

# Safety measures ramped up

## College vigilant as pandemic rolls on

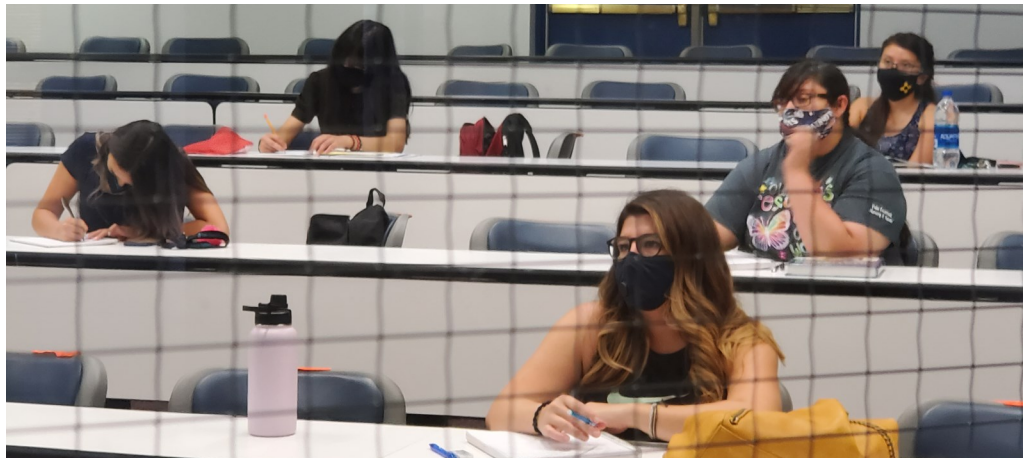
Taking every feasible precaution to ensure the health and safety of the campus community has been a priority for Luna Community College in recent months.

Wary of the potential spread of COVID-19 in northern New Mexico, Luna administrators have implemented stringent new measures on campus within the last several weeks.

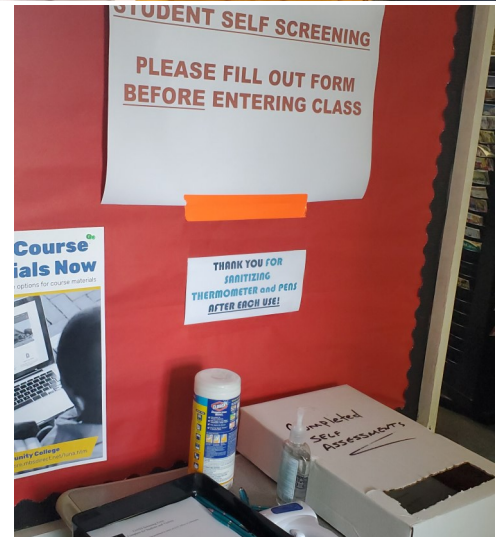
While the vast majority of classes are being held remotely for the Fall 2020 semester, which began Aug. 17, the limited number of students and faculty who do come to campus are following enforced social distancing, wearing face masks and using sanitizer stations. Sanitizing protocols are in place for each classroom.

Starting Aug. 24, the college's lone access point — a gated entrance on the northern edge of campus — has been manned by a campus security detail. Security officers use screening checks for students and visitors. Campus access has been limited and is closed to all traffic at 6 p.m. daily.

For the past month, Luna employees have been required to check in with an online portal on a



**Above: In one of the few classes being held on campus this semester, Luna students practice social distancing and wear face masks while in attendance. At right: A self-screening station — stocked with questionnaires, thermometer, sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer — helps ensure health and safety for all involved.**



daily basis, completing a questionnaire prior to reporting to work. Each department has been tasked with conducting daily temperature checks for employees.

The screening for students and employees includes questions about recent travel and visitors, in addition to a checklist for symptoms. Results of screenings may trigger additional

screening, testing and contact tracing in partnership with local health care entities.

Mask wearing and social distancing has become the norm across campus, and most meetings are conducted using Zoom, Google Meetings or similar technology.

**MORE: See Page 5**

# New to Luna? Here's a guide

Students have array of services, resources available to them

To our students:

Welcome to Luna Community College! Thank you for joining us for the Fall 2020 semester. We hope you'll soon find that Luna is an excellent choice to begin your higher educational journey, whether your goal is to gain training and credentials for entry into the workforce or to build a foundation toward a college degree.

The following is a quick guide to some of the services and resources available to you as a Luna student.



**In a 2019 session, Luna Community College Humanities adviser and instructor Rick Baca assists Roxanne Garcia with creation of a class schedule. The college has invested in a robust advisement structure designed to help students follow their optimal educational pathways.**

## A LUNA MUST-HAVE!

**Luna campus e-mail** is the primary way the college notifies its students (and employees) about key information. Anything ranging from schedule changes to special event information to job opportunities to campus news is shared via LCC e-mail.

