

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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MARCH 2007

CHAD PREPARES FOR PRIESTHOOD

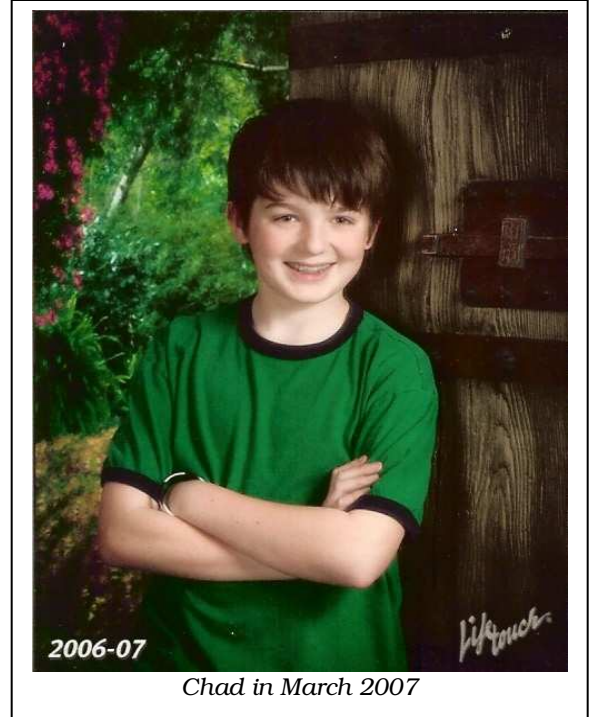
The latter part of March was fairly active, with most of the activity revolving around Chad's twelfth birthday.

Chad, together with Ken and Angie, attended the ward's Priesthood Preview two Sundays before his birthday and managed to impress people with his knowledge. For example, when the Bishop asked when the Aaronic Priesthood was restored, he probably would have been happy with any answer in the correct century. Chad quickly raised his hand and replied that the restoration took place on May 15, 1829.

Just a few days later, he was interviewed by the Bishop, and again managed to show off a little knowledge that surprised the Bishop. More importantly, he also showed that he was worthy, and we scheduled his ordination for Easter Sunday.

Chad turned 12 on March 29, and had a good birthday up until the final hour or two. His birthday falls during spring break, so he didn't have to go to school, and he received several gifts he wanted. He opened the gifts while we ate at Olive Garden (Chad's choice), but apparently he overate or something didn't agree with him. He woke up vomiting shortly before midnight.

Ken and Chad ended the month by attending the Priesthood Session of General Conference, another first for Chad. He particularly enjoyed the first few talks by Elder Wirthlin and Bishop McMullen, who both shared amusing stories about their high school and college football experiences. Bishop McMullen also shared a story about a failed chemistry exam that was pretty funny.



Chad in March 2007

sick

Chad and Ken went on a scout camp, but didn't make it to the end. Around 1:00 AM, Chad awoke suddenly and threw up all over his sleeping bag and the tent floor. We spent the rest of a cold night under one sleeping bag in the backseat of the SUV, putting shirts over our heads to keep our faces warm. No wonder he threw up: we figured that he had eaten about 1,400 calories the prior afternoon and evening.

visitors

We hosted two furry little houseguests this month, taking care of the Duke family's rabbits while they were on vacation.

We don't usually congratulate ourselves on a job well done, but we didn't hear a single complaint from the rabbits about the care they received.

day of reckoning

Third quarter report cards came home with the boys at spring break time, and contained mostly good news.

Jeff ended up with 4 A's and 1 B, and only narrowly missed getting all A's. Chad pulled only 3 A's and 2 B's, and seems to be getting lazy as he winds down elementary school. He promises that his habits will revert back when he gets to middle school next fall.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



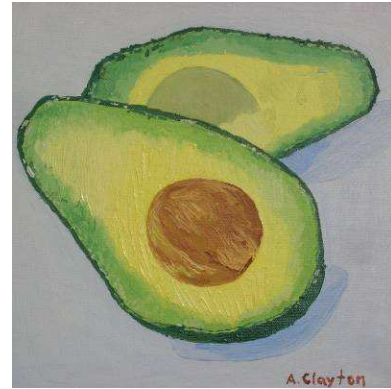
This painting of the Grand Canyon is my favorite of all time (so far). I did this using only the palette knife, no brushes. Without fail, this painting (in the dining room) elicits more comments than any other painting in the house. People are literally drawn to it, walking over with their eyes fixed on it—it really comes to life on the canvas.



I liked the coloring of the figs in this picture, but there is a problem with composition – not enough shadows, and too much white space. Rats.



