SKYLINE
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KIBLER WEIGHS IN
HAVEN'T YOU PEOPLE EVER HEARD OF CLOSING THE DORM DOOR

BY GUNNAR GARDNER
SKYLINE STAFF

WHAT HAPPENED

Toward the end of the fall 2015 semester multiple reports of doors being damaged in Lobo Villages 1 and 2 were registered. According to Director of Residential Living Mark Chaszar, more than ten incidents occurred that caused damage to the exterior doors of the dormitories.

As a direct result, a community billing charge of $50 was added to the bills of all student residents of LV 1 and 2 to cover the cost of damages. With the doors valued around $8,000 each, it amounted to more than $80,000 in damages. Additionally, there were dozens of reported incidents of trash being left outside of doors, in hallways, and elevators of LV 1 and 2, causing an additional $25 charge to students’ bills. The levied charges led to numerous complaints from students who felt that it was unfair to charge everyone in the entire building for one or more individuals’ actions.

KIBLER RESPONDS

After hearing the complaints from the students, University President Dr. Bill Kibler, along with residential living staff, held a forum to discuss the situation on Dec. 9 during final exam week.

Kibler explained that the charges had been removed from students’ bills to be “set aside,” potentially to be paid at a later date. Students who had already paid the fee before it was removed were refunded.

“Whether you agree or disagree with the charges, the realities of what motivated [them] are very real,” Kibler said, referring to the cost of replacement doors and extra trash removal.

He explained that it is not the custodial staff’s job to remove bulk trash from the dorms. “It is the responsibility of students to dispose of their own trash in the dumpsters located outside of the dorm buildings,” he said. “If students wish to have a trash disposal system put in the dorms we would have to hire more custodians or create a special trash removal system which would require a raise in student housing rent.”

He noted that trash in the hallways creates a health and safety hazard due to the possibility of insects and vermin coming into the buildings.

Kibler reminded students that these issues are covered in the housing contracts that must be signed before students move into the dorms:

A. Group Billing - Students residing in a building will be held responsible for the general condition of their community. When damages or conditions requiring special cleaning occur in public areas and the person responsible cannot be identified, the residents of the building may be required to reimburse the University for repair, replacement and/or cleaning charges.
B. Damage Charges - All charges will be based on the prices listed on the Room Condition Report.
C. Maintenance. We request everyone’s cooperation in keeping their apartment neat and clean. Occupants are responsible for keeping the immediate area around the apartment clean and free of litter. The Physical Plant department will maintain the grounds, shrubs and lawns. Objects that will interfere with grounds work should not be left in the yards. Dumpsters are provided for the disposal of trash and garbage. These containers are to be kept covered. If it becomes necessary to have university employees pick up litter and loose articles around an apartment, the occupants will be assessed a clean-up fee.

One of the president’s main points involving the door damage was security. He posed a great question, asking students if they would rather have the doors continuously open and unlocked for anyone to walk in at any time or to have a secure locked-door policy. Students responded as expected saying they prefer a secure dorm environment.

When the issue of security cameras arose, Kibler dispelled some of the rumors regarding the camera system. For instance, the rumor “that the cameras erase footage after a few hours is simply not true,” he said, “when in fact they can record up to multiple weeks.” Because the clarity of the recorded images is questionable, he agreed that “the current security cameras need to be updated in order to provide a secure atmosphere and to better prevent future damages and violations.”

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The security camera system in the campus housing will be updated.

“We have already received four proposals from companies that can install a new-security camera system and students should start to see work within the next few weeks,” Kibler said. His goal is to have a new operational security system in Lobo Villages 1 and 2 and Fletcher Hall by the end of this semester. Cameras will be located in key vantage points in the hallways, in communal areas like the lounges and laundry rooms, and along the exterior of the buildings.

According to Chaszar, the university “will be installing door prop alarms in order to prevent future incidents.”

Since the State of Texas prohibits state-allocated funding to be used for off-campus living, funding must come from the students or the Residential Living Department. However, students’ rent will not be raised for these improvements.

“Due to the massive enrollment we had from the fall 2015 semester we exceeded our incoming funding budget which we will use to pay for the new security cameras,” Chaszar said.

For more information regarding housing policies or other concerns, contact Chaszar at 432-837-8189 or mchaszar@sulross.edu.
Pathways of both pedestrian and vehicle traffic have been distinctly altered at Sul Ross State University as construction proceeds on the first phase of the Campus Access Project (CAP) that began two weeks before the start of the spring 2016 semester.