To sign up for a free Luna e-mail account, go to [luna.edu/createStudentAccount](http://luna.edu/createStudentAccount). If help setting up the account is required, call Larry Paiz, 505-454-5361.

### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Located in the heart of the Luna campus, the Student Success Center is a hub for many services and resources, including advisement, counseling and educational support. Advisers can assist students in creating their class schedules each semester. The center also offers assessment and academic placement testing (Accuplacer), accessibility services for student with disabilities, and early alerts to help keep students on track academically. Student grievances and concerns can be routed to the center for response. And those seeking additional

resources can contact the center for referrals as needed. Contact: [studentsuccess@luna.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu) or 454-2553.

The center is also home to the Office of Campus Life and information about a number of student clubs and organizations in addition to student government at Luna. Contact: [jmedrano@luna.edu](mailto:jmedrano@luna.edu) or 454-2546.

### OTHER STUDENT SERVICES OFFICES

Along with the Student Success Center, the offices of Admissions, Registrar's, Fiscal, Financial Aid,

Distance Learning and Veterans' Resource Center are conveniently located in the Luna Student Services Building.

Admissions is typically a student's first contact with the college. Apply for admission and submit transcripts to this office. Contact: [admissions@luna.edu](mailto:admissions@luna.edu) or 454-2550.

Registrar's oversees registration for classes, adding and dropping courses, withdrawals, and changes of contact information, as well as student IDs. The office also oversees the college's compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Contact: [registrar@luna.edu](mailto:registrar@luna.edu) or 454-5313.

Financial Aid offers various forms of financial assistance to help students pay for college-related expenses. Students may obtain assistance completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and learn of grants, loans and scholarship programs. A voucher program is available to help pay for books and supplies. Contact: [finaid@luna.edu](mailto:finaid@luna.edu) or 454-2539.

Fiscal Office is where students make arrangements to pay for tuition, fees and other educational costs. In order to prevent disenrollment, students must make arrangements prior to posted deadlines. Contact: [ivaldez@luna.edu](mailto:ivaldez@luna.edu) or 454-2506.

Distance Learning manages student e-mail accounts, assistance with Blackboard classroom technology and general help with distance learning questions. Contact: [lpaiz@luna.edu](mailto:lpaiz@luna.edu) or 454-5361 or 1-800-588-7232, ext. 1206.

## A LUNA MUST-HAVE!

**RAVE alerts** notify subscribers — via text message — about campus closures or delays due to inclement weather or other reasons and other urgent matters.

To sign up for RAVE, visit the Student tab at [luna.edu](http://luna.edu). There is no additional charge for this service. Standard messaging rates apply. Opt out at any time by texting STOP to 226787.

The Veterans Resource Center provides help and support for armed services veterans who pursue college goals at Luna. Contact: [scantu@luna.edu](mailto:scantu@luna.edu) or 454-5343.

### ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

Known as the ACE lab or simply ACE, the Academic Center for Excellence provides tutoring services for students in a variety of Luna classes. Tutor schedules are posted during each semester. Contact: [rvarela@luna.edu](mailto:rvarela@luna.edu), 454-5306 or 454-2578.

### LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

The Samuel F. Vigil Learning Resource Center, located just north of the Student Services Building, includes the library and bookstore, among other features.

The majority of textbooks and similar materials are purchased online through the website [bookstore.mbsdirect.net/luna.htm](http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/luna.htm).

But the on-site bookstore carries medical scrubs, vocational supplies, tools and other equipment required for particular courses of study. Luna merchandise is also available for purchase or orders. Assistance with online ordering through the MBS Direct store is also available. Appointments are recommended to access the on-site store. Contact: [books@luna.edu](mailto:books@luna.edu) or 454-2569.

The library offers online services and textbook checkout for the semester as available. This semester, curbside service is being offered; call ahead for details. Contact: [lrc@luna.edu](mailto:lrc@luna.edu) or 454-5333.

### PRESCHOOL

Luna offers limited preschool services for its students, employees and the greater service area. The facility serves children ages 2-5 and is licensed through the state Children, Youth and Families Department, a five-star FOCUS school. Children must be potty trained; fees vary. Contact: 454-2504 or 454-2535.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Located in the Maria Paiz Administration Building, the Public Relations office is home of The Luna Light, the official campus newsletter (available online at [luna.edu/newsletters](http://luna.edu/newsletters); scroll for most recent). The office also provides assistance with editing and creation of Luna publications for internal and external audiences — via print, broadcast, website and social media. Contact: [pr@luna.edu](mailto:pr@luna.edu) or 454-5367.

