

Free!

ON THE FARM



WINTER UPCOUNTRY

Written and Illustrated by
Lizzy Grandsaert

On the farm Comics is supported with grant funds provided by the KDA Creative Corps in partnership with the California Arts Council, a state agency.

KDA
creative corps



CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL
A STATE AGENCY

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

HELP SUPPORT PUBLIC ART

On the Farm Comics is made possible
by the KDA Creative Corps Grant
Program in partnership with the California
Arts Council. If you would like to see more
public art in Amador or Calaveras County,
then please take five minutes to scan the
QR Code below to complete a brief survey!



SCAN ME


WINTER UP COUNTRY



Nothing beats
SNOW SEASON IN
UPCOUNTRY!

Sledding, skiing,
or best of all...

There are so
many ways to have
fun!

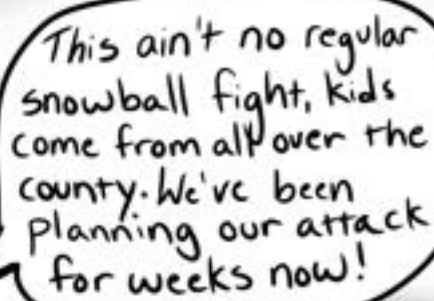


You can team up
with your besties,

and do your best
to survive the EPIC,




ANNUAL UP-COUNTRY
SNOWBALL
FIGHT!



This ain't no regular
snowball fight, kids
come from all over the
country. We've been
planning our attack
for weeks now!





LAST YEAR the West Point
kids launched a surprise
attack that took us out
of the game in an instant.

This year will be different.
We've been preparing, making
plays. Plus, it's on my birthday,
that's gotta be good luck!



I think about it a lot.



AS OF 6AM ALL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DUE TO DANGEROUS ROAD CONDITIONS. RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO STAY HOME.



SWEET OPPORTUNITY...



To prepare...



NICE TRY, JAX...

SERIOUSLY? Mom, I'm almost fifteen!

I still have to go to work, and Buster is gonna watch over you.



I want you to study for your exams. Just because your stuck at home doesn't mean you get the day off.



I want you to be responsible while I'm gone, and don't give BUSTER those sad eyes. See You tonight! Be good JAX!



Kid, you heard your mom, get to schoolin'!..



Though a little bit of SUNSHINE NEVER HURT...



Just an hour or two outside, IT'LL HELP YOU focus...




SWEET!

WINTER STORM WARNING IN EFFECT. HEAVY SNOWFALL EXPECTED. ALL AMADOR RESIDENTS ADVISED TO STAY OFF ROADS. SNOW FALL AT HIGH ELEVATION EXPECT RECORD LEVEL.


SOUNDS LIKE A BIG STORM IS GONNA ROLL IN, HAVE YOU HELPED YOUR MOM PREPARE?

I only have time to prepare for victory!






What happened to the radio? Why did it stop?



Uh Oh, Looks like we lost power. With so much snow it may be days.

What do we do?



I'll get the generator,

You better get to YOUR SCHOOLWORK...

SIGH
fine.

PREPARING FOR POWER

OUTAGE!

- IF YOU SEE A POWER LINE THAT HAS FALLEN, DON'T GO NEAR IT AND CALL 9-1-1.
- KNOW WHERE YOUR CIRCUIT BREAKERS AND FUSE BOXES ARE AND HOW TO CHECK THEM.
- KEEP YOUR GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S EMERGENCY NUMBER HANDY.
- IF YOU HAVE A GENERATOR, MAKE SURE IT'S INSTALLED BY A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN.
- CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY.
- PREPARE A PLASTIC-COVERED CONTAINER WITH EMERGENCY SUPPLIES LIKE FLASHLIGHTS, BATTERIES, CANDLES, A BATTERY-OPERATED RADIO, AND A FIRST AID KIT.
- STORE ENOUGH WATER TO LAST SEVERAL DAYS, AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR PETS!
- KEEP AN ICE CHEST AND BLUE ICE FREEZER PACKS ON HAND FOR MEDICATIONS AND FOOD.
- DURING AN OUTAGE, UNPLUG ALL APPLIANCES TO AVOID OVERLOADING CIRCUITS AND FIRE HAZARDS. TURN THEM BACK ON ONE AT A TIME WHEN POWER IS RESTORED.

