

Merry Christmas from the McKinley Family. We hope this Christmas finds you well and with family.

Rebecca turned 21 and started her college career at CSU Fullerton on the same day, transferring from CCC with Honors. Doing some soul searching she switched from Speech Pathology to Communications - & Tourism/Entertainment. With a new goal of Disney management, Voiceover work and/or Hospitality, and surviving four girls in one dorm room this semester, it has been a whirlwind for her. Her annual Pass to Disneyland and new friends have provided some escape from the stresses of study. She has enjoyed singing in the CSUF Choir. Keeping music within the academics has fed her soul and kept her voice warm, and provided an incredible vocal Christmas production for the family to experience. We look forward to having her home this Christmas!

Ryan, now 18 and a Senior at Arroyo Grande High School is excelling in CAD based Animation, mentoring, teaching, and presenting to visitors like the Cal Poly Reps. Ryan's musical endeavors are taking him many places. He was invited to play again for a sold-out engagement celebrating country legends at the Crystal Palace last spring. He toured the East Coast with the Jug Tucker Bluegrass band. He stayed on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and helped with Wild Horse Tours. The McKinley Boys Bluegrass and Rockabilly Band still play at many local venues on the Central Coast (See McKinley Boys Facebook/Youtube). Building and launching rockets, orchestrating and participating in large Airsoft and Paintball events around the state, fiddle competitions, and being enrolled in college math courses has kept Ryan's calendar full! (Ahh, to be young again!!) Ryan is considering either starting Cuesta's Physics program, Business and Tech at East Tennessee State (which housing a Touring Bluegrass Program), or the Aviation Engineering Program at Embry Riddle. We all look forward to seeing where he goes next!

Kelly is finishing his 26th year at Cal Trans. He continues as a Structures Preservation Engineer overseeing 730 bridges in California. He plays Ultimate Frisbee, works out, and performs on the Bass Violin and guitar with the Dusty Shoes Bluegrass Gospel Band and the McKinley Boys Band with Ryan. If that's not enough, he fills in as a bass player for other Bluegrass bands in the area. In his spare time, he works on the family cars, his Datsun 510 wagon, house reconstruction projects, the computers and everything else a home owner does! If there is any time left over, he serves in the tech crew at New Life Church. God's blessed him with the ability to live on very little sleep!

Lisa still works at Allan Hancock College as a Counselor Part-time, working towards making some needed changes in career endeavors, and is active and making new friends on the PFA Union Board. After facing some medical issues, she's grateful for restored good health and enjoys getting out for an occasional Ultimate Frisbee game with the gang, Frisbee Golf with Ryan or an invigorating Gym Power class. She helps keep up the yard, the house and is continually pushing her 'green shakes' on any family member present when the new blender is howling in the kitchen! She helps manages the family calendar, the music events, using her Publisher skills to stay artsy and provide brochures for the McKinley Boys, and helps as a Roadie to stay close to the action. She and Kelly are feeling the pangs of Rebecca's college absence. The house is really too quiet, but phone calls to Rebecca, sometimes twice a day, keep us close and involved.

On a sad note, we lost a very special family member/pet, our dynamic dog Daisy Mae at 9 years of age suddenly to cancer in August. It was the same week Rebecca left for college. Kelly wrote a beautiful and deeply touching tribute on Facebook ...something you animal lovers would truly understand. Daisy did get to share her last nine month with her new "puppy" companion, Elsa (named after Disney's "Frozen"). Elsa is a rescue shelter Black Lab Shepherd puppy that has grown to exceed 75lbs. While we have all felt the loss of such a special pet as Daisy, Elsa is bringing new life, comedy, playfulness and extra sweetness to the family! God knew.

This summer, Ryan's Tour invitation on the East Coast afforded a creative family vacation. Flying into Nashville, Ryan jammed with musicians at Station Inn (Youtube Ryan McKinley Station Inn and Little Maggie for clips). We went sightseeing, visited old friends & made new ones. Ryan performed with Bobby Hicks at the Zuma Café in Marshall NC. We spent 4 days touring Washington DC and Williamsburg before arriving at Mark and Sherri Criminger's house (Jug Tucker Band) on the Outer Banks of NC. We got there just in time for Hurricane Arthur. July 4th beach fireworks were cancelled till the following day, but there were still many of us, regardless of businesses boarding up shops, who enjoyed fireworks shot off by the local people who weren't evacuated. Two days later, we left Ryan to tour with the Jug Tucker Band, while Kelly, Lisa and Rebecca drove 13 hours to Florida to visit the University of Florida's Opera Director who is a friend of Rebecca's & spent a few rainy/stormy days at Disney World before flying back home. Ryan flew back after touring for 5 weeks. We have a zillion home movies... but just look on You Tube...Buzsawlouie Channel to see a few videos. (You'll probably get a kick out of seeing that our motorhome remodel video has 28,000 views...go figure!)

From our family to yours, we hope you have a blessed Christmas season, truly making time to celebrate the depth of the reason for this very special season. God Bless you richly as you take needed time to focus on Him!