

Issue 6 | Volume 3 | 2018

# The Tiger Pen

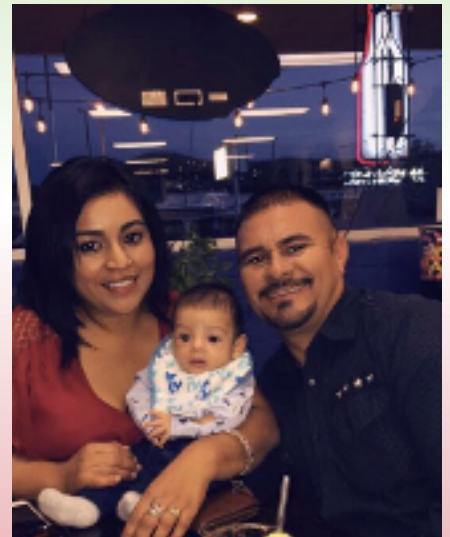
## Silver Lining

### Finding Light Amongst Darkness

What started as a simple question of what she had planned for Thanksgiving quickly turned into a nearly one hour long conversation with sophomore Ashley Villa about her life and her high sense of perseverance. The internet was down and the class was on a break. From across the room we began our conversation. Distance only seemed to heighten the conversation but as I continued asking questions with such curiosity, Ashley moved closer and the conversation grew.

Ashley told me a lot about her family. Her mom is in the process of adopting a baby, Edward (Eddie). The baby was taken by CYFD from cousins because both mom and dad were doing and addicted to drugs. Eddie was not affected and is a healthy, happy baby. In fact, Ashley's mom, Raquel, sees Edward as a blessing. It was "life changing," said Ashley, about her mom getting Eddie. Ashley said her mom seems happier to have a baby to take care of as Ashley is the youngest of her family at 16 years old. Eddie was about two weeks old when Raquel and the family took him in and it proved to be a change for the family. Ashley, happy with the addition of her family, also knew that she was no longer the baby nor had the complete attention of her mother. This was and is hard to fathom for Ashley, as her and her mom were really close and would often have 'mommy/daughter dates.' Now with Eddie, her relationship with her mom has changed and for good reason, but it is an adjustment Ashley had to make and deal with. "My mom now has a new focus," said Ashley but she said she is "proud" of her family for what they are doing for Eddie, whom the entire family felt it was not his fault for the situation he was born into and therefore want to "give [him] a chance." For many young kids, losing the attention and focus of their parents would cause issues. However, Ashley, though she does feel the relationship with her mom has changed, she knows it's for the betterment of Eddie and his life. The change has affected Ashley and she readily admits it, but she does not let it *affect* her, meaning it the change has impacted her but she does not let it distract her; Ashley keep doing so well. So well, in fact, when you include the tragic situation her dad is currently in.

Rodolfo, Ashley's father, has been in the US since he was a teenager. When the unfortunate death of his mom occurred, he went to Mexico to grieve for his mom and be with his family for the services. He was not supposed to go, though, as returning might prove difficult and or disrupt his path to become a citizen. But who could blame him? His mother passed away and did the right thing by returning. He returned but his return disrupted his citizen's process, according to Ashley. To this day, Rodolfo continues to work and fight to



Ashley's mom, Raquel, and dad, Rodolfo, are seen here holding Eddie, the newest member of the family.



become a citizen. Ashley describes her dad as a hardworking man that cares for his family (he was not present to comment). Unfortunately, Rodolfo has an upcoming court date in El Paso that may determine his fate here in the US.

