

Happy Happenings

Sorensens

Things are going well for the Sorensens. We are finally living in our new house. We are still waiting for a few things to be done but we moved in anyway. We are all very excited. A big "Thanks" to all those who helped, especially Anthony who stayed with us and helped us do a lot of the finish work.

The kids are still doing well in school. Jaxon and Jancy are taking a Hunter Safety class. Jaxon can hunt big game this year since he'll be twelve.

That's about it. We love you all.



Coons

The Coons family is doing great. We had a nice Christmas. Todd's parents and Kelly were here for Christmas and we loved that.

Taffy had her puppies! She had nine but four died so we have five puppies. We will keep one and sell four. They are four weeks old now and are lots of fun and are so cute. The kids play with them for hours! They love dressing them up and they love how warm the puppies are. It has been a neat time for our family.

Hannah did really well in the District spelling bee. She tied for third place out of 34 contestants so she will be in the Regional bee on Feb. 8!! Good job, Hannah.

Brittney is trying out for the girls' basketball team. She has started taking oboe lessons again.

Aubrey loves sign language. If you look at her hand you can often see her signing something she is thinking about or something she heard.

Caleb and Todd spent the weekend at Todd's parents' house. They had a lot of fun.

We love you all! Love, The Coons Family





Wilson's

Hi Family!

We are up here in the frozen north and having a very snowy winter. It snows almost every other day and we are running out of places to put it. We had to dig our mailbox out so that we can get our mail but it just keeps coming. We have had several snow days but ironically they usually come on beautiful days because there was a huge snowstorm the day before. St. Anthony, the town directly to our north, declared a state of emergency because a lot of roofs were collapsing so Greg figured he had better get up on our roof and get some of the snow down. We are actually grateful for the snow since we have had a drought up here for about the last 10 years. The only thing I (Leslie) hate about it is driving on the very icy roads. Greg still walks to work every day, twice a day, no matter the weather and Jeff almost always walks to school. Brianna decided to take zero hour (before school) seminary so that she could fit drama into her schedule so since it is very cold at that time of the day, I have been taking her. She walks if it is not too cold or if its not too late, though.

We are really looking forward to having a temple so close by. It is about 4 blocks south and 2 blocks west of us. We were able to volunteer for the open house. Brianna and I got to clean inside the temple as the tours were going through. Greg and Jeff were supposed to be on snow removal duty but remarkably, it didn't snow that week so they just helped open doors when people came in. It was freezing cold and the wind was blowing so they were probably more miserable than they would have been if they had been shoveling snow. In the end 204,000 people went through. It was really sad to hear that crystals were

stolen off of the light fixtures in the celestial room and that someone keyed the paneling on the wall next to the ordinance room, but all in all it was a great thing. It was supposed to be dedicated last week but because of President Hinkley's funeral it will be this Sunday. It is very beautiful and just glows up on the hill and you can see it for miles. There will also be a cultural celebration on Saturday

that some of the kids' friends are in. The delay in the dedication caused the student secretary in Greg's office to have to move her wedding to the Bountiful temple since it was scheduled for Friday. I guess she had a lot of family coming from Montana that won't be able to attend and the photographer, who they had already paid, won't be there either. Oh well, that is life sometimes.

Rich didn't make it up here for Christmas after all. The unit that he will be a part of for the next few years was just coming home from Iraq and nobody got leave until Jan 12. He was going to come then but the Army offered to give him laser eye surgery and since he hates to wear contacts or glasses we really encouraged him to do that. He had to get a different kind than lasik because after lasik you can never jump out of airplanes again and it can be a real problem if you get a blast injury like so many soldiers do in Iraq these days. This other surgery, PRK, takes longer to recover from and is a little more painful, but it has really good results. Rich's girlfriend, Cia, is coming over from Korea on Feb. 25 and he says that he will bring her out to meet us.





Most of you get news from Amy forwarded to you, but not all so I will report that she is doing really well. She is still in Dortmund and has been there for 6 months so she will probably be transferred next time. They teach a lot of lessons and always have a lot of appointments, but it seems really hard for her investigators to commit. Sometimes they just drop out of sight or have family opposition or something. She is keeping her spirits up admirably and says that they have little successes all the time. She says that as long as she is working hard and her testimony is growing she is happy.

leads in a play her class is putting on at the end of February. Jeff spends time with his friends and is contemplating some after school activities that some of them are trying to get him to join. More on that when it happens. They are both going to take driver's ed in March, Brianna doesn't think it is necessary but it will help with insurance rates so we insisted. She just completed her application to BYU-I and should hear about that soon. They will both be going to EFY in June and Trek in July.

We weren't sure whether he would get a chance to go or not, but now it looks like Greg will spend most of the summer at ROTC camp in Washington. It is important for him to go so that he can help train the next batch of cadets to go. It is one of the most important things that they do as cadets and if they wash out of camp, they are out of the program so he was really hoping to go. We will miss him and he won't be able to come to the reunion, but he doesn't leave until June 14 so he will be able to be at Jeremy's wedding!



