

# The Luna Light



Volume 4 Issue 23

June 20-26, 2011

*“The People’s College”*

*Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*



**Luna Community College student Chris Finch looks over some notes before attending class last week. Finch, a native of Lubbock, intends to transfer to Snow College in Utah in the fall.**

## Important financial aid information

The last processing cycle of student financial assistance for the 2011 summer semester will take place on **JUNE 24**. Any Student who has applied for financial assistance for summer 2011 whose file is incomplete, must have their file complete and verified by **JUNE 30** in order to be awarded.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the LCC Office of Student Financial Assistance at 454-2560.

Students who have applied for student financial assistance are reminded that an LCC student ID card must be presented to the LCC Business Office to receive any financial assistance disbursements and the LCC Bookstore to purchase any books and supplies.

If you have not already obtained your ID card, you are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

## Dr. Campos grateful to the LCC family

*The following is the second in a four-part exclusive interview with Luna Community College President Dr. Pete Campos. Dr. Campos is completing his third year of a five-year contract.*

Luna Community College employees have been fortunate that we have not had furloughs or layoffs. Considering the state of the economy what is the plan for employees and funding for the college?

There has been much preparation, master and strategic planning and monitoring of all aspects of operations at LCC during the past three years. The major focus has and will continue to be on student success. This has meant that regular (often daily) financial adjustments for efficiency reasons have been made.

During the past three years there has not been talk of furloughs or layoffs but there have been ongoing modifications to further define our mission and assign work needed to meet goals that support a positive college experience for students.

As I carefully review the state of the economy on a daily basis; funding to LCC by the state should stabilize this fiscal year (FY 2011-12) and more compensation leveling and cost of living adjustments (COLA) could begin as soon as FY 2012-13. I am immensely grateful to our LCC family for the sacrifices, support, cooperation

**Continued on page 2**

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SAVE THE DATE  
**AUGUST 27, 2011**  
 Pendaries Golf Course

**THE LCC FOUNDATION**  
**Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament**  
 (Over \$50,000 raised for Title V in 2010)

For sponsor or registration request please contact:

**Sarah Flores**, Executive Director phone) (505) 454-5367 email) sflores@luna.edu  
**Ernesto Salazar**, Co-Chairman phone) (505) 920-3696 email) ernesto@fnblv.com

**Phil J. Wolff**, Co-Chairman phone) (505) 425-2080 email) philw@northerninsurance.com

You can also visit our website:  
[www.luna.edu/foundation](http://www.luna.edu/foundation) or Facebook us!  
 Registration Brochure to follow.



# Dr. Campos...

Continued from page 1

and understanding of our situation. While this is a statewide dilemma, we are especially hit hard because of the loss of population in northeastern New Mexico. We are working on health, education and job creation initiatives to maintain a quality level of sustainability for the communities within the LCC service area.

**Describe a perfect day as Luna Community College president?**

We are responsible for our individual attitudes, morale and ability to self-start; if everyone reported to work each day with and maintained (all day) a positive attitude, high level of optimism and the energy and enthusiasm to serve students and respect each other and not look to blame someone else because we are not happy - that would make for an ideal day at LCC. While that makes for a perfect day, I also understand that reality is an important factor in our daily operation. Our individual worlds are not perfect. The costs of gas, food, utilities and health care have risen and take home pay has dropped. This has served as a significant depressant and irritant as persons struggle to make ends meet and deal with personal struggles and tragedies. I understand we all have unexpected pressures affecting our daily lives. I will continue to reflect upon and implement ways that hopefully will ease those stresses.

**Describe a rough day as Luna Community College president?**

When students come in and are disappointed with the services they have received. On the upside, student customer services have improved and more student testimony is being received that LCC personnel are making a positive difference in their lives.

**What would you consider your biggest successes in your first three years as president of Luna Community College?**

While successes have been documented and chronicled in every area from landscaping to procurement and fixed assets accountability, our greatest successes have been: 1] Developing a more individualized student services system that better prepares students for the world of work; 2] Building a quality curriculum that is being recognized and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and other reputable accrediting organizations; 3] Sending out a regular, consistent, informative, factual and interesting global message on student achievement and our daily operations and happenings; and, 4] Preparing LCC to better align future education with our changing and challenging global and local job market demands.

**What are the weaknesses in your first three years as president at Luna Community College?**

Not having the financial resources to upgrade our facilities, infrastructure and equipment. This is not an excuse. We have maximized the efficient use of our available resources and done the best with what we have.

