

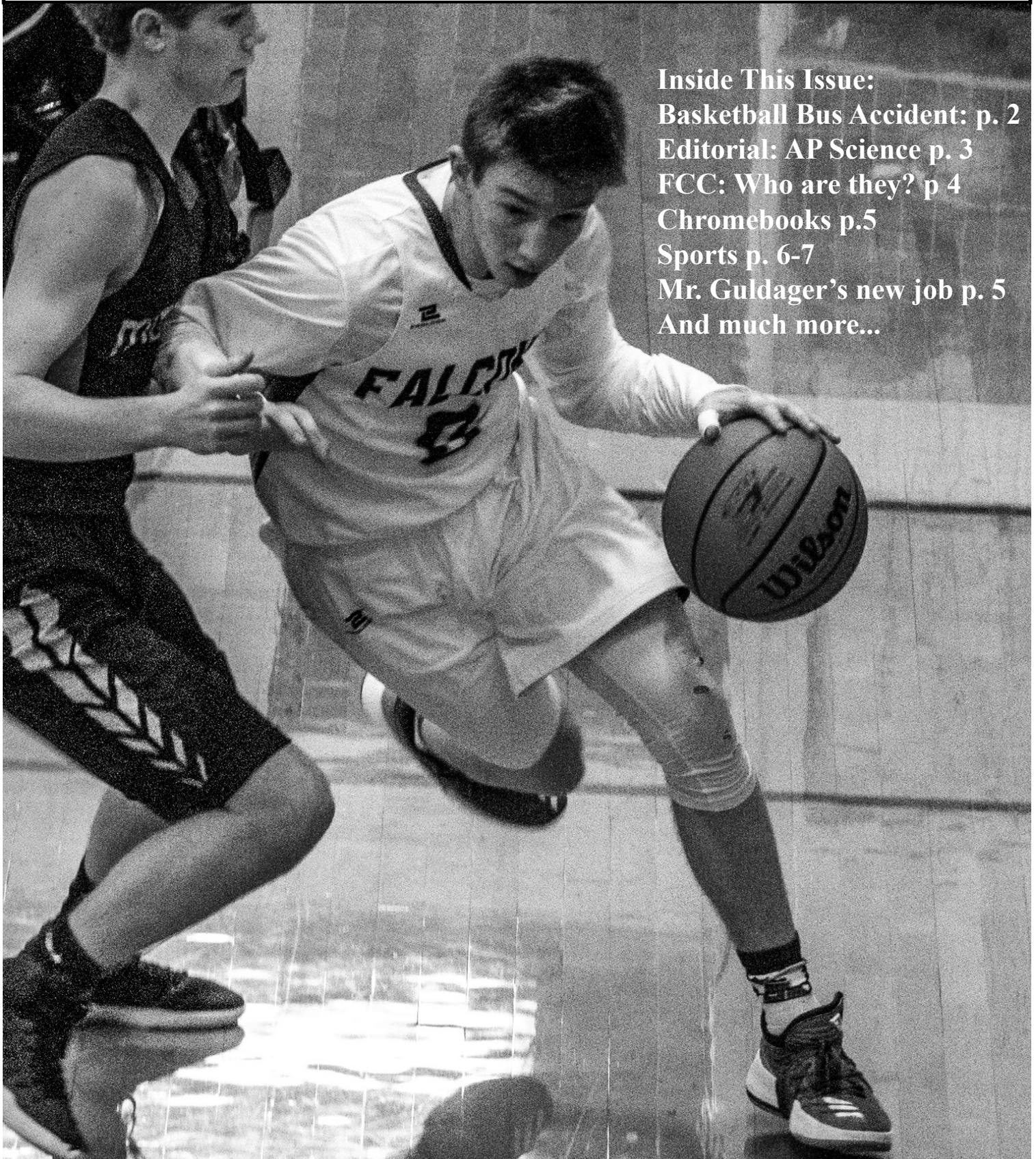
Elmira High School's Student Publication

THE FALCONER

Volume 54 Issue 4

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Feb. 2, 2018



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The Falconer

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Linda Cline, reporter
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Editorial Policy

The Falconer is a monthly news magazine production. All opinions and letters are the personal viewpoints of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the administration. All content decisions are made by the editors, who are students on staff, and the advisor. The content within the paper in no way reflects the official policy of Elmira High School. Letters to the editor are welcomed; however, they must be signed and screened by the editorial board.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to Mr. Burgess or by email to sburgess@fernridge.k12.or.us

EHS Staff accolades and announcements

Ms Langley: A big THANK YOU to all of my exchange students - Camilla, Ouwen, Emma, and Wasurat! It has been wonderful to have you in class. I appreciate your hard work and willingness to share about your culture.

Gary Carpenter: Congrats to all the EHS athletes who made the commitment this Winter to participate in Boys/Girls Basketball, as well as wrestling! Go Falcons. Good luck to our EHS OBOB Team that will be competing in the Regional competition held Feb 24th here at EHS!

Stephanie Hackett: Dahlin Allen is amazing! He takes time each morning to stop by in the cafeteria and say hi. He asks questions about college and scholarships. He is excited and ready to graduate and get his college career started. Cody Bearden and Logan Cave are amazing! We are reading Animal Farm and they can remember small details that are so obscure. I know they will go on to use their memory and reading talents in a great way! Rowdy Ramirez is doing a great job leading the new Rotary Interact Club. Everyone has jumped in brainstorming ideas for their first local volunteer project and fund raiser.

Mrs. Kappler: Congratulations to all performersd at the EHS Coffehouse Night. All music students will performe to packed house. You all did a great job!

Sarah Wartenbee: Congrats to the Yearbook staff for tackling the siblings list so efficiently!

Erika Krieg: Brody Erb helps me in the office every day during 6th period, he tells me the funniest jokes! He better not ditch me next semester!!!!

Shannon Hart: I want to give a shout out to all the Unified Basketball kids for their game against Sutherlin. It was an amazing game, and it brought joy to everyone who was in attendance!

Jon Guldager: Just got back from our welding competition.....senior, Jack Kellogg finished 1st in the biggest section of the welding competition. Stick welding or Shield Metal Arc Welding was the category. Probably 40-60 other competitors from around the state were in his category.

