade, runs down Woodside Avenue to Maine Street.

**April 25 - 26:** Could one of the theaters in Balboa Park or even Hollywood be in your future? You can get your act together for such a possibility by attending the Stage, Screen and Television Actors' Conference, presented by San Diego State University's College of Extended Studies, April 25-26 at SDSU.

Multiple level workshops and master classes will allow you to participate whether you are at a beginning, intermediate, or professional level. You will receive the opportunity to have one-on-one auditions while meeting top level directors, agents, and casting directors who will offer their feedback.

In addition, lectures and presentations will offer the most up-to-date information from professionals currently working in the industry. For more information, call (619) 594-5217 or visit the conference's web site at [www.ces.sdsu.edu/acting-workshop/index.html](http://www.ces.sdsu.edu/acting-workshop/index.html)

## 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: Nite Owl II (Patrick Wilson) in 'Watchmen.'**

EAST COUNTY  
GAZETTE



# CLASS ACT

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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**The Gazette is Published each Thursday as a commercial, free-enterprise newspaper. The opinions and views published herein are those of the writers and not the publishers or advertisers. Deadlines for advertising and press releases are Friday at noon.**



## — ON STAGE —

# 'American Idol' winner Taylor Hicks stars as Teen Angel in stage production of 'Grease'



'American Idol' winner Taylor Hicks performs as Teen Angel in 'Grease.' Photo Credit: LARRY BUSACCA / Getty Images

## Preview by Diana Saenger

The one that you want is back, and *American Idol* season five winner Taylor Hicks stars as Teen Angel in the first national tour of *Grease*. Hicks made his debut on Broadway in the role this past summer. He achieved widespread fame in 2006 as a contestant on the hugely successful FOX singing competition *American Idol*.

Starring with Hicks will be Eric Schneider as Danny and Emily Padgett as Sandy. Schneider made his Broadway debut in *Jersey Boys*. His previous credits include *Altar Boyz* (Off-Broadway) and the national tours of *Altar Boyz* and *The Full Monty*. Padgett made her Broadway debut in *Grease* where she understudied the role of Sandy. Her other credits include the national tours of *Cats* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Allie Schulz, a contestant on NBC's *Grease: You're the One That I Want*, stars as Rizzo. Schulz comes directly from the Broadway company of *Grease*.

After spending a hopelessly devoted summer with Sandy Dumbrowski, the new girl in town, Danny Zuko's world is thrown upside down when Sandy appears at Rydell High on the first day of school. What follows is a rock n' roll celebration of growin' up, cruisin' with friends and goin' steady. The new production of *Grease* features songs from the smash hit 1978 motion picture for the first time ever in a Broadway production including "Sandy," the Academy Award nominated song "Hopelessly Devoted to You," "Grease" and "You're the One That I Want" - both of which were #1 hits on the Billboard Top 100 list. These songs will be heard in addition to the Jacobs/Casey songs made famous by the original stage production including "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightnin'" and "We Go Together."

Other stars of the show include Patrick Allan (Eugene), Will Blum (Roger), Bridie Carroll (Jan), Dominic Fortuna (Vince Fontaine), Erin Henry (Patty Simcox), Roxie Lucas (Miss Lynch), David Ruffin

(Kenickie), and Nick Verina (Sonny). Three San Diegans appear in the cast: School of the Creative and Performing Arts grad Brian Crum plays Doody and is a former NYC roommate of Kate Morgan Chadwick, Frenchy, late of Francis Parker High and Fordham University. Kelly Felthous, who plays Marty, attended Vista High School and NYU.

*Grease* co-creator Jim Jacobs (book, music and lyrics) lives in Carlsbad. To promote his new studio album, *The Distance*, which debuts on March 10, Hicks will play an 11 p.m. show at the BellyUp Tavern in Solana Beach on Thursday, March 5, following the 7:30 p.m. *Grease* performance at the Civic.

*Grease*, a Broadway/San Diego ~ A Nederlander Presentation, will play San Diego Civic Theatre, 3rd and B Street, downtown San Diego, March 3-8, 2009. For tickets call (619) 570-1100 or Ticketmaster (619) 220-TIXS.



