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GOING TO THE DOGS
THE PROS AND CONS OF ALLOWING COMFORT ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

BY RAINEY MILLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In many ways, he’s your typical college student: he likes road trips, visiting CowDog, and climbing Hancock Hill.

His two extra legs and orange hair do set him apart from the rest of us, but for Michelle Lawhorn, he’s family.

“Ruffy helps me in many ways,” she affirms. “More than the simple joy, he gives me something to focus on rather than the things that make me anxious. He helps me clear my mind of negativity and always puts a smile on my face.”

In theory, it’s the best kind of therapy. Holding a warm, cuddly dog, playing with a rabbit, or having a kitten to feed—when it feels like there’s no other reason to get out of bed—can give people a sense of purpose, and, well, a source of unconditional love.

Dogs don’t care if you leave the toilet seat up. (In fact, they might even be happy that you did.)

A comfort animal provides support for people with conditions such as anxiety and depression. These are real, medically diagnosable problems that should not be taken lightly, and having a pet can alleviate some of the symptoms.

“I know multiple people who have service and comfort animals; it made a big impact on their life,” says student Christian Cameron. But, he adds, “I can say that it upsets them that some students take advantage of the process.”

Are students finding loopholes in order to have pets on campus? Surely it can’t be that easy; to get a comfort animal, you need documentation from a healthcare provider that proves that you have a disability, as well as documentation that you need a comfort animal.

Still, some people are convinced that students are abusing the privilege. Here’s what they have to say:

“I personally know of students here who keep their pet(s) hidden and undocumented here in the dorms. My own roommate was harboring someone’s kitten during room checks and the thing defecated and urinated on our carpet … be very tight and firm about the rule of comfort pets, or discard it completely. I’m not okay with living in a zoo.”

—Name Withheld

“Sanitation is most likely an issue even without animals.”

—Jonas Ball

“I think the pet issue is being abused. If it’s for the reduction of stress and it’s medically proven, all well and good … sometimes when I kindly tell some people to please make their pets still or I stand aside for them to walk past with their pets, they get offended and sometimes defensive, failing to understand that not everyone is a fan of pets.”

—Name Withheld

“Res Life just needs to get rid of the dogs that are not approved, because there are a lot of people that just have their pets because no one checks.”

— Name Withheld

CONTINUED
Sul Ross enacted policies on comfort pets this spring semester, although this accommodation really came into effect last fall. Currently many students are living in the campus dormitories with a comfort dog or a cat. This situation is still relatively new to a lot of students who do not know or understand how this arrangement works. The comfort pet accommodation is intended for students with documented disabilities, such as various anxiety disorders, depression and/or sleeping disorders.

For students to qualify for this accommodation, they must first contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services Office (FH 112) on campus. The counselors, Mary Schwartze and Rebecca Greathouse Wren, have a lot of resources to help each student decide if a comfort pet is right for them. If so, the student must provide documentation of the disability as well as documentation from their health care provider stating that they would benefit from sharing their living space with a comfort pet. This documentation must be provided to Sul Ross’ Counseling and Accessibility Services. A counselor will then meet with the student to discuss what kind of pet would be the best fit.

“Something that we want to stress is the responsibility required in being a pet owner and really, for maybe the first time in your life, thinking about something other than yourself,” Schwartze said. “We discuss the moral obligations of owning a pet, the financial obligations, and the time required to properly care for a growing animal. Especially if you have a dog—they require a lot of exercise. You also have to be considerate of the people who live around you.”

Another point Schwartze stresses to students is that “having a comfort animal is an accommodation for people with documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to ask if this is something that applies to [them].

This accommodation shouldn’t be dished out lightly.”

While the first step to being allowed a comfort animal in a student’s living space starts with the Counseling and Accessibilities Center, it ultimately ends with the Residential Living department. After supplying proper documentation, meeting and being approved by the counselors, a letter from them is sent (or taken by the student) to the Residential Living staff to process the application and document that the student has a comfort animal sharing their living space.

Since having a pet is such a large responsibility, Residential Living has the right to fine a student for improper care of an animal and even have the animal removed. Students who do not qualify for a comfort animal are not allowed to have a pet (other than a fish) in their living space; students having a pet not documented as a comfort pet will have the animal confiscated and will be fined $400, as per campus policy.

The Residential Living department has specific rules for people who do have registered comfort pets. These rules are listed on the application. Each comfort pet must have a collar with an identification tag for the pet’s safety. Pets taken outside must be on a leash. The City of Alpine has a leash law in effect and violators can receive a hefty fine. Students must pick up their pets’ waste and dispose of it properly; this rule is for the general health of other students as well as each pet. Inside, comfort pets are restricted to their owners’ rooms, not elsewhere in the dorms.

