



# RIEL FAMILY NEWS LETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 1 APRIL, 1991 PRICE 1 CENT THE COPY FREE TO FAMILY

**MARGARET INCLUDED IN 3RD EDITION OF "MARKET GUIDE FOR YOUNG WRITERS"** We learned recently that the third edition of the book edited by Kathy Henderson, a well known and prolific author, contains a brief article by our own Margaret. In the article, Margaret explains how she got started as a professional writer while she was in high school. She and two friends started a school newspaper, and Margaret was it's first editor. She also won second place in a city wide essay contest. She points out, however, that writing is not an easily acquired skill and much hard work is necessary to gain the skills needed to do successful writing. She also points out that in her own experience the best work comes forth when one is expressing one's own ideas to one's own peers, whereas writing for the teacher in response to an assignment produces a lower quality product. This personal experience conclusion has been verified by Margaret in a study she conducted on a series of essays written as a school assignment and similar efforts directed to the authors peers. In all cases the peer directed work got higher marks than the assigned efforts. Margaret's advice is to share your own ideas, knowledge and experiences with others, if you want to write well. Good advice!

## RUNNY NOSE DEPARTMENT

Little Annie G. came down with a hot brow and a cold feeling a few weeks ago, but it was not all bad. She got to spent the entire day with Grampa and Grandma Riel, which included lunch at a local restaurant, lots of TV cartoons and a few naps. That did the trick, and a full cure was achieved.

We were worried to learn that Karla

recently had to make a quick trip to the emergency room a few weeks ago. However, some adjustments in her medication corrected the problem, and she was able to come home the next day. That was good news.

**VACATION NEWS** - Francie, Jose, Brett and Bryce jetted over to Las Vegas for a quick week-end vacation on the 23-25 of March. They stayed at the Excalibur Hotel and took in the sights and sounds at Mom's version of Disneyland for grown-ups. All had a good time, but Francie commented that Bryce has a mind of his own, and knows how to use it, too. Incidentally, The 1875 Lyndon Road airport park and ride service was used, and is available to anyone who is planning a trip. The price is right.

**BIRTHDAY CALENDAR** - Last week both Jessica Benesch (8) and Craig Hartmen (8) celebrated by spending the day with Grandma Riel. Both celebrations included lunch and a visit to the zoo and park. HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

## COMING UP IN APRIL

Robert Riel	April 9th	34
Jan Riel	April 21st	39+
Dustin Benesch	April 3rd	5
Brian Riel	April 5th	2
Kevin Riel	April 11th	12

## FIRST EDITION OF RIEL FAMILY NEWS LETTER PUBLISHED

- This is the first issue of what we hope will become a regular event in the Riel family. Our objective is to help everyone keep up on what is going on in the family. In order to be successful we need input from everyone. Happenings, events ets, relayed by note or phone are solicited from all.





# The Riel Family Newsletter: A Chronicle of Family Legacy

Since its first issue in April of 1991, the Riel Family Newsletter (RFNL) has stood as a proud and enduring chronicle of the Riel family's milestones, stories, and cherished memories. What began as a modest idea to keep far-flung family members connected has grown into a deeply loved tradition, now spanning more than three decades of continuous monthly publication.

The RFNL was founded and lovingly edited for its first 20 years by Frank Riel, whose passion for storytelling and keen sense of family history shaped the tone and heart of the publication. In 2011, the editorial reins were passed to Robert Riel, who has carried the newsletter forward for the past 15 years.

Through graduations, weddings, new births, anniversaries, cross-country moves, and even the bittersweet farewells of loved ones, the RFNL has captured it all. Each edition serves not only as a monthly update but as a time capsule, preserving the shared experiences that have shaped the Riel family over the decades.

On the following pages there are covers from some of the more significant events in the Riel family history—moments that brought joy, unity, and sometimes tears, but always reminded readers of the strength and closeness of the Riel bond.





# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News June, 2009 RFNL220

Corbin Vincenti Hartman  
BORN - May 30, 2009  
Weight - 8 lbs 1 ounce  
Length - 20 inches

The long awaited arrival of the latest family member occurred more or less on schedule, that is, the end of May. Great Grandma and Great Grandpa got the news at lunchtime, as they and Great Uncle Ed were enjoying a meal at El Toreto's, in Mission Valley. On Sunday afternoon Grandma and Grandpa visited the new arrival and proud parents Ana and Craig, at the hospital. Ana's mother also was there, and we took turns admiring the handsome new baby. He is the picture of good health, has a loud voice when he feels like using it, but he also is quite content to take a quick nap now and then. We were able to get some nice pictures at the hospital, plus some more taken by Grandma Birdy after they came home from Grossmont hospital.



Best wishes from the entire family to the newest family member, Corbin Vincenti Hartman!!

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News July 21, 2010 RFNL 233

## Jessica-Miguel wedding - May 27, 2010

After many months of planning, and several preliminary parties, the great day finally arrived. The site was a lovely La Jolla home, the Darlington House, that had been remodeled to make it suitable for occasions such as weddings, parties, etc. The guests began to arrive at 4:00 o'clock, and the various official and family photographers took lots of pictures' At 5:00 o'clock the guests were seated at an outdoor patio, and the ceremony began with a procession of the bridal party down the walk-way, around a lovely fountain and pool. Music was provided by Jason and Dustin, playing their guitars. The ceremony was conducted by a lay minister who is a close friend of Carol and also taught Jessica through her high school years. During and after the ceremony lots more pictures were taken and the guests enjoyed drinks and snacks until dinner was served. This concluded a lovely wedding, as the happy couple took off for a honeymoon vacation in Hawaii.

We join all of their family in wishing them MUCH HAPPINESS AND GOOD LUCK IN THEIR FUTURE!!!!