Identified in the 2011 Campus Master Plan, the project is designed with the dual purpose of student safety and expanding student gathering/outdoor classroom space.

The project is very much about access to the campus, with student safety (a major consideration) in every aspect of the design,” said Jim Clouse, associate vice president for Campus Planning, Construction and Risk Management. "Everything with the Campus Master Plan is focused on student retention and recruiting. This phase will increase student gathering places in an open setting, outside of residence halls and classrooms."

Phase I work began Jan. 4, with perimeter fencing erected, closing the loop road adjacent to Lobo Village, just south of Fletcher Hall and extending to the intersection just south of Physical Plant. Through traffic is no longer available from the south to the north side of the campus. Access to the Museum of the Big Bend, Francois Fine Arts Building, Warnock Science Building and the Industrial Technology Building is now through Entrance 4, located on Avenue B.

In addition, new pedestrian routes have been established from Lobo Village to the main campus. Cul-de-sacs enable students to load or unload to Lobo 1 and Lobo 2 during the beginning and end of semesters.

When completed by June, the open area between Lobo Village and the Warnock Science Building will feature student gathering places, an outdoor classroom/amphitheater, improved landscaping and seating areas to enhance both the student living and learning environment.

Clouse termed the design “eco-friendly,” with native rock used to conform to existing landscaping, new plantings consistent with present flora and an awning with solar panels on the outdoor classroom. The project will be ADA compliant, and all affected buildings will have emergency access. "There will be a loss of parking behind Warnock Science Building and some behind Fine Arts, but the trade-off will greatly enhance student safety," Clouse said. "The new pedestrian paths leading from Lobo Village to the University Center will be the start of the most significant landscaping change on this campus in over 40 years."

For more information, contact Clouse, 432-837-8777, or jclouse@sulross.edu.

Above, artist’s rendering of first phase of Campus Access Project at Sul Ross. The open area between Lobo Village and Warnock Science Building will feature numerous student gathering places, outdoor classroom/amphitheater, and improved landscaping.
EDITORIAL

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

SKYLINE STAFF

Pulling up to Entrance 3 of the Sul Ross State University campus, one can’t help but come to a halt in between Lobo Village 1 and Fletcher Hall. The road is blocked and the only choice left is to reverse, go around and go through Entrance 4 on the other side of campus or just find parking behind LV1 or in front of Fletcher Hall.

Students who left for winter break and came back for this spring semester discovered that a major construction project began Jan. 4 on campus that affects us all in some way.

In 2013 a Campus Access Project (CAP) plan was proposed to build and expand a student gathering area that would include outdoor classrooms, an amphitheatre, and a safe place where students can gather.

Phase 1 of the CAP began by gating the area behind Fletcher Hall, in front of Warnock Science Building, and half of the parking behind the Fine Arts Building. Heavy construction vehicles followed, with different machines in use from a chipper, used to break concrete, to an excavator, used to dig out holes, move dirt, etc. From then on almost every day students pass by the gated area and see the progress the workers are accomplishing.

With major construction underway, most students seem to be against the CAP and the main reasons lie in between the unnecessary use of land and the time frame to begin the project.

Sophomore Stephen Christopher Castillo, a resident of LV3, said, “I don’t mind the work and effort put to build a new student gathering area, but I think the project should’ve been done over the summer break to avoid traffic any dangerous risks towards the students. Besides if this is going to take a semester to build, might as well try and get it done over the summer so parking won’t be such a hassle to find.”

Senior Monica Galvan, resident of LV3, said, “I think it’s not necessary and it’s more of a luxury. They could’ve waited until the summer break when there aren’t as many students here and would have avoided all the parking problems. Plus they wouldn’t be working in the cold as much.”

Some students took to social media (Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook, Yik Yak, etc.) as an outlet to vent about school problems, and in particular their opinions on the recent change on campus. There are posts that vary from “Usually takes me 5 minutes to get to class and now I have to think about what route takes me faster to class,” to “I usually drive to class or anywhere I go, but now I debate whether it’s worth moving my car and losing my spot,” to “This new campus plan better be worth it,” or “We need the parking in front of VS8 and behind Fletcher!” Some have an optimistic take on the future. I hope professors will actually make classes be outdoors to take in the beautiful scenery that makes Alpine!”

Overall, like many students, we feel that the construction should have been planned for the summer of 2016 and not during spring. Not only is it restricting the amount of parking available for those who live in student housing, it is an inconvenience to get around campus.

