

The Luna Light



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

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April 20-26

Don Perkins to be at Luna CC

Former NFL star to speak, sign autographs

Don Perkins, who played for legendary coach Tom Landry, will be a guest speaker at Luna Community College’s “A Conversation with the Community,” at noon on Tuesday, April 21 at the Allied Health Auditorium.

Perkins was the first star running back for the Dallas Cowboys to reach 6,000 rushing yards. In 1961, he was voted the NFL’s Rookie of the Year. He played with such greats as Don Meredith, Dan Reeves, Craig Morton, Larry Cole, Chuck Howley, Lee Roy Jordan, Mel Renfro and Bob Lilly.

“I never planned on going to college, and I certainly didn’t plan on playing in the pros,” says Perkins, a native of Waterloo, Iowa. “I grew up in a very modest home. I was prepared to look for a job after high school. Like many poor kids I wanted to get a job and make some money.”

As it turned out the scholarships were few and far between. He eventually ended up playing four years at the University of New Mexico, where he was a three-time All-Skyline selection.

“My expectations were practical; but I always worked hard,” says the six-time all-pro.

Perkins played in an era where rich contracts were not at a premium.

“I remember I was offered a \$1,500 bonus from the Cowboys and a contract for \$10,000,” recalls Perkins. “The good thing is that even if I didn’t make the team I would get to keep the bonus.”

Not only did he make the team, Perkins is a staple of the



The first photograph is of Don Perkins during his playing days with the Dallas Cowboys. The second is a recent photograph of Perkins.

Cowboys as a member of their prestigious and exclusive Ring of Honor which includes Roger Staubach, Tony Dorsett, Randy White, Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith. He recalls being coached by one of the all-time greats in Landry.

“Tom (Landry) had the patience of Job; he was a good man; he wasn’t anyone’s cheer-

leader,” said Perkins. “I remember we had to run what was called “The Landry Mile.” You had to run it in a certain time and if you flunked, he would cut you. I don’t think he was overly enthusiastic about having a five foot ten inch running back at about 200 pounds. I think they were looking for a reason to cut me, but I fooled them for a number of years.”

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Big smiles accompany the recent announcement of the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission approving the Luna Community College Nursing Program as a candidate to go forward with their national accreditation. Pictured are Assistant Director Annette Weinkauff, Student Specialist Jennifer Sanchez, Nursing Faculty Jackie Arguello-Romero, Nursing Faculty Maxine Hughes, Director Conni Reichert, Nursing Faculty Susan Olson, Office Manager Elaine Montano and Nursing Faculty Sharon Holguin. See page 4 for more information.

Manthei: LCC provides excellent education

He says, however, that LCC needs to work on communication

Name: Pete Manthei

Position: Director of Institutional Research & Development

How many years have you worked at LCC? Almost 2

Favorite food and why? Chicken Enchiladas, they're good

Favorite hobby and why? Old British Cars, they keep me off the street and out of trouble.

Favorite TV show and why? Monk, it makes me laugh.

Where would like to see yourself five years from now? Retired, I hope, if I can afford it.

What do you like best about LCC? There are good people here working to provide an excellent educational experience for the students.

What do you like least about LCC? Lots of the employees are working to improve the college but there doesn't always seem to be communication between the groups and changes that are made sometimes seem to be haphazard.

What is your greatest strength? Getting along with people. Working with others to solve problems.

Anyone wishing to nominate an LCC employee to be featured in this section should call Jesse Gallegos at 454-2510 or e-mail him at ja-gallegos@luna.edu.

Peter Manthei is the director of institutional research & development. His favorite hobby is working on old British cars. His favorite food is chicken enchiladas. He hopes to be retired five years from now.



Several hundred people were in attendance at Valley Elementary and Middle School's 40-Year Anniversary Celebration. Pictured (l-r) are: West Las Vegas Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Abreu, Rep. Richard Vigil, Valley Principal Becky Gallegos, WLV Board Member David Romero, Luna Community College President and Sen. Dr. Pete Campos, Valley Middle School's first Student Council President Manuel Vigil, who was also the guest speaker, WLV Board Member Kenny Lujan, WLV Board Secretary Caroline Lopez and Sen. Phil Griego. Valley Elementary and Middle School is part of the WLV school system and is in Luna Community College's service area. The celebration took place on Wednesday, April 8.

New programs at Luna Community College

The following programs have received both LCC Board of Trustees and HED approval.

Sports Performance-- AAS

Mass Media -- AAS

Video Game and Development -- AAS

Fire Science -- AAS

Equine Science -- AAS

Computer Science -- AAS (updated)

Mathematics -- AS

SEED Program

June 1, 2009-July 24, 2009

Summer

Excellence (in)

Educational

Development



Get the Edge on the Competition!

What is the SEED Program?

The LCC SEED Program is for pre-college students who want to accomplish their educational goals, whether they are looking for college credit or just wanting to discover their passion. Academics are at the core of the SEED Program experience, with over 162 summer courses to choose from, in a variety of formats and course lengths.* [See Summer Schedule.](#)

Who is eligible?

