

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 199

FEBRUARY 2008

SIX-THOUSAND DOLLAR SMILE

By Chad

FEBRUARY 5

After three abhorrent years, I finally got my braces off! Three years and three orthodontists later, I have straight teeth. Much better than my West Virginia hillbilly photo at right (my apologies to any West Virginians who might read this).

These are the top ten things I missed most during the three years:

10. Pizza Crust
9. Cheese Stuffed Pizza Crust
8. Overeating Sugar
7. Sunflower Seeds
6. Soda (I was restricted to once a week)
5. Chewing on chewy candies (I could only suck them)
4. Apples
3. Beef Jerky
2. Carrots

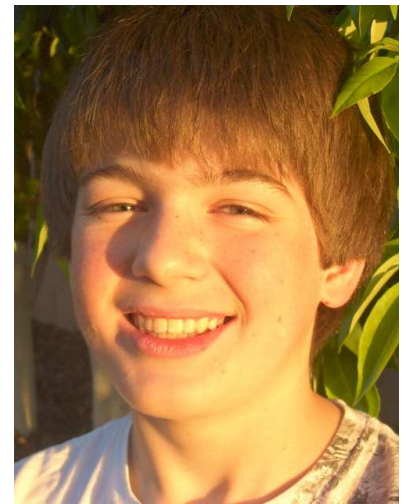
And #1 thing I missed while wearing braces: CHEWING GUM!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The braces did cost nearly six thousand dollars, which was nearly double the insurance estimate. That's what happens when you move state-to-state in the middle of treatment, so try to avoid that if you can. We basically ended up paying the cost of treatment twice, since they removed the Utah braces and rebanded him in Arizona.

All told, his teeth certainly look better now than they did before, and it's nice to have that done before the teen years. He'll appreciate that when he starts chasing girls.



Before (May 2004, right after having four teeth pulled)



After

victim?

In 1984's *The Terminator*, several women named Sarah Connor are killed, and eventually the main character (also Sarah Connor) becomes the target. Angie had a similar moment when a Law & Order murder victim was named Anne-Marie Liscomb. Pretty close to Angie's maiden name, Angela Marie Liscom, but thankfully this murder was fictional.

field month

Jeff's had two field trips and a field day during February, none of which were totally successful. The Discovery Arizona field trip was cancelled while the class was en route due to weather conditions. The Music Fest field trip was OK, but Jeff didn't get any of the autographs he wanted. Finally, he came home from field day in really bad condition due to allergies.

happy camper

Chad enjoyed a scout camp on February 1, spending the night with his troop at Lake Pleasant.

He also ended the month at a scout camp, driving to the McDowell Mountain Regional Park on the 29th, and returning home on March 1.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE

By Marnie

FEBRUARY 1

Marnie has gotten bored with her Q&A format, so she is switching to an article, at least for now.

We had a primary party and they wanted us to bring cars that we made. We were going to sit in them and watch a movie.

Jeff started his car first using a laundry basket and construction paper. His car was mostly black, and he had cup holders on it.

Dad helped with my car. I drew the front part and the rest was pink construction paper. We made headlights, wheels, and a steering wheel. I also had cup holders and pillow inside to sit on. I fit better in my car than Jeffrey because his legs were sticking up. He's too big!

When we got to the party we got tickets that we could use to get food. I used my tickets to buy a drink and some candy and popcorn. We watched *Iron Giant*, and then went home.



MORE MARNIE...

Marnie's teacher was worried about her one day when she acted sad because she felt her jacket made her look fat. It is a thicker jacket, but from her perspective, it made her look bad. If this is coming up when she's five, what are the teenage years going to be like?

WEBKINZ ROUNDUP

By Jeff

This family of plushes was started around Christmas when Marnie got the pug and the platypus from Santa and the turtle from our cousin, Ally. I helped her set up her file on Webkinz.com and helped her get "kinzcash" to buy stuff at the "W-Shop."

I thought it was pretty cool so I went on Amazon.com and looked for my favorite animal, a penguin. I finally found one and ordered it, and a few days later it arrived in the mail. I named my penguin Daniel, after my favorite musical artist, Daniel Powter.

Later, Marnie and I wanted more Webkinz so we went shopping. Marnie got the pink and white cat at "The Doll House and Toy Store". I wanted a cow, but they didn't have it there. We found one in another store called "Justice (Just for Girls)" which I didn't particularly like. I thought of a way that nobody would know that I was the one buying it: having Marnie hold it while we were in the store. I just didn't want to be embarrassed buying something in a store for girls.



