

# Happy Happenings

## Sorensens

Hello family, we are all doing well. The kids are sure looking forward to Summer break, which we all are. Rix gets pretty lonely with everyone gone all day so it will be good for him to have his friends home. We are winding up the school year with music performances. Broox and Dixon had one, and Jaxon had a piano concert. He has taken a piano class this year, but where it is an hour a day he never has to practice at home, so I really had no idea what we were in for. I was pleasantly surprised, he did a very good job.

We have our first two rodeos May 21, and May 28 so we are trying to get ready for those. It has been pretty cold and windy, so we don't ride as much as we should .

We got 27 baby chickens so we can have eggs in our food storage. So far they have all lived, but that can change quickly if someone forgets to close a door. It has happened several times.

We are looking forward to seeing you in California- well looking forward to being there, not the drive. We weren't really planning on going but one day Dixon came home from school talking about this really cool place where you can go see dolphins and whales, and on and on. I figured it would be worth the effort and money for him to experience it since he was only about a month old last time we went, and I know we will never go on our own.

Other than that not much else is new. I hope you are all doing well, Lana

## Coons

We love spring in AZ because the weather is nice and you forget how summer vaporizes your sweat leaving you with salt skin. In February Hannah finished Cross Country and really did a great job. I went on a field trip with Caleb. We hiked up to the Wind Caves at Usery Pass. His teacher must have thought his hip would slow him down and put us with a group that had ... well, a few problems (anxiety, fear of heights, weight, heart pain, many falls and scrapes, and general hard times hiking). We ended up being the VERY last group in the whole second grade, which was quite frustrating to Caleb who had NO problems with his hip (thank goodness!!). Fun, fun!



Aubrey and her friend, Caroline, were in the Science Fair. They made crystals from borax and experimented to see how different temperatures made the crystals grow differently. She also went on a field trip to the Grand Canyon.



We did a fun project with our friends, the Housleys. We made "scratch boards" for the School for Blind Children in Mesa. It's a clipboard and you glue things on it that sound or feel cool, like beads, bells, ribbons, lace, small toys, different textured fabrics, etc. It was fun and helped us think about how grateful we are to be able to see.

Todd took a decision analysis class at Stanford in March. He can now pick out his own socks in the morning. The up-side from the class was that we had the chance to vacation in San Francisco while he was in class. It was Spring Break for the kids and we couldn't pass up the free hotel. We really enjoyed seeing San Francisco from the top of Twin Peaks. What a great view! I took the kids to the Oakland temple and the Science Center at Berkeley. We took a ferry to Alcatraz and did an audio tour of the jail cells. They talked about the island and different people who were in Alcatraz and it was very interesting. When Todd finished his class we all went over the Golden Gate Bridge to Muir Woods to see the redwoods and to the beach. It was super chilly but Caleb and Aubrey still ended up getting in the ocean - fully dressed! Fun vacation!

While I was in the Mesa temple with a friend, someone broke the window of our van and took my iPod nano and my friend's wallet. They left the Book of Mormon that was in plain sight! Priorities!

We enjoyed seeing many of you in April at Cory's open house. 24 hours of driving in 4 days was, well, not the best part of the trip. However, we did love getting the chance to make a snowman at Gma and Gpa's house, have a snowball fight in Flagstaff, and to see the Carl Bloch exhibit at BYU. The open house was very nice and we are glad we got to see everyone who was there. We need to invest in big oil companies to get some of our money back from all of these trips.

I have been going to the YMCA to work out and taking friends. So far, most of my friends feel the pain the next day and haven't been repeat attenders.

Brittney took a nonmember friend to the Easter Pageant that they do at the Mesa temple on the lawn every year. It's quite a production and something we always enjoy.

Brittney and I helped out with the choir car was and made \$500! We had fun and it was a great success. This weekend we are having a bonfire/BBQ at our house for the choir (60 people).

