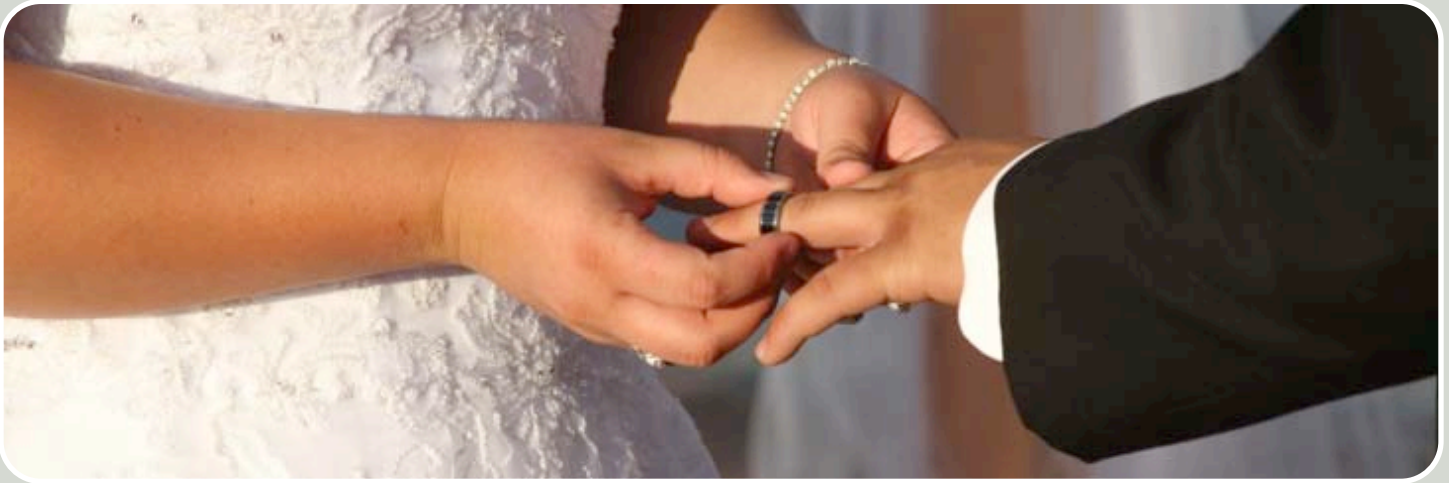


HAPPY HAPPENINGS



ANTHONY AND ARIANNE DYE FAMILY

Hello Family! It's been a very busy few months for Arianne and I. We got married at Lake Powell, and had our reception in Mapleton. Thank you so much for your support and help. We loved seeing you there and feeling your love.

Our honeymoon was a cruise from Long Beach CA, stopping in Catalina Island and Ensenada Mexico, then returning back to Long Beach. Everything was really fun. We went kayaking with sharks, boating in a pod of over 100 dolphins, horseback riding, petted a baby tiger, visited "La Bufadora" (a blowhole that shoots

80 feet in the air) and of course, Mexican bargain shopping.

We live in Provo and are very happy to be together. Our new address is:

1049 N. 1880 W.
Provo Ut, 84604

Arianne has worked as a preschool teacher at a daycare in Mapleton for several years and has been going to school for her early childhood development teaching degree. Her teachers were so impressed by her that they are using her lesson plans as a teaching example for their future students. They used their



OUR RECEPTION



contacts to get her (more like begged her) a job at Orem Elementary School as a preschool teacher where she now works in addition to her first job. Her coworkers and children love and admire her, and it seems like she really likes it there.

I've been working as a carpenter and I'm nearing the necessary hour requirement to getting my own license. I

already own my own tools and do small jobs on the side. I'm getting very excited for snowboarding, snowmobiling, and winter time cabin parties, and hope to be able to learn a few new tricks this year.

Here's a few pictures of our shindig. We love you all and are excited for the next time we get to hang out!



OUR HONEYMOON



Our wedding at
Lake Powell



FAMILY REUNION



Rix, Dixon, Meg, Caleb, Broox, Landon, Aubrey, Jancy, Thayne, Hannah, Jaxon, Brittney, Zac, Brianna, Ari, Anthony's leg



Jaron's arm, Tara, Amy, Jeremy, Dax, Lana, Aaron, Todd, Loreen, Lawson, Laura, Savannah, Leslie, Greg, Gma, Gpa

Those who were at the reunion but not in one of these pictures: Kelly, Tanner, Anthony & Jaron (mostly), Tiffany, Drew, Braelyn. We missed the Piersons, Burnetts and others who weren't able to come!

Loreen & Lana pigging out



Brittney & Hannah doing Gma's toes



RAFTING THE RIVER



WILSONS, SORENSENS & GMA



BURNETTS AND DYES



COONS, SORENSENS & BURNETTS

Bar
J



HANNAH, JANCY, AUBREY, GREG

JENNY LAKE



SAVANNAH, LAURA, BRITTNEY, JAXON



**AUBREY, CALEB, BROOX, RIX
WAITING FOR THE FERRY**



CALEB, RIX, BROOX, DIXON



GMA MADE IT TO HIDDEN FALLS!



