

THE TIGER PEN

YOUR NUESTROS NEWS AUTHORITY



In School, On Time, On Track #EveryDayMatters

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Christmas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, My Home Country By Joyeux Noël à tous

Christmas in Democratic Republic of Congo is more of a religious festival than being commercial. Most people won't have any presents. Christmas Eve is very important with churches having a big musical evening and a nativity play. The plays last a very long time. They start at the beginning of the evening with the creation and the Garden of Eden and end with the story of King Herod killing all the babies who were boys. People take part in the play and really like to show off their best acting skills and tend to go over the top and emote! King Herod and the soldiers are often figures of fun and Mary is often well advanced in labor before she arrives! The birth of Jesus is timed to happen as close to midnight as possible and after that come the Shepherds, the Wise Man and the slaughter of the innocents. This means that the play normally finishes about 1am. However, in some places there will be further singing until dawn. Christmas Day service usually starts 9am with lots of singing. On Christmas Day, most families try to have better meal than usual. The rest of the day is spent quite quietly, maybe sleeping after a busy and late night on Christmas Eve! The people go back to work on the 26th which they call Boxing Day.



New Year's Party and DWI by Liz Monarrez

For many people New Years means a "new" you and involves partying, but there are many unknown dangers to face. Research has shown that between 6pm on December 31 and 6am on January 1 there is a 71% increase of driving where alcohol and drugs were involved. Statistics show that between 2002-2008 on average 140 people die during the same period vs the roughly 28 people that die as a result on a regular day. In 2013, 1,149 kids under the age of 14 were killed in an auto collision, 200 (17%) of the deaths involved alcohol and out of those 200, 121 (61%) were in vehicles where the driver had tested with a .08 alcohol level and 29 (15%) of the dead were pedestrians or cyclists hit by a drunk driver also with a .08. Though accidents frequently occur during New Years eve and day there are far less when it falls on a weekday than on a weekend. In 2013 28.7 million people admitted to driving under the influence of alcohol, that is more that the population of Texas. According to

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) ever since they began their organization in 1990 the amount of drunk driving fatalities have lowered 50%. During 2010 1.4 million arrests were made for drunk driving and 20% of the arrested were repeat offenders. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has reported that men are more likely to drive drunk than women at 15.1% vs 7.9%. DrinkingAndDriving.Org and Uber have partnered up in an effort to lower the amount of drunk driving accidents. "Your first Uber ride is free up to \$20 using the DrinkingAndDriving.Org code DADO."



Krampus the Christmas Demon By:Perla Casillas



Santa Claus has long been a symbol of Christmas bringing joy, smiles, and presents to all the good kids. However being a child living in Austria or Germany there might be something more dark, grumpy, and mischievous. That dark, grumpy something is Krampus; the Christmas demon. A beast-like creature with fangs, fur, and horns, Krampus announces his presence with loud bells and terrorizes kids who have been naughty during the year. While Santa gives the good ones gifts and joy, Krampus gives the bad ones nightmares and beatings with a whip

made from birch sticks and horsehair. So how did this mythological beast come to be a part of Austria and Germany's Christmas tradition? High up in the Alp countries of Europe is where the legend was created. According to Norse mythology, Krampus is the son of Hel, the goddess ruler of the underworld. People say Krampus started appearing around the 13th century. Originating in Southern Germany and Austria, the creature moved to other European countries such as Switzerland, Hungary, and even the Alp villages of Italy. In Tyrol (a state in western Austria) their version states that Krampus tends to look like a giant, sadistic teddy bear. When Christianity took over the region, Krampus wasn't forgotten, but rather altered to match changing customs.) St. Nick, himself, wouldn't be closely associated with Christmas until early 19th century with the name Santa Claus coming from the Dutch of the protracted words for St. Nicholas. To tell children that he, (Krampus), is around he continues to carry bells to announce his presence. Despite these attachments to Christianity, some Pagan traditions have survived and are still part of today's Krampus. But then again this is one of many conspiracy theories. What do you think?