Having a comfort pet can help and has helped many people, myself included. Pet owners should always respect other students’ space and living conditions, as well as think of their pets’ welfare at all times. They are living creatures and deserve their owners’ respect and proper care.

**GOING TO THE DOGS CONTINUED**

“It is a good idea, but people do take advantage of this privilege ... it has helped one of my friends because she always feels alone and homesick.”

— Name Withheld

“I think the idea of allowing a comfort pet is a good idea because I understand people have issues. The fact that pretty much everyone has one now is a little suspicious ... I would be in agreement if people took care of their dogs. Last semester, multiple times there was dog feces left in the middle of the hallway, and once this semester. I like the fact that they put a dog waste [bin] in the courtyard. Personally I don’t own a comfort pet because I feel bad leaving him/her in the room all day without having access to the outside. The friends that I know have a pet seem happier at first, but then they realize how much responsibility it is.”

— Kadean Solis

“I see that there are a lot of people on campus who have dogs, but I feel many don’t understand the responsibility that comes with having a dog,” Lawhorn states. “They need nourishment, exercise, attention and training, etc., and this all requires a dedication to your animal. And it’s apparent that these dog owners can’t even be bothered to pick up their dog’s poop, so I hate to imagine the other areas of their dog’s care that are lacking effort.”

What do you think? Is having comfort animals on campus a good idea?

If so, clearly some changes need to be made around here, or our residence halls are going to the dogs.

It’s high time that we take responsibility for it.
SUL ROSS JOURNALISTS WIN 23 AWARDS

Rainey Miller, junior biology major, took first place in the on-site editorial cartoon contest at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association’s (TIPA) 2016 convention and contests held in Dallas March 31-April 2. In all, Sul Ross student journalists brought home 23 awards in literary magazine, yearbook and student newspaper categories from the statewide competition. Twenty-two awards were earned in the previously published contest; Miller’s was the only on-site contest award. The Sage literary magazine won one award; Skyline news magazine took nine awards; and the Brand yearbook received 12 awards. Both the Skyline and Brand also got awards for Overall Excellence.

The Sage literary magazine’s Yvette Hicklen took first place for her short story entry.

For the Skyline, photographer Susanna Mendez won second in Sports Feature Photo and honorable mention in Sports Action Photo; Magaly De Leon took first place in Feature Photo; Dafne Rodriguez also got a first place award in News Photo; and Sharon Barrett won second for Critical Review. Honorable mentions were awarded to Kaitlyn Wood for Single Subject Design; James Thedford for Sports Column; and the team of Vashti Armendariz, Gunner Gardner, David Wehmeyer and Mendez for Photo Story.

Among those placing for the Brand yearbook were Wood and Kelly Lara who got first for Cover Design. Second-place awards went to Malysssa Reed for Organizations Copy and Wood and Mendez for Organizations. Placing third were Shawna Graves, Student Life Copy; Mendez, Feature Photo; Wood, End Sheets; and Crystal Skolnick, People Spread with Mugshots. Skolnick also received honorable mention for both Sports and Academics, as well as De Leon for Academics Photo and Mendez for Sports Action Photo.

More than 500 student journalists and advisers attended this year’s TIPA convention, representing the state’s two- and four-year colleges. TIPA is the oldest collegiate press association in the nation and one of the largest and most respected collegiate groups in the country.

CAMPUS-WIDE MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION

BY MALYSSA REED REPORTER

Several changes have been made at Sul Ross lately, some of which have possibly confused some students. Among these are the upcoming open carry/campus carry laws that go into effect later this year as well as the broken-door situation in the dorms last semester.

The Campus Carry policy becomes effective in August, and SRSU President Dr. Bill Kibler is still solidifying policies and considering the idea of restrictions that may be put on certain buildings where firearms will and will not be permitted. A Sul Ross Campus Carry policy is planned to be in effect when the fall semester classes begin August 22.

Dorm residents likely remember the great commotion that occurred late last semester when the Residential Living department fined all dormitory residents for outside doors that had been damaged and broken by some students. Kibler ultimately removed the fine and told students that new surveillance cameras would be installed in the dorms to monitor any further incidents, should any occur.

On-site construction and installation of the new cameras by S.D. Technologies began April 4 and should be completed in the next two weeks. The cost for the new surveillance system and installation is approximately $200,000.

Since the end of the fall semester, outside door handles have been changed out and door frames reinforced.

“\nIn the last few months we have not had an incident of doors being popped open,” University Public Safety Department’s (UDPS) Lt. Kent Dunegan said. “But we are still having an issue with doors being propped open."