Boy’s Basketball bus damaged by contact with guardrail on Hwy 99 exit, continues home

By Andréa Griffin

On Dec. 28, at 11:30pm, one of the Elmira Boys’ Basketball busses crashed into a guardrail on the Hwy 99 exit off on Beltline on the way back from Cascade High School. The busdriver did stop to look over the damage, but decided to keep driving despite the window being cracked and a missing headlight. A water bottle that rolled under the brake pedal was claimed to have caused the crash.

According to Amy Huyck, Local Director of First Student, the bus driver failed to follow protocol by not calling her after the incident.

“We were going pretty fast around the exit, and then we hit something, bounced back and kept going,” said Logan Du-

quette, sr. “We knew that the bus almost tipped over and with the drop that would’ve happened we could’ve been badly injured or even possibly dead,” Duquette saw that all the players dealt with the situation differently, some tried to laugh it off, others were getting anxious and scared. “We kept driving with the windshield cracked and our left front headlight was not working. It was very scary.”

Gary Carpenter, principal of EHS, wasn’t notified of the incident until the next morning, although Coach Nick Garmen, the head boys’ basketball coach, had emailed Brian Brands, athletic director at EHS, the night of the incident. Carpenter was notified by Brands the next morning. Athletes were also in

contact with their parents.

“[The incident] was a big thing in that we had students on the bus; it was minor in that no one got hurt,” said Brands.

All of the bus drivers in the district are hired through First Student, not the Fernridge School District. “It’s not through the school, so we really don’t have a lot to do with [the incident],” said Brands.

Brands and Garmen decided that because of the minor damage to the bus, the late hour, and how close to EHS they were that it would be better to get everyone home. “To get another bus would take up to two hours,” Carpenter said.

According to Brands, no parent complaints were ever made about the incident.

Editorial: Can EHS set AP science students up for success on AP Chemisty Exam?

By Andrea Griffin

If you ask any Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry student how confident they feel about the AP test, you’re bound to find hopelessness and frustration in its stead. This editorial is a reflection on my situation as an AP science student. It is not a criticism of individuals or staff, but rather a means to ponder factors that put our science students, particularly AP science students, at a disadvantage compared to the students of other schools, especially on the East Coast were they start school thee weeks before us. The purpose of an AP class is to prepare students to pass a college level exam, thus earning college credit in high school that could save them a significant amount of money later on. Currently, EHS science students do not compete a general chemistry course prior to enrolling in the advanced placement class. As a result, the students lack the necessary background to succeed in an AP class.

First of all, AP Chemistry students are expected to have a year of chemistry prior to entering the AP program. In addition, many other schools are now starting in August and ending in May, rather than starting after Labor Day, much to the benefit of AP class students. The reason for this being that AP testing dates are static across the US, taking place in May, so those who start in school beginning in August will have up to a month head start on those in

September. EHS starts in September, meaning as soon as an unsuspecting AP Chemistry student walks into a class on the first day, they are already over a year (because they lack a prior basic chemistry course) behind everyone else and are unlikely to catch up. In fact, over the past two years of EHS students that took the test, only 20% have past it.

According to U.S. News, EHS earned at 20.2 on the College Readiness Index. This is calculated by a weighted average based 25 percent on the AP participation rate and 75 percent on the quality-adjusted AP participation rate. The maximum value a school can earn is 100.

Freshman students who take Physical Science also tend to be underprepared, and significant time is wasted reviewing the basics - which in turn slows down the class and necessitates the skipping of many critical units because there is simply not enough time. Meeting the time requirements is an age old problem in public education.

Why do students seem to be at such a disadvantage? If you are affiliated with the public education system in anyway, you’ve probably become accustomed to it’s two greatest foes: budget cuts and class sizes. Since the school can only pay for a limited number of science teaching positions, AP and general Chemistry are only offered every other year at the same time. During the

other years AP and general Physics are also offered at the same time. Larger schools who have a higher population of students can hire more teachers to teach both general and advanced classes.

Now that we’re in this predicament, how do we cope? Students and administrators may feel it’s the teachers’ job to catch the students up and to use their time wisely; meanwhile, teachers feel it’s the students responsibility to take the time outside of class to learn the material. In a situation such as ours, it’s going to take a lot of cooperation and dedication from both the student and the teacher, neither party can be expected to make up this huge gap on their own.

At this point, both teachers and students are extremely strained for time and resources, not to mention frustrated. Most AP students take more than one AP class per term, and currently the AP Chemistry teacher is managing a wide range of students while teaching both math and science.

The good news is, even if the high school can’t afford more science classes to prepare its AP students, there are still inexpensive strategies we can employ. Perhaps instead of creating an environment where students feel they’ve been given a spoon rather than a paddle to cross the Atlantic, they should be encouraged to have more realistic and healthier goal of simply becom-

ing as knowledgeable as possible on chemistry so college won’t be such a struggle. I know this is hard for many AP students to accept, but “smarts” and a good work-ethic won’t guarantee your success at this point, only time can - time that you are unlikely to have. Even those who do pass the AP exam find it wiser to take that first year of college chemistry, because even the most talented highschool chemist may not be ready to jump into a second year college chemistry course.

Overall, upper level science students at EHS are often placed in classes lacking the basic knowledge and understanding of essential concepts. Therefore, support for students needs to become more available. In general, AP students are academically driven and open to challenges; however, at this level of insufficient preparation students have become extremely discouraged and many do not plan on taking the AP exam. Students and teachers should be encouraged to communicate with each other to come up with learning strategies. For example: materials and lessons could be assigned over the summer through the use of online classroom, as other AP classes have been doing. Also, students should be warned about the current condition of the AP Chemistry class prior to the first day of class when, by then, it will already be too late to catch up with students at many other schools.

Can you find The Falcon in this issue?



Congratulations to Victor Bensen! For finding the Falcon in the last issue.

Find the falcon hidden within the paper! If you find the Falcon, put you name on a piece of paper and give it to Mr. Burgess! You will be entered into a drawing for a Coffee Cart gift certificate. Good luck, it will be harder this time.

The falcon was hidden on page nine in the Spanish painting right by the dog.

