By Samantha Vela
Reporter
This bloody exciting musical production will be opening its doors for viewing tomorrow through April 4 in Marshall Auditorium.

The price to see this production will not cost your head, but only $10 for adults and $8 for seniors and non-SRSU students. Sul Ross students may attend free with a valid student ID.

Based on the book by Hugh Wheeler with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street is an interesting play that follows the bloody revenge spree of a skilled barber.

The Sul Ross theatre and music programs are working together to make this production a great one and have been working on the play since September 2014—that’s more than six months!

About 20 cast and crew members are breaking some legs.

The cast includes Gregory M. Schwab (Sweeney Todd); Dona W. Roman (Mrs. Lovett); Josh Martinez (Anthony); Johanna Miller (Johanna); Matthew Hardison (Judge Turpin); Fernando Powers (Beadle); Ashley Jane Page (Beggar Woman); Zane Ivey (Tobias); Jason Roman (Pirelli); and ensemble members Kolbi Folkes, Tresa Hamner, Reba Smith, Adrian Soto, Eddie Molinar, Marcelino Velazquez, Westin Huffman, Brooke Siler, Jessica Westfall, Elizabeth Watson, Mike Gallardo, Concepcion Gomez, Timothy Wright and Abbigail Scott.

Members of the production crew are Omar Garcia (stage manager); Miguel Pena (Assistant Stage Manager); L. Andrew Lopez (lightboard operator); Missy Embrey (sound operator); Beatriz Zamora (costumes); Natalie Davis (house manager); and running crew members Miguel Pena, Lorenzo Pacheco, Daniel Sandoval and Timothy Wright.

Bret Scott, assistant communication professor, will be directing the Sweeney Todd production with musical direction by Lana Potts, visiting lecturer of fine arts.

This production is recommended for mature audiences.
If you would like to purchase tickets, you may contact the theatre department at 432-837-8218 or visit www.sulross.edu/theatre to purchase tickets online.
Editor’s Message

Welcome to the fourth issue of this semester. We’re over halfway to the finish line! Will you be sad when it’s over? Is there time to get all your end-of-semester projects done? Are we going to survive the last month and a half of classes?! Hopefully we Lobos won’t be loco by the time it is all said and done!

In fact, there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. Lobos have seen much success this year. Take, for instance, the students and faculty who participated in the Texas Academy of Science: Congratulations! You represented our school well! (See the write-up about their presentations, pg. 14)

Miss Sully also represented our school well when she was mascot (pg. 5). Sadly, she met with a controversial end. Look for a continuation of her story in future issues.

Keep up the good work, Lobos. The efforts and connections you make matter.

Saludos,

Shawna Graves
Editor-in-Chief

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FRONT: Aaron Hernandez, Paige Olson, Molly Ferguson, Cindy Castaneda, Emily Luna, Dafne Rodriguez and Rolando Hernandez, Ballet Folklórico members, entertained at Sul Ross’ Spring Carnival. Photo by Magaly De Leon
BACK: Iliana Medrano jumps among the bluebonnets in Big Bend Ranch State Park. Photo by Bailey Dunks

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HB 2165 would legalize marijuana in Texas

A new scent is in the air

By Shawna Graves
Editor-in-Chief

On Texas Independence Day (March 2), David Simpson, Republican State Representative from Longview, filed House Bill 2165 to totally repeal marijuana offenses from Texas legislation.

A previous bill proposed that anything less than a pound would result in a misdemeanor ticket. Not surprisingly, that bill did not pass. Currently in Texas, possession of less than two ounces of marijuana can land a person in jail for up to six months with a fine of $2000. The punishment gets more severe as the amount in possession increases.

The new HB 2165 would erase marijuana criminality from the books altogether. People would no longer be in trouble for possession of any amount. Rather, the author of the bill believes that law enforcement resources are being misspent on such issues, and that people should be permitted to make a personal choice when it comes to using, possessing or growing cannabis, whether for recreation, medicinal purposes or crops (i.e., hemp).

He was reported as saying, “I don’t advocate the irresponsible use of anything but it’s a plant God made, He didn’t make a mistake when He made it, and government doesn’t need to fix it.”

In another statement, Simpson is reported as saying: “I am proposing that this plant be regulated like tomatoes, jalapeños or coffee. Current marijuana policies are not based on science or sound evidence, but rather misinformation and fear.”

Twenty-three states already allow medical marijuana, with efforts to fully decriminalize the plant ongoing in some of them. Simpson wants to bypass all of them by fully legalizing cannabis in Texas.

This is the 62nd time any kind of legislation related to changes in marijuana laws has been introduced in Texas, but perhaps the political tides are finally turning.

Many surveys cite support for full decriminalization from a majority of Texan voters. The Texas Sheriff’s Association begs to differ, saying they will continue to oppose any efforts to legalize marijuana, even for medical purposes.

A quick lunchtime poll was taken on the issue. Sul Ross students were asked if they were for or against complete legalization of marijuana in Texas—59 percent said they are for it; 41 percent against. What do you think?

Sul Ross presidential investiture set for April 16

Sul Ross State University President Bill Kibler’s April 16 investiture will be a family and campus community affair.

Kibler’s wife, Pam will speak on behalf of their son, Zach Bimsager, and will sing a solo following the remarks. Investiture ceremonies will be held at 2 pm Thursday, April 16 in the Pete P. Gallego Center. Student and community events are planned on the Mall on Wednesday evening, April 16.

Kibler was confirmed as Sul Ross’ 12th President on July 9, 2014 by the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System (TSUS). He has nearly 40 years’ experience in higher education.

