

# The Luna Light



*"Creating Opportunities for You!"*

Second Volume 2, Issue 1

Nov. 16, 2018



**Luna Community College veteran student Edward DeHerrera raises a U.S. flag during a ceremony Nov. 9. Also pictured are Luna instructor and veteran Gene Sandoval and veteran Bella Pacheco.**

## Health & Wellness Fair Nov. 17

Luna Community College wants to help make sure you are feeling and functioning at your absolute best.

With that in mind, members of the community are invited to take part in Luna's inaugural Health & Wellness Fair, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Allied Health Center and Cafeteria on the LCC main campus in Las Vegas.

The event is free and open to the public.

Among the featured exhibitors will be free health screenings and information from area health care providers. The screenings range from blood pressure to blood glucose to cardiovascular health.

Presenters will also offer information on services and resources regarding physical, mental and emotional health and wellness and tips on how to live a healthier lifestyle and boost your energy and overall wellness.

In addition, representatives of Luna Community College will be on hand to offer pre-registration for spring semester classes. Whether you are a returning student pursuing one of Luna's degree or certificate programs or you are just curious about taking a class or two, this is a good opportunity to get started.

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## Noche de las Luminarias Dec. 1

Continuing more than a decade-long tradition, Luna Community College will host "La Noche de las Luminarias" from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The public will get to view 4,000 luminarias as well as many lights and other displays around campus. "La Noche de las Luminarias" is designed for motorists to tour the campus with a pre-determined route beginning at the top gates. The event

is free.

Luna Community College works in conjunction with the Las Vegas Light Parade, which will also take place that evening, giving community members the opportunity to see both events.

The luminaria drive is a campus-wide effort.

Luna Community College is located at 366 Luna Drive, accessible off N.M. 65.



Campus Life  
graciously requests your presence at our

## Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

A free lunch will be provided at the  
Rough Rider Grill.

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students, staff & faculty are encouraged to attend.



# Health & Wellness Fair..

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A few of the scheduled exhibitors:

Del Norte Pharmacy, We Care Agency, New Vistas, Foot & Ankle Specialists, B----- for Boobies, El Centro, Cuatitas, Southwest Hemp, First Born, West Las Vegas Headstart, Victory Home Health, New Mexico Department of Health and Children's Medical Services, Ambercare, Alta Vista Regional Hospital, Sanchez Dental, Taos Home Care Services, Pecos Valley Medical Center, LCC Dental Assistant program, LCC Student Nurses Association.

Del Norte plans to offer blood glucose checks, blood pressure tests and cardiovascular screening. Those who have health care insurance can get flu vaccinations.

Luna's Student Nurses Association will offer blood pressure testing and take weights.

"These are supportive health and wellness resources that touch base with every age demographic from infants to our older community members who reside in Las Vegas," said Vanessa Torres, adviser with LCC Allied Health. New Vistas and First Born, for example, will provide information on developmental progress of infants and toddlers, a benefit to young parents. Other entities represented run the gamut from physical therapy to home health care to dentistry to medicinal hemp.

Dawna Ortega-Gallegos of the LCC Allied Health Department said she hopes this event will be the first of many to come.



Luna Community College students and employees recently took part in the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Show at the Las Vegas (Nev.) Convention Center. The SEMA Show is the premier automotive specialty products trade event in the world. It draws the industry's brightest minds and hottest products to one place. In addition, the SEMA Show provides attendees with educational seminars, product demonstrations, special events and networking opportunities.

Pictured (top row, from left) are Luna Vocational Education Director Jessica McGee, Auto Collision instructor Anthony Baca, students Brady Vigil and Florencio Garcia. Pictured (bottom row) are students Travis Baca and Javier Branch.

# Luna alumnus digs into forensic anthropology studies

## *Dual-credit program at LCC helped pave way*

The idea of sifting through and studying human remains may be off-putting to the average person.

Ashlyn Wagoner isn't an average person. Never has been, really.

