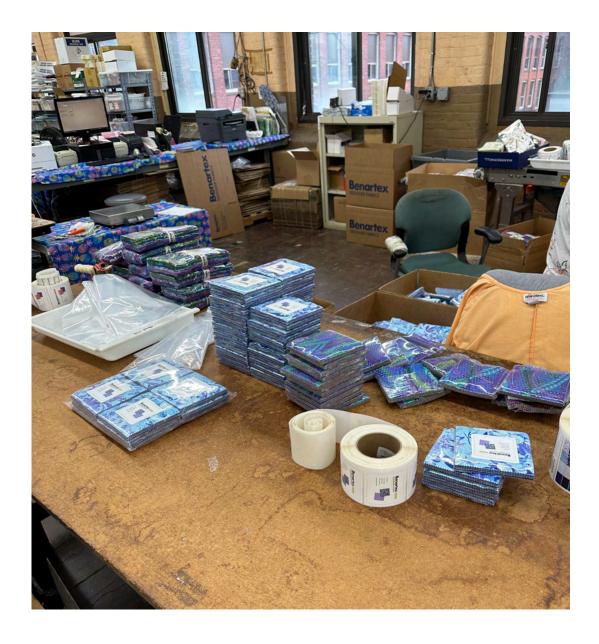
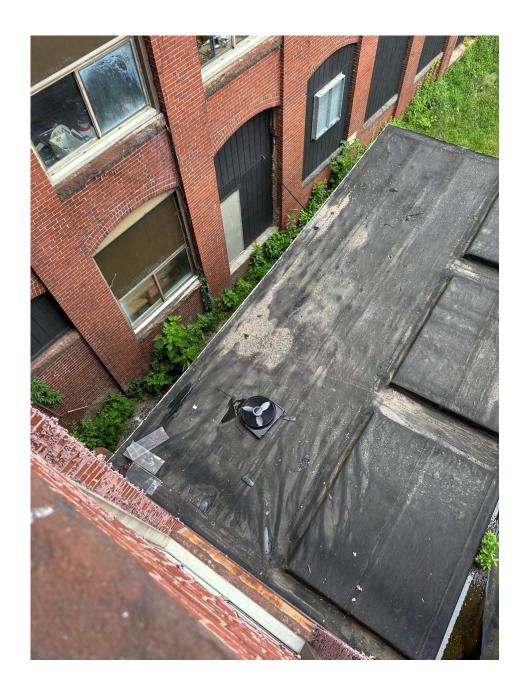
The past couple of weeks have blurred together. We flew to Rhode Island Last Monday for the Benartex warehouse sale of "Not Your Mama's Garden 2." It was surreal that in each department of the warehouse Not Your Mama's Garden was being processed. It was in the precut department where it was being made into charm packs. It was in the shipping department. It was in piled in all orders waiting to be packed. Orders are pulled and put into huge bins like shopping carts. They were lined up to be boxed and shipped. In each cart there was Not Your Mama's Garden. It was fun to see.





The warehouse was so hot and humid. Oh My! Two of the days felt pretty unbearable. Although everything went extremely smooth, it was a long week. The heat just slows everyone down. Brody went and bought 4 fans that we put into the windows. It helped, but only to be bearable not comfortable at all. We lost one...lol

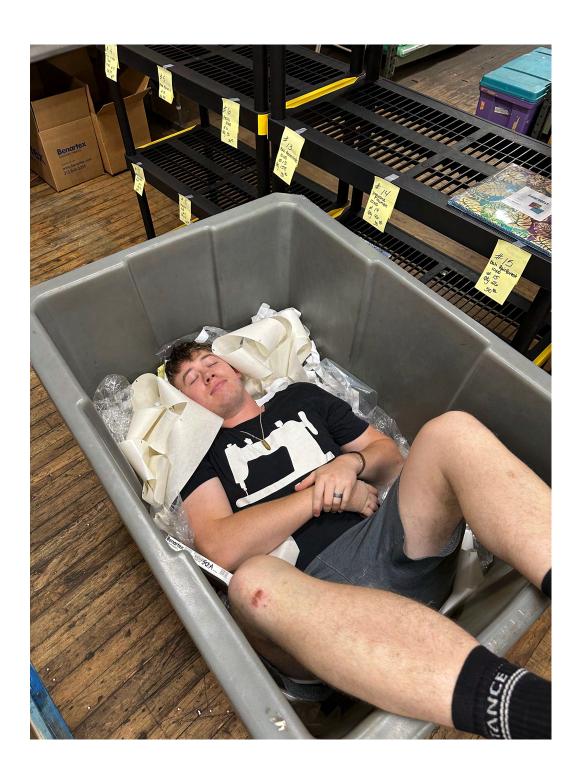


My sister Jennifer flew out to work with us. It was nice to have her. She isn't afraid of work... I laugh at home when I text her at 2am and say "Hey are you awake?" And receive an immediate answer "Yes, should I call?"