To Prom Or Not To Prom by Lexy Chavira

When asking students around Nuestros Valores Charter High School to take a short survey on whether they would want a prom or not. If yes, they explained how they would help to coordinate prom, if no, they explained why. Out of all the students who took the survey, 28 students have said yes to prom, and explained why they want a prom. Prom is about making memories and also is a big high school experience with friends before you graduate. Many students who said yes explained how they would help; some said they would have fund-raisers, organize, and decorate. The problem with this, is that many students do not help and Nuestros does not have a prom committee. The eight students who said no, explained why by saying that prom is not exciting. They also believe that many people will not go, it will be a waste of money, and boring. With this being said, for the ones who really want a prom, we need to come to up with ideas to improve this year's prom by having many people help, and share new ideas so we can have a prom everyone can enjoy. Remember prom is about the last memories we have before graduation. For anyone who would like a prom please contact me by writing a letter and putting it in the T box. 2



A Good Idea

By: Jackque

The first time I was introduced to the basketball team was when Mr. Salas told me to join. Then he told me he was going to tell coach Ver Ploegh to put me on the team.

After that day I went to Ver Ploegh to see if Salas did tell him and it

turns out that they did talk about it. So he told me that I

had to join the team even if I

didn't want to, just to see how

basketball really was compared to playing with friends or family. Finally, we had our first basketball meeting; it was kind of weird then we got to

know each other better. After a couple of practices and games we are starting to become a real hard-working team. Every member gives it their all to make this team to become stronger.

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The White Tiger basketball team currently holds a record of 2-2, but have high expectations for the rest of the season.

Good luck Whit Tigers and go check them out!

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Jacob pays close attention during halftime of a game. Jacob credits basketball for helping him get into shape and changing his outlook on life.



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A New Year's Resolution

By: Jasmine Casillas

A New Year's resolution is a tradition that dates back to 153 B.C.E, where people make a promise to themselves to do an act of self improvement throughout the year. The best of us make a plan, but how many actually stick with it through the year? 75% of resolutions make it through the first entire week of the New Year. That means that 25% of people who make a resolution can't even stick with it for 7 days. 71% are continuing after two weeks, 64% after one month and after that, only 46% are carried through six months. Just under 10% of people actually reach their yearly goal. Why is that? Well, most people that make New Year resolutions do not have the right mindset to stick with their decision. Or their resolution was unclear. What are some ways to keep and reach a New Year's goal?

1. Make it something you really want to do! You have to be interested in your own acts of improvement because if you aren't you're just going to dread it because it's something you feel you have to do.
2. Make it specific. I had said earlier that some people don't stick with it because the resolution is unclear.
3. Make a legit plan. Instead of saying "exercise more" make a specific plan like " Exercise at the gym for 2 hours every Monday, Wednesday and Friday".
4. Make it realistic. If you know it's something you can't or just won't do for whatever reason don't make it a goal. Be honest with yourself.

Overall New Year's resolutions are great however you don't have to wait for the New Year to set or goal or improve yourself.



A.R.T.: Good or Bad? By Luis Angel

How is the City of Albuquerque being affected by the construction of Albuquerque Rapid Transit or A.R.T? Many people that live or work in the Albuquerque area being affected in different ways including traffic and business loss. The traffic on Central Street during



A.R.T has caused traffic like this (above) on Bridge

too because of the construction.

In my opinion it would have been better to build another bridge to cross the river instead of A.R.T. The City of Albuquerque calculates that the project will cost over 100 million dollars and will be completed next November. Some people are opposed to A.R.T because of the already existing Rapid Ride. However, the city argues that this project will replace the two rapid ride routes that already travel along Central. They believe it will improve traffic conditions and attract more businesses along the area.

mornings and afternoon travels is too much.

Also many businesses that are located in the area are being affected by the construction.

Businesses are also being jeopardized by the traffic because customers are not able to get there easily or just don't want to deal with the traffic and its headaches. Many people look for alternate routes, to get to their destination. Mr. Salas, Ms. Chavez and other teachers here at the school have also decided not to go to local businesses on Central because of the traffic. The traffic has been increasing on Bridge Boulevard

First Time Voting by Alicia

200 million citizens registered to vote for the very first time, but only 131.7 million of them actually voted. 2016 had a big Presidential election. With candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, many said that the race would be a close one. With first time voters ranging from 18 years to almost 60 years old, it was an interesting process. First time voter, Rafael Arias, 18, said the process was somewhat easy. Did he like the candidates for his first election? "... they were the worst options for the United States...," Arias stated. 59-year-old Jose Mandujano experienced his first time voting this year too. He is from Mexico, but became a citizen of the U.S in 2013. On becoming a citizen, he said "it was an interesting experience, I never knew how the voting process worked till now." Many people still question why the electoral college exists and how they pick our president. "I must admit that I need a deeper understanding of the reason an electoral college is needed. It does seem odd that a candidate can get the most votes and still lose," said Jody . It is unfair, Hillary for example won the popular vote, but did lose the electoral vote. In the next election, vote, because many people do not have the right that you do. Lastly, it is putting your opinion to use and do not take that for granted.



