

The Luna Light



"Creating Opportunities for You!"

Second Volume 1 Issue 5

February 23, 2018

Student forum scheduled for March 1

*Door prizes, pizza,
ice-cream floats
among free items*

Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna is headlining a student forum scheduled from 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 1 at the Luna Coffee Shop.

Serna will give updates on accreditation, the Higher Learning Commission visit scheduled on March 19-21, the reconstitution of student government and other issues relating to Luna. Serna is scheduled to begin speaking at 11:50 a.m.

Several Luna Community College employees and departments will also be at the event providing valuable information. They are: Moses Marquez, Admissions; Michael Montoya, Financial Aid; Renee Maestas, Student Support Center; Henrietta Romero, Registrar's; Francina Martinez, Business Office; Linda Salazar, Learning Resource Center and Matthew Griego, Life Safety/Security.

One focal point of the College is to get students to use their student e-mail. Activities are planned around this, with students having an opportunity to win prizes. Students will also be provided the most current information on RAVE, social media links and App access.

Free pizza and ice-cream floats with different kinds of soda will be served. Door prizes will also be drawn.

For more information, call Amanda Lucero at 454-2557.



Luna Community College Student Government reached a major milestone on Valentine's Day and elected its executive officers. They are Jessica Weber, President (STEM); Elizabeth Bachicha-Conner, Vice-President (Mathematics) and Maria Crisostomo, Secretary-Treasurer, (Nursing). Student senators are Amber Trujillo (Dental Assisting); Andre Shenk (Nursing); Julio Serna (General Studies) and Chantel Rivera (Dental Assisting). Reconstituting Student Government is integral to building shared governance at LCC.

Pictured (front row, l-r) are Amber Trujillo, Jessica Weber, Maria Crisostomo and Elizabeth Bachicha-Conner. (Back row, l-r) are Andre Shenk and Julio Serna. (Not pictured, Chantel Rivera).

#LCCmatters

Lady Rough Riders take one of four; baseball team loses two to W. Oklahoma



Ashlea Ortega



Sarah Rocha



Ricky Martinez



Eric Alvarado

The Luna Community College softball team took one of four games on the road over the weekend.

The Lady Rough Riders (2-12) beat Lamar Junior College 3-2 in the second game on Saturday after losing 7-2 on in the opener. Trinidad State College beat the Lady Rough Riders 10-1 and 5-3 on Sunday. Two games scheduled for Monday were cancelled due to weather.

Ashlea Ortega was the winning pitcher on Saturday. Ortega also had a hot hand at the plate hitting .750 for the weekend.

“Our team continues to work hard,” said Luna Coach Lucas Griego. “They have personal pride to get through the tough times. I could not have asked for a better group of kids; they are great human beings.”

Sarah Rocha hit .600, while Taylor Quintana hit .500.

Griego said that the wind was as high as 45 per miles per hour at times, which did not sit well with his pitchers.

“Several of our pitchers throw change-ups, so the ball was everywhere,” said Griego.

Griego said that the team’s primary goal is to do well in conference play that begins in mid-March.

“I could not have asked for a better group of kids; they are great human beings,”—Luna Softball Coach Lucas Griego.

“We believe we have what it takes to make the post-season playoffs,” said Griego. “We’re continuing to play hard.”

The Lady Rough Riders play Otero Community College on Thursday at home and Trinidad State College on Sunday at home with a double header scheduled for both days. The games, played at the West Las Vegas Softball Field, both have noon starts.

The Luna baseball team is now 4-6 after losing two games to Western Oklahoma on Saturday. The Rough Riders lost the first one 6-3 and the second 18-13. Both games were played in Portales.

James Ramos and Brandon Douglas were tagged with the losses. Eric Alvarado, Michael Avilucea and Luis Salmeron each had two hits for

the Rough Riders in game one. In game two, Ricky Martinez led the team with three hits. Wellington Balsley, Jr. Maldonado, Salmeron and Alvarado each had two hits.

“Western Oklahoma is a really good team,” said Luna Coach TC Nusser. “We need to eliminate errors and walks. We eliminate these two things and we’re in every game.”

The Rough Riders had seven errors in game two.

“We’re on the verge of being a very good team,” said Nesser. “We left 10 guys on base in game one and eight in game two. We will be doing more situational hitting in practice. Everyone is working hard; there is no quit on this team.”

The Rough Riders play a double header at home on Friday against Otero Community College and turn around and head to La Junta, Colo. on Saturday to play the same Otero club. On Monday, Luna takes on Dodge City Community College at home. All games are doubleheaders with a noon starting time. Home games are played at Brandt Park on the campus of Highlands University.

Standing up for Luna

By Jesse Gallegos

The Luna Way



There comes a time in your life when you have to stand up for what you believe in.

I'm sure all of us, at one time or another,

have regrets for not speaking out on something. I know I do.

Luna Community College is working hard to show the Higher Learning Commission that we deserve to keep our accreditation. It's really simple: Luna is too important to a lot of people in this part of the state not to stay accredited. It's vital, not just for today, next month or next year; this school should have its doors open for decades to come.

Students that aren't even born yet can benefit from a school such as Luna just like the ones that have benefited over the last 50 years.

What we do today will have ramifications down the road. Luna is a special place and with a little tender love and care, this school can prosper.

I've had the privilege to join Interim President Ricky Serna during our service area tour and hear what the great people in these small towns have to say. I haven't heard anyone even remotely mention they want to see Luna go away. Sure, they would like to see improvements on certain things, but they want us. They understand the importance of a



Like the sun seen amongst the clouds, Luna Community College is on the right path for a bright future. (Photo by David Whipple)

quality education at an affordable price for rural New Mexico.