Wagoner, 20, parlayed a dual-credit experience -- taking classes at Luna Community College while still a high school student at West Las Vegas -- into a valuable head start on her postsecondary career. She expects to graduate from New Mexico State this December with a double major in anthropology and criminal justice and a minor in forensic science in form of human analysis. She's applying to graduate programs in anthropology at several notable institutions, including an elite program at the University of Tennessee.

Wagoner has set her sights on a doctorate and a career in forensic anthropology. She's considering such goals as a career with the FBI. But her main interest is working to provide answers to the mysterious deaths unveiled by forensic science.

"The main reason I love this field is because I knew that if I ever lost a family member or friend -- if something happened to them -- I would want to know what happened," she explained. "I'm really wanting to help them in that way, helping them find closure."

Whether it was her family influences -- father Dale is a longtime police officer and captain in the



Ashlyn Wagoner

New Mexico State Police investigations unit, brother Kedrick worked for a time as a mortician assistant, and other relatives have law enforcement backgrounds -- or her own natural curiosity, Wagoner has long been fascinated by forensics in one form or another.

"I remember her even as a small child loving to play in the dirt," said her mother Brenda, a business instructor and adviser at Luna. "She was not a clean child. She wasn't a typical girl who wants to play with dolls; she wanted to explore."

Wagoner indulged various interests as a student at WLVS, captaining the dance team and playing softball in addition to participating in academic clubs like Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement and Business Professionals of America. Teacher Valerie Villa-

Lopez had gotten her interested in math since the middle school level. Another teacher, Christine Lovato, kept the momentum going and pushed her to explore the sciences via MESA. Wagoner also enjoyed watching the TV series "Bones," and daydreamed about the work the show's characters did. It prompted her to engage her dad in conversations about criminal justice.

It was on a school trip with MESA when she got the last push she needed. The West Las Vegas club visited the Office of the Medical Investigator in Albuquerque, and the proverbial lightbulb came on.

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# Luna alumnus...

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“That trip to OMI was big,” Wagoner said. “That just solidified what I wanted to do and put into perspective what I needed to do to reach that goal. It made it more realistic, basically going through the lab and realizing that most of the time they don’t go to crime scenes; they have stuff brought back to them. It educated me on what it really was. It just happened. (The OMI representative) talked about coming from a small town and she’d gone to a community college. It made me realize I could do this.”

By that point Wagoner had been immersed in college-level coursework as part of LCC’s dual-credit program. She was able to graduate magna cum laude with an associate degree in liberal arts at Luna the same semester she graduated from West.

“Dual credit is amazing,” she said. “It sets you up for success. You get the feeling of what it’s going to be like in college, the classes and what they expect out of you. It does teach you time management very well. That is something you need to excel at the higher level. Most of the time, dual-

credit students are in clubs or sports or both.”

“I think what I did get out of Luna, it really made me understand that education is going to be a big part of my life. I remember being in high school, most of the time it was sitting in classes. In college it was more discussion-based; it was more engaging ... The electives expose you to different areas. You might not think you’re interested in (certain subjects), but you end up really liking them.”

Wagoner’s experience at Luna gave her a boost that enabled her to hit the ground running at NMSU, where she quickly started digging into her majors while getting involved in a sorority and the undergraduate anthropology club.

Now, as another graduation approaches, she’s looking at it like just another step forward. And she wants others to follow their own paths and see their own dreams to fruition as well.

“Know that you can do it,” she said. “You just have to stay focused. Have an open mind of what you want to do. Whatever you engage yourself with, put yourself in position to do it. If someone tells you that you can’t do it, prove them wrong.”