## COMMENTARY

# Bond C to have major impact

## Voters to decide general obligation bond issue in November

These are trying times for all of us. COVID-19 has made us take a step back and realize what is truly important in this world. However, we also have to continue planning for the future. A big part of this future is higher education.

This fall, voters in San Miguel, Guadalupe, Mora, Colfax and Quay counties will join others across the entire state of New Mexico to cast their ballots for everything from who will be our next president to who will represent our community in the state legislature. One of the most important questions facing our community this year will be the statewide higher education bond referendum — General Obligation Bond C.

This year's G.O. Bond C would generate more than \$156 million for nearly every public college and university in the state. If passed, this year's G.O. Bond will allocate \$1 million for Luna Community College to plan, design, construct and replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, which will have a positive impact on our college for years to come.

A vote on G.O. Bond C will not increase your property tax rate. What it will do is create jobs and stimulate our local economy. The improvement projects funded by Bond C will employ architects, builders and contractors, as well as

provide support to their supply chains and small and large businesses up and down Main Street, including hotels, restaurants and grocery stores.

In these tight economic times, northern New Mexico could greatly benefit from G.O. Bond C.

Working to ensure Luna Community College has the tools it needs to modernize and be competitive will help recruit students from our service area. It will also make it possible to keep our high school graduates here in northern New Mexico, where they can graduate, go on to four-year universities and/or begin building their careers and contributing to a strong local economy.

For many of our state's colleges and universities, this year's bond may be our only source of facilities funding and our only opportunity to make much-needed additions and renovations to aging structures. Here at Luna, we currently have out-of-date heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems that are in terrible need of upgrading. Voting on G.O. Bond C will go a long way toward providing much-needed upgrades and better learning environments for our students to learn and our instructors to teach.

In addition to modernizing our infrastructure, G.O. Bond C is about maintaining what we have already



**Brochures informing the public about G.O. Bond C share counter space with copies of the Luna fall schedule at the San Jose post office.**

invested in — our students and our communities. No matter what your political affiliation is, G.O. Bond C is something good for every New Mexican. Modernizing our colleges and universities will give our students a competitive edge and prepare them for competition within the global economy, making New Mexico vibrant and competitive — all without increasing our property tax rates.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to consider the positive implications of G.O. Bond C when you go to the polls in November.

**Kenneth Patterson, EdD  
Interim President  
Luna Community College**

# Yes New Mexico program providing assistance

During a recent press conference by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, she reminded New Mexicans about assistance that is available through the Yes New Mexico Program.

Individuals can apply for medical assistance, food assistance,

cash assistance and energy assistance.

To apply online, visit [www.yes.state.nm.us](http://www.yes.state.nm.us) or for more information, call the customer service center at 1-800-283-4465.

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## Census participation urged

As time runs down for the 2020 U.S. Census, local proponents are hoping for a late surge of participation to overcome low numbers thus far.

Participation in the Census will help ensure local communities have adequate federal funding over the next 10 years — with benefits for education, health care, roads, infrastructure and more.

A recent initiative offers help completing the Census. If you'd like

help from a Census Bureau employee in filling out the form by phone, text the words "Census Help" to 313131. A Census Bureau employee will contact you within 24 hours to assist you, according to organizers.

As of Wednesday, August 26, San Miguel County's response rate to the U.S. Census lagged behind at 36 percent compared to a national rate of 64.6 percent and New Mexico's overall 55.1 percent.

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## Safety

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Luna's facilities crew has invested time and energy in disinfecting and sanitizing office and classroom spaces, while foot traffic has been limited in general.

Group sizes have been limited as per policy.

And, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and

World Health Organization, other measures like frequent hand washing and sanitizing of surfaces continue to be encouraged for all.

"With local increases in COVID cases," said Luna interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson, "we need to be more vigilant and work as a team to maximize our safety measures. Our goal is to avoid all COVID cases at Luna, and as a result, the functionality of our campus."