Re-Gifting

By Shasta Sandoval

Have you ever gotten a present from a friend or family member that you really didn't want? Well I have a solution for you! It's all about re-gifting. Now I know what you're thinking, it might sound like a mean thing to do, but is it really. Many people you know, and maybe even yourself, have given a gift you didn't want to someone else. I believe there is nothing wrong with that. Although, you may want to know the proper way of re-gifting so no one will know about it. Here is a story of someone who made a huge mistake while



Re-gifting became popularized in the TV show Seinfeld.

trying to re-gift and turned it into an ongoing exchange with his brother. A few years ago for Christmas I got these really cool red pants with yellow polka-dots all over them from my mom. Thinking because they were soft and thick pants, they would keep me warm during winter. One day, I wore them to school and as soon as I stepped outside in the cold, I knew they were going to be a problem. By the time I got to my class, my pants were stiff and extremely uncomfortable. I thought if they warmed up they would be okay, but they ended up staying that way throughout the day. When I got home I took them off and knew I was never going to wear them again, but I didn't want to throw them or hurt my mom's feelings because I didn't want them, so I decided to save them for next Christmas and give them to my brother-in-law.

(continued on next page)

Families Divided

By Ernest Dumppling

Tis the season of joy and celebration...or is it? 2016 has been a troublesome and divided year in this country. The election of 2016 has divided family, friends, spouses, parents and children, communities, and offices across the nation. Polls right before the election showed that 41% of surveyed couples that are voting for opposite candidates said they have fought over the election. Another survey found that 7% of polled people have lost or ended a friendship



with someone over the election. This is not an uncommon for many people around the nation, including me.

From my personal experience, after the results of the Presidential election,

I had a friend question the friendship with another friend after discovering whom she voted for. She wasn't sure if she really knew this person anymore and questioned whether or not she could be her friend going further.

This is not uncommon for other people. Alex White, a good childhood friend of mine, had mentioned to me about social and political issues causing fights in his and his wife's family. Alex is a black man and married to a white women. They now live in Iowa and are raising a family together. Alex adores his wife, Jessica, saying she "is a kind, loving, selfless person with a good heart." However, as with much of America, social, political, and racial issues have entered their household, as well. "I'd have to say the most controversial topic in our household is race," said Alex. Through no fault of their own, they view racial issues differently and Alex feels this is because "they grew up differently." "What I see as unjust treatment of a person by color...", continued Alex, [Jessica] sees [it] as a just unfair treatment of an individual person."

(continued on page 7)

Announcements

BASKETBALL GAMES:

Wednesday, December 7th 7:30 @ Elite Sports Academy

Monday, December 12th 7:30 @ Elite Sports Academy

Wednesday, December 14th 7:30 @ Elite Sports Academy

Seniors:

FAFSA Workshop for Seniors- Thursday December 8th, 8:30am-2:30pm

School Schedule:

Last Day of School- December 16th. Last Day Will Be A Half Day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

GYM IN DECEMBER



GYM IN JANUARY

WTF fun fact #858

In Switzerland, Santa has a helper named Schmutzli who beats children with a broom.



wtf-fun-facts.tumblr

Re-Gifting (continued from previous page)

Just like me, he thought they would be comfortable for winter, but realized how awful they were and saved them for me the Christmas after. Now I was extremely surprised to find them under my Christmas tree again and I definitely didn't want them so for the next Christmas I stuffed them in a really tight tube with no way to get them out unless you cut it open, but you can't cut the tube without cutting the pants with it. Somehow, he got them out if the tube with only a few small slits in them and gave the pants back to me. We have both been getting and receiving the same gift for about five years now and I don't think this will end until the pants are destroyed.

This year... regift responsibly.

