

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2022

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

Christmas Greetings to each of you!



Chris, Carena & Camina
Austria

This year we welcomed another member to the family with our third grandchild arriving in February. **Carena** and **Chris** had their first child, **Camina**. Carena and Chris continue as Associate professors at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and are presently in Austria on sabbatical. They visited Tucson just before leaving for Europe so we were able to spend some time with little Cami. For more about Carena and her graduate laboratory, check out www.carenavanriper.com.



Grandma, Grandpa,
Cami



Kim & Purple Cauliflower

From their lovely property in Lehi (Mesa), AZ, **Kimberly** and **Keo** grow and sell plant and flower starters curbside or at www.lehigardens.com. They also manage several rentals in Tempe and Flagstaff, and enjoy spending time in the mountains. Kim and Keo are also helping Jacque to finish remodeling her house in Tucson.



Keo and Camina



Jax and Charlie

Jacqueline is very busy with her two children and managing her Homestead Parts business that supplies antique Winchester gun parts to enthusiasts around the world. Her internet-based business continues to thrive and expand at www.homesteadparts.com.

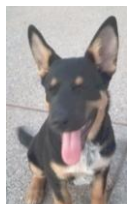


Kim and Keo

Charlie and **Mycah** are still growing like weeds. Charlie started fifth grade while Mycah is in 2nd grade at Agua Caliente School. They live with Grandma and Grandpa during the school week. Tippy joined the family this spring as a tiny puppy that grew very fast.



Tippy
Puppy and Growing



Mycah
In the Garden



Jax, Charlie
Rodeo Days



Mycah & Charles
Making Sausage



Charlie, Mycah, Tippy
First Day of School



Charles, Charlie & Mycah



Sandy & Grandkids



Kale in the High Mountains

Charles continues as a ST Research Ecologist with the USGS although retired. He spent most of this past summer on Mt Lemmon working on the Cordilleran Flycatcher, and had several former graduate students and colleagues provide some field assistance. Most of Charles' publications now focus on communicating his research findings to the people living on Mt Lemmon. He is also trying to finish some synthesis papers in professional journals on his Cordilleran Flycatcher research. One paper in the works is with researchers at Klamath and Point Blue where they will be comparing physical differences between the Pacific Slope and Cordilleran flycatchers. Charles still hunts when the opportunity arises and we now have a freezer full of bison meat from a nice 2-year old from the pure bison herd in northern Arizona. He was fortunate to have grandson Charlie along with Kim, Keo, Jacque and Mycah on the hunt and to help with the meat processing.

Sandy continues with ushering the grandchildren Charlie and Mycah through elementary school. She also assists everyone with their websites and is working on some long standing projects, writing, reading, crocheting. She is also expanding her baking skills. Sandy's Sister Linda has moved to Arizona from Montana and comes down often to visit.

Kale is still living in Sacramento, teaching FFA at Delta High School and hunting with his dog Kula II. Kale and his dad went hunting in the Sierra Nevada mountains in CA and above St George, UT for deer so he has enough meat for this winter. Kale was honored with FFA teacher of the year in CA. We feel fortunate to have him coming here to Tucson this year for some hunting after Christmas.



Research on Mt. Lemmon



Great Bison Hunt



Sandy, Mycah



Kale Hunting

We do hope that this past year of 2022 has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. It has been another wonderful year for our family, and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone come together in Tucson to share this Christmas. All of the van Rippers wish you a most joyful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2023. We invite each of you to give a call or, if you are in southern Arizona, please stop by and visit.

**Charles, Sandy, Carena, Kim, Jacque, Kale
Chris, Keo, Charlie, Mycah, Camina**

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