

# Luna Board of Trustees reinstates spring sports seasons



**The Luna softball team coached by Steve Wallace is pictured here during a recent practice. For a revised schedule, please see the LCC athletics website.**

The Luna Community College Board of Trustees reinstated the college spring sports seasons in a special meeting on March 10.

The board of trustees unanimously approved a plan in which the administration will identify funding for the athletic department that will cover expenses for both softball and baseball for the remainder of the spring season.

On Friday, March 5, the college had decided to cancel the remainder of its spring athletics season primarily because of budgeting. Both the Luna softball and baseball

teams compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association and are members of the NJCAA Region 9 Conference. Softball and baseball are the only athletic teams Luna sponsors.

Because of relaxed COVID-19 restrictions which includes having home games, both the baseball and softball schedules have been updated from its original version.

“This is the right thing to do for everyone involved, especially our student-athletes,” said Luna Board of Trustees Chairwoman Dr. Phyllis Martinez.

Donate blood. Experience the wonder.



**Luna Community College  
Nursing Program**

**Thursday, April 1  
10:00AM to 2:00PM  
Abe Montoya Rec  
Center Gymnasium**

**Call Kim Sena at  
505-454-2566 to sign up.  
Sponsor Code: Luna**

**Vitalant follows all COVID-19  
guidelines.**

 **GIVE BLOOD TODAY | [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)**  
Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

**vitalant** 



Luna's preschool is accepting applications for children ages 2 to 5; children must be independently potty trained. Please contact Belanna Apodaca for more information at 505-454-2535 ext. 1552 or at [bapodaca@luna.edu](mailto:bapodaca@luna.edu). In this file photo, Luna interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson reads a Dr. Seuss book to students.

*“Creating  
Opportunities  
for You!”*

# Building being worked on for Law Enforcement Training Center

Luna physical plant employee Matthew Borrego puts some finishing touches around a light fixture at the old humanities building earlier this week in preparation of the college's Law Enforcement Training Center. Pictured below (left) is where one of the simulators will be housed and (right) the main hallway.





**In this file photo taken in February, former Luna physical plant employees George De Herrera and Patricio Maestas work on the former humanities building in preparation for the opening of the college's Law Enforcement Training Center. Two state-of-the-art training and driving simulators are scheduled to arrive at Luna later this semester. Luna's Law Enforcement Training Center will provide training to agencies and individuals throughout the southwest United States, leading to a better-trained workforce for various police and other first responders. Luna's Law Enforcement Training Center will be housed in the former humanities building located on the northeast side of campus. Pictured at the top left is where the control room will be housed. At the left is the entry to the northwest hallway. For more on Luna's Law Enforcement Training Center, please call Lita Bernal at 505-454-5337.**



**Photo of the edition, submitted by Melissa Cordova, captures the beauty of Mora County. At the top right of the photo, there is a bald eagle perched on one of the branches.**

# ONLINE & FREE!

## We help you **take on** the **TEAS!**

**FREE** workshops to help prepare you for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) are now being offered at Luna Community College. Contact Yvonne Piña, [ypina@luna.edu](mailto:ypina@luna.edu), or 505-454-2525, to sign up or to get more information.

**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)

### Workshop schedule



### Free TEAS prep Workshops

WORKSHOP TOPIC	DATE
Intro & prep test	April 6, 5 p.m.
Reading	April 8, 5 p.m.
Math	April 12, 5 p.m.
Science	April 14, 6 p.m.
Anatomy & physiology	April 20, 5:30 p.m.
Conclusion	April 22, 5 p.m.

NOW ONLINE; E-MAIL FOR  
DETAILS OR TO SIGN UP

**Take all six free workshops,  
and we will pay your first TEAS fee!\***

\* All workshops and post-tests must be completed within same sequence in order to be eligible. Limit one free TEAS fee waiver per participant. Contact LCC Nursing Department for details.

**NEW  
DATES!**



*The Luna Light is a publication of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations. To submit story ideas or items for consideration, please e-mail Jesse Gallegos, [jgallegos@luna.edu](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu), and Dave Kavanaugh, [dkavanaugh@luna.edu](mailto:dkavanaugh@luna.edu).*



**March 20, 2021**

The 55th Legislature's regular session began on Jan. 19 and ended at noon March 20. Deadline for introduction of legislation was Feb. 18. Due to COVID-19 precautions, access to the Roundhouse was limited this session while both chambers are employing teleconferencing and social distancing to conduct business. Luna @ The Legislature, an initiative of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations, provides a weekly update on the session to inform the campus community.

