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Rodeo in photos

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Lighting of the Bar-SR-Bar on Hancock Hill

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COST OF EDUCATION
TUITION FEES EXPECTED TO INCREASE NEXT FALL

Depending on the decision reached by the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System next week, the student fee for next fall may go up by $7.67 per semester credit hour (SCH) to $154.67, and again by $8.20/SCH to $162.87 in the fall of 2019.

Two public hearings to solicit student input were held on campus Oct. 30 and 31. A handful of people attended these meetings, only one of whom is a Sul Ross student.

“If the rate increase is approved in addition to a small increase per semester in the recreational sports fee, the overall academic cost increase to a student taking 15 SCHs will be $119 for Fall 2018 and $123 for Fall 2019,” said Cesario Valenzuela, vice president for Finance and Operations. “That’s an increase of 2.95 percent in 2018 and 2.96 percent in 2019, again based on 15 SCHs.”

The proposed increases are expected to raise approximately $356,000 in new revenue for fiscal year 2019, $388,000 in FY2020. As is required, 15 percent of the new revenue is intended to go back to financial aid for students, Valenzuela explained.

“The pay raises will not improve our ranking,” Valenzuela said, “but it may keep us from losing more ground.”

State appropriations were effectively reduced by 8 percent this year, or $1.5 million, he said. “To help address this reduction in revenue, 26 vacant positions were frozen and unfunded in an effort to reduce budgeted expenditures, and some revenue was also redirected.”

Designated tuition is a mandatory fee assessed to all students except those exempted by statute, such as veterans, validstudentors and others. All public Texas universities assess this fee, either by flat-rate tuition or on a SCH basis. Despite sharp tuition, this is a flexible source of revenue (all other fees are specific as to what they can be used for) that can be used for occupancy, services, use, and/or availability of university property, buildings, activities or operations.

Sul Ross is among the most affordable public institutions in the state and that ranking is not expected to change if the fee increase is approved.

The latest available data (2016) from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board indicates that faculty salaries at Sul Ross are the lowest in the state across all categories.

“These pay raises will not improve our ranking,” Valenzuela said, “but it may keep us from losing more ground.”

Day hikers, including those who do not climb on any part of the Indian Lodge, can be used for occupancy, services, use, and/or availability of university property, buildings, activities or operations.

Sul Ross is one of the most affordable public institutions in the state and that ranking is not expected to change if the fee increase is approved.

LOCAL ADVENTURES
DAY HIKES AROUND ALPINE

Co-editor
Rainey Miller

Hancock Hill Desk
Location: Behind the Physical Plant at Sul Ross
Difficulty: Your five-year-old can do it

The desk on Hancock Hill is a quintessential Alpine hike, and is part of every new student’s initiation into Sul Ross (or, at least, should be). Start in the Sul Ross parking lot beside the Physical Plant, then make the somewhat steep 0.25-mile climb to the rock pile on top of the hill. From there, take the trail to the right. If you’re walking a short distance, you’ll pass a very unusual tree on your left—instead of fruit, it has bicycles in its branches! Walk another few feet, and you’ll reach the desk. The legend goes that a group of students, bored by studying inside, dragged their desk up the hill so they could get some fresh air (the original desk has since been replaced). Bring a pen so you can add your signature to the desk, and you’re officially part of Alpine! Afterwards, you can either backtrack or continue to where the trail loops back around, then head down the hill the way you came up.

Point of Rocks (Bald Rock)
Location: Highway 166, ten miles SW of Fort Davis
Difficulty: Medium, like a steak you might wanna cook a while longer

Admittedly, this hike kicked my butt the first time I attempted it. Point of Rocks is not a mountain by any means, but don’t let the low elevation fool you; this stubborn rockpile looks small until you’re trying to scramble up the side, gripping handholds in boulders and cursing the cacti peeking from the cracks, seemingly every plant/stick/rock out for blood money or your shorts. But, that’s Texas for you. In Fort Davis, turn onto Highway 166 and continue ten miles; Point of Rocks is on the roadside on your right. There isn’t much of a trail, so you’ve gotta find for yourself as you climb the boulders. When you get to the top, you’ll be rewarded with stunning 360-degree views of the desert, and probably some close-up of vultures that drift by on the air currents (or maybe they sense that you’re dying on the inside...?). The scratches you’ll get on your hands are totally worth it.

