

Dear Friends & Family,

Christmas 2023

A Happy New Year to you all! In looking back over our year we realized that it was jam packed with challenges, activities, and blessings. Here are some of the highlights of our God-blessed year.

Caleb had a very full and productive year as a college student. He currently lives on campus at UNR in the Great Basin dorm and is a resident advisor to 60 freshman! In his spare time he loves to run, spend time with his friends and his sister, who also now lives in Reno, play Dungeons & Dragons and participate in various activities on

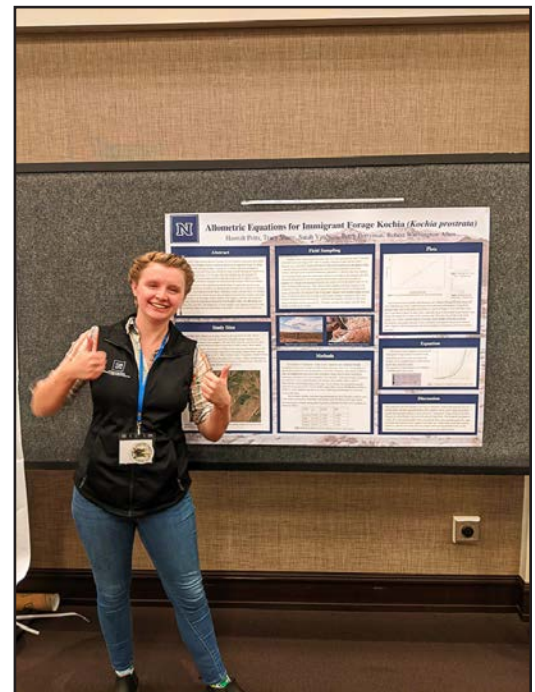


campus, including theater. He particularly loves improv style theater. Soon after starting at UNR he joined the UNR Improv theatre group. Our family had a fun night of laughter at one of the shows which Caleb participated in. This photo shows Caleb center stage and loving it!

Hannah graduated from UNR this past spring with a degree in Geography and a minor in writing. Hannah is now a grad student in Geography at UNR and living in Reno and thriving. Since Hannah was in the honors program she had to do a thesis as part of her undergraduate degree. Hannah presented her college thesis at the Society for Range Management conference in Idaho. It was titled: "Allometric Equations for "Immigrant" Forage Kochia. In layman's terms this means that she collected samples of forage kochia, a western shrub, and then collected their measurements and weights, and developed a series of equations that would predict the relationship between the top (crown) area of the shrub and its total weight. These equations can

be used to predict weights without killing the plant. Way to go Hannah! As a grad student Hannah is taking classes, acting as a teacher's assistant and preparing for field work this coming spring in her area of graduate study. She will be camping in the desert around Barstow, CA studying the endangered Mohave ground squirrel using drones to collect audio samples of squirrel vocalizations. Hannah loves to work in the field and is excited to be, as she puts it, tramping around in the dirt and getting paid for it!

Bob is in his 12th year at the Governor's Office on Economic Development. He is glad to be able to help companies coming to Nevada grow and thrive in our great state. He has had the exciting privilege of aiding a number of





cutting edge companies this year. One of these companies is Redwood Materials. This photo shows Bob and crew along side of Jennifer Granhol, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, at Redwood Materials' new plant celebrating a \$1 billion equity funding round. Redwood recycles and produces components for reintegration in battery manufacturing, Nevada now stands out as the only place (outside of China) that does everything from extractive mining of critical minerals, to battery component manufacturing, to battery production for storage and mobility (with the Tesla Semi truck), to end of life recycling, completing the industry loop. Helping this company gain a foothold in Nevada has been a remarkable career experience for Bob!

visiting Nevada's state parks. On April 6th, we were both off from work and made a fun day trip out to a less visited park, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. The park has two highlights, the old mining town of Berlin and the fossilized remains of the Ichthyosaur, an ancient marine reptile. This is a photo of us and our sidekick, Chester, in front of a full sized depiction of Nevada's state fossil, the Ichthyosaur. The park is home to the most abundant concentration, and largest known remains, of the ancient marine reptile that swam in a warm ocean that covered central Nevada 225 million years ago. The fossils are protected and displayed at the park's Fossil House.