## Event Sponsors:



## RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

- Monday, June 20.....Campus Tour, 10 a.m.. El Paso Tours planning meeting
- Tuesday, June 21.....KFUN Radio, 8 a.m., promoting summer session, fall semester, Community Ed. Classes
- Wednesday, June 22.....No activities planned
- Thursday, June 23.....Community Ed. class-Ear Candling
- Friday, June 24.....Civic Ventures Conf., "Senior Planning", Albuquerque-UNM, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday, June 25.....Great Weekend in store



# Recognizing Luna Community College retirees



Several Luna Community College employees who are retiring at the end of the month received certificates of recognition at Wednesday's LCC Board of Trustees meeting. Pictured clockwise are: Eloy Garcia, humanities director, receiving a certificate from LCC President Dr. Pete Campos. To his right is LCC Vice-President for Academics Dr. Vidal Martinez; Sharon Holguin, nursing faculty; Alfred Carrillo, lead security officer; Peter Manthei, director of institutional research and Dr. Martinez, LCC Board Member David Gutierrez; Board Vice-Chairman Tony Valdez; Board Chairman Jerry Maestas; Holguin; Board Member Frankie Tenorio; Board Secretary Abelino Montoya Jr.; Garcia; Dr. Campos and Carrillo. Not pictured is Rose Tapia, office manager at business and professional studies.



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# Gene Torres: The greatest LV has seen

By Henry Sanchez

*This is the eighth of a series of articles written on old-school athletics by Luna Community College sports performance instructor Henry Sanchez.*

Gene Torres is the greatest golfer Las Vegas has ever known. Torres was born in Trinidad, Colo. in 1937. His nickname of “The Rock” or “La Piedra” was given to him because of the rock-solid way he played the game of golf. He died in Las Vegas after a long and courageous battle with stomach cancer on June 12, 2005.

James Montoya, a retired state police officer and longtime friend of Gene’s called him: “The greatest and most caring human being he had ever known.”

Torres started playing golf at the age of 12 when he would pick up golf balls for 50 cents in the morning and would play golf in the afternoon. He was self-taught and many in the golfing community considered him a natural golfer.

Marty Suazo (a former player of Torres) said that he once told him that he had a great stance and balance because when he started playing golf he could not afford to buy proper golfing shoes so he played in his street shoes which created a slide and he had to learn to balance himself.

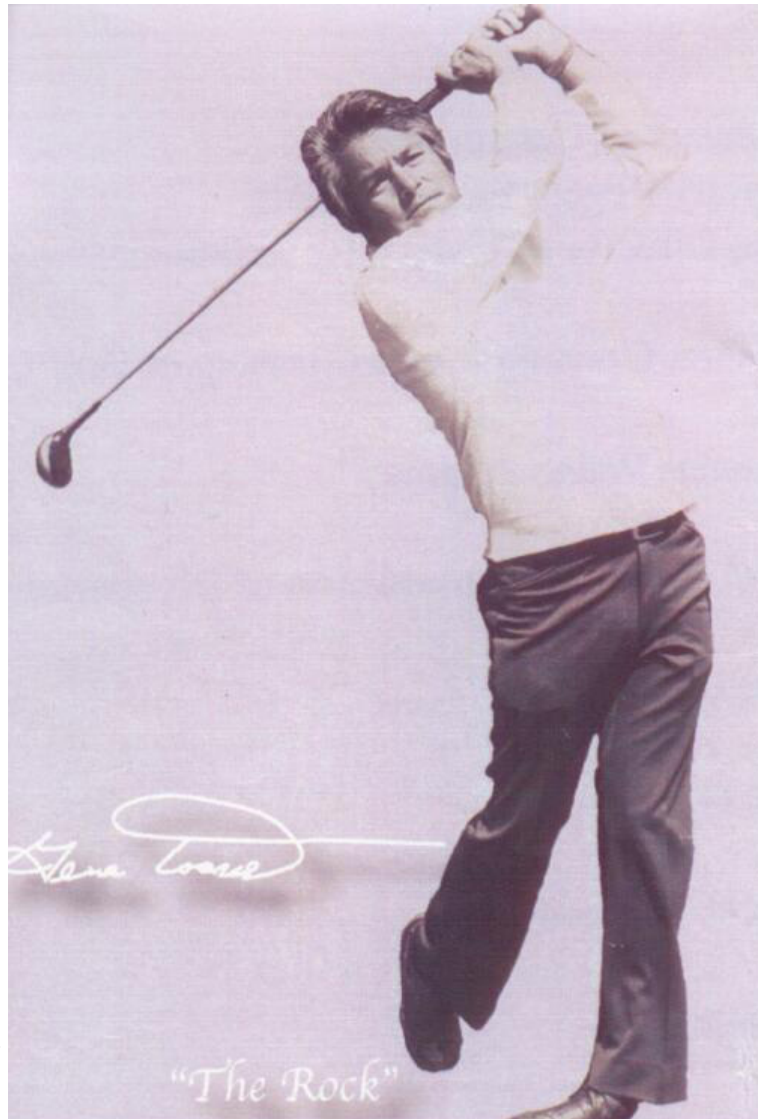
When he was 15 years of age, he qualified for his first major tournament. During his senior year (1956) of high school he won the Colorado State High School Golf Tournament, making him the best high school golfer in the state.

