

The Luna Light



*“The People’s College”
Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*

Volume 5 Issue 4

January 30-February 5, 2012

LCC’s Gabriel Aldana’s dream beginning to come true

Gabriel Aldana has some quick advice not just his fellow Luna Community College students, but for everyone.

“Life is the way you look at it,” says Aldana. “You get more chances at life when you’re happy.”

That’s a pretty profound statement for a 19-year-old. But who can doubt him? Aldana appears like he is on his way to greatness.

Aldana is the first member of his family to earn a college degree. Aldana, from Santa Fe, will proudly put on his cap and gown at LCC this May after earning both a certificate in auto mechanics and collision repair.

“I feel very proud of myself,” says Aldana. “Getting a high school diploma is one thing, but the feeling you get when you walk the line with a college degree is awesome.”

Aldana first heard of LCC when he was attending Tierra Encantada Charter School. He took some dual-credit courses.

“I talked to Janice Encinias and Patricia Romero (from the LCC Dual Credit Office) and they started me with the basics and I went from there,” says Aldana. “I was introduced to Anthony Baca (auto collision instructor) and my friend Carlos Saldivar and I thought he was going to be a pretty good teacher so we decided to attend Luna.”

Although Aldana says he liked all his instructors, one in particular stands out.

“Gene Sandoval (auto mechanics instructor) is just a cool guy,” says Aldana. “He would always help us with whatever problems we had. One of the things I liked about Luna is that they speak Spanish and English; it’s not just one language. Whenever I didn’t understand in English, they would interpret it in Spanish.”

Today Aldana finds himself working at The New Chevrolet Cadillac of Santa Fe. He is a full-time mechanic.

“I think Luna did a good job preparing him,” says Aldana’s boss Bill Monroe. “He doesn’t take short cuts and follows the proper processes. I think he has a good future. Given a little time and experience, Gabe will turn out to be a solid technician.”

Aldana had been working at his current job on a part-time basis.

“When I went to apply I told them that I was attending Luna and was taking classes in auto mechanics and that I was



Luna Community College student Gabriel Aldana is pictured here with his boss Bill Monroe. Monroe says that LCC prepared Aldana well. Aldana will graduate from LCC in May.

a member of SkillsUSA. I also showed them my class schedule and they gave me a job,” says Aldana.

Aldana got his first full paycheck of his life last Wednesday.

“I have two younger brothers and a younger sister and I will probably get them something,” says Aldana. “I don’t think they need anything, though.”

Although going to college and being away from home was tough sometimes, Aldana did what he had to do to finish.

“My dad always gave me encouragement,” he says. “Sometimes we would be short on money, but my dad never let me skip a semester. At this young age to get a college degree, I’ve done pretty good compared to other people. I want to thank Chevrolet Cadillac for giving me a chance.”

Although Aldana may be on his way for a special life, he never will forget his humble beginnings.

“Above everything, what is important to me is my family,” he says. “I appreciate the way we have been raised.”

LCC's Henry Sanchez honored at legislature



Henry Sanchez

Former Luna Community College sports performance instructor Henry Sanchez was honored last week by the New Mexico State Legislature as they recognized Thursday, Jan. 26 as "Henry Sanchez Day in New Mexico."

Sanchez passed away in October, 2011.

Many state legislators, including LCC President Dr. Pete Campos spoke on Sanchez' behalf.

Sanchez also served as mayor of Las Vegas, head boys basketball coach at Robertson High, Bernalillo High, Our Lady of Sorrows High and Highlands University.

While at LCC, Sanchez was a very popular instructor as he was able to tutor many future coaches from his own experience.

There is currently a push for Highlands University to name its basketball floor after Sanchez.



Among those that honored former LCC Instructor Henry Sanchez were: Dr. Pete Campos, Regis Pecos, Sen. Michael Sanchez, Daren Sanchez, Mike Kloeppel, Ronnie Sisneros, Ignacio Salazar, Pete Salazar, Sen. John Sapien and Jack Torres.

Joe Singleton had a great career

*This was the last article Henry Sanchez wrote before his passing. Sanchez wrote on many area sports legends for **The Luna Light and Las Vegas Optic.***

Joe Singleton attended Las Cruces High graduating in 1953. He was all-state in football and high point man in track and field in the state meet.