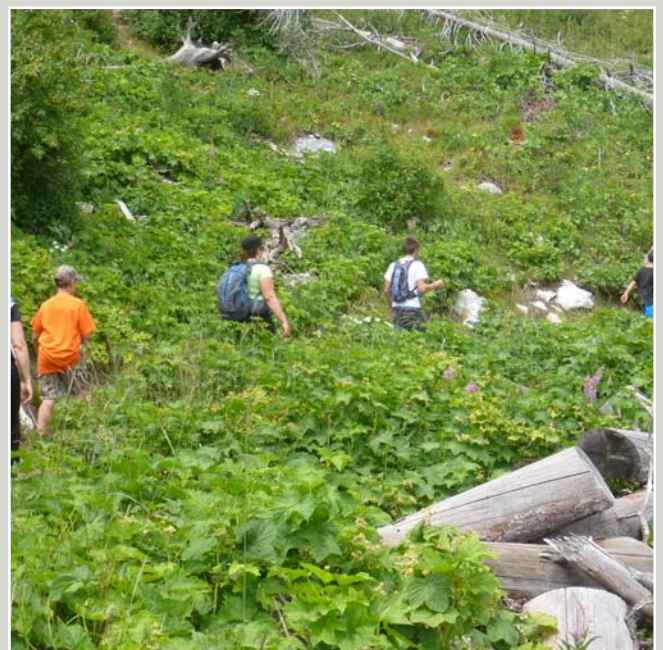
COONS FAMILY



DYES AND WILSONS



Grandpa, Todd, Jancy, Lana



I can't tell who this is so I hope you know who you are.

HANGING OUT AT TETON VALLEY CABINS



Landon, Drew, Rix, Caleb, Jeremy, Tara, Dixon, Lawson



Jaron, Thayne, Anthony, Meg, Zac, Tanner



Kelly was so nice to do our toenails!



Beach Volleyball



**Drew, Tiffany, Braelyn, Hannah,
Brittney, Greg, Laura**



THE BURNETT'S

The Arizona Burnett's are doing OK, and want you all to know how much we appreciate the notes, calls, thoughts, and prayers. We are counting down the days until Jill's treatment ends, then planning a long vacation! Jill gets to pick anywhere she wants to go - so we will let you know what her final decision is. As you all read from her note last week, the treatment is long and painful, but she is hanging in there. She said this week - there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but it still seems like a long way away. This third drug in the sequence is easier for her, but still has some major side effects. 2 more treatments, one on December 6th, and the last one on December 27th, then she will go in a monitoring mode for the next

several years. She has been able to watch Braelyn occasionally, has been to the school to volunteer a couple of times, gets outside to walk as much as she can, but is still limited in what she can do.

Larry's job continues to go well - just as much travel, and Obamacare has given us more business than we can handle. This is a good time to be in this line of work, so we will see how it works out over the next few years. We continue to enjoy living here, and are working on our back yard - we have added a raised flower bed, a new pool fence, stone benches, and are currently working on a new outdoor cooking area and built in fire pit. When you get cold, come and visit us, the weather is perfect. Our winter garden is coming in, and we will be eating fresh vegetables this week!

THE BURNETTS, CONT.

We have had a fun month from helping Loreen and Todd remove their old roof, to going to the zoo with Tiffany, Drew, Braelyn, Katelyn and Derek, Halloween, and are looking forward to Heather and Jon's new baby soon. We are planning on running in the Turkey trot again this week, and are looking forward to Thanksgiving. I have had 2 cardiac ablation procedures over the past couple of months that have gone well - one more to come on December 17th. I had 3 different abnormal cardiac rhythms, 2 of them are now fixed, with the A-Fib left to go. I also appreciate all of the thoughts and prayers - those procedures have been easy in comparison. Derek and I are planning a half marathon next March, and Jon is training for a tough mudder event.



BRAELYN AT THE PHOENIX ZOO

Hope you are all doing well - we are thinking of all of you during the holidays.

THE PIERSONS

Hello everyone! Time is going by so quickly!! How can it be November already?! We are all doing well. Steve is super busy keeping his company and his ward going. I am having fun being grandma and mom and bishop's wife - always something to keep me busy!!

Jared is well and happy. One of his funny sayings recently was with Conner. Jared asked me if he could hold Conner, who didn't want to be held but let Jared give him a hug. Jared grinned, said how cute Conner was, then asked me if he could "keep him for a pet"!! LaBretta made Jared an awesome Halloween costume this year - a digger!! Jared had on a hard hat and construction worker vest and sat in his "digger" wheelchair. Cory pushed him around the neighborhood trick-or-treating and Jared loved it! All the neighbors did, too! Everyone knows how much Jared loves diggers!

Christie's family is doing well. Dave got an elk and a deer this fall - and had a great time out in the mountains! Riley is loving his first grade class and is an awesome reader. He also lost his first tooth (Grandpa pulled it for him!).

Ethan goes to preschool twice a week and really enjoys that. He is learning lots and loves to call me on the phone to tell me about it! Conner is so sweet and is learning things so quickly! He says a lot of words and can really let us know what he wants - and how he feels!! Especially if he doesn't like something! We get a kick out of his pout!! Christie loves her boys, but also really loves a little bit of quiet while they are at school!

Jenny is really loving her new house! Maybe not all the chores and fix-up's that have to be done, but we are having a lot of fun decorating and making it her home. We built some rotating can shelves in her storage room. We even laid some sod on a piece of lawn in the front yard - that was a first for me!