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News AUGUST, 2010 RFNL 234

## Dustin Benesch - Lauren Bradley Wedding, August 7, 2010

After many months of planning, the big day finally arrived. The wedding party gathered at one o'clock at the U.S. Grant Hotel lobby for a series of official picture taking. We have not yet seen any of them, but we hope to have some for the next RFNL. We then set out for The Francis Parker Lower School in Mission Hills, the site of the actual wedding. Since the wedding was scheduled for 3:30, there was plenty of time for the wedding party to relax and enjoy the final preparation activities. A few minutes before 3:30 the guests suddenly appeared and filed in through the school office and were seated at the outdoor patio. At the appointed hour the wedding party filed in and were either seated in the front row or lined up on the steps where the ceremony was to be conducted. The last to enter were Dustin and Lauren, who stood before "Rev." Mehan, (Dustin's Uncle) who performed the ceremony. Everything went as planned and a few minutes later the new Mr. and Mrs. Dustin Benesch accepted the applause of the guests and filed away to the Library patio for the reception. Drinks and snacks were served while the tables were set up for the dinner. During the reception a slideshow of pictures of Dustin and Lauren from childhood to the present was shown in the library. It was well done and enjoyed by all.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News APRIL 2011 RFNL 2421

## RFNL TURNS 20!

As some of you may have noticed, the RFNL April 2011 issue marks the 20th birthday of this family history publication. Since that date it has grown in size and complexity. The April, 1991 issue was a single page with no pictures and only a few brief articles.

The second issue contained a color photograph. Unfortunately, color copies at Kinkos were too expensive, and we had to live with black and white copies until the digital camera became available. We quickly went from one to two pages, and not long afterwards to four, which now is standard.

As computer technology advanced we began to rely more and more on its use. The cut, paste, and Xerox copier gave way to the printer and scanner, and four page full color issues became the standard. Distribution, however, became a problem. At one time we were up to nearly 40 hard copies per month, all printed and mailed out to a distribution list. Also, as grandchildren became older and more mobile it became more difficult to keep track of addresses as they spread out around the country (and world.)

It became apparent that e-mail would be a more efficient way to go, and eventually Margaret took over as distribution manager, created a Riel Family site on the internet, and now family members are notified when an issue is available for their review. I do believe, however, that a hard copy stuck to the refrigerator door gets more attention from family members than an e-mail notice that the issue is available. We do recommend that recipients print a hard copy to pass around to their family and friends.

Recently, Ed Riel volunteered to help out with writing articles and organizing pages, and he now is the associate editor and a great help in getting out issues.

So much for the past. The immediate future (including this issue) was put together largely by Robert Riel, who has kindly offered to help with future RFNL issues. As we now see it, I will assume more of an editorial role, defining topics to be covered, often written by a family member. In the past we have had much support from members writing about their various activities and accomplishments, or those in their family. This has been much appreciated, and we hope it will continue.

In conclusion, we want to thank all who have contributed to the success of the RFNL, and look forward to the continuing improvements. In the first issue of RFNL we stated that the objective was "to help everyone to keep up on what is going on in the family." This is still true today. - Frank Riel

I have never had the privilege of meeting any of you but Elaine Riel sent me the RFNL for years. What a joy it was to see you all and the family joy! Great job and my hat is off to you for the sharing and caring! Georgina Beavis

"The RFNL is the strongest link to keep connected in the present, especially as we spread out into the world. I will also prove to be a strong link to our past as we tell stories to our children and grandchildren of what an amazing family we come from." Leve, Michelle

I just want to say thank you to Dad for faithfully writing, editing, producing, and creating our amazing family newsletter. Nothing can compare with the history he has preserved by doing this. Time line highlighting the accomplishments of my brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and family friends over the last twenty years. Thank you Dad for producing and pushing us all to make our contributions and to provide the news that we all loved hearing about. You are an inspiration to all of us! Much love, Lity

Hi Grandpa! I just wanted to say thank you for 20 years of dedicated service to our family. I was watching Aunt Birdy's Riel Bird video the other day (amazing!) and for the first time I found out how the whole Riel mania began. Hearing you tell that story was the coolest thing ever, and it made me appreciate everything you have created for us even more. If it weren't for you, we would be just another family and you would be just another grandpa. I am so lucky to have such a fun family and you are the reason for that. Thank you so much for everything you do for us. I hope like everybody else...and I am so glad that you are, I am even half as productive and dedicated as you are. I love you so much! Love, Annie (grandchild #5,283 in case you lost count)

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Wow! 20 Years is an amazing accomplishment! The RFNL is such a gift for our family, and we have you to thank for it! Congratulations, Grandpa! We love you! Kristy, Seamus, and Sean to Be Baby Liam :)

### 20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch The News July 2011 RFNL 245

## The Riel Family Welcomes:

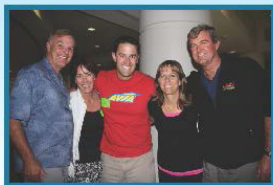


**LIAM  
RYAN  
KEITH**  
June 17, 2011  
7 lbs 13 ozs 20" long



I love being in Spain, but missing out on family events, especially the one-timers like Liam's birth, is very difficult. Luckily, with the help of Skype and my mom's spiffy iPhone, I have participated in Thanksgiving, Christmas, Birthdays, Sunday lunches, and more. But the pinnacle event for me was on June 17th. I had a front seat to my first nephew's birth, 5,852 miles away. Throughout the day (or rather night, for me in Spain) I would receive little messages from my mom. "She's having contractions," "5 cm dilated," "She's pushing..." It was amazing! It was so fun to be involved in Liam's birth. I cannot speak on behalf of Kristy, but considering that I thought it was a long night waiting for the news, I can't even begin to imagine how exhausted she must have been! I am sooooo happy to be an Aunt, and cannot wait to meet Liam in October! Congratulations Kristy and Seamus!

Annie Gillingham



RFNL July 2011 Page 1

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch The News August 2011 RFNL 246

## benicio

**I'm a Boy** ☒ I am Scheduled ☒ I am Surprised

Baby: **Rios** Room: **110**  
Mother: **Benicio** Date of Birth: **7/9/11** Time: **1:57**  
Weight: **1890 Gm** Length: **44.6 cm** Head: **31.1 cm** Birth Weight: **43.5 lb**  
Baby's Doctor: **Swanson** Mother's Doctor: **Swanson**

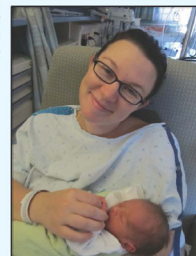


## From Grammy Carol and Grampa Jeff:



Jessica and Miguel were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Benicio Oliver Rios, on Saturday, July 9th at 3:57 pm. Sounds so simple... but the story starts in June when Jessica's doctor said she needed to have a bump (a vascular growth) removed from her arm.

A few days after




having this bump removed, the wound became infected and Jessica ended up in the hospital. She spent 4 long days battling a staph infection with antibiotics that gave her hives and a painkiller that caused her to faint. The stitches had to be removed and the infection drained but she won the battle. At 8 months pregnant, they monitored the baby throughout the entire ordeal and he seemed to do fine.