**Luna nursing students recently learned how to apply wound vacs (vacuum-assisted closures) including techniques for assessment and troubleshooting. Pictured are Christina Vigil from KCI Acelity Company and Luna student Chris Tafoya. For more information on the Luna Nursing Program, call 505-454-2521.**



# Free food options in Las Vegas

Prepared by Las Vegas Food Council

Generic calendar for 2018-19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily		Comedor Soup Kitchen at OLOS Parish Hall 4:30-5:10 PM Produce + Food Pantry Bags as available <b>EVERY TUESDAY</b> Victory Life Church Commodity Bags 440 Romeroville Rd 505 425-8847 8-9 AM Homebound delivery only 1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Comedor Soup Kitchen at OLOS Parish Hall 1810 Plaza St 4:30-5:10 PM Produce + Food Pantry Bags as available <b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	LV Community Soup Kitchen @ Methodist Church Basement 715 National Ave 12-12:35 PM <b>EVERY THURSDAY</b>		
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily			Samaritan House Commodity Food Bags 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 8-12 noon <b>SECOND WEDNESDAY</b>			
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily				USDA Commodity Food Bags @ Abe Montoya Rec Center 1751 N. Grand Ave 505 242-6777 9-1 PM Seniors only <b>THIRD THURSDAY</b>	School Food Distribution- students public, Luna + NMHU @ Salvation Army 1743 N. Grand Ave 505 425-8083 12-2 PM <b>THIRD FRIDAY</b>	
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily			Salvation Army Commodity Food Bags 1743 N. Grand Ave 505 425-8083 9-until food distributed <b>FOURTH WEDNESDAY</b>			
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily			Samaritan House Commodity Food Bags 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 8-12 noon <b>FIFTH WEDNESDAY</b> When occurs			

Call 505 617-8471 for more information. Commodity distributions require proof of income.



On Oct. 27, Team Luna Community College participated in the annual CROP Hunger Walk at the United World College campus. These walks are community events sponsored by Church World Service and Organized by local organizations to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. CROP Hunger Walks have been taking place for nearly half a century, although CROP Hunger Walks in our area have been taking place for much less time. Of the total monies raised by the community, 25 percent stays in Las Vegas to support the work of three organizations dedicated to helping those less fortunate: El Comedor de San Pascual Soup Kitchen at the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall, which serves meals on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and distributes food bags; the Las Vegas Community Soup Kitchen at the First Methodist Church at 8th and University, which serves a hot lunch on Thursdays; and the Samaritan House at 1000 Mills Ave., which serves food each evening and distributes food bags.

# Presidential pick withdraws name from Luna search

Luna Community College will continue its search for a president after the LCC Board of Trustees' initial choice for the position withdrew his name from consideration on Tuesday.

Dr. Bruce Moses emerged from a nationwide search – the first of its kind to be conducted by LCC – as the top choice for the position from a pool of more than 80 applicants. After the board interviewed five finalists, each of whom visited the Las Vegas campus for a series of public forums, the trustees on Oct. 10 voted to select Moses, with contract negotiations authorized to begin.

Over the past month, trustees met several times as part of its negotiating process, obtaining the input of the college's Shared Governance and

Presidential Screening Committee members. Members of the Board had also offered to visit with Dr. Moses in Arizona to finalize the details of the contract.

"It's unfortunate that our good-faith negotiations did not result in bringing Dr. Moses to the campus," said Luna Board of Trustees Chairman Dan Romero. "We will continue to work with staff and faculty leadership to ensure our next steps are inclusive of their input."

The board was originally scheduled to vote on a contract with Moses as an action item on the agenda of its regular board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13.



**Luna Auto Collision Repair students recently went through an all-day NAPA Paint Certification Training sponsored by NAPA Martin Senour Paint with Ryan Birmingham and Ernest Duran. Students earned a paint certification through Martin Senour Paint. NAPA is a partner with Luna Community College's Auto Collision Repair program. For more information on Luna's Auto Collision Repair program, call Anthony Baca at 505-454-2591.**

# Priority Registration Day



**Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**MEC Atrium**

- **Spring 2019 registration**
- **Advisors from all departments**
- **Financial aid assistance**
- **Pizza and prizes!**



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## Graduation Clearance Day

Planning to graduate in Fall 2018, Spring 2019 or Summer 2019?

Come have breakfast with the Registrar and get cleared for graduation!

**Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018**

**9 to 11 a.m.**

**Allied Health Cafeteria**



*With the Registrar!*

