

# The Luna Light

*"The People's College"*

**Mission Statement: "Creating Opportunities for You!"**

**Vision Statement: "New Mexico's Premier Community College: Preparing Students for Success"**

**Visit us at  
www.luna.edu  
1-800-588-7232**

Volume 6 Issue 23

June 17-23, 2013

## Going for the gold medal *Monica Garcia preparing herself to do well at SkillsUSA in Kansas City*

Monica Garcia says that the first thing she notices when she meets someone is their smile. It's only right that Garcia will be competing in dental assisting at the SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City from June 23-29. She is the lone student representing Luna Community College.

"I like smiles," says Garcia a Mora High School graduate. "It makes me feel good that I help people improve their smiles. A smile can say a lot about a person."

Garcia is a 2013 Luna Community College graduate.

She won the New Mexico Skill-sUSA competition back in April and now she will be facing the nation's best.

"I plan on taking first," says Garcia. "I'm expecting to do my best. I'm nervous, but I feel I'm ready."



**Monica Garcia will represent Luna Community College in Kansas City from June 23-29.**

Garcia has been working diligently this summer with her instructors to try to gain as much knowledge as she can as she enters the competition.

"It's exciting to try something new," says Garcia. "It's going to be a good opportunity to meet new people from different parts of the country."

Although no one knows exactly what will be part of the competition, Garcia is preparing with both hands-on and textbook material. Impressively, Garcia is multitasking by taking summer courses and doing clinicals.

"I'm very comfortable with this type of work," says Garcia. "It's fun being a dental assistant. You get to do different things every day."

*Continued on page 2*

## Four LCC student-athletes named to all-conference team

Four Luna Community College student-athletes have been recognized by the Western Junior College Athletic Conference—three in baseball and one in softball.

Ridge Hoopii-Haslam was named first-team all-WJCAC as an infielder. Hoopii-Haslam batted .404, had 69 hits, 15 doubles, eight triples and eight home runs. He also added 33 RBI and scored 42 runs.

Erick Santiago and Rudy Gutierrez were named honorable mention WJCAC. Santiago had a .367 batting average. He also had 65 hits, seven doubles and one triple. Santiago also had 20 RBI.

Gutierrez had an ERA of 5.12 to go along with 53 strikeouts in only 45.2 innings pitched. Gutierrez was 2-3 on the year.

Amber Harding was named honorable mention WJCAC. She finished with a .389 batting average to go with two home runs, eight doubles and two triples. She also had 31 RBI and 16 walks.

Former LCC baseball player Will Mathis was drafted in the 25th round and was the No. 747 pick overall. Mathis was drafted out of UNM, and played for LCC in 2011.

**Note:** Please see page 2 for photos

# Monica Garcia...

**Continued from page 1**

Garcia says that many of her friends, family and fellow professionals took notice when she won first place in April.

“I received a lot of congratulations from a lot of people,” said Garcia. “It’s a compliment to the dental assisting program here at Luna Community College. There is a lot of work that is applied considering it’s only one year.”

Upon returning from the national competition, Garcia intends

to take a Certified Dental Assistant test. If she passes it, Garcia will be certified to work anywhere in the nation.

**“It’s a compliment to the dental assisting program here at Luna Community College. There is a lot of work that is applied considering it’s only one year,” —Monica Garcia.**

The Luna Community College Dental Assisting Program received national accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in 2011.

“Once I get that certification I plan to find a good job and put the certificate to good use,” said Garcia. “It’s going to open new opportunities for me.”

But for now, Garcia is shooting for the stars.

“I’m going out there to win it,” says Garcia. “I am going to give it my all.”

## LCC student-athletes



**Ridge Hoopii-Haslam**  
*First Team All WJCAC*



**Erick Santiago**  
*Honorable mention  
WJCAC*



**Rudy Gutierrez**  
*Honorable mention  
WJCAC*



**Amber Harding**  
*Honorable mention  
WJCAC*

**LCC:**  
**“The  
People’s College”**

**Will Mathis**

*Played at UNM  
and is a former  
LCC student-  
athlete. Drafted by  
Seattle Mariners.*



**Luna Community College Auto Collision Repair Class II students are currently working on a 1935 Plymouth Sedan. The students intend to make it into a Rat Rod to showcase both automotive and auto collision. Pictured (l-r) are: Gilbert "Guba" Martinez (instructor), Johnny Chavez, Aaron Sanchez, Joe Chavez and Daniel Chavez.**