Kate Morgan Chadwick and Taylor Hicks. Photo credit: Joan Marcus

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— AT THE MOVIES —

# ‘Watchmen’ is too gratuitous for some movie fans



Nite Owl II (Patrick Wilson) fights off a rioting prisoner as Silk Spectre II (Malin Akerman) lends a hand in *Watchmen*. Photo credit: Clay Enos / Warner Bros. Pictures, Paramount Pictures and Legendary Pictures

Morgan), the masked Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley), Nite Owl (Patrick Wilson), Silk Spectre (Malin Akerman), Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup), and Adrian Veidt, aka Ozymandias (Matthew Goode) no longer seem to share the same philosophy.

One can't deny *Watchmen* is filled with eye candy. The visual and special effects are incredible, and production by Alex McDowell boldly visualizes Dave Gibbons' (graphic novel illustrator) detailed art. However, the disjointed story -- adapted from Alan Moore's 1988 graphic novel by David Hayter (*X-Men*) and Alex Tse -- with its continuous flashbacks leaves non-*Watchmen* fans clueless. I did enjoy segments of the dialogue lifted from the novel and over-voiced by some of the characters. For me that heightened the intrigue of the story, which only became more and more disappointing as it went along. I never felt any focus of where the story was heading.

I think all the actors did fine jobs of flushing out their characters -- if disparity was the objective. But for me director Zack Snyder takes the violence too far. His skill in the visualization of 300 felt more relatable. So who kills the Comedian, and why? After two and a half hours, I truly didn't care, and it seems, neither did his cronies.

Review by Diana Saenger

Superheroes are fun and offer endless opportunities for repeated films. The tales of Bat-

man, Superman, Spiderman and others have splashed across the big screen, helped create infinite marketing items and kept Hollywood special effects artists losing

sleep. Since the adaptation of graphic novels -- typically aimed at more mature audiences and much longer than comic books -- there seems an overall competition to make

each new film soar in respect to the term "graphic." For me *Watchmen* wins the trophy. It may be true to the graphic novel, which I did not read, but to those who go into the

theater expecting pure entertainment,

excessive violence mingled with gratuitous sex scenes pandering to those who always need bigger, darker, more violent scenes to feel entertained, may find the complex story unfulfilling.

REEL FACTS

**Watchmen**  
Studio: Warner Bros. Pictures  
Gazette Rating: D  
MPAA: "R" for strong graphic violence, sexuality, nudity and language  
Who Should Go: Fans of the graphic novel

Finally, it was those excessive scenes -- and ones that seemed almost misogynistic of the *Watchmen* peers -- that turned me off the film. If I want to see a man repeatedly hatcheted to death

through his skull, I'll watch a horror film. And I don't want to find scenes of a woman's near rape as her head is slammed into a pool table, or intimate sex scenes among what is supposed to be an entertaining movie.

Adrenaline-seeking young men may be enthralled by the new *Watchmen*; anyone else take a pass. And parents beware -- no one under 18 should see this film.

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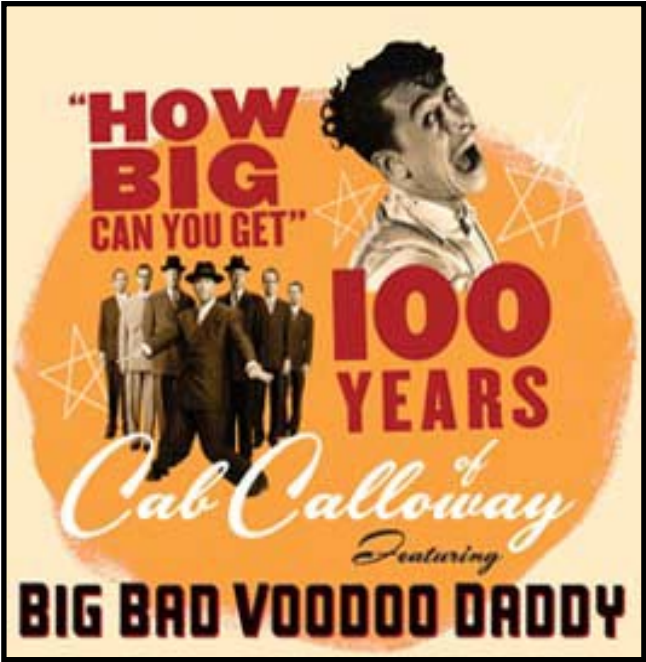
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— IN CONCERT —

