

Happy Happenings

December 2007 - 98th Edition

I (Loreen) am having some computer problems so this newsletter won't be fancy. Lawson and I decided to do the newsletter every other month from now on. So make sure you write in when we call you! Or you can know that we will be doing it in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. and Dec.

Note from Mom and Lynn:

WOW—How I love the holidays. It was great having so many together for Thanksgiving! We loved it! Of course it was bittersweet in a way since it made us miss the Coons all the more. And the Piersons too! Just know—all of you—how much your parents love you. How much we think of you, pray for you, and long for you to know and feel our love and support. Thank you—so much, Laura and Greg for hosting our family for these wonderful get-togethers. It means so much to us to have you be so welcoming and hospitable! Thanks, thanks, thanks.

You know I just NEVER get sick. I don't have time! I don't like it! I have a positive attitude and WON'T embrace the germs. SO—what happened? That dad-gum laryngitis bug latched on and wouldn't let go. But, I'm better now and back to helping people do their British research. And guess what? I'm getting better at it—especially if it's English and not Irish. But I can even do some good in Scotland. PLUS—I'm finding some of your ancestors! It's great and I love it.

The one thing that's missing from my joy right now is Christmas decorations! I want some! We're not even here at the apartment very much but I WANT DECORATIONS! Lights! Greenery! Candles! Good smells! And just think we're living right across the block from the center of Utah's Christmas lights! So, so many people come to Temple Square to see the lights. It's so fun to see them with their little kids coming and going. SO—come and see the lights and invite Grandma and Grandpa to go with you—then come over for hot chocolate and cookies! We would love to have you come—so much!

Well, Merry Christmas family. We love you lots and lots. Mom and Lynn

The Piersons:

Hello, family! We had a nice Thanksgiving in Idaho. Lots of good food and family!

Cory is getting ready for finals, and will be real glad when that is done. He has his mission physical and dental appointments during the Christmas break, so he will be getting his papers ready to send in!

Jared is enjoying the Christmas shows on TV. Even though there is snow, he still finds diggers to watch!

Jenny loves her job and her new apartment.

Christie, Dave, and Riley took a trip to California and Oregon to see some sights. They are there now and having a great time.

Steve and I had a great anniversary - # 28!! Merry Christmas to everyone! We love you all!!

Hello from the Arizona Burnetts. We are doing quite well - and were happy to see all of you at Thanksgiving. It has been a while since we have been there for the holidays, and all of us, including the girls had a good time. We appreciate all of the hospitality that was shown us, from Mom to letting us use the van and basement, Laura for hosting the dinner, and Lisa for Sunday popcorn. We are glad to be living down here, but do miss family events during the holidays.

We are looking forward to our Christmas adventure - our Hawaii trip. We leave the 14th to fly directly to Kauai, then return home on the 23rd. We have a week of relaxation planned, with activities mixed in. We had planned to go to Italy this year, but did not move early enough on our passports. I have been in Missouri and Minnesota for the past few months, so I can't wait for some warm beaches.

We are all doing well. Jill is really enjoying her new job. This school has a very different clientele, and some co-workers that work very well together, and appreciate her skills. It has been a good move for her. Tiffany is investigating pharmacy school, and Heather and Katelyn are doing well with their schooling and work. Katelyn is investigating moving out with some friends - stay tuned for more information on that next time. Since we last talked Larry, Tiffany and Heather ran a 5k for the Race For The Cure. Larry and Tiffany are entered into another half marathon in January here in Phoenix, and still trying to talk the others into running with us! There are others here in February and March, so anyone that wants to join us for those, let us know.

Since we will not see any of you before the holidays - we wish you all a very merry Christmas. We love you all, and will send pictures from Hawaii next time.

The Coons are doing great. The highlight for October was our trip to California. It was so much fun. We went to Disneyland, California Adventure, the beach, Legoland and Sea World. Some highlights:

Caleb was chosen for Jedi training at Disneyland. The kids were given a robe and light saber and taught some moves. Then storm troopers, Darth Mal and Darth Vader came! They tried to get the kids to go to the dark side. Each kid got to fight Darth Mal or Darth Vader. It was awesome.

Hannah got to pet a dolphin at Sea World.