UDPS and Res Life depend on students to help deter and solve these kinds of problems, Dunegan said. A Crime Stoppers program has also been started on campus.

Establishing a new campus dispatch system has also been discussed, due to the difficulty in reaching the Alpine Police Department’s dispatcher which alerts UDPS when emergencies arise after business hours on campus. This is a scary problem.

“We had a campus dispatcher a few years ago,” Dunegan said. “The State of Texas requires that anyone working dispatch must have a TECO (Telecommunication) license. Before it became unionized, a dispatcher working in an office of 10 or fewer officers was not required to have a TECO license. We would like to have [a dispatcher] at least during the work hours or until 10 pm, but right now it is mainly a matter of funds. The department does not have enough money to hire someone to work as a dispatcher.”
Sul Ross will be piloting a new Chinese cultural exchange program when four students and their teacher from Qinzhou visit the Alpine campus for a month beginning this week.

New Director of International Studies, Dr. Esther Rumsey—who also serves as chair and professor of Fine Arts—and her administrative secretary, Ruoxi Wu, will be collaborating with Talent International College of China.

Beginning April 12, a group of four Chinese students, two male and two female, along with their teacher, are visiting Sul Ross for a month. These students will be sitting in on some classes, participating in Lobo activities, and taking tours of the tri-county area. In order to make our guests feel welcome, Rumsey is looking for student hosts willing to interact with our Chinese guests, and take them to events, show them around, or even just sit and chat.

The Chinese visitors will also be taking a tour of the state capitol. A limited number of seats are available for Sul Ross students. If students are interested, please contact Rumsey or Wu.

If the pilot is successful, plans for establishing an official cultural exchange program in the spring of 2017 will be discussed. The program would allow ten students from Sul Ross to travel to China with a guiding professor for a month. Students who participate in the exchange program will travel to China and will be taken on tours around the local areas to engulf themselves in Chinese culture.

Students will be able to sit in on classes and interact with Chinese students; however course credits will not be awarded as a study abroad program has not yet been officially established.

Future hopes are that an official study abroad program will be established between Talent International College and Sul Ross State University.

Three Baptist Student Ministry Club students, sponsored in part by the Student Government Association and local fundraisers, will also be traveling to China to voluntarily teach English.

Rumsey, Wu and student Vashti Armendariz will travel to China this summer and stay through the month of June. The main purpose of travel will be to tour and interview other potential universities for the establishment of a hearty exchange program.

More information about this program will be available to Sul Ross students in the 2016 fall semester, along with applications. Only ten applicants will be selected and criteria examples include GPA and student conduct.

For more information, contact Rumsey at erumsey@sulross.edu or Wu at rxw14yb@sulross.edu.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION, ITALY AND NYC TRIPS SCHEDULED

Sully, Sul Ross’ travel mascot, would like to remind everyone of upcoming travel opportunities.

In January 2017, there will be a trip to attend the presidential inauguration in Washington, DC. The group must be confirmed by June 1, so if you are interested in going, please contact Dr. Esther Rumsey, Director of International Studies, erumsey@sulross.edu or 432-837-8211.

There will also be a Florence-to-Rome trip in May 2017. The group has been created online and is ready for sign-up. For more information for this trip to Italy, contact Rumsey.

Sully’s friends in the Art and Theatre departments are planning a trip to New York City during the 2017 spring semester. For additional information, contact Dona Roman or Carol Fairlie.

Additionally, Sully is hosting four students and one teacher from Qinzhou, China this month. If you would like to be one of the student guides for our visitors or would like more information about how you can be involved in the visit, contact Rumsey or Ruoxi Wu. This visit is a pilot of our new cultural exchange program with the anticipation of becoming an annual event for both students traveling from China to visit Sul Ross and students from Sul Ross traveling to China.
SPRING AWAKENING STARTS TONIGHT

BY MIRIAM AGUIRRE
REPORTER

*Spring Awakening* is being brought to life by Sul Ross State University’s Theatre and Music programs starting tonight.

The musical production runs April 15-May 1, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The play contains adult content so anyone attending must be 18 years of age and over. The cost of admission is $10, but it is free for Sul Ross students, and the performance will be in the Studio Theatre located in the Francois Fine Arts Building.

With music and lyrics by Duncan Sheik and book by Steven Sater, *Spring Awakening* is a rock musical based on Frank Wedekind’s play of the same name. This musical centers on two young boys and a young girl as they face the trials and tribulations of being teenagers, as well as the discovery of their minds and bodies.

*Spring Awakening* is directed by professor of Theatre Dona W. Roman, and features musical direction by Karrin Ford and Lana Potts.