Looking at the FCC, who they are, how they got there

By Leonardo Griffin

The FCC is a federal agency that oversees communications within the U.S and its territories (looking at you Puerto Rico), the name being an abbreviation of Federal Communications Commission. Recently they voted to revoke internet neutrality: This action has been criticized for allowing companies to potentially see the private lives of consumers and charge them to use the internet, which is a crucial part of life in the modern world. The initial voting was between the five members of the FCC board, four Commissioners, and a Chairman.

Ajit Pai, Chairman:

Ajit Pai was put on the commission by the former President, Barack Obama, in 2012. To clarify this would mean that he became a Commissioner, not the chairman - he was made chairman by Donald Trump. The Senate confirmed his position unanimously, paving his way into his seat on the board. According to the biography available on the FCC website (note: recommended reading for anyone who wants to learn more), he believes that “Consumers benefit most from competition, not preemptive regulation”. A takeaway from this statement is that a buyer would benefit from companies changing their prices to stay ahead of competitors and regulations would prevent this, “hurting” the buyer.

One of the “issues” that he is addressing is the lack of high speed broadband internet for businesses and consumers. The

plan that he proposed suggests that the federal government should make it easier for broadband providers to replace the copper wires used and put in fiber wires in their stead. It would also require maps of the area (roadmaps specifically) so that companies willing to compete in the area won’t have to file as much paperwork and save money.

Other issues that are considered priorities to Pai are: public safety, free speech, freedom of press, and the responsibility of federal programs for their results.

Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner:

Mignon Clyburn worked as a member of the sixth district public service commission of South Carolina for 11 years, two of those as the chair. She was appointed to commissioner by Barack Obama in May 2012, and served as the acting Chairwoman until Ajit Pai was confirmed. She also had experience in newspaper management, co-owning and founding *The Charleston Times*.

In her career as Commissioner, she has worked to protect public interest, and reasonable, transparent regulatory action. She has been a member of Federal-State boards, including the Board of Universal Service, Board on Separations, and the Conference on Advances Services; chairing all groups mentioned during her first term in the FCC.

Michael O’Reilly, Commissioner:

Michael O’Reilly was the legislative assistant to Tom Bliley, a congressman, from 1994-1995, he then served as a Analyst, then a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce until the early 2000s. O’Reilly went back to being a Legislative Assistant on tenure in 2003, but was promoted to Senior Legislative Assistant. In 2007 he was once again promoted to Legislative Director, serving until 2009. He then worked as a Policy Analyst for the banking, trade, transportation, technology, and commerce issues for a year. Then he served as an advisor from 2010-12, then as Deputy Chief of Staff and Policy Director for Jon Kyl, a Senator, until 2013. In 2013 he was nominated into the FCC by Barack Obama and confirmed unanimously by the Senate, being sworn in on Nov. 4, 2013, and was sworn in for his second term on Jan. 29, 2015.

Brendan Carr, Commissioner:

Brandon Carr has had a large amount of experience within the public and private sectors in Technology and Communications law and policies. He was a *Magna Cum Laude*, a Latin honors meaning *With Great Honor*, graduate from the Catholic University of America and Columbus School of Law, obtaining a certification for Communication Law Study, and an undergrad for Georgetown University. In the beginning of his career he worked as a law clerk for

the Fourth Court of Appeals working under Judge Dennis W. Shedd and as a Note and Comment Editor at the Catholic University Law Review.

He was nominated into the FCC board more recently than his co-members, but before that, he served as a chief advisor to the board while holding the position on the General Counsel to the FCC. Before he was on the General Counsel he also served as a lead advisor to Ajit Phat, mentioned previously. He was nominated by President Trump, and was confirmed into his seat unanimously by the senate on Aug. 11, 2017.

Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner:

Jessica Rosenworcel was originally nominated and confirmed (unanimously) during the Obama Administration, and returned to her seat after being nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the senate (unanimously) on Aug. 11, 2017. She has brought the belief that having a strong communication market creates a strong and secure economy.

Before her career with the FCC, she was a senior member of the Communications Counsel for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, under the Senator, J.D Rockefeller the IV (fourth), and also under the Senator Daniel Inouye before Rockefeller took over. Before joining the Committee staff she was a Legal Advisor to a Former FCC commissioner, Michael J. Copps.

Leadership plans for prom

By Kyla Essleburn

ASB is planning this years Prom. This will be held at Paradise Springs, Monroe, OR. That was the same location as last year’s Prom, and will be on Apr. 21, 2018. This is an early prom but ASB voted on the date. ASB would rather have an early prom this year at this venue, then have a later prom at a different venue.

Chromebooks arrive at EHS, impact classrooms

By Emma Maingot

The mission of Elmira High School is to meet state standards through active teaching and learning, and provide all students the academic and social skills to become successful members of our global community. This entails providing students and staff with access to educational technology and Chromebooks have shown great value in K12 education.

There are many different Chromebooks that offer diverse options so the price may vary. The Chromebooks that the district bought cost between \$200-300 each, and as is the case with most digital technology, costs tend to fall over time.

According to the district’s technology director Michael Bateman, the devices were easier to deploy and manage than some of

the other common operating systems. The two biggest challenges they’ve faced in the district with Chromebooks have been the occasional software bug and physical damage caused by carelessness. “I’ll note that EHS has been very good to date at caring for the devices, and [the district] technology support staff appreciates it,” said Michael Bateman, the technology director.

There are two carts filled with Chromebooks in the library. Two teachers at a time can use a cart for their classes. The teachers can either borrow them for a period or the whole day. There’s also the possibility for students to borrow a Chromebook of their own. Students can use them for a period and then turn them back into the library. “They’re a little small but they’re a nice addition. I like how [EHS] is getting more high tech.” said Cordell Chase when asked about the new Chromebooks.



Photo taken by Ian Connors

The obvious difference between Chromebooks and a computer lab is the desktop and laptop form. The mobility of the Chromebook carts allows any room on campus to become a

computer lab. Another noticeable difference is the operating system. While Chromebooks use the Chrome OS, the computer labs are based on Windows. Even though those two operating systems are very different, one can accomplish almost the same tasks on a Chromebook as on a Windows desktop.

Guldager tackles new job at EHS, prepares students for college

Photo and story by Riley Chambers



Jon Guldager, former Social Studies teacher, is now the current Career Tech Education (CTE) coordinator. Guldager’s newly formed position is part of ballot Measure 98. The measure was passed in 2016 by the Oregon legislature to provide for: college readiness programs, such as ASPIRE for juniors and AP testing; decreasing the dropout rates; and for career education, such as the workshop classes.