Modesta Canyon
Location: Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
Difficulty: Medium, like oil on canvas

This two-mile loop is fairly easy. Start at the CDR’s Powell Visitor Center, heading out across 0.25 miles of grassland. Make the 200-foot descent into a canyon with extrusive igneous rock on one side, and intrusive igneous rock on the other. I’m not a geologist by any means, but even I noticed the dramatically different rock formations on this hike. Also, keep your eyes peeled for quail and deer! At the bottom of the canyon, you’ll come across a natural spring and some small standing pools, shaded by smooth, red-barked Texas Madre mesquite. Continue up the canyon to Lion’s Head Hill, then return to the visitor center along the upper rim of the canyon. Easy peasy.

Indian Lodge
Location: Davis Mountains State Park
Difficulty: Medium, like a fortune teller in a mall parking lot

This hike lets you view the Davis Mountains in all their glory. Begin behind the historic Indian Lodge, then ascend the grassy trail to the hill; end your hike by walking the Montezuma Quail Trail to the campground, or take the slightly longer trail to the park headquarters. Good fun! But, a word of caution: do not climb on any part of the Indian Lodge. You might accidentally find yourself on the roof thinking it’s part of the trail, and then an angry park ranger will come out and yell at you, and you’ll start to cry and explain that you were lost on your way to the bathroom and really you had no idea you were on the roof and you’re sorry and, by the way, you hope to work for the Park Service someday (but really, where is the bathroom...?!). This is all hypothetical, of course.

Baldy Peak on Mount Livermore
Location: Davis Mountains Preserve
Difficulty: Unless you’re in shape, start writing your will

Peaking at 8,375 feet, the lovely Mount Livermore is the fifth highest mountain in Texas, get ready to feel your thighs ignite as you curse your way to the summit. I almost chickened out at the end (the “Baldy Peak” part), which involves some rock scrambling and probably a panic attack as you see the world drop away on one side. But, if you do make it to the top, you’ll be rewarded with stunning views and an old trail log in a can, in which you can—and should, because you’ve just submitted a mountain—write your signature. Note: make sure everyone in your party is carrying a map, or you might end up losing a member of your group who happens to have all the maps in her backpack, and as the sun goes down, you’ll start to contemplate spending the night in the woods and who you should eat first if you run out of Honey Buns.

Just a thought: Keep in mind that the Davis Mountains Preserve is only open on certain days, so you’ll need to do some planning for this one; the next open weekend is December 8-10.
WHITEWASHING/LIGHTING THE BAR-SR-BAR

Photos by Susanna Mendez and Krista Porter

HOMECOMING PARADE

Photos by Susanna Mendez and Vashti Armendariz
**HOMECOMING PEP RALLY**

Photos by Susanna Mendez

**HOMECOMING ROYALTY**

Darrian Doederlein and Zack Roberson.

Selena Garcia and Sir Daniel Turner

Breeann Sturges and Kendal Hartman

Abeggall Escajeda and Sergio Pedroza

Photos by Susanna Mendez
FROM LA VERNIA TO ALPINE

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Reporter
Vashli Armendariz

When asked what helped her move forward, graduating senior Nadia De Luna answered, “You have to know you owe it to yourself; at the end of the day you only have yourself.” Originally from La Vernia, TX, De Luna will be walking the stage this December 15.

De Luna claims to have joined the Lobo family as an academically poor student; she also did not know anyone here, and that made it a hard transition. Prior to Sul Ross, she received her cosmetology license and worked in San Antonio in a cut-throat salon, Salon Flor.

After moving to Colorado for a few months, De Luna realized she wanted to do something more meaningful. Most importantly, she wanted to carve a more stable future for herself.

A long conversation with her parents and the discovery of an old Sul Ross t-shirt motivated her to schedule a tour at Sul Ross, and she was on her way.

“I wanted something that was close to home but far enough away that I could concentrate,” she said. “Sul Ross really is a cool place to be.” De Luna became a Lobo in the spring of 2015.

She first joined the pack as a biology student, but after taking a few psychology classes, she changed her major to psychology.

“I was always more interested in the psychology [aspect] of biology,” De Luna said. “I connected more with people and why things happen.”

Last spring at Honors Convocation, De Luna was named Psychology Student of the Year. She is a co-founder of the Open Care Club, and a member of the Student Support Services Program.

