

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Thirteen (113)



July 1, 2026

The opinions expressed in this bulletin are those of the Board of Directors of the Sul Ross Group and do not represent the opinions of The Association of Former Students, its officers, or leadership. The SRG is a nonpartisan organization. Our intention is in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, to keep the Sul Ross Group membership informed on pertinent topics and occurrences at TAMU in a timely manner and enlist their support when required.

Howdy Ags,

Here is the Sul Ross Group's Bulletin 113. The SRG Board hopes you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative. We encourage you to distribute it to your classmates, Aggie buddies, and friends. Thank you.

Gig 'Em!

Sul Ross Group Board

AGGIE WOMEN DOMINATE CASPER: TEXAS A&M CAPTURES 2026 COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO CHAMPIONSHIP

Synopsis

CASPER, Wyoming — In a historic display of precision, speed, and sheer depth, the Texas A&M Women's Rodeo Team captured the team national championship at the 2026 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) at the Ford Wyoming Center.

The Aggies didn't just win; they dominated the arena, racking up a massive **692.5 points** to comfortably distance themselves from national runner-up University of Wyoming (405 points) and third-place Tarleton State (360 points).

A Season Built on Depth

Led by coach Roger Hanagriff, the Texas A&M women rode into Casper on the heels of a regular season that included six Southern Region team titles. Five powerhouse

athletes qualified for the national stage, bringing a balanced assault across barrel racing, breakaway roping, and goat tying.



The 2026 championship roster highlighted the incredible recruitment and coaching depth in College Station:

- **Devin Young '29** (Biomedical Sciences)
- **McKinlee Paschal '27** (Public Health)
- **Lucy Richards '28** (Agricultural Economics) — Southern Region All-Around Champion
- **Ceily Simpton '27** (Agricultural Communications & Journalism) — Southern Region Barrel Racing Champion
- **Emma Matchett '29** (Animal Science)

Clocking It in the Sandbox: The Aggies' Barrel Racing Masterclass

While individual titles shifted dramatically during Saturday night's final Short Go, Texas A&M's structural dominance in the barrel racing aggregate proved insurmountable.

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Throughout the week, the Aggies put on a masterclass in tight turns and dirt management. Devin Young set the tone early in the week, clocking a blistering 13.77 seconds in the first round to trail only defending champion Acey Pinkston. By the end of the third round, Young held the overall lead in the aggregate standings with a three-head time of 41.20 seconds, with teammate McKinlee Paschal sitting close behind in third at 42.07 seconds.

The Power of the Aggregate: In collegiate rodeo, consistency across multiple runs matters far more than a single fast time. By consistently landing multiple cowgirls in the top five across three standard rounds, Texas A&M built a math advantage that the rest of the field simply couldn't catch.



Final Team Standings

The final scoreboard reflects just how dominant the Aggie women were throughout the grueling week-long competition in Wyoming:

Rank	Team	Points
1	Texas A&M University	692.5

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Rank	Team	Points
2	University of Wyoming	405.0
3	Tarleton State University	360.0
4	Southwestern Oklahoma State	40.0

This national title adds another prominent chapter to Texas Aggie Rodeo tradition. Marking the 13th time in school history that a full women's team has qualified for the national finals, the 2026 squad ensured that their legacy isn't just about qualifying—it's about bringing the championship hardware back home to Aggieland.

LEGACY OF A LEGEND: PAT HENRY'S HISTORIC RETIREMENT

Synopsis

After an unparalleled 54-year career in collegiate coaching—including 22 highly successful seasons at Texas A&M University—legendary track and field coach Pat Henry officially announced his retirement.



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Henry retires as the most decorated leader in NCAA track and field history, having accumulated a historic total of 37 national titles across two major universities—a feat unprecedented in collegiate sports. During his tenure in College Station, which began in the fall of 2004, his standard of excellence transformed the Texas A&M program into a perennial national powerhouse. Henry attributes this sustained success to elite recruiting strategies, a cohesive and dedicated coaching staff, top-tier institutional facilities, and the unwavering support of his family.

Program Transformation & Institutional Impact

Upon taking the helm in 2004, Henry systematically engineered a "championship-winning culture" at Texas A&M. This transformation was supported by establishing comprehensive elite support systems, which provided student-athletes with world-class athletic facilities, rigorous academic support, and specialized medical care.

A primary milestone of this era occurred when the men's team captured its first-ever indoor conference title while hosting the SEC Championships at the university's state-of-the-art R.A. Murray Fasken '38 Indoor Track.

Championship Resume: National & Conference Titles

Henry's 22-season tenure with the Aggies was defined by balanced, elite-level dominance across both men's and women's divisions:

- **NCAA Team Championships:** Secured 10 national team titles overall (six men's titles and four women's titles), with the most recent national championship captured in 2025.
- **Conference Team Titles:** Dominating regional competition, the program secured 14 Big 12 team titles and 4 SEC crowns.

