

THE FALCONER

Elmira High School
24936 Fir Grove Ln.
Elmira, Oregon 97437
December 13, 2013
Volume 50 Issue 3

New Garcia Center... P.3

Staff Members back in the day... P.5

Ask Freddy the Falcon... P.13

50th Anniversary of Doctor Who... P.14



New Service Center seeks to serve

“The Tony Garcia Center was a 1,600 square foot building next to Veneta Elementary,” said DeAnna Boggs.

Boggs was involved with the building of the new service center. The Tony Garcia Center, now called the Fern Ridge Service Center, was built next to Dari Mart on West Broadway and is over 7,000 square feet. The new building has more floor and office space. There will also be more room for seniors and for the L.O.V.E. Project, which provides a food pantry. Having a larger capacity will make it easier to serve the community.

In the past, the Tony Garcia Service Center has stored the food used for the L.O.V.E. Project food pantry, Fern Ridge Gleaners, Mid-Lane Cares, and Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Senior & Disabled Services. LCOG pro-

vides Senior Connections, Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels which delivers food to those who are homebound. Financial aid, referrals and other assistances are also provided to those in need.

The project was inspired by a desire to bet-

ter serve the community and a need for more space. The old Tony Garcia Center was on school property and Veneta Elementary has acquired it for their own use because of overflowing classes. Consequently, the Garcia Center began taking shape in its new location behind Dari Mart. Donations, grants, and fundraising provided the money for the new service center.

Along with providing care to people 60 years or older, The Fern Ridge Service Center will also be holding bingo games and other activities. Better service will come in the form of a new medical outreach program that is being established; a nurse who will come in and talk about foot care; and the center opening five days a week instead of three. “We hope to provide services not just to seniors but to the uninsured and homeless in the years to come,” says Boggs.

Veneta and the surrounding areas have high hopes for the new Fern Ridge Service Center and the opportunities it will provide to those in need.

-By Katriel Connors



The new Tony Garcia Service Center is located behind Dari Mart in Veneta.

K. Connors/The Falconer

CONGRATS

- It's wonderful when your substitute has nothing but compliments for your freshman classes! Thank you freshmen for being so wonderful. -St. Hilare
- The Guitar Class on surviving their first recital and putting on a great show! Especially Annika. -Kappler
- Mr. Monegan and his new baby boy! -Lee
- Coach Carpenter and Coach Brands with their dominance over Coach Shannon and Coach Best. Good job seniors. -Guldager
- Mr. Brands for doing the jobs of two people and still managing to always have a cheerful attitude. -Langley

Did you know that Obamacare and the Affordable Care Act are the same thing?

We interviewed 50 people about which health care plan they preferred.

Which health care plan is better?

Obamacare--3

Affordable Care Act--21

Don't Know--15

Same Thing--11

December 13, 2013

News Flashes

New district website is improving after a long delay and a rough rollout-sound like health care? -Cooper

Good luck to our winter sports athletes -Carpenter

We will be ordering Advent Calendars to help fundraise for the Friendship Connection soon! -Anderson

Good luck to all winter sports athletes as competition gets under way! ¡Espero que todos tengan un buen receso de invierno...y también seguro! -Snider

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Falconer 3

Falcons volunteer, donate to bring holiday cheer

Key Club is a high school organization that is dedicated to raising money and charitable donations. According to the Kiwanis sponsored Key Club website, their mission is to "Provide its members with opportunities to provide service, build character, and develop leadership."

Key Club is a Kiwanis sponsored organization at the high school level that allows students to "learn leadership skills" and "perform acts of service in their communities." At Elmira, the club is a great way for students to get in hours of community service, a prerequisite for graduation.

"[Key Club] is a student organization that's a part of Kiwanis, and we are a service organization. So we do things to help Kiwanis do some of their projects plus we have our own projects," said Doncella Marquess, Key Club adviser.

At Key Club, students "Volunteer, [and] take time out of your life to help others. You help out around the community," said Yvonne Cochran, jr.