## Luna to close for Labor Day

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campus sites in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

The college will resume its regular hours on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

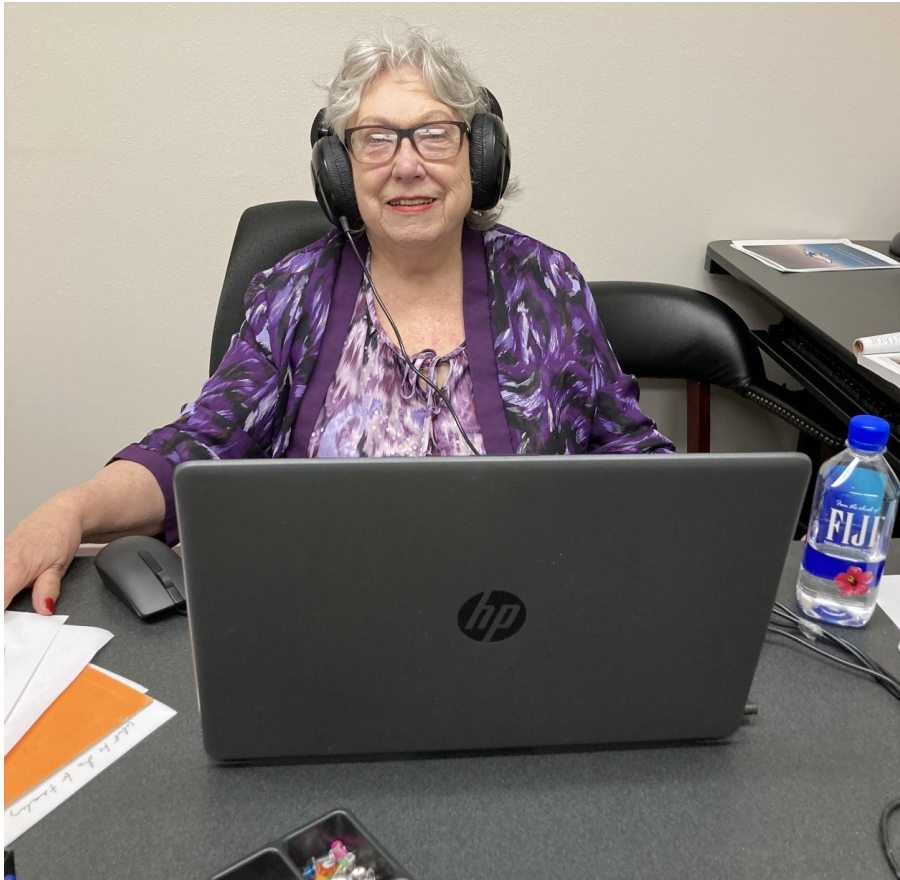
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## HLC site visit here Sept. 10-11

Luna Community College is preparing for a focused site visit with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission on Sept. 10-11.

The visit, and ensuing recommendations from the HLC reviewers, will have an impact as the college seeks to get off probationary status. Luna has been accredited since 1982.

In advance of the visit, Luna submitted a document describing the steps it has taken and continues to take to address previous areas of non-compliance in criteria required by the HLC.



**Longtime Luna professor Dr. Dorothy Simpson teaches her Interpersonal Communication class this semester. Simpson, who has been teaching for 52 years, had never taught an online course prior to this semester. But she worked with Humanities Director Dr. Anita Roybal and other instructors and staff members to learn the dynamics of online instruction and is now doing well with it. The vast majority of classes this semester are being taught online.**

# Longtime prof learns ropes of online instruction

## Luna's Simpson learning, liking online teaching

**I**n her 52 years of teaching, Luna's Dr. Dorothy Simpson had never taught online. But in recent days, she has turned in her chalkboard for a computer, a piece of chalk for some headphones.

It has worked.

"I did not think I wanted to teach online, but when I was offered the class, I could not turn it down because I would miss teaching," said Simpson. "I would miss the students and my colleagues. So I was determined to learn."

Simpson is teaching Interpersonal Communication this semester, which she has taught at Luna in the past. Simpson developed that course and taught it at New Mexico Highlands University. In the

Interpersonal Communication class, students learn conflict resolution and ways to communicate with people in situations individuals run into every day.

"It's a little easier than I thought it would be," said Simpson on teaching online. "I miss the traditional classroom with students face to face, but I am learning to adapt; and I like it. I am pleased with the student response. They are

**MORE: See Page 7**

## COMMENTARY

# We have a lot to offer one another

Imagine that we get to wake up every morning and be kind and generous to others. Perhaps the opportunity to feel self-inspired is by inspiring others.

We live in a time of carefulness, a time of cautiousness. But we also live in a time of grand opportunity. By opening our eyes to what is out there, we open our hearts. Many people across the world may feel invisible as if no one is paying attention to them, which can easily turn into heartache or loneliness.

Even if we see with our eyes, what's inside our hearts means even more because we can help strengthen those that need encouragement and lift someone's spirits.

Do we really pay attention to life experiences of people around us? Maybe we do know some of the important needs of others, but are too busy making sure we, ourselves, are okay. This, in turn, may leave very little time or energy to assist others.