During the summer sessions fewer students would be inconvenienced than during a long semester. Problems could have been avoided and it would be a win-win situation if the construction phase was completed over the summer.

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STUDENT, STAFF AND FACULTY OPINIONS ON THE CAMPUS ACCESS PROJECT

BY MALYSSA REED

REPORTER

Amber Strach, Junior “The lack of close parking and the dust is frustrating, but I am excited about the future of Sul Ross and how pretty the area will be when they are done.”

Christian Copser, Freshman “It makes it hard for emergency services to adequately respond to campus facilities such as the Fine Arts Building, Fletcher, the Residential Living Office, Lobo Village 2, and Morlock Science building.”

Amanda Almaraz, Junior “I wonder why we are spending money on this project and another sports area instead of fixing the buildings we currently have in need of repair. I will be glad when it is over.”

Gabrielle Rule, Freshman “It’s dangerous. When I get out of rehearsal late at night I have to go out of my way to get to my dorm instead of the quickest way, and as a female student that is a little scary with how dark it is.”

Westin Huffman, Junior “It takes away a lot of parking for the FAB which restricts student parking there as well as theatre parking for the productions happening this semester.”

Adrian Soto, Senior “It is a little different when you are used to one thing and then everything changes. As an off-campus student it is different and provides difficulty parking when I need to get to class in the morning. It is a really cool idea though.”

Dafne Rodriguez, Sophomore “The noise bothers me and a lot of other people. I think they should have waited until a break to do the harder things like moving and breaking the pavement. It is also difficult with the parking being so far away and mostly in the dark; as a female student that makes me nervous. It will provide a much nicer presentation for future students. It will be nice to be able to meet new people in the smaller area than when you see them walking through the large mall.”

Concepcion Gomez, Graduate Student “Parking is terrible. I live in Lobo Village 4 but I have to park all the way down at Lobo Village 7 because of the people from Lobo Village 2 and other students parking there. It is also cutting into Aramark’s business. Our biggest revenue comes from the C-Store by the Res Life center, but with the construction the C-Store cannot get shipments of stock to store the stocked up.”

Billy Jones, Graduate Student “The new design doesn’t reincorporate the parking lost during construction and parking was a big gripe before this started. I think they could have timed it better as well. It will be cool if they integrated other botanical zones and expanded the flora and fauna, like what we already have, from Texas and the surrounding areas.”

Myles Oliver, Freshman “It is a big step; we are heading in the right direction.”

Jeff Blake, Director of University Center and Campus Activities “This campus has to grow, and there will always be growing pains but it is in preparation for the future.”

John Hughes, Student Health Services (Campus Nurse) “My only concern would be if emergency services had trouble responding to campus because of it. Aside from that I think it will actually be kind of nice when it is finished.”

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‘LIVE FROM SUL ROSS’

BY SHAWNA GRAVES
REPORTER

Sports events, speaker presentations, faculty-staff meetings and more are video recorded and archived by the Sul Ross Media team, said Glenn Losoya, Media and Technology Specialist. The media team includes Losoya and Dave Gibson, Chief Information Officer of OIT, as well as student workers.

Losoya is a native of Alpine and graduated from Sul Ross in 2014 with a degree in Computer Science. He was hired full-time in December to operate the new broadcasting equipment. He spent winter break getting familiar with the Livestream Switcher board, which allows more options for recording events.

“We’re now able to plug in multiple cameras and make it more like a televised event with graphics,” he said.

Losoya wants the video to look as professional as possible. Using the new programs, he can include credit lines, messages, and for sports, a scoreboard ticker.

“We’re in high demand for sports,” he said.

Losoya started out working with Adelante Tejas filming STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) speaker events, and volunteering to film other events. With this new position, he will cover anything on campus that needs covered, he said.

The media team is stationed at Brick Cottage 1 on campus, and Losoya said people are welcome to stop by. Part-time student worker positions are available.

“We’re always looking for help,” he says. “Dave wants this to grow, and in order for it to grow, we need more manpower or woman power. Whoever!”

Contact Losoya at glosoya@sulross.edu, or Gibson at dgibson@sulross.edu, to book an event or inquire about volunteer and work possibilities. Events are livestreamed and archived at www.livestream.com/srsumedia.

SAGE COMPOSITION CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Sage magazine has announced the winners of the ninth annual Freshman Composition contest.

