

Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas 2024

A very Merry Christmas to you! We hope this letter finds you doing well and enjoying the Holidays. For us a big part of that enjoyment is reflecting on the past year and sharing it with you. The phrase "It's been quite a year!" kept coming to mind from Bob turning 65 and retiring, to three weeks of rafting down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, to the kids continuing to push the boundaries of moving out and into lives on their own, this year has been a big one for us. So, grab a drink of your choice and settle back for a trip down memory lane with the Potts!

The year began with Bob celebrating his 65th birthday and seriously contemplating retiring from an almost 13-year stretch working virtually non-stop for the Nevada Governor's Office of



Bob and Lisa in the Grand Canyon



Bob Celebrating his 65th birthday

Bob gave notice and retired from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development. He poured a lot of himself into the job and participated in and often led the attraction or expansion of more than 780 companies, 82,000 jobs, and nearly \$24.5 billion dollars of investment into the State. He has done a wonderful job for Nevada and has been enjoying his time off. He is refraining from making any firm commitments as he considers his next steps. In his spare time, he is enjoying reloading and target shooting, woodworking, updating our website, volunteering as Mr. Fix-it at the elementary school I work at, and taking several trips to see family and friends. In

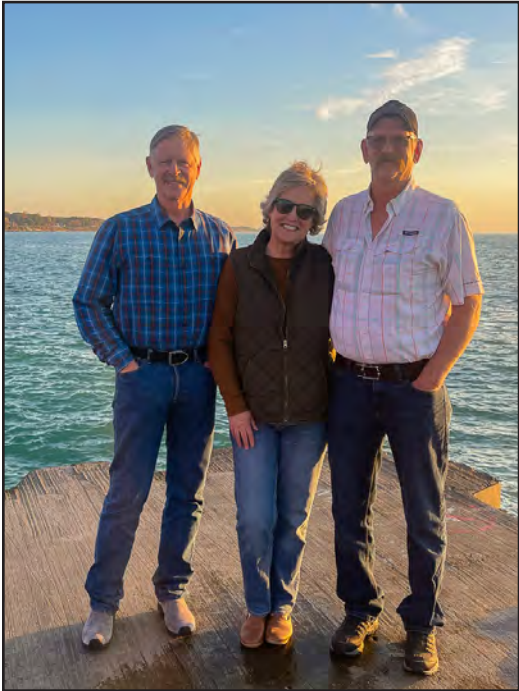
Economic Development (GOED). On top of that, the big score for Bob this year was getting to lead another river trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. We led this trip before in 2015 and ever since then Bob has religiously put in for another permit and February, 2023 was notified by the Park Service that his application had been selected. What a busy and exciting year it has been preparing for this epic adventure! From selecting and contacting the float trip members, working with our outfitter, preparing our gear and then launching, Bob did a wonderful job getting us ready for the trip and then leading it (More on the Grand Canyon further along in our letter).

We also enjoyed spending time this summer doing some camping in our favorite local spots. Our first camping trip was during the second week of June was to our favorite local campground, Fallen Leaf Lake. As in previous years, we pulled our camper up and took bikes and kayaks along as there are bike trails everywhere and Fallen Leaf Lake is just the best to kayak on. We pedaled, paddled and enjoyed Bob's famous blueberry pancakes. A big bear even sauntered through our camp and right up to the camper. It is no wonder camping at Fallen Leaf is one of our favorite summer highlights!



Bob with GOED Directors at his Retirement Party

September Bob went to visit his mom in Montana and enjoyed celebrating her 91st birthday with her and doing fix-it projects around her house. He also flew to Michigan for a week to visit his brother Andy and his wife, Mary, enjoying the fall colors and hanging out with Andy and seeing all the great homes and projects he's worked on over the years. One of Bob's goals after the river trip was to move through life at a more relaxed pace, what is referred to on canyon float trips as "river time". Since his retirement Bob is very much enjoying being on "river time"!



Bob Visiting Andy and Mary in Michigan

getting my "kid fix" from interacting with the students every day. I enjoy promoting the school to the community and new families, acting as the "lunch lady", and doing a wide variety of administrative duties. I am also teaching some specialty classes ranging from art to dehydrating. In my spare time, I enjoy quilting, embroidery, cooking and enjoying the beautiful outdoor world that surrounds us here in Northern Nevada.