Key Club was founded in May 1925 in Sacramento, California. Several school administrators pitched the idea of a high school organization modeled after Kiwanis, providing vocational and community service experience to students. Kiwanis promptly began expanding this practice

and starting new Key Club programs across the state, with help from school administrators and principals. Since 1946, Key Club has been an international organization, with Canadian clubs

UN organization that provides humanitarian assistance to women and their children in developing countries. This organization was founded by the United Nations on December 11, 1946.

Key Club is planning a few more projects for their charitable cause. "Right now we're doing the Christmas boxes, and we're working [on] the Adopt-A-Family with Honor Society. We are helping with the Thanksgiving feast for low income families at the elementary. We will be working on the canned food drive and going to Ray's trying to get people to donate cans of food, and then we help sort it and distribute it. Then we will be working on the Easter egg hunt, [and] then we will be making Easter baskets for the relief nursery. Last year, we made thirty baskets [for the] relief nursery," said Marquess.

Key Club and its projects are open to any student, whether or not they want to join. Any student can contribute to the cause.

"Just by donating, you know, when we are collecting for Doernbecher, they can help. Like when we had a garage sale, donating things, they can do a trick or treat for UNICEF. A few pennies help. We are trying

to stamp out tetanus for mothers and children [which] usually ends up being fatal. Just a few pennies here and there: every little bit helps," said Marquess.

The club is open to any student who wishes to join and contribute their energy and time toward charitable projects and events.

-By Steven Parker



S. Parker/The Falconer

Forrest Cooper (middle) speaks to Key Club about Operation Christmas Child; advisers Dennis Paronto (left) and Doncella Marquess (right) supervise.

opening up that year.

Key Club has been working on several projects this year.

"[We've been] volunteering at the Kiwanis dinner, trick-or-treating for UNICEF, and collecting money at a garage sale for Doernbecher Children's Hospital," said Cochran.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a

Local food drive: warehouse sold, church opens doors

The Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive will be moving to a new location this year. The old warehouse next to Ray's has been sold and will be a call center, giving 180 new jobs to Veneta citizens. A new auto parts store will also be an addition to Veneta's shopping center.

"I think it's great to see the space by Ray's rented! The call center and auto parts store will bring much needed jobs to our community," said DeAnna Boggs, Kiwanian and head coordinator/planner of the Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive.

The warehouse, large in size and capacity, was used in the past to house the food for the local food drive. This year,

the food drive sorting and distributing will take place at the church of the Latter Day Saints on the corner of Hunter and Huston Roads. The gym inside of the church will be the storage spot for all donated food. Although smaller, the Kiwanians are making adjustments to the food drive to have a successful year.

"It was a little difficult finding a location that would be big enough and not impede traffic. The gym at the Mormon church is our new location, hopefully for years to come. As with any change, there will be things that come up and kinks to work out, but with all the experience of the volunteers. I'm confident everything will work out,"

said Boggs.

Fern Ridge Middle School often brings in a large amount of food. This year, instead of the food

being moved to the warehouse near Ray's, the food is staying at the middle school until Distribution Day approaches.

"Donations are a bit down this year, but we are working on lighting further fires under our students to build up the donations. We can't let the high school top us!" said Bob Bruce, leadership teacher at Fern Ridge. Bruce helps leadership students organize the food drive collections within the middle school. Bruce said that those at the middle school aren't thinking much about where food is being stored or

organized this year but more on getting as many donations as possible.

This year, distribution day is on December 21.

"The success this year will be even more satisfying when we reflect on accomplishing what was the unthinkable situation just a few weeks ago," said Dennis Paronto, local Kiwanian associated with the food drive.

The Kiwanis Holiday Food Drive will be collecting food in local stores, businesses and schools for the next month. Food will be sorted in the following weeks and delivered to those in need during the Saturday before Christmas on December 21.