To date, the list of distinguished guests include: District 74 State Rep. Poncho Nevarez, Eagle Pass; Dr. Brian McCall, TSUS Chancellor; Regents Chair Dr. Jaime Garza, San Antonio; fellow Regents Charlie Amato, San Antonio, and Vernon Reaser III, Bellaire; and Dr. Dana Hoyt, President of Sam Houston State University, Huntsville.

While the investiture is the main event, Kibler also sees an opportunity to highlight the university.

“This event, in my opinion, is about Sul Ross State University, not about me,” Kibler said. “The investiture will offer a great opportunity to showcase our university to some prominent visitors, both from the Texas State University System and beyond.”
Sul Ross State and the Lobo mascot

By Stephanie Elmore

Sul Ross State University is one of the many schools that claim a long and interesting history of their mascot’s origins, adventures, and line of successors. Our school mascot is known as the lobo and most people are aware of this, but little do they know that we haven’t always had a student dressed up in a costume. Sul Ross, at one point in time, had a real live lobo representing our school, students and faculty.

In 1925, during the first football game of the season, Jeanette Tippit, daughter of a local rancher, presented a wolf hybrid to the captain of the football team, dedicating him to Sul Ross. Coach Wes Townsend responded by saying, “The team will fight as unflinchingly and as bravely as the lobo.”

The first lobo mascot was part wolf and part collie, and had been in captivity since birth. He was brought out to several games but became easily excited or nervous around people. Still, he represented Sul Ross until he was “called back into the wilderness.”

In 1935, the Lobo Marching Band adopted a chow puppy, which is akin to the wolf family, and made it their mascot. The chow puppy went to all the band’s events and became accustomed to the instruments and noise. He enjoyed being around all people. The chow served as mascot for a few years until he passed away.

It wasn’t until Oct. 7, 1966, that Sul Ross would gain another live lobo to be the mascot. That fall, Coach David Slaughter received a call from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona, about a full-blooded wolf pup made available to the school. Someone just needed to get her to Alpine in time for the homecoming game.

A local business man and rancher, John Stradley, saved the day when he loaned his personal six-seat plane to go pick her up. Stradley flew the 500 miles west with Coach Slaughter and a game warden, Sanford DeVoll. When they arrived in Tucson, they tranquilized the wolf pup and placed her behind the pilot’s seat where she took up most of the space in the plane.

Stradley, Slaughter and DeVoll realized that they were not going to make it back into Alpine the same night, so they landed in El Paso to sleep. They asked a veterinarian there if they could kennel the lobo with the vet overnight while they stayed in a hotel, but the veterinarian declined. So the three men took her to their hotel—the Hilton.

“What the heck—if she’s good enough for the lobos, she’s good enough to stay with us at the Hilton Inn,” said Stradley. It was the first night of her new, well-pampered life.

The student body named their new mascot “Miss Sully.” She arrived in Alpine as a six-month-old, thirty-pound pup. Miss Sully was warmly welcomed during the homecoming game when DeVoll accompanied her onto the field.

“The nicest thing that Miss Sully did was leave kisses with the players, which could very well prove that she can be a good, loyal, and trustworthy mascot for our school,” a Skyline student reporter said.

Miss Sully attended football, baseball and track events, and was a special guest at all the pep rallies. She responded well to training and matured her second year as the mascot. Miss Sully topped out at 100 pounds fully grown.

Miss Sully the lobo represented the school with pride and spirit until early morning Nov. 21, 1974, when a maintenance worker found her acting strangely in her cage. Dr. Paul Weyerts, an RAS professor and veterinarian, thought she had been poisoned and quickly transported her to the RAS clinic where she was treated. But, sadly, it was too late for Miss Sully and by noon that day she had died.

A post-mortem autopsy confirmed Dr. Weyerts’ diagnosis—Miss Sully had died from strychnine poisoning. Her remains were donated to Sul Ross departments for scientific study, while her skeletal remains are buried on the SRSU ranch to the east of the main university campus.

Miss Sully was the last live lobo the school had. But her spirit, the spirit of the lobo, lives on in our human-in-wolf’s-clothing mascot who cheers on our school and all that it represents!
By Bailey Dunks

What do you want to do after college? Well, it’s time to start planning ahead.

Career Services at Sul Ross State University is holding a career fair Wednesday, April 8 in the Espino Conference Center from 10 am to 3 pm. It is completely free to faculty and students and there will be a diverse selection of vendors and recruiters to meet the interests of everyone.

There will be a prize for a lucky student who dresses professionally, so come in your best “get-up”!

“The Career Fair is a really great opportunity for prospecting students to connect with recruiters. After a few times they really begin to remember you and it’s a wonderful way to start networking in your job field,” says Jan Rueb, Director of Career Services.

April 8, 10 am–3 pm

By Luis Esquivel

Family from afar

How far did you travel to come to Sul Ross?

Traveling at about double that distance (around 400 miles) is SRSU student Emily Luna who is a junior Education major. She travels from Georgetown, Texas (about 30 to 40 minutes north of Austin, Texas).

Luna admits that “it gets harder each year” to be so far away from home, but friends and other ties that she has made make it all a little bit easier. One thing that Luna likes about Sul Ross is “the staff; they all seem nice.”

Also traveling a good amount (over 350 miles) is SRSU junior Ervin Smith who is majoring in Business. Smith comes from San Antonio, Texas.

When asked what was it about Sul Ross and the area that made him travel all this way, he answered “the mountainous atmosphere and amazing sunsets” and added that “this area is just beautiful.”

One of his favorite things about Alpine is that “everybody is real close,” and it feels like a close community.

The winner of this version of “how far have you traveled to be a part of Sul Ross?” contest goes to Timilehin “Timmy” Alake. Alake traveled more than 6,900 miles to make his way here to Alpine and to Sul Ross.