Individual Excellence & The Global Olympic Pipeline

Beyond team accolades, the program served as a premier incubator for individual talent, moving athletes seamlessly from the collegiate ranks to the pinnacle of international competition.

Collegiate Individual Metrics

- **74 Individual National Titles:** Aggie athletes captured 74 individual NCAA titles, consisting of 39 women's titles and 35 men's titles.
- **235 Conference Gold Medals:** At the conference level, individual performers earned 235 gold medals (121 for the men and 114 for the women).

Olympic and International Success

Between the 2008 Beijing Games and the 2024 Paris Games, Texas A&M became a major pipeline for global track and field talent:

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- Olympic Selection: A total of 53 Aggie athletes qualified for the Olympic Games during this window.
- Medal Count: Henry's athletes collectively captured 15 Olympic medals (7 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze).
- The Paris Pinnacle: The 2024 Paris Olympics marked the most successful games in program history, where Aggie athletes set a program record by securing six medals (2 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze), cementing Henry's legacy as a world-class developer of elite athletic talent.

THE PROTECT COLLEGE SPORTS ACT

Synopsis

A federal bill aimed at revamping college sports has advanced to the full U.S. Senate after a 19-9 vote by the Senate Commerce Committee.

Key Details of the Bill:

- NCAA Authority: It would grant the NCAA an antitrust exemption, allowing the organization to cap athlete payments and enforce strict rules regarding transfers and eligibility (including for athletes returning to college after signing pro contracts).
- Media Rights: It would allow media rights to be sold nationally rather than by individual conferences, helping smaller leagues share in larger revenue pools.
- Political & Institutional Stance: The bipartisan effort is led by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and has the support of President Donald Trump. However, the nation's two wealthiest conferences, the Big Ten and the SEC, currently oppose the bill as written and are pushing for revisions.

Context and Support: The push for legislative action follows years of legal challenges to the NCAA's authority, such as a recent high-profile lawsuit involving Texas Tech quarterback Brendan Sorsby over a sports-betting ban. Former Alabama football coach Nick Saban recently testified before the Senate, urging Congress to provide a "national framework" to stop the influx of lawsuits and stabilize the system. NCAA President Charlie Baker praised the committee's vote, calling it a powerful statement of bipartisan support.

The bill is expected to undergo numerous modifications before facing a full Senate vote and potentially becoming law.

THE TEXAS A&M SEMICONDUCTOR INSTITUTE (TSI)

Synopsis

On April 9, 2026, Texas A&M University broke ground on a **\$226 million** semiconductor research and development facility in Bryan, Texas. Primarily funded via the Texas CHIPS Act enacted in 2023, the upcoming **80,000-square-foot** facility—dubbed the Texas A&M Semiconductor Institute (TSI)—is designed to serve as a strategic hub connecting academic research, industry collaboration, and workforce training.

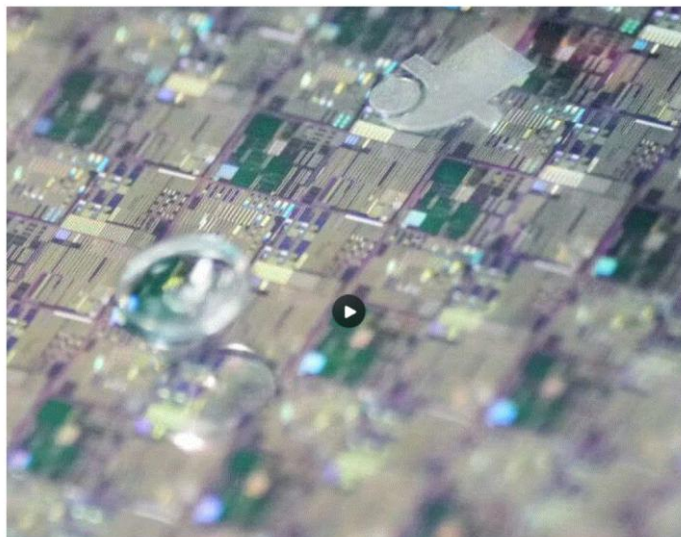
Construction is projected to wrap up by the **first quarter of 2028**, positioning Texas to bolster its domestic manufacturing infrastructure, national security interests, and global technological competitiveness.

Infrastructure & Advanced Technical Capabilities

The facility marks the most expensive project per square foot in Texas A&M's history, built to mirror modern, real-world production environments.

