

From small town to the big stage

Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

From a small town to the big stage. That's a journey which many entertainers have attempted, and it is a tough road. Today we'll meet a singer-songwriter who is making such a journey. He is not forgetting his small town roots. In fact, he is honoring them.

Logan Mize is a rising star in country music. He is a Kansas native, having grown up at Clearwater, population 2,173 people. That's rural - but there's more. Logan's father grew up at the community of Turon, population 432. Now, that's rural.

In Clearwater, Logan's grandfather Nolan Mize owns the grocery store named Mize Thriftway. Logan started working there at age 12.

Logan took piano lessons as a kid and then got into sports. He went to some country music concerts and they made a deep impression. In the back of his mind, a seed was planted.

But his immediate concerns were sports and school. He played football so well that he had the opportunity to play at Hutchinson Community College and studied agriculture. He was then recruited to play at Southern Illinois University. Meanwhile, he had taken up the guitar and begun writing and performing songs.

Southern Illinois University is located only a three-hour drive from Nashville. Logan started going to Nashville and learning about the country music scene. He decided to give it a try.

What followed sounds like the lyrics of a country music song, or maybe the plot of a movie: Small town Kansas boy goes to Nashville, goes through hard times, meets a good woman, and hits it big. Logan arrived in Nashville with just \$60 and a tank of gas. He got a job as a dump truck driver. That and other odd jobs allowed him to stay in Nashville until he signed his first songwriting deal.

Logan's first album, "Logan Mize," was released in 2009. It was followed in 2012 with "Nobody in Nashville," which charted to number 49 on Billboard Country Albums Chart and number 15 on Billboard Heatseekers Albums Chart.

Logan has reconnected with his family roots in country music. While in his early 20's, he learned that his great-uncle Billy Mize (a Kansas native) had been a pioneer in country music in California. The elder Mize, now in his eighties, helped popularize the Bakersfield country sound made famous by Buck Owens and Merle Haggard in the 1960's.

"When I found out about him, I really researched the Bakersfield sound," Logan said. "Buck Owens was in Billy's band. (Billy) even co-founded the Academy of Country Music."

Logan is now carrying on that family tradition. He has been the opening act for Lady Antebellum, Leann Rimes, Eric Church, Dierks Bentley, The Band Perry, Charlie Daniels Band, Blake Shelton, Stoney LaRue, Billy Currington, and a special trib-

ute with Merle Haggard. In fall 2013, he accompanied Leann Rimes on a tour of the United Kingdom in Glasgow, London, Birmingham and Manchester.

He has also appeared on national television. He was in a widely viewed "Fabric Of Our Lives" cotton commercial with a star of the ABC-TV show Nashville. He and his band are shown performing on stage at Music City's legendary Station Inn. Logan also played himself and sang with his band in an episode of The CW's hit drama Hart of Dixie.

Logan has even been named the state's Official Kansas Tourism Ambassador by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. For more information, go to www.loganmize.com or www.travelks.com/loganmize.

From a small town to the big stage. That's a challenging journey which many entertainers have attempted, but Logan Mize is making it happen. As he performed in front of thousands of screaming fans on the big stage at Country Stampede, it must have been exciting to think of his small town roots. We commend Logan Mize for making a difference as an ambassador for Kansas.

And there's more. Remember the movie plot where he met a good woman? The good woman whom he met in real life is a Nashville performer and a Kansas as well. We'll learn about that next week.

Norton's Farmers Market



Every Saturday, the Norton Farmers Market is set up from 8-11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park on Highway 36. Last Saturday, they had five booths set up with fresh produce to buy.

-Telegram photo by Shylo Paxton

COLLEGE NOTES

Approximately 4,600 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2014 semester.

The students, from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of Health Professions and Nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 94 of 105 Kansas counties, 43 other states and 38 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of Architecture,

Design & Planning; Business; Education; Engineering; Health Professions; Journalism; Music; Nursing; Pharmacy; and Social Welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Students also are listed online

by county, state or country in pdf format.

Norton
Phillip Becker, Lenora, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Rhees Carlson, Norton, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Dakota Dreher, Norton, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Matthew Miller, Norton, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

There were 32 other students from six different counties in Kansas that also made it on to the honor roll.

Linden-Bloom Wedding



Mia Bloom, cousin of the groom, was the flower girl and Aiden Smith, cousin of the groom, and Braylin Linden, nephew of the bride, were ring bearers.

The bride is the daughter of Frank and Sheryl Linden of Goodland and the granddaughter of Doris Linden of Norton and the late Guy Linden and Linda Fogo of Goodland and the late George "Bud" Fogo.

The groom is the son of Edie Lively of Phillipsburg, Garth and Mary Bloom of Wichita and the grandson of the late Ned and Darlene Bloom and Ed and Roberta Lively of Phillipsburg.

The bride graduated from Goodland High School in 2007 and is a 2011 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in justice studies. She is currently a deputy clerk in the Ellis County District Court. The groom graduated from Phillipsburg High School in 2007, and is a 2013 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in human health and performance. He also plans to attain a second degree in Secondary Education.