He was recruited by Coach Don Gibson in 1953 to NMHU to play football and compete in track and field in the old Frontier Conference. He was all-conference in football and MVP in track and field for the conference. In track and field, he excelled in the 100, 220 and 440 yard dashes, high and low hurdles, discus, high jump and the relays.

He competed from 1953-57 getting his BA degree in biology and PE in 1958 and his MA in education in 1962.

He was considered a potential Olympic track and field athlete. He lettered four years in football and four years in track and field. He was president of his freshmen class.

Coaching and teaching history

1957-67 Coached football and track at Robertson High in Las Vegas. In 1965 he coached the north/south all-star football game.

1967-69 La Puente, Calif.

1969 Moved to UC-Davis and was the assistant football and track coach.

1972-84 Athletic Director at UC-Davis. He was one of the first

African-American athletic directors in the country.

1976-80 AD at UC Davis and was on the National NACDA Committees.

1984-1986 Stepped down from AD job to coach track and field.

1985-87 Head track coach .

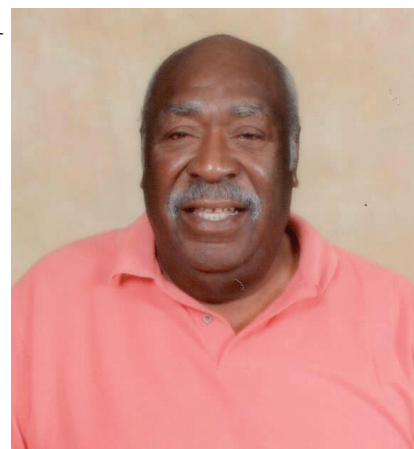
1993 Retired.

1996-2000 AD at NMHU

2000 Retired.

2010 Inducted in Hall of Fame by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

A great athlete, coach and administrator who is remembered on the national level for the NCAA Committees and being a pioneer for Title IX and women's athletics.



Joe Singleton started his coaching career at Robertson High.

Luna Community College student Carlos Urioste (right) and auto collision instructor Gilbert "Guba" Martinez look over a new automotive mixing system last week. Martinez teaches auto collision courses from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday this semester. For more information on these night classes are 454-2591 or 429-9680.



Just a thought

"WHILE YOU ARE HATING YOUR LIFE JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU WANT. REMEMBER SOMEONE IS PRAYING TO HAVE A LIFE LIKE YOURS,"— Anonymous

One of the many new faces here at Luna is Emily Torres, RN, BSN. She is a Nursing Recruitment Specialist/ Medical Surgical instructor.



Las Vegas Night at the Legislature



Las Vegas Night at the Legislature



LCC: "The People's College"





You're Invited!
Save the Date!

**Building New Mexico's Economy One
Business at a Time**

14th Annual NMSBDC Success Client Showcase

February 9, 2012

State Capitol Halls of History

8:00am-3:00pm

Call (505) 428-1362 for more information.

Rough Riders win one game on the road

The Luna Community College Rough Riders won one game and lost three to Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas over the weekend.

The Rough Riders took the second game of the series 10-3 and lost the others 11-5, 15-5 and 7-6.

"We played well," said Rough Riders Head Coach Antonio Siqueiros. "We had the lead in very game, but errors cost us. They capitalized on our mistakes and we couldn't capitalize on theirs. We still have some learning to do."

Things don't get easier for LCC as they travel to Hobbs this weekend and take on New Mexico Junior College.

"The schedule doesn't get easier. Everyone of our opponents for the exception of two teams are in Division I," says Siqueiros.

Jesse's quick hits

Remember to smile a few times a day. I hope this helps—
Jesse

Where did the dog leave his car?
In the barking lot.

How did dogs travel in the Old West?
In waggin' trains.

What did the baseball-player puppy want to be someday?
A dog catcher.

