

# Summers Scrapbook 2022

---

**T**he calendar is quickly moving forward and it feels like we are racing against time. It seems as though we were just at this computer keyboard recounting the activities of 2021 and yet here we are another year older doing the same thing. I believe this is why it is so important for us to stop once in a while and assess our lives and give thanks for what we have given. Mortality is such a blessing, and we are only a part of this world for such a short period of time.

I invite you to stop and disengage from the hectic life around you and pull up a comfortable seat along with a warm beverage and follow along as we catch up and reminisce about all we have done in 2022. Space is so short to include all we have seen or done in this past year. We encourage you to reach out and share with us what you have been doing. It's incredible how much we can fit into a short twelve-month window.

## January

As the new year began the family celebrated together not just on January first but also the second when Whitney celebrated her 28<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jeff's dad was still recovering from his injured leg and was in the rehab center most of the month. When he was released, Jeff's dad moved in temporarily until he could complete his physical and occupational therapy. It was such a joy to have him here. Ryker was especially excited to have Great Grandpa around each day. The month ended with Mallorie and her family all contracting COVID. Thankfully they all came through it without severe symptoms. Only Teigan was spared, she never did test positive.

## February

February has been an incredibly busy week. Jeff's dad was finally cleared to return to his condo in Phoenix after his accident in December. It was quite a challenge. He was extremely happy to be back at his condo and promised no more falls or breaks. Jeff was busy at work with an audit that started last November. They have deliverables throughout the year, so he is very busy. Normally Spring Training starts this month but was delayed due to the MLB lockout. Jeff is pacing waiting for baseball to start. Syrell is playing basketball again and doing extremely well. Ryker is playing soccer. Jeff, Trina, and Whitney are busy every weekend going to sporting events.

## March

March saw a lot of activity for the entire family. When the month began, the family was headed to Utah to attend the wedding of Dakota and Brinley Allen. It was an incredible experience; they were married in the Payson Utah temple. The day started with a bit of rain and by the time the reception was over that night the rain had turned into a snowstorm. After a quick trip to Utah, it was back to Arizona to prepare for an open house. It was great having family and friends come over to celebrate Dakota's big event. MLB resolved their labor dispute and Jeff was excited to be back at the ballpark for an abbreviated Spring Training.

## April

With the shortened Spring Training schedule, baseball was back. The first week of the season had been cancelled but those games were rescheduled for the end of the season. Opening Day came a week late, but Jeff didn't seem to mind. He and Trina attended the first game of the season at Chase Field with no social distancing and no attendance restrictions. It was beginning to feel a little bit normal again. The family



# Summers Scrapbook 2022

celebrated Easter together. Jeff and Trina had their annual egg hunt throughout the house and in the backyard. The grandkids had a blast looking for eggs and eating way too much chocolate and candy. This month saw Jeff return to the office for the first time since he started at Bank of the West two years ago. He worked for a week there but thankfully returned to remote work shortly after that.

## May

May was another month filled with activity. Syrell's basketball season finished. Her team struggled but she really progressed and loves playing. Ryker's soccer season also ended. With temperatures rising it is beginning to be too hot for the kids to be playing soccer. Ashley and Mallorie both celebrated their birthdays this month followed five days later with James's birthday and ending with Teigan's birthday at the end of the month. The month ended with school letting out for the summer. Cole graduated from kindergarten in Montana. Jeff and Trina followed his graduation ceremony online, one of the positive things that resulted from the pandemic and distance learning. Trina held her own graduation ceremony for Ryker. He graduated "Grandma School" which he refers to Trina watching him. Starting this fall, he goes to school. Jeff and Trina created a cap and gown for him and made him a diploma. Trina shed many tears, more than she did when Dakota went to school. This is the end of an era. Ryker was telling Mallorie about graduation and said his classmate Jeff did not graduate. He missed too many days of "Grandma School" and would have to attend summer school to graduate.

## June

June began with Syrell attending WNBA Basketball Camp. She had a blast and learned a lot. Jeff and Trina flew to Idaho to get Jeff's dad settled for the summer. He is back in Idaho Falls where he will spend the summer months before returning to Arizona in the fall when temperatures cool off. Jeff attended Apple's Worldwide Developer's Conference (WWDC) which was remote again this year. He has been working on iOS application development and has several apps in progress. Trina is his primary software testing resource. After several months, Whitney bought a new car. She bought a Chevrolet Trailblazer. She has been searching for nearly a year and finally found one and bought it. This is her first major purchase as an adult. Brinley and Dakota came down from Utah and Jeff took Brinley to her first baseball game. It was a lot of fun having them here even if just for a visit. Dakota is once again working as a wildland fire fighter this summer.

## July

As July started Jeff, Trina, and Whitney attended the premiere of the movie Thor Love and Thunder at AMC theaters. James normally goes with them but was unable to attend this one. A few short days later, Jeff wasn't feeling very well. This got progressively worse. After a COVID test revealed, he was positive. With his asthma, COVID hit him very hard, and he was sick for several weeks. Even now there are days where his oxygen levels remain low. Trina and Whitney cared for Jeff while he was sick and quarantined upstairs locked away from everyone else. Trina also tested positive, but it did not hit her nearly as hard as it did Jeff. Fortunately, Whitney never did test positive. As the month ended, Trina once again flew to Idaho where she spent a week with her mother while her sisters attended a family reunion in Nauvoo. Dakota is on tour with the wildland firefighters. He is stationed in California for one of the many fires they are having there. Everyone worries about him but he seems to enjoy the work and he is making enough money to pay for his and Brinley's schooling.



