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Email: skyline@sulross.edu
No anonymous letters will be printed.
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Lawrence Sullivan Ross: Confederate ‘hero’ or statesman and leader?

Reporters
Andrea Bode and Andrew Smith,

In the wake of Charlottesville and the Confederate statue controversy, questions have been raised as to the fate of monuments dedicated to Lawrence Sullivan Ross, our university’s namesake.

Should they be removed or edited? Would doing so be an effort to erase history?

Are they true “Confederate” monuments in the first place?

These questions bring to light a complex history of the campus, the man and the south itself.

The monuments in question are the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, located between Lawrence and Ferguson halls, and a large, tombstone-shaped granite marker on the library-facing side of the Briscoe Administration Building.

Each offers a unique perspective of Ross, but some faculty and staff members expressed concern over the latter due to its inscription.

The inscription lists among Ross’ major accomplishments: “As Ranger company captain in 1865 he killed the noted Comanche Chief Peter Nacosa in hand-to-hand combat and captured long lost Cynthia Ann Parker.” Those in favor of editing the marker’s inscription argue that an act of murder should not be listed as one of Ross’ crowning achievements. They propose replacing this with a description of Ross’ contributions to the Texas A&M University System and to the State of Texas.

The marker was erected in 1963 and paid for by the Daughters of the Confederacy on the same day in November 1963 that mass shootings took place at the University of Texas and in the midst of the Civil Rights movement.

The statue of Ross on campus seems not a concern, however, for several reasons. First, it was commissioned in 2014 with a nearly $100,000 donation made by Charlie and Arline Nichols.

“I received an affordable education that supported me in what I did in life, and over the years I have realized the value of that education and the value of Sul Ross for me,” Charlie Nichols, SRSU namesake.

Nichols also specifically requested that the statue not have any Confederate or militaristic associations and instead highlight Ross’ education and the value of Sul Ross for me,” Charlie Nichols,

“I received an affordable education that supported me in what I did in life, and over the years I have realized the value of that education and the value of Sul Ross for me,” Charlie Nichols, SRSU class of 1959 said. “This is my way of saying thank you, Sul Ross, for what you did for me.”

Nichols also specifically requested that the statue not have any Confederate or militaristic associations and instead highlight Ross’ positive achievements. Although he was formerly a part of the Confederates army, in his later years Ross was the governor of Texas and a champion of public education for all.

“Lawrence Sullivan Ross did evolve,” said Dr. Mark Saka, SRSU professor of history. “In fact, he was almost impeached during his term as governor for his efforts to provide free textbooks for African American students.”

Saka went on to explain the cyclical nature and resurgence of Confederate memorials.

“From 1865 to 1948, the Confederate flag was not flown in the United States. It reappeared with the creation of the States’ Rights Party as a response to Truman’s Armed Forces Desegregation Act. We can generally see a spike in the reappearance of Confederate monuments and symbols during times of increased non-white immigration and advances in civil rights.”

The removal or editing of a Confederate monument raises an interesting point about the supposed “erasure of history” argument that has been brought up surrounding the removal of Confederate statues and markers across southern states. There is a difference between erasing history and choosing not to celebrate the parts built on the oppression and control of other people. Lawrence Sullivan Ross was a Confederate soldier, but he evolved with the times and should be remembered for his contributions to higher education and Texas government rather than his military record.

Collision on Campus Lobo Pantry
Food, toiletries, supplies offered to students

Photo Story
By Nadia De Luna

Collision on Campus (COC) is a new student organization that has partnered with Collision Church to help meet the needs of Sul Ross students by offering a monthly free food, toiletry and supplies service.

COC members packed bags with dorm-friendly essential items they distributed at their first Lobo Pantry Aug. 31. The next Lobo Pantry events are scheduled for Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30, from 7-9 pm at the Lobo Village Community Room. Students must have a valid SRSU ID to receive pantry items.

For more information, contact Isabella Hernandez, COC president, jh15xr@sulross.edu.

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We have seen the news and heard of those affected by the recent tropical storm, Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall in Texas August 25, and its impact is being felt across the country as well as here in West Texas. The hurricane devastated the gulf coast of Texas and parts of Louisiana. Some coastal towns were completely underwater; Texas suffered billions of dollars’ worth of damages; and more than 300,000 people were—many still are—displaced by the storm. All eyes were on Houston and surrounding areas that were evacuated and unsafe to enter until the storm cleared. Parts of Port Aransas and Rockport were leveled by wind and debris and flooded after 40 to 52 inches of rain caused rivers, creeks, streets and reservoirs to overflow.