The cast consists of talented Sul Ross State University students: Ashley Jane Page as Wendla; Alyssa Longoria as Martha; Callie Jones as Thea; Gabrielle Rule as Anna; Elizabeth Watson as Ilse; Zane Ivey as Melchior; Jason Roman as Moritz; Marcelino Velazquez as Hanschen; Fernando Powers as Ernst; Josh Martinez as Otto; Westin Huffman as Georg; Eddie Molinar as Ruppert; Collyn Glaspie as Reinhold; and Michael Amerson as Dieter.

Also, Chinasa Okorocha as Ulbrecht; Amanda Almaraz as Frau Bergman; Aliyah Sabour as Fraulein Knüppeläck; Malysa Reed as Fraulein Grosebustinhalter; Lizzie Simpson as Frau Gabor; Malysa Reed as Frau Bessell; Jonathan Fields as Herr Sonnenstich; Michael Amerson as Headmaster Knochenbruch; Eddie Molinar as Herr Neumann; George Garcia as Herr Rilow; Collyn Glaspie as Herr Stiefel; Eddie Molinar as Father Kaulbach; Chinasa Okorocha as Doctor Von Brausepulver; Jonathan Fields as Herr Gabor; and George Garcia as Schmidt.

Zane Ivey (Melchior) and Ashley Jane Page (Wendla) contemplate their future together in the Sul Ross Theatre Department’s production of *Spring Awakening*, which begins its three-week run tonight in the Studio Theatre. Photo by Cheryl Zinsmeyer
STUDENT JURIED ART EXHIBITION NEXT WEEK

The 2016 Annual Juried Student Art Competition is open to any student currently enrolled at Sul Ross State University.

Students may submit up to three entries in any 2-D or 3-D mediums. Entries must have been created within the past two years and done while enrolled as an SRSU student. All entries must be gallery ready; no wet work, gallery wrap okay but no raw or exposed canvas edges, no visible staples, no saw tooth hangers. Works on paper must be framed under glass or plastic. 2-D work must be ready to be hung and 3-D work must be able to be transported easily. This is a juried show; not all may be selected. From the work selected, cash awards for first place, second place, and third place will be given as well two or more honorable mentions. A merchandise prize will be awarded by a public vote for the People’s Choice Award.

Entries will be accepted in the basement of the Fine Arts Building, room 06, between 1 and 5 pm from Monday, April 11 through Wednesday April 13. No late entries will be accepted.

This is a juried show. Works will be selected from the entries to showcase the artwork being done at Sul Ross. Entries not accepted for the exhibition must be picked up from the basement art office as soon as possible. Accepted works must be picked up at the conclusion of the exhibition.

For more information, contact Carol Fairlie at fairlie@sulross.edu, Gregory Tegarden at gtegarden@sulross.edu or Cole Brown atbro6620@sulross.edu.

The awards reception will be held Thursday, April 28 at 5:30 pm.

MUSEUM HOSTS TRAPPINGS TODAY, SATURDAY

Hand-crafted cowboy gear, Western art and a taste of ranching hospitality will highlight the 30th annual Trappings of Texas that continues today and Saturday, April 15-16, and is sponsored by the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University.

In addition to the renowned exhibit and sale, opening weekend events include a Trappings preview, after-preview party, workshops, demonstrations, chuck wagon breakfast and concludes with a ranch round-up party, which is sold out.

“Our buyers, collectors and enthusiasts keep coming back year after year to this unique and exquisite exhibit and event,” said Liz Jackson, Museum of the Big Bend director. “And I believe it is because the museum has remained true to the values of the western ranching culture.”

Trappings weekend began at the Museum of the Big Bend with an exclusive view of the Trappings exhibition at yesterday’s preview party.

Beginning today, education demonstrations will be presented on the Sul Ross State University campus. Western art expert and author, Michael Duty, will present “Following the Money: Cost, Price and Value in the Art World,” followed by “What Makes a Good Painting,” presented by award-winning Western artist Edgar Sotelo. Based on his presentation, Sotelo will provide a live painting demonstration. The demo will be available for purchase.

This evening, the museum will host the Trappings of Texas grand opening exhibit, sale and reception. This event has widely been held as one of the “Best Events in the Big Bend.” Buyers will have the opportunity to place their ballots in boxes next to their chosen works of art for a chance to purchase. Music, food, beer and wine will be served in true West Texas style. Tickets are $50 per person.

Saturday, April 16 events will begin at the chuck wagon breakfast and blacksmithing demonstration. Gary Dunshee, co-owner of Big Bend Saddlery, will host the breakfast at 8 am at the Big Bend Saddlery shop on Highway 90 West in Alpine. During the breakfast, Wilson Capron and Buddy Knight will demonstrate “Blacksmithing in Our Western Culture.” The renowned artists will demonstrate the art of the blacksmith by creating work from wrought iron or steel by forging the metal with hammer and anvil to the desired shape.

