

Dear Friends & Family,

Christmas 2022

A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all! The mountains are snow covered and the Christmas lights are sparkling on our house and tree. The wintery weather has an arctic feel this year. I have been thinking about the hardiness of those who live in Nordic countries and have enjoyed experiencing my Scandinavian heritage by doing some cross country skiing and even making lefse! So gather round your tree, grab a cup of cheer, and hear the tale of the challenges, changes and triumphs of our year.

It is amazing to have both of our kids graduated and in college! Caleb graduated from Sierra Lutheran High School as Salutatorian on May 28th giving an excellent motivational speech at the graduation. Throughout the year Caleb



Our Family at Caleb's High School Graduation



Moving Caleb into his Dorm at UNR
slaying dragons
on the side - life just couldn't be any better for a college freshman!

Hannah started this year off by celebrating her 21st birthday, and jumped right in to all sorts of new adventures. She is a college senior, living at home and commuting to University of Nevada, Reno. She works on campus for the Mackay School of Mines and is also doing a virtual internship with the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky! All of this keeps her very busy, but not too busy to have fun times with her friends and family. She has enjoyed all kinds of adventures this year

worked hard not only at his course work, but also was an asset to the student body as Class President. He was also honored to be elected Prom King by his classmates at his Senior Prom. Caleb really enjoyed being a part of the theater program during high school and this past spring he dazzled not only us, but the whole community with his first-ever musical performance in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Enchanted Cinderella*. He played the hilarious role of the King and surprised us all, including his theater coach, Mr. Kois, by singing beautifully in an amazing duet with the Queen. It was a wonderful production to end his high school acting career on! Caleb is now attending the University of Nevada, Reno, majoring in Mechanical Engineering and living in the dorm. His sister Hannah, is very proud to have another member of the UNR Wolf Pack in the family. Caleb has a great roommate and has really thrown himself into getting the most out of his college experience, building important relationships with professors and fellow students, as well as doing a great job in his classes. He joined the Improv Theatre troupe at UNR is involved in the Nuclear Science Club, and even found a Dungeons & Dragons group that he enjoys meeting with on a regular basis. Getting A's in his classes and



Hannah and her Fellow "Drone Rangers" in the Field

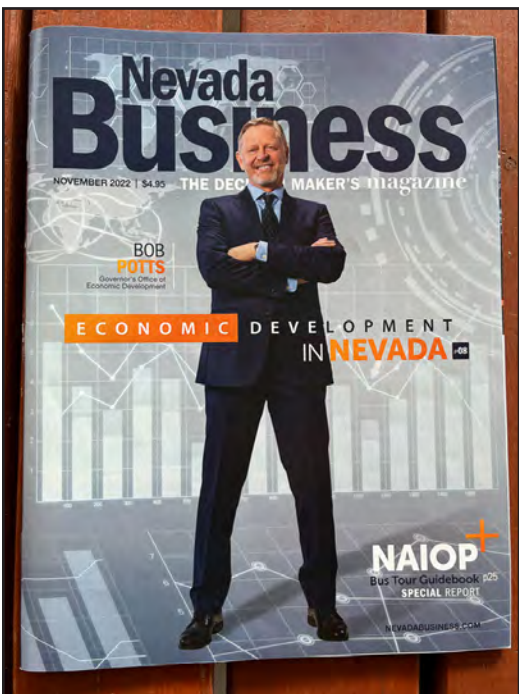
with her friends Melissa and Taylor, from balloon races to days at the beach. Hannah got her drone pilot's license earlier this year and was hired for a summer internship with the College of Agriculture at UNR as a field tech/drone pilot. She joined a team of four other women camping and working in the field in Elko, Paradise Valley, and the Ruby Mountains. Using LiDAR technology, drone mapping, and plant biomass surveys they hope to help mitigate range fires



Bob and Hannah on the Trail to 4th of July Lake

by their study of cheatgrass growth. After living with thousands of Mormon crickets these past two summers, one of Hannah's goals was to capture, cook, and eat some of the little critters! After frying them in a little hot oil and sprinkling on some taco seasoning, she was happy to report that they are tasty - a little like pork rinds. Hannah's time in the field also helped her to complete another of her goals - reading 100 books in a year. Listening to books on tape while tramping many miles of backcountry trails was a perfect combination for her. She is currently on book number 146 and still counting! On her breaks from the field, Hannah enjoyed hanging out with her friends, lots of local hikes, perfecting her shot at the range with Dad, playing games with Caleb, and creative projects with Mom.

This year marks Bob's tenth year of working for the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) doing an amazing job helping to bring great jobs to our state.



Bob on the Cover of the November Issue of the Nevada Business Magazine

In the cowboy vernacular, his job keeps him "busier than a one-armed wall paper hanger", but in his spare time he enjoys reloading and perfecting his precision shooting, as well as doing some amazing woodworking projects. This past year he finished a beautiful handmade desk built from a pattern of his own design. Bob and Hannah enjoyed putting the final touches on his special project. It looks right at home in Bob's home office next to the reloading bench he made last year.

