



Happy Holidays 2006!



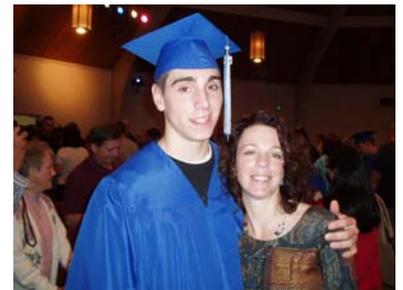
We received a new guide dog puppy named Lupe right before Spring Break this year. Mom and Dad Heilman were able to experience her first trip to the beach where they came to visit use during Spring Break. We transferred Lupe to some other raisers in August and are waiting for a new puppy just after the New Year.



Our fifth guide dog puppy, Countess, graduated in May. We presented her to Miriam Schnellert who lives in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She has had guide dogs throughout her entire adult life and was looking forward to retirement with her new partner.



Kristin's family moved her grandmother, Ruby, into a really nice assisted living place in Corvallis. Ruby really enjoyed collecting a bouquet of Spring flowers at our home. Kristin and Sharon joined Ruby for a Mother's Day celebration at Ruby's new home.



Kristin attended her 20th high school reunion in Ferndale, Washington this summer. It was great to spend time with old friends Laura, Sue, Teri, and Linda.

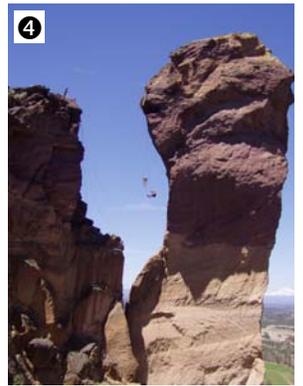


We had three graduations this year. We celebrated with our nephew Brandon by going out to dinner and helping him eat his cake. We then went to his graduation ceremony just to make sure he wasn't fooling us.



A huge combined Hawaiian party was thrown for Amber, Eric, and Ariel at Mom and Dad Heilman's place. It was attended by most of the family and required a Port-a-Potty to keep everyone happy. It was a great day and lots of fun.





Jerry has continued with his mountain search and rescue activities and has also started mountain climbing a lot more.



The training with the Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit (CMRU) was a blast this year. Jerry spent time at Mt. Hood learning how to ice climb ❶, worked with the Salem based 1042nd Army Medical Evacuation team learning how to recover patients using Blackhawk helicopters ❷, and refined his winter camping skills near Santiam Pass in the Oregon Cascades ❸. Jerry also spent a week at Smith Rock learning advanced rope rescue techniques ❹.



Jerry was called out for his first mountain rescue missions this year. They included looking for the lost boy at Crater Lake this fall ❹. Jerry spent three days looking in rugged terrain as well as on the crater walls above Crater Lake. Unfortunately, the boy was never found. He also helped find a lost mushroom picker in the Oregon Coast Range. The picker's mom (who did just fine getting out of the woods on her own) called her son a "city boy." Other searches included driving the downtown roads of Philomath looking for a lost dementia patient and driving logging roads looking for a lost hunter and his three year old son.



Jerry has also become an active member of the Portland based mountain climbing group, the Mazamas. He climbed Mt. Adams ❻, Three Finger Jack, and Mt. Washington this summer ❼. Jerry has also been taking some classes from the Mazamas. He is currently taking a nine month advanced mountaineering course that includes rock climbing, snow and glacier travel, and climb leadership skills ❸.





We welcomed our new great niece Taylor Faith this August. It was a lot of fun for Kristin helping Jess get ready and working with Sharon to throw her a baby shower. Grandmommy was thrilled to hold such a tiny baby as we took a five generation photo. Colton was thrilled to become an uncle and not be the "baby" of the family any more.



We went on shorter trips this year. We stayed at a lonely campground on Cooper Spur on the north side of Mt. Hood and explored the area. We had great views of the glaciers and visited a hiking hut on the Timberline trail. We then dropped in on Mom and Dad Heilman and Jerry was talked into helping his dad pump the muck off the bottom of the pond! Our next trip was with Mom and Dad Heilman to go explore the fly fishing potential in the central Oregon Cascades. The fish must have heard Dad was coming because there weren't any left in the rivers!



Kristin's grandmommy, Ruby, celebrated her 95th birthday. Uncle John and Aunt Jay flew in from the East coast to join the party.



Dad, Bob, and Jerry went on their 6th annual anti-shopping after Thanksgiving hike. Kristin and Mom went shopping!

Sending you warm wishes for the holidays and throughout the new year!



**Jerry and Kristin
Dog Yvette; Cats Sassy, Tiggy, and Sunshine;
Turtles Scooter, George, and Evnrude**

