



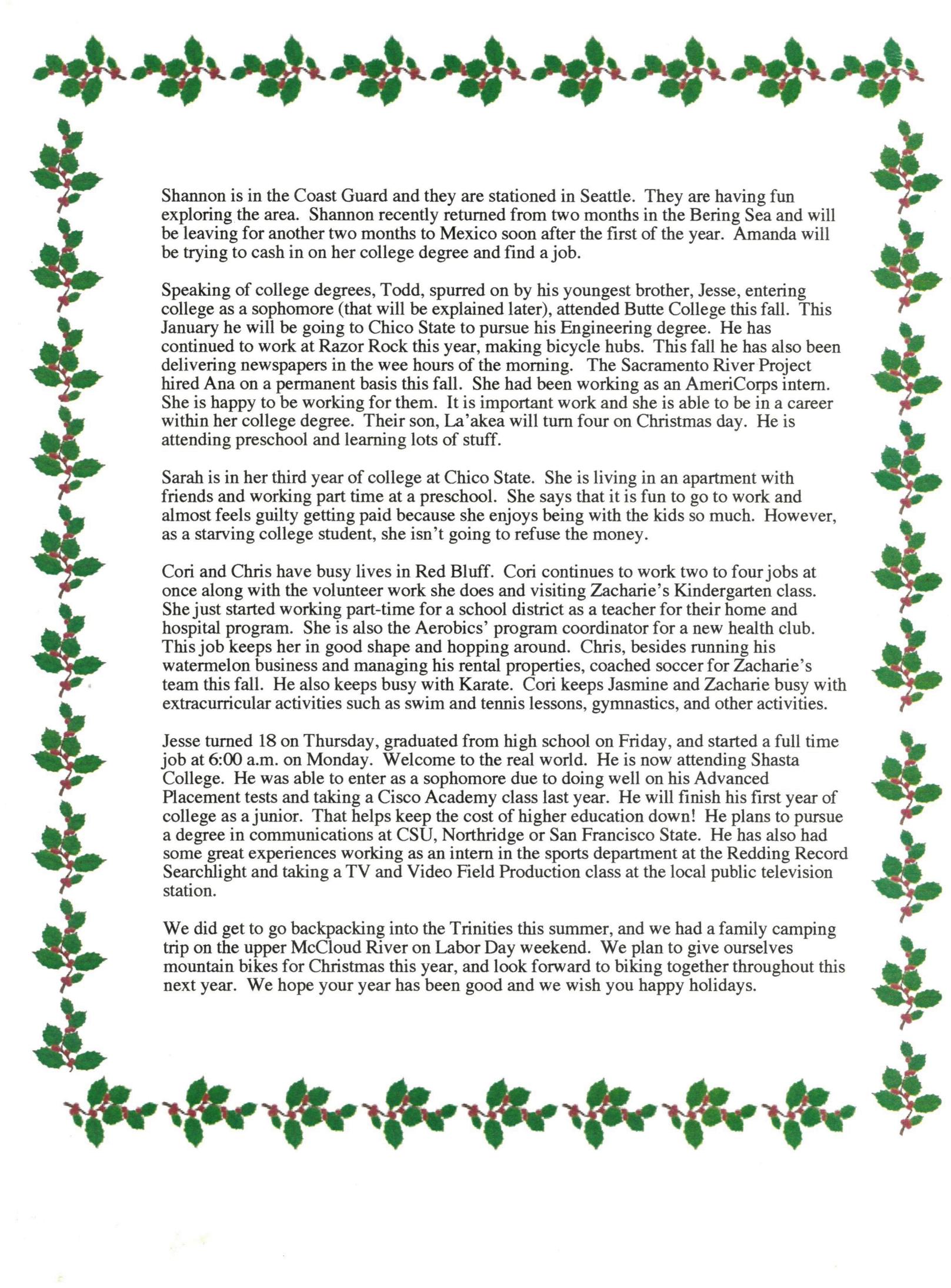
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(Left to right) Back: Ana, Todd, Cori, Chris, Amanda, and Shannon.
Front: Sarah, Mary Lou, Jasmine, La'akea Brian, Zacharie, and Jesse.