“[The job] was really different at first, not knowing the direction [it would take],” said Guldager.

Guldager agreed to the job at the start of the 2017-2018 school year, when Gary Carpenter, superintendent and principal at EHS, asked him if he would be up for the job. Guldager is a TOSA, a Teach-

er On Special Assignment. He spends a lot of his time at the Lane ESD center, meeting with other CTE coordinators and connecting with other business.

“It has been kind of nice doing something different. I was ready to jump back into the classroom at week 1 or 2, but now I understand [how this job works],” said Guldager.

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Girl’s wrestling tackles gender stereotypes, gains popularity

By Elva Zhao

Girls hear that boys are “naturally” stronger and faster all the time. When you mention wrestling people believe it to be a boys’ sport. However girls wrestling has been gaining popularity and proving that girls could do the same things that guys can do.

Wrestling is a sport that tests knowledge, technique, strength, agility, and speed. It’s been a sport for thousands of years. It was the most popular sport in Greece, and it’s still today an Olympic event. Women’s wrestling was first introduced in the

Olympics in 2004. Over 21 nations competed in four freestyle classes for women’s wrestling. Women wrestlers gather all over the world just to complete.

Women’s wrestling is just as aggressive and entertaining as men’s wrestling. In Oregon, the number of women wrestler have increased from 250 two years ago to over 400 last year. More Oregon high school coaches are buying into girls wrestling and recruiting at their schools. Also, girls are learning that there are many opportunities beyond high school to con-

tinue to wrestle.

More than 40 colleges and university now have women’s wrestling, including South Western Oregon Community College, Pacific University, Eastern Oregon University and Southern Oregon University.

Isabella Diffin, sr., says, “Girls wrestling shows power and strength of girls of any shape or size. We aren’t as strong as boys, but girls have their own kind of strength.”

With the girls wrestling season there is a lot of tournaments and dual meets coming up.

Girls State Qualifier will be on January 26th and 27th at Thurston High School. Come out and support girls wrestling and cheer on your fellow falcons.

Female wrestlers at EHS:
Carissa Cervantez, soph.
Linda Cline, fr.
Izzy Diffin , sr.
Azzy Lane, jr.
Anna Marshall, sr.
Destiny Ruppert, jr.
Maddy Shreeve, jr.
Maddie Trotter, jr.
Zoe Wenham, fr.
Elva Zhao, jr.

Basketball team unifies students

By Kyla Esselburn



Elmira and Sutherlin’s Unified Basketball Teams posing after a game
Photo from Millie Carpenter

It is that time again for winter sports at Elmira High School. Though along with the traditional sports, the season for a more untraditional one has started. The Unified Basketball Team has started once again at Elmira High School. Unified basketball unites kids with and without special needs by playing basketball with each other. They work together like any other team and compete in games with other unified teams. A total of fifty one schools in Oregon participate in unified sports.

The coaches of the unified basketball team are Brian Brands, Ryan Chambers, and Erin Ellis. Chambers won coach of the year for his work

as the boy’s soccer coach. Brands is the school athletic director. Ellis is a track coach. Dahlin Allen has been on the team for two years.

“I like basketball because it entertains me and keeps me healthy. Allowing me to do incredible things on and off the court,” said Dahlin Allen, sr. The first game the team won 22-20.

The other games are coming up in February. The first game is at Sutherlin High School at seven fifteen on Feb. sixth. The second game is at Sisters High School at seven fifteen on Feb. 13th. The state qualifiers are at Oregon State University on Feb. 24th, the time has not been set yet.



Top Izzy Diffin, sr. pins on her opponent. Bottom Maddy Sherreve, jr. earns first place at Glodstone

Elmira Girls’ Basketball team grows in size, coach reflects on meaning of sport

By Andrea Griffin

This year, the Elmira Girls’ Basketball team currently has a total of 29 players with three divisions: Varsity, Junior Varsity and Junior Varsity 2. Last year the team had 25 players, and the year before that they had only 16 total. “[Two years ago there were times when] we only had six players on the JV team, and that was rough, but they all got to play a lot,” said Ken Best, math teacher at EHS and head coach of the EHS Girls’ Basketball Team. Shannon Hart, language arts teacher at EHS, is the JV coach and Kendall is Boren is an assistant coach.

“It’s nice to see we basically almost doubled in size since two years ago,” said Best. This year, 11 freshman came out to play, where two years ago only three or four came. “I was blindsided by the interest, so that was nice.”

In order to have a JV2 team, which costs about \$3,265, funds were pulled from the teams account of money they’ve made from various fundraisers and tournaments over the past few years. The Elmira Booster Club also helped cover some of the costs, which was highly appreciated. The team also hopes to do a Cosmos Popcorn fundraiser to help with costs.

“Having a JV2 team, I think, is extremely valuable,” said Best. Not only does it give players more chances to play, but it also allows players to play at a level that may be more suitable for them, allowing for a more successful first experience as a JV2 player and moving up naturally.

This year, the team has 22 games scheduled. “The League set up is so that we have to play each [of the five other teams in the league] twice. We play once at home and once away,” said Best. The first 12 games of the season are all non-league opponents. “It allows you to build up and get ready for your league,” said Best. The non-league games count just as much as any other game towards state ranking.

“[State rankings] aren’t some-



Photo courtesy Ian Connors
(From far left, clockwise) Kylie Anderson, sr., Madison Nickle, sr., Jayden Blunt, sr., and Kinsely Stone, sr., lining up a shot against Harrisburg at EHS tournament (49-46)

thing I keep track of too closely. You can’t control it, all you can control is preparation and trying to play well in games and whatever happens in the rankings happens,” said Best.

The team gets about two weeks of practice before their first game and they practice almost every week day for about two hours a practice. The 29 girls are split up into two gyms, 17 in the V/JV gym and 12 in the JV2 gym.

In practice, Best tries to break down all the facets of the game. “We balance out trying to work on skills and trying to do team-specific offensive and defensive sets,” said Best. He feels it’s important to do skill work in practice, where players refine their ball-handling skills, scoring skills, footwork, passing and defense skills.