Legislation of particular interest to Luna Community College, filed as of publication deadline:

**House Bill 2** General Appropriations Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom ... Among other appropriations, sets aside \$867 million from general fund, \$672,300 from other state funds, \$52.9 million from internal service funds and interagency transfers, and \$10.8 million from federal funds to higher education department for spending or allocation to higher

education agencies in fiscal year 2022 ... Amended version passed House 60-10; passed Senate 29-13. Awaits action by governor.

**HB 25** LESC Study of Public & Postsecondary Education, introduced Jan. 4 by G. Andres Romero ... Tasks Legislative Education Study Committee to study issues pertaining to public schools and public postsecondary education in New Mexico. Passed House 66-0; passed Senate 38-0. Awaits governor.

**HB 43** Black Education Act, introduced Jan. 5 by Sheryl Williams Stapleton ... Requires development of racial sensitivity and anti-racism training for public education and higher education. Amended version passed House 67-0; passed Senate 32-0. Awaits governor.

**HB 83** Change Graduation Requirements, introduced Jan. 13 by G. Andres Romero ... Calls for high school students receiving opportunity to prepare next-step plans to include curricular and course options such as dual credit, career

pathways, college prep. Amended version passed House 66-1; now in Senate Education Committee.

**HB 87** Yazzie Lawsuit Higher Ed Funding, introduced Jan. 14 by Derrick Lente ... Makes appropriations to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the Martinez & Yazzie v. New Mexico lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain students and families. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

**HB 100** College & Career Readiness Systems, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara ... Funds \$3 million for college and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Amended version currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. (See also SB 107.)

**HB 101** New Mexico Lottery Educational Assistance Act, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara, Phelps Anderson, Randall Pettigrew, Steven

**MORE: See Page 9**



*Continued from previous page*

Neville ... Adds certain other types of gaming as potential revenue sources for state lottery educational assistance program. Currently in House Education Committee.

**HB 117** General Appropriations Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom and Nathan Small ... Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. (See also SB 176.)

**HB 131** Assistant Secretary of Hispanic Education, introduced Jan. 19 by Christine Trujillo ... Creates position of assistant secretary of Hispanic education in the Higher Education Department. Amended version passed House 44-19; now on Senate calendar.

**HB 133** College Hunger Reduction Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Joanne Ferrary, Karen Bash, Melanie Stansbury ... Appropriates \$100,000 to Higher Education Department for pilot program. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

**HB 217** Public health emergency lottery scholarships, introduced Feb. 2 by Micaela Lara Cadena ... Amends eligibility requirements for student to receive legislative lottery scholarship during public health emergency. Amended version passed House 67-0; now on Senate calendar.

**HB 218** Student Loan Bill of Rights Act, introduced Feb. 2 by Patricia Roybal Caballero and Katy Duhigg... Enacts regulations over student loan servicers. Currently in House Judiciary Committee. (See also SB 164.)

**HB 285** Capital Outlay Projects, introduced Feb. 16 by Javier Martinez ... Provides for severance tax bonds and includes \$103,500 to plan, design, construct, renovate, purchase, equip and install fire alarm systems campuswide, other projects at Luna Community College. Also appropriates for educational retirement board facility work. Passed House 70-0; passed Senate 39-0. Awaits governor.

**HB 289** College Faculty Minimum Wage, introduced Feb. 16 by Christine Trujillo ... Sets minimum wage and makes other provisions for non-tenure track faculty. Amended version currently on House calendar.

**HB 294** Gaming Revenue to Lottery Tuition Fund, introduced Feb. 18 by Derrick Lente ... Distributes a portion of the Indian gaming revenue to the lottery tuition fund. Currently in House Education Committee.

**HB 297** Workforce and Economic Prosperity Act, introduced Feb. 18 by Angelica Rubio ... Creates Workforce and Economic Prosperity Council, creates council and mandates development of statewide framework to develop clean energy workforce and sustainable economy. Amended version currently in House Rules Committee.

**HB 302** Financial Literacy for Graduation introduced Feb. 18 by Cathrynn Brown and Gail Armstrong ... Creates financial literacy requirement for high school students, involving preparation of next-step plan to include exposure to college and career options, etc. Amended version currently in House Education Committee.

