

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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THANKS, GIVING, DINNER(S)

We took several days off around the Thanksgiving holiday, spending Thanksgiving at the Reinsteins along with the McKays and Spencer Rich. Angie made side dishes (mashed potatoes, two kinds of sweet potatoes, and corn) and brought pies from Costco. After dinner, we all played SingStar games (karaoke on PS2). Later in the evening, we carried on our tradition, going to our 18th annual Thanksgiving movie. This year's pick was *Bolt*.

We were all involved in volunteerism during the month. Early one Saturday morning, Chad taught knife and axe skills to younger scouts at a campout (we got a nice letter from the Scout leaders a few weeks later telling us that he did a great job).

The rest of the family was also up early to participate in the "Walk on the Wild Side" event to benefit MS, walking through the Phoenix Zoo. On another weekend, Marnie and friends sang in a concert at a nursing home. Later that day, Ken and Angie volunteered at the North Ranch Elementary School Country Fair, running a hula hoop throwing game for Mrs. Krell (Marnie's class) and a Nerf dart shooting game for Mrs. Brown (Jeff's Honors teacher).

Aside from the Thanksgiving holiday, we spent several evenings having dinner with friends. The family took Marnie's friend Sophie Roser out to dinner and to see *High School Musical 3* as a belated birthday present. We had dinner with ward friends several times this month: at the Reinsteins on the 16th (with the McKays and Spencer Rich, which was the same group that we would spend Thanksgiving with 11 days later), and with the Harrigans at our house on the 23rd.



Jeff messing around in his Flash tee shirt

punk'd!

While volunteering at the school fair, Ken shocked the teacher in charge of the booth as he gave instructions to a boy who wanted to play the game.

He teased: "OK, you go stand in front of the target, and we'll see how many times I can shoot you with the Nerf darts." The kid and the teacher both did a double take, causing Ken to chortle with laughter at their gullability.

comforting words

Jeff was reading about vampires for a school assignment, and he was having trouble getting to sleep because the book was scary.

Mom tried to explain that vampires aren't real; they were based on people who were accidentally buried while they were still alive and they had brain damage from oxygen deprivation.

For some reason, Jeff didn't find this very comforting.

slogan

The NBA tipped off in late October, but Ken didn't get to see the Jazz play until the third game, on November 3.

The Jazz rolled out a new advertising campaign this year: "Life Off, Game On," suggesting that fans should put everything on hold to attend, watch or listen to the games.

Angie probably assumed that was always the slogan.

KIDS' ROUNDUP

By Chad, Jeff & Marnie

Walking in the Zoo – by Marnie (Nov 8)

One morning I went on a walk with Mom, Dad, and Jeffrey and hundreds of other people. We walked up a road and then into the zoo! We got to walk around the zoo and see animals and some people Mom works with. They were in the zoo too, but not in cages. Just visiting like us.

What a Sharp Scout! – by Chad (Nov 8)

This month Zach and I were asked to teach a camp tool safety class at an 11-year-old Scout camp. We didn't have too much notice, but we planned it out with Bro. Richards. The bad news is that I had to wake up at 6:00 AM on a Saturday to drive up to the campsite and do the training. The training included axes, saws, and knives. I taught the axe portion while Zach did the other two because axe was the longest. One kid almost chopped his leg off, but in the end no limbs were lost, so I'd call it a success.

Marnie's Recital – by Marnie (Nov 15)

My singing group performed at a nursing home in Scottsdale. Our first number was "I Won't Say I'm In Love" from *Hercules*. Meg sings that one. In the picture you can see Kennedy, Jordyn, me, and Sophie when we were singing our second number, "When There Was Me and You" from *High School Musical*. Gabriella sings that one in the movie, and I always call it her sad song. It was a little embarrassing because there were a lot of people and I felt like they were watching only me the whole time.



Country Fair – by Jeff (Nov 15)

My school held the Country Fair this month, and my parents helped out at two booths. First they helped out at Mrs. Krell's booth with a hula hoop toss. Later they helped out at Mrs. Brown's booth, which is a Nerf gun target practice. I spent most of my time hanging out with Isaac, Andrew and Chris. We mostly did the obstacle course against each other and got drinks.

Thanksgiving Dinner – by Chad (Nov 27)

I liked it. Much better than "Cats." I'm going to eat it again and again. But seriously, that's an inside joke from an old *Saturday Night Live*. But I did honestly like the food.

Trip to Mars – by Jeff

My class went on a field trip to the Challenger Space Center. I can't remember the exact date. We did the Mars Mission simulator there. My first job was in the MCC (Mission Control Center), where I monitored a remote team pretending to be on their way to Mars. Then we switched and I sat at a desk with a screen in front of me with two joysticks. I pretended to control a grabber to pick up rock sample. It was one of my favorite field trips ever.

