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4-5 Aging campus buildings

6 Pronghorn habitat improved

7 BRI updates

8 Building the Wall review

9 Meditation sessions offered

10 McNair grant renewed

11 Students bleed for a cause

13 Food truck exhibit opens

14 Fall on the Mall in photos

15 Football, cross country

16 Volleyball

17 Coach expands program

17 Soccer
PART ONE: STATE OF DISREPAIR

WHY AREN’T MORE RENOVATIONS BEING MADE?

Reporters
Andrea Bode, Malyssa Reed, Andrew Smith

Sul Ross State University reaches a landmark in its history this year as the institution reaches its 100th birthday. The fact that our remote university in the Big Bend of West Texas has survived a century is an achievement worth celebrating. But even as we celebrate, we acknowledge that age—and aging—brings its own problems.

If you look closely among the buildings at Sul Ross, you will find many that are outdated and in need of renovation. A question echoes throughout the halls; “Why aren’t we repairing or renovating buildings with the money we used to build the new walkways/amphitheater, or sports fields, or the study room in the library?”

Students and faculty are not the only ones expressing concern. Scott Grubitz, Director of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction, said, “I’m the same as you. I walk around campus thinking, ‘well, why can’t we do this?’”

One reason new facilities are being added while existing buildings are still in disrepair is because there is a distinct line between what Grubitz can do and what the Physical Plant oversees. While Grubitz oversees all the construction and large repair projects, the Physical Plant is charged with general repair and maintenance.

The Physical Plant services the entire Alpine campus: 63 buildings containing more than one million square feet on 95 acres. Forty-eight Physical Plant employees maintain the academic buildings, auxiliary facilities, residence halls and grounds. Of those 48, four are dedicated to heating and cooling; two are electricians, two are carpenters, five are groundskeepers, and 21 are custodial workers; others have multiple duties.

Leo Dominguez oversees the Physical Plant, among his other duties. Dominguez is Associate Vice President for University Services as well as Dean of Student Life.

“A lot of what we do is wait for parts to come in,” he said. “When something breaks, we go and assess the problem as quickly as we can, order the part, wait for the part, and then fix the thing. How long it takes for the part to get here is out of our control.”

It doesn’t help that Texas’ funding of higher education is tightening its grip on the state’s budget. The trickle-down effect is evident throughout academic institutions that rely on the financial staple for expanding curriculum and making necessary renovations. In perspective, the state funds institutions for two years, or every biennium, and funds received are divided for the duration of those four semesters. As a result of recent legislation, Sul
Ross State has received $2,517,540 less than the last biennium due to the 8 percent cut in state budget and 4.2 percent in total budget.

According to the Legislative Budget Board, Texas encompasses 50 community college districts, 12 health institutions and 37 general academic institutions. Each institution has a specific formula for how much funding it will receive, and it is left up to each to allocate these funds properly.

Cesario Valenzuela, Vice President for Finance and Operations, explains that while federal funding contributes a significant amount to universities all over the country, its main focus is to help students directly through various student grants and loans—like FAFSA or Pell grants—whereas state funding is facilitated through Texas’ general revenue, like sales tax, and then it is divided among institutions. State funds are fixed and primarily used for faculty salaries, benefits and other estimated income.

Valenzuela also noted that public general academic institutions, such as Sul Ross, also get state funding through tuition and fees generated by the university, and through research grants as well as state appropriations. Under the state appropriations umbrella, there are three categories: 1) formula-based, which includes enrollment count, course offerings and square feet usage; 2) non-formula, such as workers compensation; and 3) special item funding, which is where Sul Ross receives a decent amount of additional revenue for renovations and other items the university needs—but that has also taken a million dollar cut from recent legislation.

Because of these severe budget cuts, the university has been under a hiring freeze since the beginning of the year and has just recently been uplifted. During this lull, 26 open positions across campus were frozen, which left the majority of faculty and staff to “wear multiple hats” in contributing to the presence and upkeep of Sul Ross.

The hiring freeze and budget cuts have affected every department, but have damaged the understaffed Physical Plant the most.

The problem facing Sul Ross is the vicious cycle of retention and upkeep. If Sul Ross maintains a constant flow of newly enrolled students, state funding increases. However, if the budget continues to shrink, it could result in smaller departments and eventually affect curriculum, and the cycle begins again: Sul Ross loses out on potential students to fill seats because of limited course offerings.