In Bob's spare time we have started the fun tradition of



The second part of the park is the mining ghost town of Berlin which was built in the 1890s and is in a preserved state of arrested decay. A true Nevada ghost town, many of Berlin's original buildings remain and some of its original residents are interred in the town's cemetery. Trails throughout the townsite tell the story of Berlin and its mine. We had a fun drive across the wilds of Nevada to get to the park and an interesting time visiting the ghost town and seeing the amazing remains of Nevada's state fossil.

Over the last couple of years Bob has really enjoyed the sport of precision shooting and has become really good at it. He loves all the

aspects of the sport, from reloading the bullets to taking the rifles to the range. All of us have enjoyed accompanying Bob to the range for a little target shooting (except Chester, of course). Here is Hannah and Bob heading out for a fun day at the range.



Bob's job often takes him to conferences and meetings with public officials and he knows many of the state and local elected officials personally. Bob happened to be on the UNR campus for a meeting where the mayor of Reno was also in attendance. They unexpectedly ran into Caleb on campus, so Bob got to introduce him to Mayor Schieve and took their picture together.



In April, Bob and Lisa took a trip to Montana to visit Bob's Mom and to attend the memorial service for Bob's good friend and mentor, Ray Ansoategui. Bob was asked to do the eulogy at Ray's memorial, so it was great to have the comfort of home while we were there. Ray's memorial was held in Livingston, Montana which is not far from Yellowstone National Park. So after the memorial we took a lovely ride through the Paradise Valley and into the park to enjoy the onset of spring with all the sights and

abundant wildlife, including herds of deer, elk and bison.



On Mother's Day, Bob and I met Hannah and Caleb at the Old Granite Street Eatery in Reno to celebrate. It was

a beautiful day, so we took advantage of it by enjoying our brunch outside on the patio. For mothers (and fathers) there is no better reward than to know your kids are doing well. It is great to see both of them really thriving academically and personally at UNR!





A significant event this year was Hannah's college graduation with a B.S. in Geography and a Minor in Writing from the College of Science in The Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering at UNR. Since she also graduated with honors, there was a special separate ceremony for the Honors College. We are so proud of girl and all the efforts put in preceding this day!

A special part of the Honors Graduation was time spent with UNR President, Brian Sandoval who is the also the former governor of Nevada and Bob's former boss. The idea that all people are six or fewer

social connections away from each other is probably true in most places, but in Nevada we think it is closer to two!



We had some special people come up to share the moment



with Hannah including her long time girlfriend, Lydia (above Left - in the black dress and sunglasses) and her adopted "grandpa", Alex Heindl, a fellow adventurer and long time family friend (bottom Left - with the beard!) who both joined us from Las Vegas. Hannah's two best girlfriends, Taylor (who also graduated) and Melissa (above) also joined us for the event. These three have been tried and true friends since their days at Sierra Lutheran High School. What a special day celebrating Hannah and her successes!



For Caleb, running is not only a sport, but also a therapeutic passion. He has enjoyed finding new places to run this year in the hills around campus. Last year he ran his first half marathon and on June 17th of this year, he participated once again in the Rock Tahoe Half Marathon. There were a total of 1,500 runners and walkers participating. The race followed the scenic 13.1 miles shoreline road from Spooner Summit around Lake Tahoe to the town of South Lake Tahoe. We were excited to meet him at the finish line. Caleb

placed 108th in the total of 1,500 runners. We are so proud of him!