**House Memorial 13** North NM Satellite Public Safety Training Center, introduced Feb. 18 by Andrea Romero. Requests Department of Public Safety to convene working group to discuss creation of a satellite law enforcement

and first responder training center in northern New Mexico. Passed House 68-0.

**Senate Bill 21** Retiree Health Care Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales and Natalie Figueroa ... Changes retiree health care act to conform to federal patient protection and Affordable Care Act. Amended version passed Senate 31-9; passed House 63-1. Awaits governor.

**SB 39** Names of Finalists for Executive Positions, introduced Jan. 19 by Bill Tallman ... Exempts records for certain appointive executive position applicants from public inspection pursuant to the Inspection of Public Records Act. Currently in Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 42** Increase to Educational Retirement Contributions, introduced Jan. 19 by Mimi Stewart ... Increases certain contributions to the educational retirement fund. Amended version passed Senate 36-6; passed House 49-9. Awaits governor.

**SB 77** Two Plus Two Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Gay Kernan ... Creates regional Two Plus Two pilot project to establish seamless transition from community college to university and measure student and institutional outcomes. Passed Senate 37-0; passed House 64-0. Awaits governor.

**SB 94** Student Athlete Endorsement Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Mark Moores, Bill O'Neill and Antonio Maestas ... Changes limitations against student athletes earning compensation through use of their name, image or likeness. Amended version passed Senate 39-0; passed House 43-21. Awaits governor.

**SB 107** Career Readiness Systems Statewide, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales ... Funds \$3 million for college

**MORE: See Page 10**

*Continued from previous page*

and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Currently in Senate Education Committee. (See also HB 100).

**SB 135** Opportunity Scholarship Act, introduced Jan. 31, by Bill O'Neill and Joy Garratt ... Creates Opportunity Scholarship fund for two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Amended version passed Senate 36-4; sent to House.

**SB 148** Diversity Commission, introduced Jan. 31 by Mimi Stewart ... Creates Commission on Diversity, Equity and Excellence in Education. Amended version passed Senate 27-14; now in House Education Committee.

**SB 151** Educational Loan Repayment, introduced Jan. 31 by David Gallegos ... Enacts Instructional Support Provider Loan Repayment Act. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 158** Career Job Readiness Programs Funding, introduced Jan. 31 by Pete Campos ... Appropriates \$575,000 to Workforce Solutions Department for job readiness programs for youth and adults. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 164** Student Loan Bill of Rights Act, introduced Jan. 31 Katy Duhigg... Enacts regulations over student loan servicers. Currently in Senate Judiciary Committee. (See also HB 218.)

**SB 165** NMFA Public Projects, introduced Jan. 31 by Shannon Pinto and Nancy Rodriguez ... Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans for public projects from the public project revolving fund available to various entities including Luna Community College for building, equipment, infrastructure, debt refinance, road, land acquisition, water, wastewater, water rights and solid waste projects. Currently in Senate Indian, Rural & Cultural Affairs Committee.

**SB 169** Create Higher Ed Coordinating Council, introduced Jan. 31 by Roberto Gonzales ... Creates Higher Education Coordinating Council, gives HED sole authority to approve capital expenditures of state postsecondary institutions. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 176** General Appropriation Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 31 by George Munoz ... Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in Senate Finance Committee. (See also HB 117.)

**SB 233** Student Bill of Rights, introduced Feb. 1 by Linda Lopez ... Enacts Student Bill of Rights for public school students and includes right to access counseling for vocational and other college information, among other rights. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

**SB 240** Vocational Training Scholarship Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Cliff Pirtle. Appropriates \$2.55 million and authorizes scholarships for career technical education courses at community colleges ... Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 253** Higher Education Department Libraries, introduced Feb. 1 by Shannon Pinto. Appropriates \$494,000 to HED for improvements in internet access in college and university libraries. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

**SB 263** Adult Diploma Program Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Craig Brandt ... Establishes program and contract guidelines for provision of workforce diploma services. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 305** Capital Outlay Reform Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Pete Campos ... Creates committee, task force and capital

planning & assistance division in DFA to consider capital projects. Currently in Senate Rules Committee.

