

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of ENMU-Ruidoso Branch Community College

May 4, 2026

Two Men Sign Letters of Intent to College Rodeo for ENMU-Ruidoso

Walker Hanafin of Argenta, Ill., and Eli Foster of Triumph, Ill., have both recently signed the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Letter of Intent (LOI) to College Rodeo at ENMU-Ruidoso.

When not riding or roping, he enjoys playing fetch with his dog, Stetson. His hobby is being the second Top Hand at the Carthage Livestock Sale Barn, his brother is number one. He plans to pursue a General Studies Associate degree this fall and will compete in tie-down roping, steer wrestling and team roping on the ENMU-Ruidoso Men's Rodeo Team.

Hanafin enjoys welding and farming when he's not at a rodeo. He has a red heeler dog named Sis, a calf roping horse named Yellow and his team roping horse is Shorty. He plans to pursue an Associate's degree in Business and will compete in tie-down roping and team roping on the ENMU-Ruidoso Men's Rodeo Team.

[Read more.](#)

Students Recognized at Awards Ceremony

The annual Student Award Ceremony was held on Thursday, April 22. Jaden Wooddell, Nogal, was recognized as the Outstanding 2026 Business student. Gabriel Nelson, Ruidoso, was recognized as the Outstanding 2026 Career & Technical Education (CTE) student. Jessi Dentler, Ruidoso, was recognized as the Outstanding 2026 Education/Social Science student. Margarita Montejano, Ruidoso, was recognized as the Outstanding 2026 English/Fine Arts student. Arturo Mendez, Reading, Penn., was recognized as the Outstanding 2026 Information Systems student. Grisel Tapia Rodriguez, Ruidoso Downs, was recognized as the Outstanding 2026 Math/Science student.

The following area High School students were recognized as the 2026 Outstanding Dual Credit students: Sebastian Ross, Capitan High School; Raylee Batts, Carrizozo High School; Maitlyn Barnett, Cloudcroft High School; Kristine Neuman, Ruidoso, Home School; Aaliyah Valenzuela, Hondo High School; Kaylyn Chino, Mescalero High School; and Marlen Gonzalez, Ruidoso High School. Natalia Berry, Capitan, was recognized as the 2026 Outstanding Adult Education student. [Click here to see more photos and more awards.](#)



Signing is Walker Hanafin and Eli Foster both of Illinois with Illinois High School Rodeo National Director Bill Berger.



Business Department Chair John McCullough with Outstanding Business Student Jaden Wooddell & her daughter Riley.

Upcoming Events

May

4 Monday-8 Friday

- ◇ Final Exams
- ◇ Community Education Ceramics Show & Sale, Learning Commons, 8a-7p

4 Monday

- ◇ EdRising Meeting, Commons, 5p

5 Tuesday

- ◇ Community Foundation of Lincoln Co. Workshop, Rm115, 11a-3p
- ◇ Seed to Supper Series, Caring for your Garden, Rm116, 5-7p
- ◇ Study Night, Free Taco Bar, Learning Commons, 5-7p

7 Thursday

- ◇ Red Cross, 105, 9a-12p
- ◇ President's Annual Awards Reception, Noisy Water Winery, 3-4:30p
- ◇ 2026 Commencement Ceremony, Inn of the Mountain Gods, Mescalero, 6p

8 Friday

- ◇ ENMU Board of Regents Meeting, Roswell Campus, 1p
- ◇ Gaming Club Meeting, Learning Commons, 3p

9 Saturday

- ◇ CNA & Phlebotomy Pinning Ceremony, Rm201, 11a

12 Tuesday

- ◇ NMSU Meeting, Rm115, 8a-5p
- ◇ Inn of the Mountain Gods Training, Rm201, 11a-4p

Gaming Club

Information & Planning
MEETING
May 8 · 3 p.m.
SAH / Learning Commons

Interested in Gaming?
Join Us!