Along with skill and athleticism, coaches look for good decision making ability, coachability and leadership when selecting players for varsity. They look for players who makes the players around them better by helping them move on from mistakes or explaining to someone a better way to do something. “A big difference maker is how fast people can learn,” said Best, this

is because coaches don’t have a lot of time to work on things.

“I think this is the best year we’ve had so far of just having people get along. It always feels good, people are happy to be around each other,” said Best. Best feels it is important in any team that teammates are good to each other and there isn’t and interpersonal conflict. He also notes that there are lot of players who are quiet and reserved and he hopes that communication on the court will improve over time. “[Our goal is to] get better everyday, work hard, have fun,” said Best. In years past Best set goals that were centered around winning a certain amount of games, and earning a certain place in league, but now he hopes to build the character confidence and of the players.

“I think sometimes we become too outcome focused and not process focused enough”
- Ken Best

“If we focus everyday on getting

better and if we have fun with each other, so it stays enjoyable, and then we try to outwork our opponents then that’s the process stuff that leads to getting victories and hopefully getting to the playoffs,” said Best. He calls this mindset NATO training, which stands for Not Attached To Outcome, meaning you out in practice and work regardless of the outcomes.

For Best, getting into basketball was a life changing experience. As an adolescent, basketball helped him gain confidence and form better relations with his peers. “It kinda changed who I was in a lot of ways,” said Best. He likes the sport for its dynamics, strategic nature, but he also appreciates how the sport can teach people things about themselves and strengthen character.

“If I’m really thinking deep down as to why I teach people basketball, it’s because I like to see people blossom”
- Ken Best

Best likes to see players realize that they can be bigger and better than their previous self.

“[Players who have graduated] can reference lessons learned in basketball as things that helped them become more mature, become more confident. That’s what makes [coaching] worth while,” said Best. “Win-lose games, in the end you kind of forget about that, but if you can makes some good relationships and grow as a person through it then that’s what it’s all about.” Best also hopes that his players will like the sport enough that the realise being healthy and being in shape, active, and competitive is a good habit that they want to maintain throughout their life. He believes that sports can give people a mindset that helps them better themselves.

Students of the month: December

By Linda Cline



Freshman of the month:
Ayden Wolgamontt

Q: What is your favorite class?
A: “My favorite class I can’t decide is Global and Weight training.”
Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
A: “I’m on the wrestling team, but other than that I like to watch T.V and rest.”
Q: What’s your favorite food?
A: “I think [my favorite food is] peanut butter.”



Junior of the month:
Kelby Alloway

Q: How does it feel to be student of the month?
A: “Pretty good but everybody got a tie, so yeah.”
Q: What’s your favorite class?”
A: “Oh, I think it’s a three way tie between history, German, and choir.”
Q: Who’s your favorite teacher?



Sophmore of the month:
Julio Espinosa

Q: How does it feel to be student of the month?
A: “It feels fine.”
Q: What’s your favorite class?
A: “Probably history.”
Q: What do you do for fun out of school?
A: “Hang out with friends.”
Q: What would your life be like as a pig?
A: “I don’t know average stuff.”



Senior of the month:
Eli Jones

Q: What is your favorite class?
A: “Weight lifting.”
Q: Who’s your favorite teacher?
A: “Mr. Monegan.”
Q: What do you do in your free time?
A: “Play video games.”



Junior of the month:
Elle Russell

Q: How does it feel to be student of the month?
A: “It feels good to be recognized by staff.”
Q: Who’s your favorite teacher?
A: “I like most of my teachers, but I got a special place for Mrs. Saint, Snider, and Marquess.”
Q: What do you like to do out of school?
A: “Snack, nap, I like to run.”



Junior of the month:
Erich Scheid

Q: How does it feel to be student of the month?
A: “Feels great, I’ve been trying for this for like three years now.”
Q: Who’s your favorite teacher?
A: “Probably Mr. Best he is a pretty cool guy and I like his teaching style.”
Q: What do you do for fun out of school?
A: “Program and play video games.”

Falcon of the month: **Anna Marshal**



Q: What teacher would you prank and what would you do?
A: “I would pants Mr. Hart, and I’d give Mr. Burgess a swirly.”
Q: If you could eat dinner with anyone dead or alive who would it be and what would you eat?
A: “Jesus, and eat a crap ton of fish and bread.”

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Hollow Knight: somber, simple, full of secrets

By Ethan Frolov

Hollow Knight is a completely hand drawn Metroidvania game released in Feb. 2017, and was supported in part by an online crowdfunding campaign. A Metroidvania is a genre based off themes from classic games found in Metroid and Castlevania (hence the portmanteau); themes that include a 2D side-scrolling point of view and a series of unlockable items that allow you to progress past certain point that would be previously unpassable without said item. *Hollow Knight*, however, isn’t something new and innovative that many people are deciding is an important factor to game design as of late, but rather is an excellently engineered work of art that will make fans of the genre thrilled that something good came to the table since *Castlevania: Symphony of the Night*.

Instead of that innovative spirit that many gamers are looking for, *Hollow Knight* rests its laurels on a deep, dark, and very interesting world filled to the brim with secrets that you may or may not even pickup on when playing your way through. The start of the game drops your nameless character into a town called Dirtmouth which contains NPCs (Non-playable characters) wandering about in a haze, seemingly shadows



Photo courtesy of holdtoreset.com

of their former selves. The real action begins as you descend into Hollownest, the expansive underground world filled with insectoid-esc creatures that act both as enemies and the occasional NPC. You begin to realize there is a sickness in the air, and something went awry long before you show up. The story the game follows is the unravelling of the mystery the deeper and deeper you descend into Hollownest and face the horrors below.

Hollow Knight isn’t your mundane 2D platformer, as along with the beautiful settings and diverse cast of characters; there is a level of difficulty that will take you entirely by surprise. Your controls are very simple: directionals, a jump, and an attack button, plus a rechargeable long range attack you’ll find further into the game.

Yet in the simplicity comes the difficulty. The enemies you come across and the bosses you must fight ever increase in difficulty the longer you progress, all of which have set patterns of attack that you should endeavor to learn if you ever hope to defeat them.