#upcycle

- Hipster Santa



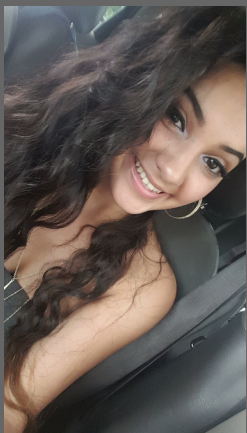
Families Divided (continued from page 5)

This difference in how they view racial issues in the media and their community cannot be shielded from politics and this can drive a wedge between families. Around the country, families are confronting similar issues as Alex and Jessica have with politics. For example, Mariza Izaac of San Jose, California, said in her family "we won't talk about politics" as "it will ruin the day." Similarly, Angela from Mountain View, California, who refused to give her last name in fear of upsetting her family, was "heartbroken" that her brother and sister-in-law voted for Trump. "I was sick to my stomach that I hadn't slept all night," said Angela, after learning Trump won and that her family had voted for Trump, as well.

For Kristin Randazzo and her husband of New York City, political clashes during family gatherings divided them, too. Kristin, a Clinton supporter, often got into "heated debates after the kids [went to] sleep" with her husband. "With him being a dad to three girls, I can't wrap my head around him supporting such a dangerous pig," said Randazzo. "One couple I know watched the debates at separate friends' houses, and slept in separate bedrooms after each debate," continued Randazzo.

So should we engage in discussion about these controversial issues and possibly start a fight with family and friends? Or do we ignore the issues until they have passed and been forgotten? Alex feels there needs to be open discussion. "[I]t can't be just be any conversation, it needs to be a healthy and respectful conversation," said Alex. We need to talk about issues and problems in society in order to improve on them. If they are ignored, nothing changes. Though you might lose respect for the person or lose their friendship, discussion of these issues has to happen in order to move forward. A lot of people are not willing to talk about the issues for fear of causing a fight, but, as Alex said, "if you can't bring up those issues around [friends and] family, then maybe you aren't as close as you think."

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Vanessa proves how far hard work can take you.

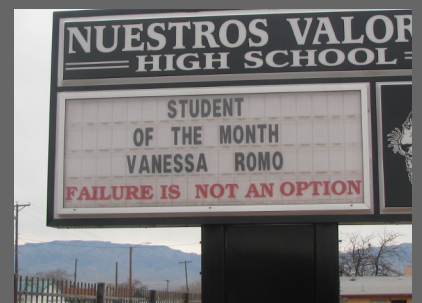
Nuestros Valores's first ever Student of the Month has been awarded to senior Vanessa Romo. Vanessa was nominated and selected as Student of the Month due to her diligence, hard work, and determination in improving her grade since the beginning of the semester. Vanessa "exemplifies what hard work can achieve," said one teacher. "I didn't expect [to be chosen]," said Romo, saying it "feels good to be selected because there are smarter kids....but I work hard [and] didn't want to struggle up to graduation," continued Romo. Romo said it's all about how hard you work and how dedicated you are, especially for her, as she felt other students were more deserving. "I feel good about it" and "I work hard," said Romo.

It is all about hard work. Regardless if you think you are not the smartest student in school, it is hard work and determination that makes the difference between success and failure, even for the really smart students.

When asked what advice she had for other students that are in a similar situation of falling behind with your

grades, Romo replied, "if you're failing, don't give up because you still have a chance."

Let us all take a moment and recognize Vanessa Romo for what she has done and for being the schools' first ever Student of the Month!



STUDENT WORK

Every issue of the Tiger Pen, we will be publishing student work. This issue, we want to show you some work from Eli Garcia. If you want to publish some work of your or recommend work from someone else, please contact Mr. Salas or Ms. Chavez.

Enjoy!

Hawaii

It was the end of school year, and I was running out of school like a bolt of lightning, because I already knew that my dad was waiting for me with all my bags packed and a plane ticket to Hawaii. This was the perfect way to start summer, going to a place I love and I finally get to see my grandpa for the whole summer vacation. When I got in the car I did the same routine handshake I do with my dad faster than usual because I wanted to get it out the way to finally ask the question that was about to burst out.

"Is it time to leave?" I already knew the answer, he was taking me to the airport, but I asked anyway because I just wanted to hear him say it. He then asked me the usual question before I make this trip every summer.