The Trappings of Texas Ranch Round-Up, hosted by the historic Meriwether Ranch, concludes opening weekend activities on Saturday evening. The legendary cuisine of the award-winning chuck wagon cook, Lonnie Rodriguez of the WR Ranch, will be served. The event will include cocktails, music and dinner. Proceeds to the sold-out event will benefit the Museum of the Big Bend.

The Museum of the Big Bend is located on the Sul Ross campus. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am-5 pm and Sundays, 1-5 pm. Admission and parking are free; donations are always welcome.

To purchase tickets and for more information, contact maggie.rumbelow@sulross.edu or call 432-837-8143. Visit the museum on Facebook or online at www.museumofthebend.com.
RUMBELOW STUDIES HUMAN-MOUNTAIN LION CONFLICT POTENTIAL IN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

BY STEVE LANG
NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

An estimated one to two dozen mountain lions roam the confines of Big Bend National Park (BBNP), which entertains over 300,000 human visitors annually. On rare occasions, lions and humans meet; even more rarely, with unpleasant results.

Sul Ross State University graduate student Price Rumbelow, Van, is completing an extensive study evaluating the potential for human-mountain lion conflict in the park. Through the use of trail monitors, along with GPS (Global Positioning System) collars on captured lions, Rumbelow’s research seeks to give more information on the times and frequency that lions’ and humans’ paths may cross.

“Mountain lions have not been recently studied in this area,” said Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson, associate professor of Natural Resource Management, who is Rumbelow’s adviser. “The data we have collected on just their ecology—both in the Davis Mountains and Big Bend National Park—is important,” she said. “The human impact is an added factor, and Price’s study identifies areas and strategies that could be used to help minimize potential for conflict.”

In the last 10 years, more than 1,000 lion encounters—which range from seeing tracks to actual attacks—have been reported in the park. In the 70-plus-year history of the park, only eight actual attacks have been recorded, none fatal. Encounters are gauged from zero to six, from a sighting of tracks (zero) to a fatal attack (six), Rumbelow said. Anything over a three, defined as contact with property (such as a lion taking food from a campsite or picnic area), is reported as an incident.

“It is fairly unlikely [a visitor] will have any conflict,” Rumbelow said. “And, an encounter can be a good or a bad thing. On the positive side, much of the park is a wilderness area, and there is a chance of seeing a mountain lion in its native habitat.”

Rumbelow’s research included placing 20 trail monitors to measure human activity on a seasonal basis. The monitors shoot lasers from transmitters to receivers. A break in the laser indicates passage, and records the time of day. Trails were measured for two-week periods during each of the designated seasons over the course of a calendar year.

“The monitors help determine how humans use the trails, when the trails are used, and which trails have the most activity per season,” he said. “This also gives the National Park Service (NPS) great information for monitoring the trail system.” Rumbelow praised the cooperation of the NPS, adding that they contributed six trail monitors for the study.

In addition to the trail monitors, four lions, two males and two females, have been captured and fitted with satellite/GPS collars. Rumbelow spent several months in BBNP, working with houndsman Nick Smith and technician Bert Geary to capture the lions.

The collars provide 12 daily locations used to determine the lions’ park use and then is compared with human use to measure areas that overlap and potential conflict.

Rumbelow said the study has shown that lions “used the low areas more than we expected.”

“Mountain lion’ is a misnomer,” he said. “Lions don’t need mountains, just rugged terrain. When hiking the lower desert trails, [visitors should] keep [their] eyes open and cameras ready.”

Overall, most human trail use in BBNP occurs in the daytime when mountain lions are less active. Delaying morning hikes until the sun has risen and returning before full dark is likely to lessen odds of an encounter, Rumbelow said.

“I don’t think mountain lions are changing their habits,” he said, “but more visitors can lead to more encounters. Early morning and night time encounters while driving are the most common.”

Rumbelow emphasized that the chance of meeting a mountain lion remains rare. “Cats aren’t confined to areas of high human use. It’s not like every day they are stepping off the trail. With over 800,000 acres [in BBNP], there’s plenty of room for everybody.”

“We have received wonderful cooperation from the NPS and are very excited about the data collected on the lions, as well as the human use of trails,” said Harveson. “The NPS can use this information for seasonal trail monitoring as well.”

“Price has been an exceptional student,” she said. “He has put in so much time and effort into this project and we have learned a lot about the use of the park by mountain lions and people and the spatial and temporal factors where they could overlap.”

