

*Merry
Christmas*

*Happy
New Year*

The Gregg Gazette

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Top Story

Numerous wildfires and flooding in Colorado were the big news this year. Inadequate snow or rain led to very dry vegetation. Wildfires consumed large areas of forests and destroyed hundreds of homes. Then in September, Northern Colorado was drenched with record rainfall. Most of the major roads and bridges are now repaired. Thankfully, we were spared, but some of our coworkers were not. We appreciate your prayers for all involved.

Home and Garden

Warm weather plants comprised the garden because Hope was away at her parent's home during the usual planting time. A few 'Sweet 100' tomato plants volunteered to provide some home-grown tomatoes. Anaheim chilies and butternut squash were planted with some results. The raspberry patch is still developing and by next year should provide berries for both eating fresh and freezing.

Sports

Because of the wildfires this summer, we didn't return to a favorite fishing spot near Wolf Creek pass. We are planning a vacation there next summer if the area is re-opened. If not, we'll likely return to Clear Creek Reservoir in central Colorado. Perhaps we can resume archery at the local outdoor range.



Sunrise from our deck

Local News

Bill continues to haul soda-ash by truck from the rail yard in Denver to the Coor's bottle manufacturing plant. He is now working daytime hours, a first in our relationship. Hope remains a clinical dietitian at the local hospital. She attended professional meetings in Phoenix in February which were informative and educational.

Lilly (the Basset) is now a retired "activity" dog, so she no longer visits the rehabilitation center. Hope is considering using Sunny (the Lab) as an activity dog, but they will need to attend and graduate from training class, again.

Travel and Entertainment

While at the meetings in Phoenix, Hope enjoyed a visit with her cousin and his wife. It was great to see them since their move from Colorado Springs. Hope took 'leave' from work in

May and June to be with her parents because her dad had a pacemaker placed. In July, she joined a few High School classmates over a long weekend to celebrate their class reunion. Bill's mom and brother were unable to visit this summer or fall due to health issues. Perhaps they will visit next year.

We again purchased season tickets to the local dinner theater. Our favorite show thus far was Les Miserable.

Holiday News and Religion

Christmas is almost here and Hope is still placing Christmas decorations! The fireplace mantle is filling with greeting cards. It is wonderful to hear from everyone. Hope and her friends continue their tradition of baking Christmas cookies together. Everyone's favorite part is the taste-testing to assure cookie quality.

Hope continues as a Sunday school teacher for the 3 to 4 year-olds and a tutor in a conversational English class. Her women's Bible study group is studied the book of Philippians in the fall and will start the book of Psalms in January.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.