"Without him, I would have no one," said Ashley, about her dad. He is "literally my best friend," she continued. If the court in El Paso does rule in his favor, Rodolfo, Ashley's friend and father, may be sent to Mexico. This would prove tragic for Ashley and it weighs on her every day, though she is hesitant to admit it. "I don't think about [her dad's situation] a lot because [my dad] say not to. It does get me," said Ashley, about her dad's potentially devastating future. Ashley is in a difficult situation, though. She made it clear to me how much she cares for her dad and she cannot stand to think of her dad leaving her, if that should happen. It would crush her. Because of this, Ashley repeatedly said she would move with her dad back to Mexico, if that should happen. The mere thought of losing her dad and not being able to see him makes Ashley quite "emotional," she said. Even with the advent and ubiquity of phones, which would make it easy to speak and see each other, Ashley said it would be "different knowing that I can't see him every day." She said moving with him would be "hard and difficult" but she would want to be with her father. She would leave behind a successful high school experience, friends, and family. "But I would move with him because we are best friends," she said. When pressed, Ashley said she would stay if her dad really made her but that may be just as

hard and difficult as moving to another country and starting over.

Speaking with Ashley over the hour made me realize how special this young lady is. I opened her grades to see how she is doing in school while all of this weighs on her. Ashley has great grades. She is doing great. I could not fathom being in her position. I also could not understand how she has not broken down and let the weight of her life break her. If she broke, it would be understandable. I could see her eyes get watery as we talked. My eyes nearly came to tears numerous times after hearing the emotion in her voice as she told me her story.

I asked Ashley what she does to be such a good person and stellar student with everything that is going on. "It is not bothering my dad so I don't think about it." This is partly true. Ashley does think about it. She just doesn't let it control her. This is a skill many people her age do not have: how to continue on without letting personal issues affect you. "My dad continues on, so why shouldn't I do the same?" said Ashley.

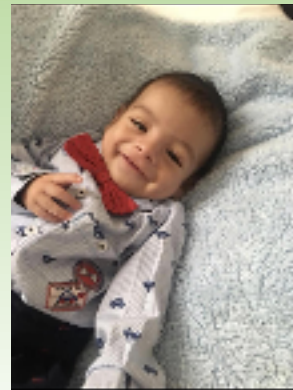
Regardless of the situation, Ashley is doing great and you would not even know all that she is going through. How she handles herself just impressed me so much. But she has a reason for it. "If I wasn't doing so well, it would disappoint my dad," said Ashley, on where her motivation comes from. We talked more about how she deals with the situation and she admitted that the emotions and changes in her life involving her mom and dad does get to her but she learned how to get through them.

Ashley's story has a message in it. Regardless of our circumstances and regardless of what struggles and issues are going on in our lives, we have to remember that time continues; things do not stop. You must push through the struggles and not let them affect what you are doing and the goals you have. For Ashley, her goal is to be the first in her family to go to college and to make her dad and family proud of her. I think we should all take the moment to recognize Ashley but also learn from her, how she gets through her struggles and emotions, and most importantly, how she overcomes them to do so well.


I asked Ashley if she had any advice for other students that may need tips on overcoming struggles. She did not have specific advice, and her story offers its own, but she sent me a quote:

"If you find yourself in a situation and you think that your only choice is to give up, ask yourself, in 10 years from now, when I'm working at McDonald's making \$8.75 an hour when I could have graduated and went to college to make over \$30 dollars an hour, was it worth it?"

Are your decision you have made and are making worth it?



Eddie, poses with the most happy face you could imagine.



# Healthy Smoothie Recipe

## Pitaya Passion bowl

Ingredients:

- 1 Pitaya Plus Smoothie pack
- 1 frozen banana
- ¼ cup frozen mango
- ½ cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- Toppings: Banana slices , toasted almonds, Granola



## Tropical Colada bowl

Ingredients:

- 1 cup pineapple, frozen
- 1 cup Mango, frozen
- 1/2 cup peach, frozen
- 1 banana, frozen
- Toppings: banana, coconut chips, bee pollen, goji berries, chia seeds.

Instructions: Blend all ingredients , pour in bowl add toppings and enjoy!

Instructions: Blend all ingredients pour in bowl add toppings and enjoy!



## Blueberry Boost bowl

- 1 Cup blueberries, frozen
- 1 Cup blackberries, frozen
- 2 Cups kale, chopped and frozen
- 1 tsp spirulina powder
- ¾ Cup almond milk
- Toppings: Kiwi, blueberries, mango, cashews, and bee pollen.