LEARN MORE AT PGE.COM




F.K.C. CLUE 1:
GENERATOR

The Next Morning

IT IS 6:00 AM PST AS A WINTER STORM CONTINUES TO DROP HEAVY SNOWFALL ACROSS WESTERN CALIFORNIA.


WITH HISTORIC SNOWFALL EXPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, ALL SCHOOLS WILL REMAIN CLOSED...





The Pine Grove kids
always hang together
in this area here.


A hand holding a pen is shown drawing an 'X' on a map. The map is represented by a dashed line and several 'X' marks. The hand is positioned at the top right, and the pen is pointing downwards towards the map.



But we can
push them towards
the Volcano crew
and force them out!

A hand holding a pen is shown drawing an 'X' on a map. The map is represented by a dashed line and several 'X' marks. The hand is positioned at the top right, and the pen is pointing downwards towards the map.

VERY COOL JAX!
You've really thought
this out!



Have you thought
this hard about your
Algebra homework?

A group of people are sitting around a table. On the left, a woman with glasses is looking at a piece of paper with 'x' and 'B' written on it. In the middle, a woman is looking up and talking. On the right, a man with a mustache is looking thoughtful. A small house icon is on the table.

There really
is no time
for that.

HEY JAX, I filled the
generator so you can turn the
lights back on.

Oh, hello Mrs. DuBois,
I didn't realize you were
in town.

Why hello Buster, so
kind of you to
check in on us.

My pleasure,
truly.

What's going on
in here?

That doesn't
look like homework...

You two better
get home before the
roads close.

Off we go then.

After you, handsome.

Drive safe,
Nanna!



Living in



Follow these simple tips to save energy and stay warm through snow season!

- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze. Insulate walls and attic to keep your home warm and reduce energy costs.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows to prevent drafts and keep the heat in.
- Install storm or thermal-pane windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structure during a storm.

Have your chimney or flue inspected each year, especially if you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating.

Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near any areas where you'll be using fuel-burning equipment, such as a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater.

All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside, and it's a good idea to have your furnace system and vent checked by a qualified technician each winter season to ensure they are functioning properly.

Our ability to feel a change in temperature decreases with age, and older adults are more susceptible to health problems caused by cold. Check the temperature of your home often during the winter months.



FKC CLUE #2
INSULATION

CANCELLED

21

CANCELLED

22

CANCELLED

23

CANCELLED

24

CANCELLED

25

This CAN'T
be happening
right now!!



The roads have never been closed this long! Nobody can make it to the snowball fight. I'm gonna spend my birthday stuck in this house!



I know your sad, kid. But turn that frown up-side down. Your Mom saw this coming and planned a special day just in case. You better suit up!

What? Really?

You better hurry up and get dressed,
I asked Eric to take you out to the
backcountry! Get ready for a wild
adventure!







WELCOME TO THE
BACK COUNTRY...

HOLY
CANNOLI!

CRAZY VIEWS, RIGHT?
But don't you worry.

This is just the
first stop.

This is my
favorite valley in
all of Amador.

This untouched patch of
wilderness spans for
hundreds of miles! From
this spot you can see all
the way to NEVADA!

I am always in awe
of the unending, natural
beauty!!

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN AVALANCHE COUNTRY

If you plan on hitting the backcountry, keeping yourself and others around you safe is critical. Here are some tips to stay prepared!

- 1. Be responsible:** What you wear, where you go, and how you behave can make a big difference. So make sure you're thinking ahead and taking smart risks.
- 2. Be avalanche savvy:** Before heading out, check the snow conditions and be aware of the danger. If you're not sure, it's better not to risk it.
- 3. Be aware:** Watch for warnings and signs of danger. If something seems off, trust your gut and don't take any unnecessary risks.
- 4. Be prepared:** Always carry these three safety items with you and know how to use them: an avalanche transceiver, probes, and a shovel. These tools can help you and your buddies stay safe in an emergency.
- 5. Bring a backpack:** Pack all your gear, food, water, dry clothes, and first-aid kit in a backpack. It's your lifeline out there in the backcountry.
- 6. Bring a buddy:** Don't go it alone! Always bring a partner with you. None of the safety gear will be helpful if you're by yourself.

