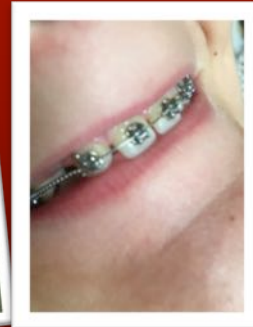


Happy New Year 2018

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Hello dear friends...

It's been a couple years since our last update from Texas, but it's time for a post a bit longer than Facebook allows. Despite our efforts to stop time, we've failed and our cutie pies are now big fries. Dillon is our resident teen at 14 and Kole is not far behind in teen spirit at 12 years old.

2017 brought new adventures for the family. We expanded our nest to include a 4-legged female "Bella" and Mark scored a new gig at Southwest Airlines. Now he "plays with jets" as a ramp agent -- guiding them in and out at the airport, readying them for new journeys and making sure they're safe. Look out your window in Austin and you may see him disco dancing with his orange glow sticks or driving the cute tugs! He traded the "cube farm techie world" for an office tarmac and it really agrees with him and the whole family.

Sara continues consulting as a creative leader helping clients produce TV, radio and videos. She still loves being creative and resourceful (especially from the couch) where she can enjoy daily trail walks with Bella and the opportunity to be "homework helper" after school. You should see how well she's doing in 8th grade Spanish!

Mark and Sara and Lea (Sara's sister) visited the big apple to see the Broadway opening of "Come From Away." This musical is based in part on Sara's friend and former colleague, Kevin Tuerff's, personal story of being stranded with thousands of travelers on 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland. The musical won a Tony and it's a must-see if you're in NYC. Kevin's book, "[Channel of Peace](#)," has been published as well! The NYC trip was great and included a visit to the MOMA, gospel brunch and lots of Fitbit steps!



Dillon, Kole, Sara and Mark enjoyed being surfside in San Diego, compliments of Southwest Airlines.



Mark's also discovered averaging 20,000 steps per shift leads to easy weight loss. Look for his DVD: "Orange Sticks and Kneepads: Get Paid to Lose Weight."

Boys and Bella are back!

Dillon (14) and Kole (12) are both in middle school. When the two are not wrestling each other into headlocks, Dillon enjoys pranks just like his parents, our new dog Bella and watching "The Office." He

favors board sports and likes to wakeboard and snowboard most of all. Highlight this year was shredding the slopes of Heavenly in Lake Tahoe, Nevada over winter break.



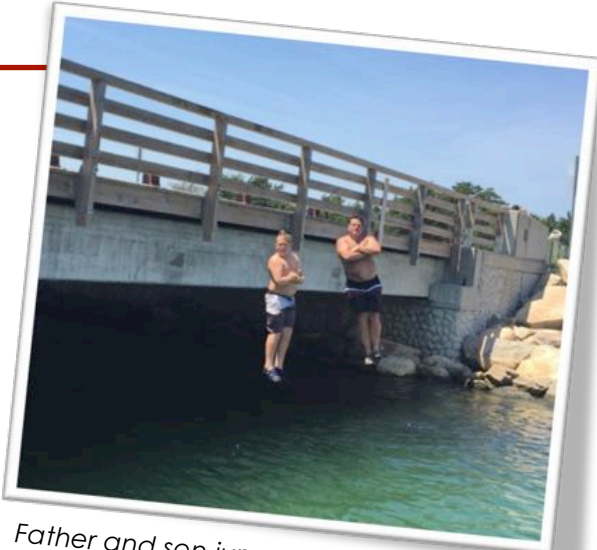
Kole is kickin' it

When his brother's braces came off this year, Kole's were installed. Kole has taken up saxophone and is nearing his black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He also scored his first job as a soccer referee and enjoys earning a paycheck. Yes, he also makes time to play online games with friends from all over and is a fierce competitor.



For two years 2015-2017, Kole took part in First Lego League robotics team and Sara signed on as a coach. The "Probots" worked hard on building and programming their mighty robot and also solved problems together such as how to speed up the bio-degradation of cigarette butt litter and how to deter deer collisions on roadways. Their teamwork paid off with awards and advancement to regional competition!





Father and son jump at "Jaws" bridge at Martha's Vineyard July 2016.



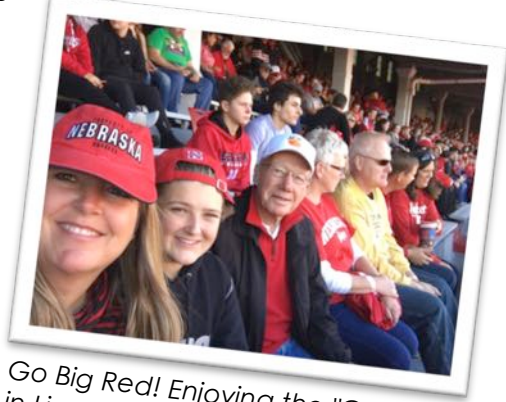
Dillon at NLAND surf camp in central Texas.



Krystyna Aitala greets her biggest fans after a holiday choir performance in Lakeway - 2017.



Mark hangs out in the danger zone during training at Southwest HQ in Dallas - July 2017.



Go Big Red! Enjoying the "Corn Bowl" in Lincoln, Nebraska - 2017.



Barb & Dick Beechner with Dillon and Kole - 2016.

Sara and Kole get a piece of Heavenly over 2018 winter break in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.



Easter time with Mark's parents and sister in 2017.