Family News

December 15, 2009



Taylor and Kathy on top of Taylor Mountain

Here's the latest:

Kathy and I celebrated our anniversary in New Orleans this year. I had a work conference down town by the river. I took a couple of extra days off and we enjoyed seeing the French Quarter, riding a boat to the other side of the Mississippi, and a couple of Maudi Grais parades. On the way home we took an extra day and spent the night in a hotel on the beach at Orange beach. The next day we visited Fort Morgan at the mouth of Mobile Bay. Even though the trip was work related, we had a lot of fun!

While we were in New Orleans we received calls from each of our kids. Justinn called to let us know she and Cory would be closing on their first home! They closed in March and after a little painting, they were able to move in. They now own a beautiful house and they are less than ten miles driving distance to the beach.



Angel & Caitlynn

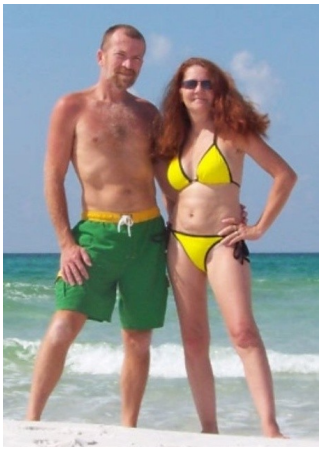
Perry also called us, but his news was not good. Michelle decided she was no longer happy and asked Perry to leave. About two months later Michelle decided it would be best for Perry to take care of the girls. Perry and Michelle are now divorced and Perry has custody of Taylor and Caitlynn. They have a nice home and are living in Choctaw Beach just west of Freeport. He's had a lot of help from Justinn and his new girlfriend Sammy. Caitlynn is in daycare and Taylor is in 2nd grade and they are doing great. Kathy and I are VERY proud of Perry, Taylor, and Caitlynn!



Family Night at Justinn & Cory's

Since Kathy retired three years ago (and yes, she still enjoys being retired - you can tell from the smile she has most days), she is free to travel with me on work related trips. She went with me to a conference in Myrtle Beach, SC for a week in June. On the way up we spent a night in Charleston and spent the next day exploring downtown Charleston. We had a great time, even though the beaches in SC just do not compare to our beaches in north west FL. In August we (and most of our family) traveled to Taylor Mt outside of Guntersville, AL for the Bailey reunion. Kathy and I spent an extra day to go on some of the nature trails on Taylor Mountain. On the way home we stopped and explored a cave north of Birmingham. What a wonderful way to spend a long





Still the PRETTIEST girl in town!

weekend. In September Kathy drove to Orlando and joined her sisters for a cruise to the Bahama's. It looks like they had a ... really fun time (I've seen pictures).

We still try to have our family night as often as we can (which is not often enough for me). In May TJ and Angela hosted family night at their home in Crestview. Angela served up a wonderful meal and we capped off the evening playing phase ten. In July they moved back to Kansas, so if they want to host another family night we've got a lot of traveling to do.





In June, Justinn and Cory hosted our clan and served up a big crayfish cookout with all the fixin's (we vegetarians had delicious grilled black bean burgers I made). It was an evening full of fun and laughter. There are lots of photos on face book.

In October Marc and Heath hosted family night at their apartment in Panama City. They fed us well with a delicious potato soup and salad and a coffee cheese cake for desert. After eating we played video games with their wii. It was my first time playing a video game and I have to admit I liked the tennis and bowling games. Perry had the bowling figured out so well that he could make the ball hug the edge near the gutter and then spin in it into the center of the pins for a strike just like the pros.

Kathy and I are still spending Saturdays building houses for Habitat for Humanity. I continue to ride my bicycle to work each day and go kayaking most weekends. This past summer Kathy and I went kayaking with three other women on a river near Milton. We had a blast! There is something about drifting in a kayak and listening to or playing flute music that is very relaxing. Speaking of flutes, if you have not heard, I have a new hobby - making bamboo flutes. A good friend of mine is helping and we have opened a website called TrueGrassFlutes.com. We have shipped flutes to Alaska, Nebraska, New York, and North Carolina. That wraps it up for this year. We hope you are healthy and enjoying life.



Favorite Quote:

"A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone."
Henry David Thoreau

Merry Christmas!