

Dear Friends & Family,

Christmas 2020

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Silver State! As the first snow dusts the top of the mountains around our Carson City home, we pause to reflect on the things we are truly thankful for. Reading over our 2019 Christmas Letter, it seems a bit ironic that our theme was "Nevada is HOME". Who could have imagined then how much time we would spend homebound in the coming year! We've enjoyed being together and our dog, Chester, is happy his favorite people are home every day!

Bob continues to serve the people of Nevada in his position as Deputy Director in the Governor's Office of Economic Development. In January he was honored to be appointed by our Governor as the lead on the Governor's Economic Advisory Group. The responsibilities of this group took on a whole new level of importance as the COVID health crisis began later in the spring. He has spent many hours tirelessly working to assist Nevada's people and businesses in weathering this unprecedented health crisis and economic downturn, as well as co-managing an office staff of 38. He is grateful to work with such a great group of people.

On August 29th, Bob took Lisa on a much-needed break from work for a day trip to Yosemite National Park. Under the new system of limited park



Bob and Lisa's 30th Anniversary Balloon Ride over Lake Tahoe



Bob at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park

access, they enjoyed a beautiful day in an uncrowded park. The views from Glacier Point were the highlight of their special time away! In his spare time Bob enjoys walking the neighborhoods, "putzing" on a variety of home improvement projects and perfecting his aim at the shooting range. In this past year Bob has thoroughly enjoyed delving into the sport of precision shooting. This is a shared passion he had with his dad and the two of them enjoyed their long-distance collaboration on the many details of bullets, guns and reloading!

Hannah is now a sophomore at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and is doing well in the new realm of college online. Hannah switched her major to Geography (with a Writing Minor) last year and is thoroughly enjoying her classes and learning the ins and outs of GIS (Geographic Information Systems). Her specialization in Environmental Policy is fueled by her love for the natural world. Hannah is currently pursuing her college degree from our Potts' Base Camp and we are blessed to see her every day and enjoy the sparkle she adds to life! Hannah also works part-time from home for the UNR Honors College. In her spare time Hannah enjoys painting, woodworking, crocheting socks, and spending time with her boyfriend of two years, Tristan Bailey. This summer she and her friends did a lot of hiking around Tahoe and even spent a special couple of days camping and exploring in Yosemite National Park.



Hannah and Tristan in Yosemite

Caleb is a junior at Sierra Lutheran High School and is grateful that he gets to go to school in-person every day. Caleb got his driver's license this past summer and enjoys the freedom of driving himself to outings and events. He joined the cross country team this year and really likes running with the team on a variety of trails in our area. Caleb also works part-time as an assistant janitor at our church, located right across the street from his school. He is doing very well in his classes and particularly likes honors physics with its hands-on approach and applied math. In his spare time Caleb enjoys filming for



his YouTube channel (D20 in Disguise) and building worlds for his Dungeons and Dragons group to explore. When he is not fighting dragons, Caleb enjoys hanging out with his sister, roughhousing with Chester, spending time at the shooting range and mountain biking with our family.

Caleb and Lisa Biking the Pinyon Loop Trail



Lisa Hiking at Spooner Lake

I enjoy knitting, hand sewing, trying new recipes and having a good laugh. These have been good mental breaks for me.

I work part-time as our church's secretary, as well as managing our lovely home and our family's varied schedules. Interacting with our teenagers, going on dates with Bob, and spending time on the lakes and trails have all kept me going this year. I also



Getting Ready to Hike across Lassen National Park

In a year filled with many cancellations, camping was really a silver lining. In June, we sold our faithful pop-up camper of sixteen years to a young family in Reno and replaced it with a perfect hard-side camper. Bob and I would eventually like to go on the road and fulfill our dream of visiting all the national parks. Our new camper provides a perfect set up for our future plans!



Our New Camper at Lassen National Park

Our family took our new camper on its inaugural trip to one of our favorite parks, Lassen Volcanic National Park, on July 9th. We set up camp at Butte Lake, a more remote area in the less developed northeast corner of the park. The camper turned out to be a great base camp, with our kids each pitching their own tent alongside. We paddled around the lake in our kayaks, mountain biked and did some fun hikes. Caleb, our

cross-country runner, even ran to the top of a nearby extinct volcanic cinder cone and back - all before dinner! Bob and Hannah had a beautiful fourteen-mile hike together, across the width of the park, from Summit Lake to our campsite at Butte Lake. Along the trail they passed amazing topography; alpine lakes surrounded by fields of wildflowers, colorful sand dunes, and the dark conical bulk of an extinct cinder cone. It was a special day together for dad and daughter and a great camping get-away for our whole family!