Loreen's favorite ride was "Soarin' over California."

The kids buried Brittney's legs in the sand at the beach and used seaweed and shells to make her into a mermaid.

Todd really liked the "Maliboomer." There wasn't a line so he rode it 3 or 4 times in a row.

Aubrey really liked "Star Tours."

Hannah won her school spelling bee! We are very proud of her. Aubrey and Caleb played a very fun soccer season. They both enjoyed it. We had Taffy bred so we will be having puppies in January. We can't wait!! We are all very excited. We will sell all but one girl.

The Sorensens are doing well. It was good to see everybody at Thanksgiving. We had a great time staying with the Dyes and visiting with Ceslie. We found some good furniture for Mom's garage (ha ha). We took Rix to the doctor and he said he'll have to have one more surgery before Kindergarten to fill in holes and smooth out bumps. Most of our life is filled up building this house. We had a good visit from Mom and Cynn. They helped us put in our windows. Right now it is all enclosed. We have a guy doing dry wall and the kids and I are going to insulate it on Saturday. Aaron's work is going well. The kids like school and they are getting excited for Christmas. I'm having a hard time making it feel like Christmas living in the barn. We can't find our Christmas decorations. But it helps to put things in perspective. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!!

Hello, family, from the Wilsons

Well, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Jeff, and I've been a part of this family for a while now. When my family decided to talk to me today about writing this, I was just like 'oh, boy. I hope I don't have to write a newsletter!' and wouldn't you know it, that's what they asked me to do! So of course I procrastinated right up 'till I was in the shower this morning, where I get all my inspiration, to really write this newsletter. If you look up 'newsletter' in dictionary, you get: "an informative letter mailed to subscribers." And you know, I just thought, 'aren't we all just subscribers?' And really, this is going to be the basis of my newsletter today.

Okay, my mom just told me this has to be for October, AND November, so this is gonna be a bit condensed, especially since I've already wasted a paragraph. The family has been doing pretty good, I think. I'm pretty sure no one has died up here, but who really knows?

Okay, October: October was not too eventful. We got our kitchen finished, after painting about 40 or more cabinet doors, removing an entire section of cabinets, putting up trim, and totally changing the lighting, we finished! (Yay!) We had a party here because dad finished ranger challenge, but I'm still not quite sure what exactly that is.

Brianna pretty much was just chillin' at the school all the time, because she was like "Fiddler on the roof is WAY cooler than spending quality time with my family, even though studies show that kids who don't chill with their families do drugs."

Next, November: This was a bit more exciting, I think, (because of Brianna). Brianna had TWO plays this month! First of all, she had Fiddler. And if I do say so myself, It was a culturally enlightening experience that caused the audience to thoroughly enjoy several vicissitudes of emotion, including joy, mirth, darkest sadness, and pure rapture of excellence. It was really good. Next, she had a sort of term project for her drama class called "Puck and the Mushy Gushy Love Potion" which is an adaptation of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." And, while she was a chorus person in Fiddler, she had a main part in that. She was no common spirit, but the Queen of the Fairies! (quote from the play)

Jeff is bored so I am going to finish this. It won't be as funny but it will be more informative. So Brianna just had her one act play and it was really fun. They put the chairs right on the stage with the actors, which was a good thing because you could only hear about half of what anyone said. Brianna was the best one in her play. I know that I am a bit partial, but she really was. Grandma and Grandpa came to see her in it since they weren't able to come for Fiddler. Greg wasn't able to be here for it either, since he was in Virginia for a course on how to teach ROTC. He flew home just in time for us to go to the ROTC Military ball. His plane was late so we got there just a little late and had to sneak into the receiving line. It was really fun, especially since he was the brunt of two of their skits. It was all in good fun and you could tell that they love him. They had him down pat though, and made fun of how slow he drives, his tendency to tell stories, and his laugh.

Rich is back in the United States. We got a call from him from Texas and he drove up to Colorado Springs that night. He already has rented an apartment and will move in on Dec. 8th. We hope to see him for Christmas and it looks like that won't be a problem because the unit is still not back from Iraq and won't be until January and for now there are only a few people there.

Amy Sue is doing well. They keep getting investigators and then losing them. They are working one day a week at the family history center for their service so that is a new challenge for her to do that in German too. She still has a great attitude and loves her mission.