This means that how Sul Ross State University attracts new students to our institution is at the forefront of discussion, especially as budget cuts continue and aging buildings fall into disrepair.

NEXT ISSUE: What can—and should—we do?
THE GRASS IS GREENER
STUDENTS HELP PREVENT PRONGHORN DECLINE

Co-editor
Rainey Miller

Guess I was a cat in another life—cars make me feel trapped. But September 14 found me on a field trip for Dr. Whitney Gann’s range and wildlife habitat management class, headed out towards Van Horn. I can’t tell you where we were going, exactly, but I’ll tell you what we did.

The sky was incandescent. With bales of wire in our roofless ATV, we crossed the ranch at a jarring pace; grass spikelets blew through the windows and into our clothes. Admittedly, I was putting on sunblock like it was my job, so they also stuck to my skin. Meanwhile, a grasshopper had the nerve to fly into my face, inspiring me to briefly freak the heck out. That’s just the nature of the field.

Our group was split into two teams—ours consisted of me and Ace, students in Dr. Gann’s class; Dr. Gann herself, a research scientist at the Borderlands Research Institute; and her husband, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Kory Gann. After a few bumpy minutes of driving, we pulled over next to a seemingly innocuous fence and got to work.

You wouldn’t know it by looking … this is a graveyard. There are no skeletons on the ground, nothing to signal the nosedive that the species is taking, but five years ago there were 17,000 pronghorn in the Trans Pecos region—and now there are about 6,000. When they started declining in 2008, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department didn’t see any cause for alarm; after all, pronghorn populations experience ups and downs like any other species, and 2011 was a particularly dry year. But when the rains rose, the population didn’t.

Then people worried.

One major cause of the animals’ decline is that they can’t jump over fences, or at least they don’t know that they can. In the event of a fire, for example, a cornered pronghorn will simply burn to death. Stranded by wire, pronghorn on private land are cut off from their food supply, potential mates, and an escape from predators; they are also forced to eat in the same space where they relieve themselves, which creates a parasite problem. Simply put: the fences need to be modified so that pronghorn can cross.

That’s where we came in.

With a few snips and twists, we raised the lower rungs of fences so that pronghorn could slip underneath.

“In 2011, 200 pronghorn from the panhandle were moved here,” Dr. Gann informed me, “but only 20% survived. Then we started doing fence mods, and survivorship increased.” Dr. Gann even saw a radio-collared pronghorn, one of those original 200 immigrants, give birth to twins several years after she was released. There’s no question that the fence modifications are working. Now it’s just a matter of implementing them, and getting the word out so landowners know how to help.

After a long day of fixing fences, we climbed back into the truck and headed home (with a brief delay when we broke down on the highway, but that’s a story for another time). Once more, there was that familiar trapped feeling as we drove. I take back what I said about cats—maybe, in another life, I was a pronghorn.
Ryan Luna has been appointed to the newly created Kelly R. Thompson Professorship in Quail Research at the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI). The professorship was established by Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation in honor of Kelly R. Thompson, who served as chair of its board of trustees for six years and currently serves on BRI’s advisory board.

Luna has served as a research scientist with BRI and an assistant professor of Wildlife Management in the Department of Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross since 2013. After receiving his bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University, Luna worked as a game warden for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish until he returned to Texas to begin his master’s and doctoral work. He earned his master’s degree from University of Texas at San Antonio, and a PhD from Texas State University.

“Since Ryan’s arrival at BRI, he has been a workhorse in the classroom and in the research arena,” said Dr. Louis Harveson, the Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., BRI Endowed Director and professor of Wildlife Management at Sul Ross.

“Ryan dove in head first with our Desert Quail Research Program,” said Harveson. “The financial investment from TPWF and the creation of the Thompson Professorship will help us sustain and grow our quail conservation efforts.”

For almost ten years, the Borderlands Research Institute has been adding to the scientific knowledge base about West Texas wildlife. The institute is a partnership between the university’s Range and Wildlife Management Program, private landowners and state, federal and non-governmental organizations, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.
REVIEW: BUILDING THE WALL

STAGE READING EVOKEs AUDIENCE RESPONSE

Reporter
Malyssa Reed

Building the Wall, a Sul Ross theatre department production, was performed as a stage reading Sept. 22-23 in Marshall Auditorium.

Robert Schenkkan’s hard-hitting political thriller, Building the Wall, was written in response to the 2016 presidential election.