At some point Kartor said "Hey if we don't get ice cream, I'm not coming to work another warehouse show... just throwing it out there." I immediately said "Thank You!"

There was a Hershey's ice cream shop we kept passing on our drive to Benartex. The days went by and there wasn't a convenient time to stop. Finally Brody just pulled

over and stopped our day saying, "we'd better not risk it," lol. Kartor and I were happy. Kartor doesn't ask for a whole lot...



My sweet daughter Alyssa lives in Tucson. She is pregnant and due in August. She was having a baby shower on Saturday afternoon, the day after we got home from Benartex.

On Friday our flight home was cancelled in the morning. Brody called to rearrange another flight and there wasn't one that would get me home in time for me to drive to Arizona. If anyone can fix these kinds of problems it's Brody. I just said "Brody I don't care how or even by what mode of transportation, but get me home." He booked us a flight from Boston that was scheduled to get us home even a couple of hours earlier than planned. Brody made arrangements to take the vehicle to Boston and we loaded up and started out.

When we arrived at the airport our flight was delayed. We boarded not too long later and then listened to the Pilot explain one delay after the next. There were delays in getting to the runway, then a lightning storm, after that we had burned so much fuel we had to go back to the gate to refuel. Refueling takes 45 minutes to an hour. We had been on the plane for 4 hours at this point. During refueling Brody got off the plane even though they didn't want him to. We were all hungry. He brought sandwiches for everyone, including the pilot and co-pilot... they were happy he hadn't listened to them! Finally, we took off and flew home arriving at 3am.

Once home I packed the gifts and things we needed for the drive. I slept from 3:45 to 5:30 am, then got ready and we left. Raymie slept the entire way so she would be able to drive home after the baby shower. I drove as long as I could then Cheyenne and Leidy drove the last couple of hours.

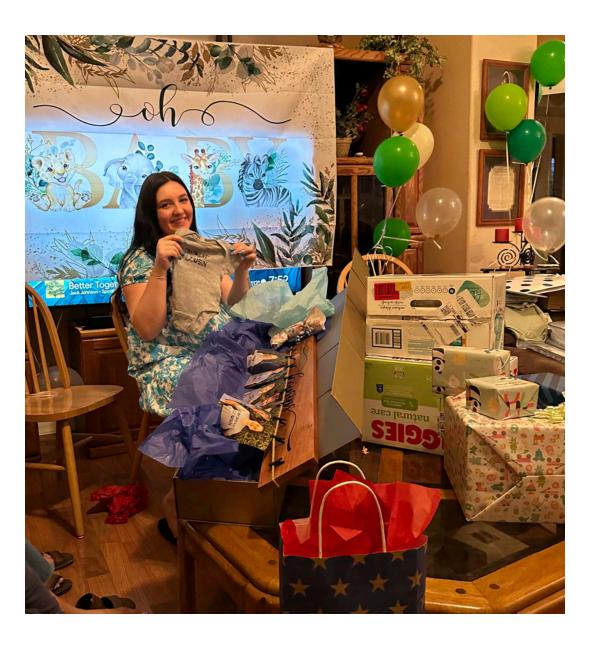
It was really nice to see Alyssa. She looked tired and hot as everyone is in their last month of pregnancy, but darling.



I have been thinking about her so much as she does not live in Vegas and wanting her to know that this precious baby is very much loved and included. I had this banner made, took this picture, then framed it for her.



I also asked Zach to cut and stain a board, got vinyl graphics cut and put together a cousins board. I had shirts made for each of the kids and the moms took all their pictures. Then I had a onesie printed that says "newest cousin" on it for Alyssa's baby. It all turned out so cute and Alyssa really loved it.





After the shower we started the drive home. At this point I was so tired I laid down in the back and went to sleep. The girls all talked to each other and drove until 2 am when I took back over and finished the last hour home. I was pretty tired.

I spent a couple of days taking it easy, then flew to Seattle to help my sister Marianne with a reception. Ray and I spent the weekend trying to help. The reception turned out beautifully.

I have thought about my family a lot over the past couple of weeks. I believe that families are sacred. In 1992 President Gordon B Hinckley read "The Family, A Proclamation to the world." In which it says, "Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally."

"Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and their children."

"Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God , and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live."

We are meant to love one another and build one another in our families. The world is often unkind. Our families should be a place of safety, a place where we are lifted and loved. Sometimes we don't have the same viewpoints but we can treat each other with respect and listen to each other's needs. We can respond the way our Savior would have us. We can show love and patience with each other as we learn and grow.

Families are the foundation of society. They are meant to be strong and binding. As the family unit falls apart so does our society. The only way to actually help this problem is to be willing to forgive one another.

I love my family. I try to show that love daily in the way I speak to them and as I try to lift them. I believe the most important work we will do will be in our own homes.

With love, Leslie The cousin's board pictures...