Not everything can be without its faults, however. As fun as the exploration aspect is, it’s not fun to explore the same thing after you die time and time again, something which will certainly happen. Probably a lot. This is a reality because the game has save points (which double as places to regain your health) in locations very few and far between. As much as this may be in implementation on the game designer’s part to increase the overall difficulty, it really just makes it a pain to navigate the gigantic map with what could be many times over if you get lost or

die in the wrong place. The last thing that I’ve neglected to mention is the soundtrack, something which drew me into *Hollow Knight*’s somber embrace from the instant I watched the game’s trailer. This soundtrack was the perfect accompaniment for the game, and made the journey within Hollownest a whole lot brighter, or perhaps in some areas, darker. Either way, just like the game itself, there is no sense of overwhelming dread the player must face in the music. There are cracks in the game where lightheartedness and even joyful moments shine even brighter by contrast that have me coming back and facing foes that previously made me want to give up, all so I can continue with that wonderful sense of progression and accomplishment. Even with a few minor issues, I recommend picking up this masterpiece of a game if you even come close to enjoying difficult games, beautiful hand drawn artwork, amazing soundtracks, multitudes of interesting and different bosses, or really any mix of those variables. It may be tough, but it’s more than worth the current price of \$14.99 on Steam right now.

Ask Freddy: What do I do when my boyfriend likes hanging out with other girls too much?

Dear Freddy,
I feel like my boyfriend is falling for other girls lately. He has been hanging out with this new, hot blonde versus spending time with me. Everytime I try to talk to him, he just says they’re just friends. I am starting to wonder if it is more than that...
Please Help,
Jealous Girlfriend.

Dear Jealous Girlfriend,
I believe that if a guy will not make time for you or to hear your concerns, than he is not worth your time. In order to date another

person, you to know how to take care of yourself first. You have to make a relationship work by communication and compromise. Dating is a tricky game but you have to use your judgment to know what it is right or wrong for you. If your heart is telling you that he might be cheating on you, you have to ask and listen to what he says and maybe how he says it . If he will refuses to answer, than you have a right to be suspicious. Remember, relationships should not be hard. They should reduce your stress and be fun.
Your Friend,
Freddy

Teacher Feature: David Johnson

By Dalton Nardi, photo by Ian Connors



Mr. Johnson and his 1955 first series Chevy Suburban.

Mr. Johnson grew up in Sacramento California. He studied at Clark College in Vancouver Washington, Rouge community college, and is currently studying at Eastern Oregon University. He originally followed a job from Grants Pass, Oregon to Eugene, Oregon then moved on to Noti and is currently in Elmira.

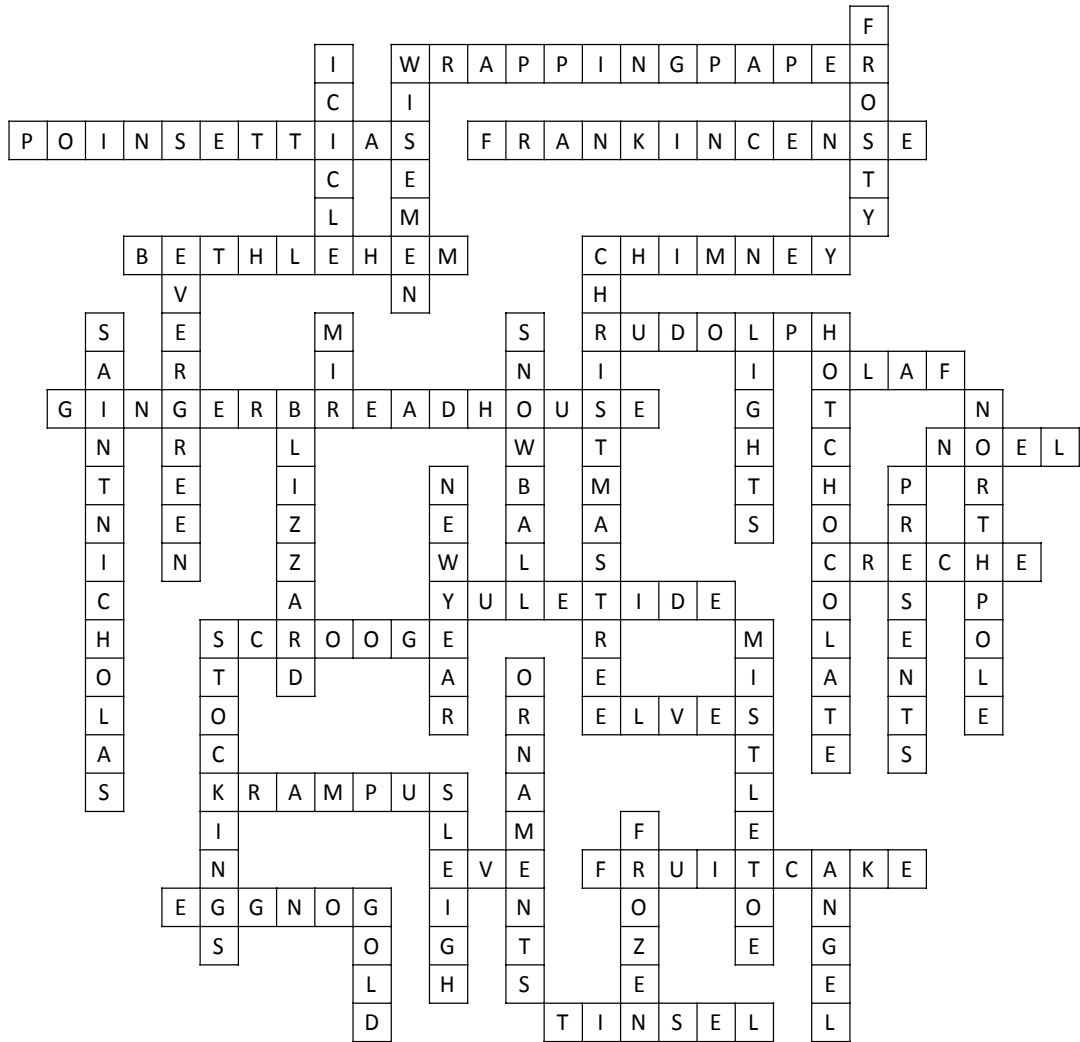
His hobbies are anything that involves working with his hands.