Bob has also really enjoyed the relaxation of handloading his own bullets for precision shooting. Hannah and Bob head out to the range on a regular basis. The .300 Winchester Magnum that Bob got from his dad and Hannah's .270 have been getting so accurate that some of the targets have one hole for multiple shots! Caleb and Bob have enjoyed shooting clay pigeons



Hannah Feasting on Mormon Crickets

After frying them in a little hot oil and sprinkling on some taco seasoning, she was happy to report that they are tasty - a little like pork rinds. Hannah's time in the field also helped her



Four in One and a Flyer

together and perfecting the art of the different reloading processes. Bob may have some new mountains to climb as we transition to a new governor and he takes on more leadership responsibility, but we know that he will be up for the challenge, whatever it is!

I had a year of changes, leaving my church secretary job behind for a new job working in Bob's office. It was a privilege working alongside Bob and his colleagues serving the state of Nevada for six months. Due to a wrist issue I changed jobs in August, starting a new job at the front desk of a brand new Christian elementary school in Carson City. I am really enjoying my new gig where I get to play a bit of a "mom" role for 50 elementary kids. I love hearing "Mrs. Potts, I need a bandaid" on a regular basis! The school is located only ten minutes from home.



Lisa and her Buddy Kayaking on Spooner Lake

but has a rural feel with bunnies and deer often running through the property. In my spare time I enjoy quilting, hand sewing, reading, biking, and spending time with the family and our snuggly dog, Chester.

Thankfully this summer brought little smoke from our annual wildfire season, so we started our yearly round of camping on June 6th with a trip to Fallen Leaf Lake. We loaded up our kayaks and camper and headed out to one of our favorite camping areas. Our friend Chris England was able to join us for a fun overnight stay and breakfast. It was great seeing Chris again and telling spooky stories around the campfire. Fallen Leaf Lake is located right below Mount Tallac and is a truly beautiful place for some great kayaking.

Bob and Lisa

enjoyed a paddle around the entire lake and even took Chester along. Chester is a great boat dog, but it was a good thing he had his life jacket because a bit of rough water caused him to take an unexpected dip in the lake! We also had a surprise visitor to our campground - a bear! We had seen bears around the campground in the past, but never this close to camp. After throwing a few rocks at him, Bob was able to "herd" him away from the neighbors camp, through ours, and out of the campground. Hannah's childhood friend from Las Vegas, Lydia Silic, also joined us at our camp. It was great to relive memories of her camping with us when she was a little girl. We enjoyed dice games after dinner and Bob's famous blueberry pancakes for breakfast! On July 8th we had another wonderful four day camping trip at Sugar Pine State Park on the west side of Lake Tahoe. The weather was perfect! We had a great time relaxing, mountain biking and hiking. Sugar Pine has become one of our favorite weekend camping destinations. We also did a short camping trip to Hope Valley which is south of Carson City at the beginning of August. Because it was only an overnighter, we decided to go light and only take tents. The last time we'd taken out our larger tent was in 2015 when we camped in it almost three weeks on our Grand Canyon trip. It was fun and a great flashback to the way we always used to camp. We thoroughly enjoyed the scenery and exploring the backroads in the surrounding area.



Camping with Hannah's Good Friend Lydia Silic



Caleb After Running a 7:29 Minute Mile at the Rock Tahoe Half Marathon Finish Line

Some of the other events of our summer included Caleb's first half marathon and a couple of special events for Bob's work that he and I were able to attend together. On June 18th Caleb ran in the Rock Tahoe Half Marathon at Lake Tahoe. Caleb spent many hours diligently training for over six months in preparation for his 13.1 mile run from Spooner Summit to South Lake Tahoe. Out of 1,412 runners, Caleb finished 50th - 44th out of 503 men. We were very proud of him! On August 13th Bob and Lisa attended the Cordillera International Film Festival in Reno as representatives of the GOED Film Office. The event was held at the National Auto Museum, which houses more than 200 classic vehicles, including some unique cars from famous television shows. Bob and I had a great



Lisa Calling Commissioner Gordon on the Bat Phone :)

time touring the museum and even got to sit in the original Batmobile from the TV series & the original DeLorean from *Back to the Future!*

Over the Thanksgiving break the four of us flew to Montana to visit with Bob's mom in Bozeman and had a chance to see my folks in Great Falls. It was a wonderful chance to spend some time with our special family. A highlight was the terrific Thanksgiving dinner at Bob's Uncle Jim and his wife Betty's beautiful home surrounded by views of the snow covered mountains of Montana dotted with buffalo and elk!



Evie Potts (Bob's Mom) above the Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone During a Visit to Celebrate her 89th Birthday

In celebration of my Scandinavian heritage and in appreciation of those who help bring Christmas cards & letters to us every year, I will be mailing our Christmas letter to you from the little town of Genoa, situated at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Genoa is the hometown of a local hero, John Albert "Snowshoe" Thompson, a Norwegian-American who from 1856 to 1876 made legendary 90 miles treks in homemade snowshoes (we call them skis) over the Sierras to deliver the mail to California. May the coming year be filled with new challenges and the bravery to overcome them!

Love,



Here's Hoping your New Year is In-Tents-Ly Fun!

Bob & Lisa
Flannah
Caleb



We'd love to have you visit in person, but you can always visit us at our home page at www.pottsadventures.com.