Instructions: Blend pour in bowl and add toppings and enjoy.





# Rants About Christmas.

## (Because Christmas is Complicated)

### Rant #1

First of all, let me just start off by saying that I don't get Ugly Christmas Sweaters. Why do people get excited about wearing them? They are just sweaters, that are ugly looking, but Christmas edition, and I don't get why people wear ugly Christmas sweaters BEFORE Christmas. Like, the lady in my story in the last newspaper. She was wearing an ugly Christmas sweater and it was Black Friday! That's why they are called Ugly Christmas Sweaters,, you are supposed to wear them around Christmas, not around Thanksgiving.

Anyway,next rant.

### Rant #2

Why do parents tell their kids that Santa is the one giving them presents? Because, the fat man in red doesn't exist in the first place. Sorry to burst your bubble, guys. Plus, if I have kids and I get them presents, I'm going to tell them that I was the one who gave them those presents. They are going to be thanking me, and not the fat man in red that doesn't even exist, cause I probably work my butt off to get money for those presents.

### Rant #3

Last rant, but... why do we get out the 21st and not like a week earlier? I think that I can speak for everybody (hopefully) that they don't want to be in school when Christmas is four days away. We could be at home, in our (probably Christmas) pajamas, eating tamales and drinking hot cocoa, when we're in school, getting final projects/papers that are due in a week. I mean, I get that it's the end of the semester and that these projects/papers are apart of our final grade, but, I just don't want to do them.



After this, Santa Claus is probably going to be eating a batch of cookies.



Whoever gets more than ten gifts, just know... I'll be coming to steal your presents. Just kidding, (maybe not).



I think I'm the grinch. I'm complaining about Christmas. (Well, i complain about everything)

# 2019 Forthcoming Movies



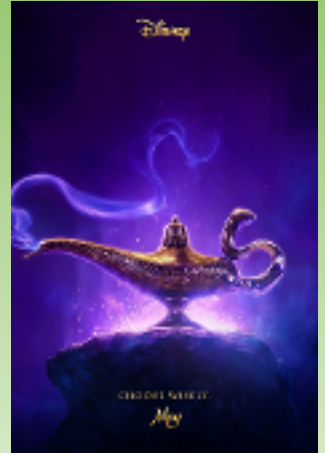
## **The Addams Family**

Release Date : October 11



## **The Lion King**

Release Date : July 19



## **Aladdin**

Release Date : May 24



## **Dumbo**

Release Date : March 29



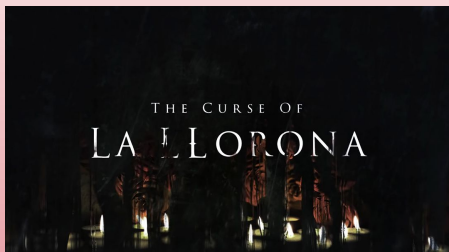
## **Zombieland 2**

Release Date : October 11



## **It Chapter 2**

Release Date : September 6



## **The Curse of La Llorona**

Release Date : April 19



## **Godzilla: King of Monsters**

Release Date : May 31



## **Star Wars Episode IX**

Release Date : December 20



# Origin Behind Mistletoe

By: Lily Angel

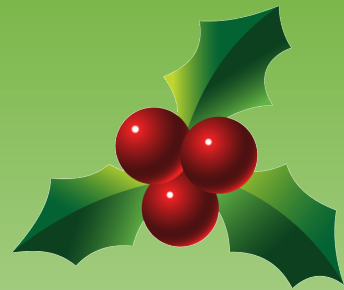


Image of the God Odin from the Norse Mythology

We all know the story on how in the holidays if you hang a piece of mistletoe on the roof and the people standing under it have to kiss but we all don't really know the true story behind it. It is said that it started when during Celtic Druids in the first century A.D. The Druids found out that it would blossom every winter and took it as a sacred symbol that represents vivacity. They later administered it to humans and animals alike as a hope of restoring fertility. Aside from that, there is another story made by the Norse mythology. It is said that when the son of the God Odin, Baldur was prophesied to die, his mother which was the goddess of love, Frigg went to consult all of the

plants and animals into not killing Baldur. The only plant she forgot to consult was the mistletoe plant in which the scheming god, Loki created an arrow from it that would be used to kill Baldur. In the Happier or sunnier version of the myth the gods were able to resurrect Baldur and because of that the goddess Frigg declared mistletoe as a symbol of love and vowed to plant a kiss so for anyone to stand or pass underneath the mistletoe. The association with Mistletoe such as fertility and vitality continued throughout the middle ages and by the 19th



Image of the Baldur getting hit with the Mistletoe arrow according to Norse mythology.