-By Grieta King

Math clips Falcons' wings

Many different classes are offered, all of varying subjects. Some kids struggle, some succeed, but out of the kids who struggle, most of them were able to identify the one subject they thought put the "ugh" in struggle: math. Seven out of ten kids questioned said math was their least favorite subject.

"It's a difficult subject because it hurts me," Lobrovich went on to say that she's in geometry, and that she has to be because "school's stupid," said Eva Lobrovich, soph.

Mya Lansing, fr., also taking geometry, finds math to be okay.

"It's not that hard," said Lansing. "It's just repetitive and boring."

Caitlin Scalise, jr., has no math class currently but is no stranger to the subject.

"Math wasn't really hard until Algebra 2, then it got kind of hard, but I did pre-calculus anyways, so yeah," said Scalise. Making math more appealing may be a challenge.

"I don't really care; it's stupid

no matter what," said Lobrovich. Scalise thinks explaining things better would help, as well as having more fun math games.

One stereotype about kids who

Scalise.

Lobrovich wasn't as enthused. "I don't try that hard, because I don't care, and it's hard and hurts my head, not even going to lie,"

"No effort, I try the hardest!" was Lansing's response. Scalise says that she thinks most kids here struggle with math, "unless they're Seth [Johnson]."

Lansing thinks basically everyone, "except the Asians." "Most people I guess," Lobrovich said.

Some kids tend to blame the teacher or teaching style, whereas others blame themselves and the way they learn. Lansing said she has no issue learning; it's just hard when things get switched up.

Lobrovich blames herself. "I just suck at math, I guess," she said

On a happier note, they were happy to identify their favorite class.

"Art," Lobrovich said. Lansing's is German, and Scalise said that hers is science.

Whatever struggling class a student might have, there's always another student feeling the same or different. There's Homework Club, and math teachers with open doors willing to accommodate different learning styles and levels, and math tutors.

-By Amelia Warren



struggle with math is that they just aren't trying. "I try so hard, like more effort than a crack addict trying to find crack!" said Lansing.

Scalise agreed with Lansing.

"I put in so much effort, and try so hard, like superman effort." said

Lobrovich said.

Some students didn't really think much effort was being put out to raise failing grades.

"Not that much if they're, you know, failing," said Lobrovich. Scalise agrees, and said she doesn't see really any effort put out.

assistant. "Kids now have more opportunities than my generation had. We didn't have EA's either. My favorite class was woodshop, and now it's not even a class." Keller came back to Elmira because she wanted to be more

involved with the school and with her children who were attending EHS when she started.

"The school looks mostly the same as 'back in the day' but there have been a few changes." said Stacy Cornelius, leadership advisor. "Computer and science were my favorite subjects. The world of the computers was exploding at the time I was in high school. I have always had a strong interest in science, especially geology and astronomy."

Jon Guldager, social studies teacher, also went to EHS. He said that he never really left; he helped with the football program with Darryl Mehl. Guldager also started substituting at Elmira and then became a teacher. His

favorite subject was history.

"The teacher [Dean Cherbas] made things relevant, and talked a lot. It wasn't sitting and reading out of a book," said Guldager.

Money is nothing new to Leiisa Boytz, bookkeeper. She worked at Swanson's Mill in the office doing payroll for many years. When Boytz went to school, she said the difference now is that "administration is stricter," but it's for the best. Boytz liked math; it was easier for her. She enjoys her job here, because she likes dealing with the kids.

Having a percentage of the faculty who previously attended EHS ensures that the staff cares about the school and the community's future.

-By Tyler Miller

STAFF MEMBERS TRAVEL BACK TO THE DAY

Few of the staff members at Elmira High School have previously gone to EHS for their own learning experience.

"Things were different and different!" said Kelly Keller, educational

assistant. "Kids now have more opportunities than my generation had. We didn't have EA's either. My favorite class was woodshop, and now it's not even a class." Keller came back to Elmira because she wanted to be more

involved with the school and with her children who were attending EHS when she started.

