

SGA plans fun events for spring



Aaron Saenz
UP staff writer

Lamar University’s Student Government Association is planning a variety of events for the spring semester, president Ethan Ellis said.

“What I’m looking forward to most this semester is what the

university is planning for Spring Fest,” he said. “They’re planning on having some pretty big events that day, and it just seems like it is going to be very fun, very interactive for the students.”

The event is tentatively scheduled for late March or early April.

Ellis said he is also excited

about Field Day to take place later in the semester.

“We’re still getting all the nooks and crannies out of it, but man, it’s just been really exciting,” he said. “This is something that the students have been asking for and we’ve been motivated to do.”

Ellis said Field Day will be a

chance for students to relax and go back in time to activities students participated in elementary and middle school.

“A lot of what students have been coming to our meetings and speaking of is mainly having events where we can just blow

See **SGA**, page 4

SERPENTINE CELEBRATION

University celebrates Year of the Snake Lunar New Year

Sidra Ganni
UP contributor

Lamar students celebrated Lunar New Year at the Setzer Student Center, Jan. 30. The event was hosted by the Asian Business Student Association, the Vietnamese Student Association and the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers. Volunteers served fried rice, ch   th  i and attendees watched a dragon dance, giving students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich traditions of the holiday.

The Lunar New Year began Jan. 29 and marks the start of the new year on the lunar calendar. It is one of the most important holidays in Asian culture, symbolizing family reunions, personal renewal and fresh beginnings. Traditionally, celebrations last 15 days, from the first new moon to the full moon. The date of the new year is determined by the lunisolar calendar system.

Each Lunar New Year is associated with one of 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac with 2025 being the Year of the Snake, symbolizing wisdom, intuition and transformation. People born under the sign are believed to be intelligent, analytical and resourceful. They are often deep

See **LUNAR**, page 8



UP photo by Sydney Vo

Students interact with Port Arthur’s Flaming Lion Dance Team as they perform a traditional Dragon Dance to celebrate the Lunar New Year, Jan. 30, in the Setzer Student Center.



BoomFest slated for Feb. 21-23

Kami Greene
UP staff writer

The Boomtown Film Society will host BoomFest 2025, Feb. 21–23. This is the 17th edition of the festival.

Southeast Texas’ Boomtown Film and Music Festival has created a long-lasting tradition highlighting independent artists since 2008. The three-day event will include film screenings, music performances, panel discussions and parties.

Board member Gordon S. Williams said the weekend will feature representations from across the nation and the world.

“There’s workshops, music performances and an opportunity for creatives to network, display their work and, hopefully, meet other people and have more filmmaking opportunities here in Southeast Texas,” he said.

BoomFest will be held at five different venues in Beaumont, including the Jefferson Theatre, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, The Texas Energy Museum, For the Record, and The Logon Cafe.

On Friday, Feb. 21, the festival begins at The Texas

See **BOOMFEST**, page 2

ONE HELL OF A RIDE

LU theatre to present darkly comic ‘The Self Destruction of Emma James’

Maddie Sims
UP editor

A woman grabs the last few things before setting off for the first day of her new job, ready to return to the workforce after having children. When she accidentally makes a deal with the devil, she is served hell in a handbasket.

Lamar University’s department of theatre and dance presents the world premiere of “The Self Destruction of Emma James,” written and directed by Kate Brennan, Feb. 13-16.

Brennan said she wrote the play in the midst of the COVID-19 pan-

demic while raising a small child.

“Things were a bit crazy and hectic,” she said. “It’s a challenging time to bring a child into the world, but then it’s also challenging when you’re a mother and you want to return to the workforce. Those themes were starting to come up in my playwriting. I’ve gotten more interested in playing around with form and doing silly things and being bold.”

The main character, Emma James, is accidentally sent to a corporate hell.