But it doesn't have to be this way if we all do our part. Paying attention to what is around us, at times, can be a challenge. We can see our neighbor struggle and not do much about it.

*By Jesse Gallegos*  
***A Different Perspective***

Being ungenerous and not sharing our bounty or joyful thoughts is not good for anyone. Every human being, regardless of our race or social classification, should be called to be part of the goodness that life offers.

As human beings we resist trying something new. We choose not to like something, sometimes just because we are people of routine.

Now more than ever, we should be sensitive to one another and care. We might not be able to change all things, but we can all lend a hand to our own little corner of the world.

We need to learn to be kind even to those who are unkind to us. We have to continue to be hopeful, if for any other reason, to raise the hopes of others.

Even during the most difficult of times, there is room for something good to come out of it. The innocent, the impoverished, the abandoned need our help.

Think about this. At some point in our life, someone lent us a hand, most of the time asking nothing in return.

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## Simpson

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asking questions, participating in discussions. Attendance has been nearly 100 percent so far."

Many colleges, high schools, junior highs and elementary schools across the globe have had to change their teaching methods due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Luna is no different, with the vast majority of classes being taught online.

"This is all new to me, but I've had lots of help from people in the department, including Larry Paiz (online instructional designer), Dr. Anita Roybal (Humanities director), Amanda Lucero (administrative assistant), and Rick Baca (Humanities instructor and adviser)," said Simpson.

Even having to learn new technology and a new teaching method does not stop Simpson, 76.

"I still feel as good as ever, I have energy and I thank God for that,"

said Simpson.

Simpson said that if online teaching is the way of the present and the future, everyone should be patient and understanding and work through issues.

"I think it is going to be effective; everyone will have to get used to the transition," says Simpson. "We're used to the old chalkboard (but) now we've got to get used to the new technology. Everyone should keep doing what they love for as long as God lets them."

# Free food options available in area

## Summer 2020: San Miguel Food Security Supply/Access

LAS VEGAS, NM WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF FREE MEALS/FOOD - Summer 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 5:30 PM <b><u>EVERYDAY</u></b>		Comedor Soup Kitchen OLOS Parish Hall Old Town Plaza 4:30-5:10 PM Food Pantry Bags + Produce as avail <b><u>EVERY TUESDAY</u></b>  Victory Life Church <i>Commodity</i> Bags 440 Romeroville Rd 505 425-8847 8-9 AM Homebound delivery <b><u>1st TUESDAY</u></b>  Samaritan House Free Food Drive-through 1PM 1000 Mills Ave or 501 7th St 505 454-1390 <b><u>EVERY TUESDAY</u></b>  Salvation Army <i>Commodity</i> Food Bags 1743 Grand Ave 1-4 PM 505 425-8083 <b><u>1<sup>st</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY</u></b>	Comedor Soup Kitchen OLOS Parish Hall 1810 Plaza St Old Town Plaza 505 617-8471 4:30-5:10 PM Food Pantry Bags + Produce as avail <b><u>EVERY WEDNESDAY</u></b>  Samaritan House <i>Commodity</i> Food Bags 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 8-12 noon <b><u>2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAY</u></b>	LV Community Soup Kitchen @ Methodist Church Basement 715 National Ave 505 425-7283 12-12:35 PM <b><u>EVERY THURSDAY</u></b>  USDA <i>Commodity</i> Food Bags @ Abe Montoya Rec Center 1751 N. Grand Ave 505 242-6777 9-1 PM Seniors only <b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY</u></b>	Samaritan House Free Food Drive-through 1PM 1000 Mills Ave or 501 7th St 505 454-1390 <b><u>EVERY FRIDAY</u></b>	

\*- *Commodity* Food Distribution requires sign-up with proof of income and place of residence

\*\* - Senior Center requires sign-up with age of 60 years or older

### College Scorecard:

The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard has the most reliable data on college costs, graduation and post-college earnings. Visit [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov)



