

Lauren Burleson

From: SBParent.com [info@sbparent.com]
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 To: info@sbparent.com
 Subject: Updates on Jesuita Fire & Foster Care Awareness

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FROM THE EDITOR

THANK YOU to all of the firefighters and emergency responders that have been out there every day protecting our community with the Jesuita Fire this past week. It has been amazing to watch our community once again pull together. Our hearts go out to those of you that have lost your homes. We have posted more updates that includes a list of homes lost and ways to continue to offer support. Crane County Day school students made sifting screens for the fire victims. [Read Jususita Fire Updates >>](#)



Friday is the final day to nominate a teacher, administrator, or counselor that you see making a difference for children, preschool through high school and you can nominate your favorite dad >>. Several people have emailed in nominations of local heroes they saw making an impact last week. We invite you to [email us](#) anyone you would like to spotlight.

May is National Foster Care Month. We want to honor both foster kids in our community and the individuals that reach out to support them. This quote from Judy Osterhage sums it up perfectly... **"Remember these kids belong to all of us."**

- Currently, throughout Santa Barbara County, and particularly in the city of Santa Barbara, **there is an immediate need for individuals and families to help impact the life of a child by becoming foster parents.** When the only stable and nurturing homes available for children needing foster care are many miles away in another community, children of Santa Barbara must leave their neighborhood, schools, supportive adults and peers to be placed in a safe foster home. When a child is placed outside of his/her community because there are no families in a child's community to care for them, it becomes extremely challenging for a foster child to maintain sibling relationships or to work towards reunification with their biological family. Imagine how difficult it is for these children to be moved away from everything that is familiar to them after being separated from their families simply because there are no families within their community willing to provide foster care.
- Foster children range in age from newborns to 18 years old, and can be placed with a foster family for as little as a few hours in emergency shelter or may stay for months, depending on the type of foster care needed and the preference of the foster parents.
- While some are not able to commit to becoming foster parents, everyone can help local foster and high-needs children by participating in the Family Care Network's 6th annual Miracle Miles for Kids 10k walk/run on May 30th in Morro Bay. [Details >>](#)



This week, we are highlighting a local foster father...**Michael Nattell.** The Nattell Family is one foster family that has stepped up to the plate. After trying for years to have a child of their own, Becky and Michael Nattell decided to become foster parents with the Family Care Network in 2005. [continue reading >>](#)

Mark your calendars for **Bike to School Day, Tuesday, May 19th.** Bike Week flags will be on display downtown starting later this week. This year the return of favorite activities include: Bike to School Day, Bike to Work Day, and The Children's Festival >>

- The Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) is pleased to introduce a section within SBParent.com's **Parent Chat:** "Safe Routes to School (SR2S) intended to help area schools start their own SR2S programs, to facilitate discussion among coordinators and parents, and to help COAST identify pedestrian and bike safety issues in local neighborhoods. [Share >>](#)



Don't miss the Family Service Agency's **FREE Children's Festival** Saturday at Alameda Park. Other fun family events include 2 school productions and 2 local runs and more so check the [event calendar](#) so you do not miss anything!



By the way, First Class Stamps went up to \$.44 this week.

SBParent.com Team
 Rachael, Julie, Irene, Alison

Calendar of Events

[click to view complete calendar](#)

THIS WEEK



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