Two days before Harvey made landfall, Texas Governor Greg Abbott ordered mandatory evacuations for Brazoria, Galveston, San Patricio, Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio and parts of Matagorda counties. Twenty more counties were evacuated Aug. 26. Rescue crews and volunteers worked around the clock to rescue those in dangerous situations throughout the affected areas.

Hurricane Harvey claimed 61 confirmed lives, 60 in the United States and one in Guyana. By August 28, 30 to 40 people were still unaccounted for in Aransas County. It’s estimated that more than 13,000 people were rescued by fellow Texans and rescue crews.

Residents of coastal Texas flocked to relatives’ homes and travel locations, including Alpine, while others remained in their homes or local shelters.

Many Sul Ross students are directly affected by the storm. While some students rushed to campus, others were stranded for days and missed the first week of classes.

Sophomore theatre major Michael Amerson was one of those stranded. His family stuck it out in their homes in Missouri City and Hiram Clark; his grandmother and aunt were evacuated to the George R. Brown Convention Center in nearby Houston.

“I’m really sad to see my city streets underwater,” he said. “It really hurts to hear and see how many people’s homes, cars, and businesses are completely destroyed due to Harvey. Please send prayers to Houston. They are helping us stick together.”

Some students, who were able to leave the area early, left knowing that their families might be in danger. Junior Andrew Smith said, “Downtown Houston is where I grew up, which is completely underwater right now. I’ve talked to a few friends who are trying to wait it out and going to check on friends and drop off supplies. My mom’s side was evacuated, so they are all good. The Memorial area isn’t too bad—my grandparents live there—so they are just sticking it out right now.”

It is not just family members and friends who caused students to worry, however.

“My own family lives in Katy, and I was terrified for their safety for the duration of the storm. I kept seeing pictures of areas that I drove through only two weeks before completely underwater. While thankfully my family’s home received no damage, I was anxious and prayed for them. A former work friend lives in the east part of Houston in an apartment complex on one of the upper floors. One night the water went from three feet to almost covering the first floor of the complex. Luckily, they were evacuated by boat that same day.”

Hurricane Harvey’s impact was larger than that of the actual storm. Students with family and friends in the area constantly monitored storm updates and checked in on their loved ones every few hours or whenever they could. It was hard for us all, but we made it through to the recovery stage, which will likely last for months or even years.
Over the summer semesters, after most had left campus, the theatre students were as busy as ever. With two summer shows to put on and half of the department home for vacation, the remaining theater students had their work cut out for them. On top of taking classes, they built sets; made costumes and props; ran the summer kids’ camp and social media accounts; held nightly rehearsals; and somehow managed to find time to sleep.

The first show of the summer, *The 39 Steps*, was written by Patrick Barlow and directed by Bret Scott. Taking place in 1930’s Europe, the play follows the adventures of Richard Hannay, who is framed for murder and caught up in the world of international espionage. The show was written for only four actors, but all but Hannay play multiple roles. The show’s three female characters, Annabella, Margaret and Pamela, were played by Gabrielle Rule. The remaining characters were played by Jonathan “JB” Fields and Jason Roman as the “clowns,” who switched costumes and played more than twenty characters each.

*The 39 Steps* is a fast-paced comedy that was still hilarious after seeing it nine times (trust me).

The summer musical was *The Fantasticks*, written by Tom Jones, with music by Harvey Schmidt, and directed by Dona Roman. A story about love, change, and growing up, the story centers around two neighboring families. Through the course of the show, the children, Matt and Louisa, played by Westin Huffman and Sedia Rashid, fall in love despite a “feud” between their fathers, played by Jason Roman and Josh Martinez. The fathers, however, are best friends, and created the feud in order to get their children together. In an effort to end the “feud,” the fathers enlist the help of the mysterious El Gallo, played by Marcelino Vasquez, and two Shakespearean actors, played by Mikal Crowder and Matt Hymer. Matt and Louisa soon find that their “happily ever after” isn’t all they thought it would be. *The Fantasticks* is the longest running musical on Broadway, and brought large crowds to every performance this summer.

Both shows were wonderful and so much fun to watch and be a part of, and this fall’s theater season is going to be another new and exciting one for students, theater or otherwise. SRSU students get into shows free with their school ID. Get out and see some theater! You won’t be disappointed.