## Summer 2020: Monthly Food Security Supply/Access in Mora County

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	<p><b><u>Mora Senior Center</u></b>                      13 Courthouse Drive                      (575) 387-2279                      Drive-thru meals**                      11:30- 1 PM  <b><u>MONDAY through FRIDAY</u></b>                      Sign-up at office</p>	<p><b><u>St. Gertrude's Church</u></b>                      1 Church Plaza                      (575) 387-5786                      11:30-1 PM                      Commodity* Food Distribution  <b><u>2nd TUESDAY</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>1st Presbyterian Church</u></b>                      390 NM-518                      (575) 387-2750                      2-3 PM                      Free Food Pantry Distribution  <b><u>4th WEDNESDAY</u></b></p>			
	<p><b><u>Mora Independent Schools</u></b>                      1 Ranger Drive, NM-518                      (575) 387-3115                      Free meals to all students, children under                      18 years of age                      Mora Cafeteria 11 AM-12 Noon                      CHET + Buena Vista Fire Dept                      11-11:15 AM                      Guadalupe + Rainsville Fire Dept                      11:45-12 Noon  <b><u>MONDAY through FRIDAY</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Wagon Mound Food Pantry</u></b>                      Santa Clara Church                      501 Nolan St                      (575) 666-2323                      12 noon-1 PM                      Commodity* Food Distribution  <b><u>4th TUESDAY</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Chacon Community</u></b>                      Tilford Memorial Community Center                      Hghy 121 #660                      (575) 387-5708                      9-10:30 AM                      Commodity* Food Distribution  <b><u>2nd WEDNESDAY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Helping Hands Mora</u></b>                      @Senior Center for distribution                      13 Court House Drive                      Sign-up @ 508 NM-518                      (575) 387-2288                      10-11:30 AM                      Commodity* Food Distribution  <b><u>2nd WEDNESDAY</u></b></p>			

\*- Commodity Food Distribution requires sign-up with proof of income and place of residence

\*\* - Senior Center requires sign-up with age of 60 years or older

# Wanted

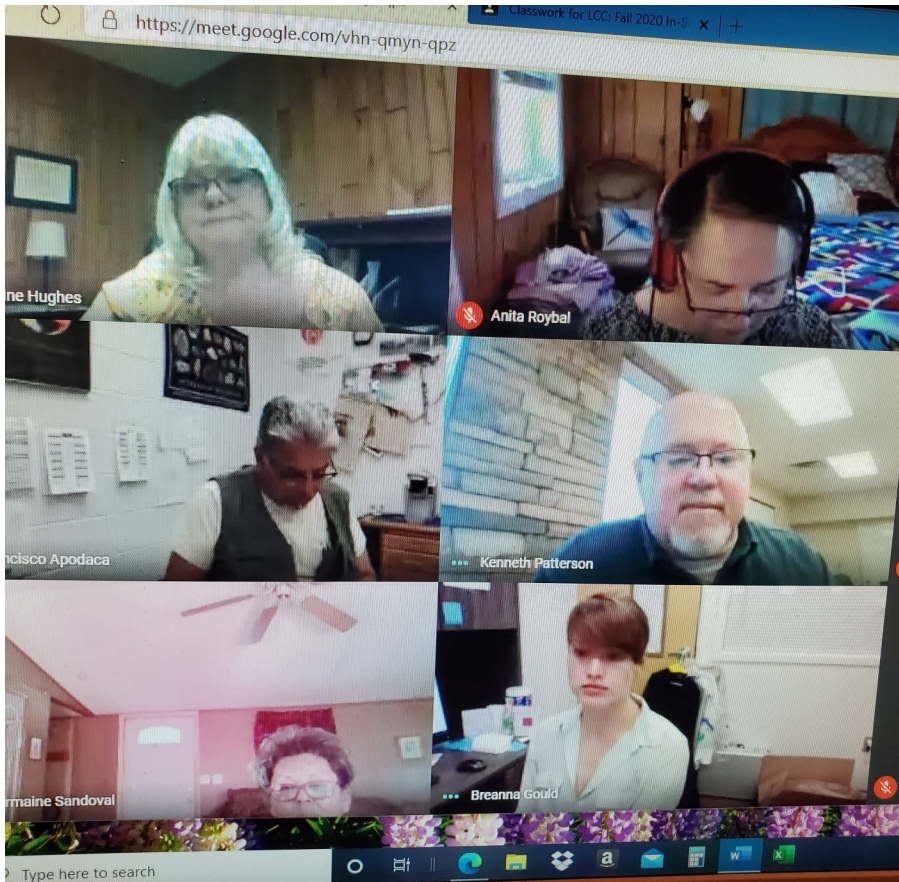


Luna Community College's Academic Center for Excellence is seeking qualified tutors



in various subjects to fill multiple positions on our team. Positions are temporary, part-time and pay \$10.09 per hour. Tutors must be hard-working and interested in helping our students succeed. Previous experience as a Luna student is a plus. Visit [luna.edu/jobs](http://luna.edu/jobs) for details and information on applying. For more information on what tutoring entails, contact ACE coordinator Ray Varela, [rvarela@luna.edu](mailto:rvarela@luna.edu) or 505-454-5306.