Running through the woods behind her house and deep in thought, Mary Lou rounds a bend in the trail, going down the hill as she does several times a week. Meanwhile, coming up the hill, running as fast as he can is a deer buck with a full set of antlers. He is being hotly pursued by one of our dogs. After a scream from Mary Lou and a startled look from the deer, he fell to his knees and dashed into the bushes. Whewwwwww, Grandma almost got run over by a reindeer!

I guess it's Christmas time again, as we dodge reindeer and head off to Mount Shasta in pursuit of a Christmas tree. Here we are on another outing, just the two of us. We've been finding ourselves in this position quite a bit, lately. As our kids grow up and leave the nest, we are discovering that we enjoy doing the same things. Imagine that, it must have something to do with why we got together in the first place. Some of the things we have been enjoying together include canoeing, hiking, drawing, running, photography, Giant's games at Pac Bell Park, and even a rock concert.

As you can see from our photograph, our family now numbers thirteen. Shannon and Amanda were married on June 2nd. You can't imagine how a wedding can spur you on to get some of those never-ending projects finished. We decided to have the rehearsal dinner at our house on our deck. So our major project this past winter and spring was to extend and finish the deck. The deck was finished, including flowers in the planters, with at least a day or two to spare. The ceremony was held in the Shasta Historic Park and the reception took place at the old school in Shasta. It was great to see so many friends and relatives.



Shannon is in the Coast Guard and they are stationed in Seattle. They are having fun exploring the area. Shannon recently returned from two months in the Bering Sea and will be leaving for another two months to Mexico soon after the first of the year. Amanda will be trying to cash in on her college degree and find a job.

Speaking of college degrees, Todd, spurred on by his youngest brother, Jesse, entering college as a sophomore (that will be explained later), attended Butte College this fall. This January he will be going to Chico State to pursue his Engineering degree. He has continued to work at Razor Rock this year, making bicycle hubs. This fall he has also been delivering newspapers in the wee hours of the morning. The Sacramento River Project hired Ana on a permanent basis this fall. She had been working as an AmeriCorps intern. She is happy to be working for them. It is important work and she is able to be in a career within her college degree. Their son, La'akea will turn four on Christmas day. He is attending preschool and learning lots of stuff.

Sarah is in her third year of college at Chico State. She is living in an apartment with friends and working part time at a preschool. She says that it is fun to go to work and almost feels guilty getting paid because she enjoys being with the kids so much. However, as a starving college student, she isn't going to refuse the money.

Cori and Chris have busy lives in Red Bluff. Cori continues to work two to four jobs at once along with the volunteer work she does and visiting Zacharie's Kindergarten class. She just started working part-time for a school district as a teacher for their home and hospital program. She is also the Aerobics' program coordinator for a new health club. This job keeps her in good shape and hopping around. Chris, besides running his watermelon business and managing his rental properties, coached soccer for Zacharie's team this fall. He also keeps busy with Karate. Cori keeps Jasmine and Zacharie busy with extracurricular activities such as swim and tennis lessons, gymnastics, and other activities.

Jesse turned 18 on Thursday, graduated from high school on Friday, and started a full time job at 6:00 a.m. on Monday. Welcome to the real world. He is now attending Shasta College. He was able to enter as a sophomore due to doing well on his Advanced Placement tests and taking a Cisco Academy class last year. He will finish his first year of college as a junior. That helps keep the cost of higher education down! He plans to pursue a degree in communications at CSU, Northridge or San Francisco State. He has also had some great experiences working as an intern in the sports department at the Redding Record Searchlight and taking a TV and Video Field Production class at the local public television station.

We did get to go backpacking into the Trinities this summer, and we had a family camping trip on the upper McCloud River on Labor Day weekend. We plan to give ourselves mountain bikes for Christmas this year, and look forward to biking together throughout this next year. We hope your year has been good and we wish you happy holidays.