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I know what you missed last summer

**Reporter**

Andrea Bode

Over the summer semesters, after most had left campus, the theatre students were as busy as ever. With two summer shows to put on and half of the department home for vacation, the remaining theater students had their work cut out for them. On top of taking classes, they built sets; made costumes and props; ran the summer kids’ camp and social media accounts; held nightly rehearsals; and somehow managed to find time to sleep.

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Stephanie Elmore is a senior geology student from Fort Stockton, and she leads an incredibly thrilling life. She participates in beauty pageants, has had one of her McNair projects published, and is a volunteer firefighter in her home town. Last year was Elmore’s first in the McNair Scholars Program, which allows students to conduct and present research projects in their desired fields. Her project was “Determining the depositional settings of a limestone unit in Big Bend Ranch State Park, Texas.” Her findings were published through the West Texas Geological Society Bulletin, and she presented her project at the National GSA Conference. She is now working on her second McNair project, “Emissions over the 1995 Alpine Earthquake.”

Her volunteer work in Fort Stockton includes a weekend gig as a volunteer firefighter and she is also an ambassador with the local chamber of commerce. “I’ve been involved with that [ambassador] since I was little, but now I am an official ambassador. We put together everything that happens for the community. We have the chamber banquet where we give out awards once a year, we put on the Big Bend Road Race, and we have a fashion show for the local retailers. We just put on everything that goes on in town,” she said. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s also a lot of fun!”

Elmore’s been an official volunteer for the Fort Stockton VFD since December, but she has been helping since she was little. “My Uncle Charles has been a firefighter for 26 years, so since I can remember that has been my dream job. When I was finally able to get in, it was probably the best feeling in the world,” she said.

She has helped fight many fires in the county, but she reflects on her most recent fire in Fort Stockton, saying, “It was my first structure fire and I actually got to go in with my mask and air tank. I got to knock down a door and some walls to fight the fire, so that was a lot of fun.”

Elmore has done all this while participating in a few beauty pageants since starting her education at Sul Ross. She has competed in Miss Permian Basin, Miss Fort Stockton, and Miss Big Bend. She won Miss Big Bend last year and got to compete in the Miss Texas USA Pageant.

“That was a lot of fun,” Elmore said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for sure. I got to meet a lot of people and do fun photo shoots. Usually people think that you go into a pageant and you get a title or a crown, but it’s so much more than that. My biggest thing about pageants is that you get to be a role model not only for younger generations but also for the older generations. There is a lot of volunteer work that goes into it, and I really enjoy that.”

She plans to compete for the Miss Permian Basin title in 2018 and try to go to the Miss Texas USA one more time.

Elmore also has her own photography business where she does photo shoots and headshots for women and girls going into pageants. “It was pretty neat to be able to contribute in a way instead of actually competing,” she said.

She started her business about two years ago, and some of her headshots have received most photogenic awards for her clients. “It makes me really happy,” Elmore said.

Elmore plans to graduate in December and complete an internship before beginning graduate school.

Senior Spotlight
Stephanie Elmore: student, beauty queen, firefighter, geologist

Reporter
Malyssa Reed

Stephanie Elmore is a senior geology student from Fort Stockton, and she leads an incredibly thrilling life. She participates in beauty pageants, has had one of her McNair projects published, and is a volunteer firefighter in her home town.

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**Sul Ross State University 96th Theatre Season**

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**Building the Wall**, a new play written by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning author Robert Schenkkan. Directed by Donna Roman. Building the Wall is a provocative 80-minute theatrical event written in a white-hot fury.

In a time when shocking campaign rhetoric turns into real policies, Building the Wall urgently reveals the power of theater to question who we are and where we might be going. Performances are Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23 in Marshall Auditorium. There will be a moderated question and discussion period after each performance.

Tickets are now on sale for $5, and students get in free with their Sul Ross ID.

Seating is on the stage and will be limited to 80 people. Parental discretion is advised due to mature language and situations.

For more information, please call 432-837-8218 or visit www.sulross.edu/theatre.

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**RGC’s Ortiz exhibit on display through today**

Today is the last day to view the paintings and drawings of Michael Ortiz on display at the Frances F. Albrecht Gallery. The exhibit began August 21. A closing reception was held September 14.

Ortiz is an associate professor of mathematics at Rio Grande College, a branch campus of SRSU and resides in Uvalde. As a college student, he switched his major from painting to math after being shown a film on geometry in a design class. He went on to study geometry and theoretical physics at the University of Texas, where he received his doctorate, but he continues to exercise the other side of his brain through painting, using imagery drawn from nature, architecture, religion, local lore, and, occasionally, math.

