

The Luna Light



"Creating Opportunities for You!"

Second Volume 1 Issue 6

March 8, 2018

Luna legend retires



Luna Community College Furniture and Cabinetry Instructor Robert Ortiz retired after 30 years at Luna. Ortiz had just a few things to say. They are the following: "I gave it my all and I will miss working for Luna. I want to thank Luna for the opportunity; it's a great college. I will miss everyone, especially the students." Ortiz is pictured with his last class of his teaching career. They are (front row, l-r) Andy Padilla, Chris Gallegos, Robert Ortiz, Jennie Mae Romero, Mary Helen Ortiz. (Back row, l-r) Archie Archibeque, Dr. Alvin Korte, Earl Tarr, Marcos Mejillas, Kathy Archuleta, Adolfo Romero and Emilia Rivera.

Sisneros resigns from BOT

Luna Community College Board of Trustee Severiano Sisneros resigned effective Wednesday, March 7. Sisneros, who represents the Santa Rosa area, was elected in March 2015.

"As a father and provider for a family of nine, and after careful consideration of the demands of my professional career alongside the responsibilities of a LCC Trustee, I have elected to dedicate my time to my family and profession," said Sisneros in a letter to the Luna Board of Trustees. "I have grown to appreciate, greatly, the college for all its great staff, faculty and most important its students. I thank everyone for the professionalism shown to me and express gratitude to my fellow trustees. I am confident that under the College's current presidential leadership and all

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Sisneros...

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the hard work of staff and faculty, the college will prevail and continue to provide quality education.”

The College is looking into the next step for Sisneros’ replacement.

“We want to thank Mr. Sisneros for his service and all of the expertise he brought to the Luna Board,” said Luna Community College Board Chairman Dan Romero. “He will be missed.”

Sisneros, who is a licensed Professional Engineer, played a vital role in Santa Rosa’s Satellite Woodshop that had its open house



Severiano Sisneros

in January. The new woodshop offers an opportunity for dual credit, for credit and community education courses. The new woodshop offers more space and new equipment to safely accommodate more students.

“Trustee Sisneros is among the most visionary individuals I’ve met and I will miss him,” said Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna. “The proof of his passion for education is rooted in the phenomenal job he and his wife Aurora, have done raising nine successful children.”

LCC Small Business Development Center Client of the Year—Las Vegas Karate Academy

Karate Academy, a woman-owned business based in Las Vegas, New Mexico, specializes in martial arts training, with an emphasis on Karate. The small business is owned by Margaret Montoya who has been teaching kids in the Las Vegas and surrounding areas martial arts since she was a freshman at New Mexico Highlands University. Margaret received her black belt in 1993 and has been instructing ever since.

Margaret is committed to providing her expertise to those in her area and has been doing so for over 15 years. She has the ability to train the younger generation with her exceptional skills and serves as mentor that has a positive influence on the children she has in her academy.

Owning her own business has been extremely rewarding. When asked how many students she has seen through the doors of her business she stated humbly, “probably thousands.” She went on to explain how she enjoys watching the students she teaches progress, learn, and grow. She is a part of these students’ lives and it is a



Margaret Montoya is pictured here with LCC SBDC Director Don Bustos.

rewarding job to have. Margaret can truly see the impact that she once instructed return with their own

children. Training and mentoring that provides positive youth development

Margaret first approached the Small Business Development Center in August, 2002 and was seeking information about loans in hopes of acquiring an existing karate school in Las Vegas. She was able to acquire the needed start-up costs through the direct assistance of the SBDC. Margaret stated, “I personally want to thank Don Bustos for assisting me in gaining the financial capital I needed to start my business. The SBDC staff has always been very professional, friendly and welcoming. I would like to thank the community of Las Vegas for their continued support over the 15 years I have been in business.”

When walking into the Karate Academy, you don’t have to look far to see the success that the business has had over the years once you see the walls adorned in trophies and metals. When asked how she would describe her business over the 15 years, Margaret replied, “It has been a constant success.”