**ACE**  
**academic** **Tutors**



## Virtual world

Luna faculty, staff and administrators gather for a recent all-campus meeting online, using the Google Meetings platform. College students and employees alike have become accustomed to meeting through virtual settings, and the Luna Board of Trustees continues to have its meetings available over live streaming on Luna's YouTube channel. Pictured here are Maxine Hughes, interim vice president of instruction and student services; Dr. Anita Roybal, director of Humanities; Francisco Apodaca, director of STEM; Dr. Kenneth Patterson, interim president; Germaine Sandoval, cosmetology instructor; and Breanna Gould, director of Allied Health Sciences.

## Honoring women's right to vote

Early Childhood Education Director Brenda Ortega, sings "El Derecho de Votar," an original song about women's right to vote, on the evening of August 26. The performance was part of "A Toast To Tenacity: Celebrating 100 Years of Women Voting" streamed live from Albuquerque and featuring presenters from across the state. Ortega's song was written by her father Juan, who teaches Spanish classes for the college's Humanities Department.





**Luna head softball coach Steve Wallace provides guidance at third base during a game from 2019-20. In addition to cancer awareness — the promotion for this contest included a giveaway of keepsake pins and special pink attire — the team has gotten involved in several community service projects. Wallace said partaking in such activities helps foster “a sense of purpose in life.”**

# Softball welcomes new players

## Freshmen include four from LV area

As of right now, Mary Jane Martinez is the lone returning starter on a young Luna Community College softball team to start the 2020-21 school year.

Martinez is a sophomore pitcher and third baseman from Carlsbad High School. Along with the rest of the Rough Riders, she saw her spring season cut short in March as the COVID-19 pandemic struck the country.

The disruption caused by the

pandemic shook up the team roster, and Martinez emerged as the only member of last year’s freshmen class to return to Luna. The versatile 5-3 right-hander figures to be one of the leaders of a Rough Rider lineup that will have a distinctly new look.

Head coach Steve Wallace, entering his second season at the helm, has been busy rebuilding the roster, signing 19 new players.

Wallace had certainly gotten some momentum going in his first season. Luna had won four of five games — including a three-game series sweep of Air Force Academy’s junior varsity — to improve to 4-7

by March 10. In the last game the team played before the season was prematurely ended, the Rough Riders lost a 14-13 nailbiter at Langston University’s JV squad. At the time, Luna’s team batting average of .430 ranked fifth among National Junior College Athletic Association softball programs and the Riders had a winning home record.

Off the field, too, Luna softball had begun to develop a solid reputation for community service, as Wallace’s emphasis on giving back to others had set the tone early on. **(continued on next page)**



**Mary Jane “MJ” Martinez unleashes a pitch during a home game this past spring. Martinez is the only returning player for a young Luna softball program.**

All that progress was put on a shelf in mid-March, when an extended spring break turned into a period of upheaval that included the cancellation of all spring sports across the nation.

With the NJCAA’s decision to tentatively allow spring sports to proceed this school year, college athletic programs across the country have scrambled to pick up the pieces, grappling with rebuilding issues unlike any previously encountered. For Wallace and Luna, the project has meant bringing in a host of new student-athletes and getting them to coalesce as a functional team in time for the season, set to begin in early February.

While Luna will miss the contributions of the veterans from the 2020 season, there will be much to look forward to this year.

Martinez had logged 11 hits, including three doubles, with seven runs batted in, in 11 games this past season. She had a batting average of .333 and a slugging percentage of .424, with four walks and two stolen bases. As a pitcher, she went 3-3 with six starts, five complete games and one save. She had notched 23 strikeouts in her nine appearances with an earned run average of 6.56.

“MJ is one of the most structured and talented pitchers, and she’ll probably pitch in a closer role this season,” Wallace said of

Martinez. “She has a great mindset. She doesn’t get unnerved. She’s the type of kid who gets it done in the classroom and on the field, and she leads by example. (At practice) she’s the first on the field and last to leave. Hard worker, excellent communicator. I can see her excel in any walk of life.”

There’s a possibility two other returners will be back for the spring, but this will be a young group regardless.

“By design,” in his words, Wallace has added pitching depth while stocking the roster with 12 more players from New Mexico — four from the Las Vegas area — and seven from Texas.

**MORE: See Page 14**

# Softball

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The locals include Justice Dimas, Amri Lucero and Marquisa Montoya of West Las Vegas, as well as Shanay Casados of Mora. For area sports fans, these Lady Dons and Rangerettes alumni are familiar names.

Dimas is a right-handed pitcher and outfielder, Lucero is an outfielder, and Montoya a utility player who pitches and plays infield and outfield. Montoya was a multi-sport athlete in high school, as was Casados, who plays infield and outfield.

"I expect great things from all the local players this year," Wallace said.