In 1956-57, he enrolled at Adams State College and after his freshmen year decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Navy. For the next three and a half years he served aboard the U.S.S. Shangri La, CVA-38 and traveled most of the world.

After being discharged from the service, he returned to Trinidad and began playing tournaments in Colorado and New Mexico. In 1961, Torres met the love of his life Mary Delores (Dodie) Maestas and in November of 1961 were married. During the years from 1961 to 1963 Torres won many tournaments in Colorado and New Mexico making him well known and respected.

In 1962, he was offered and accepted the position of manager of the New Mexico Highlands University Golf Course by President Thomas C. Donnelly. For the next 42 years, he ran the golf course, coached the golf team and taught in the physical education department. It is said that thousands were taught and enjoy golf because of Gene Torres.

Continued on next page



Gene Torres shows his legendary swing

## Awards and achievements

- The PGA of America Lifetime Achievement Award
- Southwest Section (New Mexico, West Texas, Arizona) Player of Year

## Professional Golf Tourney wins

- Sun Country PGA Senior Championship 1989, 1997
- Wyoming Open Senior’s Champion 1987, 1988
- Wyoming Open Super Senior’s Champion 2000, 2002
- Pro President in El Paso—1976, 1977, 1979, 1985
- McDonald’s Sun Country Sectional Match Play 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1985

- New Mexico Open 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1984
- DOS Lagos Invitational 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983
- Sun Country PGA Sectional Medal Play Champion 1970, 1971, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1983
- Conrad Hilton Open 1968, 1971, 1977, 1981
- Dolly Brunson Team Match Play Championship 1981
- Pro Championship Four Hills Country Club 1981
- Riverton, Wyoming PGA Championship 1978, 1979 (Torres set course record of 62 in 1978)
- The PGA Club Professional Championship 1971

Continued on next page

# Gene Torres...

## Continued from page 4

In 1964, Torres became a golf professional and soon won the Rocky Mountain Open in Grand Junction (one of the many to come).

In 1965, he started the golf team and program at Highlands. He did not have much of a budget for scholarships and the extra things needed to run a college program, yet because of his superb teaching was able to have winning teams. Many of the golfers who played for him talk about him reaching in his own pocket to help pay for golfing expenses for his team. The dedication to his teams lasted from 1967 to 1987, when because of finances, the program was dropped. It is amazing that with a few partial scholarships he was able to compete and win; his teams had two conference champions in Russell Moore and Bob Taylor.

The dedication he exhibited to the golf course is legendary with tales of how he would arrive early in the morning and stayed until it was too dark to see.

In a golf article written by Jesse Gallegos, he quoted Torres as saying he would not trade nothing in his life or his experiences at Highlands for anything.

In his golf career Khushroo Ghadialli wrote that Torres had been honored many times, that streets and avenues had been named for him in Texas and California. So it was only fitting that in 2005 that Highlands under President Manny Aragon honored Torres and his family by naming the golf course "The New Mexico Highlands University Gene Torres Golf Course."

There are many stories about Torres like the one when he told his players to call him coach unless one of them would ever beat him in a game of golf. It never happened and coach Gene Torres was his title for his career.

Morris Madrid (former city manager and city councilor), when he was a student, shot a hole in one (Aug. 3, 1984) and had the good fortune to have Torres as his witness.

"Coach Torres taught a lot more about life than golf. He taught us to be successful in golf and used the philosophy of the three C's—confidence, concentration and composure. I still use this every day of my life," said Madrid.

On the day Highlands dedicated the golf course to Gene Torres, I had the honor to be present as the mayor and said, "This man could have been one of the household names in golf, but he had a higher calling—that of family." (This was probably the smartest thing I said as the mayor of Las Vegas.)

