I interviewed three seniors who were voted in to be all-stars. The athletes who I chose were Robert Baca, Coursha Herrera, and Kashaundrick Big. I asked them how it made them feel to be chosen for all-stars. Kashaundrick claimed, “I really didn’t care about being picked for all-stars.” Robert added, “I feel great about being picked for all-stars, it was my goal to be picked for 2019.” Coursha answered, “It’s surprising for me because it’s my first year and it’s on my senior year, but it actually feels good to get chosen for all-stars.”

The second question I asked was whether they were surprised on being selected. Kashaundrick uttered, “Nope.” Robert replied, “I was surprised being selected. I was honored.” Coursha mentioned, “Yes, it made my family proud.” The third question I asked was what their main motivations are for doing athletics. Kashaundrick emphasized, “My main motivation is just to keep going.” Robert blurted, “My friends, family, other coaches, athletes, and the NMAA members. They motivate me to keep going and accomplish my goals and get medals.” Coursha stated, “My family and friends motivate me to keep going and keep accomplishing my goals.” All three enjoy being athletes. Kashaundrick explained, “Being able to skip school on game trips.” Robert acknowledged, “I enjoy being with the team everyday like a family and going on trips together and finishing the races strong and encourage each other in each race.” Coursha added, “I enjoy playing with my team and going on trips with my girls.”
An American rapper and singer, Jarad Higgins, also known professionally as Juice Wrld, had passed away December 8, 2019 in Chicago. Rapper Juice Wrld barely turned 21 on December 2, 2019. After landing at Chicago’s Midway Airport on Sunday morning, he suffered a seizure and also began bleeding from the mouth from an apparent drug overdose. He was conscious when taken to the hospital but passed away a short time later.

Juice’s hot record “Lucid Dreams” landed him on the billboard 100 chart. Juice Wrld signed a $3 million contract with Interscope Records in March 2018.

Many of Juice’s friends were still shocked about it. Ski Mask the Slump God broke down on Instagram and posted, “They [drugs] keep taking my brothers from me.” Ski Mask is taking it hard because last year, on June 18, 2018, he had lost his other best friend, Jahseh Dwayne Ricardo Onfroy, also known as Xxxtentacion. Lil Yachty was also moved by the news of his friend Juice’s passing. “Wow, I cannot believe this. R.I.P. my brother Juice Wrld,” he wrote on Twitter. “Juice made a profound impact on the world in such a short period of time.” The artist’s label, Juice Wrld, was named Top New Artist at the Billboard Music Awards in May.

Juice began writing and freestyling during his freshman year of high school. Juice came from a broken family where his parents divorced when he was just three. Prior to his passing, he had 1.17+ million Soundcloud followers and more than 1.3 billion spins. He has 27+ million monthly listeners on Spotify.

Condolences go out to his family and friends.

Albuquerque Welcoming Two New Mountain Lions

By: Lachelle Apachito

On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, the Albuquerque BioPark welcomed two new mountain lions to their zoo. One lion’s name is Grillin and is 10-years-old. The other mountain lion is named Larabee. Larabee was found in a Nebraska backyard. A homeowner was able to take care of the cub until Nebraska Game went to rescue him. Larabee had a cub friend but it ran away. Larabee was named after the street where he got rescued.

Larabee was staying at Omaha Henry Zoo for two weeks before he got transferred to Albuquerque. Then Gillin arrived from Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo after being rescued from Oregon. All of the animals that were rescued were from the wild.

The state games agencies have estimated mountain lion populations in the United States to be between 20,000 and 40,000. Most of the animals live longer in zoos than in the wild. Larabee can be seen at his new home on the catwalk. “Larabee is part of the BioPark’s ongoing legacy of helping to rescue mountain lion cubs,” said Mamma Curator Erin Flym. “We are pleased to welcome him to his new home and to contribute to the conservation of this New Mexico-native big cat in this way.” The mountain lions are the same as pumas, cougars, panthers, and catamounts. It is a native to the Americas from Canada to the southwest. They are rescuing these lions because people are invading their habitats.
This is a short back story about my imaginary character, Masani, and her stories, “The Great Masani Tales.” There are three editions to this, and more to come. The three editions’ titles are: “Masani vs. Rattlesnake”, “Masani vs. Coyote”, and “Detective Masani.” I just make these stories for fun because of my creative mind—so please, don’t judge. This story is about Masani and her two sisters’ separation at birth.