About a week after being home, she went for her 37 week check up and found out that her blood pressure was high. The doctor ordered a sonogram to see how the baby was doing. The test measured the baby at 4 lbs. which was smaller than normal for a 37 week baby. (Specifically, IUGR means the developing baby weighs less than 90% of other babies at the same gestational age.) Jessica's OB/GYN wanted her to get to 38 weeks because at that point the lungs and all other organs are fully developed. Jessica needed to take her blood pressure throughout the day and as long as it was normal, she could stay


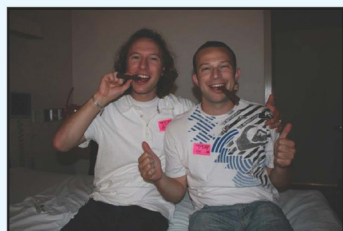
RFNL August 2011 Page 1

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch The News September 2011 RFNL 247



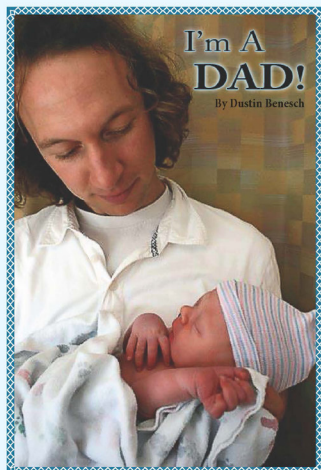
**Holden James Benesch**  
Born: 8/22/11, 1:57 PM  
6 lbs 15 oz, 19"

It has been an exciting few weeks for the Bay Area Benesch Household. As I hope everyone is now aware (thank you Facebook!), on August 22nd at Alta Bates Medical Center in Berkeley Lauren gave birth to our first child, Holden James Benesch.

We were very excited to have the birth at Alta Bates as it is one of the best at facilitating natural child births. Unfortunately, our little guy had different plans. After 12 weeks of Bradley Method classes and hours of practicing for a natural birth, little Holds did not want to move head down which meant a planned C-section was in order.

Although I first thought it would be nice to know the exact birth date, as the days grew closer so did the anxiety. Lauren and I were very excited, but with every person telling




RFNL September 2011 Page 1

# The Riel Family Newsletter

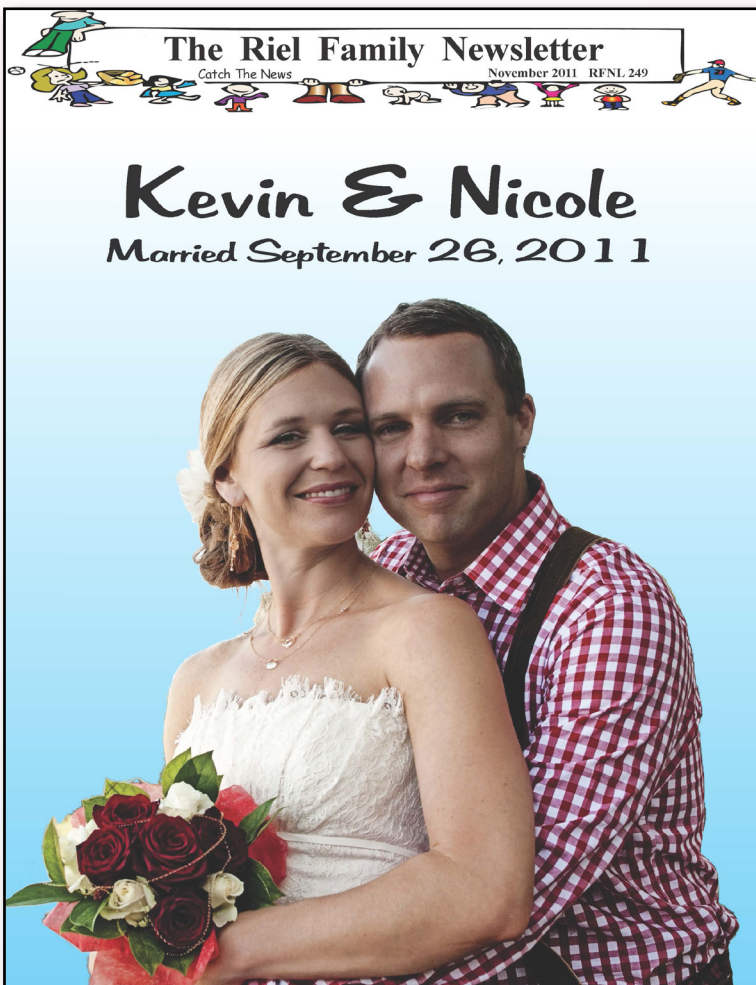
Catch The News October 2011 RFNL 248

## With this ring...

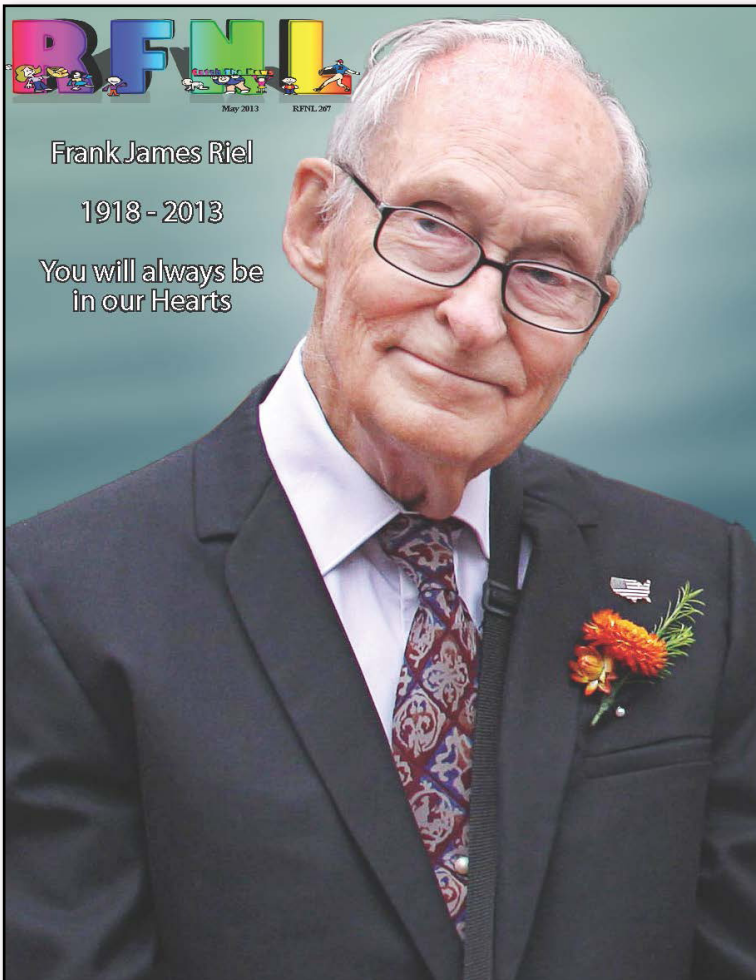


**Michelle and David**  
October 8, 2011









Frank James Riel

1918 - 2013

You will always be  
in our Hearts



Braeden James Keith

Born May 25, 2013

Welcome to the Family!