"The school looks mostly the same as 'back in the day' but there have been a few changes." said Stacy Cornelius, leadership advisor. "Computer and science were my favorite subjects. The world of the computers was exploding at the time I was in high school. I have always had a strong interest in science, especially geology and astronomy."

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-By Tyler Miller

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Cup of Joe

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Pope Francis represents political demographic shift in America, world

Pope Francis shook up the Catholic community and the internet when he voiced his view that those who follow their conscience can be forgiven by the Christian God and go to heaven. This, combined with some of his other more progressive views, made news for quite some time. Now, even though the buzz has settled down, the new Pope is still being talked about, reported by languagemonitor.com as the top name of 2013. Opinions of

in 2007 in America and Canada, according to the 2009 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. "What I would like to see the

the People and the Press. Some of these people are still religious, even Christian, but have stopped being of any particular denomination.

can know for sure what the Christian God thinks. Others, like Anderson, think similarly but for different reasons.

"That always bothered me when I was growing up, that as long as you believe in God you go to heaven. That doesn't make any sense," said Anderson.

Francis' position is one that has gained popularity among many because it would mean the Christian God judges people based on morality, rather than whether or not they are Christian, sometimes even a specific type of Christian.

"You can be the worst person in the world, a mass murderer, just a terrible person and you still get to go to heaven. That doesn't seem correct to me," said Anderson.

Francis' position means that even Atheists can get into heaven, so long as they follow their conscience and strive to help others.

"The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ... 'Father, the Atheists?' Even the Atheists. Everyone!... 'But I don't believe, father, I am an Atheist!' But do good, We will meet one another there," said Francis during a homily, a commentary given after a reading of scripture, given in late May earlier this year.

The Vatican quickly responded by saying this was not the case, and that the original Catholic tradition still stands. This shows more clearly the discrepancy between Francis and the rest of the church leadership.

This conflict has the Pope against the long and commonly held beliefs of the Catholic hierarchy. Statistics show that people have been moving away from the church, and whether or not Pope Francis will change this is anybody's guess. *-By Aidan Ohnemus*

the new Pope have generally been positive.

"I actually like him a lot... he's very supportive of gay rights," said Nicole Anderson, German teacher. Francis seems determined to steer the church in a different direction, which he says has been too focused on matters of sex, especially homosexuality, abortion and contraception.

The new Pope's selection comes as a demographic shift is taking place in the U.S. More and more people are not associating themselves with any particular religious denomination, according to census reports. While there are many factors that could be a part of this change, one of them may be the church's stances on issues like gay rights. The spread of legalized same sex marriage and more common acceptance of gays is a trend away from the position of the church, so the Pope could save it from losing as many members as it has been. The church lost .59 percent of its members, around 398,000,

church do is right their wrongs. If they update where they stand on a lot of issues, some young people will say 'Hey, the church isn't so bad,'" said Emilee Russell, sr. She believes people are turning away from the church, and statistics support her. In 2012, those who didn't have any religious affiliation made up 19 percent of the population according to statistics from the Pew Center for

One of the Pope's more controversial views was his opinion on who can get into heaven. He believes that those who follow their conscience, try to do the right thing, and make the world a better place, will go to heaven. Russell agrees with this position.

"I think that if your heart is good you can go to heaven," said Russell. However, she believes that nobody



SLEEP PARALYSIS STALKS DREAMERS

Imagine waking up, filled with energy from a wonderful night's slumber. Now imagine that after waking up, there is a horrid monster in front of the bed, and it is saying it wants to eat toes. On top of this, movement is impossible, paralyzing one's limbs. This is sleep paralysis and it can happen to you.

Don't worry about the monster
6 Falconer

though; it will shortly vanish on its own. That is because it is the result of a dream that happened while being awake. Sleep paralysis happens when a person wakes up without stopping REM sleep, the stage of sleep that causes dreams to happen. When people go to sleep, the brain purposely paralyzes the body, which is why people don't go and drive cars or play

soccer while asleep.