Long ago, before World War I, during the Long Walk, a pregnant woman, a man, and the pregnant woman’s parents were part of the Long Walk. They walked for many days and many nights with other natives. One day the woman went into labor. Luckily for them, they were walking into the mountains. So, when no one was looking, they vanished from the Walk and found a cave before the woman was about to give birth.

In the cave, the woman was screaming, and the others were trying to keep her as quiet as possible. “Shhhh! Geh heeeehhh!!” said the woman’s mom who was helping her to keep calm through the birth of the little one. As soon as she delivered the baby, she was still experiencing pain. The other three were questioning why this was continuing on. “Haashin teh!” said the woman's father. Soon after, she delivered another child, and then, once again, the pain continued. A while after she delivered a third child, all three babies were girls. All were cherishing the little ones. “Beautiful,” said Father as he began to cry. It was a moment of lovingness to enjoy and remember.

A couple of days went by and the family was just enjoying their time together. Soon enough, they heard horses in the distance. “Hide!” yelled Father, so they all stayed hidden until they passed. It was the soldiers from the Walk looking for them. “They shouldn’t be far!” yelled the sergeant, so the soldiers scattered through the mountains to find them. After finding out they are wanted, the family became terrified. They continued to hike farther away from the Walk but became more frightful as they kept walking. “We must get away from this place as soon as possible!” said Mother.

The family couldn’t take the pressure anymore, so they came up with a plan for the safety of the three little girls. In order for them to have a chance to live a life, the plan was for Mother, Father, and the grandparents to each take one girl and wander into the woods. Mother took the first born, Father took the second born, and the grandparents took the one last to be born. They all said their goodbyes because they know this was the last time they’d ever see each other again. “Haagoh neh shi tsi, doh shi, son-in-law,” said Grandma. They began to drudge into the mountains in their own separate directions. Before saying their goodbyes, the grandparents said to the three girls, “We have faith you three will all be extraordinary when you’re older...!”
So, it all started at a NATO meeting. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which is the formal alliance between the territories of North America and Europe. NATO’s essential purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means. Collective defense is at the heart of the alliance and creates a spirit of unity among its members. NATO leaders agreed in a statement of unity as the 70th anniversary meeting was held near London. After the meeting, Trump cancelled the press conference after the summit.

President Donald Trump had called Canadian leader Justin Trudeau “two-faced” after seeing a video which appears to mock Trump at the NATO meeting. After President Donald Trump called him “two-faced”, Trudeau admitted that he and other world leaders were talking about President Donald Trump behind his back at Buckingham Palace in London the night before. Trudeau was caught on camera with the British, French, and Dutch Prime Ministers as they all appear to be laughing about Trump’s actions during the NATO meeting. Trudeau says that he wasn’t worried about Trump’s comments toward him impacting the U.S. and Canada’s relationship. President Donald Trump also cancelled his own conference that was scheduled after the NATO summit. Trump also called Trudeau out over the fact that Canada rarely meets the NATO’s 2% defense spending target. “The truth is, I called him out on the fact that he’s not paying 2%” and that Canada “has money” Trump says. Trump is “annoyed” by the hot-mic video but believes that the two leaders will likely work through it.
Santa Claus is Coming to Alamo!

By: Destiny Wilson

Santa Claus is a guy whose real name is Saint Nicholas. He lived about 1,700 years ago in an area that is now Turkey. Saint Nicholas was a famous human because he gave gifts to poor kids and other people. All the people who live in Europe and America still give gifts to people to keep the tradition alive.

Right now, people think Santa Claus is an old man dressed in a red and white suit and has a white beard and shiny black boots. People also believe he has a big sled and a huge bag of kid’s toys that he makes. He can fit himself down the house chimney after arriving with nine reindeer.