Jeff and Brianna are still doing really well up here. They both have a lot of friends and really seem to like school. Brianna is very involved in drama and will be playing one of the

I am doing well, too. I work out at the gym every morning and am doing a lot of humanitarian quilts. I got a couple of high school students that I am tutoring in math; their teacher is in our ward and recommended me to their parents and I am really enjoying it, not to mention the little bit of extra money that it earns. I am still doing cub scouts and enjoying it a lot more than I thought I would. They are sweet boys and so enthusiastic, plus the lady that I work with is very nice and very organized. She does the requirements out of the book every other week and the other weeks I do crafts with them.

Well, we will hope to see you when the snow melts.

Love,
The Wilsons

Piersons

Hello everyone! The Pierson's are doing great. We are enjoying more snow this year than we have seen since we moved here 12 years ago! Thankfully we got Steve and me a snow blower for our birthday presents!! We have used it!!

In case you all didn't know – we are expecting grandbaby #2!! And it's a boy! Christie is due May 28. She is doing well. Dave is recovering from his accident. He broke one bone in his right foot, and broke and shifted a number of bones in his left foot. It took two weeks for the swelling to go down enough to have the surgery done, then he was in a cast for another two weeks. Now he is wearing a boot and is supposed to start moving and stretching it – easier said than done! Good thing it is his slow season at work!

Riley is wonderful, as usual! We love him to pieces! He had his birthday #2, and loved blowing out the candles. We kept lighting them, and he kept blowing!

Cory has started his indoor track season, and having a great time. He is definitely challenged, running against College men, but he is doing great. He even loves the College hurdle height – three inches (I think!) higher than High School!! And High School seemed pretty high to me! Steve, Jared, and I went to Bosie and Nampa Idaho for the last meet. Steve had never been to his state capitol!

Jenny has a cruise scheduled for April – lucky! She is definitely excited about that. Love to all!

Dyes

Hello family,

Jeremy proposed to Tara Stingley at our cabin by taking her on a treasure hunt and it ended up on a ridge where he asked her to marry him and lights came on that said “please say yes” and fireworks went off. You're all invited to come on June 7 for the wedding. You can see their pictures etc on their web site at _____. My parents have been decorating a lot. Anthony speaks in church on March 20. Laura is taking a computer class with Lisa every Tuesday night. Ondy is going to New Mexico for the Philharmonic orchestra national competition at the end of February. She is playing percussion. She is also going to Sweetheart dance this weekend. Zac is entering the science fair by making a potato canon.

Grandpa White

This has *not* been one of our more happy months. I (Grandpa) am starting this newsletter, but I'm pretty sure Grandma will need to jump in and help out lots before the writing is done.

For some time – maybe like from sometime in October – every once in a while Grandma would put her hand to her chest and say “I don't feel well”, or as she was doing her hair in the morning she would stop and lie down on the bed for a few minutes, or – as I found out later – she would surreptitiously, so I wouldn't know she was concerned about her health -- take the blood pressure monitor into the bathroom and take a reading of her blood pressure. Anyway there were clues that all was not well.

On January 31, while helping at the Family History Library, Grandma fainted, and was pretty well 'out' for several minutes. She says, “Every time I opened my eyes I would see a different set of faces. Well, the Security people came, then the 'para-medics' came and escorted her off to LDS hospital in Salt Lake with her protesting that she didn't need to go. Because the doctors who treated her five years ago were in Provo we had her moved to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center in Provo.

Over the next four days she underwent a lot of tests on her heart and associated arteries. The heart muscles and associated arteries are in generally good shape but she was still having problems. She fainted at least two more times and almost did numerous more times. She even figured out how to make the feelings happen – walk around the floor twice then sit down. The electro-physiologist doctor (Dr. Hwang) was out of town that week because his mother had died and he was out of town for the funeral, etc. He is the doctor who would normally have taken over her treatment from that point – but he wasn't there – obviously.



One of the major concerns to this point was that she would have long pauses in her heart beating. Anyway, she had at least one episode of five seconds without a heart beat. Doctor Bingham (the other in the team) ordered an implant of a pacemaker for her heart. So, on Friday morning (January 4) she had a heart pacemaker put into her chest. After a month she still *does not like* it in her chest. I think it will one day be a real blessing to her, but right now it is a bother to her.

Dr. Hwang doesn't want to do an ablation until the surgery for her pace maker implant is well healed. Thus, we don't even have an appointment for talking about that until mid March. Besides, we're not absolutely sure that is what she needs. She clearly needs something more – but we're not sure what that should be. She has an appointment with the doctor who actually did the implant next week to help us really analyze our options. The options clearly include an ablation as one consideration, but we'll see as the time approaches.