HELLO JOSIE!

July 11, 2013



MEET  
CORA  
NATALINE  
HARTMAN

July 15, 2013 6 lbs, 5 oz, 20 in.

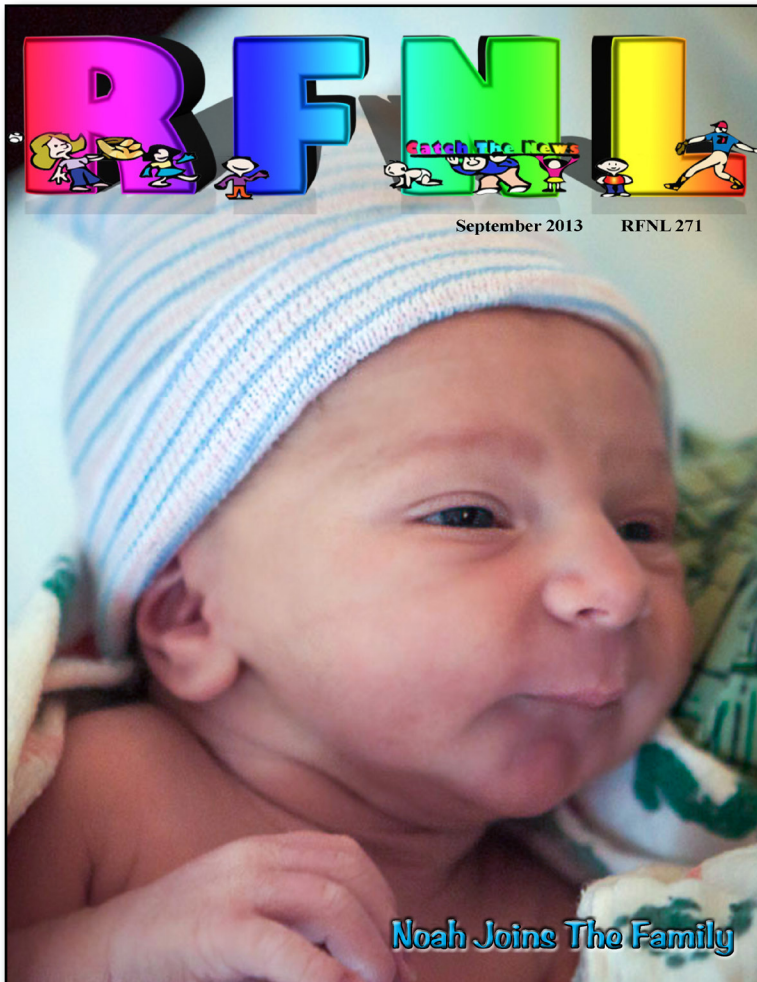


Introducing

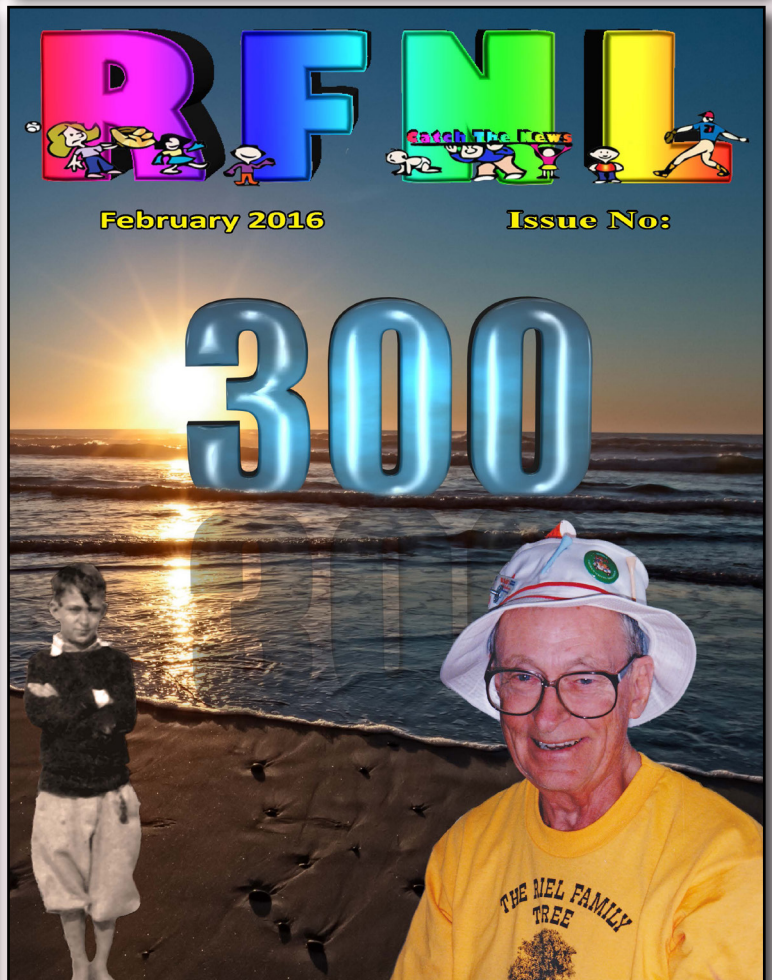
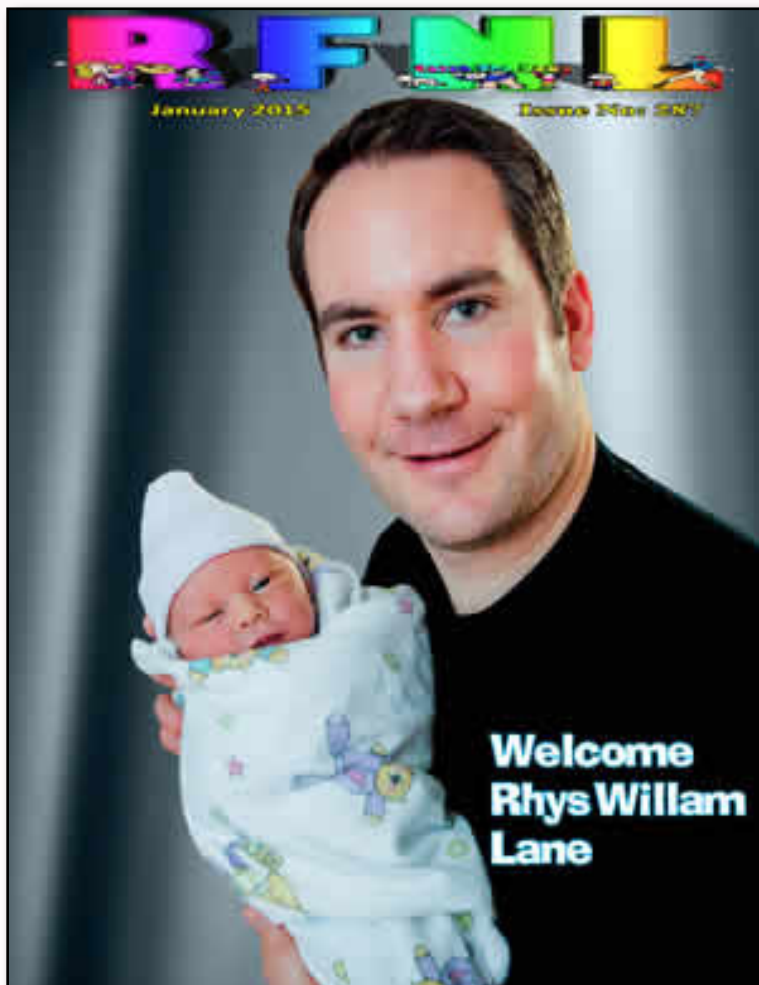
Owen  
DAVID  
Lane