At our ward's annual Foot Rodeo (meaning that most things can be done on foot with no horses), it became very clear why Todd works at Intel and not in Wyoming. We were volunteered to "dress a calf" in big panties with one other couple from the Elder's Quorum. They saved a big, rowdy calf for us, and after being drug, mucked and stomped on in the arena, Todd has a lot more appreciation for the skills ranchers have in handling cows. It is entertaining to watch on youtube over and over again. Check it out at <http://youtu.be/X-2M3OsGt1k> if you haven't already. We feel blessed to have walked away from it with minimal injuries. The kids enjoyed the wheelbarrow race, three-legged race, and lots of other events. And Todd won the chili cook-off for the third year in a row! They even have different judges every year. They kind of asked us not to have his chili judged next year to give someone else the chance to win. Okay!

We are counting down the days until Brittney's 16th birthday. Then we will start counting down the days until Todd's 8 week sabbatical starts! It starts the day after Memorial Day so he'll be off work almost all summer.



We sure love you all and are so glad to be part of this family.

We'll see most of you in San Diego!

## Wilson

Well, hello from sunny Rexburg. For those of you who have lived here but no longer make pilgrimages back we will let you know that it has not turned tropical since you left. We have had a few warm days this last week but winter sure does not want to give up on us. Leslie and I are sitting here by ourselves again. This isn't our first stint as empty nesters since Jeff was at BYU last year. However, this time it does feel much more permanent. We do have a little of a routine going and the talk over dinner isn't always about the kids.

Of course our big event was dropping Jeff off at the MTC on 4 May. That is somewhat historic since I left in May of 1979. It sure isn't the event it used to be with the meeting and then the missionaries going out one door and parents going out the other one. The curb drop off is a lot less touching. They have some elders posted to help them with their bags and so you just say your goodbyes and watch them walk away. I guess by time Jaxon leaves they will just slow down a bit and shove him out the door. Since he has been there we have gotten a few emails and he is doing great. They moved him from beginning to intermediate Spanish and so he had to change companions. He is loving the work and looking forward to going to the Dominican Republic. In talking to him it looks like he is not just having to learn Spanish but Dominicans speak something altogether different. They slur and combine a lot of words and drop the S's from everything. They say Dominicans can understand other Spanish speakers but no one can understand them. I'm just glad it's him and not me. It took me a year and a half to get y'all down.

We have some big news with Rich. He has been in Fort Sill Oklahoma going to the captains field artillery course and when they tallied up everybody's scores on tests and looked at the physical fitness and other scores Rich was Number 1 so he was the Honor Graduate. He left Fort Sill after graduation and just pulled into Fort Lewis Washington yesterday. He will be in the Fires Brigade and will be heading back to Afghanistan in October for another year deployment. He is excited to be going back but Leslie and I would have been fine with him staying around for a while longer. Since I am going back to Fort Lewis this summer I will get to spend some time with him.

Brianna is now a senior companion and working hard to get used to the added responsibility. When we talked to her on Mother's Day I told her about a companion I had who never wanted to have to be a senior companion so he made sure he never memorized his scripture or discussions so he could stay a happy junior. That was



not altogether a bad idea but I'm sure he missed out on some growth that comes from the added responsibility.

Our family has been in a deep state of mourning. Amy and Tyler's little dog Fedor has gone on to the big doghouse in the sky. They adopted him when he was already old and only had him for about six months when his kidneys failed. We didn't know much about his background but we are glad he had a good last six months.

Leslie and I are finding plenty of ways to stay busy. I am already doing some fishing. So far this year has not been good since we had so much snow the runoff is very high. I have also helped the Trout Unlimited Club with some conservation projects. We built a bunch of Fence along some Salmon River tributaries to keep the cows off so the Salmon and steelhead can have suitable spawning habitat. We also took a day to pick up trash along the Snake River. Leslie is still spending some time in the gym. She also tutors some kids in math and cooks dinner from a family with eight kids who's mother is nervous breakdown material. She has me working to get our garden spot ready for her to plant. The garden is pretty much her baby since I am gone for most of the summer.

We are so glad so many of you made it to Jeff's farewell. It was a bit of a shock having so many folks around and now just the two of us. We hope all is well with everyone and hope to see you all soon.



## Mom & Lynn

Busy, Busy, Busy! And aren't we glad? YES! Nearly every day I say to Lynn, "We are SO blessed!" We have a wonderful family and we love each one so very much. We have the love and companionship of each other—something we treasure more each day. We have a wonderful, caring ward, a great place to live, a cabin on a creek, a great truck

(insider joke for those who benefit by it) -- all the material comforts we ever dreamed of. We have the gospel and our testimonies of its truthfulness. We live in a great nation (not perfect) and have freedoms we treasure. I am so healthy and strong and Lynn is a lot better than he was earlier this year! YEA! (Well, I don't really say all that every day.)