Las Vegas and northern New Mexico would not be the same without Luna. Luna needs northern New Mexico just as northern New Mexico needs Luna.

I wanted to share my comments to the Higher Learning Commission to all of you. This is how I feel.

My name is Jesse Gallegos. I am currently the Public Relations Coordinator at Luna Community College.

I previously worked at Luna for 7 and 1/2 years. I left for 26 months

and came back to work for Luna in November 2017. From the moment I left Luna, I knew I had made a mistake.

Luna is a special place where many employees and students come to work and school every day and give a great effort.

Over the course of the last three months, I have seen Luna grow in spirit and confidence. It's one of the most amazing accomplishments I have seen in a workplace.

People have and continue to make a diligent effort to make this college better.

Our Interim President Ricky Serna has pulled people together and has led by example. Our board of trustees have made significant strides in better understanding their roles and responsibilities.

I came back to Luna because I missed our students. Our students, most of them poor and many of them fragile, look at Luna for an opportunity. Luna not only provides them a quality education, but the courage and confidence to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Has Luna made mistakes? Sure it has.

My hope is that we have learned from them and move forward to make this place bigger and better. Another hope is that the HLC will see improvements that we have made and allow us to keep our accreditation. Our students need Luna.

Luna well represented at Las Vegas Night at the Legislature



Pictured clockwise are: Robert Ortiz, Mary Helen Ortiz, Francisco Apodaca, Dr. Sharon Lalla, Dawna Ortega-Gallegos, Jessica Weber, Mayor Tonita Gurule, Timothy Goetsch, Juan Carlos Vidal- Perez, Ron Martinez, Francina Martinez, Ortega-Gallegos, Breanna Gould, Karen Wezwick, Dan Romero, Georgia Baca, Alex Perea, Miguel Angel and Ricky Serna.

STUDENT FORUM

W/PIZZA & ICE CREAM FLOATS!

All students are invited to attend a Student Forum with Interim President Ricky Serna along with a Pizza and Ice Cream Float Party!

#LCCmatters



Thursday March 1, 2018

11:30am ~ 1:00pm

LCC Coffee Shop



For more information please call (505) 454-2557

"Creating Opportunities for You!"

“I chose Luna!”

Andre Shenk says that he appreciates what College has to offer

From Lancaster, Pa. to Las Vegas, N.M. From the East Coast to the Southwest. A world of difference, but to Luna Community College nursing student Andre Shenk, Las Vegas is home. Shenk and his wife moved to Las Vegas a little over three years ago. They were looking for something different. And somewhere along the journey, Andre found Luna.

“I decided I was interested in nursing,” says Andre. “I started to take the pre-requisite courses because they were convenient, applied to nursing program and now I’m in my last semester. I appreciate the opportunities the school offers to the community. Without this, I wouldn’t have gone into nursing.”

Lancaster is a city with 60,000 population. Depending on who you talk to Las Vegas is right around 14,000.

“The town has been an adjustment, but it’s starting to feel like home,” said Andre. “I really appreciate the dedication of the nursing department. I recommend Luna to other students. Having gone to other schools, people don’t know how good they have it as far as



Andre Shenk

affordability.”

Prior to attending Luna, Andre earned a master’s degree.

Andre is a member of the student government and says that he has seen a positive change at Luna.

“Things like the Website, The Luna Light, more activities—there is more energy, promotion and awareness. Student government serves as an important factor in shared governance. We have to make sure it’s sustainable,” says Andre.

He says that he likes the approach the school has taken concerning the Show-Cause Order.

“I appreciate that the school is taking this issue seriously; it needed to be addressed to a substantial degree,” says Andre. “It’s been frustrating, but I remain hopeful—it has nothing to do on an academic level.”

A lot of work goes into being a nursing student at Luna. The college has a fine reputation.

“There is a lot of setbacks and triumphs,” said Shenk. “I feel good about the time I spent here. Hopefully future students will have the same opportunity.”

Gloria Pacheco shares comments to HLC

The following is an excerpt of Dental Assisting Program Administrator Gloria Pacheco’s comments to the Higher Learning Commission.

I am currently an employee for Luna Community College, since January 2001. The time spent at LCC has been pleasantly successful, challenging and rewarding to say the least... Luna Community College serves a diversity of folks within the local community, as well as, the surrounding rural communities,

for example, Pecos, Mora, Santa Rosa, Roy, Wagon Mound Springer and others...respective individuals who come to our community college, whether traditional or non-traditional, present themselves with various interests in education, that promotes their personal lives, as well as for their families, toward a better, well rounded future. Since the early years LCC has been preparing individuals to be successful and workforce ready.



Recipients of the Alta Vista Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship are: Ashton Borunda, Lori Clifton and Vanetia Gonzales. Delicia Pacheco (far left) is Alta Vista Ladies Auxiliary representative. The three recipients will receive financial support for the remaining three semesters of nursing school.



Substantial progress is being made every week at the Media Education Center. When finished, the Media Education Center will have seating for 1,100.

Pecos High School Homecoming Parade



Several Luna Community College employees participated in the Pecos Homecoming Parade recently. They are Martin Garcia, Moses Marquez, Nash Segura, Georgia Baca and Joyce Garcia.



Luna freshman Jared Gonzales talks with UNM Recruiter Jacy Watley on Wednesday at the LCC Humanities Building. Watley says that UNM is one of the colleges he would like to attend after graduating from Luna.



Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna held public forums in Mora and Santa Rosa, recently. Among the topics discussed were accreditation updates, strategic class times, programs and classes, dual credit, tax revenue and expense summaries. Serna will have forums in Las Vegas and Springer next week.

The Staff Advisory Senate encourages all staff to be on the lookout for upcoming events and forums during the week of March 5-9. Attendance is encouraged!