Image of the Goddess of love, Frigg from the Norse Mythology

century, it became widely involved in Christmas celebrations. Although, people do still wonder whether Mistletoe should be just a sacred herb or a holiday decoration but one thing's for sure, people do still kiss under it. The tradition of kissing under it was first caught among the servants in England before spreading throughout middle classes. This allowed men to steal a kiss from women that were caught standing under the mistletoe either on accident or on purpose and if the women would refuse, it would be viewed as a sign of bad luck. Another tradition that was instructed to the merrymakers was that with each kiss that would occur, they would have to take off a berry from the mistletoe and wouldn't be able to kiss under it once all of the berries were removed. Due to this, nowadays the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe has become popular but people have forgotten on how the tradition was made. I hope you all enjoyed this article about the origin behind the mistletoe and I'd like to wish wish you all Happy Holidays. Till then. :D

Resource: <https://www.history.com/news/why-do-we-kiss-under-the-mistletoe>























# GONZAGA<sup>NO.3</sup> DEFEATS DUKE<sup>NO.1</sup>

**Gonzaga** a **number 3** team in week 4, defeated **Duke** a **number 1** team in week 4! Not only did Gonzaga shoot well early against Duke for the victory, but shot a ridiculous 18 for 25 to start the game.

Duke's only lead was at 2-0. But Williamson tied the game at 87 with a clutch shot with only 1:45 remaining.

In the end, Gonzaga did not play scared against Duke's powerful inside monsters. The Blue Devils had their moments, but the Bulldogs, with a little more veteran experience, had more.

1		Gonzaga (32)	6-0	1590	↑ 2
2		Kansas (31)	5-0	1584	-
3		Duke (1)	5-1	1486	↓ 2
4		Virginia (1)	6-0	1396	-
5		Nevada	6-0	1329	↑ 1
6		Tennessee	4-1	1284	↓ 1
7		Michigan	6-0	1213	↑ 2
8		Auburn	5-1	1129	-
9		Michigan State	5-1	1111	↑ 2
10		Kentucky	5-1	1022	-
11		North Carolina	6-1	943	↓ 4
12		Kansas State	6-0	936	-
13		Virginia Tech	5-0	921	-
14		Iowa	5-0	599	↑ 6
15		Florida State	5-1	581	↓ 1
16		Ohio State	6-0	511	↑ 7
17		Texas	5-1	486	↑ 9
18		Oregon	4-1	439	↑ 3
19		Purdue	5-1	387	↑ 5
20		Texas Tech	6-0	380	↑ 6

## Top 20 teams NCAA mens Basketball

## NM AGGIES FANS!

NM State goes up against New Mexico Lobos on 12/4 at 9:00 PM. Last time both teams went head 2 head NM State beat New Mexico by 4; the final was 98-94.



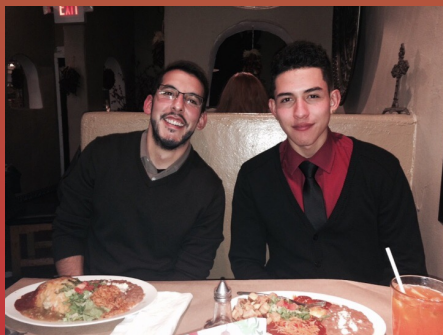
# Tragedy and Heartbreak

While many of us enjoyed the comfort of loved ones over the Thanksgiving break, one family of a former student suffered. Over the weekend, former White Tiger Brian Romero's body was found in Belen. His body was found after Brian had been reported missing for two weeks. He was cool, funny, and enthusiastic young man. His heart was large and had a caring soul.