Santa Claus was created from all different traditions from European and Christian cultures. He is known as Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Santa, and many other names.

North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), the Air services Australia Track Santa Project, the Santa Update Project, and the MSNBC and Bing Maps platforms are all websites that track Santa Claus. The local television stations said they track Santa in their own areas through the station’s meteorologists. The local weather channels provided a national Christmas Eve Santa tracking effort called “Santa Watch” in cooperation with NASA.

I asked three little kids “Who do you think Santa Claus is?” The first kid, D’Kaizer Mexicano from Ms. White’s 2nd grade class, answers, “I think Santa is Saint Nickolas and he wears a big belt. He wears a white and red suit. He has a big sleigh and reindeer that jump and kick. And in the back, he has a big red bag of toys.” The next kid, named Vina Baca from Mrs. Guerro’s 1st grade class, said, “He is Santa Claus and he has a beard and he is a boy. He talks “Ho-ho” and sings, “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”. The last kid’s name is Tabreanna Secatero from Mrs. Guerro’s 1st grade class. She says Santa is “A man who is an old grandpa. He has glasses. He has a long beard. Santa Claus comes at night at Christmas.” He gives out presents as he drives around Alamo. He lives in the North Pole. He has no girlfriend and he has no kids, but he has elves.”

Alamo Teacher Feeds Homeless for Thanksgiving

By: Hunter Apachito

Thanksgiving is the time for giving thanks and looking out for others. This past Thanksgiving, on November 28, 2019, our history teacher, Annette Brugger, had fed the homeless for Thanksgiving.

Hunter Apachito: How long have you been doing this?
Annette Brugger: “I’ve been doing this since 2011.”

H.A.: What inspired you to do this?
A.B.: “I saw too many hungry homeless people during the holidays, and I know a few people. Some people I know died of hunger.”

H.A.: In your own words, why do you do this?
A.B.: “I do this because the ones that died, I didn’t help them. It motivated me to start this so innocent people won’t die due to hunger.”

H.A.: What are your favorite foods to eat on Thanksgiving?
A.B.: “My favorite food to eat on Thanksgiving is turkey.”

H.A.: What are your favorite foods to cook for Thanksgiving?
A.B.: “I try to cook the traditional foods such as turkey, ham, mash potatoes, pies, etc.”

H.A.: How does this make you feel?
A.B.: “It makes me feel happy and sad. Happy because I have the means to do this, and sad because people go to sleep hungry.”

H.A.: “How long do you plan on continuing this?”
A.B. “As long as I possibly can.”
North Korea and United States’ Relationship

By: Charles Follosco

North Korea’s President, Kim Jong Un, was not happy with what President Donald Trump had said at NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) which was that the “U.S. would use force against Kim Jong Un’s regime if needed.” On the North Korean Central News Agency, North Korea’s army chief of staff Pak Jong Chon said that Kim was “displeased” with the “undesirable remarks” and warned Trump that North Korea and the U.S. “are still technically at war and the state of truce can turn into an all-around conflict any moment.” North Korea also warns the U.S. to prepare for a “Christmas gift”. When reporters asked Trump about North Korea’s continued missile tests, Trump said that the U.S. still has the most powerful military in the world. Trump added that Kim likes sending rockets up, which is why Trump calls him the “Rocket Man.” Even though both leaders handed out threats to each other, Trump declared that they still have a “good relationship.” Trump also said that their relationship may work out or may not. Many people, including myself, are wondering about the status of relations between North Korea and the United States. The political relations between North Korea and the United States have been historically unfriendly, developing from the Korean War.

In recent years, relations have been largely defined by North Korea’s nuclear program—six tests of nuclear weapons, its development of long-range missiles capable of striking targets thousands of miles away, and its on-going threats to attack the United States. Recently, North Korea and the United States of America have started some formal diplomacy after the Trump-Kim summit. Sweden acts as the peacekeeper for diplomatic matters between the United States and North Korea. Since the Korean War, the United States has maintained a strong military presence in South Korea.