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UP photo by Maddie Sims

Juliana McManus, left, and Kiera Howington rehearse for “The Self-Destruction of Emma James.” The world-premiere play runs Feb. 13-16 in the Studio Theatre.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

““Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.”
— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

NOTICE

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BOOMFEST from page 1

Energy Museum, starting at 2:30 p.m., with screenings of “Stampila,” “The Ragin’ 13,” “City of Hate” and “Reel Learning.” The Academy Award-winning film, “Paper Moon,” will screen at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson Theatre.

To close the night, bands Hot Grits, Melon Jelly, and Ole Lonesome will perform at For the Record on Calder Avenue from 7 p.m. to midnight. Feb. 22 is BoomFest’s most jam-packed day, filled with various performances and films at all five venues throughout the day.

“Out of the Box Block” begins day two of the fest at the Jefferson Theatre, and in the

evening, the results of the annual 48-Hour Film Race, where groups have two days to write, shoot, edit, and deliver a short film based on a random genre, will be screened.

A group of Lamar students participated in the race, where they created a short film based on a post-apocalyptic slasher theme.

“It was one of my first experiences,” Junior Madison Ridenour said. “It really shows you the process that goes behind it and being creative in a short amount of time. It made me realize that I want to do more with film.”

The winner of the race will receive the prestigious Golden



Tatum O’Neal, left, and Ryan O’Neal star in 1973’s “Paper Moon” which will be shown during BoomFest 2025, Feb. 21-23.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Gusher award.

Alongside the students, Williams has two films featured in the festival. “She Loves Her John,” a redemption story about the feelings that occur after betrayal and the thought of moving forward. Williams also produced a documentary titled “Shankleville: A Love That Still Stands” about the love story of an enslaved couple who built a community in East Texas and their descendants who celebrate their contributions, and the importance of their history.

“As a filmmaker, anytime you have a chance to show your work, it’s always an honor, especially since ‘She Loves Her John’ was shot here in Beaumont,” Williams said. “I think it gives value to the work that filmmakers and creatives are doing in this area, having a chance for the crew and the cast to be able to bring in their films and family and be able to show it on the big screen at the Jefferson.”

Feb. 23 closes out the festival with brunch at the Logon Cafe and encores of films displayed throughout the event. Tickets are available for

purchase online at boomtown-festival.com, starting at \$15 for a wristband good one film or one music venue.

The \$30 festival pass is good for the entire weekend and allows attendees to experience all the festival offers.

The \$60 VIP pass grants access to everything available in the festival pass and also allows visitors access to the VIP film room and a branded BoomFest bag.

For more information, visit boomtownfestival.com or email boomtownfest@gmail.com.

SCRABBLES by Dalia Osman

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I JUST LOVE
8 AM CLASSES

I AM ALWAYS
SO...

WELL RESTED

Department of
Communication & Media

UPCOMING
EVENTS

FEB 20, 2025

Documentary Screening
Comm Bldg, Room 103 @ 6.30

FEB 21–23, 2025

Boomtown Film & Music Fest.
boomtownfestival.com

FEB 25, 2025

Student Mixer
Buckstin Brewing Co @ 6.30



EL REY DE RANCHERA

Museum honors musician Jose Alfredo Jimenez

Maria Rodriguez
UP contributor

Dolores Hidalgo is located in central Mexico, 25 miles from the popular San Miguel de Allende in the state of Guanajuato.

The town is the birthplace of Mexico's independence, where Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, known as the Father of the Nation, gave the Grito de Dolores (Cry of Dolores) on Sept. 16, 1810, which led to Mexican independence from the Spanish.

The town is also designated as a Pueblo Magico (Magic Town) because of its cultural and tourist attractions.

In the center of the small colonial town of 67,000 is a museum dedicated to Jose Alfredo Jimenez, an actor and pioneer in ranchera music. The museum is located in the building where he was born in 1926. Today, it features original aspects from his home and moments



Mexican artist Octavio Ocampo's portrait of Jose Alfredo Jimenez.

from his career.