born 7/27 9:30 am, 7lbs 3oz, 20.5 in

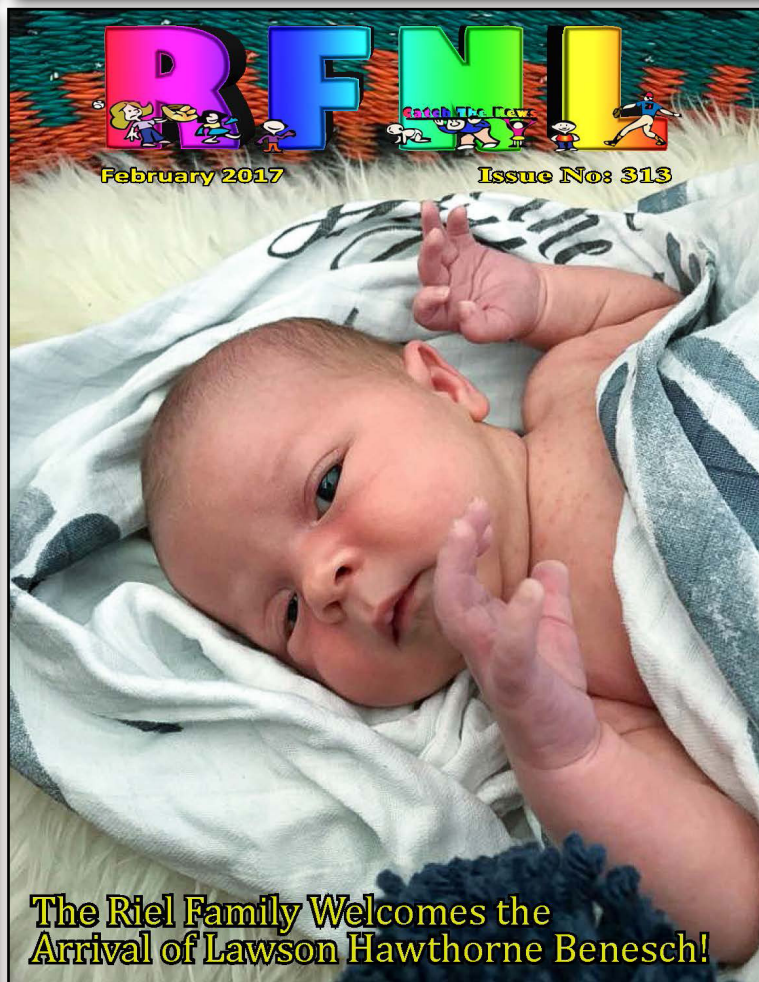
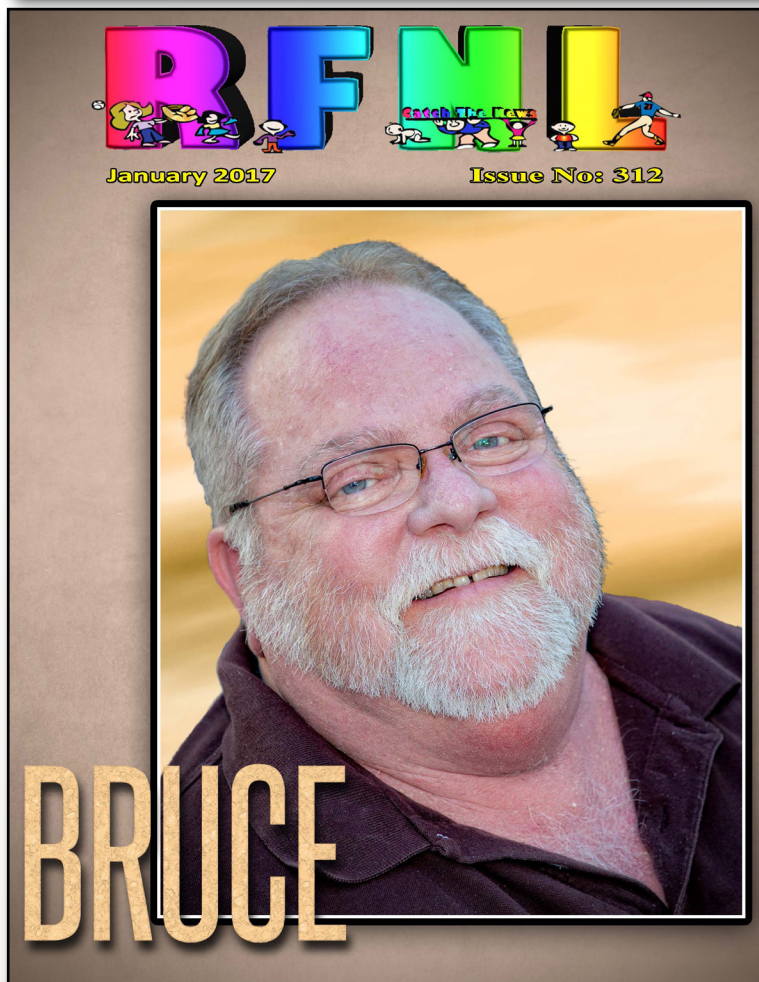




