

Dear Friends & Family,

Christmas 2021

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Nevada's state capital! Carson City is the perfect setting for this year's western-themed Christmas Letter. So, settle in with your hot cocoa (with schnapps, if you like), as we share our wild, but thankful, year.

Bob's job as Deputy Director in the Governor's Office of Economic Development keeps him "busier than a one-armed paper hanger" (to use some western vernacular). His workdays are a whirlwind of meetings with staff, business, and state and local leaders. He recently was one of the panel speakers at an annual economic forum at the M Resort in Las Vegas for an audience of 500. That's a long way from his cowboy days when his

nearest neighbor was sixteen miles away! Bob

is truly thankful for his boss, Michael, and the 40 other staff he has the opportunity to work with. He is looking forward to celebrating his ten-year anniversary with GOED in February. In his spare time Bob enjoys spending time at his reloading bench. Accuracy shooting had become a reignited hobby he had shared with his Dad who had done all their reloading. Bob has since picked up where his Dad left off after passing away last year. The detailed process of reloading ammunition, shooting it at the range and analyzing the results to increase his accuracy has been very therapeutic for him. He has gotten to be quite the sharpshooter!



Bob Presenting in Las Vegas

an overnight in the town of Lee Vining, an early start at the trailhead, and a beautiful 15-mile hike to the base of the famed cable route up Yosemite's Half Dome. In the end, due to the smoke, they opted out of the cables portion to the summit but had an amazing time together in this iconic place.

Hannah is now a junior at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) pursuing her geography degree. This year she is living at home and commuting to college. She is glad to be back at school in-person and we are blessed to still have her around every day. Hannah worked as a legislative intern (via zoom) during the Legislative Session early this year for the state Senate Majority Leader. She designed marketing materials, assisted with the youth legislature, and spent hours in legislative meetings. She believes this experience will be beneficial to her career as she hopes to work in public lands management. Her experience as an intern taught her that the legislative process can be a bit of a wild west show!



Our Family on the Summit of Ralston Peak

On August 18-19th, Bob took a much-needed break from work for an overnight trip to Yosemite National Park with Hannah and her boyfriend Tristan Bailey. There were others that were going to join them, but because of smoke from surrounding fires, Covid and other conflicts it ended up being just the three of them. They had a wonderful time

together beginning with



Bob and Hannah with Half Dome in the Background



Hannah had another internship experience this summer surveying and securing abandoned mines for the Nevada



Division of Minerals. The team of seven interns spent the summer camping out in wilds of Nevada, logging data about abandoned mining sites, building barbed wire enclosures



around unsafe mines, driving bumpy back roads, fording flash flooded streams, camping in the sagebrush, and hiking Nevada's hills surrounded by wild horses. You can't get more "wild west" than that! From her summer outdoors, Hannah brought home lots of cool rocks, a bleached horse skull, dusty hiking boots, shed elk horns and a soul nourished by time in God's creation. Her internships taught her that though she doesn't want to run for public office, she really does love field work! Hannah will turn 21 in a few weeks, and after her summer spent in the mines, her current favorite joke is "We don't allow miners (minors) in here!" In her spare time Hannah enjoys hiking, reading, baking sourdough bread, writing poetry, and spending time with her boyfriend of three years,

Hannah Working with the Division of Minerals

Tristan who is also a junior at UNR



At Caleb's Cross Country Event

Caleb is now a senior at Sierra Lutheran High School! This year he was elected president of his senior class and gets along very well with his classmates. In our "wild west town" Caleb would be considered a very kind and conscientious "mayor." He has a real heart for others and the willingness to put in the extra effort to do an excellent job at every task.

Caleb with His New Car

In May Caleb got a new car! Our neighbor just happened to be selling his 2017 Subaru Outback which was in excellent condition. Caleb is enjoying the freedom that comes from owning his own "wheels" and spending lots of time with Dad learning the ins and outs of car maintenance. Caleb turned 18 in October and got lots of car related birthday gifts, including a new hitch and bike rack so he can get out mountain biking. Caleb also ran cross country this year and was pleased to meet his personal goal of running an under twenty-minute race at a large event in Truckee, California.