However, if a person wakes up without stopping REM sleep, the person is not only paralyzed, but also dreams continue to happen--while they are awake. For some reason, this usually happens with nightmares, leading to quite frightening situations, and also explaining some things.

It is believed that sleep paraly-

sis is the source of many ancient myths about being visited by gods or spirits while asleep, and also for more modern reports of alien abductions and demon attacks. Sleep paralysis is also widespread-- although only 6 percent of the population will have it commonly, 93 percent will have at least one isolated incident.

-By Jeremy Cooper

Santa reveals his truths

For the last 1600 years, a stranger has been breaking into your house, leaving little boxes underneath a tree, and then promptly squeezing himself out of your chimney. Unless you lack a chimney. In that case we have no idea how he is getting in, which is even more frightening. The man's name?

Santa Claus.

To determine exactly why he continues with his reign of terror (he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake) I recently traveled to the North Pole to interview him, or at least as close to the North Pole as the 1921 Treaty of Clauses permits. After entering within 100 miles of the North Pole, I had a bag placed over my head by a group of elves (humans are still not permitted to know the exact location of his operations, due to being "too naughty"), and was flown via magic to the great man himself.

The interview was lengthy and enlightening.

"I started off as a smalltime anthropomorphic personification of kindness, operating mainly in the vicinity of Eastern Europe," he began. "There was a lot of competition back then, from Odin to Sinterklaas to Tomte to Krampus. A lot of those names you might not recognize, and that's how it was then. You would get on your feet, get a few thousand believers to empower you, and then bam, someone bigger takes you out." He smiles and pats his ample belly. "Fortunately, I was the biggest.

"Although it wasn't without a struggle that I managed to beat out all the competition... that fight changed me forever," Santa lamented. "I didn't used to be all-knowing, and trust me, there are a lot of times I wish I wasn't," he paused, searching for words. "However, there was one great benefit that came out of

of benefits. They just have me mail a list of names to something called the CIA yearly. Don't know what that's about, but hey, free money!

"As to how I ended up here," he said, waving his hands to indicate the North Pole, "that is an interesting story. I actually started off in Italy, but over the years there was a

hire more elves now. As in actually pay them wages. With money that I had a distinct lack of.

"Needless to say, inspired by the American unions, they went on strike in 1914. It was terrible for everyone, especially with the timing. There was a war on! That means I'm needed even more than usual! It was a tremendous scandal, and that is why in 1921 I ended up giving in to the combined demands of the U.S. and the elf unions.

"But then... then everything changed. I became heavily commercialized. I was referred to as the man who would judge you, not be kind to you. There was a big shift there, and I had to keep the customers happy. That's how we ended up where we are now, with Claus Incorporated." He points out the window to the company jet I arrived on. "Using money I had saved up, I bought a fleet of those and put pressure on the U.S. to help me keep Christmas going, which resulted in the state of Clauslandia coming into existence. You have to understand, I don't particularly like this system, but it's what is expected of me." Claus smiled. "I've been running Christmas for 1600 years... and I intend to run it for another 1000."

-By Jeremy Cooper



all of that, and that was the elves." Grinning, he continued. "Do you have any idea how hard it is to create thousands of toys by yourself each year? I was swamped for centuries... until suddenly there were several thousand tiny people knocking on my front door. Best labor I ever had. Of course, back then it was slave labor, but now they're subsidized by the U.S. government and get all sorts

gradual shift north until I ended up in Hamburg. Anyway, from there I actually went to Iceland, which is how that whole 'Santa Lives at the North Pole thing' started. Once everybody started sending their gift lists up there instead... well, I had either to move or go out of business. By then it was about 1834, and business was booming. America had brought a lot of new business in, and I had to

What would you do?