Well, Grandma didn't get involved in writing this letter. We love you all. We still need for each of you to continue praying for Grandma. We'll probably continue this saga next month. Love y'all. Grandpa



I want to add my feelings about some great things that are going on in my life. It's true that I've been not-so-healthy, but I see good things happening too.

On Sunday, January 27 at about 8:30 on our way home from Cason's ordination to be a Priest (congratulations Cason!), I looked up at President Hinckley's apartment windows, (as I always do). You see, he lived on the north-west corner of the block just north of us. We live in the next block south in the third building. So I always peer up to see what I can see. I became very excited as I saw someone moving around, and then sitting in a chair. I said to Lynn, "Oh, I think I just saw President Hinckley!" Well, that was surely NOT the case! Soon after we got home Lana called and asked if it was true that President Hinckley had died. What a shock! I found out that he had died just an hour and a half before we came by. What a happy/sad event! I was so glad he got to go so peacefully.

I determined that I wanted to be part of any of the events honoring him that I could. I had to convince Lynn that I was well enough and when I did, he supported me all the way. So, on Friday we went to the viewing. What a spiritual experience! President Hinckley looked SO peaceful, lying there in the casket made from the wood from the walnut tree that he had planted. He had on his beautiful white temple clothing. His hands were crossed and he still had a ring on his finger. His face was beautiful, smooth and clear of any lines of stress. He looked so relaxed and peaceful. I was overcome with love and memories on this great man. I also had a real sharp reminder that part of this life is death! And you never know when.

Grandma White

I knew I wanted to attend the funeral in person. Even though I could've watched it on TV, I realized that many people all over the world would've given a lot to be HERE right on Temple Square and the Conference Center! And we LIVE here! I count it such a privilege and blessing and I determined that even though I'd have to stand in line for tickets, I wanted to do it! What a pleasant surprise that Missionaries were given tickets ahead of time! (We still stood in the cold WAY TOO LONG [my fault]. But it was worth it!) It was wonderful to witness the funeral in person and feel of the great spirit that was there. I thought all the authorities gave such inspirational talks and fitting tribute to our sweet Prophet!

I was also happy to see 2 missionaries from Dallas and enjoyed catching up with their lives. Just after we saw Rebecca Bierwolf on one of the documentary films, we went outside and saw her in person! Cool! We saw Gary Ceran, my friend from when I worked at the C O B—the one who had had so many children die in childhood—then his wife and 2 other children were killed at Christmas a year ago. He introduced me to his fiancée and her children. It was so good to see how he has recovered and hear his expressions of forgiveness for the man who caused the accident. I always knew that would be his attitude! So—it was a wonderful, beautiful, wintry day and I was able to walk to and from the funeral without too much difficulty.

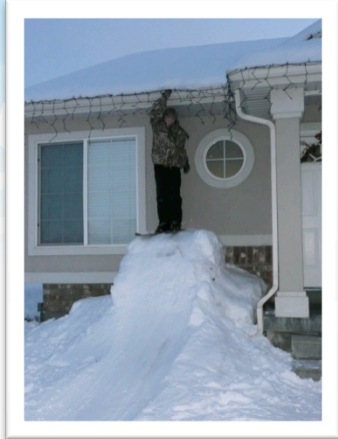
On Monday we were able to see the announcement of the new First Presidency in the privacy of our home in Saratoga Springs. I shed tears of joy and testimony as I received such a witness that President Monson will be wonderful and that he is definitely God's Prophet on the earth. I had wondered if I'd be able to make the transition—to fully embrace President Monson. NO DOUBT NOW! I know it!

Well, I love you all. Grandkids, I love the gospel so much. Lean on us for that knowledge if you need to. Just know that WE KNOW it's worth it all!

Burnetts



We had a nice Christmas. Cason was excited to get an Xbox and Tanner got a shotgun with camo clothing. We went to Mom & Lynn's in the afternoon and went swimming. It was SO cold outside but nice in the water! For New Year's we went down to Kanab to visit Dad and Connie. It was cold there too! It was really windy most of the time so we'd go outside and play for a while and then come back in to thaw out! It was nice to see them but sad to see Dad in rough shape.



The kids have mostly enjoyed all the snow this year! It got to a point where we'd wake up in the morning to more snow and Cason would grumble! This picture is a snow ramp the kids built by the front steps. Cason had his 16th birthday. He and a friend with a close



birthday arranged a birthday party with help from their Moms. They invited a bunch of friends and had quite a bash! Cason was ordained a Priest and got to bless the sacrament once (well 3 tries) so far!

Cason and Tanner went on a winter campout with their young men group. Cason slept outside in a snow cave but Tanner wimped out and slept in the lodge! They had fun but got their fill for the year because a few weeks after they didn't want to go to the winter Klondike scout campout! I can't really blame them. I don't



mind camping out once in the winter, but once is plenty!

Kelly has been busy but having fun with basketball for the women and young women in the stake.

Our garbage disposal broke and ruined part of our kitchen floor so we're excited to get to get a new floor... except for the money and work part of it!