Following a honeymoon to Mexico, the couple is at home in Hays.

Emily Ann Linden and Kade Edward Bloom were married on Aug. 10, 2013, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland with Father Norbert Dlabal presiding. Following the wedding a reception was held at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

The maid of honor was Nicolette Clancy of Goodland and the bridesmaids were

Chelsee Phillips, Amanda Bell and Skylar Holmes and Hali Rowland, sisters of the groom.

The best man was Caleb Breon and the groomsmen were Dakota Kohler and Hunter Kohler, brothers of the groom, Austin Bowman and Chris Schneider. The ushers were Adrian Baker, Brandon Linden, Ross Bugbee, Ross Holmes and Ryan Swatzell.

Speer-Winzurk Engagement

Allison Speer, Cartersville, Ga., and Brandon Winzurk, Suwanee, Ga., announce their engagement. Allison is the daughter of Reverend Bob and Mrs. Rita Speer of Norton. Brandon's parents are retired Col. William and Mrs. Barbara Winzurk of Knoxville, Tenn. and Mrs. Audrey Stevens of Portland, Ore.

Allison graduated from Norton Community High School, Norton; Hastings College, Hastings, Neb., with a degree in elementary education and received her Master's Degree from Nova University. Allison is a program manager at Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Ga.

Brandon graduated from Smokey Hill High School, Aurora, Colo.; the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo., with a degree in engineering and earned his Master's Degree from the Georgia Institute of



Technology, Atlanta, Ga. Brandon is a structural engineer at Power Engineers, Norcross, Ga.

The wedding will be at The Conservatory in Acworth, Ga. on Oct. 26.

Annual insurance update released

The Kansas Health Institute has released its Annual Insurance Update, providing an in-depth look at insurance coverage in the Sunflower State. The report examines public and private insurance coverage using data from the 2012 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. This information may be used to better understand how the Affordable Care Act and other federal health policy changes could affect decision-making in Kansas.

Uninsured Kansans

About 359,000 Kansans - or 12.6 percent of the population - were uninsured in 2012, similar to the rate in 2011, but significantly lower than the national rate of 14.8 percent. Of this number, approximately 56,000 are children. However, the rate of uninsured children in Kansas has been declining since 2008, from 9.3 percent to 7.3 percent in 2012.

70.8 percent of all uninsured Kansans are between the ages of 19 and 44. Two-thirds have family incomes above the federal poverty level (\$23,050 annually for a family of four in 2012).

Although employment improves a person's chance of being insured, more than three out of four uninsured Kansas adults are working.

The Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplaces provide tax subsidies for those who qualify (incomes between 100 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level) to help cover the cost of plan premiums. Sixty-one percent of Kansans who are uninsured could be eligible for this financial assistance when purchasing coverage.

Kansans with Insurance

More than half, 52.2 percent, of all Kansans are covered through employment-based health insurance and 29.4 percent have public coverage, such as Medicare or Medicaid.

Over half (51.5 percent) of Kansas children are covered through their parents' employment-based health insurance plan, and 35 percent receive public insurance.

Essentially all Kansans over the age of 65 have public insur-

ance, primarily Medicare or a combination of Medicare and Medicaid.

Consistent with national trends, the rate of uninsurance for 19-25 year-olds has declined significantly since 2009 (26.8 percent to 22.3 percent), likely a result of the provision of the Affordable Care Act which allows dependents to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26.

"This analysis helps us inform policymakers about the important trends in insurance coverage, especially with the implementation of federal health reform," said Scott Brunner, senior analyst and strategy team leader. The Annual Insurance Update provides context and historical information about

health insurance coverage as Kansans try to understand the potential impacts of the Affordable Care Act." Brunner is a former Medicaid director for the state.

The report also provides information related to insurance coverage by race and ethnicity, as well as maps that depict differences in coverage and Medicaid participation across the state. Finally, the report examines how insurance coverage in Kansas has changed since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, which provides some insight into how the economy, job market and changes in federal and state health policy affect coverage.

Calling All Soldiers To Join Us For
Bible Boot Camp
EPHESIANS 6:11-18
STATIONED AT
FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
1010 CHURCHILL DRIVE, NORTON, KANSAS
Report for Duty: July 14-18
From: 6:00 - 8:30 P.M.
FOR AGES 4 THROUGH SIXTH GRADE
Join our Platoon to learn about putting on the Full Armor of God. We will have Bible Stories, Music, Crafts and Snacks from the Canteen! Have questions or need more information: Brenda Dole: 785-871-0244 or JaLynn Urban: 785-871-7377

720 7th Street, Beaver City, NE



Two Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, Extremely Large Family Room, Large Corner Lot with Landscaping and Underground Sprinklers, 2 Car Garage. VERY NICE!

Valley Real Estate, Oxford, NE

Duane Murdoch, Broker - 308/824-3270 (Office)
LesLee McGee, Sales Associate - 308/991-8080 (Cell)