Alake is a graduate student working on his master’s degree in English Literature. He comes from Nigeria, Africa. His reason for traveling halfway around the world is “affordability… the first big factor.”

“I looked [SRSU] up on the internet and saw the pictures… like the online campus tour and it was pretty beautiful,” he said.

One of the things he likes about the area is its “serene environment.” Now that Alake is here, he says he is impressed with Sul Ross’ “academic standard. The academic system is very, very sound.”

As this handful of students shows, many students travel hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to come to this beautiful place we call home.

Job opportunities abound at SR’s Career Fair

By Bailey Dunks

What do you want to do after college? Well, it’s time to start planning ahead.

Career Services at Sul Ross State University is holding a career fair Wednesday, April 8 in the Espino Conference Center from 10 am to 3 pm. It is completely free to faculty and students and there will be a diverse selection of vendors and recruiters to meet the interests of everyone.

At press time, the growing list of confirmed recruiters includes FDIC, CHC/Correct Care Solution, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest, NAPA Auto Parts, Luling ISD, Grand Companions, Capital Aggregates, Fort Stockton ISD, Marfa Public Radio, Seminole ISD, Midland Police Dept., Brownfield ISD, Big Bend National Park, Reagan County ISD and Midland ISD.

There will be a prize for a lucky student who dresses professionally, so come in your best “get-up”!

“The Career Fair is a really great opportunity for prospecting students to connect with recruiters. After a few times they really begin to remember you and it’s a wonderful way to start networking in your job field,” says Jan Rueb, Director of Career Services.

Your future is on the line, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.
Deadline for Grad Fellowship applications April 1

Next Wednesday, April 1 marks the deadline for Graduate Student Fellowship applications. Sul Ross State University graduate students may qualify for up to $10,000 in financial assistance.

“We want to help graduate students realize their educational and career goals,” said Rhonda Austin, Expanding Graduate Horizons Title V grant director. “Over the five-year life span of this grant, $360,000 has been allocated for the fellowships.”

The Graduate Fellowship program was initiated in 2009 by Project Puertas Abiertas but is now funded by Expanding Graduate Horizons, a Department of Education HSI grant awarded to Sul Ross in 2014 under the PPOHA program.

The one-year fellowships are awarded based on merit and unmet financial need of the student. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and either be currently enrolled or in the process of enrolling in an SRSU graduate program. According to Austin, a Graduate Fellowship committee evaluates student applications with an eye for level of interest, past work, future promise, and character, which are often most strongly reflected in letters of recommendation from faculty, resumes, and personal statements of interest.

“They need to impress us with what their goals are and how they plan to achieve them,” said Austin.

Since the fellowship is primarily need based, graduate students must also jump through some financial hoops like submitting an online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but Austin says students shouldn’t be deterred as the awards are tiered based on different levels of need.

“Most graduats are living on their own and supporting themselves, so just about everyone qualifies as need-based,” said Austin.

New eligibility rules now permit non-citizens to apply using an alternative financial aid application that can be obtained in the SRSU Financial Aid office, Lawrence Hall 100.

Awarded Fellows are expected to maintain at least half-time graduate studies, satisfactory academic progress, and commit to assisting the Graduate Student Center a maximum of four hours per week. Most Fellows work shifts in the Graduate Student Center, located in room 104 of the Briscoe Administration Building, to help keep the center’s computer lab and equipment available to other graduate students during evenings and weekends. Some, like students enrolled remotely, can fulfill their hours through specially assigned projects.

Graduate fellowship application materials and instructions can be found online at the Graduate Student Center website, www.sulross.edu/graduates.


Today
Come see the Russell Lee Photographs at the Museum of the Big Bend until March 29.

Learn the Art of Bootmaking with Kurt Lange at the Museum of the Big Bend until March 29.

Figuratively Speaking: A Discussion of the Narrative by Carol H. Fairlie, CatchLight Gallery, 117 W Holland Ave., until April 13.

‘Mark your calendar and other Math Magic Tricks,’ ACR 204, 2 pm.

Support the Sul Ross Ranch Horse Team. Raffle tickets are for sale at Open Range Art Gallery, Big Bend Saddlery, Spradley Hats and Johnson’s Feed and Western Wear. The drawing is April 20 at 5 pm in front of the UC.

Garry Moore Amusements Carnival is at the Big Bend Events Center, Hwy. 118 North.

Tae Bo at 1:30 pm at the Alpine Public Library and 6:15 pm at Crossroads Baptist Fellowship.

Geology Club speaker Valentina Vallega at the WSB 201 at 3:15-5 pm.

Sul Ross tennis takes on McMurry University here at 3 pm.

Sul Ross baseball hosts UT-Dallas at 7 pm at Kokernot Field.

Eric Willis performs at Railroad Blues at 10 pm.

Tomorrow
Alpine Farmer’s Markets from 9 am-noon at the Hotel Ritchey and Big Bend Thrift Store.

Opening night of Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street in Marshall Auditorium at 8:15 pm (more info, page 2).


Sul Ross tennis hosts McMurry University at 9 am in Alpine.

Sul Ross softball meets Hardin-Simmons University at 4 pm, Lobo Field.

Tae Bo at Alpine Public Library, 1:30 pm, and Crossroads Baptist Church, 6:15 pm.

Hoola-Fit Hoop Dance Class at 5:30 pm at the Granada Theater with the Hooping Jam following at 6:45 pm.

CFFA meets from 6-7 pm in RAS 135.

SSS meeting in WSB 201 at 6 pm.

Bar-SR-Bar MASH Club meeting, 7 pm, FH 211.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street at 8:15 pm in Marshall Auditorium.

Tuesday, March 31
Alpine Community Band rehearsal in the Sul Ross Band Room at 7:30 pm.

