

FALL IS HERE (FINALLY!)

GO HAWKS!



A special thank you to the Maestas family who sponsored the Centennial High School football team on behalf of KBYH. Glen and Tina, we appreciate all you guys do and thanks for helping to get our name out there!



KBYH's annual Fall Carnival was held on October 22nd at Silver Creek Park. It's always special when our families

connect with each other and we love getting a sneak peak at some of the kid's Halloween costumes. A special THANK YOU! to our team of volunteers, including Michelle Childress and family who prepared and served all of the food, and to the AT&T Golden Empire Telephone Pioneers, who provided countless cakes and other various desserts for the cake walk.



Save the Date!

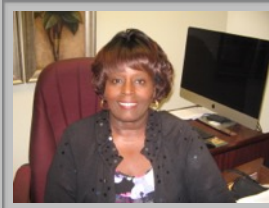
*Annual KBYH Christmas skate party at Rollerama on Sunday, December 6.



KBYH Staff Spotlight

RUTH JACKSON

Ruth Jackson was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. She attended local elementary and junior high schools as well as Bakersfield High School (Go Drillers!). She was involved in sports and journalism and was the page two editor of the school newspaper; The Blue and White. Ruth received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and her master's degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She has been an FFA Social Worker at KBYH for ten years and states she loves her job. Ruth was also a Social Worker for 5 years at another FFA and has a diverse background. She is an avid sports fan and knows more about sports than most men (smile)! Ruth's hobbies include interior decorating, shopping, antiquing, fishing and cooking (especially homemade jams and jellies). She also collects vintage clothes and jewelry. In 2006 Ruth was voted Social Worker of the Year by her peers and was Employee of the year in 2011.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

November 14, 9:00-11:00AM:
"Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

December 9, 6:00-8:00PM: "Planning & Adjusting for Change" with Bibi Carrasco

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP by the Monday of the week of training):

CPR/1st Aid Recertification (*for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training*): First Thursday of every month from 10:00am-Noon and from 6:00-8:00pm.

CPR/1st Aid-Initial Course (*for those who have never had the training before*): First Saturday of February, May, August, and November, 10:00am-3:00pm.

Congrats!!

- Trinity L.:** Good grades
- Anthony G.:** Doing well in preschool
- Joshua R.:** Honor Roll
- Haley C.:** Honor Roll
- Bradley C.:** Honor Roll
- Analexis B.:** Honor Roll
- Cheyenne C.:** 4.0 and perfect attendance at Kaplan College
- Anthony M.:** 3.54 GPA
- Cristian R.:** 3.57 GPA

Child Birthdays

- November 3: Fina C
- November 12: Nathaniel D.
- November 25: Haley C.
- November 29: Fayth T.
- November 30: Melonie F.



Foster Parent Birthdays

- November 2: Roger Perry
- November 5: Jose Montoya
- November 7: Anthony Ayala
- November 7: Jesus Salas
- November 11: Katherine Williams
- November 12: John Warren
- November 13: Ninfa Montoya
- November 15: Shawnda Banks
- November 15: Shawnda Schmidt
- November 16: Cindy Perry
- November 19: Monica Alfaro
- November 20: John Rivera

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- November 1: Robert Carter
- November 25: Shawn Wilcox

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Antonio Balderas: 8 years
- Mike Nieto: 13 years

“The Ultimate Challenge”



In October 2015, one of our Almklov group home boys participated in this year’s Volkslauf Charity Challenge.

Volkslauf is a fun and family-oriented event that challenges your limits. The 10k obstacle course was designed by a small group of Marines over decade ago and the idea of incorporating the traditional Marine obstacle course into the run was a given. The course even had referees so people could not cheat on the challenging course. Participants had the option to walk or run the course at their own comfortable pace. Our young man from Almklov completed the entire exhausting course. According to him, “I was mentally prepared and physically intrigued”. He also stated that he would do this event every year moving forward because it was fun, competitive, and challenging all at the same time.

Foster Child of the Month: Joshua R.

Joshua was placed in the Caudillo CH on 5-29-15 from a group home. The first three years in foster care were tenuous. Joshua was a disruption in the foster homes and at the schools. Prior to being placed in the Caudillo CH, Joshua attended 2 different high schools and 3 different community schools. This past year, Joshua had an epiphany and went from school probation to Honor Roll. Joshua is currently a senior at Stockdale High School, has a 3.33 GPA and is scheduled to graduate on time. Joshua is planning to go to Cuesta College after graduation or participate in the AB12 program. We are all proud of his transformation. Keep up the good work Joshua.

Foster Family of the Month: Silvia & Jose Martinez

Kern Bridges Youth Homes takes great pleasure recognizing Silvia and Jose Martinez as November's Foster Parents of the Month. The Martinez's are a special and caring family who have shared their home with foster children for nearly 3 years. This family has been called upon many times to care for difficult and challenging children and often, with short notice during non-working hours. They have a high success rate caring for children of all ages. It is no surprise that their home is at capacity. The Martinez's have given much of their life to caring for children entrusted to them. They raised three children of their own and have decided to care for foster children in need. Thank you for being available to meet the needs and congratulations on your selection as Foster Parents of the Month!

Kern County DHS Spotlight

KBYH has worked with Johnny Cuestas for the past two years. He has been great to interact with and always seems very positive about his cases. Johnny was born in Merced, CA., then later moved to Bakersfield where he attended Golden Valley H.S. He is very passionate about education and he went on to obtain an AA in Psych and Sociology from Bakersfield College. Johnny attended CSUB, where he received his BA in Psych, and his MSW. He has always been interested in helping others which led him to be employed at Greenfield Union School District for 5 years, 2 years as a Behavioral Therapist with MAPSS, and 1 year at the Jamison Center as a group counselor. Johnny also participated with Project 180, a gang prevention program and worked 1 year at the Kern County CPS AB12 Program. Johnny also worked for a year with KBYH at the Almklov House. Currently, Johnny is working with Sacramento County CPS in the placement support unit. He has given back greatly to the community and it is worth noting that he is a former foster youth from Tulare County who found his footing early on and has made strides to improve the foster care programs wherever he come into contact with it. Johnny is the kind of guy that will "leave it better than when he found it". Johnny states that "I have significant respect and appreciation for the KBYH treatment team and the quality services they provide to their youth." We wanted to tell him "Thank You" for all that you do and all that you will continue to do for our youth. You're a great asset and people are lucky to have you on their team. Best of luck in Sacramento!





KBYH IN THE SPOTLIGHT



November is adoption awareness month and to kick off the month, the Kern County Board of Supervisors made a proclamation as such in their meeting on November 3. Our own Jennifer Mercier addressed the Board and discussed her reasons for adopting. Jennifer did a great job and our condolences to Darin who couldn't make it due to breaking his foot.

SAFETY

Child Car Seat

As of January 1, 2012, all children must ride in a car or booster seat until they are at least 8 years old or at least 4 feet 9 inches tall. In addition, all kids younger than 8 years old must be secured in the back seat.

When a Child May Ride in Front

Children may ride in the front seat of a vehicle, but only when:

- There is no rear seat or the rear seats are either side-facing jump seats or rear-facing seats.
- The child passenger restraint system cannot be installed properly in the rear seat.
- All rear seats are already occupied by children under the age of 8 years old
- A medical reason requires the child to ride in the front seat.

Some vehicles, usually those with no backseats, come with an airbag-off switch for this purpose