Last year for a Thanksgiving edition of the Tiger Pen, Volume II, Issue IV, I told a story of taking a student to Chili's and my recollection of how he amazed he was with the menu. It was an article about poverty and why I should not take things for granted:

Mr. Ver Ploegh and I once took a student to Chili's for a quick bite before a basketball game. The amazement this student had while looking at the menu blew me away. Chili's is a restaurant I have been to many times; so many times that it had become boring to me. However, as I saw this student? look of astonishment at the menu there, I couldn't believe it; it is something I still think about to this day.

This story was about Brian. I think about this story many



Posing for a picture at La Placita's

tions. Brian Romero volunteered to go on stage and help volunteer. He did a superb job. So great, in fact, that he was asked to attend the night performance and was given three tickets. He graciously offered for myself and my wife attend the show with him that night. I remember getting dressed up for the play and picking him up. His mom and brother waved bye to us as we left his driveway. My wife Natalie and I decided to treat him to a nice dinner first. We went to La Placita's in Old Town. We had a great time. We ate good food, laughed, and enjoyed each others company. I remember being so impressed with how respectful and courteous he was with Natalie. He was trying so hard not to act ungrateful. It is a memory I will cherish.

I coached Brian for nearly two years. One day after practice, as I was walking to my car to go home, I saw Brian and another student standing in the parking lot, looking upset. I asked them why. They both had given another kid (not on the team) gas money for the week, hoping to get rides home. They were upset because the guy they gave the money too had a full car of other kids and were going to go do something stupid. Brian and his teammate now didn't have a ride

times throughout the year. I have so many fond memories of that kid. I coached him for nearly two years. I remember teaching him a post move; it took him forever to learn it. Every time he would get frustrated, he go "arrrrrgh" and slam the ball. He wasn't mad but was frustrated. We both would laugh.

Right: Brian stands to translate a question for a performer.

Below: Brian hears a question from the audience to translate.



A few years ago, a bunch of students from the school went to see a Spanish play at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. The play was great. After the play, they held a Q&A with the actor's and actresses with the students in attendance. The actor's and actresses had trouble understanding the ques-

even though they gave this kid gas money already. I could tell this could escalate quickly if they confronted him about the full car. Instead, I offered to take both kids home. I took the other kid home first. As I took Brian home, he told me how the old Brian would have reacted to that situation but he chose not to as he wanted to change himself as a person. I remember having a feeling that he wanted to talk so I took the long way to his house. He told me about the many mistakes of his life, his problems, his regrets, and things he wanted to change about himself and his life. He always talked about his brother.



Coach Ver Ploegh and I treated the team to McDonald's before attending a West Mesa basketball game.

He talked about wanting to do great things in his life. It was a good lesson for me to learn that I should listen to kids more.

For such a young person, he had a high sense of wisdom and per-

spective I rarely see in teenagers.

Looking back, this kid probably taught me more things than I taught him. I thank him for that.



# Tiger Spotlight

Michael Apodaca



Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I Want to got to college. I've always wanted to go to college in Oregon.

What makes you laugh? Friends

What is the scariest thing you've ever done? I feel out of a tree, I hurt myself I thought I was going to die.

If you could rewrite your past, what's one thing you would change? I wouldn't rewrite my past, I love where I'm at. Everything happens for a reason.

If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would the be? Funny, nice and naive.

If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be? Santa Monica, California.

Are you a trump supporter? No...Salas says I am a Trump supporter, but I'm not.



# Tiger Spotlight

Kenia Vasquez



Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I want to go to college somewhere else that is not New Mexico.

What makes you laugh? My brother Hugo.

What is the scariest thing you've ever done? Riding the cliff hanger.

If you could rewrite your past, what's one thing you would change? I would change the people I hang out with.

If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be? Nice, quiet and friendly.

If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be? Colorado.