Being prepared is the key to having a safe and fun time in the backcountry. Want to learn more? Check out www.avalanche.org for more details. Happy exploring!



FKC Clue #3
Transceiver




You have to be careful out here,

and keep your eyes and ears open at all times.

Even though it's beautiful, there are plenty of hazards and dangers out here. It's so important to stay aware of your surroundings.

GOODPOINT!





ALRIGHT KID, time that we get on our way to our final destination. I didn't forget today is your birthday. We have to celebrate by doing something totally epic!

Wow, it looks like we're getting pretty high up there...




JEEZ!

That looks crazy steep,
You are sure I can do
this?

You got this!
Follow the lines
down. I'll meet you!







Breath-taking,
Isn't it?

Seriously...

STAY OFF THE ICE

Traveling over ice requires constant vigilance and decision making. Check ice conditions frequently. If your adventure includes travel on ice, carry an ax, portable drill or ice pick to test the thickness. If a single blow reaches water, stay off the ice. More than a foot of ice is necessary for any kind of travel in the spring, as rotting conditions set in making ice conditions less stable.

If you hear running water or your footsteps sound hollow, **STAY OFF!** You are on a thin ice shelf above water

What causes weak ice?

1. Moving water—movement erodes ice. Be cautious wherever water could be moving under the ice—at the junction of two rivers, near outlets and inlets of lakes, and around beaver lodges and the spill point of beaver dams.
2. Groundwater or—the movement of warm, seeping water near lake edges and springs can weaken ice.
3. Decomposition areas—warming and the release of methane bubbles can create open holes or bubbles under thin ice. These conditions are typical in swamps or marshes.
4. Wet Overflow—although frozen overflow thickens the ice, it is not as strong as pure frozen water. Ice crystals in overflow are jumbled, pure water crystals are perfectly aligned.
5. Spring rotting—patchy snowmelt, moving water, and dark objects on the ice speed up melting. Be careful along bank and shore edges.
6. Sea ice—salt in its crystalline structure makes sea ice weaker than fresh water ice. Watch out for open leads, holes, and pressure ridges.

7. Warm winds

8. Pressure cracks



FKC Clue #4
Spring Rotting

Find out more at www.fs.usda.gov/

Alright Jax, that's the end of the line for the day.

Awe man, can we ride back?

The roads finally opened, so Buster drove up to get you. I gotta head home.



BYE ERIC! That was totally wild and so much fun!