Bob and Chester Mountain Biking at Fallen Leaf Lake

The Grand Canyon River trip was a major focus of our family this year. Due to my work schedule I did not think that I would be able to participate in the trip, but when a half trip became available that Hannah was also going on, I was excited to be able to join the crew! This was my third time down the Grand and I was really thankful to join Bob, Hannah and the others on the adventure, while not being either in charge of the food or being pregnant (which was the case on the other trips I was on)! It was an amazing time as always - what a special place!

On the home front, I am still working at Legacy Christian Academy, assisting our Head of School in her duties and enjoying

our Head of School in her duties and enjoying



Evie Potts on her 91st birthday



Lisa getting ready for our Grand Canyon River Trip

For Thanksgiving this year, Bob and I (along with our dog Chester) enjoyed a road trip to Boise, Idaho to visit my brother, Craig and his family, and to see my 91-year-old dad who lives in an assisted living there. We then traveled on to Bozeman, Montana to visit Bob's 91-year-old mom and some of Bob's family there. Hannah and Caleb were able to fly in for Thanksgiving and it was a wonderful, cozy time together. After the holiday the four of us road tripped it

back home in a one day while listening to a great audiobook! It was a blessing to spend time together.

Hannah is living in Reno and is in her final semester of graduate school at University of Nevada, Reno in Geography. This past summer she worked on her thesis research on the Mohave Ground Squirrel. She also spent time helping another grad student with her studies of desert tortoises. This October, Hannah travelled with other members of her graduate student lab to the Mohave Desert to participate in



Lisa and Hannah on our Grand River Trip

their annual Desert Tortoise Surveys. Each year, these surveys provide valuable information about the tortoise's populations, their health, and give the crew a chance to revisit some of their old friends (several of these tortoises have been visited since the 1970's).

Hannah's trip was amazing - filled with hard work, laughter, beautiful

landscapes, and time with one of God's amazing creatures. If you look closely in the picture to the right you can see that someone was enjoying Hannah playing her kazoo - a little tortoise named Diane, who came out of her burrow and walked directly over to Hannah, sat down, and hung out with her for an hour.



Hannah Serenading "Diane"

On August 24th Hannah was confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

She has come to love and appreciate this denomination and wants to follow God's lead in being more involved there. We were glad to attend this special event with her in the beautiful Episcopal Chapel in Reno. This church has the largest collection of stained glass in one building in the state of Nevada.

In her spare time Hannah enjoys doing fun activities with her friends and spending time with Caleb who lives and works on the UNR campus. Hannah and her good friends, Taylor and Melissa, also participated in a half marathon this summer,



Thanksgiving with the Boobars in Star, Idaho

Hannah also has spent time this summer camping with us as her schedule permitted. One of our summer camping trips took us to Cottonwood Creek Campground near Sierraville, California. While there we hiked to the summit of Castle Peak where you have 360 degree views of the beautiful country we live in.



Hannah on our Hike to Castle Peak

went on hikes and to the beach, as well as some fun trips to Utah and California. This January, Hannah has the opportunity to go to Chile with a research group to study volcanoes. She and a co-worker will be the drone pilots for the scientific research group, flying drones fitted with magnetometers to assist in the study of lava movement in an active volcano. I think it sounds a lot like something from an Indiana Jones movie...whatever she is doing, Hannah continues to be amazing!

Caleb is now a junior in Mechanical Engineering at UNR in Reno and, for the second year in a row, he is also a Resident



Hannah on the Oars and Loving Every Minute

Advisor in the Great Basin Dorm and "dad" to a floor of 71 freshman! He also is a long-distance runner, a campus club leader, a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, and an avid Dungeons & Dragons player.



Caleb Setting a Strong Pace at the Rock Tahoe Marathon

Summit around beautiful Lake Tahoe to the town of South Lake. Caleb came in strong at the end of his race with a final time of 1 hour 46 minutes and 52 seconds. His overall rank was 83 out of 1,626 runners; 10th out of 50 in his age group; and 68th out of 648 men.

On June 16th Caleb ran in his third Rock Tahoe Half Marathon which follows the road from Spooner



Caleb and Chester hiking to Castle Peak

Due to his work schedule, Caleb was not able to join us on the Grand Canyon trip, but we enjoyed spending time with him on several of our camping and hiking trips this summer. On our hike to Castle Peak, Caleb enjoyed the 2,000 foot climb to the top with Bob and Hannah. He also carried Chester in his backpack on this six-mile round trip hike which was no problem for him as fit as he is.

