

THE CLARK CHRONICLE

Special "Empty Nest Achieved" Edition



Tiabeanie ("Beanie")
looking all dignified

All Days Now Pants-Optional Days

The nest is empty! House rules have been adapted accordingly.

Sleeping in until noon is acceptable with no dads standing outside closed bedrooms loudly yelling "daylight's a-wastin'."

Pants? *Optional!*

Mealtime recommendations have been relaxed. Breakfast for dinner? Of course. Midnight brunches are delectable. Mid-afternoon tacos and margaritas might just be the *best* tacos and margaritas. Leftover chicken ka-praw? For breakfast? We're here for it.

The boss of the house has four paws and a very shrill bark.

The Clark Chronicle Delayed Timed Perfectly

Loyal readers may have noticed that this edition of *The Clark Chronicle* is arriving later in the year than they are accustomed to.

... no no, no need to thank us. The staff of the *Chronicle* is simply ensuring that our publication includes the highest amount of 2023 news possible. Some *other* newsletters might omit December news but not us. Just part of the journalistic integrity you've come to expect from the *Chronicle*.





Sara and her fiancé Clayton live in the Seattle area. They split their time between working and spoiling Gatsby.



Caleb is a third-year Architecture major at Penn State University. State College offers plenty of outdoor activities and four honest seasons.



Amy had a busy 2023, including graduating from high school; touring half a dozen colleges; and choosing California State University Long Beach, where she majors in ASL Linguistics and Deaf Studies.



Media Recommendations (We Have Extra Time)

We feel sorry for whiners and complainers saying there's nothing good on TV or, worse, stuff was so much better way back when.

Honestly, we're living through the Golden Age of Television and we should appreciate it and just, like, accept the joy. This year had exceptional episodes, seasons, and series. Here is some 2023 television we enjoyed.

Silo. Foundation. The Mandalorian. The Great. Absoka. Only Murders In The Building. Poker Face. The Last Of Us. Ted Lasso. The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel. Doctor Who. The Fall of the House of Usber. Futurama. Doctor Who. Good Omens.



BBQs

We try to fire up the ol' BGEs pretty often. Reviewing some 2023 meals has our mouths salivating and our tongues lolling.

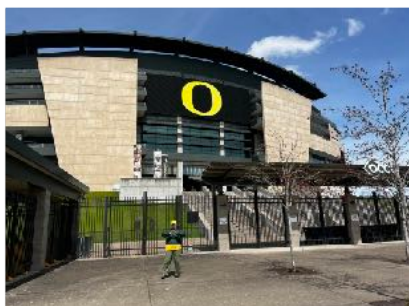
Burgers. Pork belly burnt ends. Roasted asparagus. Spatchcocked turkey. Hot dogs. Salmon. Roasted Brussels sprouts. Cross cut ribs. Pork loin roast. Chicken with secret Clark barbecue sauce. Grilled jalapeño poppers. Spatchcocked chicken. Lamb loin chops. Shrimp skewers. Steaks.



Travel

Travel this year was oriented around colleges. *State College, Pennsylvania (twice). Eureka, California. East Lansing, Michigan. Sacramento, California. Eugene, Oregon. Long Beach, California (five times).*

Schools were visited and toured. Students got matriculated appropriately.



Stupid Politics Still Stupid

In case anyone thought that American stupidity would taper off in 2023, we have the sad duty to inform you that your optimism was misplaced. Historians of the future will have trouble believing that supposedly sentient humans in 2023 contributed to stories like these:

CEO cage fight challenges

One man (call him the \$260,000,000,000.00 man) and another man (call *him* the \$70,000,-000,000.00 man) spent a chunk of 2023 belligerently taunting each other with schoolyard threats to fight each other. *This actually happened*, although the fight didn't. Kinda makes ya wish some of these people paid attention to the New Testament's warnings about mammon.

Some Pet Owners Have Anti-Vax Pets

A chunk of pet owners refuse to vaccinate their pets. 37% of dog owners believe that dog vaccinations could cause dog autism. *I'm not making this up.*

Bud Lite Was Boycotted

Despite there being a million *good* reasons to abstain from Bud Lite, right-wing weirdos picked a *terrible* reason.



Puns, Dad Jokes, and Juvenile Humor

We have lost our built-in audience upon whom we can inflict atrocious jokes.

(Why? See the sign.)

This has forced us to share these jokes with co-

workers, friends, extended family, grocery store clerks, and strangers.

I'm lichen the view. It's gonna be a long/short day (on solstices). Your wish is granite. I guano joke about this. I'm a big fan. Cheese on a chip? (Nacho problem!)



Peace on Earth is Hard to Come By

It's a tragedy when innocent people are killed, no matter what color their flags are.

It's a tragedy when whole peoples are displaced and starved, whether it's for a few days or for many generations.

Cheering for "one side" when all sides have both innocent victims *and* brutalizers is simplistic and evil. And far too human.

There exist complicated situations and nuanced, even contradictory policies; there's no sugarcoating that solutions are tough.

But the underlying principle? Simple. Love.