Cory is staying real busy with school and work. He hopes to be done here in a year and a half-ish. LaBretta is so excited to be a mom!! The baby is a boy, in case everyone didn't know. She and I have been busy making blankets - several receiving blankets, a crib sized puff quilt, and two other pieced quilts. We are having fun - plus we couldn't have the baby getting cold! Love you all!!

THE SORENSENS



Jaxon's
Elk

One of
our
pumpkins
we donated
to the
school



Dixon
almost
cut off his
finger
skinning a
raccoon



Hello family, We, at the Sorensen house, are doing well. Updates starting with the youngest. Dax just turned 9 months old, and to celebrate he started taking steps. Everyone was so excited when he let go of his high chair and took 2 steps toward us. I, however, am not very excited. For one I'm not ready to have him start walking, and two, he doesn't have enough life experience to be walking. He still is crashing all of the time. All of the kids just love him, and he is never lacking for attention when they are home. I'll have to remind him of that when he gets older and feels like an only child, that he got lots of love and attention when he was younger.

Rix has now lost 2 teeth, and as I write this I remembered that the darn tooth fairy hasn't taken care of the second one. I'll put that on her list. He is doing well in school. He got to go hunting with the boys. They planned a special hunt with him that wasn't too long of a ride, in nice country. They saw some nice deer, and a few elk, but didn't shoot anything.

Dixon's highlight of late would be hunting. I don't understand it much, but he loves it. He is pretty tough and can handle the long rides, cold,

and camp food (which when they pack it, isn't always the best). He is a pretty happy boy, and enjoys school.

Broox started basketball with the school last week. We get to watch his first game on Saturday, I'm sure it will be a good watch. He is very responsible, and gets all of his homework done, even with his busy schedule: leave at 6:50, get home at 6:30, bed at 8:00, and he hasn't gotten grouchy yet.

Jancy is busy with school. She is finding High School is a little harder than Middle School, and has homework every night. She has been trying to get ready for basketball, and will usually go to the shop and practice every night.

Jaxon had a good time hunting, and shot a nice elk. He gave the meat to some friends. He asks to go hunting every weekend, and they have been several times. He is getting ready for basketball too, he has a new coach this year, so hopefully that will be a good thing. He is trying to finish his Eagle- okay, we are trying to get him to finish getting his Eagle, because he is so close, and has a project picked out, and has started getting all of the approvals.

THE SORESENS, CONT.

I got released from Young Womens, kind of a nice break, but I enjoyed my calling. I have been trying to get started on geneology, but haven't ever done it, so things are really slow. It is different trying to keep Dax busy all day. He is a good boy, but kids take a lot of work, time, and energy, the latter of which isn't what it used to be when I was raising the other kids. We had a good garden this summer, and I enjoy watching the kids like the garden. One night before our first hard frost we were out gathering squash and

pumpkings and Rix threw both arms out, leaned back and yelled, "WE ARE HARVESTING". It was pretty cute.

Aaron is really glad to have summer over. It was a good one, but with the new farm he was a little busier than he wanted to be. All of the crops did well, and he is already getting ready for next year. Things with his job have never felt very secure, but the family is disputing again, and has decided to put the Ranch and Farm up for sale in an effort to try to get rid of one of the

shareholders. They hope to not really sell it, but are tired of messing with this one individual. We'll see where it goes. He is still teaching Gospel Doctrine, a calling he takes seriously, and does a very good job at. He has had good times with the boys hunting, even though he doesn't always want to go, it is nice to get out, ride horses, and see animals, and nice country. One trip they even saw a grizzly bear.

We love you all, and hope life is good for all of you.



Jancy and Broox with their steers



Rix jumping from the tramp to the pool



Dax - future computer expert

AMY & TYLER

Hey everybody! We are doing great and happy to report that Tyler is almost done with his undergrad (December it will be over). He has applied to 6 occupational therapy schools so we should be hearing back at the beginning of next year. I am still working at the clinic and I absolutely love it there. And Conan (our puppy) is completely potty trained, chewing up his toys like a champ, and loves to go on runs with me. It's a good thing because my mom keeps getting me to sign up for races with her so it's good to have a training buddy (here's a picture of us after a race). It's been fun to see the family for stuff like weddings and birthdays because we love all of you very much!



JEREMY & TARA & FAMILY

June

Hiking with a family in our ward

For our anniversary, we went and camped at Mammoth Lava Tubes then went over to Cedar Breaks National Monument and did a fun hike. We stopped at Bullion Canyon (site of the 2008 family reunion) on our way home.

We poured a concrete slab in the back yard.

I took a coworker's scout troop rock climbing one week and rappelling the next week.

I was scheduled to take a college buddy's scout troop canyoneering in Zion, but they cancelled at the last minute. So Anthony, Arianne, and Zac joined me instead. On Friday evening, I hiked Not Shelf Canyon (I was trying to do Shelf Canyon, but I did the wrong one). Then I hiked Lower Pine Creek then Canyon Overlook. On Saturday, Anthony, Zac, and I did the technical version of Hidden Canyon: 9 hours, 11.7 miles, 2,500 ft elevation gain, 104 degrees, 7 rappels. While I was in Zion, Tara went with some friends to Palisade State Park.

We went camping with some friends at Fish Lake.

July

My family came down to visit us for the 4th. I made a target for the candy throwers to aim at.

I built wall shelves for my rock collection.

We refinised the deck.

Tara went camping with some friends at Fish Lake.