The play takes place in a prison in 2019 where history professor Gloria interviews prisoner and Trump supporter Rick.

Rick is a white working-class retired vet and former law enforcement officer. He has been imprisoned because of an atrocity that occurred at his prison.

Gloria is a black historian, a professor and a seeker of truth.

Schenkkan attempts to show a possible extreme future of the country. Due to a terrorist attack, President Trump declares martial law and begins to round up all illegal immigrants and their families, including some considered legal before martial law. The immigrants are taken to detention centers to be deported, but other countries—seeing the injustice—refuse to take them.

Rick is then persuaded by the government, through many small incidents, to start killing detainees. His prison turns into a camp much like the internment camps of the holocaust.

This play deals with heavy issues of racism, immigration and emigration, and the state of our government. Schenkkan uses this story to show audience members both sides of the issues. He does so in a way that not only shocks us into thinking of what could come, but helps us think about why people have made certain choices.

The characters of Rick and Gloria, played by Cory Hill and Cierra Noel, are incredibly grounded with realistic drives and emotions. Through the play we see them both experience anger, disgust, fear, memories of hope, and despair. The audience experiences these emotions with them as we ponder why and how these things happened.

Schenkkan, through an extreme story, forces us to think about what we can do and what is happening right now.

The discussion session that followed the show centered on how Rick could have let himself commit mass murder. People talked about what we as a people need to do to keep this kind of thing from happening. At the end of the session, it was clear that everyone who attended was affected by it in some way.

SUL ROSS THEATRE

RACIAL TENSIONS COLLIDE IN CLYBOURNE PARK

The SRSU theatre program’s next production is Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris. Performances are scheduled for two weekends, beginning Oct. 20 in the Studio Theatre.

Directed by Marjie Scott, assistant professor of communication and theatre, the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play is set in a house on Clybourne Street—the same house the Younger family purchases in Lorraine Hansberry’s award-winning play, A Raisin in the Sun (1959).

Norris writes a spin-off of Hansberry’s compelling drama about race in America. Clybourne Park tells the story of a home and a neighborhood, as well as the sense of history and entitlement people hang on to in the ever-shifting physical boundaries and demographics of the American cultural landscape.

The cast includes: Gabrielle Rule (Brady), Jonathan Fields (Venus), Michael Emerson (Houston), Cierra Noel (Houston), Theseus Francis (Alpine), Callie Jones (Midland), and Westin Huffman (Fort Davis).

Tickets are on sale now: $10 for adults and $8 for seniors. Sul Ross students get free admission with a valid student ID.

For more information, call 432-837-8218 or visit www.sulross.edu/theatre.
MY NOSE IS NIAGARA,  
MY THOUGHTS ARE NIRVANA

SUL ROSS OFFERS GUIDED MEDITATION SESSIONS

Co-editor
Rainey Miller

Sorry I sounded like Darth Vader. In the quiet, warmly-lit counselor’s office, my runny nose may as well have been a fifth person in the room, and I’m pretty sure everyone was disgusted; meditating with allergies is no cakewalk. But I was doing my best.

The Sul Ross Counseling Center offers guided meditation twice a day, five days a week. It’s a laid-back atmosphere. Anyone is welcome, beginners and gurus alike, and you can brew yourself some tea while you’re there.

I’ve done this a few times. The key to meditating, at least for me, is to “focus on your breathing”; I usually do this by counting my breaths. But on that day when my face felt full of bricks, even the numbers were a distraction.

At my eightieth breath, I remembered one of my favorite jokes: “What did the pirate say on his eightieth birthday?” Though I tried to push it out, the answer reverberated loudly—complete with nautical accent, mind you—in my head: “Aye, matey!” (It sounds like, “I’m eighty!”)

I stifled my laughter, but just barely. I’m kind of terrible.

At breath 104, my childhood fever spiked into memory, my mom putting me in an ice bath as I thrashed about in outrage. Then came the upbeat voice from the radio, “You’re listening to 104.1, KISS FM!”

Is this really how people reach Nirvana? I wondered, sniffing as silently as I could. What if it happens to me? Is Nirvana one of those things you can miss class for, like a stomach bug? (“Sorry I was absent on Monday; I was just meditating, and, well… Nirvana…”)

Focus, focus. I tried counting my breaths again, watching the petroglyphs on my eyelids. Those temporary constellations. But instead, although I did my best to stop it, I started writing this article in my head. Ordinary thoughts became part of a narrative: “I sat in the quiet, warmly-lit counselor’s office,” I thought, “trying my best not to write in my head…”

This wasn’t going so well.