# Upcoming concerts at DreamCatcher at Viejas



Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will appear at Viejas on March 28.

The spring season is warming up and so are the concert possibilities at the world-class DreamCatcher at Viejas showroom. The first Concert in the Park will feature the renowned group Foreigner. The line-up is changing every day so be sure to check the Viejas website to place those ticket orders.

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.

Currently on-going Sundays through March 29, 5 to 9 p.m. is

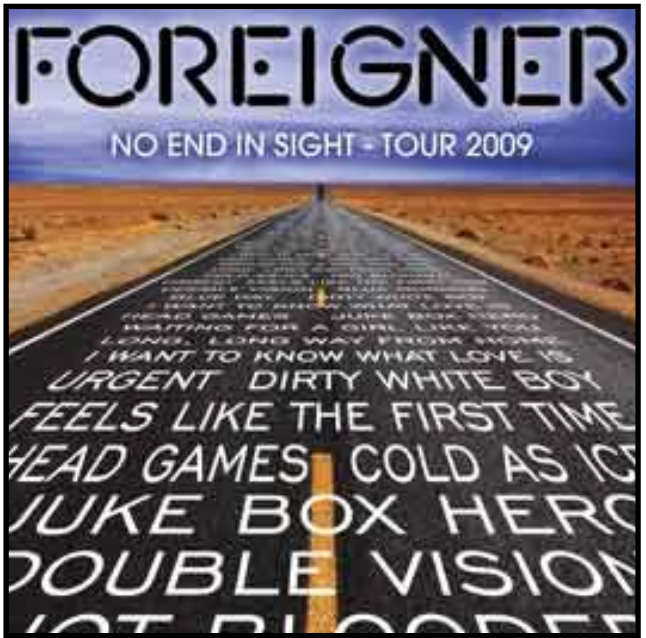
The David Patrone \$10,000 Swing Dance Competition featuring nationally acclaimed swing bands, and an hour long swing dance lesson!

DreamCatcher at Viejas & Concert in the Park concert schedule:

- March 8: 5-9 p.m., Swing Competition - Carl Sonny Leyland Trio plus James Harman and Nathan James.
- March 21: 8 p.m., KSON New Face Showcase
- March 27: 8 p.m., Luke Bryan
- March 28: 8 p.m., Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- April 9: 8 p.m., Billy Currington
- April 10: 8 p.m., Robert Cray
- April 19: 8 p.m., Foreigner
- May 2: 6:30 p.m., Lowrider Band
- May 8 & 9: 8 p.m., Thunder from Down Under
- May 14: 8 p.m., Gretchen Wilson

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



Foreigner will appear at Viejas on April 19.

