

Summers Scrapbook 2021

It is once again coming up on that time of the year that we both look forward to and dread. It's easy to anticipate Christmas and soon after New Years. It is a time for us to celebrate with family and friends and reflect on all of the blessings we have been given. On the other hand, each year seems to pass more quickly than the last sometimes making life feel like a runaway rail car with no brakes. Rather than succumb to the hustle and bustle, I invite you to sit down with a warm blanket and relive the memories we have of 2021.

January

We are still struggling with what seems to be becoming the new normal. The results of 2020 and the global pandemic are still being felt if not in society that in our own homes and minds. We celebrated Whitney's birthday at home this year still nervous to gather in public at restaurants. It was fun to be together as a family. Dakota returned to Provo after the holidays to start classes at BYU. He seems to be enjoying that very much.

February

With February came warmer weather and more outdoor activities. It also provided us with a little relief. Vaccines are now available for the COVID virus. Trina was in one of the first groups available due to her being day care for Mallorie who is a teacher. The vaccines were administered at one of the Major League baseball Spring Training facilities. Jeff had to still wait as the vaccine is in short supply.

March

Jeff didn't have to wait long, he was eligible for the vaccine this month. Neither he nor Trina had any adverse side effects other than fatigue and a slight fever for a day. This month was also Jeff's birthday and he was able to take his dad to a Spring Training game. Attendance is severely limited but Jeff was just grateful to be back at the ballpark. Jeff also celebrated being at his job at Bank of the West for a year. He has still not been in the office since the first couple of days he started last year. There is no end to the work from home declaration which is fine as far as Jeff is concerned. Trina had a surprise birthday party for Jeff to celebrate turning 60. It was baseball themed of course and all the kids came home to celebrate with him.

April

As April arrived so did Opening Day for baseball. After not having a season where fans could attend last year, Jeff is anxious for baseball season to start. Jeff moved his seats from the lower level to the Diamond level. To start the season, he and Trina will not be sitting in their regular seats. Major League Baseball has instituted social distancing at the stadiums, so seats were reassigned to make sure no one was sitting next to each other. It was kind of distracting but at least there is baseball, so Jeff is happy.

May

May is always a busy month around the house. There is of course Mother's Day which is a fairly large celebration given the size of the family. They all make an effort to either be here in person or call and talk to Trina to remind her how much she is loved. Ashley and Mallorie both have birthdays this month within two days of each other so that is a constant party. Add to that James birthday which is five days later and then Teigan whose birthday is three days after James and the entire month is one giant party filled with cake and balloons.

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June

With the arrival of June, Jeff and Trina flew to Idaho for a much-needed vacation. As soon as they landed, they drove to Montana to surprise Ashley and her family. They spent several days in Montana mostly freezing but having a blast with Cole and Lily. Jeff then took Trina to Yellowstone Park where they went on their honeymoon. There were a lot of memories and a few sore muscles from all the hiking they did. After returning from Idaho, Jeff took Trina to the Diamondbacks game to celebrate their 40th Anniversary. The Diamondbacks celebrated with them with seats above the dugout and they were featured on the JumboTron. Jeff thought it was the perfect anniversary, not sure Trina agrees with him.

July

July started with celebrating Independence Day. In Arizona the Fourth of July is so much different than what it was in Idaho. Daytime temperatures are over 110° and even the nighttime temperatures were barely under 100°. Everyone came over to celebrate with a swimming pool party followed by dinner and neighborhood fireworks. Dakota is working this year in Utah for the Utah County Wildland Fire Department. He is travelling around the western United States fighting wildland fires. He loves the work, but Jeff and Trina are extremely nervous for him and praying he stays safe. July ended with kids going back to school. Trina is watching Ryker for one final school year before he is old enough to go to kindergarten in 2022.

August

August was spent getting back into a routine of working, watching kids, and the school year. Trina is running a pre-school for Ryker trying to get him ready for next year. It's cute, Ryker calls it "Grandma School". Mallorie always asks him how was his day at "Grandma School". Most days he says good but he has a classmate named Jeff that rarely goes to class. It seems Jeff is too busy at work and is missing school. This will probably be a problem for Jeff as the school year progresses.

September

September is always exciting for Jeff as that is when all the new Apple gear comes out. He always has a wish list for the new technology that is coming out. This year in addition to getting a new iPhone he also got a new iPad, so Christmas has come early for him. As the month ended, so did the baseball season. The Diamondbacks did not have a very good season, but Jeff doesn't seem to care as long as he is at the ballpark, he is happy. With September came cooler temperatures meaning Jeff and Trina survived another brutal Arizona summer. They seem to be getting longer and hotter every year.

October

In October Jeff and Trina flew to Idaho again. This time was for a much more solemn occasion. Trina's uncle Clyde passed away. He was always a favorite of the family and he will be missed. Dakota drove up from Utah to attend the funeral with Jeff and Trina. Ashley came down to visit from Montana so it turned into a mini reunion of sorts. Whitney flew to Provo to visit Dakota at school. They have always been very close and Dakota made sure his sister had a great time carving pumpkins and engaging in fun fall activities. She got back just in time for Halloween. Jeff took the grandkids down to Chase Field for Trick-or-Suite with the Diamondbacks where kids could dress up in their costumes and trick-or-treat throughout the stadium. Everyone had a great time at the ballpark.

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November

November started out with the family attending the Mesa Temple Open House. The temple has been closed for over three years as they remodeled it. They held an open house so people could see the interior before it was rededicated. Jeff had fun showing the grandkids around the temple and talking about the architecture and the artwork within. Mallorie had foot surgery this month and was limited to being able to do anything. Trina and Whitney helped her as they could running kids around. Syrell is now playing basketball and Ryker is once again playing soccer. As Thanksgiving arrived, Dakota came down and brought his girlfriend Brinley Allen to meet the family. It appears that this may be the beginning of something more serious, only time will tell. As the year ended, Margie came to Arizona and stayed with Jeff and Trina for a week. It was so much fun having her around and everyone made sure she experienced all that Arizona had to offer during the holiday season.

December

December has become a month that the family dreads. Last year during December Jeff's dad fell and broke his back landing him in the hospital. This year Jeff and Trina tried to warn him to be careful but that didn't really work out. Almost exactly to the day, he fell, and this time broke his leg. An ambulance was called, and he was again taken to the hospital requiring surgery on his leg. He was in the hospital for several days then transferred to a rehab center that he will stay in for the remainder of December and all of January. The same day as the accident, Dakota proposed to Brinley. They are now engaged and are planning a spring wedding in Utah. It looks like our family will be growing and everyone is excited to welcome Brinley with open arms.

Looking back at all these memories warms my heart. All these experiences both good and bad have helped us to grow into who we are today. I cannot express how much joy we have experienced these past twelve months and how much we have learned from the sorrow and the struggles we have faced. I am looking forward to what 2022 holds ahead for us and I pray that we will be able to share those experiences with friends and family. For what would the journey be if we could not share it with others. May the Lord bless each and every one of you and guide you to become the best person you can be.

Jeff, Trina, Whitney & Dakota