“…but it wasn’t going so well,” I added mentally, for good measure.

My efforts, it seemed, were futile. I couldn’t bring myself to relax. I had so many photos to upload, papers to write, dishes to clean!

Wait…that’s why I needed this in the first place. Numerous studies have shown that meditation reduces stress, and for someone with an anxiety disorder (ooh, that’s me!), it’s a total game-changer.

So I took a deep, full breath, not worrying so much about what number it was, and let it flow through me. Before I knew it, a timer was going off, and the twenty minutes were up; there were no deep revelations or shattering of my ego, but I did feel a little bit calmer than when I started.

I took 134 breaths: a personal record.

Maybe meditating’s not so hard, after all.

About the SRSU Counseling Center

The SRSU Counseling and Accessibility Services sponsor two daily (M-F) meditation practices for the SRSU community of faculty, staff, and students.

Any SRSU community member interested in meditating in the morning can come by the Counseling Center, Ferguson Hall 112, to participate in a 20-minute silent meditation Mondays through Fridays (not holidays or weekends). The morning meditation starts at 7:30 am (promptly, so you may want to arrive a couple minutes before), concluding 20 minutes later, at 7:50 am.

The Counseling Center also sponsors a short ten minute outdoor meditation practice; under the tree and in the grass at the west/main entrance to Ferguson Hall. This meditation starts at 3:05, and lasts until 3:15 pm. You can sit on the grass, borrow a cushion, or bring your own seating arrangement and join us. It’s a great way for afternoon breaks, allowing you to re-center and relieve stress.
Undergraduate research opportunities at Sul Ross State University will continue to thrive for the foreseeable future.

Sul Ross received notification Sept. 11 of continued funding of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program for undergraduate research. Grant funding of $232,265 has been approved for the first budget period—Oct. 1, 2017 through Sept. 30, 2018—with the anticipation of funding for a total of five years and more than $1.16 million.

"McNair has been successfully helping Sul Ross students for 10 years," said McNair Program director Dominique Vargas. "We are thankful for the opportunity to continue to work with our students, to foster growth and development and get them ready for the next step in their journey."

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

Named in honor of one of the astronauts who died in the 1986 space-shuttle Challenger explosion, the program was established at Sul Ross in October 2007. McNair is funded through the U.S. Department of Education’s TRIO programs.

Greg Schwab, retired professor of Fine Arts; Marilyn McGhee, director of Sponsored Programs; and Vargas wrote and submitted the grant renewal application earlier this year. Points are awarded on the strength of the application itself, as well as extra competition preference points and prior experience points, which measure meeting and exceeding goals and objectives for the previous funding period.

"The McNair Program has made significant contributions to Sul Ross’ undergraduate student success for many years," said Dr. Rob Kinucan, Associate Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "We congratulate all involved for their efforts in obtaining a grant renewal and for sustaining the program’s high-quality results."

"It [McNair Program] is a wonderful, life-changing part of our academic programming," said Dr. Jim Case, Executive Vice President and Provost.

As of August 2017, Sul Ross’ McNair Scholars Program has served 150 students, with 120 receiving Bachelor’s degrees and 26 still enrolled in undergraduate programs. In addition, 42 of the graduates have received Master’s or law degrees and another 29 remain enrolled in graduate degree programs.

"Dr. Ronald E. McNair said, ‘Whether or not you reach goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them,’" said Vargas. "With McNair, we are able to help the students who are willing to dream, and willing to put in the time and effort to reach their goals, no matter how lofty and out of reach they may seem."

Sul Ross’ McNair Program annually serves at least 27 sophomore, junior and senior students. Vargas said that 14 students are already actively participating in McNair this 2017-2018 academic year, with 13 more slots available. Application deadline is Nov. 30.

For more information, contact Vargas, 432-837-8019 or dvargas@sulross.edu.
FALL BLOOD DRIVE
SRSU COMMUNITY DONATES BLOOD SEPT. 13-14

Photos by Nadia De Luna

top left
Freshman Monika Watson

bottom left
Freshman Raul Rios

top right
Senior Vince Apodaca

bottom right
Former Sul Ross student
Zack Austin

above
Javier Garcia shows off the T-shirt he got for donating blood.
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RESUMANIAICS win a $100 VISA gift card for your resume

Who
The RESUMANIAICS competition is open to all currently enrolled SRSU students.