First place, with a grand prize of $150 is The Jeep Effect written by Stephen Coffey. Second place, and winning $100, is The Dance by Joanna Franco. Third Place, with a cash prize of $50, is The Little Yellow School Bus by Arturo Madrid.

The essays were personal narratives and memoirs. Essays were nominated by instructors of English 1301 or 1302 classes. Susan Spring was the instructor for both the second and third place winners, and Ian Peddie was the instructor for the first place winner.

The Sage will consider all of the winners for publication in the magazine.
VALENTINE’S DAY MOVIES TO WATCH

BY BIANCA MORENO
REPORTER

For many people, Valentine’s Day is a day full of love and friendships; for others, it is a day to remember heartbreaks. Whatever the case may be, Netflix has movies for all types of people.

For those of us who are “hopeless romantics,” there are many different titles that will warm our hearts. Netflix has something for everyone.

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World is a highly ranked movie counting down to the day the earth is hit by a meteor. Besides this sad, inevitable fate, this movie follows a heartbroken man who falls in love with his neighbor whom he has barely met. They go on an adventure to seek family and an ex-love; however, fate has other plans for them. This movie is guaranteed to give you hope.

Stuck in Love is another movie for those who have hope until the end. This movie highlights the love lives of a family of four. We are able to see them struggle throughout their developing relationships but in the end, it doesn’t disappoint. This movie is sure to fill you with warmth and maybe even open your eyes to what is right in front of you.

There are some people who want to sit and cry on Valentine’s Day, and there are movies for them, too. Netflix has a variety of heartbreaking movies that will leave you with your mouth wide open.

The movie 6 Years is about a couple who have been in love for about half of their adolescent lives. They are in college and just about ready to go out into the world, when problems begin to arise and they no longer know what to do. This movie will have you choosing sides within the couple and questioning true love.

Another great movie filled with love and tears is Knifed. This movie is a romantic drama about two teenagers from completely different worlds who fall in love and suddenly, tragedy strikes. This movie will have you in tears and questioning the ways of life.

Now remember, Valentine’s Day is not a set day for love or heartbreaks, so whatever you choose to do on this day, enjoy!
Shelby Stegent is a Sul Ross State University senior who is set to graduate with a major in education in December 2016. After graduating she plans to put her degree to good use and get a job as a teacher, preferably in a small city.

Stegent grew up in Eustace, Texas, 60 miles from Dallas. In 2012, she graduated from Eustace High School and went on to study at Southwestern University, then transferred to Sul Ross and found it was “a better fit.”

“Everyone fits in at Sul Ross,” Stegent said. “What I like most about Sul Ross is that it is simple and uncomplicated.”

Stegent participates in soccer, softball, and cross-country, and is the public relations officer for the Student Government Association. The accomplishment she is most proud of is receiving the Distinguished Scholar Athlete for Cross Country Fall 2014.

In her recreational time she likes to read for fun as well as hang out with her friends and boyfriend. Stegent thinks it’s important to socialize with people outside of teammates and classmates.

Stegent gives special thanks to her family: her parents, Mark and Shauna Stegent, and her brother, Nathan Stegent. Her advice for new students is: “Set priorities, and make sure school is first.”

Sul Ross State University students, faculty, staff and friends celebrated groundbreaking of the new recreational sports field Jan. 22.

Calling the project “a game changer” for student recreational options as well as for recruitment and retention, Sul Ross President Bill Kibler presided over the brief ceremonies.

“Our students agreed to raising a couple of fees to make this possible,” he said. “Our goal is to see you playing on this field before the end of the semester.”

Hellas Construction, Austin, will install the field. The 107,000 square-foot facility will cost $1.6 million and includes a fully lighted artificial turf field available for year-around use. The surface will be permanently striped for seven-on-seven flag football, four-on-four flag football, kickball, soccer, softball, ultimate Frisbee, other sports, and a 90-yard football field for varsity practice.

Last October, students voted in favor of increases in athletic and recreational sports fees, with the additional revenue to fund the cost of the new field.

“As students, you work hard and play hard,” Kibler said. “We want to enable that.”

Derek Stratton, El Paso, president of the Student-athlete Victoria Tate, San Antonio, and Cole Rodriguez, Crane, who is active in intramural sports and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, also praised the new field for its increased recreational opportunities.

“We are part of what is going to happen in the future,” Tate said, adding that the field would also “add to the beauty of Sul Ross State University.”

