

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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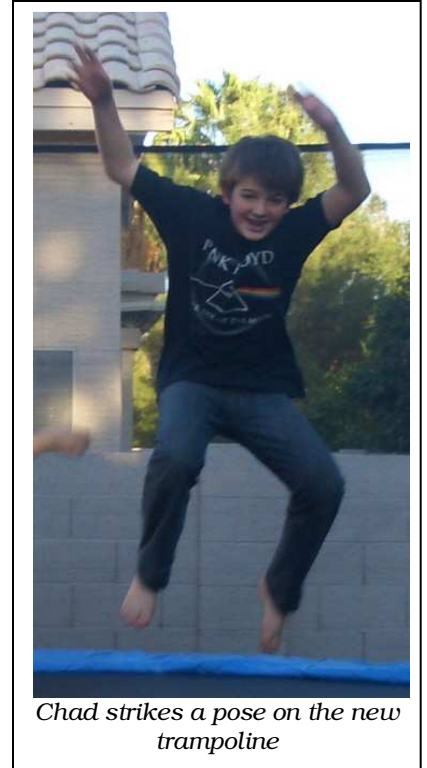
TRAMPOLINE, TRAVEL AND THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

Our new trampoline arrived on the third, and we assembled it. In the interest of safety, we got one with an enclosure and bands instead of springs. You could argue that we weren't all that interested in safety or we wouldn't have gotten one at all. In addition to playing games like "Crack the Egg," the kids also experienced their first sleep outs on the trampoline with friends.

The family was very busy this month with trips to the dentist for all, a fair at the school, three sleepovers, eight days' worth of business trips for Angie (destinations were New York, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Houston, Tampa and San Antonio), and an extended holiday weekend.

We spent Thanksgiving with friends the Reinsteins and the McKays. Roger & Debbie McKay are both from the travel business like Angie. During dinner, the travel connections and Ken and Angie's history in the Canary Islands started a discussion of the worst plane crash in history: the 1977 Tenerife crash in which two Boeing 747s collided on the tarmac killing 583 people. Later that evening during a game of Trivial Pursuit that same question coincidentally came up!

The next day, we started a new family tradition, hiking Pinnacle Peak on Black Friday (along with thousands of other people apparently). It was a good way to work off the previous day's dinner. Then we tried a new restaurant, Los Reyes de la Torta, and the kids enjoyed the eclectic menu, including beet juice and brain tacos. The food was good, but the atmosphere was disconcertingly authentic.



Chad strikes a pose on the new trampoline

tale of the tape

Prior to a match, boxers are measured and the results are published. We did something similar this month with the kids, only with no actual fighting.

Chad: 5' 3", 109 pounds
(fairly proportional)

Jeff: 4' 5", 59 pounds
(scrawny as always)

Marnie: 3'8", 41 pounds
(tall and skinny)

novacaine mutiny

When Angie complained of heat/cold sensitivity, the dentist explained that fillings only last 15-20 years. He had to drill out the old filling to put in a new one.

After the novacaine shot, the dentist predicted another 30 minutes of numbness. 9 hours later, the novacaine finally wore off, and Angie was sore for at least 5 more days.

Given the number of fillings Angie got as a teen, this could get ugly.

cookie-zilla!

We took the kids to Jilly's, a nearby sports bar restaurant. The waiter recommended their "cookie skillet" dessert (which was incredible).

Jeff misheard and asked what "cookie-zilla" was, then Marnie started waving her arms around like Godzilla. If the table was Tokyo, her glass of milk was one particularly unlucky skyscraper.

While cookies go well with milk, sitting in milk while eating cookies just isn't the same.

BOUNCING ARCHITECTS

By Jeff

NOVEMBER 3

I got to help build our trampoline when it came. It was pretty easy to put together, although there were some hot (from being in the sun) metal legs which I did not like.

Having a trampoline is great. I can jump on it and do 360s on it, and I can do a somersault when no one else is bouncing. I like playing "Crack the Egg." The egg is a person curled up in a ball trying to stay all connected. The other people are trying to bounce them out of that position, so it gets pretty rowdy. I like bouncing with my Mom because she jumps really high and gives me a big boost. It's also fun bouncing with my friends.