I took the stake rappelling. Our stake is doing a pilot program for the church where there is a stake activities committee that organizes events like sports,

hikes, rappelling, etc. I took a family in our ward rappelling.

We went to the family reunion at the Tetons (it was awesome, and thanks to everyone that planned it!)



August

We went to Cove Fort Days.

We planted a couple of trees in our yard.

I started building a play center in our back yard.



JEREMY & TARA, CONT.



Madilyn Brook Dye was born on August 30.
September

No sleep due to newborn. Savannah has her jealous moments but not very often. She's usually pretty sweet with Madi.

Dad, Anthony, Zac, and Jaren helped work on the play center (diggin holes, etc.)

Grandpa's funeral.

Put together rolling shelves in food storage room.

Lots more work on play center.

October

We went hiking to some Indian rock art in the hills above Richfield.

On the way to Anthony's wedding, Ondy, Jaren, Tara, Savannah, Madi, and I stopped and did Diana's Throne Canyon, a semi-technical canyon.

Anthony's wedding and reception.

More working on the play center.

Madi started really smiling at people.

Savannah started her terrible twos! Her favorite word is "No!"

We ran the spook alley for the Elementary School at the fairgrounds.

Mom came and spent a week with us, helping us get the haunted house put together and hanging out.

We ran the Not-So-Haunted House at our house for Trick-or-Treaters.

November

Dad, Anthony, and Zac came down early for the baby blessing and spent all Saturday helping me with the play center. We got the wobble bridge, two platforms, and the tire crossing finished.

Then we went to the corn maze in Sigurd and had a blast. We especially loved the redneck roller coaster, which is a 4x4 truck pulling two vans around a BMX style track. I had to tighten my seat belt because I kept hitting the ceiling. Anthony and Arianne could not stop laughing the entire ride.

Madi's baby blessing. I was super sick, probably food poisoning from the corn maze. Kind of hard to skip church though when you're the one giving the blessing.

Savannah loves having her grandma around. She cries any time she leaves.

All in all, we're doing great. Hope everyone else is too. See you at Thanksgiving.

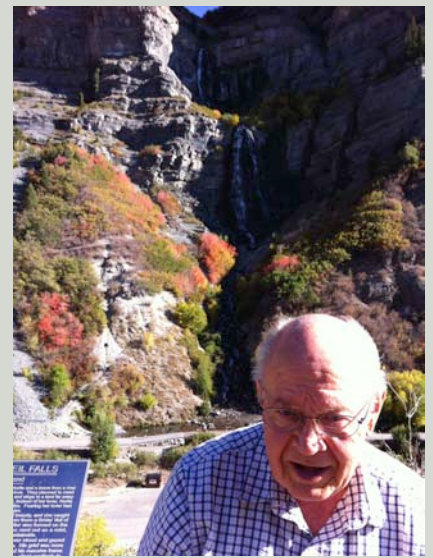
MOM AND LYNN

I want to thank Loreen so much for doing another NEWSLETTER! Heaven knows she has a lot going in her life! Now, I don't know what you do with newsletters—but we file them in binders. The very first newsletter was in October 1998! I reviewed them recently and in the first few issues I learned: 1. Grandma retired from work and she and Grandpa were trying to sell the Bountiful house, 2. Coons moved to Connecticut and one of Brittney's first sentences was "Grandma, come to see us, you can sleep on the way", 3. Sorensens moved to Wyoming and planned on having another baby because of something said in General Conference (that would be our Amberly!), 4. Utah Burnetts moved to their new home and Cason was enjoying playing the violin, 5. Piersons had welcomed Grandma Ethel to their home and Jenny was on the Sophomore Volleyball team and scored 14 points! 6. Dyes were making birdhouses and Anthony was taking piano lessons, 7. Wilsons were being transferred to Germany soon and Rich was getting up at 5 am to go to early morning seminary, 8. Arizona Burnetts—Well, I found a picture of them at the family reunion! (The pictures were black and white and not all that good, but we have them!)

So, we have two big binders almost full! They cover 14 YEARS of the history of the Burnett / White family. Now, that's gotta be valuable! I figure they would be a great way for someone to be entertained should the time ever come when she isn't very able to do a lot. Enough said.

Lynn and I have enjoyed being back in Utah. We love being with all you kids we missed while we were in Gilbert! (Even though we miss the ones there now.) And our WARD! These friends are amazing! They really love us and would do absolutely anything to help us. Our only trouble is that they would do anything to help! And that includes some pretty non-traditional medical

treatments. They have poured out their hearts, bearing testimony as to the treatment's effectiveness and pleading with me to try several of them. Some I felt I could do pretty easily and I have tried. Others—well, I'm still struggling to be polite to my friends and avoid offending them.



LYNN AT BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

Changing the subject—I think I would be remiss if I didn't tell you about how we have been guided in the last year. In the spring newsletter I said "...I'm sure that Heavenly Father was guiding us every step of the way," referring to our time in the guest house in Gilbert and the excellent medical help Lynn received while we were there. And the guidance continued! We decided maybe it would be good to purchase a place there in Arizona. Loreen alerted her real estate agent to look for small places within 4 miles of their home. Within a very short time we took the tour of about 10 homes. After seeing the first one, Lynn and I asked each other, "Do we need to look further?" Well, we looked at the others but quickly put an offer on the first one: a 1765 sq. ft. handicapped-accessible home 2 miles from the Coons! We came back, sold the Summit cabin property (much to the dismay of the Utah Burnetts), without even advertising, and in an environment where very few properties were selling! And we closed on it just in time to have the money to close on the purchase of the Gilbert home! This provided a place just in time for the Coons to live while they're remodeling their home! So, remind me never to question that sequence of events and the results!