She credits her family and delaying her education with her collegiate success.

“My non-traditional route helped me with [achieving] academic success,” she said, and added, “knowing how hard my parents worked to be where they are [helped]. All of their love and support pushed me through hard times.”

De Luna works part-time at the front desk at the Gage Hotel in Marathon. When she has the time, she enjoys being outside, hanging out with friends, and traveling out of town.

She feels that she has not only gained a degree from Sul Ross, but “some irreplaceable memories and good times.”

She advises underclassmen that “getting a degree takes a lot of time and determination, so stick with it.” She also encourages others to “embrace anything life throws at you.”

De Luna answers the age-old question of “what comes after this” with: “I have no clue, but whatever it is, bring it on!”

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

SUL ROSS THEATRE PROGRAM

The Sul Ross Theatre Program is proud to present its next production, Jason Robert Brown’s Drama Desk winner, The Last Five Years.

The musical has been translated into a handful of languages and was named one of TIME Magazine’s ten best shows of 2001. The Last Five Years also enjoyed an Off-Broadway revival at Second Stage in 2013, and a film adaptation was released in 2014, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan.

An emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers in their twenties who fall in and out of love over the course of five years, the show’s unconventional structure consists of Cathy, the woman, telling her story backwards while Jamie, the man, tells his story chronologically; the two characters only meet once, at their wedding in the middle of the show.

Directed by Ashley Jane Page, the musical features a two-person cast and provides a great opportunity for actors with both range and stamina.

“The Last Five Years is one of my favorite musicals,” Page said. “I fell in love with this show when I attended an impromptu production in 2011. The simplicity paired with the intense raw emotion of the show blew me away. Jason Robert Brown’s music and lyrics are inspired and hauntingly relatable. That is part of the magic of this show! The emotions and experiences these characters live are moments that feel so personal for each person watching.”

The musical features two seasoned actors, Josh Martinez and Sedia Woods. Both actors thrilled audiences this summer with their roles in The Fantasticks.

“The intimate musical is perfect for a small space, such as the Studio Theatre at Sul Ross,” notes Dona Roman, professor of theatre and director of the Sul Ross Theatre Program.

“We are moving fast and furiously from one production to another this fall, providing a wonderful opportunity for all of our students and great diversity for our patrons.”

Show dates are November 10-12 and 17-19, with evening performances beginning at 8:15 and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. The musical will be held in the Studio Theatre in the Francois Fine Arts Building on the Sul Ross State University campus.

Tickets are on sale now at www.sulross.edu/theatre or in the theatre office (FAB 203). Tickets are $12 for adults and $10 for seniors. The production contains strong language and adult content. Late seating is not permitted.

For more information, call 432-837-8372 or visit www.sulross.edu/theatre.

Photo by Ashley Jane Page.
LEA GRADS


Photo by Steve Lang

AROUND CAMPUS

Dr. Sean Graham, assistant professor of biology, has a book coming out in the near future. “American Snakes,” published by John Hopkins University Press, includes photographs, anecdotes and facts about snakes designed for casual, informative reading. The book’s cover photo, as well as several others Graham’s book, were taken by SRSU student Noah Fields.

AMERICAN SNAKES

Photos by Vashti Armendariz

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

The group finds an old headlight.

Photos by Vashti Armendariz

Join at TrueValueRewards.com!
What is the sport of Ultimate? Ultimate is also known as ‘Ulti,’ but the word ‘Friday!’ is trademarked by the toy company Wham-O, so the sport is just called Ultimate. Ultimate has a unique history as women have always been included without question. It is also a very popular underground sport.

The sport started in 1968 with a group of high school friends in the Northeast who just wanted to play something. They took the game with them to their various universities, and it grew from there. Today, most major universities have at least one Ultimate team, and a lot of smaller universities, like ours, have one as well.

One of the things I found to be unique about the sport when speaking to Associate Professor of Communication, Dr. Joey Velasco, Sul Ross Ultimate's faculty adviser, about the sport it is its culture.

One of the rules of Ultimate is known simply as “Spirit of the Game,” and it’s the culture that drives the sport. Velasco guided by Spirit of the Game is more than just a rule, “it’s an ethical philosophy that guides the entire sport.”

Velasco said, “Everyone should throw a disc before they leave Sul Ross.”