What
Prepare your resume for presentation to prospective employers. Enter your resume into the RESUMANIAICS competition for a chance to win a $100 VISA gift card.

Where
Deliver your resume to the Career Services Center in the UC (211D) or email your resume to jnieh@sulross.edu.

When
Resumes must be received no later than 9:00 am on Monday, November 6th to be eligible for the prize.

How
A panel of judges will select one winner for best undergraduate student resume and one for best graduate student resume. The winning resumes will be displayed at the Fall Career Fair on Tuesday, November 7th.
“Last Stop,” paintings by Joe Peña, opened Sept. 18 in the Main Gallery, Francois Fine Arts Building.

The exhibition closes Thursday, Oct. 26. A gallery talk and reception will be held from 4-6 p.m. Oct. 26. There is no admission charge and the public is invited. Gallery hours are 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday.

Peña’s paintings explore issues of ethnic identity, including aspects of cultural, familial and social traditions, relating to his Mexican heritage. The subject matter is a further reference and exploration into traditional Mexican customs, and is portrayed through various elements of still life, portraiture and urban landscapes.

According to Peña, who is an associate professor of Art at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the popularity of the food stand and taco truck have become a staple of the American landscape, regardless of the food that each serves. They are an escape from the monotony of the common fast food establishment, and offer so much more in terms of a communal experience in the discovery of new cuisine or a refuge of comfort in food and individuals.

The “meat paintings” pay homage to the food, specifically the organ meats, associated with Mexican culture. While organ meat is consumed all over the world by many communities, these are specifically the South Texas variety. As a subject matter for study, they have a lot to offer with their rich visceral elements, deep tonal hues, and painterly possibilities. More importantly, they represent the comforts of family and tradition.

He views his “Last Stop” food truck series as an extension of his meat paintings. The series captures the mysterious and surreal scenes illuminated by the glow coming from inside the truck, hovering in the rich black emptiness of space. Each truck and stand has its own presence and the visitors become its culture.

Peña has exhibited his works at a number of shows during the past ten years.
FALL ON THE MALL
SUL ROSS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SHOW OFF

Photos by Susanna Mendez
LOBO FOOTBALL WINS HOME OPENER 35-7 OVER MCMURRY

Senior quarterback James Davis threw for 109 yards and a touchdown and netted 121 yards on the ground to lead Sul Ross (2-1, 1-1) to a 35-7 ASC victory over McMurry University (1-3, 1-2 ASC) at Jackson Field Sept. 23.

Davis registered 10 pass completions out of 21 attempts in the victory as Sully gulped up 496 yards of total offense while holding McMurry to 136. The Lobos now sport a three-game winning streak over the War Hawks since McMurry re-entered NCAA Division III competition in 2015.

Sully put the first points on the board in the opening quarter as Williton Greer scampered seven yards into the McMurry end zone finishing off an eight-play, 44-yard drive. Eli Lopez converted the extra point with 10:20 remaining in the first quarter.

Then, a 52-yard punt return by Jermaine Stevens, Jr. paved the way for a 29-yard strike from Davis to Steven Savedra with just 11 seconds left in the opening period. Lopez nailed the extra point for a 14-0 Sul Ross lead.

A fumble on a Sul Ross punt return allowed the War Hawks to set up shop deep in Lobo territory. Darius Brooks reeled in a four-yard scoring toss from Kevin Hurly after just three plays which covered 16 yards. Tanner Wright's kick pulled the visitors to within seven with 13:43 left until the half. It would mark the final points scored for either team in the second quarter.

Sophomore Jordan Batson reached pay dirt with 6:08 remaining in the third on a 21-yard touchdown run. Lopez tacked on the extra point.

Jeremy Schilhab then capped a 10-play, 71-yard drive with a four-yard trot before Lopez’s PAT.

Savedra finished off McMurry with a six-yard touchdown pass from Paul Rodriguez. Lopez bingoed on the extra point as the Lobos coasted to the 35-7 ASC win.

The Lobos hit the road this week as they meet Louisiana College tomorrow (Sept. 30).

PARKER LEADS LOBOS AT RECENT MEETS

Junior cross country runner Joseph Parker the Sul Ross charge with a fifth place finish out of 67 competitors at Sept. 16’s Texas Lutheran Invitational (17:20), and a 19th place finish out of 68 Sept. 23 at San Antonio’s Our Lady of the Lake University (28:51).