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# Water Smart Plant Fair

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Saturday, March 14, 9am-3pm

Beautiful water smart plants on sale just in time for spring planting

Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College

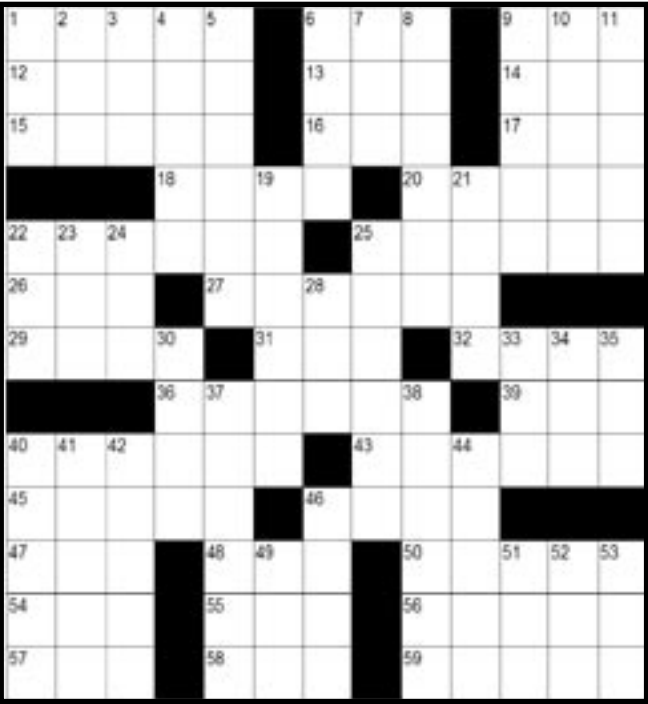
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 619-660-0614 ext.10