At the end of July, we spent a couple of days camping under a full moon at Fallen Leaf Lake just south of Lake Tahoe. It was nice to have Hannah's boyfriend, Tristan Bailey, come along with us. Bob, Hannah, Tristan and Caleb spent a day climbing Mt. Tallac (9,738 ft.), which overlooks the entire Tahoe region. The 12 mile hike winds through fields of wildflowers and along a granite ridgeline to the summit. The peak affords stunning views of Fallen Leaf Lake, nearby Lake Tahoe,



Near the Summit of Mount Tallac

and the Desolation Wilderness Area, where we backpacked last summer. Far below the peak, I enjoyed a leisurely day hanging out in camp and paddling in the lake's clear waters. Bob, Caleb, and I also did some mountain biking around the lake and had the special treat of seeing a mother bear and her cubs! Marshmallow roasting and games around the campfire rounded out our wonderful time in the woods.



30th Anniversary Toast on Lake Tahoe

In June, Bob and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary with a special outing. We drove to South Lake Tahoe "before the crow pees" (as Bob often says) for an early morning start to our special adventure - a once in a lifetime balloon ride over Lake Tahoe. We boarded a specially designed boat and motored to the middle of the lake. The huge yellow and red balloon was inflated and launched directly from the boat! Due to its unique pattern of air currents, Lake Tahoe is the only place in the world where this is possible. It reminded me of the

truly unique life we have had together. After the ride we were honored with a special anniversary toast by the balloon's captain. It was an uplifting experience - to ride above the clouds filled with thirty years of silver linings!

Due to Covid restrictions, Bob has done very little traveling this year, but did spend a special time with his parents in Montana the third week of September. His time with his folks was blessed; taking a day trip through the backcountry they had all grown up in, unhurried time with his dad at his shooting range, and just visiting and enjoying each other. Then in the middle of October, Bob's dad complained of a cold that wouldn't go away and Bob encouraged him to have a Covid test. He came back positive. He was doing fine at first, but then took a turn for the worse and ended up in the hospital. After a couple of anxious days, he seemed to get better and was sent home on oxygen. Just a couple days later, he was struggling to breathe and took another ambulance ride to the hospital. He continued to deteriorate and on October 27th, Herb passed into eternity, only a few hours after being taken



Grandpa and Grandma Potts in Sixteen Mile Canyon

off the ventilator. During this time, Bob's mom, Evie, was also fighting Covid. She spent six days in the hospital after Herb's death and is now home, Covid-free, and getting stronger every day.

These sad events brought all the facts and figures on the nightly news home to us in a real way. Then, on November 18, Bob and I drove to Montana to join his brothers and his mom at a graveside memorial for his dad. As we watched the honor guard hand Bob's mom a flag in honor of Herb's military service, our hearts were overcome with thankfulness to call this special man, not only Dad or Grandpa, but also friend. Listening to the historic church bell ring out ninety

times in honor of Herb's long life of ninety years, we felt sadness, but also joy that his time of freedom in the heavenly realm with Jesus had just begun!



Herb and Evie Potts in September



From the Balloon, Pointing Out Some of Our Favorite 2020 Playgrounds

city of San Francisco and finance the U.S. government during the Civil War. During these times, may we look for the silver linings beneath our own feet. Like the lyrics of that old song, "make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold," we recognize that the special treasures of these times are you - our family and friends!

Throughout this year, we have learned the importance of focusing on silver linings in the midst of dark circumstances. On that note, we are sending our Christmas letter from the historic town of Virginia City, Nevada. Established in 1854, this tiny burg was once a mining boomtown known the world over. More than seven million tons of silver ore was mined from beneath its dusty hills. These vast riches helped build the

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year!

Love,

The Potts family & Chester

Bob & Lisa

Hannah
Caleb



Wishing You the Very Best of New Years

You can visit us anytime at our home page: www.pottsadventures.com.