This year's Rough Rider squad, in alphabetical order:

Abby Ball, right-handed pitcher and first baseman, John Jay High, San Antonio, Texas

Baylie Baumann, catcher, Ponder High, Ponder, Texas

Jada Belton, catcher and outfielder, Houston, Texas

Shanay Casados, infielder and outfielder, Mora High, Mora

Nicole Chavez, catcher and left fielder, Albuquerque High, Albuquerque

Justice Dimas, right-handed pitcher and outfielder, West Las Vegas High, Las Vegas

Emma George, catcher, infielder and outfielder, Capital High, Santa Fe

Victoria Gonzales, right-handed pitcher, Tomball High, Tomball, Texas

Imani Hall, left-handed pitcher, outfielder and first baseman, Home High, Richmond, Texas

Aryanna Jimenez, outfielder and pitcher, Rio Grande High, Albuquerque

Amri Lucero, outfielder, West Las Vegas High, Las Vegas

Makayla Martinez, catcher and middle infielder, Belen High, Belen

Mckenna Medina, outfielder and second baseman, Manzano High, Albuquerque

Angelica Montenez, catcher and left fielder, Copperas Cove High, Copperas Cove, Texas

Marquisa Montoya, right-handed pitcher, infielder and outfielder, West Las Vegas High, Las Vegas

Mya Ortega, outfielder, Atrisco Heritage Academy, Albuquerque

Charmaine Othole, right-handed pitcher and third baseman, Grants High, Grants

Alexis Rubio, outfielder, Slayton High, Slayton, Texas

Reegan Wilson, right-handed pitcher, Hobbs High, Hobbs

With the exception of Martinez, all the Rough Riders are freshmen.

"These kids coming in have great attitudes, great work ethic," Wallace said. "A lot of them have been playing year round. I have some teaching to do, but they have a better softball IQ coming in. We have an abundance of speed; it's the kind of game I like to play."

Three players, he noted, clock a time of 2.7 or better to first base. The quickness on the basepaths figures to complement the expected pop from middle-of-order bats wielded by Abby Ball and Baylie Baumann.

"Our defense will be better," Wallace predicted. "We're going to be more athletic. And we have depth we didn't have the year before."

Wallace said he believes each player can and should have a role to play, whether it's left-handed pitching like Imani Hall or the



**Mary Jane Martinez**

fastball of Reegan Wilson.

"My main focus (in recruiting) was young ladies from New Mexico. They are underappreciated sometimes but have an abundance of talent."

This year, Luna joins Region 9, a move approved last year. If all goes well, the schedule will open on Feb. 4 at Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas, and it should approach a total of approximately 40 games. If allowed, the prelude would be a series of scrimmages at New Mexico Highlands University.

For now, though, the team is working out in small groups, five players at a time, with hitting, conditioning and weights.

"I expect a real (good) season," the coach said.

# Help NM Get Counted!



Every person in New Mexico needs to be counted in the 2020 Census by September 30th. Will you help make sure everyone in your network is counted?

## What can you do?

- Text this to your friends, family, and neighbors:
  - *Hey! Did you do your census? I found out we only have until September 30th. I took mine online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Can you send this to some of your friends too?*
- Post one of [these](#) on your social media.
- Follow [iCountNM](#) and share our posts with your network.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Reach out to your local complete count committee ([every county has one!](#)) and ask how you can help.

## What can your organization do?

- Share information with your colleagues and employees via email or [hang a poster](#) in a common area.
- Schedule a day next week when your team/employees all commit to completing their census.
- Mention the census during calls or meetings with partners or clients.
- Include a [census signature line](#) on all emails.
  - *10 minutes today for a better tomorrow. Complete your census online, over the phone, or by mail. Respond by September 30th at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or 1-844-330-2020.*

## What should you say?

- You deserve to be counted in the 2020 Census.
- Your time to respond is running out so make sure you do it today.
- The Constitution guarantees your right to be counted.
- The stakes have never been higher for New Mexico. We're at risk of an undercount and if that happens, then we all lose out.
- It's better to get it out of the way now so that a Census taker doesn't have to follow up with you. That way you can avoid any interaction and they can spend their time with households that need the one-on-one help.
- By not participating, you're leaving money on the table for [insert county/city]. Money for schools, money for health care, money for essential programs.



For more census resources, visit [iCountNM.gov/resources](https://iCountNM.gov/resources)



**Recent rains have helped Luna's campus turn green over recent weeks. The photo at the top shows the sun shining through a pine tree next to the humanities building. Luna's campus is nestled next to the Sangre de Cristo mountains and is one of the most visually attractive campuses in New Mexico.**