— PUZZLES —

Crossword Puzzle



- Across
- Down
- 1 Canned chili brand

6 Knight

9 Genetic code

12 National capital

13 East southeast

14 Long time

15 Laud

16 Fire remains

17 Holy woman

18 Eve's garden

20 Type of acid

22 Worn-out

25 Ungraceful

26 Possessive pronoun

27 Short people

29 Torah table

31 Lager

32 Great

36 Words to a song

39 Peak

40 Crustacean

43 Capital of Cuba

45 Singer Paul

46 Peter, for short

47 Downwind

48 Tint

50 Heavy-handed

54 Chicken creation

55 Hearing part

56 Care for

57 Body of water

58 Revolutions per minute

59 Rumormonger
- 1 Her

2 IRS demand

3 Picnic visitor

4 Sticky

5 Embellished with gold

6 College head

7 Ship initials

8 Benefit

9 Fabric

10 Parts of speech

11 Vex

19 British King's name

21 Ruminant

22 Watch chain

23 Fear

24 Fortify

25 Nativity scene

28 Boxer Muhammad

30 Dog food brand

33 School group

34 Charged particle

35 Accountant

37 Over there

38 Silken

40 Islands

41 Attack

42 End of the alphabet

44 Locale

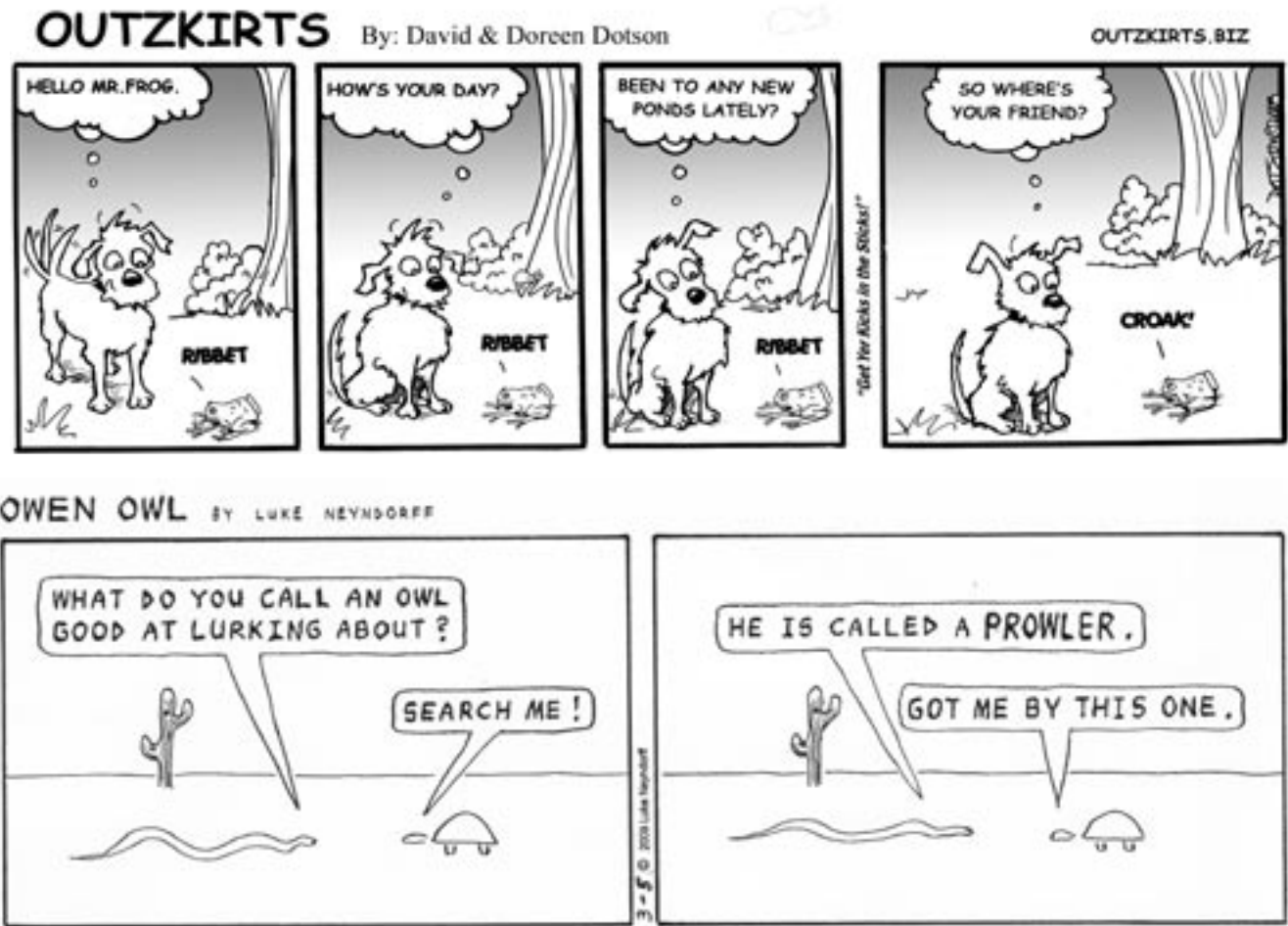
46 Type of hair do

49 Talk

51 Gray sea eagle

52 Pacific Standard Time

53 Beverage



Capital South by William Warren



Word Search

Puzzle

Find the fun found in the Gazette

Find the answers across, up, down or diagonally

FYOLZKSXLSTCFLUENJSHSVQPZEZTKE  
LFPFZHYYTELCQJVRFSLSLJXUELKTOIJ  
NNUGFOERAAGRAEZHBHEVTTFTOPOCIG  
YALNXZEASLJANSRDPWNMPQSABPYXGR  
TKZRWCFSLUPTLASQDYIOBYUDHQXGHQ  
ZYS DNEIRFTSEBNNACLSVHRJOP IHMMA  
JBTOMFKAVNHTZHONLAUIPLNPUZZLES  
YGCHINIESCIJTDYTKCBEHBTWTTYALCG  
NWFEZHVRWIFKIECRIWP SBKFIIQJDFG  
EGDMXBEIVCXVRTLWOCLWPUPOCZJUTP  
LSMOTORANDSPORTSIIERZSLNNWWVCE  
SDIKROFNUFREPAPSWENSC TSSSLACOLR

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Puzzles

We're trying to decide between Irish...

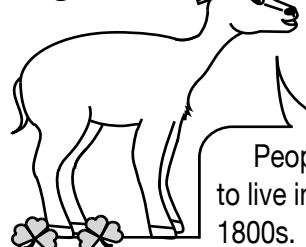
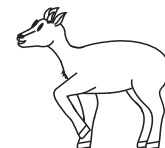


# Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

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...Stew or Corned Beef and Cabbage.