# Summers Scrapbook 2022

---

## August

Trina returned from Idaho the first week in August just in time for Ryker's fifth birthday party. The kids all started school. Ryker is in kindergarten, Teigan is in the second grade. Syrell starts the fourth grade this year. They are all very excited to be at a new school this year that is closer to their house. With Jeff being down with COVID for several weeks, he has missed a lot of baseball which is almost worse than being sick. He is making everyone crazy whining about not being at the ballpark. This month Syrell is starting back up with basketball. Teigan is starting with a volleyball team. She has been doing gymnastics but wanted to try something where she could get a medal or a trophy which sounds very much like Mallorie when she was that age.

## September

September has been filled with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows that have been experienced this year. The month started with Jeff and Trina taking Syrell, Teigan, and Ryker to an Arizona Diamondbacks game. James and Mallorie are in Orlando, so Trina is staying with the kids. The kids had a blast at the game and were featured on the JumboTron several times. Syrell is now playing club basketball which is a lot more competitive than the leagues she has played on before. Ryker is back playing soccer and is really starting to get the hang of things and playing very well. Teigan is playing volleyball and Trina is helping to coach the team which Teigan loves. Whitney went on vacation this month to London. She has a roommate from college who lives there so Whitney, and her friend Juice went to visit. Their London trip occurred shortly after Queen Elizabeth II passed away, so it was a very interesting time to be in Great Britain. Syrell had an accident at school falling from the monkey bars and breaking her right arm in two places. She had to have surgery where the doctors inserted pins and rods into her arm. The month ended with a near fire in the garage where an outlet overheated and melted. Jeff found it just in time to avert a disaster.

## October

With the labor stoppage in Major League Baseball early in the year, the end of the season was extended an extra week. That means a little more baseball for Jeff before the long off-season. The Diamondbacks played well but once again missed the playoffs. Whitney has become quite a soccer fan and has spent a lot of her time following the Phoenix Rising Football Club. Their final game occurred in October and Whitney took Jeff and Trina to the final match. It was a lot of fun for everyone even if it did rain most of the game. Jeff's dad returned from Idaho to spend the winter in Arizona. He arrived not a moment too soon. The day after he left Idaho Falls it started to snow. Everyone is hoping that this year he won't have an accident like he has the previous two years. The month ended with Halloween festivities. Syrell, Teigan, and Ryker had a school carnival that everyone attended. The Arizona Diamondbacks again held their Trick-or-Suite where the kids dressed up in costumes and trick-or-treated to each of the suites at Chase Field. The team also had a costume contest for the kids. Wrigley took second place in her age group with her Blues Clues costume.

## November

November was spent at the various sports venues throughout the valley. Jeff had purchased season tickets to the Arizona Fall League so he is dragging Trina to as many games as she can stand extending baseball as long as possible. Ryker is playing soccer and his team is doing extremely well. He even had one game where he scored three goals in a game. With each one he would run over to Jeff to make sure that grandpa



# Summers Scrapbook 2022

got a picture of his goal. Syrell has been sidelined from basketball due to her arm being in a cast and with the rods remaining in her arm for another several months as the bones try to heal. Teigan's volleyball season came to an end. The team had not won a game let alone a match throughout the season until the final week. When tournament came, the kids finally got a handle on things and ended up taking third place shocking the entire league. Thanksgiving this year was a smaller event. Dakota and Brinley celebrated it in Utah. Ashley, Aaron and the kids have gone to Thailand for three weeks on an extended vacation. Jeff still insisted on cooking two turkeys and everyone enjoyed being together. As the month ended, Jeff was busy decorating the outside of the house in Christmas decorations.

## December

December began with Trina once again on a plane heading to Idaho. She spent the first week of the month in Idaho Falls with her sisters and her mother. Margie's birthday was on December 7<sup>th</sup> and she turned 94 years old. Jeff and Whitney stayed home. Jeff took an active role in decorating the interior of the house which normally falls to Trina and Whitney. Upon Trina's return, the focus turned to getting ready for Christmas. The presents are being wrapped and hidden under the tree. The number of gifts are again overflowing to a point that the Christmas train is going through canyons and tunnels of presents to make its way around the tree. Dakota and Brinley will be coming down for Christmas and are to arrive just a couple of days before Christmas. The house is filled with the smells of cookies and treats as Trina and Whitney make their favorites to share with family and friends.

After stepping back and reviewing the previous twelve months, I am in awe of all that we have experienced. We have at times found extreme joy and happiness followed by some of the deepest sorrows and trials. Through both we have relied on and shared with those we love including family and friends. We are so very grateful to have those around us to share in our journey. For without traveling companions we would never experience life. It has been a blessing to have people provide service to us and it is with a full heart that we serve others. We are looking forward to 2023 which is just around the corner. Looking ahead there are experiences we are looking forward to but there are also unknowns that provide us with the ability to adapt and grow. We invite you to join us on this path and share your experiences with us. In the meantime, it is our prayer that you may be kept safe and watched over during this holiday season and throughout the year. May the Lord bless you and your family and may angels sing your praises throughout your life.

*Jeff, Trina, & Whitney*