AES: Finals Preparation, FH 203 from 2-3 pm.

Bingo at 6:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

Wednesday, April 1
APRIL FOOLS DAY!
Deadline for Graduate Student Fellowship applications. See www.sulross.edu/graduates for more information.

Geology Club meets at 1 pm, WSB 210.

AES: Comma Usage in FH 203 from 4-5 pm.

Tae Bo, Alpine Public Library at 1:30 pm and Crossroads Baptist Church, 6:15 pm.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street at 8:15 pm in Marshall Auditorium.

Thursday, April 2
AES: Comma Usage in FH 203 from 2-3 pm.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street at 8:15 pm in Marshall Auditorium.

Soccer Thursday, Graves-Pierce Gym, 7-10 pm.

Friday, April 3
Good Friday. Campus closes at noon.

Sully Productions meets 6 pm UC 202.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street at 8:15 pm in Marshall Auditorium.

Tae Bo, Alpine Public Library, 1:30 pm and Crossroads Baptist Church, 6:15 pm.

Saturday, April 4
Alpine Farmer’s Markets from 9 am-noon, Hotel Ritchey and Big Bend Thrift Store.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street at 8:15 pm, Marshall Auditorium.

Monday, April 6
Lobo Literati League meets at noon in the Honors Library, FH 209.

SSS meets at 6 pm, WSB 201.

AES: Relaxation Techniques, FH 203, 4-5 pm.

FCA meets from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Lobo Village Community Room.

Tae Bo at the Alpine Public Library, 1:30 pm, and Crossroads Baptist Church Room.

Range & Wildlife Club meets in RAS 130, 7 pm.

Hoola-Fit Hoop Dance Class at 5:30 pm, Granada Theater with Hooping Jam at 6:45 pm.

Tuesday, April 7
Alpine Community Band Rehearsal in the Sul Ross Band Room at 7:30 pm.

AES: Relaxation Techniques, FH 203, 2-3 pm.

Wednesday, April 8
Career Fair, 9 am-3 pm, UC second floor (more info, opposite page).

AES: Relaxation Techniques, FH 203, 4-5 pm.

Tae Bo, Alpine Public Library, 1:30 pm, and Crossroads Baptist Church 6:15 pm.

SGA meeting, 5:30 pm in WSB 201.

Sul Ross tennis takes on Howard Payne University at 12 pm.

Thursday, April 9
Hike with a Homeless Dog. 9 am, Davis Mountains State Park.

Friday, April 10
Tae Bo, Alpine Public Library, 1:30 pm, and Crossroads Baptist Church, 6:15 pm.

Racquetball Tournament, Graves-Pierce Gym. Call 432-294-1690 for more information.

Sul Ross baseball hosts East Texas Baptist University at Kokernot Field at 7 pm.

Sul Ross softball takes on Howard Payne University at Lobo Field at 4 pm.

Holy Ghost Party sponsored by SR Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Marshall Auditorium from 7-9:30 pm.

Have an event? Want an audience? Share upcoming events. Email Malyssa at malyssareed@gmail.com.

Next issue deadline: MARCH 30
Whatever you do, be safe, have fun, and represent!
A small fire on the Marshall Auditorium stage was quickly extinguished late March 10, Sul Ross State University officials said.

The fire was reported following a rehearsal for an upcoming theatre production, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. The fire started in an elevated bathroom at the top of the stage stairs. A stack of curtains rested against the wall with the top curtain stacked against a light. When the light was left on, resulting heat from the bulb apparently ignited the curtain. Marshall Auditorium is located in the Morelock Academic Building.

According to the University Department of Public Safety, Lana Potts, music director for the production, returned to the auditorium following rehearsal about 10:53 pm. Potts saw smoke filling the auditorium and immediately notified UDFS, with an officer arriving at 10:56. The Alpine Police Department, Alpine Volunteer Fire Department and Terlingua Fire/EMS also responded, with all units arriving within minutes.

Smoke was emanating from the bathroom, and when the stack of curtains was pulled away from the light, the fabric ignited. The small blaze was quickly doused with a fire extinguisher. Fire units later moved all burned material outside. The fire was declared out by 11:05 pm and firefighters left the scene at 12:16 am. The amount of damage was not determined by presstime.

Marshall Auditorium was closed for rehearsals on March 11-12, as large fans were installed to clear the smoke and Physical Plant employees cleaned the stage and removed debris.

“Sul Ross is extremely grateful for the quick and expert action from all the ‘first responders’ that were involved in containing and extinguishing the fire,” said Dr. Bill Kibler, President. “We are indeed thankful that no one was injured and the property damage was kept to a minimum.”

The Sul Ross Skyline, March 27, 2015

‘No Limits’ speaker challenges students to work for success

By Stephanie Elmore
Reporter

Motivational speaker Dr. Fairest Hill talked to Sul Ross students about “Life without Limits” in a special presentation March 5. Sully Productions sponsored the event.

Keiyam Burrell, SRSU freshman, heard Hill when Burrell was in high school. The experience was both motivating and life-changing for Burrell when he realized despite Hill’s troubled past, he still made it through life by pushing himself and never giving up. Burrell wanted to offer Sul Ross students the same opportunity he had.

Hill showed a short film on Will Smith and his idea of what success means and how it can be earned and achieved. Hill said that successful people do not worry about what’s on the outside, but what’s on the inside.

“Successful people think before they speak,” Hill said. “They strive for what they want. And they believe in themselves and know that they were born for a reason.”

Hill told students that no matter what, anybody can be successful if they really truly want it.

Hill asked the student audience to introduce themselves to someone they didn’t know and ask them for some money, just for fun. By participating and interacting with each other, the students learned to understand and realize that everyone in the room had a purpose and a passion in life.