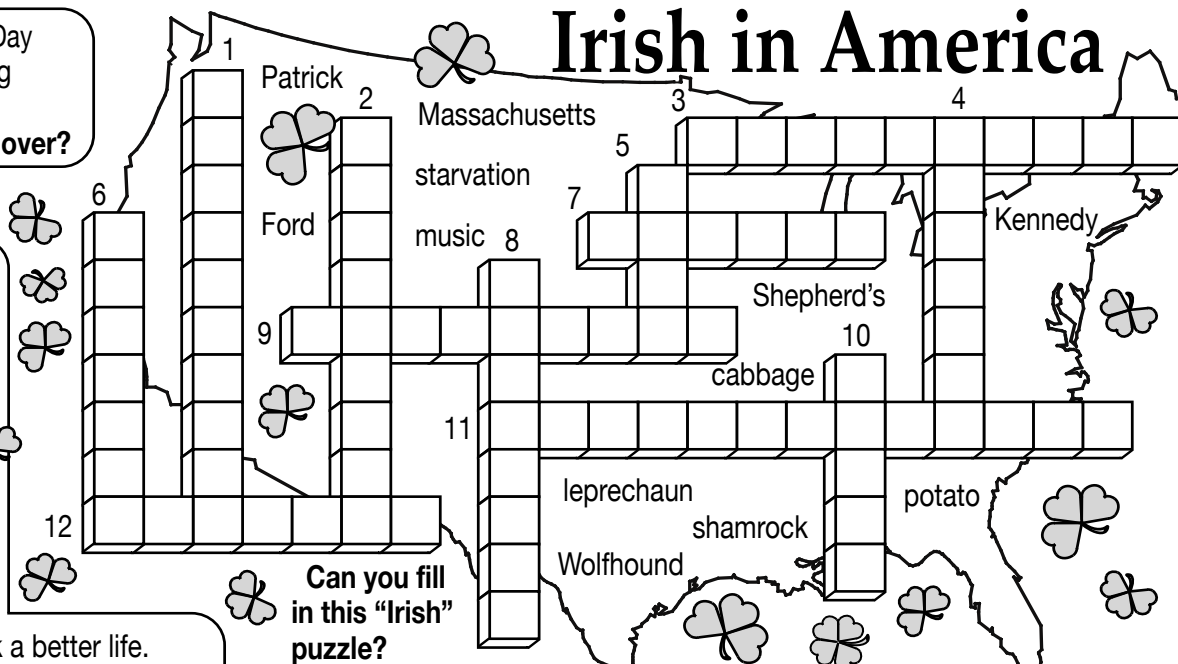
I'm celebrating St. Patrick's Day by roaming fields and looking for a four-leaf clover!  
**Can you spot the 4-leaf clover?**

People from Ireland began coming to live in America well before the 1800s. Some came for religious reasons, for land or to start a new life. They took jobs building canals and railroads, lumbering, coal mining or working as servants.

In the mid-1800s, Ireland's potato crop, a large part of the Irish diet, suffered a terrible blight. Potatoes rotted in the fields and people were starving. During this "Great Potato Famine" about a million and a half Irish people set out for America to escape starvation and seek a better life. With little money, these people had to sail across the Atlantic Ocean in the bottoms of freight ships, often spending a month in dirty, cramped conditions. Many grew ill and died during the journey. The ships arrived at ports of America's largest cities at the time – New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago – and most of these Irish immigrants settled in the poorest neighborhoods of these cities. In many places they were not welcome. They took jobs in factories, on docks and in hotels, or learned skills to become policemen or firemen.

It is thought that over the years more than 4.5 million Irish people have made the journey to live in America. About 25,000 Irish people in the U.S. still speak Gaelic, the mother tongue of Ireland, in their homes. Today, about 35 million people proudly claim to have Irish blood in their families. They live in all parts of America and work in every career field.