RANDOM NOTES

- Angie logged two business trips in the month: Albuquerque on the 3rd and San Antonio on the 20th.
- Angie joined Facebook mid-month and spent time catching up with old friends.
- Ken's weight was 203 on Thanksgiving morning. After a turkey dinner and movie popcorn, it was certainly higher by bedtime. He's still nearing his 200 by 40 goal.

SWEET POTATO RECIPE

Boil or steam peeled sweet potatoes in small pieces. Mash with 1 T. vanilla, 4 T. sugar, ½ stick butter, ¼ t. cinnamon, ½ t. nutmeg. Layer in a baking dish with marshmallows (do not overdo the marshmallows!) and sprinkle each layer with cinnamon sugar. Bake for 15 mins at 350 degrees.

MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

High School Musical 3: Senior Year

High school set to music. Newly introduced character Rocket Man was a hit with the kids.

Ken ★★★

Angie ★★★½

Chad ★★★½

Jeff **

Marnie ★★★★★ "It was really great, and I loved it!"

Quantum of Solace

This is a Whitman's sampler of action: car chase, running chase, boat chase, etc. Plus bad guys, Bond girls, and the ubiquitous M.

Ken ★★★½

Angie ★★★½

Casino Royale (DVD)

There's a lot of gambling and snappy dressing. The Venice action sequence is top shelf!

Ken ★★★½

Angie ★★★½

Chad ★★★★★

Bolt

A deluded dog, a jaded cat, and a deranged hamster go on an adventure, stopping at waffle houses and trailer parks along the way.

Ken ★★★½

Angie ★★★

Chad ★★★

Jeff ★★★

Marnie ★★★ "I liked when she said *Uh-oh. Speak!*"



MUSIC

High School Musical 3

Marnie ★★★★★

My favorite song is *All I Wanna Do Is Be with You* with Sharpay and Rocket Man.

BOOKS

Pemberley by the Sea by Abigail Reynolds

A modern version of *Pride & Prejudice*. Unfortunately, Elizabeth is a boring marine biologist with fewer sexual inhibitions than a porn star, and Darcy is a milquetoast author with a rich fantasy life. There were some promising elements, but insufficient editing for my taste. Yet I've read worse.

Angie ★★½

The Last Man in the World by Abigail Reynolds

This (and the next two) are variations on *Pride & Prejudice*. This one explores what would have happened if Elizabeth had married Darcy as a result of his first proposal, which is pretty creepy at times since she barely knows him. This was the best of these "what if" books I read.

Angie ★★★

From Lambton to Longbourn by Abigail Reynolds

This explores "what if" Darcy and Elizabeth had openly discussed their feelings when he left Lambton to negotiate with Wickham in London. It was total crap. That's 4 hours of my life I'll never have back.

Angie **turkey**

Impulse and Initiative by Abigail Reynolds

This explores "what if" Darcy followed Elizabeth back to Hertfordshire after she rejected his proposal. The idea was fairly promising, but it kind of reads like fan-fiction.

Angie **

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

This is a classic for a reason, exploring themes of religious tolerance, man's relationship to God and the role of religious leaders, father and son relationships, and the nature of friendship. No chicks, though.

Angie ★★★½

Chad ★★★

An Orgy of George by George Carlin

Eventually the misanthropy starts to grate and some of this got repetitive, but there were many moments of absolute laugh-out-loud brilliance.

Angie ★★★

Mysteries Unwrapped: The Real Monsters

by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen

I liked the vampire section. I didn't like the zombie and mummy sections because they were kind of boring. One talked about Haitian religion, and the other talked about preparing dead bodies by taking the brains out.

Jeff ★★½

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



Ephesus Poppies. From a photo we took in Ephesus earlier this year. I loved how the poppies contrast with the ruins in the background and the tall green grass.



Bottles. This isn't a personal favorite, but it was fun to explore the reflections in the glass bottles and the different colors in the grain of the wood.



Patti Boyd. I really loved doing this one. It was hard to get her chin right, and to make her look older. Other contemporary pics of Patti Boyd look somewhat skanky although in this one she looks lovely and wise.

...AND KEYBOARD

- *Is Mormonism Built to Last?*
- *Virtual RS/PH #20: A Heart Full of Love & Faith: The Prophet's Letters to His Family*
- *When is Your Ox in the Mire?*
- *Virtual RS/PH #21: The Second Coming & The Millennium*
- *Twilight and "The Great Mormon Novel"*



*We were still in Disneyland on November 1, driving home that afternoon
Jeff and Marnie got a photo with Chip and Dale before we left*