



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2023

## GREETINGS FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY



**Charles in the Garden**



**Sandy**



**Jax banding a Flycatcher**



**Kale & Charles**

**Charles** continues to escape the Tucson heat during the summer with extended stays at the cabin on Mt Lemmon north of Tucson. His long-term research project on the Western Cordilleran Flycatcher continues, as he tries to piece together the full annual cycle of this bird species. He is still an Emeritus ST Research Ecologist with the USGS so is now able to focus entirely (well almost) on research. He is also busy at the Homestead Firearms and Parts Shop, in his garden and greenhouse and starting many seedlings for Kim and Keo that they sell. Jacque and Charlie both spent time on the mountain this summer banding birds with Charles, and hiking. And our property at Homestead this past year was designated as Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

**Sandy** continues to support all of the family. This past year she captured several swarms of honeybees and is now deep into honey production. She also continues milking her 4 goats. Charlie and Mycah stay with her and Papa for the school week and go home to Jacque on the weekend. This year, Sandy and the kids have had many fun trips to several summer camps, the zoo, museums, and long hours in the pool and school activities.

**Jacqueline, Charlie and Mycah** Jacque is still managing her business, Homestead Parts, and remodeling her house. Charlie is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, while Mycah is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Agua Caliente School. They are a joy to all.

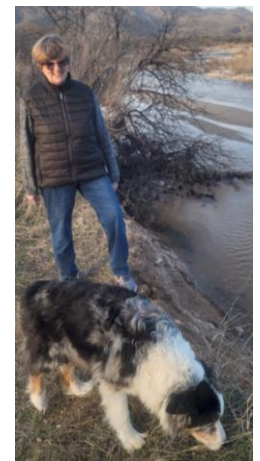


**Legos, Zoo, Pool, Cement**

**Kale** is still teaching FFA in Clarksburg near Sacramento, CA and has been working extensively at the vineyard he started. This year his pruning team did well in the state of California FFA competition, which is quite a feat for a small school of 600 students. Kale still hunts with his golden lab Kula II, but this year he and his dad were not drawn for any hunts, so they are planning for next year. Recently his cousin Joe who teaches music at Principia College, stopped by and they had a great visit.



**In the shop building a Bee Hive for Sandy**



**Sandy & Rocky**



**Jacque & the Kids**



**Joe & Kale**







**Kim & Keo**

**Kimberly and Keo** are enjoying their new home in Lehi (a suburb of Mesa, AZ) and selling their produce on Redford, a farm stand by the side of the road. Kim has completed and published a study of Lehi history, and was also selected for the Mesa Executive Training Program, where she is meeting and working with many of the local elected people. They both have been busy managing a number of rentals in Tempe and Flagstaff, but find time to often escape to the tall pines of Flagstaff in northern Arizona. They have also committed to helping Jacque with her house remodel, adding an addition of a family room and a new master bathroom.



**Keo Planting Peas**



**Carena, Camina & Chris**

**Carena and Chris** have been quite busy with little **Camina**, and fixing up their new house in Champaign, IL. Camina turned one year old this year, and so in Hawaiian tradition, her formal birth is announced. Chris and Carena are still at the University of Illinois with large graduate student labs and many research projects. Carena continues her research into human dimensions of natural resources management, while Chris is working on developing a more environmentally friendly plastic in the engineering Department. Camina is growing fast, walking and talking, and is the center of attention! They live far away in Illinois, so we miss them and treasure Zoom talks where we can to watch little "Mina".



**Camina putting a star on the tree**



**Linda Guest**

**Linda**, Sandy's sister came to live with us from Montana earlier this year, and has greatly enriched our lives. She is helping Jacque at the shop and enjoying being a "working lady" again. She (and her dogs Zip and KeKe) will soon move up there full time when the remodeling is complete. It has been a lot of fun sharing time with her and reminiscing about "old" Montana.



**Chris, Cami, Carena**



**The Family at Thanksgiving**  
**Kim, Keo, Linda, Sandy, Jacque, Mycah, Charlie**

It has been a wonderful year for us all, and we hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for all of you and your loved ones. We wish each of you a Merry Christmas holiday season, a Happy New Year, and all the best throughout 2024. We also invite each of you, if you happen to be in southern Arizona, to stop by and visit.

**Charles, Sandy, Kale, Kim, Keo, Carena, Chris, Camina, Jacque, Charlie, Mycah, Linda**  
3800 North Homestead, Tucson, Arizona 85749  
Phone: 520-245-3568 Email: [vanriper88@gmail.com](mailto:vanriper88@gmail.com)