I finished the 3 family history classes I had going and feel very pleased with the way they went. Of course I'm still on call and help ward members quite often. Plus I work in the Lehi Family History Center once a week and the Eagle Mountain, Saratoga Springs FHC twice a month. I love it and I'm trying to improve my skills. I am especially grateful that, at 72 years old (almost) I am able to be of service in such an important work. I feel that I have been given a gift and that I'm upheld by Heavenly Father to be able to accomplish it!

Lynn is able to work in the Temple every week! Isn't that a wonderful blessing! He comes home pretty tired but very satisfied and rewarded. He often mentions that he sees friends from the past and usually recognizes them and knows their names! He is such a great blessing in my life and I pray for many more years together.

So, that's how it goes with us. February: Lynn had both cataracts removed and should be seeing quite a bit better. But, he struggles with the new glasses and still isn't very satisfied with the whole thing. Lisa's Birthday celebration was so good. First Lynn and I, Leslie, Laura and LaBretta took Lisa to the Mongolian Grill for lunch. Yum! LaBretta had to work but the rest of us went to the Carl Bloch exhibit—you know, the artist that did so many of the paintings we see in the Ensign. It was an incredible spiritual experience! On Feb 25 we had Cory, LaBretta & friends over for snacks and swimming. Brrrrrrrrrr. It was great.



We are so pleased when we get to visit with you, our family. Family's the best! Just think, in March we were able to travel to Washington to witness the marriage and sealing of LaBretta and Cory and be there to help with the celebration! What a great occasion! We were invited to the Dye's for Tara's birthday and enjoyed that so much. Little Savannah is such a cutie!

April: General Conference was the greatest. We sat in the comfort of our home and feasted on the words of our leaders. We really enjoyed discussing the various insights we gained. On April 3 we celebrated being sealed in the temple for 24 years. Is that amazing?

April 9 we gave Jeff a BD party. Too bad Jaxon couldn't have been here that day for his birthday! The next day we were there to witness Dave bless sweet little Conner. It was really special. Lisa and Steve gave Cory and Labretta such a wonderful open house and we were so glad to have a computer and projector so everyone could enjoy the great slide show Larry did for them. April was also big for Jeff. On April 16 I took him to have Lasik surgery! Cool! I took a boy in who was 'legally blind' and then took him to Walgreen's to get his prescription and heard him exclaim "I can read 'Pharmacy', I can read 'Sale', I can SEE!" He couldn't take contacts to Dominican Republic and his vision was too poor to be corrected with glasses so this was a true blessing! Then, what a wonderful Sacrament Meeting talk he gave. Mary Pierson said, "He sounded more like a returning missionary than some young one just going out!" And so he did! Having 2 missionary grandchildren—from the same family—Amazing!

So here we are at the beginning of May. Will Spring ever come? Or shall we just hope for Summer? Whatever we call it, we look forward to enjoying it with YOU! That is, at least some of the time.

Hopefully, many times! We love you all.



## Jeremy & Tara

We've been really busy the last few months, and if I went into details on all our activities, it would take several pages (for proof, go to [taraandjere-my.blogspot.com](http://taraandjere-my.blogspot.com)). Since you all probably don't want to hear every detail, we'll give the brief rundown.

February:

-We tried to go to the Bullion Canyon driving tour, but it was too snowy, so we ended up hiking for 3.6 instead.

-Tara went to the stake exercise class three times a week and had fun with that.

-I went to a 3-day seminar in Las Vegas, and Tara and Savannah came with me. When we were walking the strip, I was carrying Savannah in the front pack, and I had my coat zipped around her so just her head poked out. Everyone that saw Savannah did a huge double-take and waved or smiled or turned to their neighbor and started taking about us. We took the scenic route home and went to Rogers Warm Springs and Valley of Fire. We also stopped in St George on the way home

and went to the St George Narrows and hiked to the Land Hill Petroglyphs. We also did some shopping at the Outlets.