“Velasco started teaching here. He started the club with The Sul Ross Ultimate Team kicked off in 2005 when fouls on themselves when it happens. Effective said. “In fact, we don’t use refs. Even at the highest.”

“You don’t try to get away with something,” Velasco said. “In fact, we don’t use refs. Even at the highest.”

“My perspective is that it is the greatest sport there is,” he said. “If I could teach my kids just one sport, it’s Ultimate.”

Sul Ross has an official man’s team and has been trying to get an official women’s team to start. At the women’s Ultimate team as other community members. The community’s Ultimate team has been around for many years and is called the Goatheads. Community members who play for the Goatheads include Jim Thompson, Tony Curry, Irene Curry, Julian Wheat, Velasco, Dr. Katie Kucerca, Dr. John Ray, Marcos “Marky” Rodriguez, Robert Polanco, Josh Steinberg and many others.

“Velasco introduced it to our Business and Professional Communication class, and it seemed like fun, like a challenge, and so I liked the idea of putting a women’s team together. The few times I have gone out to play, it’s a really good group of people. They are all just out there having fun. I think there is a lot of potential to build a really good women’s team.”

Velasco and the members of both the Sul Ross Ultimate teams and Goatheads are excited about putting a women’s team together. Right now there are about six women who are still interested and go to the practices that they have, but Velasco says, “We really want to get it off the ground and get more than seven people so we can utilize the whole gym. By Game 15, 20, 30—shoot, even 50. We’d like to have a bunch of women who are just hungry to play and love the sport.”

The Ultimate teams meet to practice on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays at 6:30 pm at the campus Recreational Sports Field. Interested students and community members can contact Velasco or the teams through their webpage, www.sulrossultimate.wixsite.com. For more information, contact Donald Freed, 432-837-8216 or dfreed@sulross.edu.

The official opening of open house locations and the silent auction at Galeria Sibley is at 8 pm, Friday (Nov. 17). Activities on 5th Street include face painting, horse ride, kids’ games and other family-friendly events. Live music starts at 8 pm in all participating venues. All official locations will close at 10 pm, although live music will continue at the night at both the Railroad Blues and Olive Crystal Bar.

Saturday (Nov. 18) at 9 am, a Scone Workshop begins. An hour later, all locations open up, along with the Hecho a Mano Market hosted in Kishmish Plaza. Kids-friendly activities and games continue on 5th Street.

Also on Saturday, the Artwalk Car Parade entries line up at 11:30 am; the parade will travel east down Holland Avenue and end at Jackson Field. After the parade, the Art Car and Hot Rod Show will be featured at Avenue E and 4th Street. Live music starts up at 4 pm in participating venues all over town.

The Artwalk weekend wraps up Sunday (Nov. 19) with another Scone Workshop at 9 am.

For more information on Artwalk events, featured artists, bands, locations and other information, visit www.artwalkalpine.com.

And remember, it’s not too early to start shopping for one-of-a-kind original holiday gifts, even if they’re for yourself!
CROSS COUNTRY/SOCCER

SUL ROSS' PARKER QUALIFIES FOR REGIONALS

Sul Ross junior men's cross country runner Joseph Parker has qualified to compete at this year’s NCAA South/Southeast Regional Championships.

The 2017 regional run will take place tomorrow (Saturday, Nov. 11) at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia beginning at noon Central Time.

Parker won the bronze at the 2017 ASC Cross Country Championships with a time of 26:57 out of 96 competitors in the 8K.

The Burnet, Texas native reeled in three top 10 performances in 2017 including a second place, 5K run of 16:43 at the University of Dallas on October 14.

That run earned Parker an ASC Male Runner of the Week honor.

FIVE MAKE HONORS LIST AS SOCCER ENDS SEASON

Despite losing their final three matches, five Sul Ross women’s soccer players were named to the American Southwest Conference post-season awards list.

Senior midfielder Lauren Ebbs (Dublin, Ireland) was named an ASC First Team All-Conference selection after finishing the season with a team-best 16 goals. She fired off 90 shots on the season putting 48 on goal.

Ebbs posted two hat tricks this season in wins over Wayland Baptist and McMurry and was twice named an ASC Offensive Player of the Week.