For more information, contact Rumbelow at pricerumbelow@gmail.com or Harveson at pharveson@sulross.edu.
Sul Ross State University students and Dr. Bonnie Warnock conducted prescribed burns on an area ranch last week. The students, enrolled in a fire ecology class taught by Warnock, professor of Natural Resource Management, used fire to foster growth of native grasses. Students monitored weather conditions throughout the exercise, adjusting their technique according to changes in wind speed and direction, relative humidity, and temperature.

Photos by Shawna Graves

Dr. Warnock’s fire ecology course ready for a day of controlled burning.

A student lays down flame using a drip torch to create the back fire. The goal is to keep the fire contained within a defined boundary.

Fearless students headed down the fire line to check on the progress of the burn.

Teamwork gets the job done.
Freshman Jayden Gutierrez enjoys whipped cream on her face after getting pied. Photo by Magaly De Leon

Cristal Maltos has fun jumping rope. Photo by Magaly De Leon

Dr. Chris Ritzi and Biology Club members grill shish kabob. Photo by Magaly De Leon

Yelixa Avila gets some air during the jump rope competition. Photo by Magaly De Leon

Sul Ross State Ultimate Frisbee member Micheala Salas with her pup. Photo by Magaly De Leon

Students attempt to pop balloons and earn some money. Photo by Magaly De Leon

SGA Vice President Danielle Lucero pies President Kibler. Photo by Susanna Mendez
AGAVE IS LIFE, MARFA PREMIERE

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI) and Archeo Productions are pleased to sponsor the Marfa Premiere of the internationally acclaimed film, Agave is Life.

A showing of the documentary, produced by Meredith Dreiss and Archeo Productions, with the tagline “bringing the past to life in film and print,” is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 6 pm at the Crowley Theatre in Marfa. A reception will follow the film. There is no admission charge, and the evening’s events are underwritten, with all donations directed to CDRI. The public is invited to an Open House at CDRI on Sunday, April 24, 12:30-5:30 pm to hike the trails, stroll the Botanical Gardens, or visit the Cactus House.

Agave is Life is the story of mankind’s symbiotic alliance with the marvelous agave plant, from which tequila, Mexico’s iconic distilled spirit, is derived. Told through the lens of archeological and historical investigations, this colorful film with both original and traditional folk music relies upon ethnographic materials, archival footage and modern day interviews to explore ten thousand years of the human-agave relationship.

* Producer: Meredith Dreiss
* Co-directors: Meredith Dreiss & David Brown
* Co-producers: Sharon Edgar Greenhill & David Brown
* Editors: Jennifer Lane & David Hollander
* Assoc. Producer: Jennifer Lane & David Hollander, Fourth Density
* Dir. of Photography: Layton Blaylock of Inferno Films
Members of the Sul Ross State University football team recently took part in a tire cleanup and relocation effort as part of the “Keep Texas Beautiful” campaign.

“This is the third time in two years that our players have helped out with removing old, unused tires and getting them out of the way in order to help give back to the community,” head football coach John Pearce said.

Pearce noted that the football players have removed over 3000 pounds of tires from vacant lots in and around Alpine over the past two years.

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) is a statewide 501(c) (3) nonprofit dedicated to beautifying and improving community environments through programming and education. KTB addresses the areas of litter prevention, community beautification and waste reduction.

Keep Texas Beautiful works with affiliate communities, government agencies, businesses, civic groups, and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. KTB is also a certified state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

KTB’s history dates back to 1967, when Texas was preparing for the 1968 HemisFair in San Antonio and more than 16 million tourists were expected to descend upon the state.

A variety of representatives from diverse entities, including the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, decided that Texas cities and highways should be given a “facelift” so visitors would see a clean, beautiful state. To accomplish this goal, the group created a non-profit educational corporation, supported totally by membership dues, known as the Beautify Texas Council.
SHUBERT PRESENTS
POETRY PROJECT

Current and future educators will get a new perspective on poetry as senior English Major Ricky Shubert presents his semester project “Approaching Poetry: a student-centered approach to the poetry unit” slated for April 20.

What began as a simple semester project escalated to a workshop as Shubert challenged himself to create a two-week unit aimed at innovating poetry at the secondary-level.

“The biggest objective was to create a unit that would increase students’ overall enjoyment of poetry,” Shubert said. “I have talked to students across West Texas who have a general disdain for poetry and that needs to change.”

The unit is comprised of two weeks of poems, lesson plans, PowerPoints, and rationales for each day, all conveniently placed on a website accessible by students and teachers.

Students from Alpine High School, familiar with Shubert’s lessons and poems, will briefly speak about their experience with the poems and attest to the successfulness of the poem selections and implementation.

“I’ve presented the unit to several students and the response has been excellent,” Shubert said. “Students are responding well to the poems, activities, and discussions, which is really what the project focuses on.”