His dream job is to teach. His favorite food is dark chocolate. If he could live anywhere he would live on an island just off the coast of Norway were his ancestors originated.

Mr. Johnson has and loves a Border collie and a Chihuahua miniature Doberman cross. He has been married to his loving wife for 37 years. His children consist of three boys and two girls.

Mr. Johnson’s truck is a 1955 first series suburban named Sullie that his dad bought in 1957. He first drove the vehicle sitting in his dad’s lap when he was 8 and he has been driving it ever since.

Answer Key for previous crossword



Pet of the Month
Gypsy Hanson

By Linda Kline



Photo courtesy of: Denum Hanson

Q: What’s your name?

A: “Denum Hanson.”

Q: What’s your pet’s name?

A: “Gypsy.”

Q: What kind of animal is she?

A: “I think she is a Mackenzie Timber wolf.”

Q: One word you would use to describe her?

A:” Mischievous would probably be the best word to describe her.”

Q: Does she have a birthday, or is there any day that you celebrate her birth?

A:” No.”

Q: What does she like to do in her spare time, does she have any hobbies?

A: “She likes to run around the yard and bark at people as they walk by.”

Q: Does she have a favorite outfit?

A: “No.”

Q: If you had a million dollars to spend on her what would you spend it on?

A:” I would probably spend it on a warm home for puppy birthing.”

Crossword of the Month: February edition

Across

5- occurs when body temperature falls below 95° F

7- 4/5 of this word is silent

8- bank robbers and skiers wear this

9- think figure or hockey

13- a small swirling mass of snow as a result of (answer to 35 across) s of wind

15- shortest day of the year

17- a governmental agency with the goal of ensuring safety at work and a healthful work environment

19- Santa has eight

24- characteristic of winter

27- death, destruction, or some other terrible fate

28- (273.15°) Kelvin

31- ice soccer played with sticks and not a ball

32- serves the same purpose as a (answer to 4 down) but burns cut up trees

33- a thick warm (answer to 7 down)

35- a brief strong wind

38: at the center of the Earth lies a molten

40- story

41- an American appliance manufacturer

44- flying down a mountain on two sticks

45- to promise

46- Anorak

48- perceived decrease in temperature due to air flow

50- strong wind storm

52- characterized by strong winds

53- makes a sheep’s winter coat

54- whiteout

Down

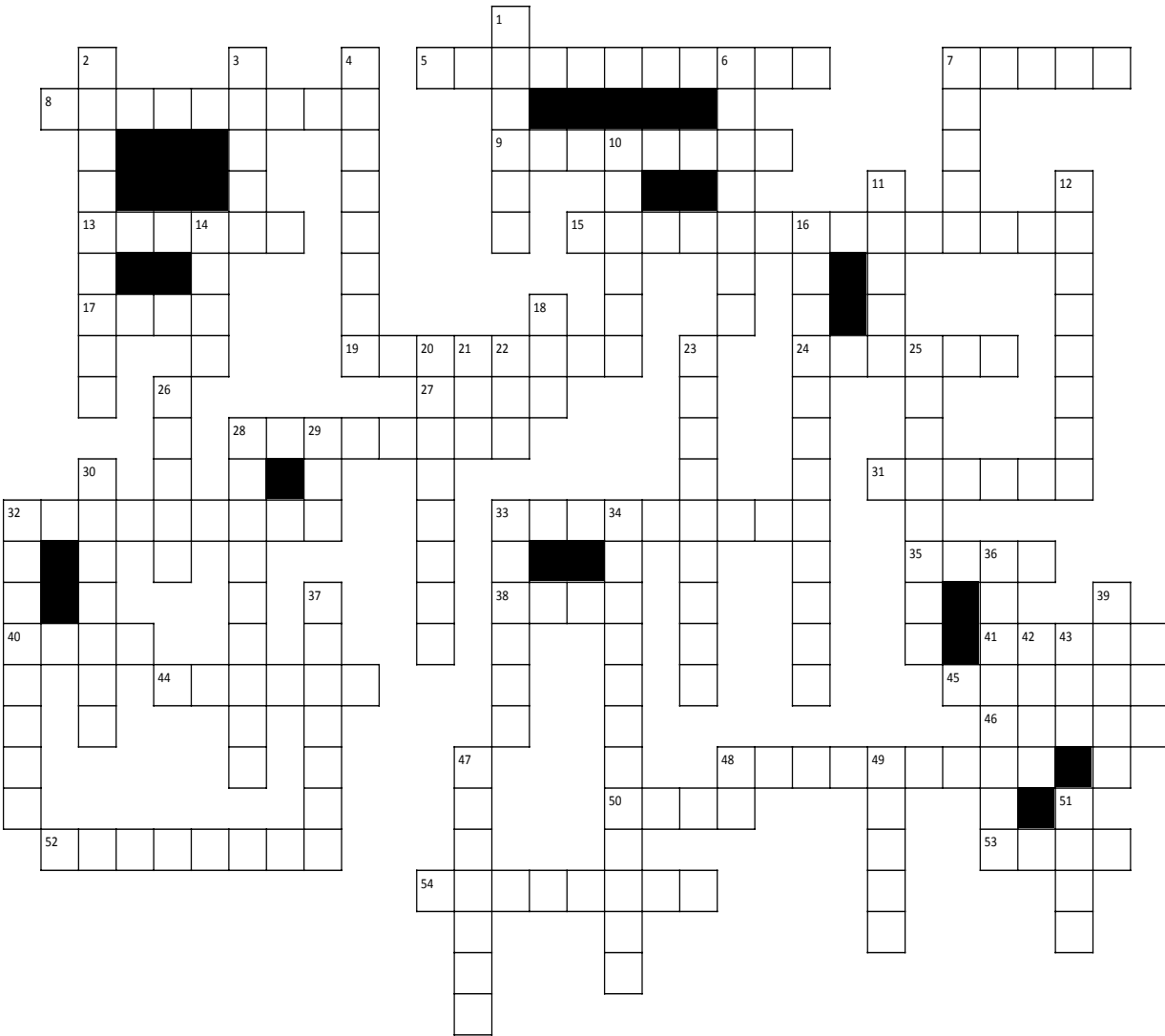
1- a mythical egyptian creature with the head of a human and the body of a lion