## Weekly Calendar

### Monday, June 17, 2013

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. DWI Class (General Studies 102B)  
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hip Hop Aerobics (VoAg)  
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Piyo Fitness (Admin 112A)

### Tuesday, June 18, 2013

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. LCC Criterion 4/ Criterion 5 Presentation (LRC Lecture Hall)  
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Piyo Fitness (VoAg)

### Wednesday, June 19, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NM ALTSD Staff Training (LRC Lecture Hall)  
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hip Hop Aerobics (VoAg)  
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Piyo Fitness (Admin 112A)  
 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. LCC Board of Trustees Regular Board Meeting (Student Services 102)

### Thursday, June 20, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NM ALTSD Staff Training (LRC Lecture Hall)  
 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Help-NM Recognition Ceremony (IPC Cafeteria)  
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Piyo Fitness (VoAg)  
 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. LV Community Water Board Meeting (Tech 126A)

### Friday, June 21, 2013

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hip Hop Aerobics (VoAg)

### Saturday, June 22, 2013

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CNA Testing (Allied Health NO-7 & MO-11)  
 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Art as a Tool Class (IPC Cafeteria)

## Attention students:

**Luna Community College registration for the fall semester is ongoing. You may look at the schedule online at [www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu).**



# “Shots in the Dark”

*The following creative writing fiction story was written by Adele Lucero a student in Sherry Goodyear's English 121 class. This is the second in a series.*

**By Adele Lucero**

“I’m so sorry this happened, but trust me. I will get us out of this.”  
“Okay, no I’m sorry, Casey. I’m just a little freaked out.”

“I understand. But if we want to get out of this, we need to be calm and we need to take care of ourselves, because help isn’t coming any time soon. I’m figuring it out!” she yelled in frustration.

Casey packed the sleeping bag and the 2 person tent back into the backpack.

“Are we sleeping in a tent? It’s going to be freezing cold” said Amy, with a new look of fear.

“I guess I better let you in on the plan. Remember those cabins we saw on the way up? A couple of miles down the canyon?”

“Yeah.”

“We’re going to hike there so we have shelter for the night. It should only take us a couple of hours. Then tomorrow morning we will have another 3 miles or so to go. If we follow the road, the hike will be a piece of cake.”

“Other than spending the night outside in the cold, that doesn’t sound so bad. We’ve hiked that before.”

“Right.”

“Okay. What else are you packing?”

“Well, we have hand warmers, a sleeping bag, emergency blankets, food, water, a hatchet, flares. I have my mess kit, so we can warm up our food. We have flashlights, and a radio. Speaking of radio, turn this on and let’s see what the weather has in store for us.” She handed a little radio to Amy.

Amy turned on the radio, and a monotone voice came on, giving the weather for all over New Mexico. After a minute or so, the weather for the Santa Fe National Forest came on. Snow was expected that night for that area. About 4-6 inches.

“That’s not so bad, and the cloud cover will actually make it not so cold tonight,” said Casey.

“We’ll see,” said Amy.

“Don’t worry. Once we get shelter and a fire going, we will be fine. You have to be optimistic”

“Okay.”

Casey pulled a leather pouch from under the pile of camping gear and quickly placed it into the bag, hoping Amy didn’t see it.

“What was that?”

Casey looked at Amy, trying to figure out what to tell her.

“Casey. What was that?”

Casey pulled out the leather pouch out of the backpack.

“Is that a gun?”

“Yes.”

“Why do you need a gun?”

“Just in case.”

“In case of what?”

“Amy please don’t freak out. It’s just a precaution.”

Amy started breathing harder, trying to remain calm.

“Amy, please calm down. We’re wasting time.”

“You know how I feel about guns. I didn’t even know you had it in the truck. You should have told me.”

“I know. It’s just in case. I know what I’m doing.”

“Yeah, like you did when you drove us off the road?”

“That was an accident and you know it. I told you I was sorry and I would get us out of this. Just give me a chance to make this right. Here, I’ll even take out the bullets.”

Casey opened the gun to take the bullets out. Amy jumped back.

“Don’t worry. I know what I’m doing.”

“Sorry, I’m just really skittish around guns.”

“I know.”

“I’m sorry for what I said. I am just freaking out. I know it was an acci-

dent. It’s just that we’re stranded in the middle of nowhere.”

“We’re going to be ok.”

“Okay. Well, we should finish packing so we can get going.”

“Right,” said Casey.