Specialized Labs and Clean Rooms

- **Production-Grade Clean Rooms:** Features an enclosed clean room rated at Class 100 and Class 1000 purities, equipped with 300mm industrial tooling.
- **Flexible Research Labs:** Tailored for cutting-edge R&D, focusing heavily on process and tooling development, metrology, packaging, radio frequency (RF), photonics, and testing/evaluation.
- **Support Facilities:** The site integrates specialized logistics infrastructure, including dedicated loading docks, hazardous materials handling, and distribution spaces.



[Click on image to view video](#)

Strategic Workforce Development & Direct Career Pathways

A primary objective of the TSI is addressing the critical talent shortage in the microelectronics sector by providing students and industry trainees with hands-on technical processing experience.

- **Experiential Learning:** Trainees will work directly alongside corporate partners inside production-grade environments, translating theoretical knowledge into practical skills.
- **Vocational Integration:** The facility will house a dedicated **skilled-trade lab** aimed at expanding semiconductor workforce training to technicians and tradespeople.
- **Direct Pipeline to Industry:** This ecosystem is intended to transition individuals seamlessly from higher education into high-demand, high-paying engineering and manufacturing careers.

Industry Partnerships & "Project Factory One"

Texas A&M has leveraged its expanding ecosystem to secure partnerships with major market leaders, including **Samsung, Tokyo Electron America, and Cadence**.

Additionally, the university signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with San Francisco-based firm **Substrate**, which could bring a massive manufacturing footprint to the university:

Case Study: Project Factory One

* **The Concept:** A proposed multibillion-dollar commercial semiconductor fabrication facility ("fab") intended to be built on undeveloped land within A&M's Rellis campus. *

The Operator: It would be operated by Substrate's subsidiary, *America's Foundry Bryan*. * **The Catalyst:** Substrate cited the pending research partnership with Texas A&M as a "compelling factor" in considering Texas over other U.S. locations. Realization of the project remains contingent on securing final government incentives and financing.

The Broader Ecosystem: RELLIS Campus & Statewide Initiatives

The semiconductor institute is part of a broader, well-funded regional and state push into advanced technologies:

Initiative / Entity	Funding	Focus Areas
TAMU RELLIS Campus	\$1.5 Billion investment	AI hypercomputing, national security, defense, transportation innovation, energy reliability, and TSI.

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Initiative / Entity	Funding	Focus Areas
(3,300-acre site)		
TAMU Center for Microdevices & Systems	\$26.4 Million	Operates via the AggieFab Nanofabrication facility; upgrading infrastructure and installing advanced metrology gear through Summer 2027.
UT Dallas Clean Room Project	\$700,000	Funded via the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund to teach basic clean room operations and safety.

THE TERAFAAB: A MASSIVE CHANGE IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY

Synopsis

The industrial landscape of Texas, near Texas A&M University, is on the verge of a massive transformation with the proposed **Terafab**, a vertically integrated physical AI factory and semiconductor initiative. Developed through a collaboration between **Tesla**, **SpaceX**, and **Intel**, the project represents a paradigm shift in manufacturing, aiming to secure the supply chains for mission-critical technologies across Elon Musk's various ventures.



[Click on image to view video](#)

As artificial intelligence workloads reshape global infrastructure needs, the intersection of physical AI manufacturing, semiconductor logic, and aerospace engineering has birthed one of the most ambitious industrial projects ever conceived. Elon Musk's proposed "**Terafab**" represents a massive paradigm shift: a vertically integrated physical AI factory and semiconductor initiative designed to deliver a terawatt of cumulative processing performance per year over the next decade. In short, this is marketing/technical speak for "this thing is built to crank out insane amounts of AI/computing work — on the scale of an entire large nation's power grid — every single year for the next 10 years." It's ambitious, energy-intensive, and reflects the explosive growth in AI hardware needs.

Positioned as a mission-critical infrastructure buildout to guarantee the supply chain for **Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI**, the Terafab project has increasingly turned its focus toward Texas—specifically **Grimes County**. The chosen site is at the former Gibbons Creek Reservoir, which sits only about **15 to 20 miles east of the Texas A&M University's campus** in College Station. SpaceX recently secured local tax approvals to build the full-scale manufacturing complex.

Unprecedented Scope and Relative Size

The Terafab is designed to be the largest industrial investment in Texas state history. Its physical and economic scale is immense:

- **Physical Footprint:** The facility is planned to span **100 million square feet** at the site of the former Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County.
- **Relative Size:** To put its scale in perspective, the Terafab's footprint is roughly equivalent to the size of **Vatican City, Monaco, and Gibraltar combined**.
- **Financial Investment:** While official estimates for the full buildout range between **\$55 billion and \$119 billion**, Bernstein Research analysts peg the full-scale cost at somewhere between **\$5 trillion and \$13 trillion**.



Relative size comparison of the Terafab to the Tesla Gigafactory.

