

# The Luna Light



*"Creating Opportunities for You!"*

Second Volume 1 Issue 8

April 5, 2018



T.J. Cook (middle), from ABQid, an educational consultant with New Mexico Tech is helping Luna students hone their skills for the upcoming New Mexico Tech Wolves Den Competition. The Wolves Den, modeled after the television show Shark Tank, is an inventors and entrepreneurs competition for New Mexico college students with a grand prize of \$5,000. Four Luna students were accepted for this year's competition. The competition will take place on Saturday, April 14 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. Students pictured (clockwise) are Carlos De Herrera, Richard Trujillo, Desirre Herrera, and Maria Armijo. Not pictured is Jessica Weber. Luna STEM Instructor Geno Castillo mentors the group.

Luna Community College School of Business Director Lita Bernal is encouraging all current and future business students to meet with her or a member of the department for advising. Bernal said the School of Business is committed to providing personalized service. "If need be, we'll walk a student over to the Registrar's Office or any other department to make sure they are on the right path. We'll get the correct answer to any questions a student may have no matter what that takes," says Bernal. Bernal says the best way to reach her is to call her cell number at 575-643-5909 or her office at 505-454-5337. You can also contact School of Business Faculty/Advisor Nicholas Casados Jr. at 505-454-5354 or School of Business Office Manager Vanessa Velasquez at 505-454-5322. Students can also e-mail Bernal, Casados Jr. and Velasquez at [lbernal@luna.edu](mailto:lbernal@luna.edu), [ncasados@luna.edu](mailto:ncasados@luna.edu) and [vvelasquez@luna.edu](mailto:vvelasquez@luna.edu).



# Luna's Lori Clifton receives Los Alamos National Lab Scholarship

Luna Community College nursing student, Lori Clifton is one of 16 individuals who was awarded the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Foundation Regional College/Returning Student (RCRS) Scholarships. All 16 are individuals from northern New Mexico. These \$1000 awards from the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF) help local, non-traditional students return to formal education to expand job opportunities or pursue new careers with a certification or two-year degree from an accredited college or university in Northern New Mexico.



Lori Clifton

"Lori is a very good student that is dedicated and works really hard," said Luna Community College Nursing Director Maxine Hughes. "She will make a great nurse."

Since 2011, 189 Regional College/Returning Student scholarships, totaling \$189,000, have supported adult students from Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe and Taos counties.

"RCRS Scholarships support northern New Mexicans as they seek to improve their lives through education and prepare for a wide variety of fields such as hospitality and tourism, trades like welding and

HVAC/plumbing, environmental sciences, health care, news media, and many others," said John McDermon, scholarship program manager for the LANL Foundation. "We're proud of our winners and even see many of them continue their educational journey with a four-year degree. Sometimes a scholarship is that boost of support an adult needs to start on a new career path."

RCRS Scholarships are offered twice each year, with deadlines in June and November, to students in the seven county area of Northern New Mexico. LAESF has awarded a total of \$6.1 million to more than 1,300 local students since 1999. The program is

managed by the LANL Foundation, with oversight provided by an advisory committee of volunteer donors.

Scholarships are funded by Los Alamos National Laboratory employees, retirees, contractors, and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS). Community members and local businesses may also contribute to the fund. Donations are accepted year round.

For more information, visit [www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships) or contact John McDermon at [john@lanlfoundation.org](mailto:john@lanlfoundation.org) or 505-753- 8890 ext. 116.

## LeFebre's comment

The Luna Light ran a section in its last edition sharing comments from students and staff on their views on the Higher Learning Commission visit to the College. Luna employee Orlando LeFebre's comment was inadvertently left out. We apologize for our error. Here is LeFebre's comment.

"Although I didn't meet with them, I assisted with the hospitality aspect. They were very cordial with myself and everyone."

The LANL Foundation is accepting applications April 2 through May 31 for Northern New Mexico Tribal Business Scholarships and Regional College/Returning Student Scholarships, each worth \$1500. Additional information and applications may be found at [www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships).

## Softball and baseball updates

### Softball 8-27 overall, 0-12 in WJCAC

March 28	Adams St. JV	W	8-7
March 28	Adams St. JV	L	12-7
March 30	Odessa College	L	11-4
March 30	Odessa College	L	12-1
March 31	Odessa College	L	24-0
March 31	Odessa College	L	11-5

### Baseball 6-28 overall, 0-16 in WJCAC

March 30	N.M. Military Institute	L	15-3
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March 30	N.M. Military Institute	L	22-9
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March 31	N.M. Military Institute	L	9-4
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March 31	N.M. Military Institute	L	12-1
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### Upcoming home baseball schedule

April 27	Howard College (2 games)	Noon
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April 28	Howard College (2 games)	Noon
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### Upcoming home softball schedule

April 6	Frank Phillips College (2)	1 p.m.
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April 7	Frank Phillips College (2)	1 p.m.
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**Fourteen Luna Community College students recently took and passed the American Welding Society Certification. Pictured (first row, l-r) are Mike Thomas (American Welding Society Senior Inspector), Ferdinand Valencia, Manuel Romero, Joseph Montano, Travis Baca, Alex Allington, Jadan Hern, Joseph Montoya and Luna Welding Instructor Don Adkins. (Back row, l-r) are Raul Ramirez, Mario Martinez, Jacob Mejillas, Brady Vigil, Gene Martinez, Santiago Vigil, Jason Griego and Julius Valencia.**



**The first part of the seating at the Media Education Center Auditorium has been installed. The second part of the seating is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, April 11. The project is on schedule for its completion date of Friday, May. 4.**

# Amazing performance

## *Lady Rough Riders upset Adams St. JV, 8-7 on the road*



The Luna Community College Softball Team pictured before playing the Adams St. junior varsity team on Wednesday, March 28 took game one in an 8-7 nail-biter. Adams St. is a member of NCAA II.