MOM & LYNN, CONT.

As I look back through the months since I last wrote, there are so many wonderful things to remember! 1 We traveled to Wyoming and enjoyed a great time with the Sorensens. We got to attend Dixon's Baptism. What a sweet little grandson. 2 We cheered kids in their hobbies and sports events—Lawson did a triathlon, Leslie and Amy ran a race (the picture is with Amy's entry), the Utah Burnetts were involved in soccer and la crosse, Wyoming kids showed their steers at the county fair and we were there! 3 We had several over for dinner and to swim—Lisa, LaBretta, Cory, Christie, Riley, Ethan and Conner, Lawson, Kelly, Tanner and friend, Thayne, Landon, and Meg. And poor Greg, Laura, Anthony, Arianne and Zachary—they came to swim but the pool was closed for cleaning (somebody had a poop accident) and so we took them to our new park to play. It was fun! 4 Loreen, Aubrey and Caleb experienced a different swim! We took them to Antelope Island State Park and bobbed in the Great Salt Lake! Well, we wanted to do something they couldn't do anywhere else, and I think we succeeded! 5 We were invited frequently to the Dyes for dinner and to celebrate birthdays, mother's day and father's day and Laura and Ari



DIXON'S BAPTISM



LAWSON'S TRIATHALON



MEG'S SOCCER GAME



LANDON'S LACROSSE GAME

and I attended Laura's Mother-Daughter make-up party. 6 Leslie, Greg, Brianna, Amy and Tyler, as well as the grand-puppy, Zoey and the great-grand-puppy, Conan, visited several times. We love to watch General Conference together. We snuffle and exclaim and say YES! Hey, does everyone know that the Wilsons have a new eating style? Ask them! 7 Kylie and Mike got married and Anthony and Arianne! (Wow—what a wedding!) Lynn and I took Greg Dye's parents to the wedding (on the beach at Lake Powell) and enjoyed getting to know them and Greg better! 8 Tara and Jeremy and Savannah welcomed new baby Madelyn, and Krista and Ben got their little Jane! Love those Greats! 9 We had visits from Gaylene, Bailey and Lauren, here from the Philippines and Tracy, who lives in Maryland. 10 Of course the summer was full of reunions. We attended the Alden White Reunion (Lynn's siblings & families) plus one for his "Anderson" cousins. Then came our family's wonderful Reunion in the Tetons! We loved it! We went to Cedar City for a reunion with his "White" cousins. Oh, and we attended Lynn's Brazil Missionary reunion. (Can you believe they still have that twice a year?) 11 One of the most memorable outings was our "Farewell to

WITH THE DYES



ANTHONY, ARI AND ZAC



ONDY'S BIRTHDAY



GREG'S BIRTHDAY

the Cabin” trip. We went up and just relaxed. (Aaron, remember when you asked us if we ever did that?) We ate our dinner down by the stream and made a fire, roasted marshmallows and cried a little, (not much).¹² The death of your Dad/Grandpa brought mixed emotions. It certainly closed a chapter in my life. We were married when I was 18 years old—think about that! We had lots of experiences together—mostly good! Of course, it was a blessing for him to go but I know it leaves a void in several hearts and I feel for you. Thank you for including us in the activities of funeral and mourning and celebration. I admire Connie (and us) for the way we’ve handled what could’ve been a very bad situation.¹³ I got the wish of my heart. With all my medical stuff and dire predictions and the inability to hold my head up (by, I feared that my days of teaching family history were over. But I still have such a desire!! I approached our friend Rocky White, the High Priests Group Leader in June and asked if I could teach the ward about the new Church genealogy program—“Family Tree”. He declined graciously, saying he had other things in mind. But as the time went on I just knew that I wanted to introduce the program to at least those actively using new.familysearch.org. So I

begged and he acquiesced. (I had to look up the spelling on that one. It means he gave in.) We decided I’d do it in a fireside-type meeting Sunday night October 21. I prepared like crazy and the Relief Society sponsored it. They arranged sign-up sheets to circulate to all adult ward members and, of course, cookies! What a surprise! Forty people voluntarily signed up. (Of course only 25–30 showed up.) No, actually it was probably better not to have so many. The ones who came were seriously interested. If I do say so myself, I don’t see how the fireside could’ve gone any better! I’m so thankful to Heavenly Father for the talent and blessing he has bestowed on me. It’s amazing!