Hill then asked the students to look at the person sitting next to them and tell them positive things, not only about themselves, but about each other. Students began to intermingle with each other, sharing positive characteristics and opening up about different parts of their lives.

Hill also showed a video about a young man, Anthony Robles, who was born with one leg who still won the 2010-11 NCAA individual wrestling championship. The short film showed that no matter what obstacles in life you face, what kind of childhood you had, or what you were born with, anyone can succeed if they want it more than anything and never give up on themselves.

Throughout Hill’s motivating presentation, there was plenty of singing, laughing, smiling and positive reinforcement in the room.

Hill left the audience with five simple rules to follow to be successful. 1. Listen to the right people; 2. Make the right choices; 3. Set high goals; 4. Stay positive; and 5. Take your education seriously.

In life, especially your own, there should be no limits!
Spring-like weather arrived just in time for the March 10 Spring Carnival held on the Sul Ross mall. The Student Government Association hosted this year’s event that serves as a student celebration and fundraising-recruiting opportunity for campus organizations.

Crowds were treated to:

+ ice cream sundaes served in handmade bowls, jewelry and artwork—Art Club
+ beef quesadillas—Industrial Tech Club
+ cheesy nachos and bottled water—Lobo Pride
+ cheese quesadillas and homemade salsa—Spanish Club
+ a Dino-Dig (digging for dinos and fossils)—Geology Club
+ iced teas and lemonade—SGA
+ bolis (different flavored popsicles)—Ballet Folklórico
+ slices of pie (in honor of Pi Day)—Math Club
+ cotton candy—Skyline
+ balloon toss and Easter candy—Anthropology Club
+ snow cones—Baptist Student Ministries
+ large pickles, canned sodas and a large assortment of books—Sigma Tau Delta
+ sopapilla cheesecake bars—Newman Club
+ assorted free candies—Residential Living
+ brownies and iced coffee—Biology Club
+ root beer floats—Gaming Technology Club
+ popcorn and Lobo mocktails—Lobo Legacy

Photos by Magaly De Leon, Stephanie Elmore and Gunner Gardner
One of the perks of going to school at Sul Ross State in Alpine is that there is so much beautiful country in the region waiting to be explored. Now that the snow has melted away into springtime weather, wildflowers are starting to appear in Big Bend country. Skyline reporter Bailey Dunks and three fellow students, Neil Frucht and Iliana Medrano (top right photo) and Shelby Hilbert (right), couldn’t resist the temptation to head south in search of bluebonnets. They found plenty on Hwy. 170, also known as the “River Road” that hugs the Rio Grande from Lajitas west to Presidio through Big Bend Ranch State Park. The winter rains and snow should bring abundant wildflowers well through the summer months. Photos by Bailey Dunks
Luis Esquivel and Trey Oliver

Odessa native Luis Esquivel is a second semester senior. An English major with a concentration in Creative Writing, Esquivel plans to go to graduate school after he graduates Sul Ross and says, “Sadly it looks like it will not be here because they (Sul Ross) do not have a writing program at the graduate level.”

He dreams of being an author and says, “I would like to write a fiction novel, and I would also like to write a creative non-fiction type novel. I would also like to write enough poems to have a collection of my own poems.

“I’ve practiced writing all kinds of poetry,” he added. “I like the more formal, more structured type of poetry because I feel like it gives merit to poetry; not to say that if you are just writing freely in a poetic form that it doesn’t have as much merit to it, but for me that’s my preference.”

Esquivel says, “I’ve been writing since I was little. I know I would always write little short stories and show them to my family, and sometimes my sisters would help me come up with ideas. I’ve been writing poetry as an amateur for quite a while. I like that when you’re writing something it sometimes turns into something completely different than what you intended. It’s a nice surprise.”

Esquivel’s favorite poet is Emily Dickinson and says, “She is my favorite poet because she is so complex, especially from the time period that she came from. Not only that, but being a woman it’s even rarer to be educated. Her poems are timeless and they’re so much more than what is on the paper.”

He likes a lot of Dickinson’s poems and says, “Her poems are not titled but they usually use the first line of the poem as the title. Because I could not stop for death is one of my favorite poems from her. It’s kind of morbid but I like it. The way she talks about death is in more of a pleasant way than most writers do. With most writers it’s always dark and gloomy. Hers aren’t exactly all sunshine and rainbows, but [she has] a different perspective of death.”

Esquivel enjoys spending time with his friends and analyzing movies. He also likes reading mangas and watching anime.

“It’s like you get a perspective from a whole other world. Some of the Japanese writers and animators have wild imaginations; it’s just really interesting to see that other world,” Esquivel said. “As a writer it inspires me.”

Esquivel was president of the Spanish Club last semester and is an officer this semester. He is also a contributor to the Skyline, a regular at the dinner and Bible study group at the Wesley Center, and has been on the Dean’s List during his time at Sul Ross.

His advice to other students is: “Don’t get discouraged whatever the case may be, whatever situation you may be in. If you are a non-traditional student sometimes it’s harder, but whatever is going on in your life, just don’t get discouraged. Take as many hours as you can; that way it can go by faster.”

San Antonio Texas native Robert Oliver—or “Trey” as most people know him—is the third Robert in his family. He is also a second semester senior and played on the Lobo men’s basketball team. He is sad that the season is over, but says, “It was still cool; I still had something to play for. I left it all on the court.”

Oliver is a Mass Communications major with a minor in Journalism. He dreams of putting his skills to work as a video producer or director.

“Since I’ve been in Alpine I learned that I liked that kind of stuff a lot,” he said.

Oliver plans to apply his knowledge by working with the San Antonio Spurs organization when he graduates this May.