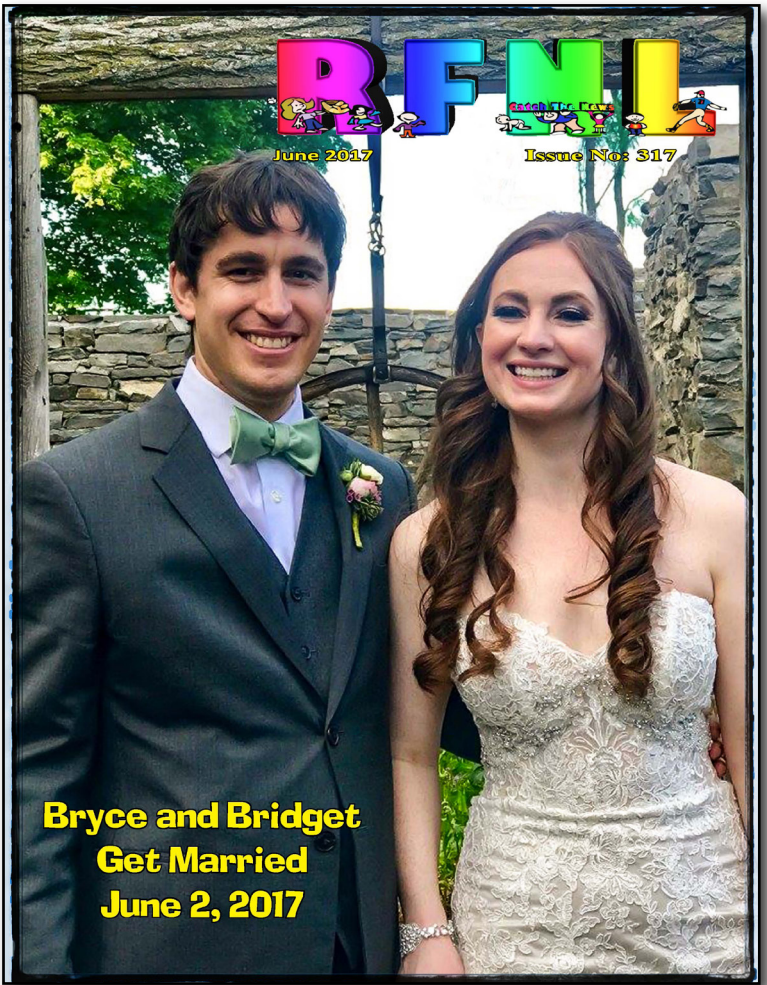




















Edith Riel  
1925 - 2019



Welcome

Evelyn  
Ann  
Mulholland

Coral  
Karleen  
Riel





It's a Boy!



**Kieran Comes Home!**



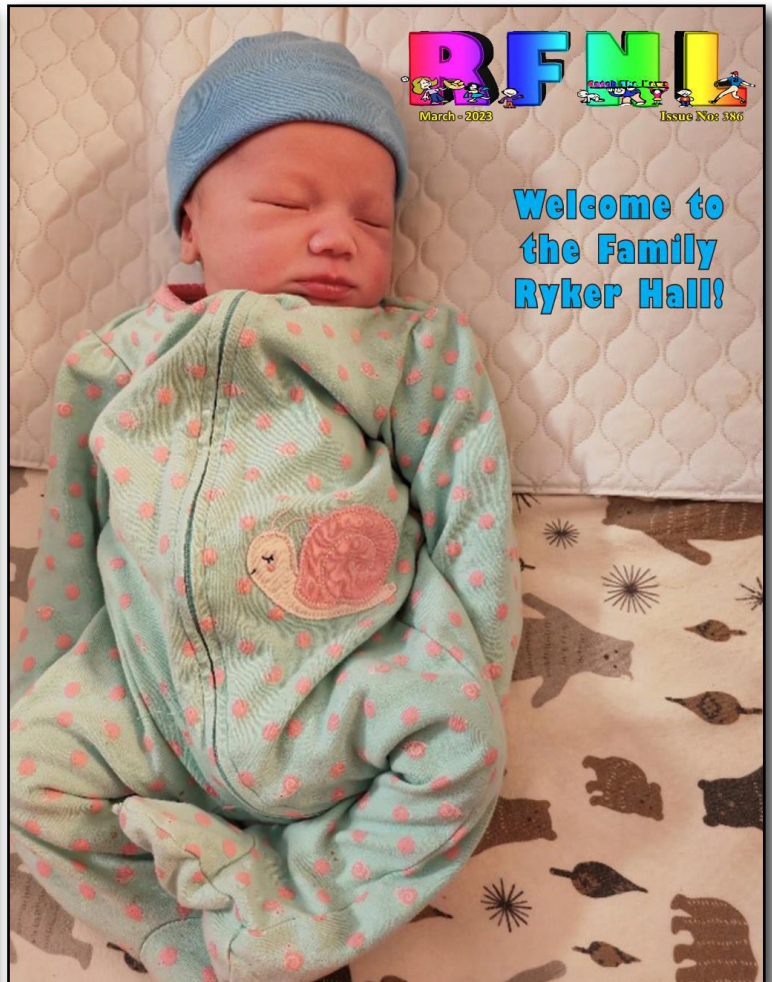
Welcome to the family,  
 Emery Jane Hall