Lawson and Lisa are involved in a wonderful service to me and to all of you! When I asked you kids what would become of my picture albums when I’m not here anymore (is that delicate?), we couldn’t come up with a good answer. You know, I treasure those albums. Not that anybody ever looks at them! But, to me, they contain a pictorial history of our lives. I haven’t just jammed pictures in a box somewhere, still in the envelope from the printer. I also haven’t spent hours scrap-booking them. But, somewhere in between the two, I have tried to organize them in a way that

MOM & LYNN, CONT.

they could be viewed by even the youngest grandchild. But, what to do? Lawson is really into pictures! Not correcting red-eye or removing imperfections. But he really does like to get them all together and organize them. He has been working on his for a while and it's great to see what he has done. We got a digital camera in 2005, so that meant that from 1957 to 2004 needed to be scanned. (We did most of my youth the year you gave me the wonderful 70th BD party.) SO, he told me that if I'd take my pictures out of the photo sleeves, he'd take them to Sam's and scan them on their high speed scanner. Then he'd organize them on his computer into folders by year and occasion and each member of the family could have a digital copy of all of them or as many as they want. I agreed at once, realizing that I had just undertaken a huge job and I was not quite sure how I could possibly do it (with all the other end-of-uhhh-me) responsibilities I have. LISA to the rescue! She has taken all the many books from the downstairs shelves and has removed the pictures. Lawson jumped right on it and has scanned nearly all of them. Turns out it's a little more labor-intensive on the computer end than we thought it would be, so

I've been helping him to straighten out the confusion the scanner caused. We have sat together for hours getting things in chronological order again so Lisa can get them back in the books. It's a big job and a labor of love for both Lisa and Lawson. Especially since Lawson probably doesn't really want most of the 10,000+ pictures. So, get ready! Do you want any, some, or all of the Burnett family pictorial history? Talk sweetly to Lawson and you're in luck. Oh, and we decided not to just chuck the hard copy of the pictures. That means that as soon as Lisa gets them back in books, they'll be at our house for those who like to look at the real thing. I hope all of you; especially the grandkids will look at some of them. Then, at the end, Leslie will take them to her house and store them since she has room. From then on—it's up to you!

So, for the record, I guess I should say something about my "condition." I had "dropped head" syndrome which was pretty awful by February 2012 and got a lot worse! I was diagnosed with stenosis of the discs in my neck and a fusion was recommended. NO! When we got to Utah in May, I went to a bazillion Drs. and had at least that many needles poked into my muscles. I got a diagnosis of "Polymyositis" and took Prednisone (which is an awful

SORENSENS



BROOX'S BASKETBALL GAME



SORENSENS DOING FAMILY HISTORY



AT THE FAIR WHERE JANCY AND BROOX SHOWED THEIR STEERS

MOM & LYNN, CONT.

drug with horrible side-effects over time), and it didn't seem to help at all! In the meantime, the Dr. who made the diagnosis referred me to the 'real' specialists at the University of Utah Neurological Dept. Yes, they poked more needles and looked at the other guy's report (which didn't give credence to the "Polymyositis" guess), and gave a new diagnosis. ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. Rotten! However, at Greg's birthday party on Sept. 9, Savannah held her arms up to me and what's a great-grandma to do? I picked her up, knowing that we might both tip over. Low and behold (that's an old-fashioned expression), I did it! With very little strain! Wow, I was better and I hadn't even noticed it! I have continued to get even better, and it's evident to those around me. Is this a delayed result of the prednisone? NOW, I'm really confused! Do I have Steroid-responsive

myositis—an autoimmune disease which is bad enough. Or ALS? I pick the first if I have a choice. I begged my way into see the ALS specialist at the U and he is confused by the improvement in my neck (which, by the way, is MUCH better) but still thinks it's ALS. But, since he hasn't had his turn poking me with needles, I have an appointment November 8 for another round and then he has agreed to give me "the talk." Lisa is going to the appointment with us. Well, that's all for now, folks. What to do, oh, what to do? Pray for the best, plan for the worst and go on living until you don't. Or something. Also, for the record, you know I'm not afraid of death. It's the dad-gum getting there that's scary! Thanks to all of you who are helping make the transition a little easier!

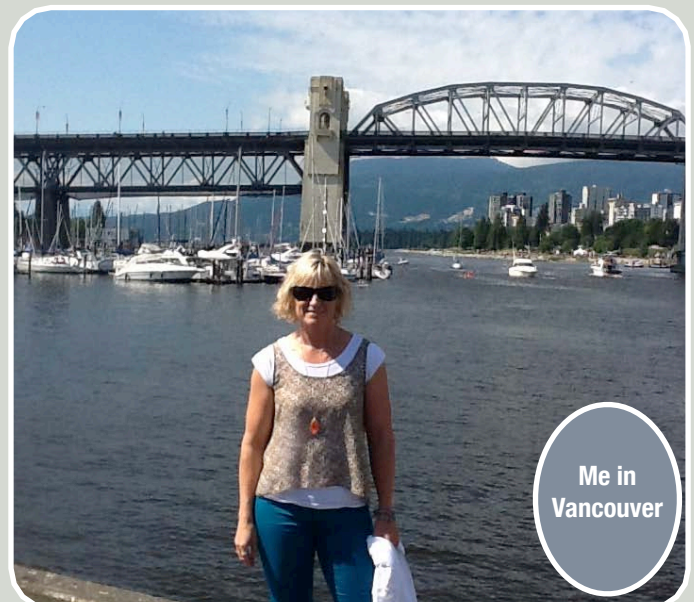
We love you all. We look forward to Thanksgiving. Be sure to come if you can! The Dyes have invited us again! Aren't we lucky to have such a wonderful family!

THE WILSONS

Howdy Family,

We've had some adventures since we last saw everyone at the family reunion. For the most part we just go along like everyone else. I've been working a lot at my little store, taking on more responsibility and kind of moving into an assistant manager position without the title but with a couple of raises, which is what counts. Greg is still teaching ROTC, but there are changes in the works with the way the ROTC program is structured, so we're hoping to still have a job this time next year. If not, we've got some ideas about what to do instead, but I really think it will be okay. Brianna is in school and hanging out with us here at the house. Jobs are really hard to come by in Rexburg since it is still a pretty small town and the students outnumber the residents by 2-1 or more.