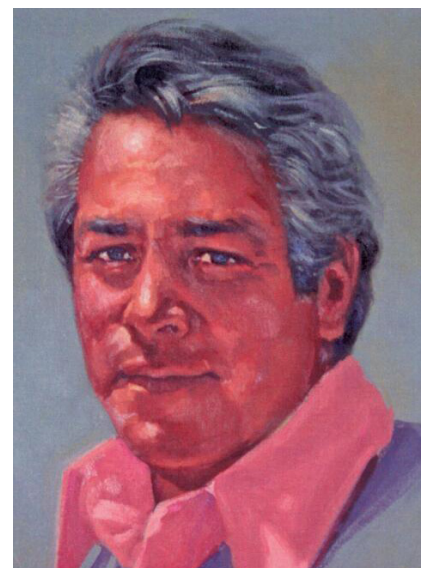
As amazing as his career and win totals were, when asked about the things he was most proud of, Torres would always reply that his family, his wife of 44 years and his sons, Glen and Gene II, daughters Michelle, Janeen and Trisha and his grand children and great grand children were.

Mark Smith of the Albuquerque Journal (written July 2, 2005) wrote: "The Las Vegas pro beat 'em all in the region, winning professional events throughout his career. He captured six sectional titles, two senior sectionals and five match play crowns, including four in a row starting in 1978.

During the years he played he was able to win over 80 professional tournaments (They are listed below to the best of our research).

He lived for 67 years and left a legacy that few can match. We were blessed to be able to say Gene Torres was our friend.

**Gene Torres won several dozen tournaments. His nickname of "The Rock" or "La Piedra" was given to him because of the rock-solid way he played the game of golf.**



## Continued from page 4

- Pinehurst #1 Course 1972 (Worlds Largest Pro Am, 250 teams, course record of 62)
- Triple Crown in Albuquerque 1979
- Gallup Invitational 1979
- Navajo Trail Open 1972, 1975, 1977
- San Juan Open 1969, 1973, 1976
- New Mexico Maestros Invitational 1975
- Clovis Colonial Invitational 1975
- Juarez Open 1974
- Dale Robertson-Jimmy Durante Invitational 1974
- Wyoming Open 1974
- Low Sectional Champion for U.S. Open, Denver Colorado 1974
- Jal Invitational 1973
- Buster Quist Invitational 1973
- Colorado Open 1972
- New Mexico Open Invitational 1969, 1970, 1971
- New Mexico Open PGA 1970, 1971
- Southwest Section PGA 1971
- PGA Home Club Championship 1971
- PGA Rocky Mountain Open 1965-67
- Low Qualifier for the National Home Club Championship 6 times
- Sun Country Senior Match Play Champion, 2000
- Hilton Open Senior Medal Champion 1965
- Hilton Open Super Senior 2000
- New Mexico Senior Open Champion 1994
- Hobbs Senior Champion 1992
- Medalist for Senior Tour Qualifier Lompoc Qualifier 1997
- Las Cruces Invitational Champion 1969



# June Doc Talks

## HEALTHY WOMAN

### HEART DISEASE

RISK FACTORS AND PREVENTION



Presented by: William Gaspar, M.D.  
Internal Medicine

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Alta Vista Regional Hospital Classrooms  
Light meal & refreshments served at 11:45 a.m.

Reservations can be made by calling (505) 426-3772 or  
logging on our Web site [www.altavistaregionalhospital.com](http://www.altavistaregionalhospital.com)

## Senior & Circle

### Easing Chronic Pain

Learn How Our Pain Specialist Can Help You



Presented by: David Lazarus, CRNA  
Anesthesiology

Friday, June 24, 2011

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Alta Vista Regional Hospital Classrooms

Please RSVP By calling Linda Leyba at (505) 426-3772 or email [linda\\_leyba@chs.net](mailto:linda_leyba@chs.net)



ALTA VISTA™  
Regional Hospital



**Luna Community College Allied Health Director Conni Reichert gave a status update on the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) Process on June 9 to the LCC Board of Trustees. On June 6, the LCC Nursing Department was given a green light to proceed with the accreditation process by receiving a unanimous vote on recommendation for accreditation by a national panel of 15 evaluators. The final step to national accreditation comes in July with the granting or denying of accreditation by the NLNAC Board of Commissioners. LCC will be notified by mail of the outcome of that final step.**

## 2011 LCC Retention Plan

**By Vidal Martinez  
Vice President for Instruction**

As the state of New Mexico re-evaluates its funding formula, Luna Community College must take a proactive approach to student outcomes, especially retention issues. Retention is an important component for Luna Community College, and all stakeholders (faculty, staff, administration, board members, taxpayers, etc.) must measure retention efforts to determine institutional effectiveness. In Part 1 of LCC's retention plans, the following "measurable" objectives have been identified for the 2011 academic year.

