"Aye, No! Part Dos," written by resident playwright Liz Coronado Castillo and directed by professor of theatre Dona W. Roman, celebrated a successful opening weekend to full houses and appreciative audiences. Many of our favorite characters from the 2010 production of "Aye, No!" return and embark on an excursion to Arizona.

A world premier production, "Aye, No! PartDos" continues to play this weekend, May 4 through May 6. Curtain time is 8:15 pm, May 4 and 5 with a matinee performance on May 6 at 2 pm.

Enjoy an evening under the full moon Saturday night as Sully Productions and the Teachers of Texas are sponsor the movie "Hop" at 8:30 pm at Kokernot Outdoor Theatre. The event is free to all SRSU students and their families.

Students, orgs awarded for hard work

Kim Morrow, left, receives the Student Organization of the Year Award on behalf of the Sul Ross Honors Club from Leo Dominguez at this year’s Student Life Awards ceremony. Other winners were Johnathon Cruz, University Leadership Award; Black Student Association, Community Service Award; Morgan Pierce, Student Leader of the Year Award; and Cheryl Zinsmeyer, Student Organization Advisor of the Year Award. Congratulations to all the winners! Photo by Thalia Aparicio

Grand jury indict former training coordinator

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) announced that a former training coordinator for the Sul Ross State University Law Enforcement Academy has been indicted for allegedly tampering with a state licensing exam.

A Brewster County grand jury returned three indictments on April 16 against Kellie Powell, former training coordinator for the Law Enforcement Academy, according to a statement issued by TCLEOSE officials.

The three indictments charge Powell with tampering with a government record—specifically, the state licensing exam—by assisting students while taking the exam. The three charges are state jail felonies, according to the TCLEOSE statement.

The charges are the result of an investigation conducted by investigators from the Enforcement Division of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

The statement issued by TCLEOSE concluded with, "An indictment is no evidence of guilt and all defendants are presumed to be innocent."

SR officials learned of the ongoing TCLEOSE investigation just prior to Powell’s August 2011 resignation.

“We sincerely regret this incident,” said Sul Ross President Ricardo Maestas. “Sul Ross State University strives to maintain high standards in all of our academic endeavors. We cooperated fully with TCLEOSE officials during the course of their investigation,” Maestas said.

Lloyd Dragoo, the former coordinator of the Middle Rio Grande Law Enforcement Academy at Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, was hired November 2011 to replace Powell.

The fall 2011 Sul Ross Law Enforcement Academy graduating class achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the state licensing exam, according to the university’s statement.
Final Exam Schedule

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Final exams in labs and physical education activity courses will be given during the last class period of the semester.

County candidates forum May 12

If you’ll be here through May and registered to vote in Brewster County, consider attending the Brewster County Candidate Forum May 12 at 2 pm in the Alpine ISD Administration Building Auditorium, 704 W. Sul Ross Ave.

Democratic Party primary candidates running in contested races will be on hand to answer questions and present their viewpoints. John Waters, publisher of the Big Bend Gazette, will serve as moderator.

Candidates includes Brewster County Attorney; Steve Houston and Sandy Wilson; County Commissioner Pct. 3: Eduardo Vega, Ruben Ortega and Marcos Paredes; County Commissioner Pct. 4: Mike Pallanez, Ruben Losoya and Van Neie.

Early voting for all precincts in May 14-25.

Regular voting for the May primary election is May 29.

For questions about voting, call elections clerk Kathy Moreno, 432-837-6230 or 2214.

The Lucky One & National Premiere The Avengers in 3D

For movie times call 432-837-5111
The end of the semester is upon us and most of us are thinking about finals and summer. But, what about the Student Government Association candidates and elections? Did you show up at the UC to vote earlier this week?

The slate of candidates was president: Johnathan Cruz (unopposed); vice president: Bowie Adams and Josette Delgado (treasurer for the past year); secretary: Sadie Sacra (unopposed); treasurer: Gina Medina (parliamentarian position for the past year) and Lessli Ruiz (secretary for the past year).

Two new names—Adams and Sacra—were introduced on the ballots for the 2012-2013 school year.

Unfortunately, there was no campaigning, so a name is all the student body received this year and the majority of us would know the face of Willy Wonka better than any of the current or hopeful executive officers. And unlike local and national elections, we can't take the short cut and vote a straight ticket for either Democrat or Republican.