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

Monday, Jan. 30 – School visit, Robertson HS

Tuesday, Jan. 31 – KFUN Radio, 8 a.m., promoting College Night 2012

Wednesday, Feb. 1 – College Night meeting, LCC, 10am

Thursday, Feb. 2 – no activities planned

Friday, Feb. 3 – MESA Winter Design, NMHU, 7:30 a.m. -2 p.m. (LCC volunteers)

Saturday, Feb. 4 – No activities planned

Weekly Activities

Monday, January 30, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. San Miguel County Emergency Management Meeting (LRC/Lecture Hall)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hip Hop Class (VO-AG./101)

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class (VO-AG./101)

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hip Hop Class (VO-AG./101)

Thursday, February 2, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class (VO-AG./101)

Friday, February 3, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hip Hop Class (VO-AG./101)

Saturday, February 4, 2012

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

Tentative Schedule Spring 2012 Activities																				
January '12							February '12							March '12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4					1	2	3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April '12							May '12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Date	Description	Time	Location	Club/Organization
1/31/12	Breakfast Stop/Bake Sale	9am-11am	Admin. Bldg.	Skills-Cosmetology
2/1/12 thru 2/28/12	Raffle		On-Campus	SNA
2/7/12	Breakfast Stop/Bake Sale	9am-11am	Admin. Bldg.	Skills-Cosmetology
2/14/12	Valentine's Day	9am-1pm 1pm-4pm	Admin. Bldg. RR Grill	Skills/Automotive & Cosmetology
2/23/12	Bake Sale	9am-2pm	Admin. Bldg.	Skills-Cosmetology
2/28/12	College Night	5pm-8pm	ABE Montoya Rec. Center	
3/23/12	Softball Tail Gate BBQ	1pm-3pm	Rodriguez Park	Student Government
3/24/12	SWAP Meet	8am-3pm	LCC Campus	Skills-Automotive
4/2/12	Baseball Tail Gate BBQ	11am-1pm	Rodriguez Park	Student Government
4/19/12	BBQ	11am-1pm	RR Grill	Activities Office
5/11/12	End of Semester BBQ	12pm-2pm	TBA	Student Government

Party Plaza, LLC is recognized as the LCC SBDC Success Story of the Year

By Melissa Gold

Le Pop Kettle Corn LLC, started out as the dream of a young entrepreneur who believed he had the attributes it would take to own his own business. In November of 2008, Jonathan Gutierrez decided the time was right to go for his dream and contacted the Las Vegas SBDC for assistance. The SBDC helped Jonathan develop a business plan and also linked him to Help NM and Accion NM for assistance with funding.

Jonathan has come a long way since first opening his business in 2009. He has worked hard to make connections with new suppliers, to expand his business and be able to offer more to the communities he serves. He started small, selling Kettle Corn at local fairs and events in Las Vegas and surrounding areas and was successful making a profit his first summer. Jonathan learned very early on that first summer that he would need to diversify if he wanted to grow his business. So he began to purchase additional equipment and add other services in preparation for the following summer. He also realized that his biggest asset to his business was his ability to connect with people and to logistics. In preparation for his expansion, Jonathan also felt that the name "Le Pop Kettle Corn" limited his business and so he changed the name of his business to **Party Plaza LLC**, and now he does equipment rental and event planning in addition to selling the kettle corn.

Jonathan contributes a lot of his success to the resources that have

helped him through the start up phase and continue to provide the assistance that will help him grow his business. He has been able to increase his sales by 21 percent and employs at least two seasonal part time employees. He continues to work hard at improving and streamlining his business in an effort to provide better customer service and to be a role model for other young entrepreneurs.

Jonathan used the services of the Small Business Development Center at Luna Community College to help him gain an understanding of how to start a small business and also to determine whether this business was feasible and the right fit for him. With the help of the SBDC, he completed a business plan and a loan package and was able to submit the plan to a lender. He was approved for a loan and was able to purchase beginning inventory.

"This never would have been possible without the help of three resources; the SBDC, Help NM and Accion NM," says Jonathan. "I was able to get the services that helped me to start my business for FREE from the SBDC. I plan on continuing to use the services of the SBDC for future ventures and to take advantage of their trainings. The SBDC has been so valuable in making my dream come true, I can't thank them enough for their help and continued support!"

As a young entrepreneur Jonathan has had a lot of ups and downs in getting started, but one thing remains constant, his drive for success.



COLLEGE NIGHT 2012
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012
5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
ABE MONTIYA REC CENTER