Ortiz also writes fiction under his pen name, Raphael Ordizales. His work harks back to the word fantasy of the 1950s pulp, and has appeared in Beneath Ceaseless Skies, Henge Fenney Quarterly, and other magazines. The exhibition includes illustrations as well as paintings inspired by the wrap-around covers of vintage paperbacks.

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**Support of the Month**

For more information, please call 432-837-8218 or visit www.sulross.edu/theatre.
New club helps veterans adjust to campus life

Rainey Miller

If you’ve served time in the military, readjusting to civilian life can be difficult. That’s why Zachariah Vaughn is starting a club for veterans at Sul Ross.

“I found Sul Ross wherever I was still active in the army and I was looking for a veteran’s organization and I saw that they didn’t have one,” Vaughn explained. “Singin’ a need, Vaughn took matters into his own hands and created a group where veterans could find community.” The way that we train is very specific to the team or organization... so when these [veterans] come out, they don’t have that same camaraderie, they don’t have that same fellowship that they would in the military.

The purpose of the group is to help veterans as they pursue a higher education. Vaughn’s favorite part of being in the army was training new recruits—this sparked a passion for mentorship that he carries to this day. He hopes the organization will improve the relationship of veterans to civilians, lead community service projects, and ultimately attract more veterans to Sul Ross.

“I want to show that we’re among,” Vaughn stated. “We’re incredible guys who have a lot to give back to the community.”

For more information, contact Vaughn at av@delta@sulross.edu or 704-798-0124.

Passport, notary services now offered at library

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library is now accepting passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. U.S. citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports Monday through Friday from 9 am until 2 pm at the library. For more information, call the library at 432-837-8123.

McNair-Tafoya Research Symposium set for Sept. 25

Oral and poster presentations highlighting undergraduate research will be featured at the 10th annual McNair-Tafoya Research Symposium Monday, Sept. 25 at Sul Ross State University.

The symposium will be held from 3-5 pm in the Espino Conference Center. Rooms A and B of the Morgan University Center. There is no admission charge and the public is invited.

Poster presentations include:


Yakira Ariki, “Proton Corrusion Formation Investigating the Effects of Cell Culture Growth Media on Nanoscale SiO2 Stability and Net Charge,” Dr. Denise Simmons and Dr. Mohammad Omary, University of North Texas mentors.


Breeann Sturges, “Effects of Monoki centipede (noni) Oral Supplementation on Oxidative Stress and Antioxidant Status in Experimental Horsem,” Dr. Rebecca Splan, mentor.

Tiffany Velasquez, “The Effects of Sake in the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas,” Dr. Sean Graham, mentor.

Oral presentations begin at 3 pm, with poster presentations at 4 pm. A reception follows the presentations.

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is designed to encourage first-generation, low-income students and minority undergraduates to consider careers in college teaching as well as prepare for doctoral study. Students who participate in the program are provided with research opportunities and faculty mentors.

The annual symposium is also named in honor of the late Dr. Jesus Tafoya, Sul Ross Professor of Spanish and a long-time advocate of the program.

Sul Ross students received a stipend of $2,000 and three semester credit hours through the Department of Education’s TRIO programs.

Named in honor of the astronaut who died in the 1986 space shuttle explosion, the McNair Program was established at Sul Ross in October 2007. It is funded through the Department of Education’s TRIO programs.

For more information, contact Dominguez Vergas, director, 432-837-8019 or dvargas@sulross.edu.
Lobos open season with big win over UTPB, then fall to No. 1 UMHB powerhouse

**SRSU-47, UTPB-22**

The Lobos were a force to reckon with as they defeated University of Texas-Permian Basin in a season-opening 47-22 victory over the Falcons Sept. 2 at Ratliff Stadium.

After UTPB nearly erased an 18-point deficit, the Sul Ross defense repelled a two-point, game-tying conversion attempt late in the third quarter.

Less than two minutes later, Sarkeithian Thomas’ 38-yard fumble return restored a nine-point edge.

Jeremy Schilhab’s two-yard run built a 31-16 advantage. The Lobos defense repelled a two-point, game-tying conversion attempt late in the third quarter.

Two more Sul Ross interceptions led to game-clenching scores.

**UMHB-23, SRSU-7**

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor fought off a resilient second half effort by Sul Ross on its way to a 23-7 ASC-opening victory over the Lobos Saturday night in Belton.

