

# Summers Scrapbook 2005

**W**ith each passing year time seems to travel much quicker. As children it did not seem as if Christmas would ever come. Now as an adult it feels as if we just celebrated the holiday season from the previous year. I had noble intentions of creating the family newsletter early so that I could relax and enjoy time with the kids leading up to Christmas. Instead I find myself frantically in front of the computer madly typing trying to beat the postal price increase after the New Year. So much as happened over the past twelve months that I am struggling to decide even where to begin. Our family has experienced so much through the year and I invite you to sit down and share our memories of 2005.

## January

As the year began, the family was in Idaho spending the holiday with family. Dakota brought in the New Year learning how to snowboard. He was very good considering before now he barely knew what snow looked like. Whitney had her eleventh birthday in Idaho and she was feeling slighted since it fell on a Sunday with very few things to do. Mallorie moved into her apartment to start college at BYU-Idaho. It is hard to believe she is staying in Idaho while the rest of the family goes back to Arizona. The last thing Jeff remembered hearing her say as they drove away was, "Dad I really need a car!" The family returned to Arizona and the first morning back the water heater broke flooding the garage. Not exactly the kind of luck anyone was expecting. Kyrene de las Brisas held its birthday party in January with Whitney and Dakota both being involved in the celebration singing. Tiffany was asked to speak in sacrament meeting this month and while she stayed home to prepare Jeff took Trina, Whitney and Dakota to Bank One Ballpark to see the monster truck races. This was quite a new experience for them and Jeff

was devastated to see these large vehicles tearing it up in the outfield.

## February

February began with Dakota attending a fireside to begin to prepare him for his baptism in April. It's hard to believe he is that old already. Tiffany began track this year. This is her first year of high school and she is excited to compete. She had planned on long jumping but the coach immediately identified her talent and asked her to triple jump and high jump as well. She is very dedicated and will do very well. Jeff and Trina's appliance woes continued this month when the dishwasher broke requiring the family to return to their pioneer roots by washing dishes by hand. Tiffany's hands may never be the same. Mallorie called from school to say she had interviewed for an internship with the Walt Disney Company. She was selected to work at Walt Disney World as a character (most likely Pluto). After some ribbing from Jeff, Mallorie decided that she really didn't go to college to become a dog and turned down the internship. Trina was relieved since she knew if Mallorie went to Florida Jeff would follow her just to collect pins.

## March

The weather began to get warmer as March arrived and Jeff is riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle every day. For his birthday Trina bought him a new custom helmet and bags to carry his laptop. Jeff's parents came down and spent his birthday with him. Jeff of course drug them to a Spring Training game to see the Anaheim Angels play. While he was standing in line for tickets his dad was given tickets behind the plate but Jeff made him sit above the dugout in seats that weren't quite as nice. It was a wonderful day made very special by spending time with his family. Whitney was in the DARE program and wrote an essay of what DARE meant to her. Her essay was chosen and she had to deliver it

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to the entire student body. She was very nervous but did a wonderful job. Ashley called this month to say that she had gotten an internship with the American Fork school district and would be teaching there beginning next fall. The month ended with Tiffany beginning her track meets. She is obviously following in her mother's footsteps as she clears 4'8" in the high jump in her second meet. This height was enough to letter as a freshman.

## April

The first weekend of April was the LDS General Conference in Salt Lake City. Mallorie is working for the Scroll newspaper and was chosen to cover conference. She called between sessions to tell Jeff and Trina what it was like to be a member of the working press. While the work was hard she does seem to enjoy it. April is also the opening of baseball season which means Jeff and Trina are again at Bank One Ballpark watching the game. Trina had an opportunity to go to Idaho to see her parents this month when the Winters family have a place in their car. She jumps at the chance to see her mother and father. While she is gone Jeff takes care of the kids and as strange as it sounds no one gets hurt. Tiffany continues her track streak winning the city freshman invitational in the high jump. She also letters in the triple jump for good measure. Mallorie, Ashley, and Eli arrive home just in time for Dakota's birthday and baptism. Dakota also became a cub scout and his first activity is a Pinewood Derby. He and Jeff began to carve a car but after several saw accidents they ended up building a skateboard which wins most creative and takes third place.

## May

Eli, Ashley and Mallorie return home as the month opens. Tiffany is in full swing with track season participating in regional track. She places fourth in the high jump and as

soon as her last jump is completed we have to rush her to the school where she is performing in a dance recital for school. While Tiffany was depressed at her fourth place finish, the height was high enough that she qualified for state as a freshman. Ashley and Mallorie both have birthdays this month and Trina is busy sending gifts in the mail. Shortly afterwards she received a call saying that her father Wendell Jensen had passed away. The family quickly made arrangements and went to Idaho to attend the funeral. Jeff and Trina both took the loss very hard but are grateful that Heavenly Father did not make Wendell suffer. The trip to Idaho was very quick as Tiffany had to return to leave for girls' camp on Memorial Day.

## June

June started with Tiffany taking her final tests that she missed because of the funeral. She studied very hard but still struggled. Trina was asked to teach a modesty class to the stake. The girls were not exactly thrilled to learn that their mother was now on the modest dress police squad. Jeff was asked to speak in sacrament meeting. Everyone thought the church had learned their lesson the last time this happened but apparently not. Dakota attended his first Cub Scout day camp. Due to the heat, the camp started in the afternoon and ended around eleven o'clock at night. As the month wound down, the family was again traveling to Idaho to visit. Tiffany spent her birthday there celebrating with her cousins. Ashley and Eli also made the trip and the whole family went camping. Mallorie is still trying to overcome the trauma of not having a plumbed bathroom and not being able to shower for two whole days.