This summer Caleb also completed a goal of finishing the book he has been working on for a few years. As a lover of Tolkien and the Dungeons & Dragon's role-playing game, he has been building a collection of stories directly related to his imagined "world" for a number of years. This summer he completed his 395-page epic work called The Chronicle of Sixteen Stars. Whether he is running, writing or just hanging out, Caleb is always hitting the high mark!



Moving Caleb to UNR's Great Basin Hall

Because our Grand Canyon River Trip was such a big event this year, we wanted to add a few more pictures and narrative to this letter and encourage you to visit our web site for the full story. It was an amazing trip: www.pottsadventures.com.

We had also led this trip in 2015 and, once again, it was clear that the most important consideration was group dynamics and how important it is to invite those who would really help make a cohesive team. The permit included space for 16, but coming up with folks who would be great to have along, who would want to go, could go and had the skills and endurance to deal with three weeks in the remote reaches of the Grand Canyon really helped narrow down the list.



Bob and His Brothers in the Grand Canyon

When we led this trip in 2015 we took our whole family, but the kids are now in college and only Hannah could break away for half the trip which, as I mentioned earlier, made it possible for me to go too.



Grapevine Camp on the Colorado River

We were honored to have Alex Heindl, Phil and Kath Spargo (half trip), Paul and Summer Mudd, Christopher Robison, Dann Coffey, Kent Gubler and Shawn Wilson join us.

When launch day rolled around we had filled the permit with a great team, 14 full-trip people and four half-trip participants. There were 14 guys and four gals coming from eight different states including Nevada, Montana, Colorado, Tennessee, Michigan, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Maryland. Some had river experience, and some didn't, but all ended up being an addition to the mix of folks necessary for a successful and safe river trip.

We were also fortunate to have experienced boatmen to help lead the trip including Bob, Dann Coffey and Bob's brother, Dave. Alex Heindl and Phil Spargo had been on

Bob really wanted to extend this opportunity to his brothers, and he reached out to them next. The first person he called was his brother Dave who had done this trip before and, without pause, he said yes. Then it was a call to his other brothers, Jim and Andy, who were also excited to go and said yes. We offered them the opportunity to ask one or two of their kids and/or a friend to join us as well. In the end, Dave asked two of his friends, Christ Stiltner and Dave Ford, and Jim's son, Lee, was able to join us for half a trip. Andy's kids and friends, in the end were unable to get the time off. We then reached out to others who were either on our 2015 trip or those who wanted to be on that trip but were unable to do so at the time. After making several calls,



Desert Bighorn in the Grand Canyon



Bob Rowing Crystal Rapid

other river trips, but never a boatman on the Grand. They had helped though, and we felt they were qualified to captain a boat and those of us who were more experienced could help them through rough sections if need be. Dave Ford had also recently got into river running and his boating experience ended up being a great addition to our trip.

There is a misconception that if someone doesn't have "Grand Canyon boatman experience" they, at some level, fall in the shadow of others that do. This couldn't be further from the truth as there is a broad range of gifts and skills that are necessary for a successful river trip. Perhaps chief among them are those that have an affinity for taking care

of the menu. If it weren't for the food management, cooking and kitchen skills that Dann, Summer, Christopher, Hannah and Kath brought to the trip we certainly would not have had as great a trip as we did. Equally important were the construction skills Andy brought, Lee's exceptional photography and videography skills, Alex and Jim's geology expertise, Dave Ford's medical and rescue experience, Paul's musical skills, Shawn's technical skills, and Chris Stiltner's backcountry experience.

In all, everyone carried their own weight and were available to carry that of others if needed. It was a great mix of people to share our 2024 river trip with and we encourage you to visit our web site for the full wonderful story and links to some incredible trip videos expertly put together by our nephew Lee Potts.



Our River Trip Crew at Deer Creek Falls

As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, this has been a really big year for us, but a blessed one as well. Once again we are reminded that we live in a world of change, but our Savior never changes and that brings great comfort and lets us enjoy the adventure of everything else. May He bless you and keep you as you celebrate your adventures in the year ahead!

Love,

Bob & Lisa
Hannah
Carolee



Our Love to All of you

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