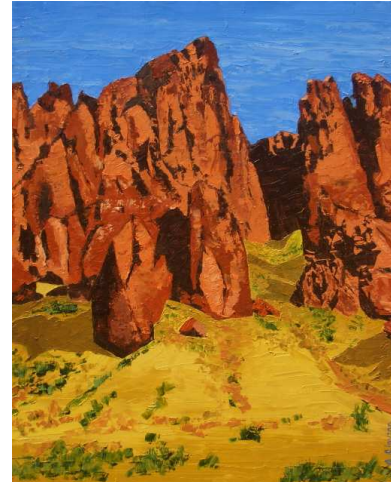
RANDOM NOTES

- Angie returned from Atlanta on February 1, and made a trip to Anaheim later in the month.
- Ken and Angie attended parent-teacher conferences at DSMS early in the month. Chad got good reviews from his algebra teacher, but his English teacher said he was "brilliant but lazy and disorganized." Just what parents long to hear.
- Jeff's teachers shared two writing assignments at North Ranch conferences. Jeff has taken to closing papers like this: "Thank you for reading my opinion on _____. If you have any questions about my views, please call me at _____ or email _____."
- The Relief Society book club discussed *The Wednesday Letters*, which Angie read some time ago but the group hadn't gotten together yet.
- Angie taught her second Relief Society lesson since getting her new calling.
- The family enjoyed a game night with the Reinstains on President's Day weekend. The kids played video games and watched a movie while the adults played Rummy, 21 and Hearts.
- Chad turned the President's Day four-day week into a one-day week when he became sick over the holiday weekend.
- We all attended the Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet late in the month, sharing a table with the Dukes and visiting with several others.
- Ken turned 39, and may have to admit that he's no longer in his mid-thirties. He got an iPod car kit and a little charging station, among other things.

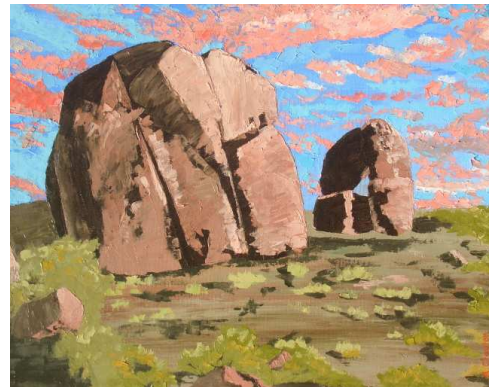


The final hour of braces.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



I love this one. The yellow sand really makes it pop off the wall. Plus, it's a variation on the primary colors (also Superman's colors).



Not a favorite. I like the colors, but the painting seems unfinished.



I tried something different with this painting by doing the underpainting with oil pastels instead of paint. I like the light & dark contrasts in the canyon.

MEDIA ROUNDUP ON THE SMALL SCREEN...

Veronica Mars (DVD)

One of Angie's all-time favorites, this series lasted only three seasons, ending last May. Angie got all three seasons for her birthday, and she and Chad watched all 62 episodes in February. Angie's zeal for anything Veronica also inspired her to buy a jacket that was worn by the title character for about two minutes (at right).



Angie: ★★★★★
Chad: ★★★★★

Becoming Jane (DVD)

The first two-thirds of this story is mostly accurate, but then this "true life story" deviates to make it more Hollywood. The Jane-ite in me is appalled, but on the other hand, her actual life was pretty boring after that point, so whatever.

Angie: ★★★

Justice League: New Frontier (DVD)

An animated movie from an acclaimed graphic novel. In other words, it's a comic book movie. But it was good! Just not as good as the source material, but what is?

Ken ★★★★★½ (DVD)
Ken ★★★★★ (Graphic novel – read late last year)



MUSIC

Jack Johnson: Brushfire Fairytales, On and On, In Between Dreams, and Sleep Through the Static

Ken had heard Jack Johnson and then his brother made a recommendation. Chad also knew of Johnson from his sixth grade teacher, so we dove in and bought four of his five CDs. Good stuff, although sometimes a bit enviro-preachy.

Ken ★★★★★½
Chad ★★★★★ (Brushfire Fairytales a little lower)

All-American Rejects: Move Along

Random selection out of the bargain bin.

Ken ★★★★★
Chad ★★★★★

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

If you know Ken at all, you probably know he's a bit of a stat geek. Here are some of the figures from 2007. Interesting or not? You be the judge.

Miles flown:

• Angie	77,459
• Ken	31,949
• Chad	5,304
• Jeff	5,304
• Marnie	5,304
• TOTAL	125,320

Angie flew **48,484** miles for work in **63** separate flight segments (**770** miles per flight). In contrast, she flew **28,975** miles on only **13** segments for personal travel (**2,229** miles per flight).

She totaled **23** hotel nights on her business trips, compared to **37** nights in a strange bed (or seat) while traveling for fun.

The family also added **4,625** miles driving during three trips to Utah and our time in North Carolina and Virginia.

New countries visited by Ken and Angie: **4 (Czech Republic, Italy, Tunisia, Malta)**

Jazz record during 2007: **55-46, including a return to the playoffs for the first time since 2003**

Phoenix days over 100 degrees: **85**

Phoenix days over 90 degrees: **171**

Total spent on twelve months of electrical bills (people are always asking what it costs to cool the house): **\$3,933.**

Paintings completed: **31**

Amount spent on paint supplies: **\$401**

Number of new cavities: **3**

Number of old fillings needing replacement: **3**

Number of sick / urgent care visits: **4**

Most frequently visited restaurants:

• Sweet Tomatoes	10 visits
• Havana Café (take out)	8
• Pei Wei (some take out)	8
• Mimi's Cafe	7
• California Pizza Kitchen	6

Number of hits on our website: **583**