The Crusaders scored on a nine-yard pass and extra point to start the second half.

The Lobos found pay dirt with just over 1:30 left in the third as Jeremy Reed scored on a nine-yard pass from fellow senior James Davis. Eli Lopez then converted the extra attempt in what would be the final scoring session of the contest.

**Volleyball team 2-6 after two Austin College tournaments**

A 3-0 victory over Louisiana College wrapped up successful weekend tournaments at Austin College for the Sul Ross volleyball team.

Coach Troy Canaba’s Lady Lobos fell 1-3 at the Austin College Classic Sept. 1-2 and 1-3 at the Austin College Invitational Sept. 9-10 Sulu Ross. 2-6 overall, opened American Southwest Conference play at Howard Payne Sept. 12, then host Concordia-Austin Friday (Sept. 15) at 3 p.m. and Mary Hardin-Baylor Saturday (Sept. 16) at 1 p.m. in the Pete P. Gallego Center.

The Lady Lobos lost 3-1 to Lawrence University and defeated Paul Quinn 3-0 in season-opening action at Sherman Sept. 1. The following day they lost 3-0 to Centenary and 3-0 to host Austin College.

Pacific University defeated Sul Ross 3-0 and U-Dallas won 3-1 Sept. 8. Canaba’s team fell 3-0 to Occidental College before sweeping Louisiana College.

Stephanie Diaz has recorded a team-high 26 kills, while Jordan Scherer has 24 kills and eight blocks. Mirella Thomas has 66 set assists and McKenna Thomas has 78 digs.

**Sul Ross runners compete at HSU Invitational**

Joseph Parker placed 14th out of 52 competitors in the men’s 5k Sept. 7 before sweeping Louisiana College.

Parker timed in at 16:54.

Ricardo Flores was the only other Sul Ross runner for the men clocking in at 19:23 for 45th place.

In the women’s 5k, Anahi Uribarri placed 41st at 24:54. Other Sul Ross runners included Hailey Frerichs (25:46), Karina Ramirez (28.27), Janelle Galvan (28.52) and Nyria Sanchez (33.12).

**Sanchez (33:12).**
No. 5 Trinity defeats Sul Ross; Lobos beat Wayland, Schreiner

Trinity-2, SRSU-0

No. 5 Trinity University (1-1-0) scored its first goal nearly eight minutes into the first half as the Tigers defeated the Lady Lobos (0-1-0) in a 2-0 season-opening decision on Labor Day in San Antonio.

Trinity delivered a pass over a Sul Ross defender which led to a Tiger goal at the 7:47 mark.

Another goal was made at the 15-and-a-half minute mark for a 2-0 Tiger advantage.

Both teams were shut out in the second half as Trinity went on to claim the 2-0 win.

Senior goalkeeper Ashlie Rojas posted nine saves on the day.

SRSU-3, WBU-1

Senior midfielder Lauren Ebbs posted the fifth hat trick of her Sul Ross career leading the Lady Lobos to a 3-1 home-opening victory over Wayland Baptist University Sept. 8.

The Dublin, Ireland native secured her first goal on a header from a corner kick by Joanna Rodriguez at the 12:42 mark, first half.

Ebbs struck again at the 32nd minute with a left foot dribble off an assist by Haley Gibbons (Judson/Converse).

Wayland Baptist then scored at 34:32 off a corner kick, but it would be the final goal scored for either team in the opening period.

Ebbs then converted off a crossover pass at the 86th minute as the Lady Lobos held off a Pioneer rally for the 3-1 win.

For the game, Sul Ross polled 24 shots with 14 on goal. Wayland Baptist fired off 14 attempts with seven on goal.

SRSU-2, Schreiner-1

The Sul Ross women's soccer team moved their season mark to 2-1-0 following a 2-1 non-conference victory over Schreiner University (1-4-0) Sept. 10.

Ebbs sported both goals for the home squad, the first coming in the 42nd minute, first half. Ebbs scored on a long right foot pass by MacKenzie Attwood for a 1-0 lead that would extend to intermission.

Ebbs struck again at the 59th minute in the second period on a pusher by Britney Barumen.

The Mountaineers shouldered their only goal at the 7:15 mark on an unassisted tapper.

Starting goal keeper Rojas recorded the win after posting three first half saves. Kelly Swenson worked the entire second period picking up six saves in the victory.

photos by Susanna Mendez