On June 30, 2019, Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, visited North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the Joint Security Area. Trump is the first U.S. president to step foot into North Korea. Trump also invited Kim to the White House to talk about de-nuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. Few experts don’t think that North Korea is now a credible nuclear-armed power. Based on current information, North Korea could easily reach the U.S. west coast. They said that North Korea’s missiles can also reach New York City in about 40 minutes. On the other hand, Kim Jong Un’s threat to the U.S. would never be successful, because as what Trump has said, America still have the most powerful military in the world.
**Varsity Boys Basketball**

*By: McCoy Piasso*

This year’s varsity boys 2019-2020 basketball is going great. Varsity boys attended this year’s 2019 Steer Stampede and came out with a 2-1 record. During the first round at the Steer Stampede, the boys played Pine Hill and Alamo Cougars came out with a win and a score of 71-52. The second round was a tough one. The boy’s kept up with Socorro, but Socorro narrowly took it with the score of 77-60. We advanced to the third round, where we were going for 3rd place against Crownpoint and got the win by one point, with the score of 59-58. This year’s varsity boys placed 3rd at the Magdalena Steer Stampede.

I interviewed two seniors and one junior on the varsity basketball team. I asked them how they have been preparing for this season. Lane Apachito’s response was, “Being more of a two-way player and helping the team out.” Robert Monte’s response is “Over the summer, I’ve been working on fundamental drills to improve my dribbling skills and shooting skills, but clearly I still need to keep doing these drills in order to master them.” Robert Baca said, “I wasn’t preparing, I’m always ready.”

The players have personal goals for the season. Lane said, “Winning a bet with Ira—which is classified.” Robert Monte responded, “My goal is to keep my position for varsity. One goal I’ve been wanting is to grab that rim by the end of or middle of the season. I also want to improve what I do when I play.” Robert Baca added, “To get more wins and less “L’s”.”

Along with personal goals, I asked them what their goals are for this year’s basketball team. Lane answered the question with “It’s my last year this year and I want to make it to state with my team.” Robert Monte added, “My main goal is to make it back to state. I want my team to know the power of teamwork. If we get teamwork, I’m pretty sure we’ll make it to state.” Robert Baca answered the question with, “Play as a team and maybe go to state together. I have no goals. I just play basketball to play.”

**Lady Cougars**

*By: Calista Vicente*

This year’s varsity girls 2019-2020 basketball season is going great. The girls are ready to show their skills to different teams. Coach Hunt has so much pride that the varsity girls will do their very best and make every play count. This past weekend the girls traveled to the Mescalero Classic Basketball Tournament. They played against Fort Sumner with a final score of 46-25. The next day they played against Jal and had the win with 57-25. On the last day, the Lady Cougars played for consolation against Gateway Christian and lost with a final score of 44-25.

The varsity girls did great overall with a record of 2-4. They will remain to continue to play hard and with heart. I went ahead and asked Coach Hunt some questions about the varsity girls. “How do you feel about this year’s team?” His response was, “I am very excited because we have the potential to be a great team, with the three starters.” Next, I asked, “What will it take for you to be victorious this season?” Coach’s feedback was, “Teamwork, team unity, and being competitive. The pre-season is important, but all coaches know winning district gets you seed finishing 2nd in district, and that’s what pre-season is about, getting better at what you love about the game.” The final question was: “Do you think the varsity girls will make it to state this year? If so, how?” Coach Hunt answered, “Yes, we can, if the captains will show leadership, team unity, and competitiveness from our players. If we get those three things, we have a great shot at making it to state.”

The Lady Cougars are ready to do whatever it takes to win every game throughout the whole season. We have so much to cover but with the two seniors, Coursha and Nadia, we’ll get the work done. “This program has helped us on so many basketball tips to better ourselves. You just have to believe in yourself to make sure the Lady Cougars have everything right.”