Does a student need to be a member of the “in” crowd to know more than a name? Any student that has not been a member of the “in” crowd has been shared with one or more of them.

So who are these people? We don’t know because they didn’t tell us. No posters were displayed throughout the campus, no emails were sent to introduce themselves, and no campaigns were held. Yet, four of these people will be making very important decisions in the future that concern the entire student body.

What do they stand for? Are they simply filling a position for the sake of their academic resume or are they serious about representing their fellow students? Is SGA just a clique of good friends looking after their own interests? Or will we see serious issues addressed and improvements made next year? Will the student body government be run according to the constitution or will they make up rules as they go?

A look at the election process should have everyone’s eyebrows raised. According to the SGA constitution there should be an election committee with the sole purpose of handling elections. Some who made it to the polls took notice of the fact that the current president and secretary were handing out their own ballots.

Another section (Section 6. Parliamentarian) in the constitution states that it is the job of the parliamentarian to “administer all Student Government Association elections, unless there is one election ballot in which case he/she shall submit in writing to the President and Vice President a request to be released from his/her duty.”

It is also the duty of the parliamentarian to “appoint polling officials to assist the election committee during elections.” Did Medina, our current parliamentarian, appoint Cruz and Ruiz as polling officials? Has he/she requested to be released from her/duty, is it acceptable for the current president and secretary to be polling officials? How do students know they aren’t filling out ballots with their names on them? Are they going to count their own votes, too?

Some students might consider this election fraudulent and the purpose of holding elections is to give each student a voice.

It’s the student body’s job to hold the SGA accountable.

The purpose of the SGA is to: act as a liaison to faculty, administration and staff on behalf of the student body; act upon the suggestions and concerns expressed by student body; foster recognition of student rights and the university responsibilities to the students; act in the student’s best interest when participating in the development of the university policy; represent students by sitting on university committees; and demonstrate leadership, honesty and integrity.

If you feel that you have been represented poorly, take a stand and speak up for fair elections and officers who will “demonstrate leadership, honesty and integrity.”

“We cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are.”

- Max DePree

For most of our lives, we live in a very steady state. We do things the same way, day after day, and life seems to be peaceful, comfortable and easygoing. We stick to what we know and go through the same motions. Are we afraid of change? Or are we just stuck in our comfort zones? A comfort zone is a place where we hide in order to protect ourselves from the unknown. It often shows in our attitudes, work ethics, personality, and our social life. It sounds senseless but some of us set certain standards within ourselves. It’s not all bad, but sometimes those standards we abide by harm who we are and the people around us.

For instance, I used to be the type to say, “I won’t speak unless spoken to.” Not as a rude tactic, but because of fear of rejection and the fact that I’m shy. I would walk in the middle of a crowd and wouldn’t acknowledge their presence.

How rude, right? You’ll be surprised how a simple “hello” or “hey, how’s it going” could make someone’s day and give them a sense of who you are. I would constantly hear that I was rude, stuck up, or mean; completely opposite from the type of person that I am...

As someone who is trying to pursue a career in communication, I knew I needed to change my mentality on being sociable.

The point is to stop letting fear make your decisions, and start making them yourself. It will take some time to get used to this new way of thinking, but before long you’ll automatically begin questioning your fear and stop letting it control you.

There’s no room for adventure and excitement in your comfort zone; in fact, over time you might feel overwhelmed and trapped by boredom and fear. Perhaps it’s time to stretch those limits a little.

Not only will your life become more exciting, but you’ll also build confidence and improve your luck.

Push yourself beyond your own edge.
As the spring semester draws to a close, it is a time to show appreciation, recognize achievements and just have some fun before final exams start. This is the case at Sul Ross where our roving photographer Thalia (you can call her “Jimmy”) Aparicio captured some of the action on film.

APPRECIATION LUNCH FOR PHYSICAL PLANT EMPLOYEES

2011-12 STUDENT LIFE AWARDS

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES SPRING PICNIC

SULLY PRODUCTIONS ZOMBIE FEST
It’s time for Late-Night Breakfast!

Monday, May 7
10 pm until Midnight
UC Dining Hall

Breakfast served by supportive University faculty and staff
Sponsored by ARAMARK and Student Life

Four students get tutoring certification

After much hard work and serious commitment, three current tutors and a former tutor from the Academic Learning Center were certified as Level One tutors by the International Tutor Training Certification Program of the College Reading and Learning Association at a ceremony held in the Academic Learning Center (ALC) on Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

The four individuals are Rachel Barrett (writing tutor), Alice Harman (writing tutor), Billy Jones (former Chemistry tutor; currently a Chemistry TA), and Heidi Trudell (writing tutor).