## Irish in America



**Can you fill in this "Irish" puzzle?**

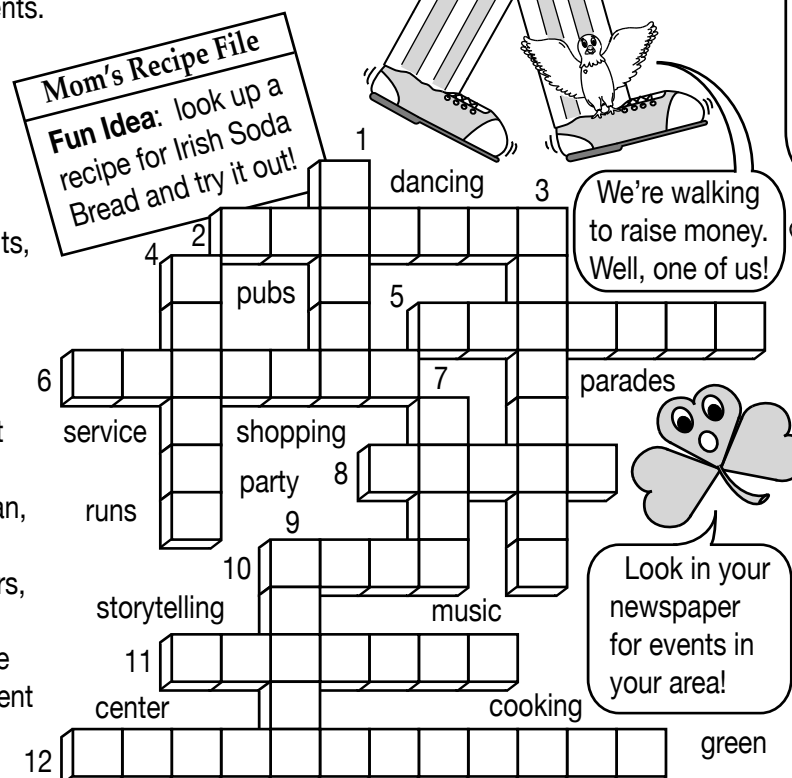
- many Irish came to America during the potato famine to avoid this
- the tallest breed of dog in the world - the Irish \_\_\_\_\_
- the \_\_\_\_\_ is in many fun fairy tales although he is not seen as very friendly; known to outwit humans
- an Irish-American dinner of corned beef and \_\_\_\_\_
- Henry \_\_\_\_\_, whose father was born in Ireland, started a car company that used an assembly line to build more cars in less time for a lower cost
- Saint \_\_\_\_\_ is the patron saint of Ireland
- this crop fed everyone, especially the poorest people
- the \_\_\_\_\_ is a 3-leaf clover, and is the national symbol of Ireland
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pie - a traditional dish made of lamb, onion, carrots, potatoes
- Irish have given a lot to the arts in America especially in dance and \_\_\_\_\_
- largest population with Irish ancestry in America is in the state of \_\_\_\_\_
- popular U.S. President John F. \_\_\_\_\_ was of Irish heritage

## A Dozen Ways to Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day!

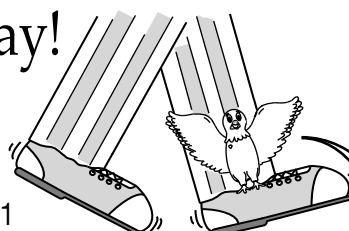
You don't have to be Irish to enjoy St. Patrick's Day events.

**Do this puzzle about the ways people celebrate.**

- people may wear their family tartan (plaid) or this color to remind them of the Emerald Isle known as Ireland
- banners, bands, floats and even "St. Patrick" himself may march down the street
- looking for little gifts for the special day: shamrock plants, handcrafted Irish jewelry, T-shirts
- an Irish cultural \_\_\_\_\_ has displays/talks about the history, language, arts of the Irish people
- lessons in Irish \_\_\_\_\_ will have your family eating well
- may join in some steps to do this; usually the upper part of the body is still while the feet move quickly
- fun \_\_\_\_\_ and walks; athletes go as fast as they can, families walk, sometimes people dress in costumes
- festivals and band competitions - bands, singers, fiddlers, bagpipers, bodhran drummers, harpists
- a get-together with family and friends to eat, sing, dance
- people gather at these to greet, eat, watch a sports event
- a religious \_\_\_\_\_ may be attended
- pass on tales of Irish life and folktales



**Mom's Recipe File**  
**Fun Idea:** look up a recipe for Irish Soda Bread and try it out!



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