Among those participating in the groundbreaking were, from left, Reed Seaton, Cole Rodriguez, Victoria Tate, Dr. Bill Kibler, Derek Stratton and Danielle Lucero. Photo by Vashti Armendariz
Here’s What You Missed on the Court

By Stephen Christopher Castillo
Sports Editor

Hey, Lobos! For anyone who didn’t keep up with Sul Ross athletics during the holiday break, here is a brief rundown of what you missed.

First things first. The Lobo men’s basketball team has rebounded from a slow start to win nine of its last 13 games.

At press time, the men have an overall 10-8 record with a conference record of 4-5. They currently have fought hard for many of their wins and they have the drive and passion to keep that momentum going throughout the season. The Lobos are led by new Head Coach Cliff Carroll whose new team tactics seem to be paying off.

The Lady Lobos, unfortunately, have not been as lucky in the conference but that still hasn’t stopped them from trying to turn this season around. With their 1-8 conference record and an overall 4-15 record, the Lady Lobos are showing the incentive to finish out the season strong, fighting hard every second of the game trying to pull away with the victory.

In addition to basketball, our other awesome sports have been doing amazing things as well. Our 2016 Sul Ross baseball team has been picked to finish in eighth place in an ASC preseason poll. With Howard Payne and Louisiana College ranked just right behind our team, the Lobos are looking forward to the upcoming season. The first preview of the Lobo baseball boys, the Lobos are looking toward the 2016 season, but many of the team’s athletes are as well. With many returning star players, our tennis team will be second to none in their upcoming matches against Texas Lutheran and Schreiner University.

As always, best of luck to every one of our Lobos playing and working hard every second of the day to bring a win back home to Alpine, Texas. The Lobos are led by new Head Coach Cliff Carroll whose new team tactics seem to be paying off.

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BASKETBALL RECAPS

BY STEPHEN CHRISTOPHER CASTILLO
SPORTS EDITOR

Our Lobo men’s basketball team has been on a roll!

The Lobo men’s basketball team seems to be one of the top dogs in the ASC. With their comeback win Jan. 23 against the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, our fighting Lobos held on to their number one spot in the ASC West.

Alex Harrison and Caleb Thomasson both finished the game with a double-doubles. The Lobos really made a drive in the second half. Coming out and making 7 of their 25 shots, it seemed that the Lobos really knew what they were fighting for. A 3-point shot by Jacob Callos gave the Lobos the upper hand in this battle.

With 7 minutes left on the clock, the Lobos’ momentum began to rise and they ended the game with a 10-point lead, 85-75. With the win, the Lobos improved their overall record to 10-8 and their conference record to 6-3.

Hopefully our boys can keep this momentum as they face Howard Payne and Hardin-Simmons before McMurry tomorrow (Feb. 6).

Our Lady Lobos come off a 75-57 loss against Mary Hardin-Baylor; it would seem our ladies just can’t catch a break.

Shooting only 33 percent from the floor, despite 15 points put up by Kenya Miles and 12 points by Jonette Jackson, the Lobos just couldn’t keep up with the Crusaders in the second half.

We’re keeping our fingers crossed and always sport some Sul Ross spirit as the Lady Lobos meet Howard Payne and Hardin-Simmons before their Feb. 6 game against McMurry University.

We hope to see all you Sul Ross Lobos supporters out at the next home games next week as the teams face UMHB Thursday, Feb. 11, and Concordia-Texas next Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Gallego Center.

BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

BY STEPHEN CHRISTOPHER CASTILLO
SPORTS EDITOR

For anyone who doesn’t know, our Lobo baseball team hosts Schreiner University this evening at 7 pm at Kokernot Field. Tomorrow they host a double-header against the Mountaineers. Tomorrow’s first game starts at 1 pm.

This weekend will be our second look at what the Lobos are offering on the field this season, with their Jan. 30 and 31 three-game series against the University of Dallas under their belts.

With senior pitcher Eli Gallego looking to be a key player on the mound and in the batter’s box, it would seem that all eyes are going to be towards him to help lead this team to victory.

Head Coach Bobby Mesker lost eight senior players to graduation last year, six of whom were starters, so he is really counting on this season’s Lobos to step up to the plate and prove that they have what it takes to shoot the Lobos into a winning 2016 season.

See you at Kokernot Field!
Senior forward Alex Harrison (24) sinks a shot in the Jan. 16 game against Hardin-Simmons University.

Junior Ashley Ousley (3) drives to the hoop. Photos by Susanna Mendez