Later kid!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

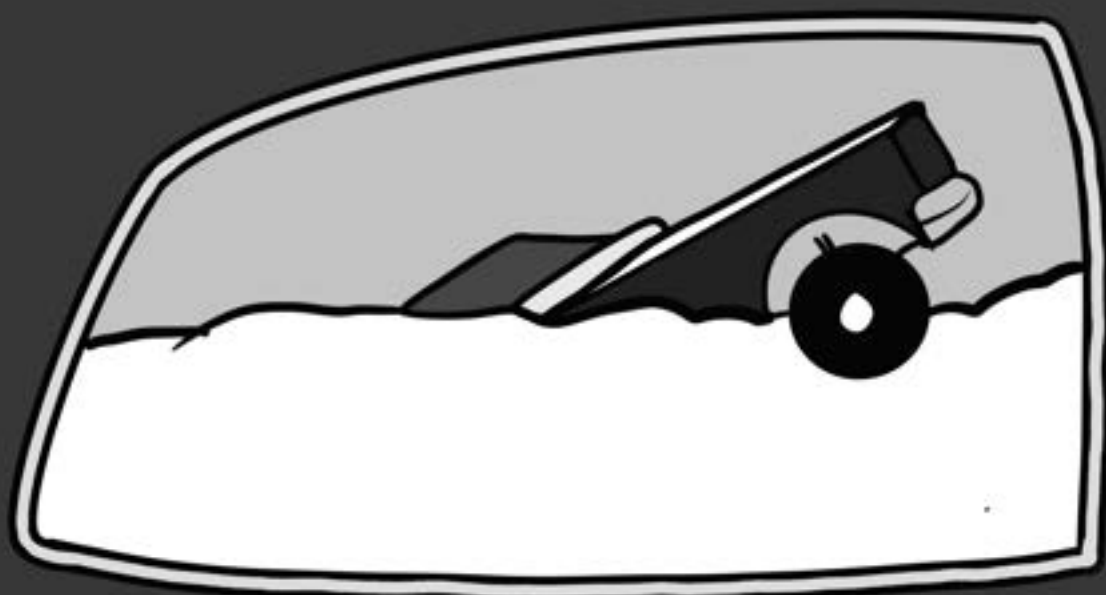
Safety Practices for **WINTER DRIVING**

- Allow plenty of time for your trip, especially if you're heading to the mountains. Winter conditions can slow you down, so get an early start to avoid rushing.
- Keep your gas tank full in case you need to change routes or turn back during a bad storm.
- Make sure your windshield and windows are clear before you hit the road.
- Slow down and maintain a safe distance between vehicles, especially on icy roads. Stopping distances are longer in snow and ice, so buckle up and leave extra space.
- Be extra observant in low visibility conditions, and watch for other vehicles with flashing lights.
- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. Stay at least four car-lengths back!
- Remember that equipment operators must focus on snow removal and may not always be able to watch out for motorists. Use extreme caution when passing snow removal equipment.
- Always carry snowchains and know how to put them on securely before you depart.

For more information, visit dot.ca.gov.
Stay safe out there!



FKC Clue #5
Tire Chains





That's why I drive slow...



I can't
wait to get
these wet
clothe off...



The house is all
cleaned up! So nice and
quiet... almost, Too
quiet...



SURPRISE
JAX!

GOTCHA!

what?! No way!





Once your done, Miss Jeanie is taking all of you home.



What an amazing day!



Suprisingly, I'm kind of excited for class tomorrow.





SWEET DREAMS, HONEY.

YOU TOO, MOM.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS



SCAN ME

**On the Farm Comics is made possible
by the KDA Creative Corps Grant
Program in partnership with the California
Arts Council. If you would like to see more
public art in Amador or Calaveras County,
then please take five minutes to scan the
QR Code above to complete a brief survey!**

OPCOUNTRY TALES

Real Stories from Real Locals!

"AS THE SNOWFLAKES DANCED FROM THE SKY, WE BUNDLED UP IN LAYERS AND VENTURED INTO THE WINTER WONDERLAND, TAKING CAUTIOUS STEPS ALONG THE SNOWY PATH. WE MOVED DELIBERATELY, ENJOYING THE SERENE LANDSCAPE THAT IS PIONEER IN PEAK OF WINTER. AS WE MARVELED AT THE SNOW-COVERED TREES, THEIR BRANCHES GLISTENING IN THE SOFT SUNLIGHT WE DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING SAFE, AVOIDING ICY PATCHES AND ALWAYS ADVENTURING WITH A FRIEND DURING THE THE MAGIC OF WINTER."

-GREG TRAVERSO, AMADOR CITY

"THE WINTERS OF 2022 AND 23' WERE MY SECOND AND THIRD WINTERS HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS AT 3800' FEET. I'M LAUGHING NOW AS WINTER APPROACHES...I MUST HAVE AMNESIA.. 22' WAS A HEAVY WET SNOW.. BRINGING DOWN POWER LINES AND LIMBS...PLUS TWO WEEKS OF NO POWER...THEN SEVERAL EXPENSIVE REPAIRS...OH MY GOSH! 23' BROUGHT BEAUTY THEN FOUR OR MORE FEET OF SNOW...I AM LAUGHING. I HAVE AMNESIA AGAIN TODAY... WHAT'S THAT ABOUT... THERE WERE DANGERS IN WALKING... FEARS OF FALLING AND GETTING STUCK...IN FOURTY EIGHT INCHES OF SNOW. WHILE GETTING TO THE GARAGE AND WOODPILES.. I LEARNED THE VALUE OF USING A POLE TO CHECK THE DEPTHS OF SNOW IN FRONT OF ME...THE CHALLENGES ...WERE ENORMOUS...I'M LAUGHING I BOUGHT SNOWSHOES THIS YEAR. GRATEFULL I CONTINUE TO HAVE AMNESIA. I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER WINTER HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS."