"Are you really that excited to leave me?" This time was different because I had to think about my answer so that I didn't hurt his feelings.

"No" I said lightly.

We got to the airport and it was time to go. I said my goodbyes to my dad, I mean I wasn't going to see him for three months. I didn't think that I was going to feel bad leaving, but I did despite the paradise that awaited me. After I said goodbye it was time to get on the plane and start the long journey to my paradise. When I started walking away I already started missing him, I boarded the plane and everything was running smoothly so I crashed out. Hours later I woke up and we were at our destination. I was finally here it was a great feeling because almost a whole year of waiting finally paid off.

After I grabbed my bags I ran to the escalators and saw my 47 year old grandpa, a short dark man with his long braided hair, which instantly put a smile on my face. Before he moved to Hawaii we were very close. He was standing there with the same smile I had on my face, but this time it was different because last time I came I was big enough to run into his arms so this time I just put out my hand to show how much I've matured.

"What's up old man" I said in a humorous way.

"Just getting older!" he said.

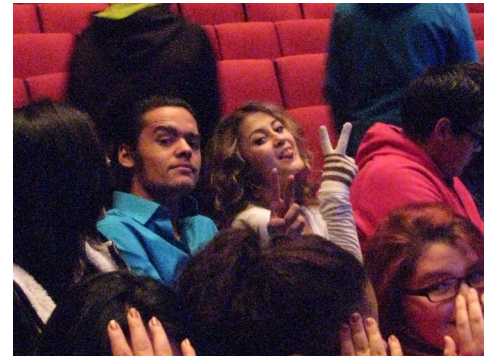
After we did our catching up, we started off our summer together by going to eat at our most favorite seafood place. After it was time to go play basketball, this is something him and I have always shared, our competitiveness. Since he always beat me, we actually made a bet that if I won he'd give me 100 dollars. I wanted the money, but more importantly I wanted to win! So today was the day I was going to beat him, I've got bigger, my shot was more consistent, and my handles were on point. The game started and predictably my grandpa used his crossover that I knew was coming, but I never was able to stop then he put his body into me to draw contact and like always his Kareem hook shot fell to the bottom of the net. Finally after him scoring five more times, in a row, it was my turn and I matched him skill wise. For once the game was going back and forth. Suddenly, he said "Game point." My heart speed up, next basket wins. My grandpa had the ball so I played the best defense I could possibly play. I already knew the crossover was coming, I already shut down the hook shot, so I let him crossover and this was the moment I was waiting for the "shot." He's beat me countless times with it before, but this time I was there to block it. As my hand deflected the ball I (continued on next page)

The Nutcracker Field Trip

A group of students went to Popejoy Hall at UNM to watch the play The Nutcracker. Here are some photos from the event.



Students and staff pose for a picture in front of Popejoy Hall.



Students George Pacheco and Lexy Chavira show their excitement for the Nutcracker before the show starts.



Students were left impressed by the performances of the show.



Students Gustavo Cisneros (left) and Kirby Solis look both scared and nervous walking to the show. The show "was nice," said Cisneros.

Student Work (continued from previous page)

couldn't believe it. However, the game wasn't over. I took the ball back and I saw the basket more clearly than. My grandpa didn't come out to guard, instead he was waiting under the goal with a smile on his face that said, "go ahead you deserve it."

That basketball game made my whole year, to that point nothing else mattered. Little did I know that was the last game we would play together.

It was a Saturday and I ate breakfast and said goodbye to the man I've looked up to my whole life for the last time. "I'll be back before five, I'm going to go with my friends," I said.

"Be careful" he replied.

If I would have known that was the last time I was going to see him alive I would have said something more, told him I loved him and hugged him, but that wasn't the case. After a long day on the court I walked back to my grandpa's place. I was actually early, being around four thirty. I walked up to the house, but something was off. I saw an red and blue lights flashing. There was an ambulance and cops cars in front of the house. I knew something was wrong because I didn't see my grandpa anywhere and then a cop came up to me and asked if my grandpa lived there. I said yes and he his face gave me the worst news of my life.

"Well you're going to have to come with me so we can take you back to your parents or they can come get you," he said with a very serious look on his face.

"Not until my grandpa says it's OK," I said worried.

"Your grandpa isn't going to ever to be able to answer that, I'm so sorry son," he said with a sympathetic look on his face.