At the Texas Lutheran meet, Dahmir Pearson placed 23rd in 18:25. Other runners for the men included Cheaden Reyna (23:28), Fabian Nava (23:28), Robert Rodriguez (24:11), Brandon Carillo (26:02), Vince Apodaca (26:47) and Josue Aguilar (27:20).

In the TLU women’s race, Hailey Frerichs ran a time of 25:11 placing 30th.

Other Sul Ross women competitors included Anahi Uribarri (25:20), Karina Ramirez (28:28), Jenelle Galvan (28:51), Amy Hernandez (30:35), Nyria Sanchez (31:33) and Zulia Barrios (34:35). In addition to Parker, other Sul Ross men runners at the Sept. 23 meet included Pearson (29:46), Flores (33:59), Rodriguez (39:14), Reyna (41:21), Nava (41:28), Apodaca (43:21) and Carillo (43:59).

In women’s competition, Uribarri placed 43rd in a time of 30:50 in the 6K.

Other Sul Ross women runners included Ramirez (36:14), Galvan (36:20), Hernandez (37:22), Sanchez (38:15) and Barrios (43.50).

Both men’s and women’s teams will run at the University of Dallas Invitational October 14 in Irving.
ACROSS THE NET
VOLLEYBALL FACES TOUGH OPPONENTS

UMHB-3, SRSU-0
Sul Ross volleyball (2-9, 0-3) dropped a 3-0 decision to visiting Mary Hardin-Baylor (10-1, 2-1) Sept. 16.

Scores were 25-11, 25-19 and 25-9.

The Lady Lobos held a brief lead in the second set and mounted an early 5-0 run capped by a kill from Priscila Serrano at the 6-2 mark.

Sul Ross held the advantage before the Crusaders tied the game at 10.

Sully notched its last point of the set off a kill by Autumn Kilpatrick before UMHB broke away with a 6-0 run for the 25-19 win.

Freshman setter Mirella Thomas sported 11 assists in the effort. McKenna Thomas polled eight digs.

USW-3, SRSU-0
University of the Southwest (3-9) held off a persistent Sul Ross (2-10) effort taking a 3-0 victory over the Lady Lobos in non-conference play Sept. 18 in Hobbs.

Following a 25-19 opening-set victory by the Mustangs, Southwest squeezed by with a 25-20 win in game two before claiming another 25-19 victory in the match-deciding set.

Sully recovered from a 12-2 deficit in the second set to pull with one at the 19-18 mark.

A kill by Jordan Scherer supplied the final point for Sul Ross in the set before the Lady Lobos committed a ball handling error and surrendered a kill as USW posted the 25-20 win.

In the final game, Sul Ross held a brief lead early in the set.

Southwest broke a 3-3 tie before the Mustangs climbed to an 8-4 advantage off a Lady Lobo service error.

Sul Ross kept the game close down the stretch but could pull no closer than a deuce as the Mustangs pulled away with the 25-19 win.

Kilpatrick mustered seven kills in the effort while Alyssa Lanahan nabbed seven digs. Serrano recorded a pair of block solos.

UTD-3, SRSU-1
No. 13 U.T. Dallas (10-3, 4-1) claimed a 3-1 conference victory over Sul Ross (2-10, 0-4) in Sept. 22’s round of the ASC Crossover at LeTourneau University.

Following a 25-16 loss in the first set, the Lady Lobos popped the Comets with a 26-24 victory in game two. U.T. Dallas quickly retook command with 25-9 and 25-7 wins in the final two sets.

In game two, Sul Ross moved ahead on a 3-0 run that was capped by a kill by Isabela Ruiz for an 8-5 advantage.

U.T. Dallas tied the outing at nine off a Sul Ross attack error before a back-and-forth battle at the net down the stretch.

With the game knotted up at 24, a Comet service error moved the outing to set point.

Ruiz finished off U.T. Dallas with a kill set up by Alesi Hernandez for the 26-24 game win.

Freshman outside hitter Scherer led the effort with 10 kills while McKenna Thomas and Hernandez supplied 18 and 11 assists.

Lanahan and Athena Gundy bagged 17 and 12 digs respectively.
RUN FOR THE WIN
COACH EXPANDS TRACK, CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Reporter
Andrew Smith

Sul Ross’ cross country team laces up for the start of the new season, kicking off with three meets for September—just the beginning of a busy schedule for the 2A and 3A divisions.