According to Dr. Kathy Stein, Director of the ALC, “The tutors had to complete a minimum of ten hours of training as well as engage in at least 25 hours of one-on-one tutoring before they qualified for this certification. It usually takes multiple semesters for a tutor to meet the requirements. I am quite proud of the level of commitment that these students brought to the certification process as well as how personally they take their responsibilities when tutoring their fellow students.”

The tutors will continue to be available to students needing help with their studies through next week. The last day of tutoring will be Thursday, May 3. The ALC is located in Ferguson Hall 213. If you have any questions about tutoring hours, please call 837-8408.

Extended library hours

Thursday, May 3  8 am to 10:30 pm
Friday, May 4     8 am to 5 pm
Saturday, May 5   Noon to 9 pm
Sunday, May 6     Noon to 10:30 pm
Mon-Wed, May 7-9  8 am to 10:30 pm
Thursday, May 10  8 am to 6 pm
Friday, May 11    8 am to 5 pm
Sat-Sun, May 12-13 CLOSED
Students have many choices for volunteer work

Sharoya Hall
Reporter

“Helping yourself while helping others” is one of the favorable terms used to describe volunteering. It has been proven as a form to enhance sociability, learning skills, mental and physical health, and career opportunities.

Considering Alpine is a remote area, available volunteer work may seem slim to none or nearly impossible. Current and former Sul Ross student volunteers think otherwise.

“[Alpine] is always in need of volunteers. Students can provide their services to a few organizations in the community,” Marlett Garcia, recent Sul Ross graduate, said. “It is just up to the individual to find out about the events, offer their services, and start projects on their own when they want.”

Garcia is well-known in the Alpine community for her volunteer work with numerous projects such as collecting toys for special education children in Mexico and doing presentations on domestic violence through the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend. As an undergraduate, she stayed informed on the events that were happening in the community. She approached many organizations and dedicated her time to help with their events and duties.

“I love doing community service/volunteer work. It allows me to work with individuals, families, and communities,” Garcia said. “It gives me a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, because I know that I helped someone and to me that means a lot.”

Israel Morales, sophomore, is also giving back to the Alpine community in a dominant way. He is a transfer student from El Paso, and has recently become a volunteer at the Déjà Vu Thrift Store, which is only partial to his long list of volunteer work in the area. Some of his efforts include volunteering at The Gathering Place, the Child Advocacy Center, and West Texas Food Bank. Other help includes campaigning with Roy Ferguson and Pete P. Gallego, and translating for the Ferguson Law Office.

“I barely moved here in February and I already have a list of supporters,” Morales said. “For me, volunteering is one of the greatest references.”

Volunteer work is not only about giving back to the community, it also helps to improve the lives of others; it is rewarding, and helps to build strong relationships with the community. According to Morales, it is a great way for students to stay busy and away from trouble.

“Staying out of trouble is a definite factor,” Morales said. “[Volunteering] keeps you real busy, busy enough to where you are not only doing yourself a favor, but others as well.”

Getting involved in the community is the easy idea, but finding the place to do it may seem difficult for Sul Ross students. Most organizations are looking for people to do volunteer work. Local newspapers, radio, and the internet have played helpful roles in fulfilling the need for these organizations. Available volunteer work located in Alpine includes:

- The Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend; Déjà Vu Thrift Store; West Texas Food Bank; local churches; The Museum of the Big Bend; and Alpine Public Library.

The Texas Chapter of Alpha Chi welcomed eight new members during an induction ceremony on May 2 at Kokernot Lodge.

Alpha Chi is a national honor society which is limited to the top ten percent of the junior, senior, and graduate classes. All academic disciplines are admitted into this society. This year’s list of first time initiates:

- Todd Cantu, James Dean, Angela Greenroy, Adam Heidrick, Anthony Morales, Jamie Seabourn, Laura Villaseñor, and Katlin Ybarra.

Returning members:

- Jodi Carnes, Grace Fox, José Guerra, Kim Morrow, Kitty Sibayan, Rebekah Whitehead, and Desiré Williams.

Also, the $1000 Gene and Lucille Hendryx Alpha Chi Scholarship will be awarded to one of these students who will be enrolled during the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters.