Imagine, you're going to a new dentist, you enter the lobby, and the room has a warm comfortable feel. The secretary gives a friendly greeting, and so far, you have no worries. The dental assistant comes out and calls your name; you stand and follow her to the cleaning room. She is very friendly, and does a good job with your cleaning. "The dentist will be in to examine your teeth in a bit," she says. The dentist arrives soon after the dental assistant leaves, you smile and he smiles back, but one thing is missing; his teeth. What would you do?

"I would let him finish the

job that day to see how well he does. Then, when I got home, I would clean and examine my teeth again to see if he did a good job. If he didn't, then I would tell my mom and have her change my dentist," said Sarah Sutton, fr. But then again, what if he couldn't help for his loss of teeth?

The dentist gets wide-eyed and puts his hand over his mouth. He must have seen your shocked expression. You try not to think about the irony of the situation, a dentist without teeth! He looks at his feet and explains to you, "I know it's odd, but you see, I never really

saw the point in taking care of my teeth until I lost them, and now I want to try to help other people feel differently than I did then. I don't want anyone to make the same mistake that I made..." Now that the dentist has explained his story, would

you feel differently?

"I would feel terrible for having my doubts. If he did a good job I would still let him continue to examine my teeth." Sutton said. So, given these circumstances, what would you do?

-By Jessica Coone

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LOCAL TREE FARM PREPS FOR HOLIDAYS

The holidays are coming up and that means daily prepara-

Carroll's Christmas Tree Farm, a local tree farm, owned by Sharron and Lee Carroll, preps for most

tree farm, Lee checks to make sure the netted tree baler is working correctly.

about giving and that's what my faith tells me I should be doing-giving. After all the happiness



Carroll's Christmas Tree Farm begins to prepare for the holidays.

K. Wolgamott/The Falconer

tion for all Christmas tree farms. Preparation usually starts as late as August or early September. Cutting the dead trees, trimming trees, measuring trees, decorating the fields for the holidays and buying lots of hot chocolate are a part of the process.

for the year. The farm has hay rides, popcorn, hot cocoa, a food stand, and Santa Claus.

Lee, co-owner, stops by daily to make sure everything is in place. He makes sure the candy is in the right place down Candy Cane Lane and on the other side of the

"We have to prep the trees all year long. We have to fertilize and harvest the trees. The hardest part is loading trucks with all the trees that we have to harvest. My favorite part is seeing the happy families and all the happy children. It's all about Christmas. Christmas is

and giving, clean up starts and the satisfaction sinks in," said Carroll. At the end of the day, the owners have their satisfaction in seeing happy faces and the families receive their satisfaction in picking out that special tree for the holidays. *-By Kaylee Wolgamott*



"Hello, my name is Juniper Sennett and I am a freshman. I wish I was a super hero. I don't really know what I want to be when I grow up. Being attacked wasn't that bad considering I personally know the Falcon. I love all kinds of food. I don't really have a favorite color and my favorite class is German. I sit in my front yard every day waiting for my letter to Hogwarts."

Car of the Month



Lexi Robbins, sr.

Robbins owns a 2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse that her grandparents bought her last year during softball. Robbins couldn't think of the stupidest part of

her car but says her favorite thing about her car is that it is fast. Keep your eyes peeled for the sleek, gray charm with Robbins in the driver's seat.

High School CAMPUS LIFE

December 14th - Sadie Hawkins Dance (\$7 or \$5)
 December 23rd - Portland Train Trip (\$28)
 January 7th - Dodgeball Practice Begins
 January 13th - Ice Cream Club ?
 January 24th - Middle School All Nighter
 January 27th - Redneck Rampage
 February 3rd - 80's Night
 February 6th - Dodgeball Jamboree.
 February 10th - Fiesta Night (quesadilla's)

Elmira Campus Life check facebook for updates.

All events are FREE unless otherwise noted

Any Questions? Call or text Skyeler (541)221-3252

Breakfast Club
 @ Fern Ridge Faith Center
 Some Monday's
 7am-8am

Portland Train Trip \$28
 December 23rd
 - Christmas Shopping
 - Train Trip
 - Pizza Dinner