“I’ll do anything, just to get my foot in the door to try to work with the Spurs organization,” he said. “I’m not much of a Spurs fan, but that’s not something that would be a problem if I got a job with them. I don’t want to be stuck in an office doing something I hate every day.”

Oliver is a gaming and technology fan and says, “I’m team Apple. I like Macs, iPhones, iPads, and things like that.”

He also enjoys reading, “I like to read things that are based on past events and people that had a positive influence on the world,” he said, “or it could also be a negative influence. I like reading biographies and things that have to do with history.”

While at Sul Ross, Oliver discovered that he is a lover of the outdoors. “Being in Alpine really introduced me to a lot. I wasn’t really exposed to it, being from the city,” he said.

Oliver is also a fan of trying new things and even plans to go skydiving soon.

Now that basketball season is over he says, “I’m just about to start enjoying being a student, not really having to be a student athlete anymore. I’ll probably be around campus a lot more.”

He is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is the sports reporter for the Skyline.

Oliver’s advice to students is: “Don’t get sidetracked. I know it’s hard to do, but just try to stay focused on what you have going on. There is not a lot to do out here, so I recommend you get involved around campus, or in some kind of club or team. Be social, you never know what type of relationships you can build out here by just being social.”
Sul Ross State University students and faculty made six scientific presentations, including a winning undergraduate effort, at the annual Texas Academy of Science meeting, March 6-7 at the University of Incarnate Word, San Antonio.

Kassandra Hernandez, El Paso, won the best Biomedical Science oral presentation in undergraduate competition, presenting “Associations between obesity and osteoarthritis in the knee joints of participants in the Trans Pecos area.” Her mentor is Dr. Chris Ritzi, associate professor of Biology. Hernandez, a McNair Program Scholar, has received three honors since completing her project this past summer.

Four Sul Ross faculty, six undergraduate and graduate students and several alumni attended the meeting. Presentations represented work conducted by students and faculty in the Biology, Geology and Physical Sciences Department and the McNair Scholars Program, covering a variety of different research areas and topic sections.

The Texas Academy of Science is the state organization whose mission is to promote of scientific research in Texas colleges and universities, encourage research as a part of student learning, and works to enhance the professional development of its members.

Other presentations included:

* “Euphorbia abramsiana (Euphorbiaceae): New to Texas” by Nathan Taylor, Lamesa, and Dr. Martin Terry.
* “A morphological and cytogenetic study comparing Ibervillea lindheimeri and Ibervillea tenuisecta” by Richard Newbold, El Paso, and Ritzi.
* “Serosurvey of Marfa Plateau Coyotes (Canis latrans) for Canine Distemper” by John Stone, Alpine, Ritzi, and Dr. Sean Graham.
* “Status of the subtropical tamarisk beetle (Diorhabda sublineata) as a saltcedar (Tamarix) biocontrol agent along the Rio Grande River and its impact on a non-target species, Tamarisk aphylla” by Anne Marie Hilscher and Ritzi.
* “Spatial ecology of Western Screech-Owls (Megascops kennicottii) in the Davis Mountains of West Texas” by Corin M. Olivas, Alpine, Dr. Andrew Kasner, and Ritzi.

Sul Ross representatives also served a number of service positions in the Academy this year. Ritzi concluded his term as 2014-15 President of the Academy. Terry was the 2014-15 Botany section Chair, Dr. Angela Brown was the 2014-15 Mathematics section Vice Chair, and was elected to serve as the 2015-16 Section Chair for Mathematics.

The meeting concluded with the awards banquet in which Ritzi passed the gavel to President-elect (now President) Danette Vines from Schreiner University, making him Immediate Past President for the upcoming year.

For more information, contact Ritzi, 432-837-8112.
SSS learns about grad school at Texas Tech

By Kelly Lara
Reporter

On the weekend of March 5–7, the Sul Ross State University Student Support Services organization went on a field trip to Texas Tech University at Lubbock. Sixteen students, along with program director and Tech alumna Liz Castillo, and retention specialists Judith Loya and Micaela Aguilar, spent the weekend on the university’s campus, and around the town.

Thursday evening, SSS members had a chance to speak with Texas Tech alumni to discuss what being a graduate student is like. At the panel, the SSS students asked questions pertaining to the common fears all undergrad students have before entering into a Master’s program.

Questions like: “How does a Master’s degree differ from a bachelor’s degree?”, “How will I pay for my school?”, “How much will I cry?”, as well as “What can Tech offer me in the degree I’m interested in?”, were asked by Sul Ross SSS students and retention specialists.

After having more in-depth knowledge from first-hand sources, the group spent the next day visiting the Texas Tech campus. SSS members got a chance to listen to directors of several graduate departments and learn what they offer for their students, how to enter their programs, and what exactly they are looking for in their applicants.

After their presentations and speeches, the students got to speak to directors one-on-one. A few students even got the chance to speak to the head directors in a separate meeting.

Later that evening, the SSS group watched and listened to the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra perform Virtuosic Power before ending their day.

On Saturday, SSS had a chance to spend their last few hours at the Lubbock mall, and have lunch before they returned to Alpine.

For more information about Student Support Services, contact Castillo atecastillo@sulross.edu.

April is National Poetry Month and it marks a time to celebrate and promote the beauty and creativity of poetry. Founded in 1996, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the legacy and achievements of poets and encourage the reading and writing of poetry.

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the Alpha Zeta chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Sul Ross State University (Department of Languages and Literature) is sponsoring a campus-wide poetry contest.

Feeling inspired? Send us the best poem you can write.
Feel like a laugh? Send us the goofiest, ugliest, most cliché-riddled poem you can come up with.

We will be offering first, second and third place prizes for the best and “ugliest” poems. Just email your completed poem to sigmataudelta@gmail.com with your name and category (good or “ugly”) by 11:59 pm, April 1.

