

Summers Scrapbook 2015

Temperatures are less than three digits which can only mean one thing; it must be winter in Arizona. So I invite you to pull up a lawn chair and put on your sun tan lotion and join me as we look back at the year 2015. For those of you not fortunate enough to live in Arizona grab some hot chocolate and bundle up as we see what has been happening with our family and reminisce about the good times and bad times over the last 12 months.

January

The year started with a party. Normally that party is January 2nd for Whitney's birthday but this year we celebrated for two days. First Mallorie and James had a gender reveal party where everyone guessed the sex of the unborn child. A piñata was filled with either pink or blue and after everyone had guessed Mallorie would break the piñata. The verdict, Mallorie is going to have another girl with a due date in May. Besides Whitney's birthday there was lots of other activities as Tiffany tried on wedding dresses for her upcoming wedding. Whitney then headed back to BYU-Idaho for the second semester of her junior year. She is enjoying herself at school but is eager for it to be done. Dakota is once again playing soccer for Corona del Sol High School and is having a lot of fun.

February

February marked the end of soccer season and with Dakota being a senior this year it meant he was recognized on the field for senior night. It's hard to believe that his soccer playing days are now over. Jeff and Trina won't know what to do with themselves without being in the stands or toting cameras around the field taking pictures. Late this month Jeff was again traveling this time going to Charlotte NC for a series of meetings. This month was also the beginning of the backyard remodeling. Tiffany has decided to have her reception in the backyard so Jeff and Trina are frantically trying to get things prepared. This month it was underground electrical systems and building a foundational slab for a 12 foot octagon gazebo. Every waking hour is being devoted to the yard. Trina's only complaint is that it took over 20 years to finally get Jeff to do yard work.

March

Lily celebrated her fifth birthday on March 2nd and Jeff celebrated his birthday a week later. Jeff of course was back at the ballpark now having not just season tickets to the Diamondbacks but also season tickets to Spring Training. Trina has to continually remind him that there is still a lot of work to do in the backyard. This month the gazebo parts were delivered from an Amish settlement in Pennsylvania. The family all pitched in and built the gazebo which looks absolutely amazing. A week after that several tons of flagstone were delivered and a walkway was created from the front of the house to the backyard. After that 20 tons of decorative rock arrived and then trees, shrubs, and plants arrived transforming the backyard into a lush backdrop that left everyone speechless. The month ended with Dakota carrying out his eagle service project which was the last step to him earning his Eagle Scout award. He painted fire lane lines at a local park which seemed somewhat fitting since he has been going into Fire Sciences.

April

April started with a bridal shower for Tiffany. As a special surprise Whitney flew home from school to attend. Tiffany was so excited. Syrell celebrated her second birthday and loved being the center of attention. April was also the beginning of baseball season meaning Jeff was at Chase Field what seemed like every

Summers Scrapbook

2015

night. On April 25th, Tiffany married Michael Testa in the Gilbert temple. It was an amazing event and they looked very happy. After the wedding everyone came to the house for the reception. The yard looked amazing and everyone had a great time. Two days later Dakota celebrated his birthday and attention moved from Tiffany to Dakota. Whitney arrived home just before the wedding to help restore order to the chaos in the house.

May

May is always a busy month and this year was even more so. Besides Mother's Day, Ashley's birthday, Mallorie's birthday, and James birthday Dakota also had Senior Prom which was a lead up to his high school graduation. There were a multitude of graduation events including Seminary graduation, high school graduation, and finally EVIT promotion where Dakota graduated from the Fire Science program. May was also the end of track season with Dakota once again earning honors and going to the state track meet. It was a great way to end his high school sports career. At the end of May Teigan Capri Kelly was born. Syrell was not sure what to think at first but soon they became best friends and loving sisters.

June

June was filled with lots of baseball. Trina and Jeff spent many nights watching the Arizona Diamondbacks play. Dakota was working as a life guard for the City of Chandler and Whitney was working at Sites USA. Whitney had gotten in a car accident early in the month when another car did not yield to a yellow light while she was trying to turn. As a result the Honda Accord was totaled. Before the end of the month Jeff had found a new car so that Whitney and Dakota would have transportation to go to college next year. They got a Honda Civic and they both love it.

July

July marked the blessing of Teigan. James family came from Oregon and it was amazing to have everyone together for this special event. Jeff was once again traveling this time to Minneapolis. While he had several days of meetings he seemed to find enough time to sneak away and go to a Minnesota Twins baseball game. Yet another stadium to knock off his bucket list. While he loved Target Field his heart still belongs to Chase Field. At the end of July Lily started school going into kindergarten. She was so excited and it wasn't long before she was the top of her class. The teacher was so amazed at her reading and math levels that she had Lily tested and found out she is well above grade level. Within six weeks they had already identified that next year Lily would be moved from her current school to one for gifted children.