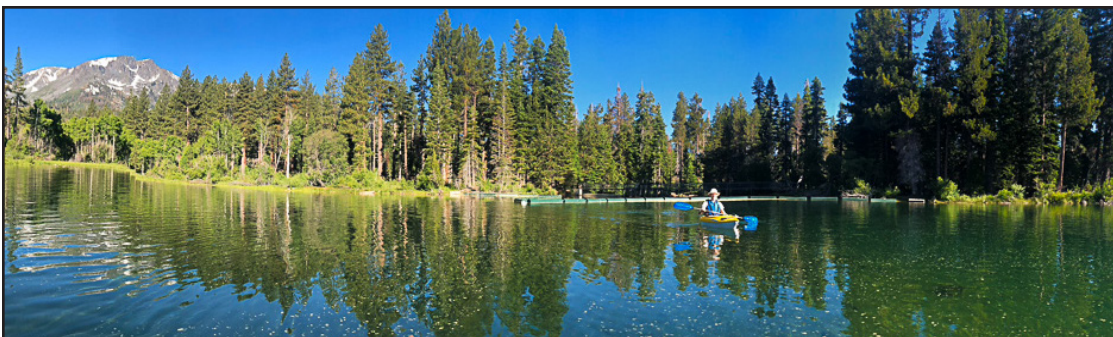


For graduation this year, Bob bought Hannah a Sig Sauer "Rose" P365 380 pistol as part of Sig Sauer's all women's "Rose" pistol program. For her first outing Bob and Hannah went out to the desert to enjoy a little target shooting with her new pistol. She is quite a little "Annie Oakley"!

On July 6th we headed out for a couple of days to one of our favorite camping spots, Fallen Leaf Lake. Bob and Caleb were glad to have the opportunity

to mountain bike together on some of the awesome trails around Fallen Leaf Lake Campground.

Caleb and Bob also went for a lovely paddle around the lake and even saw a bald eagle perched in one of the pine



trees. It is such a blessing to live in a place where this kind of beauty is only an hour's drive from our front door.



This year also saw some big transitions for us as parents. On August 12th, Bob and I helped Hannah move up to her new rental house in Reno. Here is a photo of Hannah in her new home and our family's housewarming gift to her, a Lego



flower bouquet. Just a couple days before moving Hannah to Reno, we helped Caleb move into his dorm room at Great Basin Hall at UNR where he is a Resident Advisor with

60 freshman on his floor. We are so proud of him and feel that he is well suited to succeed at his new job.



On August 13-15, we headed to a nearby campground, Kit Carson, beautifully situated along the Carson River, for a fun weekend camping. Hannah was able to come camping with us on this trip between her summer internship and the start of her graduate program at UNR. We sure do love the times we get to spend with our girl!



While there, Bob and Hannah took an enjoyable hike to nearby Winnemucca Lake. The wildflowers were in bloom everywhere and they brought a beautiful wildflower bouquet back for me! There is nothing like

hiking in the Sierras - sunshine, beautiful views, and no bugs! Like me, Hannah, our "otter" loves water and can't pass up a lake or river without taking a swim. It was great to get a last camping trip in before the season ends!



On the first weekend of September, Bob flew to Bozeman to gather with family members to celebrate his Mom's 90th birthday. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and love for all of the family.



Here is Bob's Mom, Evie, flanked by her two remaining brothers, Jim Danhof and Andy Danhof.

It was great to be re-living a cherished family memory and it really felt like Bob's dad was among them that day shooting clay pigeons out in the field.



Bob and his brothers had a great time at their Dad's old shooting range in the wheat fields near Churchill, Montana.

On September 9th our Nevada family enjoyed another wonderful local event, the Great Reno Balloon Race, the largest free balloon race in the world. Since Hannah and Caleb had recently moved to Reno, it was a great reunion with them, seeing the balloons then having breakfast on the patio at Hannah's new house located nearby.



The event began early in the morning with the balloon launch. It was great to see the amazing variety of hot air balloons taking off and flying the race course around the Reno area. It is a real test of the all the pilots' skills and abilities as they seek the right air currents at different altitudes and directions.



On September 28th Bob was asked to do an interview with the international news outlet Al Jazeera at the State Capital to discuss the growth of the Lithium industry in Nevada. It was an honor for him to talk about all the great things going on in the state from recycling to extractive mining of critical minerals to battery processing and manufacturing to the production of the Tesla Electric Semi.





On October 8th we took a fun day trip to Fort Churchill State Park. This is a great historical park along the Carson River only an hour or so from where we live. It was built in 1860 to protect the early settlers, westbound emigrants, the Pony Express trail and telegraph lines. This seldom visited park is one we highly recommend.