## July

July began as the family continued their Idaho vacation. Jeff's parents took the family fishing to celebrate VelDean's birthday. The



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kids had a blast and they did well catching several fish. Jeff and Trina took the family to see the Freedom Celebration in Idaho Falls where they had over 3,500 flags decorating the field west of Idaho Falls. It was an awe-inspiring sight. Independence day in Idaho is much different than Arizona. The family nearly froze with the temperatures only in the eighties. Jeff and Trina spent a couple of days with Ashley and Eli before returning to Arizona. As soon as they returned, Tiffany was busy beginning training for Cross Country. Trina was asked to speak in sacrament meeting this month. Her theory is that she had to speak if for no other reason than to set the record straight after Jeff's talk. She didn't want the ward members to get the wrong impression of the family.

## August

August marked the end of summer vacation. Whitney entered Middle School this year at Aprende Middle School. Dakota entered the third grade at Kyrene de las Brisas. Both of them had meet the teacher night where Jeff tried to put in a good word for them but ended up getting their names added to the watch out for trouble lists. The kids have asked that he please not help them any more. Whitney is taking band continuing the tradition that Mallorie began. She too is playing the flute. Tiffany begins her sophomore year at Corona del Sol High School and is involved in many extra curricular activities including Cross Country. August also marked the end of Mallorie's school year as she is on the Winter/Summer track at BYU Idaho. The streak continued for the family with Tiffany being asked to speak in sacrament meeting. She did very well and received many positive comments. Whitney entered student government and was elected as class representative for her class. Dakota began another season of playing soccer moving up to the U10 division which is a

larger field and larger teams. He is excited to begin play.

## September

September was a very athletic and busy month for the family. Dakota's soccer season began and in the first game he played forward and scored his first goal in his soccer career. Both Jeff and Trina were there and had cameras yet neither of them captured the moment. They were so shocked at how quickly and easily it occurred that they forgot to even press the shutter. Tiffany began her Cross Country meets and each week came home setting a personal best. Her progress is amazing her coaches and her parents. Mallorie is back to work holding down two jobs. She is working at Mountainside Fitness with Trina and she is working at Game On which is a training facility for valley athletes. As the month closed Jeff was invited to a Ford facility to test a new car they were working on. He took Tiffany and Dakota with him and they had a ball test driving all the various cars. Dakota was especially impressed with the 2005 Mustang and their trip down the drag strip.

## October

October usually means that the weather begins to cool down but that was not the case this year as the hot temperatures continued all through this month. Dakota continued his soccer games and their team was very competitive winning most of their games. Tiffany was again running Cross Country and with her progress she qualified to run in the state meet based on her showing in the regional meet. Trina is volunteering in the schools where she can and worked with Whitney's class being a chaperone for their trip to the Phoenix zoo. Both Whitney and Trina had a great time and still talk about it. At the end of the month the kids celebrated Halloween with their outlandish costumes. Dakota was a fireman and Whitney was a cheerleader. Even Mallorie and Tiffany got

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into the spirit dressing up and giving the kids grief as they approached the house for candy.

## November

Trina's niece Natalie came to visit in November and stayed with a week to enjoy the Arizona sunshine. Mallorie and Natalie roomed together last year at BYU Idaho and are planning to room together next year as well. Jeff has been riding his motorcycle all year regardless of how hot or cold it has been. One side affect he did not anticipate was how it would impact his left shoulder. He began having problems with it requiring an MRI to determine what was happening. Just before Thanksgiving, Jeff flew to Utah for meetings and was able to spend time with Ashley and Eli. It was wonderful seeing both of them as always. When he returned, Jeff and Trina ran with Dakota in the annual Turkey Trot and had a lot of fun. Jeff's parents came down for the holiday and had Thanksgiving dinner with them. It was the first time they had been together for Thanksgiving since the family moved to Arizona. As the month ended Jeff had been referred to an orthopedic surgeon for his shoulder.

## December

December marked the end of Cross Country season and the year end banquet. Tiffany was recognized as the most improved runner and she was asked to be the captain of the Cross Country team next year. Dakota's soccer season also ended and he was voted best teammate. The coach noted that all of the players voted him as the person they would most like on their team. After Jeff's latest doctor's appointment it was decided that he would try therapy to try and build the muscle around his torn rotator cuff. Trina always knew Jeff needed therapy and seemed to enjoy telling everyone that forgetting to mention that it was physical therapy. Jeff tried therapy but after two weeks could barely use his left arm. After another visit with the

orthopedic surgeon he recommended surgery and cut back the amount of time Jeff could be on the computer. It seems Jeff was more unhappy about the reduction in computer time than he was about the surgery. He is scheduled for an operation on his left arm in mid-January. Trina met with the principal of Brisas Elementary School and was asked to apply for a job tutoring in the schools. Trina has applied and is awaiting word after the Christmas break of whether she has been accepted.

Looking forward I wonder what lies in store for us during 2006. Trina has already begun to write things on the calendar and it is quickly filling up. The kids seem to never stop with sports, school, church, and hobbies. One thing that is guaranteed is that our lives will never be boring. So while I begin to make my New Years resolutions (and getting the family newsletter done early is at the top of this list), I am given a chance to be a little philosophical and introspective.

While we have endured many challenges this past year we have become much closer as a family and I'm sure this will continue. Each hurdle that is placed in front of us is not meant to discourage us but rather give us an obstacle to climb that gives us a new perspective of what we have to look forward to as our journey continues. We are grateful to have our family and friends with us as we walk along lives paths. May you feel the blessings of our Heavenly Father and know the love He has for each of us. It is our hope and prayer that you will come along with us this year and build memories that we will cherish not only during the family newsletter but throughout all of eternity.

*Jeff, Trina, Mallorie, Tiffany,  
Whitney, & Dakota*