This one was a cooler idea than finished product. But the method I used on the tree had a striking effect with a dark underpainting and a very light detailed overpainting. Very modernist as a result.



This one also has the problem with composition. Although it's a fine depiction, it doesn't have enough interest, shadows or movement. Boring!

RANDOM NOTES

- We discovered *The Gelato Spot* in March. After three visits in two weeks, it seems to have become a family favorite.
- Angie read *Rachel and Leah* for the Relief Society book club and enjoyed it enough to order the other titles from the *Women of Genesis* series, *Sarah* and *Rebekah*.
- Angie took two short trips in March: a day trip to Albuquerque and on overnighter to New Jersey.
- Friends Rob and Anna Foster moved to Salt Lake this month, leaving us to watch *Battlestar Galactica* by ourselves from now on. We got together March 25 for one last episode (the season finale).
- After a year in Phoenix, we finally got the kids in to see their new pediatrician, Dr. Ceimo. Disgusted as usual with having to disrobe for the doctor, the kids decided the name Dr. "See-more" seemed more appropriate.

SCIENCE FAIR

By Chad

MARCH 15

This year I did an odd science experiment. Normally people do things like extract onion DNA, stuff to do with chemistry, and more scientific topics. My partner, McKay, and I did an experiment on paintball accuracy. We mainly did that because McKay loves paintball, and he said that it was more safe for him because he does stuff like that often. Most of the other experiments we considered included possible explosions.

We got eight of the more popular paintball brands, including Marballizers (the most expensive), Visible Impact and WalMart's generic brand (the two cheapest brands). Our hypothesis was that Marballizers would be the most accurate. We also predicted that WalMart and Visible Impact would be the least accurate brands.

We were very surprised by our results—both the scientific results and our placement in the science fair. Visible Impact was the most accurate in our tests, followed by WalMart generic paintballs. Marballizer came in fourth out of eight brands tested. Be sure to remember this when you go shopping for paintballs.

We also placed second in our grade in the science fair, behind a project that tried to determine if dogs had a preference paw (i.e. left-pawed or right-pawed). It turns out they do, according to that experiment.



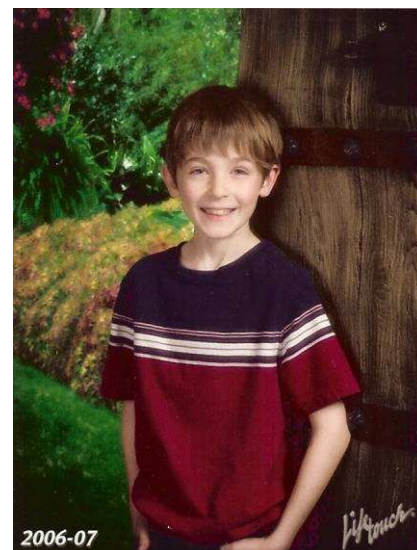
Chad's silver medal from the science fair

SCHOOL AND SCOUT STUFF

By Jeff

I didn't have one big thing this month, but I had a bunch of little things that are worth talking about:

1. The Pinewood Derby: I didn't build my own car, but I used my brother's old one. I did three races and finished second, third, and fourth places. I kept getting worse. Next time I want to build my own car because it could be better than that one was.
2. I made up for the Pinewood Derby the next week, by winning first place in a bean drop in den meeting. It was just for fun, but I was still glad to win.
3. I tested for Honors Math and got a good enough score to get into the class. The score was like 97% or higher. I started on the first day of the fourth quarter, and I'm glad I'm in Honors Math because there are two of my friends in that class: Isaac and Andrew.
4. I also read a poetry book called *New Kid on the Block* by Jack Prelutsky and I wrote a book report. One of my favorite poems had a cuckoo bird in a clock breeding with an octopus. It made the egg of a cuckooclocktopus.



Jeff in March 2007

Q&A WITH MARNIE

MARCH 24

Q: Do you remember when we went to the Renaissance Festival? Who did we go with?

A: What Renaissance Festival?

Q: Where they have rides and the Wyldmen and Dextre Tripp.

A: Oh yeah. We went with Sophie and Ellie.

Q: What did you guys do there?

A: I bounced on the really high things. I liked it. I went up really high and flipped.

Q: I know. Here are some pictures. What else?

A: I went to see the Wyldmen.

Q: Did you like them?

A: They were very wild.

Q: What did they do that was wild?

A: I don't remember. They used fruit for instruments. I'm done now. Actually I got to ride on an elephant too.



Marnie waiting for a ride to start



Armed with a water balloon



Sophie Roser



Ellie Roser



Marnie ready to jump