2- the personification of winter

3- skies in Oregon are rarely

4- found in cars and cold rooms

6- gloves without separate fingers



7- a warm blanket characterized by a patchwork of different fabric swatches

10- to shake due to lack of heat

11- not elaborate, simple

12- the last month of winter

14- back

16- flying down a mountain on one wider and shorter stick

18- the state of sleep in which dreaming occurs

20- annual long distance (answer to 30 down) race

21- a prefix; not doing/ not involved with

22- man’s best friend

23- hard candy that has nothing to do with the fruit in its name

25- like a sled but longer and narrower

26- partially melted snow or ice

28- injury as result of exposure to extreme cold

29- a female sheep

30- sled pulled by (the answer to 22 down)

32- blizzard

33- a silky protective case for metamorphosing bugs

34- encases everything in ice

36- clears roads

37- start of a new year

39- Cheerful and lively

42- pinniped

43- a thick, dark liquid used in

road making

47- the antagonist of a superhero story

48- used to refer to yourself and one or more other people

49- hacking as a result of a cold

51- feathery filling for winter coats



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Horoscopes: February, the Season of Chills

By Ethan Frolov and Ian Connors

Aries: (March 21-April 19) For all you Aries out there, the winter months can be a time of discomfort as many tend to experience out of this world premonitions. These premonitions can include seeing horoscope writers tracking people down and picking off their family one by one as if in a horror movie for not taking the monthly horoscopes seriously. Worry not; these premonitions are most likely untrue...

Taurus: (April 20-May 20)

Your phone rings. Restricted number. Your finger twitches at the reject button but your phone vibrates unexpectedly as you receive a text. "Don't you dare," it says. You reluctantly answer, not feeling like you have much of a choice. "Walk three steps to your right and two steps backwards," an obviously filtered voice commands. You do as you are told and wait. Nothing happens until you look up. A tiny water balloon hangs just above your nose. It drops, bouncing harmlessly off your forehead. "BAMBOOZLE!" cries the voice. An owl flies away from a nearby tree. Aren't they nocturnal?

Gemini: (May 21-June 20) Geminis are known for their communication

skills, skills that will come very in handy in the upcoming World War. Your bunkmate had his eyes melted out by a poisonous gas, so he asks of you to describe the burned out landscape around

you so that he doesn't accidentally wander into any wire traps and landmines left by the Swiss. That's right, Switzerland is finally making their stand; funded by that obscene amount of money you poured into their banks.

Cancer: (June 21- July 22)

You are in a dangerous situation with an evil clone of yourself. "Shoot him," the evil clone yells at your friend while pointing at you. Your friend aims at your evil counterpart and a look of confusion washes over the clone's face. "The real Ian would never pass up a chance to die!"

Leo: (July 23- August 22) It's January, and you

feel as if the cold frigid air is enveloping you, sliding over and under your skin like a snake. Except it's actually a hypodermic needle and you're at the doctor's office for a shot. But this isn't a doctor's office, it's much too cold and bleak and way too many one-way mirrors. It's a federal prison. You were just charged for a murder you didn't commit. You remember now! If only you have time to explain, you were drugged for the trial, it was all a set up! But everything's already fading to black...

Virgo: (August 23-September 22)

New York City. The Big Apple. The City of Dreams. Also the city of pigeons. Rats with wings if you ask me. You are

walking through Central Park when you come across a particularly large flock of the buggers. How funny would it be if you ran through the flock, making them scatter every which way. You set your briefcase on a nearby bench and start to run. You penetrate the pigeons' outer ranks and suddenly your feet are no longer on the ground. The pigeons have sunk their claws into your clothing and are flapping in unison. You faint. The disbelief was too much to handle. You wake up, groggily at first, but then you snap to attention. The pleasant scent of a nursing home surrounds you. You scream. "A newcomer," one of the older guests to your left remarks. "Bet you thought running through that flock would be funny. Never once stopped to consider that it'd be the last thing you'd ever do."

Libra: (September 23-October 22)

Walking home from school you see a familiar tree. You shouldn't recognize it, because today was your first day, but the tree recognizes you. It waves in the wind. You wave back. Your face flushes red as the tree continues to look past you. It was waving at the person behind you.

Scorpio: (October 23-November 21)

If you walk outside, you're going to get pelted by sleet.

Sagittarius: (November 22-December 21)

Your financial situation is set to improve drastically. Next time you're on the road it'll be highway robbery, and not the bad kind. You pull up next to a truck with the word "GARDA" printed on the side in big red letters. You raise yourself slowly out of the sunroof and look towards your target. Your driver moves in closer and you jump, suspended the air for an agonizing instant before you feel the sharp edge of the truck's roof under your whitened knuckles. You pull yourself up on top of the roof, laying flat as you contemplate your next move. to be continued...

Capricorn: (December 22-January 19)

A stately gentleman will approach you soon, and inquires upon whether you would desire to unite yourself with the solitary social elite who have a curious case of elevated bodily temperatures around your area of residence. You decline, as you do not wish to procure a computer virus.

Aquarius: (January 20-February 18)

You wake up laying on your back. Nothing out of the ordinary there. You feel a slight dampness that is growing ever less moderate by the minute. You open your eyes not to your darkened room but to a blinding sun. You sit up. There is nothing around you and a whole lot of it, save all the water. You are either stranded in the middle of an ocean on your mattress or sitting on a washcloth in a kiddie pool with an overactive imagination.

Pieces: (February 19-March 20)

You will soon receive a letter in the mail inviting you to a school that teaches witchcraft and wizardry. You're positively thrilled, until you realize that the letter is addressed to a name you don't recognize. That's funny; you live alone in a single bedroom apartment. It's the right address, though it says in a small font under that: "To the boy under the floorboards." That's odd. You ignore it, passing it off as a gag. The next day you receive another letter, an identical copy of the first one but this time the mailing address states "To the boy in the closet". You start to get worried, and you run to your closet and throw it open. Empty. What were you even thinking? You go to bed later that night and lay awake, still a bit shaken by that damned letter. You turn off the lights and roll over, when you hear the crunch of paper beneath you. You squint in the dim orange light coming from a crack in the blinds at the address: "To the body above the bed". You feel a drip on your face, then another.



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