March:

-We had lots of visitors including Tara's Dad and step Mom. Then my Mom came for a couple days. Then we went to our cabin for the weekend, and while we were there, Tara's Mom decided to make a surprise visit to our home in Richfield. She called us from a gas station in Richfield some time Saturday afternoon. We got her message Saturday evening while I was in the Springville instacare with a broken shoulder blade, and we finally got home late Sunday morning. So how I broke my scapula. I was lying down on my back on a sled going headfirst down a hill. I ran into a tree. It hurt. Yup, lame.

-I went camping with my 11-year-old scouts.

-Tara turned 24.

-Zac, Tara, and I went to the festival of colors in Spanish Fork.

Savannah learned how to push herself up to sitting.



April

-I attended a conference in St George. Tara had a volleyball game, so she stayed home. While I was there, I did some hiking and visited my mission president.

-Savannah learned how to crawl.

-We went to a stake dodge ball activity. Man was I sore afterward.

-We paved our own hiking trail up a canyon near our house.

-We went with two families in our ward to Monrovia Park and roasted hot dogs and marshmallows over a campfire.

-Savannah learned how to pull herself to standing.

-We started building shelves for Savannah's room. There are 12 total pieces in the shape of pentominos that stack together in lots of different combinations kind of like tetris blocks.

-We went yard-sale-ing with my family and found lots of good treasures.

-I got called to be Elders Quorum president.

-We spent a Saturday in Capitol Reef National Park and hiked to Cassidy Arch and to Hickman Bridge.

May

Savannah got her first tooth.

-Dad, Mom, Ondylyn, and Zachary spent Friday, Saturday, and part of Sunday with us. We went to Fremont Indian State Park and did some small hikes to see the petroglyphs.

-Then we went to Bullion Canyon, and the boys stayed for fathers and sons while the girls had girls night. Saturday morning, we packed up camp and picked up the girls on our way to Lower Calf Creek Falls near Boulder, UT.

We completed the 6-mile hike in about 5 hours, and it was a lot of fun. We highly recommend it to anyone in the area.





## Burnetts

Meg has really had fun with soccer and is getting really good. Her indoor soccer team won the championship. She just finished her spring outdoor season.

Landon had his 10th birthday. We went to a climbing gym and out for Chinese food (his choice.) He wanted donuts for his classmates so I took a few dozen and he had fun handing them out. Landon is playing baseball. Well at least he's on a team; we've had so much rain that quite a few games have been rained out. He enjoys baseball and does well. His cub scout pack had a pinewood derby and he, Thayne and Meg all made cars for the race, but none of them did too well!

Thayne and I went for an overnight campout at our stake camp. He spent the evening digging out a nice snow cave with some other boys but when it came time to sleep the cold caused him to have an asthma attack and he had to sleep inside the lodge. Thayne had fun with a 3 on 3 soccer tournament. He played on a co-ed team and they went to the championship game but lost there. He also had fun with his outdoor team and they won all but one game for their spring season. Thayne helped me rebuild the engine in our little yellow 4-wheeler. We've had that for years and it finally wore out and needed some work.

Tanner was home with us for a while but had some more problems and is now living with a proctor family in Provo. He enjoys it there and is doing well. He and I were able to go camping and to a hunt test with our dogs.

Cason is doing well with his job and goes camping with his friends most weekends.

Kelly continues to enjoy her indoor soccer. She's busy getting ready for the annual stake Laurel Legacy camp she's involved in.



Our ward basketball team did well in region play. I still play a couple of mornings each week and have fun with that. So far the body is holding up to it but I certainly feel it more than I used to! We finished our annual ward conferences where we visit and teach the young men in each ward. We enjoyed general conference. Thayne and I went to the priesthood session and out to eat after. We've been doing conference bingo and that really helps the kids pay attention to the talks. I've been able to get out on the mountain bike a few times between rain storms. We went to the city Easter egg hunt. It was very funny. It was just set up in the grass at a big park with ropes around the boundaries. Once they said go it was all over in about 15 seconds! We really enjoyed our trip to Rexburg for Jeff's church talk and were also able to visit with Kelly's sister in Idaho Falls. Our ward had a father and sons overnighter. Thayne, Landon and I went and had a good time. We took the dogs and they entertained all the kids with their retrieving. When we got home the next day the dogs just crashed and slept the rest of the day.