- Identify an individual within the organization to be the leader of the retention plan for LCC.
- Identify a task force. Task force members should include the leader of the retention plan, and representation from student services and academics.
- Determine terms and definitions to be used uniformly throughout the college for retention data.
- Provide staff and faculty training and orientation to aid in understanding and support for student retention.
- Identify current projects/activities that support and encourage student retention. Determine if these projects/activities can be extended to other programs or departments at LCC.
- Review the early-alert system at LCC to determine strengths and weaknesses.



**This picture of the Pecos River was taken on Thursday, June 16 in El Pueblo. It clearly shows that it is slow flowing. The lack of precipitation in northern New Mexico has made it one of the driest summers in recent history.**

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# How important is morale to any state worker?

By *Jesse Gallegos*  
***A Different Perspective***

As I did research for this column, I found several different definitions about the word morale. The one that I liked the best and the one I think best fits

state workers is this one: morale is the spirit of your employees. It is the emotional force that impacts how they behave and what they accomplish in the workplace.

Obviously, as a state worker, we have a lot of benefits that the private sector doesn't have. Unfortunately, at times, state workers are at a disadvantage—especially when it comes to employee morale.

When working in private industry, the CEO or bosses of a cooperation can use resources as they please and many times they use it for recreational or team building of their employees. As state workers many times we are about routine. Go to work, sit at your same desk, take care of the same tasks over and over again. And although we all get paid every two weeks or so, getting a paycheck may not be enough.

Low morale can lead to less production and can cause individuals to separate themselves from their colleagues. Some may even disengage to the point where they show up to work, close their door, don't talk to anyone and when 5 p.m. comes along, walk to their car and drive away without saying a word.

Come on people, those of you are still reading this article have either done this or know someone that does. Low morale can impact individuals in different ways. The health of any organization can either work for you or against you.

So all this raises the question on who is in charge of morale? Using Luna Community College as an example, should it be the president, the college's leadership team, it's directors or is it up to every individual employee? I've talked about this to many people here on campus and the answers vary. Maybe the answer is that we all need to reflect within ourselves. By doing this we can avoid or overcome any distractions that will lower our morale.

I've often said that employee morale can improve if we meet outside the working area. Having conversations in informal atmospheres can't hurt. If all we see is numbers and a computer screen all day—many of us become robotic and forget that we are human beings.

I have many friends that work for other colleges and other state agencies and all of them say that low morale is an issue. Something has to give. With the state of the economy the way it is, administrations don't have a lot of money to toss around. So this raises another issue. Are we too locked up in the dollar bill? We probably are. Many of us because we want a nicer car, a nicer home or nicer clothes. However, many of us do because of situations that are beyond our control, such as medical bills for a sick child or to pay prescriptions for an elderly person in the household.

When times are good everyone seems to be happy. When times are bad, well it can get a little testy.

Let me throw this at you—does the high wind and low precipitation New Mexico has been experiencing play into morale? Let me put it this way it doesn't help. My last comment is this—let's at least start the dialogue to see what can be done about morale.

Words are not the answer. But at least it's a start.

## Weekly activities

### Monday, June 20, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conservation Planning Training/USDA-NRCS (LRC/LECT. Hall)

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. DWI Class (General Studies/Room 102-B)

### Tuesday, June 21, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conservation Planning Training/USDA-NRCS (LRC/LECT. Hall)

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. DWI Class (General Studies/Room 102-B) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Laws of the Universe–Manifestations/Community Ed. Course (IPC/Cafe)

### Wednesday, June 22, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conservation Planning Training/USDA-NRCS (LRC/LECT. Hall)

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Region 2 – Providers Meeting /Optum Health New Mexico (Student Services/Conference Room)

### Thursday, June 23, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conservation Planning Training/USDA-NRCS (Student Services/Conference Room)

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conservation Planning Training/USDA-NRCS (LRC/LECT. Hall)

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CACFP Training for Daycare Providers (Early Childhood/Rm101)

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Ear Candling/Community Ed. Course (IPC/Cafeteria)

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Decreasing Stress & Improving Life Workshop/Spons: AHEC (Student Services/Conference Room)

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conservation Planning Training/USDA-NRCS (LRC/LECT. Hall)

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CACFP Training for Daycare Providers (Early Childhood/Rm101)

### Saturday, June 25, 2011

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. C.N.A. Testing (Allied Health/Nrsg. Lab#3, Comp.Lab#7, MO-11)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CACFP Training for Daycare Providers (Early Childhood/Rm101)