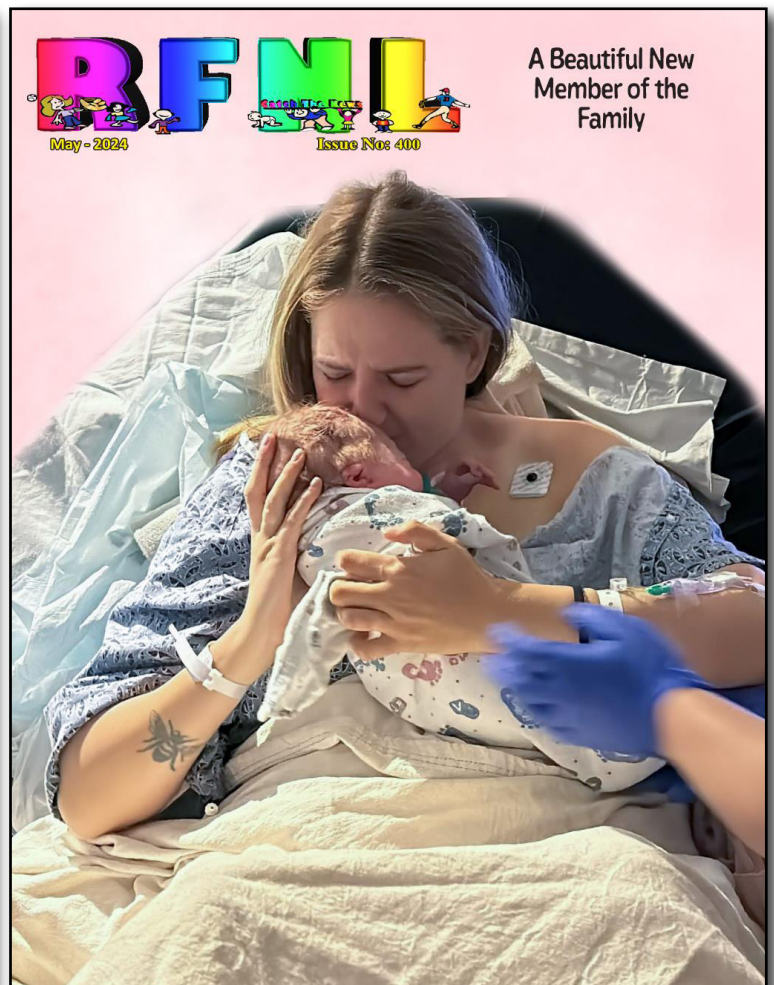
**The Family's Newest  
 Member Arrives Just  
 in Time for Christmas**

(But not too soon!)









The RFNL is more than just a monthly mailer—

It's a thread that weaves through generations. It's the announcement of a new baby cousin, a spotlight on a family reunion, a remembrance of an ancestor, and a celebration of each Riel's individual journey. It's how the family keeps its stories alive, ensures no one is forgotten, and reminds each member, near or far, that they are part of something bigger.

As the RFNL continues into its fourth decade, it remains a beautiful testament to the enduring power of family, tradition, and storytelling.

Remember you can read every edition of the RFNL at [Riel.org](http://Riel.org)





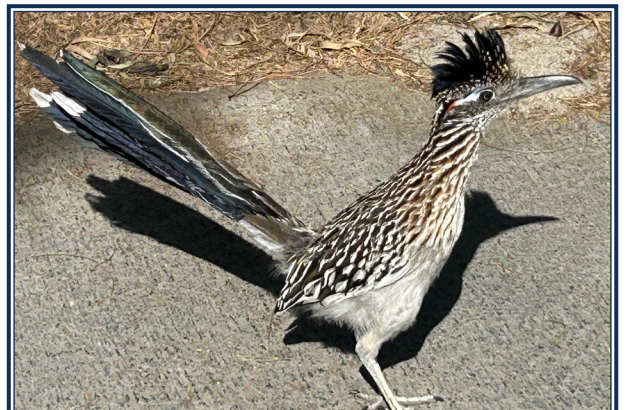
# Bridy and Lyle's Trip to Indian Wells

By Birdy Hartman Hall

Our recent trip to Indian Wells was an unforgettable experience. Lyle and I chose to stay at the Esmeralda Marriott, a lovely hotel that exceeded our expectations. The accommodations were exceptional, and the highlight was undoubtedly the enormous pool setting, which provided a perfect place for relaxation and fun.

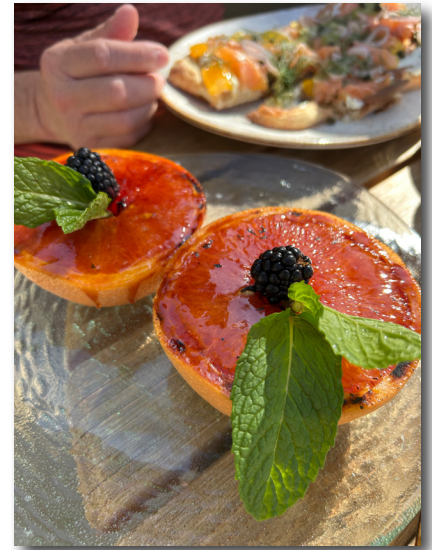
We dedicated three days to golfing at some of the best courses in the area. Our first day was spent at Shadow Ridge, where the competition between Lyle and me began. Lyle won our first match with ease, setting the stage for a fierce rivalry.

The following day, we moved to Desert Willow, where I managed to even the score with a solid performance. Our final round took place at Indian Wells, and by the end of the day, our scores were so evenly matched that it was hard to declare a definite winner. The tight competition added an extra layer of excitement to our trip.





The food during our stay was nothing short of amazing. One particularly memorable dish was the brulee grapefruit, which was simply to die for. We were also intrigued by a unique bottle of champagne that was tied with twine instead of the usual metal cage. Unfortunately, the champagne had turned, but the anticipation of opening such an old bottle was an experience in itself. Despite the lack of bubbles, we enjoyed the novelty of the moment.



Our last day in Indian Wells was dedicated to pure relaxation. We spent the day lounging in a cabana by the pool, engrossed in our books and music. The desert's perfect 82-degree weather provided an ideal backdrop for unwinding after days of activity. The warm, sunny atmosphere was a welcomed contrast to the not-so-sunny skies of San Diego.



Our journey to Indian Wells was truly memorable, filled with competition, culinary adventures, and serene moments of relaxation. The combination of luxurious accommodations, challenging golf courses, and delectable food made for a perfect getaway. We cherished every moment and look forward to our next visit to this wonderful destination.