Good luck to all the coaches and players this season who will play with heart and leadership to win every game and make everyone in Alamo proud.
Alamo Students Climb a Milestone of Trust

By: Kenyon Apachito

“Good morning Mr. Presgraves,” stated the e-mail message from Michael Comisky. Mr. Comisky is the Bureau of Land Management of Socorro Field Office and the husband of our school principal, Mrs. Susan Comisky. Mrs. Comisky was the one who proposed and launched this event for the kids. “I wanted to touch base with you on the climbing day coming up on November 15th.” Mr. Presgraves rejoicingly replied with “The students and I are excited to participate in this trip.” Mr. Comisky concluded, “Thank you Mr. Presgraves for deciding to participate with the kids. I hope this will be a benefit on several different levels. If anything, it will be very diverse to bring groups of people together, Alamo students and New Mexico Tech students alike.”

Being acknowledged of this event, fifteen students were then asked to participate. On the day of the event, only five students signed up for this exciting event. After the seven participants, Mr. Presgraves, Ms. Schwitters, Bravin Ganadonegro, Lacey Apachito, Armen Apachito, Jada Guerro, and myself, Kenyon Apachito arrived, we all gazed upon a cliff. This cliff was also known as the “Waterfall Wall” which is located at Box Canyon in Socorro County. The Waterfall Wall ranged between 50-60 feet tall. The chief instructor, Scott Roberts from NMT, was there to introduce himself and informed the crew about the recommended equipment. Scott Roberts is a professional rock climber who has climbed various amounts of mountains from around the globe. The equipment held their purpose of keeping climbers safe and secure from the hazards of rock climbing. As soon as the provisions of rock climbing were distributed, the crew began to climb four different climbing courses. Each course had their difficulties; this is what made the event special.

After a couple hours of climbing, the party re-assembled and discussed the purpose of this event. Trust was the primary topic because it really showed us to place trust in the equipment, our climbing instructors, and each other. Communication, such as encouragement, was the secondary topic because it was important to cheer so the climber could push his/herself. Mr. Comisky concluded, “As they go through life, they’re going to have to trust people, they’ll have to help each other out, and set goals and work to reach them. That’s what the kids got out of it”
Rebus Puzzles Brainteasers

A REBUS is a picture representation of a name, work, or phrase. Each "rebus" puzzle box below portrays a common word or phrase. Can you guess what it is? The first student to turn in ALL correct answers wins a prize!

Answers from last edition:

Splitting the Red Sea  Flying Carpet  Artichoke
“Riddle Me This…”

Can you solve these riddles? First student to turn in ALL correct answers wins a prize!

What has a foot on each side and one in the middle?

The beginning of eternity, the end of time and space, the beginning of every end, and the end of every place. What am I?

What is always on its way but never arrives?

It travels through the air or under water, it rises like a prayer or rides the surface there. What am I?

Tear one off and scratch my head, what was red is black instead. What am I?

Answers from last edition:

The eight of us go forth not back to protect our king from a foe’s attack. What am I? - Pawns (Chess pieces)

It travels through the air or under water. It rises like a prayer or rides the surface there. What am I? - A Bubble

Tear one off and scratch my head, what was red is black instead. What am I? - A Match
Winter Crossword

Across:
1. Sudden cold breeze
4. Hand warmers
7. Hanging spike of ice
9. Freezing rain
10. Show and _____
11. Conditions outside
12. Flowering plant, colour
15. Achoo
17. Not in
20. Month of winter
22. Carols, etc.
24. Valentine month
26. Thaw
29. Keeps drinks warm
30. Small dog
31. Winter Olympic sport
32. Silky material
35. Breezy
37. Ice sport
39. Foot warmer
40. Direct a vehicle's course

Down:
2. Frozen water
3. Small
4. Myself
5. Small pie
6. Neck warmer
8. Chilly
9. Used to move snow
11. A season
13. Strong emotion
14. Ripped
16. Nil
18. Bath ______
19. Cloud of water vapour
21. Last month of winter
22. Wooden snow vehicles
23. Winter road condition
25. Be carried on
27. Locomotive
28. Carried along by wind
30. Piece of hockey equipment
33. Make this in the snow
34. Winter foot wear
36. Faucets can do this
38. You hear with this