Ranchera is the traditional music heard throughout Mexico. The name is attributed to the Mexican ranches. This genre has been around since before the Mexican Revolution and covers topics such as love and patriotism.

Jimenez is credited with having composed more than 300 songs which continue to be covered to this day by fellow musicians. He is re-

garded as "El Rey" (The King) referencing his 1971 song.

Visitors are transported into Jimenez's living quarters while learning about the musician's life and career. In the first room, one is greeted by a painting of Jimenez by Octavio Ocampo, the Mexican surrealist artist. Jimenez's portrait is built up images of historical Mexican musicians.

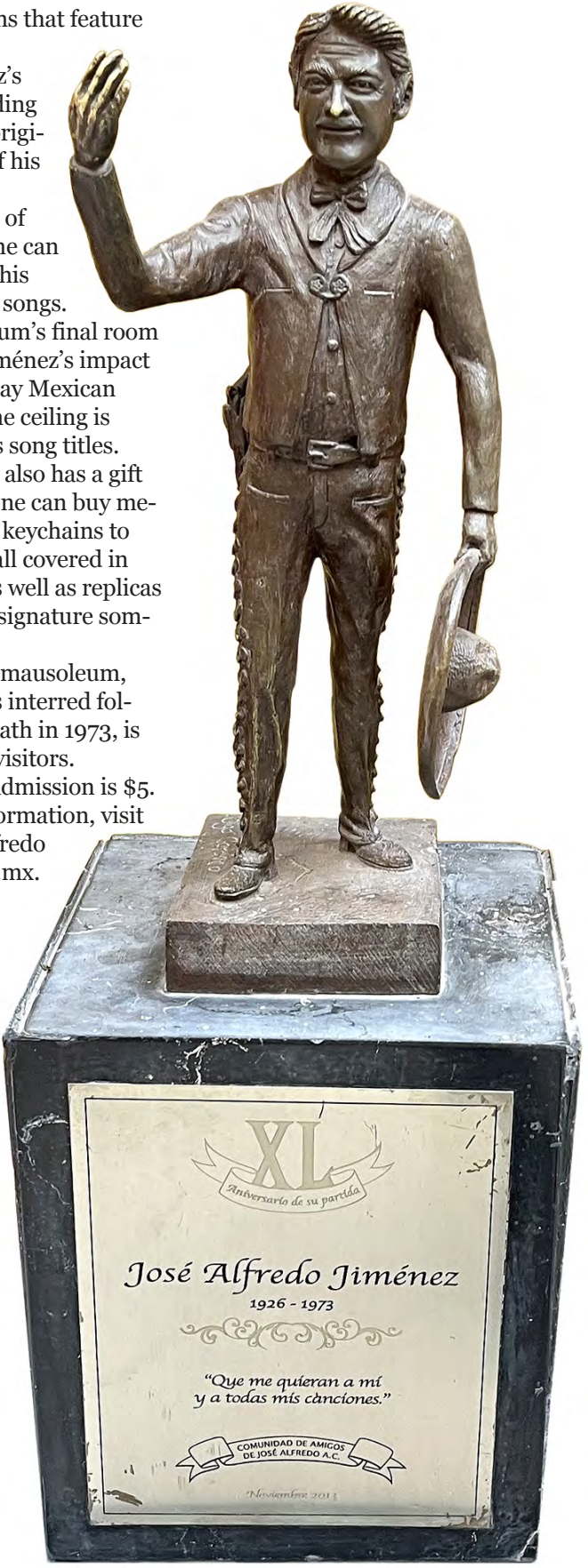
Tour guides lead one

through rooms that feature memorabilia from Jimenez's career, including awards and original records of his songs and albums. In one of the rooms, one can play some of his most famous songs.

The museum's final room highlights Jimenez's impact on modern-day Mexican music, and the ceiling is filled with his song titles. The museum also has a gift shop where one can buy mementos from keychains to coffee mugs all covered in song titles, as well as replicas of Jimenez's signature sombrero.

Jimenez's mausoleum, where he was interred following his death in 1973, is also open to visitors.