**SB 337** Workplace Preparation School Programs, introduced Feb. 10 by Roberto Gonzales ... Appropriates \$750,000 for academically integrated out-of-school and summer programs supporting college and career readiness; includes dual credit and other partnership with postsecondary institutions. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

**SB 348** Employment Boot Camp Training, introduced Feb. 10 by Gerald Ortiz y Pino ... Appropriates \$3 million for Central New Mexico community college for development of intensive short-term boot camp training for unemployed and underemployed; curricula to be licensed to other New Mexico colleges. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 375** Officer Training & Certification, introduced Feb. 11 by George Munoz and Stuart Ingle ... Provides for new areas of emergency responder training, creates law enforcement certification board. Amended version passed Senate 38-0; passed House 68-0. Awaits governor.

**SB 390** Educational Retirees Returning to Work, introduced Feb. 17 by Mimi Stewart ... Amends regulations on return-to-work and retirement benefits for educational retirees. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

*As of noon March 19, 2021. Compiled by Dave Kavanaugh, LCC Communications & Marketing.*

# Rough Riders roundup: *Luna teams resume play*

For Luna Community College student-athletes, the real victory was just in getting to play this season after all.

This past week the Rough Rider baseball team hosted a pair of regional contenders, New Mexico Military Institute and Trinidad State Junior College. The Rough Rider softball squad saw the playing field for the first time in a year, meeting New Mexico Highlands University for a scrimmage doubleheader on March 17 at Cowgirl Field.

In both cases, it was a feel-good story regardless of what was on any scoreboard or stat sheet. Both programs, along with most others across the country, saw their seasons cancelled in March 2020 with the arrival of COVID-19. Then, due to unanticipated financial issues and a balky activity bus, it appeared that this season would also be in jeopardy. But with Luna's Board of Trustees on March 10 approving an administration plan to save the season, both teams not only were able to play but also play in Las Vegas, thanks in part to agreements with NMHU, Region 9 and several opposing teams.

Luna baseball dropped both ends of a Monday (March 15) doubleheader with NMMI, a team that had won 13 of 14 entering the week. After spotting the Broncos a 4-0 lead, the Riders scored on a run by Francisco Ochoa in the bottom of the second inning, game one. But NMMI answered with Noah



Nunez's two-run homer and went on to a 13-1 verdict. In game two, Luna stayed close, rallying to within 8-4 and then 12-9 before running out of at-bats.

Tuesday brought better fortune to the Rough Riders and head coach T.C. Nusser, who hosted Trinidad State in a nine-inning contest. Ochoa smashed a solo home run early and the Riders took a 2-0 edge through three innings. The Trojans manufactured three runs to steal the lead in the top of the fourth, then – with one out in the top

of the fifth – made it 4-2 on Cristian Lopez's solo home run.

It would be a big day for Lopez, but a better one for the Rough Riders. James Cardenas bounced a ground-rule double off the fence in right, and Ochoa followed with a sacrifice fly to score two runs in the bottom of the fifth, getting Luna within 5-4. Lopez smacked a two-run homer to give Trinidad a 7-4 cushion. But Dusty Sipe crushed a three-run homer to regain control for Luna, 8-7, in the bottom of

**MORE: See Page 12**

Continued from Page 11

the seventh. The Trojans tied it before Matthew Gelwick's sacrifice fly RBI made it 9-8. Sipe hit an RBI single and Cardenas drove in two more runs to build Luna's lead to 12-8. Lopez cut it to 12-11 with a three-run bomb in the top of the ninth, but relief pitcher K.T. Gerald hung on and secured the win.

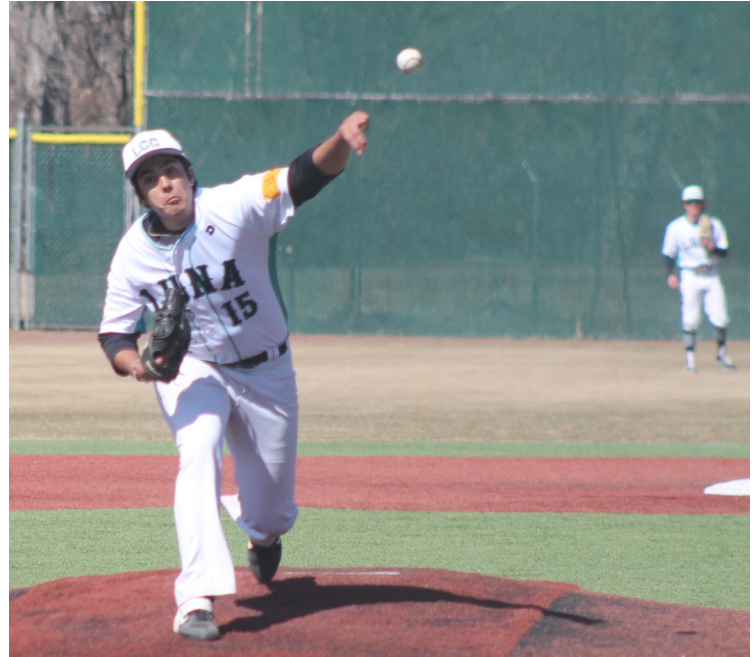
Wednesday, it was the Luna softball team's turn. For all but two of the women on the young Rough Rider roster, the scrimmages with host NMHU, an NCAA Division II program, represented their first college softball action ever. Relative youth and a year's worth of competitive inactivity virtually guaranteed a tough day at Cowgirl Field. Yet there were positives for LCC.