The Alpha Zeta chapter of Sigma Tau Delta is the literary honor society of Sul Ross State University. We seek to promote interest in literature and the English language, while providing cultural stimulation and fellowship among members. If you are interested in joining Sigma Tau Delta, contact Dr. Rosemary Briseño, faculty advisor, at rbriseno@sulross.edu or call 432-837-8152.
Tennis plays hard against Southwest and Arizona Christian

By Trey Oliver
Sports Editor

The Lobos tennis teams played hard March 7 in two matches against the University of Southwest and Arizona Christian at the New Mexico State University Tennis Center.

The men’s team lost both matches by 9-0 scores.

Against USW, at number one doubles, juniors Todd Barajas and Michael Torres competed well but lost 8-6 in their match. Freshman Ramiro Castro and Juan Samaguey lost at number two, 6-1. Nathaniel Boatwright and Ronnie Martinez fell short in number three, 6-1.

As for singles, Barajas lost 6-0, 6-1 at number one. Martinez lost at two 6-1, 6-1; and Samaguey lost at three, 6-1, 6-4. Castro lost at four, 6-1, 6-1; Gunner Gardner lost at five, 6-1, 6-0; and Boatwright lost at six, 6-1, 6-3.

Against ACU, Barajas and Torres battled but lost at number in doubles, 8-2, Martinez and Ramon Castro lost at number two in doubles, 8-5, Boatwright and Samaguey also lost at three doubles, 8-1.

The Lobos competed hard in the singles as well but weren’t able to gain any wins in the matches.

The women’s team lost to USW, 4-2, and to Arizona Christian, 9-0.

Freshman Alexa Gallardo played at a high level for the ladies. Gallardo beat USW’s Lesley Rodriguez at number one in singles, 6-3, 6-0. Gallardo and Hanna Schulz teamed up for the doubles and gained another win at number one doubles, 8-2.

Lindsey Griffin and Heather Arias lost at number two doubles, 8-0. Griffin also lost at number three singles, 6-1, 6-1, and Arias lost at number four singles, 6-0, 6-0.

Against ACU, Schulz and Gallardo lost at number one doubles, 8-3. Griffin and Arias lost at number two doubles, 8-1. Gallardo lost a number one singles, 6-3, 6-2. Schulz lost at number two, 6-3, 6-2, and Griffin lost at number three, 6-0, 6-1.

The Lobos played well before preparing for conference and look to build on this experience.

Both teams host McMurry University today on the Sul Ross courts. Action starts at 3 pm.

Former Lobo signs to play indoor football

Former Sul Ross State University wide receiver Cordrick Mobley is a candidate to join a professional indoor football team.

Mobley was the first round pick of the Savannah Steam of the American Indoor Football League in the “1st in the Nation Draft” held Feb. 24, according to Dennis Wilson of collegesportsinthecusa.com. Mobley is currently attending the Steam’s pre-season camp after participating in the 2015 USA College Football Bowl in Jackson, MS during the Martin Luther King Day weekend.

The Steam are preparing for their season-opener against the Cleveland Saints on the road on March 28. They are scheduled to open at home the following Saturday against their in-state rival, the Atlanta Sharks.

Mobley earned second team All-American Southwest Conference honors as a senior. He caught 15 passes for 320 yards and seven touchdowns, averaging 21.3 yards per reception. He finished his Sul Ross State career with 34 touchdowns.

“I’m pleased to see Cordrick have an opportunity to continue his career,” said Sul Ross State Head Coach John Pearce. “He had a great year for us, and we wish him all the best in the future.”
Men’s basketball coach leaves Sul Ross

By Steve Lang
Director of University Relations

Citing personal reasons, Greg Wright, Sul Ross State University men’s basketball coach, has resigned after nine years.

Wright, who is also a lecturer in Education, will step down from coaching duties immediately, but will continue his teaching assignment until the end of the Spring Semester.

During his tenure, three of his teams advanced to the American Southwest Conference’s post-season tournament.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Sul Ross with the student-athletes, coaches, professors and administrations that I have had the honor to work with,” Wright said. “My wife, Elena, and my daughters Ava and Sara are very grateful for the friendships that we have garnered and the support from the community that we have been shown.

“I especially wish to express my appreciation for the unselfish dedication of all the wonderful student-athletes who gave their time and energy to fight and compete as Sul Ross Lobos,” he said.

Rodeo team hosts benefit for team travel

On the weekend of February 28, Sul Ross State University’s Rodeo team held a benefit to help raise travel funds for their dedicated members.

The 2014-2015 rodeo team, led by Coach Jacob Gernentz from Mission, Texas, is made up of Magin Montoya, Wyatt Lindsay, Walker Kibbe, Creed Cade, Mitchell Riggs, Randi Robinson, Sam Powers, Jessica Smith, Samantha Kauk, Rachel Freey and Parker Littlejohn.

Participating in the Team Roping event were SRSU Rodeo Team members Powers, Robinson and Coach Gernentz, with Powers and Gernentz both making the short round. Other participants at the benefit were rodeo teams from Alpine, Fort Davis, Marfa and Odessa.

The Sul Ross Rodeo team still has five more meets left for their spring season.

If you are interested in joining the Sul Ross Rodeo team, contact Coach Gernentz at jgermentz@sulross.edu.

Track & Field competes well at Trinity

By Trey Oliver
Sports Editor

The Trinity Open, at the Trinity Track and Field Stadium is where Sul Ross State University Track & Field team opened their 2015 outdoor season Saturday, Feb. 28.

The scores of teams weren’t recorded, but that didn’t keep the Lobos from competing at a high level.

