

Motorbikes are his love

Chris Salvagno lives and breathes them

By **ROBERT SALONGA**
The Salinas Californian

Piercings. Basketball shoes. Video games. Designer clothes.

These are some of the myriad teenage obsessions people outgrow as they reach adulthood. But only a few parlay those obsessions into grown-up careers, like the Atari whiz who goes on to design games herself.

Count Chris Salvagno in that select bunch. His youthful vice? Motorbikes of every kind.

"I love to fix motorcycles," Salvagno said. "I love the joy it brings when (customers') bikes are fixed."

The 33-year-old runs Greenfield Cycle Center, a garage in that city with the help of his wife, Jill, and a lone apprentice, Sean Olson.

With a loose client base of more than 2,000, "There are bikes stacked up everywhere," he said.

The garage has been around for just longer than three years, but Salvagno has spent half his life working on motorcycles, dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles.

He's worked as a mechanic for major dealers like Kawasaki and Yamaha since being certified by the Phoenix-based Motorcycle Mechanics Institute at age 20.

Salvagno also has worked on several motocross teams, including one owned by ex-Van Halen frontman Sammy Hagar.

That experience translated into a county-wide customer base, with bikes coming from the King City region to the Monterey Peninsula. He performs everything from tire changes, oil changes and engine rebuilds to racing bike modifications.

"I've worked on them all," Salvagno said. "If it can be fixed, I can fix it."

Salvagno's extensive work with motorbikes has him looking to the future and a possible ATV dealership.



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Chris Salvagno, right, owner of Greenfield Cycle Center, and his employee, Sean Olson, stand outside the center on June 14. Salvagno's motto is: 'If it can be fixed, I can fix it.'

GREENFIELD CYCLE CENTER

n **BUSINESS:** Motorcycle and ATV repair

n **ESTABLISHED:** 2003

n **EMPLOYEES:** 3

n **ORGANIZATION:** Private ownership

n **LOCATION:** 36 4th St., Suite F, Greenfield

n **INFORMATION:** (831) 674-5979

"That's where the market is going," he said. "They appeal to the masses more, and are easier to operate."

Especially, Salvagno says, in an agricultural center like the Salinas Valley.

"Farmers get an ATV for ranch



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Inside Greenfield Cycle Center on June 14, a motorcycle waits to be repaired.

use, like it, and then get it for recreation too."

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