But as for adventures, right after the family reunion I flew up to join Greg at Ft. Lewis, where he goes every summer to be an evaluator for the cadets' leadership course. From there we drove up to Vancouver, British Columbia for a few days.



THE WILSONS, CONT.

They let me in even though I had forgotten my passport and, more importantly, they let me back in the US when we were finished. We really enjoyed our time there. We actually stayed on the edge of Vancouver in a predominantly Asian neighborhood and caught a train into the city to see the sites there. We kept it low key, which is what we needed after Greg had been gone all summer working 16 hour days and I had been keeping the home fires burning.

In September Greg and I, along with our friend Harmon decided to hike from Old Faithful in Yellowstone to Cave Falls, in Idaho, which is about 30 miles. I thought it was mostly flat with a little downhill, but it turns out that you have to climb up over the continental divide for the first 8 miles, then you start to drop, sometimes rather steeply. I woke up during the night the night before to the sound of a pretty good thunder shower and thought we probably wouldn't be going the next day. We got up and it was cloudy but we decided to go anyway. We were actually glad of the clouds during our 8 mile climb since we were hot anyway and thinking that the sun beating down would have made it that much worse. Several times throughout the day it sprinkled on us, but we were still glad that it wasn't hot. We saw some absolutely beautiful country, with hot pots, springs waterfalls and lots of streams. The marshy places were under water from the storm the day before, but Greg carried me across like the gentleman he is. We had to ford rivers 5 or 6 times, but we had brought water shoes for that purpose. Whenever we would meet someone on the trail and told them what we were doing, they all just said, "why?" We would just answer that we wanted to see if we could do it. We had figured it would take us 9 or 10 hours since a good hiking pace is about 3 miles an hour and we got started at about 7:00 so we thought we might even be home by dinner, but we didn't take into account that it was a much harder hike than we thought plus all the time it takes to change your shoes after fording the river plus time to eat, take pictures and admire the scenery. So at 7:00 pm we were just reaching Bechler meadows, which was about 7 miles from our goal. I was getting pretty tired by that time and to make it worse, the wind started to pick up and it

started to thunder and lightening. Remember, we were on a huge meadow and it was going to be dark in about an hour and a half. After walking through the meadow in the rain we got into the forest for the last three miles in the pitch black and pouring rain. The trail had turned into a river so it was impossible to stay out of the water. Luckily we had a small flashlight that kept working. It was fun and great to say we had done it, but I think it was the last time we will ever attempt anything that bold in one day.

I ran several races this summer. I have never really been a runner but have always admired it in others, especially the ones in my own family. I had a couple of friends who got injured during the racing season last year and had to take some time off running. When they were ready to start again last fall they said that they were going to go short and slow and I thought, "hey, maybe I could do that." I was amazed by how easy that first run was and soon was running 5 or 6 miles at a time. Amy asked me if I would like to run a half marathon with her and I decided to go for it. I guess that since I'm 49 I feel like I have to make up for lost time so I decided to run a 5k, a 10k, a relay and a half marathon in the same summer. I didn't run them in that order, the 5k was on July 4th and the half was on July 7th. Since they were so close together and my Achilles had been bothering me I took it kind of easy on the 5k but was still able to do it in under 30 minutes, which was my goal. My goal for the half was under 2:10, and we came in at 2:08. The hardest thing I did all summer, and that includes the 30 mile hike, was the Grand Teton Relay. It is a 12 person team in two vans and you run 180 miles, with 3 legs each. The GT relay includes a run up to Targhee ski resort and back down and up Jackson pass and back down. Neither of those were in my legs, though. In fact, I had one of the easiest sets of runs and I thought it would be no big deal. My longest run was 5.8 miles, which I was doing all the time. I knew that running three times with very little sleep would be hard, but I was sure I could handle it. What I didn't take into account (and really couldn't have known) was how the heat and the time of day would affect me. I am an early morning runner. I love to start out while it's still dark and it is always cool. We were one of the faster teams and so we had a later start, which put me running my

THE WILSONS, CONT.

first leg at about 2:30 in the afternoon in 90 degree heat and suddenly that 5.8 miles was much harder. Our van is there to support us and give water and stuff, but I didn't think I would need it for that short of a run, but it was a whole different experience. I took every drink they offered and poured most of it on my head but still had to stop and walk on a seemingly endless hill. My night run was just the right temperature, about 46 degrees, but it was at 2:30 in the morning off road with no van to support in an area where bears are seen frequently. A lot of the girls were pretty freaked out by that thought but I just said a prayer and took off. I didn't see anything at all; not a bear or another runner that whole time. The next day my run was just over 5 miles on a gently rolling road, but I had only had about 2 1/2 hours sleep and it was hot again, although not as hot as the day before. I guess the reward is commensurate with the effort involved because the exhilaration that I felt when I finished that run was greater than with any other run or race I had done. My last race was the Mesa Falls 10k in September, the very next weekend. Greg joined me for that one but I told him that I was running against myself and not trying to beat anyone else. He had kind of a hard time with that concept but we had a good run and came in under an hour, which was my goal. We were just going to eat a banana and go home but my friend, Joey, had come to see us so we talked to her for a minute and were surprised to hear our names called. Greg won in his age division, and I took 2nd in mine! There were two people in Greg's division and 7 in mine, but Greg was an hour ahead of the other guy in his and I would have never caught the lady who came in first in my division, so I was thrilled with that.