Are you a trump supporter? No...silence



By: Rayne

# Christmas Movies



How the Grinch Stole Christmas is such a classic Christmas movie. Its about a man who hated Christmas so much that he wanted to steal it from everyone else so that way they could suffer with him. He just wants to live alone with his dog and nobody bothering him about the holidays. The Grinch wanted to steal Christmas from all the Who's down in Whoville so that way they could be as miserable as him. During his stealing he runs into a little girl named Cindy. She somehow manages to convince him of all the wrong he does and it all turns out okay.

The Nightmare Before Christmas is a movie about a young man named Jack Skellington who wanted to take over Christmas. He wanted to kidnap Santa and take his job because he thought that it was almost the same as Halloween. During his time as "Santa" Jack traumatized children and destroyed a few things. But at least he had some fun ruining a holiday. Jack realized his mistake and he set Santa free but those poor kids most likely had to start going to therapy.



Elf is a movie about a young man named Buddy who grew up in the north pole with Santa and the elves. He always felt like he didn't belong there so one day he left and moved to New York to get some real life experiences. His main goal while being there was to find his actual father. When he finds him Buddy wants to grow a relationship with him and his father Walter reluctantly agrees because he can't get rid of the kid. Basically the entire father-son relationship was a mess but they enjoyed it.



# The Legend of Krampus

We have all heard of Santa but have you ever heard of Krampus? Krampus is the evil side of Santa in parts of Germany. They have a day to celebrate the mythical creature they call Krampus. To this day it has been said that Krampus comes to your house the day of Christmas and instead of giving presents he takes children who have lost faith in Christmas. People describe the creature as a tall horned figure with legs as a goat but the upper body is a demon. Krampus is said to take children with his minions that might look cute but are actually really evil. They help Krampus take kids and family members who haven't really been acting right or who have forgotten what Christmas is all about. In many tales it is said that Krampus carries birch sticks to strike kids. Krampus also has shackles to take the kids to his lair to



eat and punish the children. It is said to this day that the only way to get rid of Krampus is to run around town in scary costumes to scare the creature away but it is also said that if you keep a hot log fire going all night that he will not enter your house because he does not like the warmth of the fire.

## Things to do During the Winter

Winter is here and it's freezing cold, even if there's no snow on the ground yet. As the season comes, it can be hard to find things to do and still have fun. Don't worry, here are some suggestions that are easy, simple, and free or low cost.

- Make homemade hot chocolate
- Play card games (War, UNO, Blackjack, BS)
  - Read a book or draw (be creative)
  - Exercise inside
- Clean out your drawers and donate old stuff
  - See the River of Lights
  - Build a bonfire and make S'mores
  - Movie Marathon
- Play video games (many new game releases)
  - Swim at an indoor pool
- Drive around and look at the Christmas lights
- Watch a tutorial and learn something new
  - Go shopping for pajamas
    - Take a nice bath
      - Sleep
    - Listen to music
    - Cook some food
    - Bake some cookies
- Walk around town and discover new shops
  - Walk around the Sandia Crest
  - Go to a coffee shop and chill

# Christmas Memes

By: Crystal M.

Every mom on Christmas while you opening up that gift they swore they wasn't getting you



**HE SEES YOU**



**WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING**

Can We Hurry Up and Take the Christmas Decorations Down Already?

"How would you describe finals?"  
me:



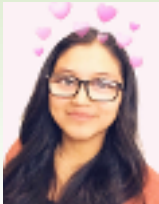
you want a pony for Christmas

**So here it is!**

My dogs favorite toy is Santa, so we brought her to see him

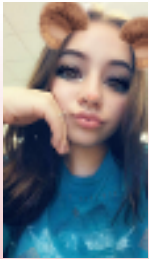






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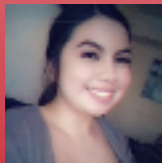
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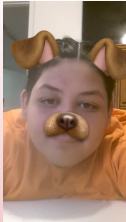
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# YOUR TIGER VOICE

Have an idea for a story? Speak to one of our writers or editors, or email us at [the pen of the tiger@gmail.com](mailto:thepenofthetiger@gmail.com)