In addition to presenting the methodology behind each poem and lesson, Shubert will discuss secondary objectives, such as the use of technology, informal and formal writing activities, and incorporating all five elements of the language arts: reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking.

Sul Ross students, faculty, and staff, as well as area teachers, are invited to attend. Block I and Block II students with Professor Rodriguez and Dr. Qvarnstrom will receive extra credit for attending.

The event will be held April 20 at 5pm in MAB 302.

PAW PRINTS
NEW CLUB PROVIDES MENTORSHIP TO ALPINE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

BY MARINA ESCAMILLA
REPORTER

On every journey a lobo leaves an imprint on the ground it walks on. The new Sul Ross paw print club embodies that vision.

It is often said, “I wish I knew then what I know now,” to go back and do things differently. The mission of paw print is to help guide young teenagers from destructive consequences and instead, build confidence to achieve their goals.

The new organization was created after two Sul Ross students volunteered with the Big Bend Family Crisis Center to deliver a presentation about teen dating violence to a group of Alpine ISD middle schoolers. Lots of questions followed the presentation and the young students wanted to keep the discussion going. The two presenters, Natalie Davis and Marina Escamilla, birthed the idea of a club dedicated to giving these students a place to be heard.

Members of paw print will mentor young teenagers in the community through a series of discussions followed by exercises relating to real-life challenges. In the process, members and mentees both gain perspective to different backgrounds and practices, and also serves as a great opportunity to add to prospective graduates’ resumes.

The millennial generation is recognized to be self-indulged, but most find that to be a misinterpretation of our upbringing. There is enough reason to believe the generations after fall among the same misunderstood theory.

Growing up in the digital age has a lot of repercussions older generations still don’t understand, like the concept of subtweeting, or why a teacher is getting upset because you keep yelling, “What are thooooose?” but paws can help to show that’s completely unnecessary in the classroom.

Meeting with paws members weekly will encourage mentors, through positivity and unity, to become positive role models to the mentees, offering real life affirmation, not just as seen on television or #friendshipgoals.

Club members recognize and manage the amount of time spent following passions while balancing an academic and social life. As twenty-somethings, it’s a difficult to catch a break, but going through puberty and dealing with the complexities of the new world can induce life-long damage as some still deal with today.

Because of the many challenges to get through in life and using experience as the best teacher, paws will encourage its members and mentees to more wisely consider the value in their decisions. For mentee inquiries or interest in becoming a member of paws, email marinaescam@gmail.com.
Sul Ross broke out of a brief hitting slump and slammed Howard Payne University 15-5 in the third game of their American Southwest Conference series at Brownwood April 1-2.

HPU won the opening contest 2-1 and downed the Lobos 11-4 in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader.

Coach Bobby Mesker’s team, 14-13 overall and 7-5 in the ASC, hosted Concordia-Texas in a three-game set April 8-9 at Kokernot Field. They traveled to Midland April 12 for a single game against Hardin-Simmons University, and host East Texas Baptist University tonight (April 15) and tomorrow (April 16) in another three-game series.

Cliff Lunceford’s eighth-inning single snapped a 1-1 tie and gave Howard Payne the opening-game win. Eli Gallego surrendered six hits in the loss, striking out five, while Phillip Russell drove in the Lobos’ lone run.

The Yellow Jackets rapped 11 hits in game two, using an eight-run third to build a 10-1 advantage. Jonathan Bigley rapped three hits in as many at-bats and Johnny Campos added two for Sul Ross.

In the nightcap, Russell led the Sul Ross attack with four hits in five trips, including a double and triple, while Bigley drove in seven runs with two bases-loaded walks, a sacrifice fly, two-run double and two-run triple.

The Lobos erased a 5-2 deficit with a run in the fifth and 12 more over the last three frames. Justin Vaigert raised his record to 5-1, working the first six innings.

Ely Gallego’s two-out single in the bottom of the seventh drove home Johnny Campos with the winning run as Sul Ross claimed a 5-4 win over Concordia-Texas in the first game of their Saturday (April 9) doubleheader.

The Tornados rallied with four eight-inning runs to win the nightcap, 8-6, and coupled with a 20-9 Friday night triumph, claimed the series, two games to one.

Junior Pitcher Chris Solano.

Freshman Ryan DeLeon. Photos by Susanna Mendez
Soundrobin, the interactive playlist phone application, was in its early stages upon its release last November. Since then the social soundtrack has picked up speed, with its latest event at the Texas Rangers baseball team’s opening day April 1.

Created by Sul Ross student Caleb Zubia and a team of three brothers, a series of events in the past few months were held to promote the application. Their set-up states a clear message: the DJ is dead and a skeleton is behind the DJ stand. The app’s players can DJ right from their phones, with Tinder-like voting to up-vote songs that get played by demand.