Bob and I were excited that Carson City was in the 85 percent path of the 2023 annular solar eclipse on October 14th. It was a lot of fun watching the event unfold from our back yard and coming up with different ways of "looking" at it. I love science and it was so great to have this time together with Bob. In this picture Bob set up his spotting scope to project an image of the "ring of fire" on my cheek. Too much fun!



Every year Bob attends a conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and always takes a few extra days to make a side trip to see his mom in Montana. Here he is with his brother Jim and his mom, Evie, at church together.

I also went on Bob's trip to Coeur d'Alene, on to Bozeman and then by myself on to Great Falls because of unexpected events. Sometimes life is really surprising and makes you realize how little you know what is coming around the next corner! On October 13th I got a call from my brother Craig that my mom, Berdelle, had taken a fall and was in the hospital in Great Falls, Montana with a fractured femur, COVID, and a urinary tract infection. Craig drove from his home in Boise, Idaho to be with my Mom and Dad directly after she was admitted to the hospital. By the next Wednesday, October 18th, the doctors knew they had to operate on my mom or she would never be able to walk again. They did surgery that night and half way through the procedure Berdelle's heart rate dropped dramatically and she could not be revived.

I and my sister, Amy, journeyed

to Great Falls soon after to be with my dad and discuss next steps. This is a picture of Craig, my dad, me, and my sister after my mom's death. Although this experience has been so sad for us all, the joy of feeling the support of family has been a truly blessed experience! Since my mom's death, my dad has moved to Boise, where he lives in an assisted living facility minutes from my brother. My sister and I roadtripped in the U-Haul to Boise with my dad's household goods, beating the weather and enjoying a great time together. Family is truly a blessing!







On Caleb's birthday weekend, Bob and Caleb spent a day together getting new tires for his car. During their travels they made a fun stop at Scheels in Sparks to do some additional shopping for Lisa's birthday as their birthdays are only two days apart. The guys had a really fun dad out together!

This is a picture of Chester, our wonderful puppy who we are so thankful for taken on Thanksgiving Day. We had Hannah's friend Melissa and her mom, Erika, over for a great Thanksgiving dinner and a fun time playing games.



On December 1st Bob had a wonderful opportunity flying to one of Nevada's most rural counties, Lincoln County, for a project he and others have been working on for some time. In short, it has to do with harvesting Pinyon Juniper trees and converting them to green alcohol. It is a very scientific process brought forward by a company called SixCo. Up until recently everything was in place for a successful venture, other than a market for the green alcohol. That all changed when the country of Denmark approached Nevada looking to buy green alcohol for the Maersk shipping line, which is converting their operations to clean/green energy. For Bob it was a real honor to fly in the State plane to

Lincoln County with the Ambassador of Denmark, Jesper Møller Sørensen, pictured here at the Lincoln County Airport with Bob.

On December 8th we invited all the staff in Bob's office over for a Christmas party. We have done this for a couple of years and it is a great chance to come together outside of the workplace. It was a wonderful potluck of great food and fun. As in previous years, we also had a blast after dinner participating in a "Yankee Gift Exchange". Everybody ended up with something they didn't show up with and didn't expect.

We really had a house full of food, libations, laughter and fun. It was a privilege to host Bob's office mates for the party. They are such a great group of people working together for the betterment of Nevada!



As we look forward to the new year, we reflect back on all the steps that made up our journey this past year. We are truly grateful that God has watched over us in all the ups and downs and especially the unexpected moments.

One special event already on the calendar for the new year is a 21 day private float trip down the Grand Canyon beginning on April 16th. Bob will be the trip leader for this event, which will include many of our close adventuring friends and also Bob's three brothers and some of their friends and kids. Hannah will also be participating for half of the trip and hiking out at Phantom Ranch. Caleb and I will be cheering them on from Reno and Carson City, as work commitments prevent us from attending.



In honor of the upcoming Grand Canyon adventure I made Hannah this "Colors of the Canyon" quilt for Christmas. Hannah's Christmas tradition has always been to sleep the night before Christmas on the couch next to the tree. This year was special because she got to sleep under her new canyon quilt.

With that said, we are praying your year is filled with a mix of adventures and cozy quilt moments. We are thankful for you and the blessing you are to our family. A blessed New Year from our house to yours!

Bob & Lisa

Hannah  
Caleb



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