We have some rules to follow, like no flipping. I didn't know that, and I kneed myself in the eye and almost got a black eye.



SWEET POTATO FRIES

This recipe from Natalie, Angie's assistant from Brazil, has quickly become a family favorite.

Slice sweet potatoes into fries. Coat fries with cooking spray and sea salt on a baking sheet. Bake at 375 for 20-25 minutes or until crisp.



LITERARY MOCK TRIAL

By Chad

NOVEMBER 6

Man's law is not always the way to go. This month I had the chance to be in a literary mock trial in my English class.

In the book *The Giver*, a society tries too hard to be perfect. Jonas, a Twelve (twelve years old), is appointed to the most honored job in the community, Receiver of Memory. His job was to receive all the past memories of his community and take on all the hardships that come with them. As a result of these memories, Jonas became a wise being and found that the community was corrupt. He ran away to Elsewhere (our world), where there was feeling and concern.

In our mock trial, I was on Jonas' side. My group argued that Jonas had a higher wisdom than the community's leaders and was justified because there was a higher law than man's law. The other group argued that there was a higher law but that Jonas wasn't justified, because if nobody else could break the law, why should he be able to do so.

The jury sided with my side's argument by a 5-1 landslide.

IN OTHER CHAD NOTES:

- He had slept out on the trampoline on the 16th with Dylan and on the 22nd (Thanksgiving) with Zach. Lexi also slept over on Thanksgiving, but stayed inside with Jeff and Marnie.
- He is looking forward to having his braces removed, possibly in December, but more likely early in 2008.
- At a Stake merit badge clinic, he finished up two merit badges and nearly completed two others. He received his Star Scout award at a Court of Honor the week before Thanksgiving.



RANDOM NOTES

- Some missing school assignments for the boys resulted in a temporary crackdown that they deemed "barbaric."
- Angie got home from New York late one night and left early the next morning for Salt Lake. Delta Airlines hosted her team on the with flights and SkySuite for the Jazz vs. Cavaliers game. La Quinta provided the complimentary rooms. In SLC, she got to see lots of her old New Accounts friends and have lunch with Jenny Schlueter.
- Marnie began exploring the arctic world of Club Penguin with Jeffrey as her guide.
- Joan Cartwright, Angie's best friend Caroline's mom, was in Scottsdale for a conference and came over for dinner and to visit. We had our usual Havana Café. It was great to see her!
- The family went to the North Ranch Elementary Country Fair on the 17th. Chad volunteered at the bouncy obstacle course to earn service hours for his Citizenship in the Community merit badge.
- Angie flew to Albuquerque to serve a turkey dinner to the staff and meet with her team there.
- Jeff and friend Isaac had a sleepover on the 23rd.
- Jeff was very sick with the flu on the 26th and 27th, unusual for our "unbreakable" kid whose first illness ever was at age 5.
- Angie logged her final business trips of the month, to Houston (26th), Tampa (27th) and San Antonio (28th), traveling with her new Relationship Leader, Heather. In San Antonio, they managed to black out half the restaurant by adjusting the light bulb at their table.
- While making sweet potato fries, Angie sliced her finger pretty badly. As she dripped blood into the sink, the ghoulish kids clamored around her: "I wanna see! I wanna see!" and Jeff declared her injury "Cool!" Chad finally did get her a band-aid.

BEATLE-MARNIE-A!

By Marnie

Marnie listened to Rubber Soul a lot in the car this month.

- At first she hated the song "Michelle, Ma Belle" because she said it sounded like vampires were singing it. There is some eerie sounding "ooh" going on in the background.
- We decided the sighs in the song "Girl" sound like they are wiping their noses on their sleeves.
- In "I'm Looking Through You," the song amps up on the line "You're not the same," so when that line comes on, Marnie & Jeff like to yell it really loud. Marnie says, "You have to shake your head on this part!"
- Marnie loves the song "Run," which is basically written from a misogynistic stalker's perspective. When they sing "Catch you with another man, that's the end, little girl" Marnie likes to draw her finger across her neck in a threatening gesture.