They continued to pack. Casey had weeded out the non-essentials from her backpack, and packed only what they needed. Soon they were ready to start walking.

“We have about an hour, two at the most of daylight. We need to get as far as we can. We’ll find somewhere to spend the night.”

“Okay.”

When Robert reached the gate that closed off the forest road to the cabins it was already dark and had snowed about an inch. He had been tired most of the drive. He had barely slept the last couple of days. He even almost fell asleep at the wheel on the way. But now that he was so close, he felt awake. He got a second wind. Nothing could stop him now. He hopped out of the vehicle and walked up to the gate. He turned the dials 4-1-6-8, and pulled the lock. He smiled when the lock gave. That had been the combination at this gate for as long as he could remember. It wasn’t really a secret. Most of the locals knew the combination, but were smart enough to stay out during bad weather. The lock was mainly meant to keep out tourists who would get stuck and but the locals to get them out or tourists that wound up dead. Good thing he knew what he was doing. He swung the gate open and drove forward, stopping to close and lock the gate behind him. He drove toward the canyon.

Most of the road was clear. There were a couple of spots where he had to be careful, mainly where the snow from before hadn’t melted yet. It wasn’t anything he couldn’t handle.

**Continued on next page**

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# “Shots in the Dark”

Continued from previous page

It was almost dark when Casey and Amy reached the first cabin. It had been a pretty easy hike, just slow because they followed the road. The first cabin they got to was locked, as were the next four cabins. They didn't want to break in. Finally they found a cabin with a shed in the back that wasn't locked. They opened the door and checked it out. It might have been a simple shack, but to them, it seemed like the Taj Mahal.

“Hey, there's a stove in here,” said Amy. “I can't believe our luck!”

“I know! We really lucked out with this shed!”

“Good, because I'm freezing!”

“Me, too. And it's going to start snowing soon.”

They looked around the place for material to burn. They found a woodpile near the house and took

a few pieces. Casey had some matches and paper in her bag and used them to start the fire. Soon the fire was going nice and hot.

“That's nice!” said Amy, warming her hands by the fire.

Casey went through her backpack. She pulled out her mess kit, which had a small plate, pan, cup, and utensils. She also pulled out an MRE and opened it. An assortment of foil and plastic packets spill out of the MRE pack.

“Well, for dinner we have beef brisket, garlic mashed potatoes, bread, crackers and cheese, a fruit cup, and tropical punch.”

“Wow. Sounds great! I'm starving,” said Amy.

“Ok, well do you want to cook, or go for more firewood?”

“Cook. I'm still warming up.”

“Okay. I'll be right back.” Casey went back out to the wood pile, using her flashlight to see.

Robert got to the cabin in about an hour. It was the last cabin up the canyon. Old Mr. Hanson's place. It hadn't changed a bit. Robert remembered there was a tool shed out back.

“I bet I could find a shovel and pick in there.” His stomach growled. He couldn't remember the last time he had eaten. He had been on the move since the robbery. He decided he should eat first. He didn't have any food in the vehicle. Thinking there would be food in the cabin, he tried all the doors. They were all padlocked. He kicked at the door and beat it with various objects, rocks, sticks and finally a short log that was in the yard. The door never gave way. He finally broke a window with a rock and climbed into the cabin. Robert immediately went to the kitchen area, where there was a wood burning cooking stove. He went to the pantry, where he found cans of beans, sardines, Spam, ravioli, and green beans. He couldn't find a can opener, so he used a knife to open the cans. First he had the ravioli. He liked cold ravioli. Then he had the green beans and the sardines. He de-

cidated he would make a fire so he could warm himself up and heat more of the food he found. He found a woodpile outside, where it was when he worked there. The wood was wet from snow, but a few layers down, it was dry.

After he was done eating, Robert took a look around the area. He broke into the tool shed and found a shovel and pick. He went looking for a spot to dig and bury his money, using a flashlight to light the ground where he was working. Everywhere he tried digging, the

ground was too frozen. He made no progress. He tried for at least an hour to dig even just a few inches, but it just wasn't working. The shovel would just scrape off small amounts of dirt, and the pick would just bounce back up at him. In his frustration, he threw the pick at the cabin, breaking a window. “What a waste of time.”