Freshman midfielder Britany Berumen (El Paso/Socorro) was tabbed as an ASC Third Team All-Conference selection. She scored a second-team high seven goals on the season and started in all but two games in 2017. Berumen tallied 39 shots and tagged 16 shots on goal.

Junior defender Rachel Hamilton (San Antonio/Madison) is on this year’s Honorable Mention list. Hamilton started in all but one game this season and provided an assist in Sully’s regular season finale against Concordia.

Fellow defender Lynden Sterling (Odessa/Permian) was also named a 2017 Honorable Mention and started in six games as a freshman.

Sophomore midfielder Xandria Cisneros (Odessa/Permian) is a 2017 Honorable Mention and started in all but one game this season.

In just its third year of competition, Sul Ross finished with its first winning season at 8-7-1 (6-5-1 ASC) and earned its second straight ASC post season tournament berth.

FOOTBALL DROPS LAST TWO HOME GAMES

The Sul Ross Lobos dropped their homecoming contest Oct. 28 to the East Texas Baptist University Tigers, 42-28, giving the Lobos a 4-4 season record (2-4 ASC).

The Tigers drew first blood, scoring a 75-yard touchdown and extra point. The Lobos came back on a 21-yard score by Wesley Moss, and Eli Lopez kicked the extra point to tie it at 7-7 in the first quarter.

ETBU scored once more before the half on a five-yard pass. The extra point was good and the Tigers led 14-7 at the half.

The Lobos tied it again on a 29-yard pass from Paul Rodriguez to Steven Savedra, and Lopez cleared the uprights.

The Tigers scored twice more before James Davis scored on a 71-yard, followed by the PAT by Lopez, making the score 28-21.

Another score by the Tigers increased their lead to 35-21.

Davis scored the Lobos’ final touchdown on a six-yard run. Lopez again kicked true.

ETBU sealed their victory with another touchdown and PAT with 2:33 remaining in the game.

Davis completed 12 of 22 passes for 119 yards. The senior quarterback had two interceptions and was sacked three times. Davis led the ground attack with 14 carries for 108 yards and two touchdowns.

Savedra had four receptions for 74 yards and a touchdown. Mike Quinn had 13 tackles and two and a half sacks. Barkeithian Thomas made 12 tackles. Derrick Winters intercepted a Tiger pass.

The Lobos fell to Texas Lutheran University, 40-14, at Jackson Field in their last home game of the season Nov. 4.

The Lobos scored early in the first quarter with a 66-yard Davis pass to Wesley Moss. Lopez nailed the PAT.

The game was tied at seven when the Bulldogs scored at the 6:02 mark.

At 5:17, Davis hit Savedra on a 72-yard touchdown pass. Lopez was perfect on the extra point and Lobos had their last lead at 14-7.

TLU closed out the first quarter with a 14-yard TD and point after to tie it up.

The Bulldogs scored the only TD of the second quarter on a five-yard pass, and the score at halftime was TLU 21, Lobos 14.

Texas Lutheran put the Lobos away in the second half with 19 unanswered points including a safety for the 40-14 win.

The Lobos (4-5, 3-5 ASC) close out the season tomorrow (Nov. 11) at Belhaven University.

FOOTBALL DROPS LAST TWO HOME GAMES

Despite losing their final three matches, five Sul Ross women’s soccer players were named to the American Southwest Conference post-season awards list.

Senior midfielder Lauren Ebbs (Dublin, Ireland) was named an ASC First Team All-Conference selection after finishing the season with a team-best 16 goals. She fired off 90 shots on the season putting 48 on goal.

Ebbs posted two hat tricks this season in wins over Wayland Baptist and McMurry and was twice named an ASC Offensive Player of the Week.

Senior goalkeeper Ashlie Rojas (Dublin, Ireland) was named an ASC First Team All-Conference selection after finishing the season with a team-best 16 goals. She fired off 90 shots on the season putting 48 on goal.

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RODOE

Kay Thomas (second from left), Angleton, was crowned Miss Sul Ross Rodeo 2017 Saturday evening, Nov. 4, at the S.A.L.E. Livestock Arena. This year’s rodeo royalty are, from left, Jade Oates, Exeter, CA; Thomas; LeeAnn Lovelady, El Paso; and Jeanette Tilley, Alvin. Sul Ross hosted its 72nd annual NIRA rodeo Thursday-Saturday.

Photo by Dana Jones

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