Jeff is doing wonderfully on his mission. He just passed his 18 month mark. He is mostly healthy again after dealing with giardia and amoebas for a while. He loves his mission and is gaining a very strong testimony. He was made zone leader a couple of transfers ago, but seems to still be humble about it. He says the perks of being a zone leader are being able to be taught by the mission president and visiting general authorities.

Brianna is busy in school and is working out with me in the mornings. She is also working on her running, which thrills me. Maybe the Wilson family will run a race next.

(Greg is now writing) Rich had his own adventure this last few months. In September he had some leave so he ended up flying to Singapore and then caught another flight to an island in the South Pacific called Fifi. Once in Fifi he stayed in a surfing hostel. He had a great time for a week or so getting to know surfing bums from different places while he learned to surf. Once he got back to Fort Lewis he headed out with his unit and did a month of training near Yakima Washington with a Japanese artillery battalion. This upcoming January he is supposed to take command of an artillery firing battery. His life certainly isn't boring.

I have been busy with my new crop of cadets. I teach the juniors and I have double the size of class from last year. I also coach the ranger challenge team. They are our elite cadets who train to go and compete in physical endurance and military skills with other ROTC teams. On 19 to 21 October we went to the big competition at Camp Williams Utah. All of the ROTCs from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, and Arizona were there. Out of 22 schools we placed 7th. BYU Provo won it but we ended up beating some big names like The University Of Texas, U of U and Arizona State. It was fun but I'm glad it's over.

JEFF AND HIS COMP AT MARISOL'S BAPTISM



THE COONS FAMILY



BEFORE



AFTER



AUBREY, GRANDMA & CALEB IN THE GREAT SALT LAKE

We sure love you all!!

JUNE: Caleb and his friends made a very elaborate fort in the sandbox with popsicle sticks, glue guns, army guys, cars, boats, etc. Then they blew everything up with firecrackers, video-taped the whole thing, and Caleb made a movie. It's on YouTube and it's really great! [2012-06-Caleb's Destruction Video](#) Other things: we remodeled our two bathrooms, got lots of food from our garden, made salsa and apricot leather, went to a baseball game at the Diamondbacks stadium (very cool, retractable roof and fireworks!), Aubrey donated her hair for "Locks For Love."

JULY: We went camping with the Coons family for Bob's 70th birthday. We took Dandy

(our dog) and she was so good and fun to have. Caught a few (tiny) fish and lots of crawdads. We loved our trip to Utah/Wyoming/Idaho. Aubrey and Caleb were so amazed at Greg and Laura's house (puzzle doors, puzzles, etc.). Brittney and Hannah had a great time at EFY. While they were gone, Aubrey and Caleb and I had fun with Gma & Gpa at the Great Salt Lake. We went to the Sorensens and had a fabulous time. The kids caught coons (the animals, not us), and made a forge where they did all kinds of cool stuff with metal. I can't even say all the fun things we did at the Sorensens. Todd, Brittney and Hannah met us there and we went to the reunion. We loved it but I won't say anymore since I put in so many pictures. After



THE 4 BOYS AND AUBREY IN THE GRAINERY AT THE SORENSEN'S



A VERY MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE AT THE SORENSEN'S!



EDUCATION WEEK AT BYU-IDAHO

COONS, CONT.:



BABY BLESSING IN KANAB



OUR HOUSE



INTEL FUN RUN

that, Brittney, Hannah, Jaxon, Jancy and I went to Education week at BYU-Idaho with my two roommates (Jacinta and Kristie), their 3 daughters and Brittney's friend from EFY (Jaxon was a real trooper with all those girls!!). The Wilsons were so kind and let us stay at their house. Great time!! We did a neat passover dinner with Victor Ludlow. We met up with Todd, Aubrey and Caleb and headed home. We went over the Hoover Dam on the way.

AUGUST: Brittney and I really enjoyed going to Kanab for Joanna's (Ben and Melanie's baby) blessing. It was good to see Dad and Connie. The kids started school and the next weekend, we moved into Mom and Lynn's house so we could start construction for our addition. The house is coming along well and we are SOOO grateful that Mom & Lynn let us live in their house so we can

do this. The contractor even let Aubrey and Caleb do some serious demolition with the Bobcat.

SEPTEMBER: Dad's funeral. Thanks, everyone, for your love and support. Alex Boye visited Brittney's choir and we got to have lunch with him. FUN!!

OCTOBER: I went to Anthony and Arienne's wedding at Lake Powell - very nice! Todd, Aubrey and Caleb ran the Intel fun run (5K and 1 mile). Caleb ran a mile in 6:29! Pretty good for a kid who was in a wheelchair 1 1/2 years ago!! Brittney and Hannah had an awesome Cross Country team. Brittney did hurt her legs. Hannah made the varsity team. Sarah came to visit her sisters and stayed with me for a day. We had a very nice visit. Todd, Caleb and Bob went hunting and finally got a deer. That's all!!



ME AND SARAH AT THE GILBERT TEMPLE



CROSS COUNTRY



TODD, BOB AND CALEB GOT A DEER