He went back inside and ransacked the house, searching for

anything of value that he could take with him. “Might as well make it worth my time to come all the way up here.” He found guns, a rifle and a pistol, as well as ammunition. The pistol had a holster. He put the holster on his belt and popped the pistol in and out of the holster, spinning it like you see in Old West movies. He found more food in the pantry, as well as booze. He placed a bottle of Jack Daniels in his jacket pocket. He found camping gear. He packed his new loot into a backpack and pillow cases and had them on the floor by the window so he could load them into the vehicle. The way he saw it, Mr. Hanson didn't need all this stuff. If you could leave something somewhere unused for months at a time, you didn't need it.

He hated to have to take the money back down the canyon and try finding another place to hide it, but it seemed he had no other choice. Then he looked at the wood pile. He got an idea.

Robert went up to the center of the wood pile and started throwing wood off of it. He cleared that area of the wood pile all the way down to the ground. Surely the ground wouldn't be frozen under the wood. He tried the pick. It went a good 4 inches into the ground with the first strike. Finally! He had found the perfect place to hide his money. He worked while it snowed. Within 45 minutes he had dug a hole large enough to fit the duffel bag. He opened the bag and removed a bundle of money, about \$5,000. That would help him out until he could return for the rest of the money in a few weeks, when it would be spring. He zipped the bag and placed it in the hole. After he buried it with dirt, he placed the wood the way it was before. You couldn't really tell that it had been disturbed. With a little more snow, the area would be disguised and come spring it would look like no one had even touched the woodpile. It was perfect.

**He hated to have to take the money back down the canyon and try finding another place to hide it, but it seemed he had no other choice. Then he looked at the wood pile. He got an idea. Robert went up to the center of the wood pile and started throwing wood off of it.**

To be continued in next week's Luna Light

## UNM BA/MD students arrive in LV for the summer

This summer, the Luna Community College - Montañas del Norte Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is collaborating with the UNM BA/MD program and is the host site for the UNM BA/MD students who will be in Las Vegas and Pecos for the month of June.

Parisa Mortaji and Sérgio Gonzáles, UNM BA/MD students, along with the UNM faculty members, Amy Clithero and Dr. Mario Pacheco, from the University of New Mexico Office of Community Health, are in Las Vegas and Pecos working on a community health project and are being mentored by local rural physicians, Dr. Mrugendra Gandhi, General Surgeon, Alta Vista Regional Hospital and Dr. David Young, Pecos Valley Medical Center. Yolanda Cruz, Coordinator for the local San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council provides local support and resources for the students during their stay.

The University of New Mexico Combined Bachelor's to Medical Doctor (BA/MD) Degree Program is designed to address the shortage of physicians in New Mexico by accepting students who are committed to practicing in the state after graduating from the eight-year combined degree program.

Mortaji and Gonzales summer experience in Las Vegas and Pecos connects the students with the community and healthcare needs in rural New Mexico, while also giving them an opportunity to build an impactful community project.

Graduates from West Las Vegas High School and Robertson High School are also currently enrolled in the UNM BA/MD program.

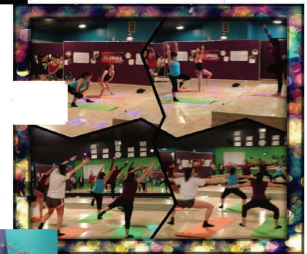


**Parisa Mortaji (top left), Sérgio Gonzáles, (top right) UNM BA/MD Students, Elaine Luna, LCC MdN AHEC Director (bottom left), Amy Clithero, UNM Faculty and Amy's favorite traveling companion. Not pictured is Dr. Mario Pacheco, UNM Faculty.**



**Starts 6-10-13  
\$35/ 8 week session.  
Mondays and  
Wednesdays  
5:30—6:30  
ADMIN 112-A  
Luna Community College**

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## Jesse's quick hits

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

*Why can't leopards play hide and seek?*  
Because they are always spotted

*Which big cats can't be trusted?*  
Lions and cheetahs

*What happened to the leopard that fell into the washing machine?*  
He came out spotless.