Caleb is also really enjoying theater in-person this year. The crazy and creative fun of improv theatre is therapeutic for him. Caleb is doing exceptionally well with his studies and was even awarded the high honor of being named a National Merit Commended Student - ranking in the top 3% of high school students nationwide! This summer Caleb also worked as an intern with the Governor's Office of Economic Development in the IT Department (Dad's office). He assisted the IT manager and learned a lot about the work world. Caleb is planning on getting some type of engineering degree, perhaps mechanical, and recently toured University of Nevada's campus in Reno. The cool engineering labs they visited were a highlight for him. In his spare time Caleb enjoys building worlds for his Dungeons and Dragons group to explore, designing computer programs, hanging out with Hannah, spending time with friends, and running on many of our local trails.



Lisa at the Reno Balloon Races



Fallen Leaf Lake with Mount Tallac in the Background

unprecedented fire season limited what we could do. It was a wild summer - wearing masks outdoors for the smoke and indoors for the virus! That said, we did go on a couple of great hikes and early season camping trips.

On Memorial Day our whole family had a wonderful hike to the summit of a local favorite, Ralston Peak (9,235 ft.). The trail is quite steep, climbing 2,791 feet in just 3.5 miles. Caleb, the cross-country runner, just whizzed up the trail. I had to stop and enjoy the view a bit more often! The surrounding views from the summit included many of the areas we have hiked or backpacked in since moving to northern Nevada six years ago: the Desolation Wilderness area, Echo Lakes, Lake Tahoe, and Fallen Leaf Lake. The amazing 360-degree views were like a family album of our past adventures. It was a lovely day together and one of the high points of the summer.

On June 10th, Bob, myself and Caleb set up camp at Fallen Leaf Lake for an overnight outing. The three of us enjoyed morning coffee, relaxing at camp, nightly Scrabble games, and some great mountain biking around the lake. We even saw a sow bear and two cubs on one of our rides! I went for a paddle on the lake on a windy afternoon which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I am still working part-time, as well as managing our home and our family's changing schedules. My daily partnership with Bob, talks and laughs with our teenagers, and spending time on nearby lakes and trails have all been highlights for me. This year I felt a bit like the classic pioneer woman. Hand quilting, making wine for the first time with some of our homegrown grapes, giving my dehydrator(s) a workout, have all kept me busy. I also have enjoyed immersing myself in the world of the classic science-fiction novel, Dune. The family even gave me a Dune-themed birthday, including a "Sandworm" cinnamon bread baked by Hannah!

This past year we have had a number of wonderful outdoor adventures and camping trips even though the



Hannah and Caleb Hiking to Ralston Peak

Speaking of paddling, at the end of July my dear husband purchased a couple of new kayaks for the two of us! He did some research and settled on Pelican sit-ins, a 10-foot Maxim for Lisa and a 12-foot Sprint for Bob. We thoroughly enjoyed taking our new kayaks out on their maiden voyage paddling the aqua blue waters of Lake Tahoe. We are very pleased with how the boats handle and are so grateful to have such a beautiful place right in our backyard to paddle them!

On June 25th we went camping for a three-day, two-night trip to Sugar Pine Point State Park on the west side of Lake Tahoe. This park was the sight of the Nordic events for the 1960 Winter Olympics. The campground was very woodsy with lots of shade and biking trails. There was even access to



Lisa in Her New Kayak on Lake Tahoe



Bob and His Brothers with Their Sons

the beach, which I loved. Overall, it was a great and relaxing camping trip - there is nothing like the woods to renew your soul!

The first week of August we made a trip to Montana to visit both Lisa's parents in Great Falls and to be with Grandma Potts for a community memorial for Bob's Dad who passed away on October 27th last year from Covid. Because of all the travel and group restrictions that were in place when he died, this is something Bob and his brothers really wanted to do for their Mom, their extended family, and the surrounding community. The memorial was held on Sunday the 8th, but the entire week turned out to be a wonderful, multi-day reunion for brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces as we celebrated the life of Grandma Potts' wonderful husband of 64 years. At the end of the reunion, Bob and his brothers and their sons had an amazing day together shooting clay pigeons in a wheat field near Grandma's home. This was a tradition Bob's Dad started many years before with his four boys. What a special and blessed outing for the Potts' men.

We were also blessed with a couple of great days visiting my parents in Great Falls. It was so good to see them again, share pictures, stories, and good food. Once again, we were reminded how important family is and how extremely worthwhile these trips are.

With that I will close out this year's "wild west adventure" and thank you for the blessing that you are to our family. A blessed Christmas from our house to yours!

Bob & Lisa  
 Hannah  
 Carter



Merry Christmas from Chester!

We'd love to have you visit in person, but you can always visit us at our home page at [www.pottsadventures.com](http://www.pottsadventures.com).