THE CLARK CHRONICLE

They're Eating The Dogs

Tariffs Are Good Now

Remember *Ferris Bueller*'s classroom scene? The one where Ben Stein was lecturing about how the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act made the Great Depression even worse?

It's OK if you forgot, because the geniuses in charge of the American economy for the next four years also forgot.



(but dogs make things better)



Empty Nest Less Empty, From A Certain Point Of View

The Clark kids remain scattered around the country, at school and building careers. But this year there's a wrinkle. This year we gained another family member.



Sara and Clayton (the Clark-Douglasses) tied the knot in July; they call Woodinville home and work for Washington State Department of Corrections.

Sara and Clayton had "an extremely intimate and secular civil ceremony" on July 26.



Racist Stereotypes Corner

The whole "they're eating the dogs!" phenomenon is pretty small-potatoes amongst all the ugliness exhibited by our incoming administration. It's small, but it's illuminating.

Over half of Trump voters believe that Haitian immigrants are eating pet dogs and cats.

It's a data point that we are in jeopardy as a nation: too many of us have lost our ability to sniff out a lie *and* lost our capacity for empathy.

And if you're looking for a reason to show kindness — especially towards individuals or groups going through what immigrants face — then remember that they're fighting the cruelty of powerful bigots who say things like "they're eating the dogs!"

Stick up for them. Stick up for our powerless and vulnerable neighbors.

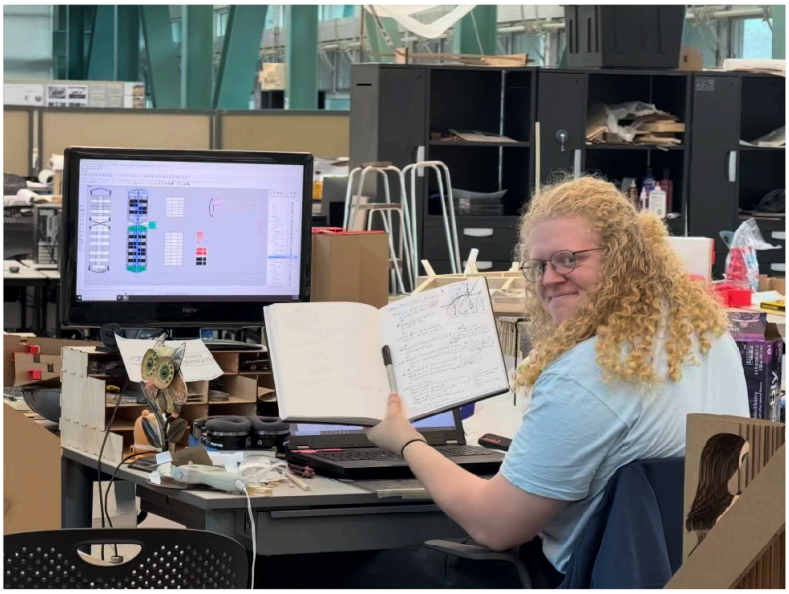
I'll wager that'd also be supported by the dude who Christmas is named after.

(dogs make things better)



The Nittany Lion Of The Family

Caleb is continuing his study in Architecture at Penn State University.



He spends a lot of time in the Architecture Studio — we are starting to suspect that he likes it.

Next semester he will be studying abroad in Copenhagen, and we are excited for him. (And jealous.)



Caleb has been loving Pennsylvania so we have been forced to make the occasional trip out to visit.

Penn State is known for the Berkey Creamery, and our judgement was that its ice cream warrants its reputation.



Wokeness In The Classroom

Would you believe that some schools are requiring woke books in the classroom? Get a load of this unmitigated wokeness:

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself."

That's woke pro-immigrant propaganda if I ever saw it.

You can look up that woke snippet yourself if you dare — just google Leviticus 19:33-34.

And that's the less-woke Testament, the Old. The New Testament is even woker!

(But at least the New Testament printed some parts in red so we can avoid being corrupted by the very wokest stuff of all.)

(and dogs make things better)



GO BEACH!

Amy is in her second year studying ASL Linguistics and Deaf Cultures at Cal State Long Beach.



She may be turning into a SoCal girl, and if we are ever in need of someone taunting us about how nice Long Beach is when it's 73° outside we know who to call.



We've really enjoyed Amy being about a six-hour drive away. Far enough for some independence but still close enough for the occasional visit!

One such visit was us joining her in LA to watch some of her favorite YouTube hosts in a live performance.



The Ol' Gadsden Flag Switch-a-roo

Seems like the guys who've been flying "Don't Tread On Me" flags are stashing their flags and putting on their stompin' boots.

If Only Polio Returned

It has been an ongoing struggle to fight infectious diseases. Heroes like Edward Jenner, Jonas Salk, and Louis Pasteur led efforts that have saved millions of lives. This is a story of the triumph of science — or it could be, if wackadoodles like the HHS nominee weren't poised to unwind humanity's victories.

Congrats To The Cabinet

Congrats to bamboozlers and charlatans like ~~pervy Gaetz,~~ weirdo DeSantis, proud dog-killer Noem, pervy boozer Hegseth, and pervy antivaxxer Kennedy, plus partial credit to the pervy seed-spreading quarter-trillionaire.

(but dogs make things better)



Some Of Us Just Stick Around In San José

We're still spending most of our time in the South Bay.



We do find our way to visit family in Pennsylvania, Long Beach, Woodinville, Port Townsend, and Spokane ...

... and in July we had a great campout (of the glamp variety) with folks and bro and families in SunRiver, Oregon.



Media Recommendations

2024's media offerings weren't limited to a few high-budget shows like in the olden days of three networks. Streaming media has a wide selection of high quality shows. Here's some visual media we loved this year.

Shogun; *Doctor Who*; *Fallout*; *Invincible*; *House of the Dragon*; *Lessons in Chemistry*; *The Boys*; *Rings of Power*; *Futurama*; *Only Murders in the Building*; *Agatha All Along*; *Severance*; *Silo*

Some of these were limited series; others were seasons of ongoing series.

It's On Us Now

Some years are easier than others. There are times that we're called upon more than other times. It looks like 2025 is gonna be a tough one. We will need to step up. Neighbors will need our help. It's on us. LFG!