Despite the bad weather conditions, the Lobos had some good performances across the board. SRSU put up a great effort in the open 200 and open 400 events. The Lobos placed third in the 4x400 meter relay after a stellar performance from freshman Byron Jones.

In the field events the Lobos had great performances from Jermain Stevens, who won the long jump (22 feet, 4 inches), and Marco Vergara, who won the shot put (41 feet, 9 inches).

In the 100 meter the Lobos received great efforts from all those who performed. Andre Wilson, Cayleb Holt and Hasan Lipscomb all competed hard as each of them placed in their heat.

As for the women, SRSU made mark in the field events as Melissa Marin placed second in high jump (4 feet, 9 inches). Victoria Tate also did well, placing second in the javelin (82 feet, 11 inches).

Also competing well in the track events, Leslie Gonzales won her heat in the 100 meter (7th in 13.61). Asrelle Anderson also did well in the 100 (10th at 14.00).

Overall, the Lobos gave a great effort in their first meet and look to build on it moving forward.
The three-game series between SRSU softball and the University of the Ozarks softball has been one to remember as the last game went down to the wire March 7 at Lobo Field.

Sul Ross State was able to gain an early 7-3 lead going into the top of the seventh and final inning, but the Eagles forced their way from behind and to get the win against the Lobos, 12-10.

The Lobos came out blazing as they continuously kept making plays to earn them a commanding 5-0 lead in the first inning of the game.

The Eagles got themselves on the board with two run-scoring doubles in the third and another unearned run in the sixth. The Lobos were also able to score twice, first off a single and then a sacrifice fly in their half of the sixth.

UO got back into the game by doubling home two runs and hitting a three-run homer to put them on top. Three runs were rallied up by the Lobos in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn’t enough as the Eagles closed out the game for the win.

The Lobos start another home series today when Hardin-Simmons University meets them at Lobo Field for a doubleheader that starts at 4 pm.
The Sul Ross Skyline, March 27, 2015

**Baseball competes hard against UMHB**

SRSU’s baseball team battled hard against host University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in the first of their three-game ASC series at Red Murff Field March 6.

The Lobos came out hot and gained an early lead, but the Crusaders rallied back a comeback to defeat the Lobos, 4-3.

Two early RBI doubles helped the Lobos jump out to an early lead in the third inning. The lead didn’t last long as UMHB came back and tied the game in their half of the inning.

Sul Ross senior shortstop Josh Vasquez was able to help the Lobos take the lead as he scored off multiple errors committed by the Crusaders, making it 3-2.

The Cru quickly answered back after being hit with a pitch and a score off a sacrifice fly to tie up the game at 3-3. In the eighth, UMHB was able to score again after capitalizing on errors made by the Lobos, taking the lead 3-4.

UMHB then pitched 2/3 scoreless innings which helped them earn the win.

**Lobo baseball drops two to UMHB**

The Lobos baseball team held their own against Mary Hardin-Baylor in the last two games of a three-game series March 3 at Red Murff Field.

SRSU wasn’t able to pull out any wins as the Crusaders capitalized on all opportunities. The Lobos were defeated, 6-1 and 7-3.

In the opener, UMHB scored early in the first inning off a single, then kept it going with an RBI single in the second inning going up 2-0 against the Lobos.

When the third inning came around, the Lobos were able to get on the board after rallying together with some great plays.

The Crusaders didn’t let up as they hit two home runs to build their lead. The Lobos were then held to two hits, unable to pull out the win against UMHB.

As for the nightcap, UMHB jumped out to another early lead after a sacrifice fly and a two-run single making the score 3-0.

SRSU answered back with a few scores of their own as players Turner Mattson, Shane Sawyer and Josh Vasquez gave them a spark. With only one base hit the Crusaders were somehow able to score three times in the sixth inning. After errors made by the Lobos, the Crusaders were able to score three more times, making the score 7-2.

The Lobos scored off an RBI grounder in the eighth for their final run of the game.

**Lobo Baseball takes on College of Idaho and Providence Christian**

In the Tucson Invitational Games at Kino Veterans’ Memorial Park, the Sul Ross Lobos played hard against a talented group of NAIA teams Feb. 28.

In the opener, the College of Idaho defeated the Lobos with a final score of 8-4. Providence Christian had the edge on Sul Ross as they won the nightcap, 4-2.

The Lobos started off strong jumping out to a 1-0 lead after back-to-back doubles. The Coyotes weren’t down for long as they battled back with five runs in the second inning which resulted in the game being tied at 1-1.

By the bottom of the fourth, the Coyotes singled home two more runs giving them the lead. The Lobos tried to gain a spark but in the end it wasn’t enough to carry them to the win.

Sul Ross started off on top in their nightcap after a RBI infield grounder and error made by Providence Christian. Providence quickly answered back with a two-run double to tie up the game in the second.

The lead was taken after PCC landed a triple and balk, this was shortly followed by a RBI double made by the Sea Beggars’ catcher.

The Lobos weren’t able to make a comeback and fell short to Providence with a final score of 4-2.

**Lady Lobos basketball gets sports honor**

For the third consecutive season, Sul Ross State’s women’s basketball team has been honored by the American Southwest Conference.

The Lobos have been named winners of the American Southwest Conference Women’s Basketball Sportsmanship Award for the third consecutive season. It’s the fourth time that the Lobo women’s basketball team has been so honored since 2010.

The award, in its eighth academic year, honors the member institution in each ASC championship sport that best displays positive qualities of sportsmanship and fair play from its student-athletes, coaches and fans throughout the season. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committees (SAAC) from the conference’s 12 member institutions vote on the recipients.

It marked the first time that Sul Ross State had received the award under Head Coach Aaron Tavitas.

“We are honored to be recognized for such an award,” said Tavitas. “We hope to install good sportsmanship in all aspects of our program.”