

## CHRISTMAS 2023

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Colorado!

It has been a year of home projects and family fun. We took a wonderful trip this spring to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal on a sailing ship with Windstar Cruises. The canal's locks are truly spectacular and the experience of being on a big ship with sails was really unique. We would encourage anyone to sail with them.

Our daughter, Jenn, sold her house in Denver this spring and bought 5 acres in Elizabeth just about 10 minutes from us. She and Sofia put most of their belongings in storage and have moved into our finished basement while their new house is being built. After interviewing a dozen builders, Jenn has found a great guy to work with and has been busy designing the house, picking out cabinets, flooring, appliances etc, etc, etc. We really enjoy having them living with us and love sharing in the adventure of building a new home. Jenn has continued to work as an I.C.U. nurse this year but has just moved into a new position working in the education of the nursing staff and new staff members. She also organized a week in South America bringing medical help to villages along the Amazon and was able to include a trip to Machu Picchu before coming home.

The other blessing in our lives was the birth of twins (Harper Quinn and Hudson Peter) to our daughter, Laura, and her husband, John, on August 1. They moved into their new home (also in Elizabeth) last fall and are using every bit of the extra room! We have been tickled to be able to help out with the care of their 3 year old son, Henry, four to five days a week so Laura can concentrate on care of the twins while John is at work. Our house "décor" now revolves around cars and trucks and we spend a good deal of time at playgrounds and the library and are lucky to have 40 acres for Henry to explore and tractors for him to ride on. He is truly a joy and keeps grandma and grandpa young!

In our "free time" we have been busy doing fire mitigation on our many pine trees, drill seeding pastures and refurbishing our berm. We installed a new metal gate at the end of our lane last year. After 35 years with no issues with the cheap plastic gate, we have seen six car accidents at our intersection that destroyed the new gate three times in the past 18 months. Milo is now on a first name basis with several insurance companies trying to get repairs done. He has also been instrumental in helping Sandy show their dressage horses this year resulting in a reserve championship at the end of the show season. Our biggest challenge is finding 4-6 hours a day for Sandy to ride and train!

Milo had surgery on his left knee this summer and Sandy had some eye surgery this fall but we are blessed with good health and able to stay active and busy. We are looking forward to Christmas with our family and watching the wonder of the season in the eyes of our grandchildren. We hope you are all well and full of hope for the new year!



The ship Windstar on Gatun Lake in the middle of the Panama Canal



Harper Quinn and Hudson Peter age four months



Henry Allen age three years



Our front gate after the third encounter with a vehicle