Luna Community College

"Creating Opportunities for You!"

Higher Learning Commission Site Visit Forum Itinerary
Monday, March 19 - Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Monday, March 19, 2018

Student Forum

12:00 pm

Allied Health Lecture Hall

Lunch will be provided

Board of Trustees Meeting

3:30 pm

LCC Student Success Center Board Room

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Community Forum

10:30 am

Allied Health Lecture Hall



#LCCmatters

Nearly 200 students attend forum



Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna gave updates on accreditation, the Higher Learning Commission visit scheduled for March 19-21, the reconstitution of student government and other issues relating to Luna.



“I chose Luna!”

Isaiha Gallegos says grandparents are his inspiration

When Isaiha Gallegos was a little boy he told his grandma Josephine that one day when he grew up he was going to buy her a mansion and hire assistants to help her around the house.

See, Isaiha Gallegos appreciates many things in life. Perhaps he appreciates his grandma and his grandfather Ruben the most. The duo raised Isaiha from the age of one. They also raised Isaiha’s older sister.

“I call them nana and popo,” says Isaiha. “I was taught to call them this. They call me hito. They consider me one of their kids. When my grandma talks about her five kids, two of us our grandkids, but she considers us their kids.”

Isaiha is majoring in automotive technology and would also like to earn a pre-engineering degree from Luna.

“My grandparents raised me well,” says Isaiha. “I don’t want to do the wrong thing. They want me to succeed. The reason that I succeed is for them. One day I want to do something great for them. My grandma is always talking about going to Graceland. She loves Elvis. My grandpa has a 54 Chevy. I would like to restore it for him.”

We will have to wait and see if Isaiha ever buys his grandma a mansion. Josephine doesn’t mind if she never lives in one.

Josephine says she loved raising her grandchildren.

“I always made sure his clothes were clean and I attended to both of my grandchildren,” says Josephine. “We weren’t rich, but we did the best



Isaiha Gallegos is pictured here with his grandma and grandfather Josephine and Ruben Gallegos. He is a 2017 West Las Vegas High School graduate.

we could. These kids are very lucky because we love them. I don’t know what I would do without them. We treasure them.”

It’s obvious Isaiha treasures his grandparents as well.

“He’s a smart young man, he will go places,” says Josephine. “We’re very proud of him. I introduce him as my son. You don’t have to give birth to a child to consider them your son or daughter. We will support him the best we can. To me, he’s an amazing young man. I enjoyed raising both of them. If I could, I would reverse time

and bring them back to when they were little.”

Isaiha is probably best known for being a basketball star at West Las Vegas.

I had a lot of great experiences,” says Isaiha. “I played in back-to-back state championships in 2015 and 2016. It was the highlight of my life. I got to play in the biggest stage of basketball (UNM Arena formerly known as The Pit). Isaiha says that playing in Gillie Lopez Gymnasium wasn’t too shabby either.

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Sandra Crespin's Early Childhood Education students recently had a surprise visit from Dr. Seuss character "The Cat in the Hat." Pictured (l-r) are: Emily Gallegos, Carlie Montano, Ariana Nunez, Levi Lujan, Alexander Ashe (The Cat In The Hat), Darlene Encinitas, Jeremiah Jeffrey, Elijah Estrada, Princeton Jackson and Caleb Miller.

Isaiha Gallegos...

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"I've seen that gym packed so many times, it was intense. It was fun," says Isaiha.

Guess who was his biggest fan? If you said his grandma, you're right.

"My grandparents made every game," says Isaiha.

"My grandma was my biggest fan. She was the loudest. I could hear her yelling. She would sit three rows up from the floor. I appreciate them greatly. They are my inspiration."

Isaiha says he has learned a great virtue.

"Take advantage of the opportunities that you are given. Cherish every moment that you have," says Gallegos.