The app is designed to add variation to events and still maintain control from “calm to country.” The latest feature added to Soundrobin provides an option to block explicit music from playing that may not be suitable for particular events.

“Each event seems to get bigger and bigger,” said Zubia.

The app received over 200 votes on the first day at Austin’s SXSW, where Soundrobin hosted the music for a local bar to get guests interactive with the app, ultimately receiving lots of positive feedback. The app’s creators began hosting events last year with a tailgate party at a home game for the Houston Texans.

Soundrobin has also expanded online; visit soundrobin.com for apparel, links and the latest information on the app. Contact can also be made on Instagram and Twitter, @soundrobinapp, or the Soundrobin Facebook page, where there are often giveaways of Soundrobin merch.
LADY LOBOS WIN 3 OF 7 IN 7-DAY SPAN

Coach Troy Canaba’s Lady Lobo softball team won three of seven contests in a one-week span. Sul Ross swept a non-conference doubleheader from visiting University of the Southwest, 6-5, 8-5 March 30; finished 1-2 in a weekend series (April 1-2) against American Southwest Conference foe LeTourneau University, then dropped a non-conference twin bill against the University of Texas Permian Basin at Odessa April 5.

The Lady Lobos, 7-22 overall, 5-16 in the ASC, hosted the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor April 8-9. They travel to Marshall today (April 15) to open a three-game ASC set against East Texas Baptist University, then conclude the season April 22-23 by hosting the University of Texas-Tyler at Lobo Field.

Darrian Doederlein’s single scored the winning run in the bottom of the eighth as the Lady Lobos rallied to trip USW in the first game of the doubleheader. Doederlein’s hit scored Elizabeth Livingston with the winning run after Mariah Lopez’ two-run single knotted the score.

USW held leads of 2-0, 3-1 and 5-3 before Sul Ross’ rallies. Doederlein singled in Jav’ana Gonzalez for the Lady Lobos’ first run, then slammed a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game 3-3. She finished with three hits in four trips and four RBI.

Sul Ross won the nightcap, 8-5, breaking a 3-all tie with a five-run fifth. Dominique Lopez was the winning pitcher in the first game and Livingston won the nightcap.

Isaura Rodriguez slapped three hits in four trips as the Lady Lobos opened with a 5-4 win at LeTourneau. The Yellow Jackets won the nightcap 4-0 and gained a 4-3 win in the third contest a day later.

Zuriah Leyva slugged a two-run homer and Christina Graham stole home for three of the Lady Lobo runs in the opening game. Darrian Doederlein and Destanie Hernandez drove in the tying and winning runs in the sixth and seventh, respectively. Doederlein added a two-run double in the Saturday loss.

Sul Ross lost 4-3 and 12-5 at UTPB. Graham and Doederlein slammed two hits apiece in the first game, while Graham and Ana Losoya each collected two more in the second contest.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor used superior firepower to subdue the Lady Lobos in American Southwest Conference softball, winning 15-10, 12-2 and 13-9 in a weekend series (April 8-9) at Lobo Field.

UMHB cracked two more round-trippers in the nightcap, scoring three times in the fifth and four in the sixth to cruise to a win. Leyva had two of Sul Ross’ six hits and drove in a run.

Three fifth-inning homers helped UMHB build a 10-2 margin in Saturday’s game, and the Lady Lobos, despite a five-run frame of their own, could not draw even. The Lady Cru used three runs in the second to build a 4-1 edge, and added three more in the sixth.

Sul Ross, with two hits apiece by Jav’ana Gonzalez, Graham, Mariah Lopez, Tara Beyer and Leyva, who also drove in five runs, had 12 safeties in all.
TENNIS SEASON CLOSES TOMORROW

The Sul Ross women’s tennis team hit a bright spot April 8 when they defeated Concordia University Texas 5-4 in Alpine. The team is in Abilene today where they play the University of Texas—Dallas, and then come home for their final season match against Howard Payne University. The action starts at noon today (April 16) on the Sul Ross tennis courts.

Winless since Feb. 26, the Sul Ross men’s tennis team plays their last two contests of the season today in Abilene when they face off against the University of Texas—Dallas, and tomorrow (April 16) in Alpine against Howard Payne University at 11 am.

Sophomore Juan Samaguey.

Junior Hannah Shultz.

Senior Todd Barajas serves. Photos by Gunner Gardner
One student stands guard with the fireproof broom in case embers cross the fire break line, while another student uses the drip torch to light the fires. The goal is to keep the fire contained within a defined boundary. More photos on page 11. Photo by Shawna Graves