**LCC:  
"The People's  
College"**





**Community education attracts many students to LCC's Wellness Center as students learn the basics in Denise McElroy's LINE DANCE class. For more information on community education classes, call Tom Herrera at 505/454-5311.**



**Santa Rosa High Principal Richard Perea gives a presentation to the Luna Community College Board of Trustees last Wednesday. Perea told the board that Santa Rosa High wants to implement a building trades program and he would like the college to cover half the salary of the instructor.**

**Luna Community College students, faculty, staff and community, a Rough Rider Meal Card is now available. The Rough Rider Meal Card can be purchased at the LCC Fiscal Office. For more information, call LCC Food Services Manager Paul Sandoval at 505/454-2581.**

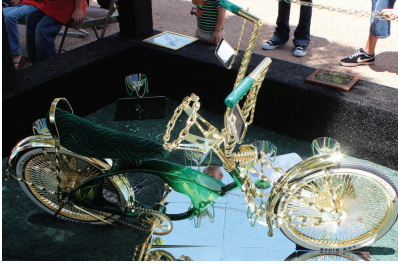
**Anyone interested in sending a column, article, photo or information that they would like to see included in The Luna Light, please e-mail [jgallegos@luna.edu](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu) or call him at 505/454-2510.**



# Ninth Annual LCC Car Show images



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The 9th Annual Luna Community College Car Show on Saturday, June 15 had 65 entries. Approximately 700-1000 people attended the event throughout the day.





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# Employees making future brighter

By Dr. Pete Campos  
LCC President

Luna Community College employees continue to step forward, update compliance reports and go beyond what is expected of them.

This is evidenced by the professional and well documented employee presentations (followed by unprecedented applause) made during last week's work session and Saturday's Board of Trustees retreat.

The late Robert F. Kennedy, 64<sup>th</sup> US Attorney General, said, "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes our against injustice, the person sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

There is a lot of work going into updating department strategies, improving security measures to address today's unwarranted violence and focus on improving all programs and services to students. We're aligning and connecting the inner workings of our college and communicating with each other so we know what is being done to improve student services. Bygones are being set aside, we're agreeing to disagree and we're working past the frustrations we encounter daily.

Hugh Prather (born 1938), author, counselor and minister, said, "To live for results would be to sentence myself to continuous frustration.

My only sure reward is in my actions and not from them."

We still have a ways to go and we know it! We're human and deal with: our own attitudes, illnesses and frailties and those of others; colleague differences; student issues; and, spending more time at work,

**We still have a ways to go and we know it! We're human and deal with: our own attitudes, illnesses and frailties and those of others; colleague differences; student issues; and, spending more time at work, with one another, than we do at home awake with our spouses or significant others and families.**

with one another, than we do at home awake with our spouses or significant others and families. We're making the best of our work environment. This reminds me of my early experiences in education when we, as faculty and staff, would meet before

the start of the school day and after classes to encourage each other. Together, we jump started each day with a can-do feeling that we were energized to serve students and turned the disappointments of the day into positives by helping each other overcome stressful situations. Rod Williams, musician, said, "I choose to believe I can and will change the world with my words and thoughts."

We're trying to fit into our roles and using a cliché, the gloves we've been given. I believe eventually we will enjoy a comfortable fit. Sometimes the gloves don't right away, but when you keep putting them on for work every day they finally fit and feel good. Then, we never want to take them off. Woodrow Wilson, 28<sup>th</sup> US President, said, "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

**Phi Theta Kappa's Ashley Lovato (left) along with Humanities Instructor and PTK Advisor Dr. Twila Quintana display a Commit to Complete Banner at last week's LCC Board of Trustees Work Session. The LCC Board of Trustees will have its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19 at the LCC Student Services Building.**





**Re-accreditation  
Criterion 4  
Self-Study  
Presentation**

**When: June 18, 2013  
8:30 a.m.**

**Where: LRC Auditorium**





**Re-accreditation  
Criterion 5  
Self-Study  
Presentation**

**When: June 18, 2013  
10:00 a.m.**

**Where: LRC Auditorium**

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“The People’s College”

8th Annual  
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New Mexico

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“The  
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Luna  
Community  
College

2013

WHEN: Friday, July 26, 2013

TIME: 8:30 am

LOCATION: LRC LECTURE HALL

ADMISSION: FREE

SUMMER  
SLOA

Diana Bird — Nutrition

Paul Vance — Automatic Transmission & Drive-train

Roberta Montaña — Biology for Non-majors

A Rigdon — Computer Fundamentals

Rosalie Ortega — Cosmetology Theory II

Dawna Ortega-Gallegos — Clinical Training/Practicum II

Debbie Trujillo — Assessment of Child & Evaluation

Vidal Martinez — Firefighter Internship

Jeannie Abeyta — Physical Fitness

LouElla Marr-Montoya — Kickboxing & Step Combo

J. Ortzow — Self-Defense Karate

C. Martinez — Introduction to Physics

Gilbert Baca — Introduction to Sociology