# Golf Enthusiasm Takes Bob and Listy to Arizona

By Listy Gillingham

Anyone who has ever golfed with Bob knows that he is truly into this sport. He spends a lot of time watching the game being played by professionals so that he can improve his own craft. He analyzes how they strike the ball and appreciates each birdie they get as they walk down the fairway. I get recaps of every tournament with the triumphs and failures shared so that I can also appreciate the game at Bob's level as well (or try to).



His love of the game took us last month to Chandler, Arizona to see the top women golfers from all over the world compete in the LPGA tournament. We saw the entire tournament following golfers around 18 holes of golf (jumping around a few times to see several groups attack on the same hole as well). Bob challenged me by asking me to see how they putt or how they swung out of the trap to get the right spin or angle. This was not idling watching golf, I had to be on my toes with what club they should use and marvel at how far each of the players could hit the ball.



On the last day, we got to the course at 10 a.m. and didn't leave until close to 6:00 p.m. watching all the top golfers come in. It was fun being there for a second year in a row, as I got a better view of who I liked to follow. I enjoyed watching how the contest can change quickly when someone was having a great day and challenged the leaders.

Nellie Korda is a favorite for both of us (she is also number 1 in the world) but we had fun watching Charlie Hull start strong (she dropped out last year because she was sick) and how the lead moved from one golfer to the next at the end. We saw a play-off between Lilia Vu and Hyo Joo Kim because they tied at the end of 18 with scores of 22 under (after 4 days of play). They had to replay the 18th hole and Hyo Joo Kim won out with an amazing 5-foot putt that dropped into the cup giving her a birdie to Lilia's missed 22-foot birdie putt. So, there you have it, a true sports article about our adventures in Arizona.







Scripps Ranch, CA — The Keith family's backyard just got a serious upgrade, and with summer around the corner, their three boys—Liam, Braeden, and Riley—are ready to dive in.

After three months of careful construction and planning, Kristy and Seamus Keith have officially wrapped up a complete backyard overhaul, crowned by a brand-new pool that's already making waves. Nestled in the heart of their Scripps Ranch home, the stunning addition is more than just a place to swim—it's a full-blown retreat built with family fun and laid-back luxury in mind.

The centerpiece of the pool? A built-in lounging area designed to make every day feel like a vacation. Two partially submerged lounge chairs invite you to kick back and relax, with a table right between them for snacks, sunscreen, or a good book. A thoughtfully placed umbrella casts cool shade over the area, perfect for escaping the midday sun without ever leaving the water.

“It was the final piece to bring everything together,” Kristy said, reflecting on the transformation. “The backyard has truly become our happy place—and watching the boys enjoy it makes all the planning and time worth it.”

With Liam, Braeden, and Riley already turning into little fish, the pool is poised to be the setting for countless summer memories, family BBQs, and laid-back weekends for years to come.

Whether it's a cannonball contest or a calm afternoon float, one thing's for sure—the Keith family's backyard just became the coolest spot in Scripps Ranch.

Dive in, summer. The Keiths are ready!



# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <i>April Fool's Day</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Bridget's 40th Birthday</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Dustin's 40th Birthday</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Brian's 36th Birthday</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Robert's 68th Birthday</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Kevin R's 46th Birthday</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Kevin M's 43rd Birthday</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Jan's 77th Birthday</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Frank &amp; Sam's 7th Ann.</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

## May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <i>Mattie &amp; Sophia's 11th &amp; Avery G's 1st Birthdays</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Curtis' 41st Birthday</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Cinco De Mayo</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Lyle's 69th Birthday</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Remember Frank Day (12)</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Michelle's 43rd Birthday</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Corbin's 16th &amp; Lauren H's 42nd Birthdays</i>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <i>Braeden's 12th Birthday</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Memorial Day</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Bud's 84th Birthday</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>Craig &amp; Ana's 17th Ann. &amp; Bob's 70st Birthday</i>





# FAMILY SHORTS



Half Marathon

MI

KM

RESULT

TIME (CHIP) FULL CO...

1:50:28

PACE MIN/MI

8:26

RANKING

OVERALL

550

/ 2779

FEMALE

136

/ 1249

F40-44

15

/ 176

KK

Kristin Keith

F 41 San Diego, CA

BIB

296

RACE SUMMARY

CHIP START TIME

6:55:08 AM

PDT

DISTANCE

13.1 Miles

GUN TIME

1:55:36

WEATHER

65°F

18°C

☁

Half Marathon

MI

KM

RESULT

TIME (CHIP) FULL CO...

1:50:27

PACE MIN/MI

8:26

RANKING

OVERALL

548

/ 2779

MALE

412

/ 1525

M40-44

64

/ 197

SK

Seamus Keith

M 43 San Diego, CA

BIB

295

RACE SUMMARY

CHIP START TIME

6:55:09 AM

PDT

DISTANCE

13.1 Miles

GUN TIME

1:55:36

WEATHER

65°F

18°C

☁

Kristy and Seamus added yet another half marathon to the ever-growing list of races they've conquered together, each finish line a testament to their shared passion and unbreakable bond. With every stride, they not only challenged their limits but also deepened their connection, turning each race into a celebration of love, endurance, and the countless memories built side by side.



The sun was just starting to stretch over the hills of Fallbrook on Sunday, April 13th, when Jessica Arredondo and Chris Riel rolled into town, windows down, music playing, and the scent of citrus groves drifting through the air. Riding shotgun was none other than Jessica's mom, Toni Ontiveros. The trio were buzzing with excitement for their day at the legendary Fallbrook Avocado Festival.

As soon as they stepped onto Main Street, it was clear: this was the place to be. Booths lined the road like a patchwork quilt of creativity and green goodness. There were avocado tacos, avocado ice cream, guacamole galore\*, and even—yes—avocado beer. Chris raised an eyebrow at that last one, but hey, when in Fallbrook.

Chris found a rustic wooden sign that read "You Guac My World" and handed it to Jessica with a goofy grin. They laughed, snapped pictures under the giant avocado balloon arch, and wandered from stall to stall, admiring the quirky hand-carved kitchen tools, avocado-themed candles, and locally made jewelry.

As the crowds mellowed, the trio followed the smoky scent of grilled meat to a tucked-away BBQ spot just off the main drag. They found a cozy picnic table under the lights, and enjoyed platters of ribs, mac and cheese, and—of course—grilled avocado halves stuffed with salsa and lime.