Public High School students who are classified as a Junior or Senior for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

How do I apply?

The **first step** in applying for the SEED Program is to fill out an application at the LCC Dual-Credit Office located within the Technologies Building in Room TE-144.

The **second step** is to complete the LCC COMPASS Assessment with the LCC ACCESS Center in the Student Services Building if COMPASS has not yet been completed or student has not taken the ACT.

The **third step** is to bring in a copy of your LCC COMPASS Assessment or recent copy of ACT scores and meet with LCC Dual-Credit staff to complete career cluster survey and advisement.

Each student who is accepted in the SEED Program will receive an Educational Care Package (ECP) that includes:

Tuition Waiver

Book Fee Waiver

\$150 Stipend

Each student will be assigned to a College Success Mentor.

Summer extracurricular activities will also be available for students participating in the SEED Program.

*Prerequisites may apply

(505) 454-5377 or 1-800-588-7232 X1075

Don Perkins...

Perhaps it was the rest of the NFL that was fooled. Perkins played a total of 107 games in eight years and had 1,500 carries for 6,217 yards and 45 touchdowns. Many, however, thought he left the game too early.

"I saw what happened to athletes if they stayed a little too long. I remember a great boxer by the name of Joe Louis who stayed too long and stars in the NFL that lost a step that were relegated to kickoffs or punt teams; there's where they put people that are expendable. I didn't need to do that with myself."

After his pro career he received a job offer with CBS sports.

"I broadcasted games for two or three years and they wanted me to move to New York City, but I liked the southwest. I thought about my wife and my four children. I like the heterogeneous mixture here in New Mexico. It's not white or black in this state. There are so many different cultures and I like that," says Perkins.

Perkins and his wife raised two boys and two girls.

"I want my legacy to me my children and my grandchildren. I don't see myself like other people see me. There is no reason that a guy that played pro football should think he is better than a mechanic, a school teacher or a truck driver. And I mean that sincerely," says Perkins. "I drive a Volkswagen; I live in a modest home in an old neighborhood. I do have 3,400 gallons of water in my back yard called a swimming pool. I don't know what the top is, I believe having a good relationship with your family and having good friends is what matters."

Perkins has 10 grandchildren. Aside from speaking engagements, he keeps himself busy by being part of their lives. One in particular, An-

thony Perkins may be following in his footsteps.

"He attends school at the University of Colorado and plays defensive back for them. I travel all over the country to watch him play," says Perkins.

Perkins, 70, recalls being hit by the great Dick Butkus and Ray Nitschke.

"Those guys hit hard. Dick Butkus was the hardest hitter in football. My offensive coach would tell us, to try and slow him down; he didn't expect us to stop him," says Perkins.

Perkins' talk will focus on "A journey though life; be prepared for the opportunity."

"That's kind of what my life has been; be more than one dimensional and always be prepared. Just like the time I got a job with CBS. Someone liked the way I talked on the microphone. You never know where life will take you. You have to be ready to step in the door."

Prior to Perkins' presentation, LCC President Dr. Pete Campos will give a short talk on "The importance of never giving up." Henry Sanchez, a faculty member at LCC and a former National High School Coach of the Year, will give a talk on the "The value of athletics in the academic arena."

A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. at the Rough Riders Grill at LCC.

Notes: Perkins will be available for questions after his presentation. He will also sign autographs. The Dallas Cowboys granted LCC permission for him to autograph photos of his playing days with the Cowboys. Several dozen will be available to the public.

LCC Nursing Department achieves accreditation candidacy

The Luna Community College Nursing Department is proud to have achieved on March 24 accreditation candidacy with the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC).

Candidacy status is the first step toward national accreditation. The work now centers

on the self study document that details the Luna criteria in comparison to the NLNAC criteria/standards that must be maintained by an accredited program.

Areas of primary importance are faculty, curriculum and resources. The site visit for

the NLNAC accreditation will occur in Spring of 2011.

The LCC Nursing Department begins this challenge in earnest, with the help of NLNAC mentor, Dr. Carol Gilbert, and looks forward to the accreditation that is soon to come.

Blast from the past

Can you guess which LCC employee's baby picture this is? The first person to give the right answer will get a free meal from the LCC Rough Rider Grill. You may enter the contest by e-mailing your answer to jgallegos@luna.edu or calling extension 1200. LCC employees are encouraged to turn in a baby photo of themselves to Jesse Gallegos at the LCC Student Services Building.



Last week winner: Michelle Montoya
Last week's picture: Cindy Branch

LCC students receive certificates

The following students have received certificates from the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute for the completion of hours in the Certified Nursing Program during the month of March 2009: Isaac Maestas, 80 hours; Robert F. Murphy, 80 hours; Diego Trujillo, 80 hours; Mark Valencia, 80 hours; Robert Garduno, Jr., 80 hours; Alexander N. Padilla, 80 hours; Andres Lovato, III, 80 hours and Mekisha Armijo, 88 hours.

Quote of the Week

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul,"—**Joseph Addison, (1672-1719).**