Some of her other favorite Beatles songs are: From Me to You, Penny Lane, and Lady Madonna.

ANATOMICALLY CORRECT:

Marnie continues to get rave reviews from her teacher, Miss Pat, for her reading and social skills. She has also learned a song at school with the names of important bones in the human body.

One day she applied this knowledge in a practical situation when she fell on her knee entering the house, shouting "My patella! My patella!" She likes to be specific.



MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

Enchanted

A fairy tale princess goes to NYC, makes dresses out of curtains, organizes cockroaches, and finds out her handsome prince isn't her true love after all.

Ken: ★★☆☆½

Angie: ★★☆☆

Chad: ★★☆☆

Jeff: ★★☆☆

Marnie: "Ten stars. I liked when she married that person."

BSG: Razor

This TV movie showcases the fine line between military discipline and ruthlessness.

Ken ★★☆☆½

Angie ★★☆☆½



MUSIC

Beatles: Rubber Soul (UK Release)

Angie: ★★☆☆

Best Beatles ever, hands down. This is the first album in which a band created a comprehensive sound that was consistent throughout the album (vs. just a compilation of their songs). Includes classics "Drive My Car" and "Nowhere Man," among others.

BOOKS

1776

Angie: ★★☆☆

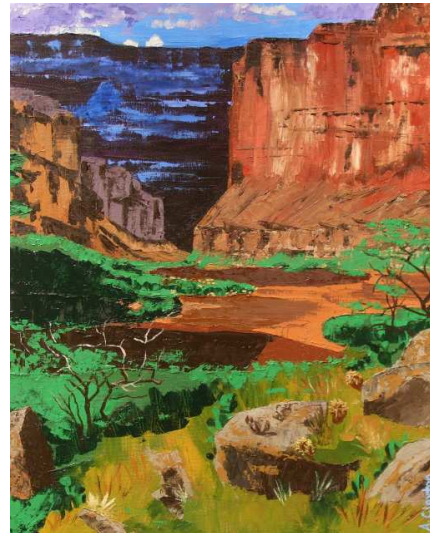
Somehow I failed to grasp until nearly the end that this book was only about the year 1776, not the entire revolutionary war. So I'm still waiting for the sequels to find out how it ends. A good read on a plane, but in small doses, followed by short naps. Plus, when you read a book like this on the plane, nobody asks you about it.

The Wednesday Letters

Angie: ★★☆☆

Not my usual fare, but I read this for the RS book club one Sunday afternoon. It was well written and the characters were likable and occasionally quirky which kept it interesting. A good, quick poolside read.

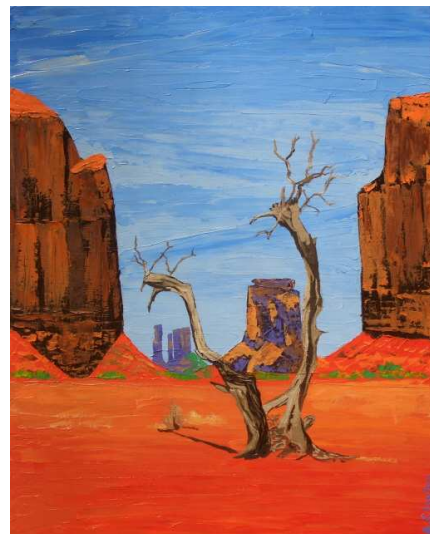
FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This is one of my favorites. I love the tree to the lower left, how the white branches stand out against the dark river below. I also like the colors in the mesas.



Another one that I abandoned because I was ready to move on. I started it when I was traveling, and the painting was hard to work when I got back. This is one of our favorite areas to hike in Zion National Park.



I love this one. Ken says, "Oh, another dead tree in a desert." I find dead trees fascinating subjects, and I love the colors of the desert against the blue sky.