One of the things Isaiha cherishes is Luna.

"Many of us don't get many opportunities for other colleges, so Luna is important. You only get certain opportunities and you have to take the ones that you have," says Isaiha. "I think Luna is a good school. We have a lot of good programs and really like the students

that attend here."

One of the individuals that Isaiha leans on for assistance is Luna Automotive Technology Instructor Gene Sandoval.

"He is my mentor," says Isaiha. "He knows his stuff. I could be struggling for something and he will lead me in the right direction."

Sandoval says that Isaiha is a joy to teach.

"He's a good student," says Sandoval. "He pays attention and is always

willing to learn new things. He is the type of student you enjoy teaching because he absorbs all the information you give to him. I think he has a big future ahead of him."

Isaiha says that it's important for him to stay on the right path.

"I like Proverb 14:23—All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. I have learned to work hard and not to brag and good things come to those people who work for it," says Isaiha.

"Many of us don't get many opportunities for other college's, so it's important. You only get certain opportunities and you have to take the ones that you have,"—Isaiha Gallegos on Luna Community College.

Luna's Phi Theta Kappa earns awards

Luna Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Beta Nu Chapter earned several awards at the PTK New Mexico Region Convention recently. The Beta Mu Nu Chapter of Luna is, once again, the top chapter in the state.

Luna's Beta Nu Chapter received the following:

- Most Distinguished Chapter Award
- Distinguished Honors in Action Award*
- Distinguished HIA Theme Award (Theme 5-Beaty and Vulgarly)*
- Most Distinguished College Project Award*
- Five Star Level Award (Five Star Chapter Plan)
- Spirit Award
- Shining Star Award
- Meritorious Distinction for C4 Commit to Complete Participation
- Pinnacle Award (Increasing Chapter Membership in 2017)

- Most Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award (Gisela Acosta, Haran Altima, Bethany Brafford, Vanessa Chung and Jessey Martinez)*
- Mist Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Award (Cindy Armijo and Dr. Twila Quintana)*
- Continued Excellence Advisor Award (Dr. Twila Quintana)*
- Distinguished Regional Officers (Bethany Brafford and Harain Aldama)*

Newly elected New Mexico Regional Officers for 2018: Jessey Martinez, Regional President and Jessica Aldama Murillo, Northern District Vice President.

Luna chapter officers, members and Advisor Dr. Twila Quintana will be attending the PTK Centennial Catalyst International Convention April 19-21 in Kansas City, Missouri, where they will be acquiring professional and chapter development and will be competing for International Hallmark Awards (these areas are marked with an asterisk).

Baseball team wins two

The Luna Community College baseball team broke a 9-game losing streak after beating University of the Southwest JV 9-7 and 16-12 over the weekend. The Rough Riders are 6-12 on the year.

JR Maldonado and Wellington Balsley each had two hits in game one. Jared Gonzalez added two RBI with Eric Alvarado hitting a double. James Ramos took the win with Manny Cachora taking the save.

In game two, Joseph Ramos and Maldonado had three hits each. Ramos had 5 RBI including a homerun and a double. Ricky Martinez added two hits with a double. Mike Avilucea added a triple. Arturo Archuleta was the winning pitcher.

The Rough Riders open up conference play this weekend at Odessa College.

"Our conference is one of the best in the nation," said Luna Coach TC Nusser. "It's going to be an uphill battle. Our kids are looking forward to the challenge. We're excited to get it going. Other teams are not expecting much from us; we're hoping to change that opinion."

Notes: The Luna softball game scheduled this past weekend with North Platte Community College in Nebraska was cancelled due to weather.

Breakfast Burritos
by
SugarBomb

Available every day starting on Monday, March 5

Cafe de Luna

Come in and enjoy a burrito with a small house coffee or small fountain drink for \$4.75 or without a drink for \$4.00

Starbucks Coffee logos and Luna Community College logo are visible at the bottom of the advertisement.