Productive Output and Corporate Usage

Unlike traditional gigafactories focused on battery chemistry or vehicle assembly, the Terafab is a specialized foundry built for **machine-learning-grade computing** and physical AI hardware scaling.

- **Massive Output:** The project targets an annual output of between **100 and 200 billion chips**, which could potentially **double the total semiconductor output of the United States** from this single site.
- **Unique in the world:** The Terafab will combine the production and testing of logic, memory, packaging, and lithography masks in one location. This process will be used in a loop to enable rapid product improvement.
- **Strategic Use by Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI:** The facility will directly manufacture specialized silicon, advanced packaging modules, and physical AI accelerators needed for:
 - **Tesla:** Full Self-Driving (FSD) neural networks and Optimus humanoid robotics.
 - **SpaceX:** Next-generation Starlink constellation telemetry and Starship autonomous flight computers.
 - **xAI:** Massive foundational model training clusters.

Impact on Texas A&M University

The Terafab's location near the Texas A&M campus, creates a direct talent pipeline for the university.

- **The Talent Pipeline:** The facility is positioned to absorb thousands of graduates in materials science, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, and aerospace systems, retaining elite technical talent within the **Brazos Valley**.
- **Research and the RELLIS Campus:** Texas A&M's **RELLIS Campus** serves as a vital "sandbox" for testing Terafab technologies. This high-tech research hub allows SpaceX and Tesla to test hardware-in-the-loop systems, robotic automation protocols, and material stress-testing before implementing them at scale in the main facility.
- **R&D Collaboration:** The project facilitates academic and corporate collaboration on foundational materials science, such as **advanced 3D chip-stacking** and novel thermal management solutions.

Potential Impact on Grimes County

The transition of Grimes County from a quiet, rural area to a global semiconductor hub is described by supporters as a "**generational shift**".

- **Infrastructural Needs:** To sustain its "unprecedented" energy requirements, the facility will utilize dedicated high-voltage grid tie-ins and independent **solar/battery backup microgrids**.
- **Rural Character vs. Industrialization:** The project will permanently alter the landscape by converting vast swaths of undeveloped land into an industrial complex. This has been a point of contention; while county commissioners approved a **100% local tax abatement** in a 4-1 vote, most residents who spoke at public hearings opposed the project to preserve the existing rural atmosphere.

Current Status and Regulatory Path

Announced officially by Elon Musk in **March 2026**, the project has already cleared significant regulatory hurdles but still faces final decisions.

- **State Recommendations:** The **Texas Comptroller's office** has recommended the approval of eight different tax breaks for SpaceX under the state's **Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation (JETI)** program.
- **Pending Approvals:** Final approval rests on **local school board votes**, expected in mid-July 2026, and a final decision from **Governor Greg Abbott**. SpaceX has indicated that without these tax breaks, the Terafab would likely be relocated to **Arizona**



Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett – Texas A&M Marketing & Communication

WHO, WHY, AND HOW TO RECEIVE THE SRG BULLETINS?

To provide our thoughts and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to communicate directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents who will then share with those in their Classes. Anyone is free to pass these bulletins to any Aggie, friends of Aggies, or just friends. The Board plans to maintain our policy of complete transparency and that is the reason we have inserted the disclaimer on the front page of this bulletin. **You can contact us at: SRGbulletin@gmail.com**

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are solely responsible for producing the SRG Bulletins. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, which is to ensure our represented SRG Membership is kept informed on pertinent topics in a timely manner.

Note: All the Bulletins from Bulletin #1 to the current Bulletin are available to be viewed on the SRG Website at www.ferrata.net/srg/portal.aspx. Click on 'Uploaded Files.'

Suggest you use “Google Chrome”, “Firefox”, or “Microsoft Edge” as a browser.

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To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG's history and what we are about, please refer to our new "**SRG Tab**" (Under "Programs") on The Association's website, at: **aggienetwork.com**.

If you wish to comment to those who decide:

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SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions for: 2024 – 2026

- To keep the Sul Ross Group (SRG) membership informed of pertinent topics and activities on campus through periodic SRG Bulletins.
- As investors of A&M, to continue to meet with and to offer our support and assistance to the leadership of TAMUS, TAMU, the Association of Former Students, A&M Foundation, the Commandant, the Corps Commander, and student government leaders.
- To support A&M's Core Values and traditions and share these with all we meet, especially students, stressing unity of purpose and effort within the A&M community.
- To continue the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU, working with and assisting the V.P. of Student Affairs, if invited, by periodically observing new student orientation – avoiding "not too much nor too little" oversight of student run organizations.
- Be it resolved that the SRG support their strategic goal of preserving what sets TAMU apart as distinctive and transcendent, as elder statesmen, and in accordance with the SRG's four established Constitutional objectives while serving TAMU, the Association, and our membership.