The Luna Community College Lady Rough Riders had a simple formula entering their game with the Adams St. junior varsity team on the road on Wednesday, March 28—they went, they saw, they conquered.

The Lady Rough Riders, a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association upset Adams St., who is a Division II member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, 8-7 in the first game of a doubleheader.

Down 3-2 after one inning, the Lady Rough Riders rallied to score two runs in the third, two in the fifth, and two in the seventh to rally for the win. Adams State was not going away easy. After being held scoreless for five innings, they scored an

impressive four runs in the bottom of the seventh to make the game interesting, if not exciting. A rundown at home plate by the Lady Rough Riders ended the game.

“You can’t coach effort and they gave great effort,” says Luna Interim Coach Mark Mattox.

Victoria Valtierra, a freshman from El Paso, was the winning pitcher. Taylor Quintana, also a freshman from El Paso got the save. The big hit of the day came from sophomore Sarah Rocha who hit a home run in the fourth inning nabbing two RBI.

The Lady Rough Riders also had a solid defensive performance to preserve the win. Luna lost the second game 12-7.



Pictured clockwise are: Lithany DeVontenno throws to first base after an Adams St. bunt as Nycole Medina looks on; Annika Aguire and Victoria Cordova play infield defense and Luna players Taylor Quintana and Brittany White get into their defensive stance.

# “I chose Luna!”

## Jeramiah Gouin doesn't let bullfighting injury slow him down

Jeramiah Gouin was a longtime bullfighter. Today he is simply a fighter—not a put-up-your-dukes-type of fighter, rather an everyday fighter overcoming the struggles of being confined to a wheelchair.

Gouin, a freshman and general studies major at Luna Community College, vaguely remembers May 30, 2016. That was the day he got a spinal cord injury.

“I just remember falling down,” says Gouin. “A bull hit me in one of my legs. I was at a rodeo in Maxwell.”

Gouin had just finished his junior year at West Las Vegas High School.

After the injury, Gouin spent five and a half weeks at UNM Hospital. After that Gouin spent three months at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo.

“With a spinal cord injury, it's unknown if someone will fully recover or not,” says Gouin. “I feel someday I will get something back. Maybe not to fully walk but get some motor movement in my body. Right now my fingers don't move and I can't sit up on my own; I have no leg movement.”

Gouin remains optimistic and is certainly grateful with what he can do.

“I eat and drink on my own with assistive help,” says Gouin. “I do small stuff like write with adaptive writing equipment.”

Despite the challenges, Gouin earned a 4.0 grade point average in the fall semester.

“I like Luna; it's easy to get around,” says Gouin. “Luna is affordable and my classes are close to one another. I like pretty much all my instructors and everyone has been nice to me; everyone talks to me. I've met people from places like Bernalillo, Las Cruces and San Antonio.”

Gouin does point to some much-needed improvements at Luna.

“I have trouble with some of the doors,” says Gouin. “Not every building has a push-button door



Jeremiah Gouin (white shirt) is pictured here bullfighting in a local rodeo. Rodeo photos courtesy of Gouin.

that is accessible. There aren't that many buildings in the whole town that are accessible.”

Gouin says that Luna employee Michael Jaramillo poured some cement recently near the administration building that has helped him get in and out of his vehicle a lot easier.

Gouin says that coming to college was one of his only options after the injury.

“I don't have a choice but to come to school,” says Gouin who graduated from Robertson High School in 2017. “I want to get a decent job one day and I don't feel like staying home. I still go to rodeos and my family is still involved in them.”

Right now, Gouin announces at rodeos which keeps him connected to the sport.

Gouin had hopes to be a professional bullfighter and team roper. A bullfighter's job is to keep the bull away from the rider giving the rider enough time to get to a safe area.

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# No slowing down for Gouin...



Jeremiah Gouin is pictured here team roping in a local rodeo. In the second photo, Gouin recently attended a student forum.

**Continued from previous page**  
“School wasn’t my thing,” says Gouin. “But now it is. Rodeo was my main focus. I do as much as a I can. The more you’re out of your house, the better it is. If you say you can do something, there is a possibility you can. There is always a way around things.”

Gouin says he does other things for entertainment.

“I go watch my friend D.J. Bustos who plays basketball for Highlands,” says Gouin. “I was very close to his family when I was younger.”

Bustos gives Gouin some great advice.

**“I have hopes and dreams and high spirits,”—Jeremiah Gouin.**

“He tells me that some days are good and some days are bad, but overall have a great attitude,” says Gouin.

And that attitude is what will get Gouin a good paying job.

“After graduating from Luna, I want to go to Highlands and major in forestry. I want to do GIS (geographic information system)

mapping. Gouin worked for the U.S. Forest Department this past summer where he did Avenza mapping reports for them.

But one day, Gouin would like to get back into the rodeo.

“I’d like to be back on a horse. I’m waiting for my body to heal. There are special saddles for people on wheelchairs. I’m inspired by people like Amberley Snyder who has fought her way back from a back injury and is competing again. I have hopes and dreams and high spirits,” says Gouin.

# Breakfast Burritos

by



*Available now*

Come in and enjoy a burrito  
with a small house coffee or small  
fountain drink for \$4.50 or without  
a drink for \$4.00