COLLETTE, PINE GROVE

OPCOUNTRY TALES

Real Stories from Real Locals!

I HAD SOME FRIENDS WHO WENT UP TO BRIDGEPORT OUR FIRST DECEMBER UP HERE. THEY DIDN'T CHECK THE WEATHER AND GLEEFULLY DROVE OUT THERE AND EXPECTED TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE BAY AREA NO PROBLEM. TURNS OUT THEY DIDN'T CHECK THE WEATHER AND THEY ONLY HAD A 2WD 4RUNNER. BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, SNOW STARTED COMING DOWN HARD AND THEY WERE EAST OF OMO RANCH ON 88 WATCHING CARS WITH ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE SLIDE OFF THE ROAD. THEY CALLED ME TO ASK TO BE PICKED UP AND THEY ENDED UP WAITING CLOSE TO FIVE HOURS TO BE TOWED INTO JACKSON. THE DRIVER OF THE 4RUNNER WAS FURIOUS I DIDN'T GO "SAVE" THEM.:):)

TIFFANY, MACE MEADOWS.

Local Hero:

MY LOCAL HERO IS MY GRANDMA, SHARON THIBODEAUX. SHE HAS A GARDEN OF POLLINATOR FRIENDLY FLOWERS, AND SHE HAS A BUNCH OF BIRD FEEDERS AND FOUNTAINS SO THERE ARE ALWAYS BIRDS IN THE YARD. SHE LIKES TO FEED STRAY CATS (AND THE OCCASIONAL SKUNK OR RACCOON) AND TAKE THEM IN WHEN THEY ARE SICK. SHE REALLY LOVES TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHETHER THEY BE PLANTS, ANIMALS, OR PEOPLE

LEE THIBODEAUX, SUTTER CREEK

READ MORE STORIES OR SUBMIT YOUR OWN AT
WWW.ONTHEFARMCOMICS.COM

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi! My name is Lizzy Grandsaert and I write and illustrate, 'On the Farm'. I base my stories on personal experiences throughout my time living in Amador County. Many of the characters, including Eric, are based on real-life people who have helped me learn how to be a great upcountry resident. When the roads are clear, I spend most of my time in winter snowboarding at local resorts or safely exploring the backcountry! Thank you for reading my work and I hope you found it both enjoyable and informative- If you enjoyed my work, please take a moment to scan the QR code on the inside cover to take a brief survey about the comics!

About KDA Creative Corps

The KDA Creative Corps (KDACC) is a pilot program, part of the California Creative Corps, designed to promote community and civic engagement, spread awareness about water and energy conservation, climate change, emergency preparedness, relief and recovery through the arts. KDACC is administered through Kern Dance Alliance, one of fourteen organizations selected statewide to regrant funds in their respective regions to arts and social service organizations, individual artists, and cultural workers.

Elizabeth Grandsaert is one of 20 selected grantees of the KDA Creative Corps Program serving the Central Valley.



**CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL**
A STATE AGENCY

**On The
Farm**
* COMICS *



Fire Keepers Winter Quiz Edition

Did you pay attention to all the useful information included in the winter edition of 'On the Farm'? Look again and collect all five clues to complete the Winter Quiz! Keep these answers and send them to us for a special prize!

WINTER CLUES:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Your name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Send your submission to:
On the Farm Comics
PO BOX: 1138
20116 State Highway 88
Pine Grove, CA, 95665

Or send your answers to
onthefarmcomics@gmail.com



NEXT TIME
ON THE FARM

SPRING

EDITION

THE VOLUME
FINAL

FULL
COLOR

WHAT DO YOU LOVE
ABOUT SPRING IN UP COUNTRY?
SEND US YOUR STORIES
AND PICTURES TO
onthefarmcomics@gmail.com



Free!



On the farm Comics is supported with grant funds provided by the KDA Creative Corps in partnership with the California Arts Council, a state agency.



CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL
A STATE AGENCY