

B THE BRYANT REPORT

2019

The Year of the River Rats



*Ned and Madeleine
Owning the Colorado River Rapids*

Heidi

2019 was a bit slower than 2018. Plenty of work, very little travel, and quite a bit of performing. In December, I participated in community musical theatre for the first time in almost 40 years. Our friend Ruth Bures wrote a couple of one-act musicals and asked me to play flute with her husband Frank on clarinet. (Of course, I also designed the poster and program – it's one-stop shopping with me!) My flute lessons have continued and I am quite surprised by how much progress I am making. It's amazing what a great and motivating teacher can do. Thanks, Rachel!

In October, we took a quick trip to Arizona to visit with Maddy and James and many friends. We also got to spend some time with James' lovely sister Kate.



Checking out a new eatery in Flagstaff with Kate, James, and Madeleine.

A couple of river rats on display as part of James' downtown photography exhibit.



Winter

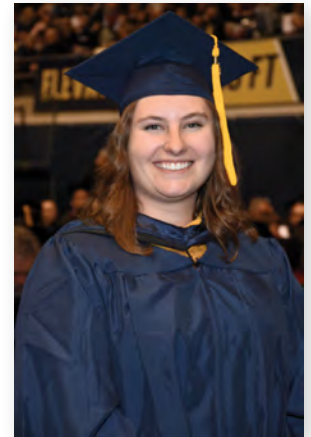
The winter of 2019 was rough on anyone who owned a shovel or really, really wanted to go outside.



Madeleine

Graduation In December, just after the last issue of the Bryant Report, Maddy graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Masters in Geographic Information Science (GIS).

New Job And . . . Maddy is now the Design Review Coordinator at Flagstaff Ranch. The Ranch is a gated golf course community, so a little bit different from REI, but they needed someone to work between the buyer, the builder, and the architect to insure that the rules of Flagstaff Ranch were followed to the letter. So far, she loves her new job and they love her too!



Maybe her folks were a little bit proud.

Maddy's new "backyard" at work.



Kinsey Moves to Winona

In May of this year Winona received a new resident, my sister Kinsey. After visiting a couple of times, the charm of Winona—and the low cost of living—convinced Kins to move here. As predicted, she immediately found a job and started to settle into the Winona life. Now she just needs to survive the winter . . . wish her luck!



Jack

Grad School Now in his second year, Jack is researching the development of new plastics for additive manufacturing in the DREAMS (Design Research and Education for Additive Manufacturing Systems) Lab at Virginia Tech (link to bio: dreams.mii.vt.edu/people/graduate-students/jack-bryant.html).

Jack is on the executive board of the Macro Student Council and the Society of Plastics Engineers chapter at VT. He is working to publish his first journal article in 2020. In March, he joined his dad in Detroit for ANTEC. And still finds time to perform.



AS SEEN ON TV: Jack, Kinsey, James, and Maddy at a Minnesota Wild game in January.



Jack performing in his experimental guitar show.

Visits

January We had a great time with Kinsey, Jack, Maddy, and James when they visited Winona in January. One of the goals was to show Kinsey what Winona is like in the winter. Of course, the weather played a joke on her and was very mild, tricking her into believing winter isn't so bad around here. Oops!

Germany After their Winona trip, Madeleine and James flew from Minnesota to Germany to visit his family. This was Maddy's first intercontinental trip. (She visited England twice as a child.) The trip coincided with a business trip for Ned who spoiled them with German beer and Heidi's favorite — Killepitsch!

Family Ned's folks visited us in September. We had a great time sharing some of our favorite spots in Winona with Howard and Jane.



James, Maddy, and Ned in Düsseldorf



NED BRYANT

GC River Trip I was quite surprised when, in February, I won a 21 day Grand Canyon private river trip permit . . . launching in April! Most immediately, I cleared it with work and then it was time to figure out the other 7 people. Eventually we found three other actual river people and the trip was on. Since I had no whitewater rafting experience, it was a real education to captain a boat through the entire Grand Canyon, but that's what I did. A shout out to Tom Martin for convincing me I could! The trip itself went perfectly, no boats flipped, no one was ejected from a boat, no one was hurt, and everyone got along well for the whole trip. This was a great experience and a very different way to experience the Grand Canyon, very different from hiking.

House Painted After 12 years it was time to paint the house a second time. Note that it is pretty challenging to change a house's trim from dark brown to a light cream color, without painting it twice, so this project required a lot of high wire nerves to get the peaks painted. Just the same, the result is fantastic!

And back in February, I set a new record for my 20 minute walk to work: -31°F is now the new low in Winona commuting, but who knows what this winter may bring!



My trusty 28' ladder



The house is very pretty now!

And Finally . . . River Rats!





T.R.

After 19 years the Titanium Ranger was finally at his end. Nearly blind and with his hips barely working it was clearly time to make a decision. He had a great life with his boy Jack.

THE BRYANT REPORT

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