The recipient of this scholarship will be announced prior to the closing of the current semester.

SRSU Annual Plant Sale!!

FRIDAY, May 4 - 9 am to 5 pm
SATURDAY, May 5 - 9 am to noon

At the SRSU Biology Department greenhouses, behind the Warnock Science Building on SRSU Campus.

The plant resources center will be selling a selection of NATIVE trees, shrubs, perennials, cacti and other arid adapted plant.

All plants were grown at SRSU from local seed and/or cuttings. We also have a small selection of non-native house plants and ornamental Agaves for sale.

The Biology Club will also have tomato, pepper and other garden plants for sale.

Please bring cash or check - no credit cards.
For information, call Patty Manning at 837-8242
Students prepare for California conference

Jason Hennington
News Writer

Six Sul Ross State University students are preparing to attend the American Society for Microbiology Conference in San Francisco, California June 16-19.

Anthony Morales, El Paso; Desirea Melton, Fort Davis; Jonathan Navarrete, Odessa; Laura Tang, Westminster, CA; Rachel Milan, Ft. Stockton; and Jodi Carnes, Uvalde, along with faculty adviser Dr. Jackie Denson, will be representing Sul Ross at the event.

“Basically you submit an abstract and it gets accepted,” Denson said. “We’re doing a unique poster because ASM is a very dynamic meeting.”

The students are looking at organisms and how they are involved in the nitrogen cycle. They are trying to determine if the organisms are contributing or accelerating the nitrification process.

“There is a process going on in this area where nitrification is making the pH of the soil go up and it’s effecting plant life and productivity,” Denson said. “We’re doing a unique survey looking at that.”

Melton, Morales, and Navarrete will be presenting a second poster titled A Survey of the Prevalence of Select Diseases within Feral Swine (Sus scrofa) and Javelina (Pecari tajacu) of Trans-Pecos Texas, and is also a McNair project. Navarrete and Morales were McNair students last summer, and Melton is currently a McNair student.

“We have been collecting animals and blood specimens and conducting analysis in the lab to see what diseases theses animals have been exposed to,” Denson explained. “We’re looking at influenza, the West Nile virus, and the parasite Trichinella to see if it is common or non-common in this area.”

According to Denson, no influenza was found in this area, but believes the lack of domestic swine farms could be the reason.

“It varies where you have a lot of domestic swine, the wide population picks up the influenza from the domestic animals,” he said. “West Nile virus we have several tentatively positive animals.”

The student worked collaboratively with Dr. Richard Webby from St. Jude Children’s Hospital in Memphis, TN and Dr. Kristen Benard from the School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison WI. Webby reviews the samples for influenza, while Bernard reviews the West Nile samples.

“We combined three different projects to do this poster because ASM is a very big meeting,” Denson said.

The expected attendance at ASM is from 8,000 to 10,000. Denson explains that the annual meeting moves around to different cities every year.

“It’s the biggest national meeting in Microbiology,” he said.

ASM will hold various talks and presentations throughout each day, and poster sessions twice a day.

“It’s very intense. It’s starts at seven in the morning, and there is even stuff going on at night,” Denson said. “It’s nice because it lets you pick and choose what you want to go an listen to. If your interest are purely medical, there’s that, or if your interest are medical, there’s that stuff. It’s a very dynamic meeting.”

For more information on ASM, visit their website at www.asm.org.

Money is the root of all college students

Billy Overton
Contributor

As a college student I have had to make a dollar stretch longer than the Great Wall of China.

Okay, maybe that’s an exaggeration but the money we students have has to last and when you are in college it never does.

How can you make money last in an overpriced town in the middle of nowhere? First, you have to understand what a need is and what it isn’t.

New tennis shoes is not a need, food is. Going out to eat is not food, it’s a luxury like the new tennis shoes.

I would encourage students to make a budget, but we’re talking about college kids. I would say, give yourself an allowance, but like I said, we are talking about college students!

The idea is to just remember the basics first. Pay the bills, then pay yourself. Bills are not food, it’s a luxury like the new tennis shoes.

I would encourage students to have a more realistic idea of expenditures.

On an overall basis, college students have one thing in common: few know how to make a dollar stretch longer than the Great Wall of China.

Keep your money close and don’t look at shiny baubles in the store. Planning for the future seems easy enough to remember, but then again I’m just a college student.

Now where did I put my new sneakers?