We are still loving Rexburg, the school, and our ward. We have been very blessed this year with the new job, the new house and Jeff home and doing wonderfully. We are going to Golden Corral this Friday to celebrate him coming home from Anasazi one year ago. That night for his young walker's dinner we went to Golden Corral and he was afraid to eat too much because it might make him sick after having the simple trail food for so long. It is kind of a distant memory for us now, but every once in a while I will just say something like, "just think about how we were feeling one year ago." Heavenly Father has blessed us so much. We love you all and hope to see you soon.

The Utah Burnetts:

Candon came up to me the other day and told me he has been coloring a lot and then showed me his muscles! I guess coloring is a real workout! Candon loves making little books. He staples pages together and writes stories and draws pictures to go along. It's really impressive how well he does.

Meg is enjoying preschool. They had a fun fieldtrip to a farm for Halloween and she got to pick out a pumpkin.

Cason finished his band competitions. He had a little skateboarding accident that kept him from trying out for winterline (drumline for the winter).

Kelly and several of the kids were involved in reflections recently. Thayne, Candon and Meg each got several ribbons and coins.

Cason, Tanner and I have been having a good time hunting waterfowl. They nearly got their first chance at a goose, but it headed away at the last minute. We also got to go to the youth pheasant hunt put on by the division of wildlife resources. We had a good time and each boy got a pheasant. They should have had more but shooting at pheasants is a little different and they missed quite a few! They both thought that was more fun I think because they were up and moving around instead of sitting and waiting.

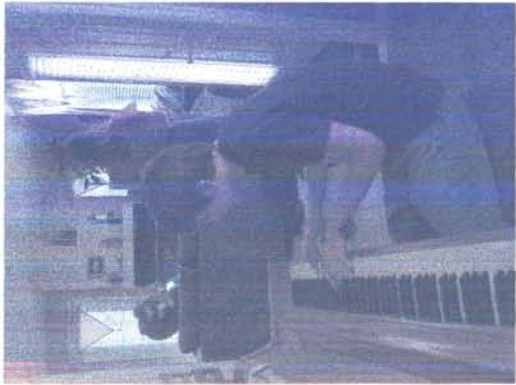
Thayne, Tanner, Kelly and I are all playing indoor soccer right now. Kelly was on fire for our coed game the other night! She scored 4 goals and got 1 assist!

Cason, Tanner and I had a scout campout recently. That was the fall campout for our district. Can't wait for the winter campout! I wonder if Cason will want to go. He had a bad experience with a winter campout a few years ago. It was so cold and he just couldn't get warm. He's been on winter campouts since then but it hasn't been very cold the last couple of years. At this last campout we had a couple of new, really energetic leaders who took the boys on the best snipe hunt ever! They were out snipe hunting for 1.5 hours and came back with all kinds of stories!

Kelly put together a really nice family home evening for us last week. She decided to do an etiquette dinner for the family. I was worried the kids might not make it too easy, but it went really well. We pulled up some information on the internet that showed proper table settings and then had each kid set his place properly. Kelly and I acted as servers and had a few different courses. It was really fun and turned out really well.

We enjoyed going to the Dye's house for Thanksgiving. It was great to see so many family members. Kelly got up the next morning for the early shopping. I don't know if she even bought anything much! I think she just likes to be involved in the craziness!

Kelly had the kids all make up checklists of things they need to do each day. Then she laminated them and put them on the fridge so they can use a dry erase marker each day to keep track of things. That's been a nice help. Kelly also finished repainting our upstairs walls. It sure looks a lot better. She's had lots of energy lately! I've been tired just watching her!



*Jeff
playing
the
piano*



Brianna in her play



Amy in Germany



Meg



Grandpa and the boys



Candon



Lana working on the house



The Sorensens new home!!!



Jancy and Grandma



The Burnetts in Utah



Caleb fighting Darth Vader



By Chewbacca (made out of legos) at Legoland



The Coons family at the beach



Hannah - 1st place in the Spelling Bee!



We sent this in to BYU magazine. This picture shows the natural part lines in our kids' hair. Can you tell which two of our children were born while we lived at BYU?