This is Antuan Washington’s fourth season as the head cross country (and track and field) coach. Washington has ten years’ experience working in a highly developed recreational sports program at Angelo State University where he earned a bachelor of Business Administration Management in 2010, as well as a Master of Education in Coaching, Sport, Recreation and Fitness in 2012.

Additionally, Washington has served as an intramural official and supervisor, assistant director of summer sport camps, and as a graduate assistant for intramural sports and sport clubs. His responsibilities include administration, budgeting, scheduling and supervision of intramural sports and summer camp programs.

At Sul Ross State, Washington serves as Director of Recreational Programs, and over the course of his career has recruited, hired, trained, scheduled, supervised and evaluated more than 100 interns, student supervisors and officials.

“Track and cross country are a little different from other sports,” Washington said, “in the sense that it is more of an individual sport, and ultimately, you’re constantly running against yourself, and always trying to beat that last time or go that further distance.”

Washington’s coaching philosophy is based on motivating students by doing the workout and training with the team.

“It helps with mental block that many initially face: ‘I don’t know if I can do it,’” he said.

By setting realistic goals for his athletes and maintaining a positive attitude throughout the entire experience, Washington has witnessed the program expand from five to 18 student athletes since his start with Sul Ross State University in 2013.

“I look at running like most other things in life: you’re getting out whatever you decide to put in.”
ASC COMPETITION HEATS UP

SOCCER FALLS TO HARDIN-SIMMONS, BLANKS McMURRY IN ASC ACTION

No. 7 Hardin-Simmons University (5-0-0/1-0-0) delivered a six-goal payload in the first half on its way to a 9-0 shutout over Sul Ross (2-2-0/0-1-0) Sept. 14 in the ASC opener for both teams.

The Cowgirls’ Kenne Kessler scored four of the visitor’s nine goals with the first two coming in the opening half.

Hardin-Simmons shut out their last four opponents and has allowed only one goal scored in a 2-1 season-opening victory against Hendrix College Sept. 1.

On Sept. 16, a pair of first half goals coupled with four more scoring strikes in the closing period propelled Sul Ross (3-2-0, 1-1-0) to a 6-0 blanking of visiting McMurry University (2-3-0, 0-1-0) in conference action.

Freshman midfielder Britney Berumen posted her first collegiate goal on a center pass by Marli Martin at the 2:13 mark.

Berumen struck again at the 25th minute, this time on a high curved shot from a two-step dribble.

It marked the final score as Sully went to intermission up 2-0.

A deflection off the opposing goal keeper set up a header for Lauren Ebbs near the 61st minute.

The Lady Lobos added an insurance goal from another freshman as midfielder Kimberly Hubert banked unassisted on a left foot dribble in the box at 69:40.

Ebbs put the War Hawks away with the final two goals.

Hailey Gillespie’s pass set up a spin move and a converted dribble shot by Ebbs at the 70th minute.

Ebbs closed the scoring spree at 78:29 with another spin and a right-foot swing shot.

For the afternoon, Sul Ross sported a 27-shot tally with 17 shots on goal. McMurry fired off a dozen shots with seven on frame.

Sul Ross took on LeTourneau yesterday (Sept. 28) and meets East Texas Baptist tomorrow (Sept. 30) in ASC conference road action.

TENNIS SCORES 8 WINS AT ASC MEET

Sul Ross State University women’s and men’s tennis teams scored a combined eight victories in Saturday’s final round of the American Southwest Conference Invitational.

In women’s singles Daisy Martinez won in a three-set tiebreaker over Howard Payne’s Erin Blanchard in the E draw.

Andrea Navarrete downed Howard Payne’s Rosie Cadena in a pair of sets in the F flight.

Turning to doubles, Navarrete and Kylien Likiakswa posted an 8-4 win over McMurry’s Lopez/Masonheimer.

In men’s action, Juan Samaguey defeated Howard Payne’s Gabe Benitez in flight B singles.

Kyle Ferguson downed Brandon McGibeny of HPU in consolation play in the C draw.

In draw E Javier Gayton beat Howard Payne’s Tommy Croft while Jake Trejo posted a two-set win over Howard Payne’s Noah Marlin in the G flight.

In the final singles match of the day, Pierce Palmer defeated McMurry’s Matthew Santos.
GO LOBOS!

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