Anahi Ruiz's double led to an early run in game one, and Luna led 1-0. And Mary J. Martinez, who started in the pitching circle, worked with her defense to strand a Highlands runner at third for two consecutive innings to keep the home team off the board. But starting with Carlee Gonzalez's solo home run, the Cowgirls overtook their young foes and ended the third inning with a 5-1 lead. The game would end at 9-1 after four frames.

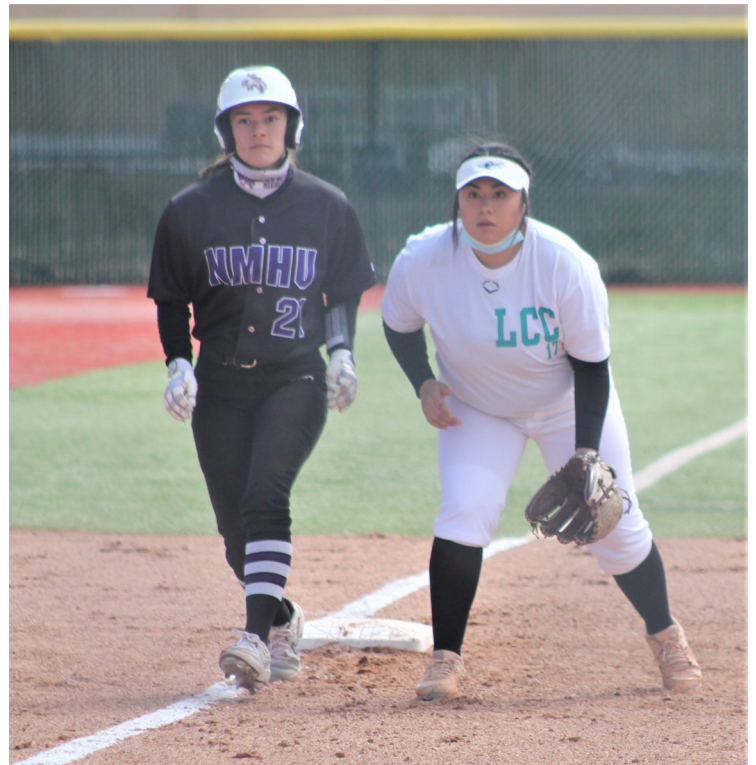
Luna head coach Steve Wallace, seeking to get game experience for most of his charges, rotated players liberally into the lineup. One highlight, especially for Las Vegas-area fans, was when former Mora Rangerette Shanay Casados, playing second, assisted a putout by former West Las Vegas Lady Don Marquisa Montoya, playing first. Emma George of Santa Fe Capital and Amri Lucero of West Las Vegas both tested their sprinting as pinch runners.

In game two, back-to-back home runs by Highlands' Carlee Gonzalez and Taylor Fish broke a scoreless stalemate in the second inning. As the game progressed, the Cowgirls – with a dozen games already under their belts – looked to be in midseason form, especially at the plate. They'd lead 7-0 before Luna scored two runs on two hits in the top of the fourth. And then they'd put it away with eight runs in their half of the frame for a 15-2 score.

Luna is tentatively scheduled to host home games in both baseball and softball within the coming week. These could be open to fan attendance (albeit on a limited basis as allowed by state public health orders). Please check Luna's Facebook page for updates.



**Ruger Bravo delivers a pitch during the Rough Rider baseball team's homestand vs. New Mexico Military Institute and Trinidad State Junior College.**



**Luna's Victoria Gonzales stays alert to keep Highlands' Savannah Pineda Chavez at third base during the teams' scrimmage doubleheader at Cowgirl Field.**