August

August was a very busy month. Dakota had earned his Eagle Scouting rank and this month he had his Eagle Court of Honor. It was even more exciting that he became the second generation in the family to earn his Eagle alongside Jeff. Besides the court of honor, this month was also filled with lots of baseball including Jeff covering Randy Johnson's induction into the baseball hall of fame. It was a very humbling experience and one Jeff will never forget. By month end Dakota and Whitney were preparing for their next big adventure, going to college together.

September

When September started Whitney was preparing to return to Rexburg for her Senior year at BYU-Idaho. Dakota would be entering as a Freshman. They had been dreaming of this their whole lives when they would be able to go to college together. In years past Whitney flew to Idaho but was then stranded without

Summers Scrapbook

2015

transportation. This year with two in college they drove the new Honda Civic so they had a way to get around. Jeff and Trina drove up as well to take some of Dakota's things to school. Rather than taking the Suburban Jeff talked Trina into taking his Camaro. Neither of them may ever want to make that drive again unless it is in the Camaro. Between the two of them they made amazing time and were like a couple of kids again. After dropping them off at school Jeff and Trina returned home as empty nesters. It took quite a long time for them to get used to that. Mallorie assisted by having Trina watch Syrell and Teigan so she didn't forget what it was like to have kids in the house.

October

As October arrived, Whitney checked another item off her bucket list. She and Dakota along with a few roommates went to Yellowstone Park to take in the sights. They had an amazing time although they complained about how bad a lot of the geysers smelled. At home Jeff began suffering from depression as baseball season ended and he was faced with the long off-season. Trina helped a little making sure he had a season pass to the Arizona Fall League so that he could make it another month before baseball was officially over in the valley. In an attempt to keep him busy, Trina had Jeff build shelving in the garage for more storage. They quickly realized they were getting old and the aches and pains seemed to linger longer than expected. As the month ended Jeff was again traveling this time to San Francisco for a conference.

November

November saw Jeff Peterson return home from his mission to San Diego. Dakota and Whitney were there to celebrate his homecoming. Dakota was especially eager to talk to Jeff as he began preparing himself to serve a mission. Trina, Ashley, and Mallorie attended Time Out for Women in downtown Phoenix and had a wonderful time. As soon as the event ended they were already making plans for the following year when Whitney would be home to join them. As Thanksgiving approached Dakota and Whitney flew home to be with the family. In a day Jeff and Trina went from empty nesters to having a house full of kids again and they couldn't be happier. Lily began playing soccer following in Dakota's footsteps. It was fun to be back at the playing field although neither Jeff or Trina could remember Dakota ever being that little or the soccer ball being that big. As the month ended Dakota and Whitney were back on a plane headed to school for a final month of the semester before holiday break.

December

As December arrived Jeff was back traveling again going to Minnesota for a second time. This trip was not nearly as enjoyable as the temperatures were near zero and snow fell every day he was there. There was a reason why they moved from Idaho to Arizona it was to get away from the cold. Jeff was invited to the Diamondbacks Evolution which was a fashion show where the Diamondbacks unveiled their new uniforms. It was a lot of fun for Trina and Jeff. Any time Jeff can get down to Chase Field it is a good day. The team introduced teal to the Sedona Red, Sonoran Sand, and Black color scheme. Trina loved the new look, Jeff has not yet been converted. Before long Whitney and Dakota were home from school. Just before Christmas Dakota filled out his paperwork for a mission. He was hoping his mission call would arrive during the holiday break but that did not happen meaning that his call would actually arrive after he went back to school. He made Jeff and Trina promise that they would let him know the moment it arrived and that they would bring it to Idaho for him to open. It was a tense way to end the year.

Summers Scrapbook 2015

As we reflect on the last year it is amazing how much has changed. From marriage to graduation to birth to college this year held something for everyone and tugged at our heart strings. We have been blessed with so much in this past year and we can already see how much things will change in the next. This newsletter gives us a brief moment to ponder all that we have been given and look ahead to plan what will be next. Time seems to go by so quickly and there are days we don't feel like we even have enough time to breathe. But through it all we are blessed beyond measure. Whatever life throws at us we know that we have each other to share in the joys and the sorrows. We pray that this holiday season finds you in good spirits and good health. May your lives be filled with happiness and may you find joy in the year ahead. We hope you will stay connected and share your lives with us as we all look forward to 2016.

Jeff, Trina, Tiffany, Whitney & Dakota