Museum admission is \$5. For more information, visit museojosealfredojimenez.com.mx.



Jose Alfredo Jimenez, known as "El Rey," the king of ranchera music, is the subject of a museum in his hometown of Dolores Hidalgo in Mexico.



Seafarer’s Center offers maritime opportunities

Jill Stokes
UP marketing rep

The Port Arthur International Seafarer’s Center held its annual meeting, Jan. 31, bringing together maritime professionals and community leaders to discuss the center’s mission and its ongoing efforts to support seafarers.

The center provides support for mariners who work at sea for extended periods, offering Wi-Fi, rest areas, transportation and other resources to help visiting seafarers connect with their families and access essential services while in port.

Captain Sean Marshaunt, senior manager of marine assurance at Valero and Lamar University port management graduate student, spoke about his experiences with Seafarer’s Centers.

“As a cadet and officer, I found that Seafarer’s Centers were a safe and nourishing place to visit while in foreign ports,” Marshaunt said. “One Christmas at sea, our captain brought up a Christmas gift from a Seafarers Center — someone had put it together for a stranger, and I was the benefactor of that. I’ve never forgotten that experience.”

Marshaunt, a board member for the center, emphasized the importance of awareness and support for seafarers.

“There is a crisis happening right now in the world’s fleets,” he said. “Issues such as suicides offshore, withheld pay, and restricted shore leave affect many mariners. People should learn more about the challenges these workers face.”

The meeting serves as both an update for supporters and a key fundraising opportunity for the Seafarer’s Center.

Doreen Badeaux, immediate past board president, said funding has been a challenge in recent years due to the closure of several churches that provided financial support.

“We needed a new and creative way to secure funding,” she said. “This event allows us to inform supporters about how their donations are being used and why their contributions are so important.”

Lamar University has strong ties to the maritime sector, particularly through its Center for Advances in Port Management, which offers a graduate program designed to prepare professionals for leadership roles in port and terminal management.

All four Southeast Texas ports — Port of Port Arthur, Port of Beaumont, Port of Orange,



Courtesy photo

Captain Sean Marshaunt, right, presents a donation from Valero to Sinclair Oubre, priest and chaplain of the Port Arthur Seafarer’s Center, during the center’s annual fundraising meeting, Jan. 31.

and Port of Sabine Pass — are run by Lamar alumni.

“For a long time, our region didn’t have a strong maritime education program, but Lamar stepped up and filled that gap,” Badeaux said.

Marshaunt said students interested in the maritime industry should volunteer or explore career opportunities.

“We always need help at the Seafarer’s Center — whether it’s working around the facility, developing programs or even driving,” he said.

Marshaunt recommended reaching out to local ports or organizations for internships and learning opportunities.

“I think it’s important to mention that Lamar University has shown a real commitment to the maritime community,” he said. “They are passionate about the waterways and about preparing the next generation of port professionals. It’s crucial that we keep the pipeline full of new students. The earlier we start that process, the better.”

Programs like Camp Seaport and sailing access initiatives

are examples of that.

“Everything Lamar is doing shows their commitment to the industry,” Marshaunt said. I’d encourage anyone in those programs to reach out to the Seafarer’s Center. We can help connect them with opportunities in the maritime world because we’re involved in so many different aspects of it.”

To learn more about the Port Arthur International Seafarer’s Center, visit paisc.org.

To learn more about the Port Management Graduate Program, visit lamar.edu.

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off steam,” he said. “There’s nothing better than almost completing a full year, all that stress and hard work just coming to an end. We can just goof off and just be kids again and just enjoy ourselves all together, be competitive, have fun, have good food, a good time, and meet a lot of good people.”

SGA is also working on developing a mental health week event, Ellis said, where the organization would partner with different organizations.

“It’s nice seeing student organizations and different departments around campus come together for such a great and big cause,” he said. “It’s been very inspiring to me and to the rest of my team.”

Ellis said that ideas and contributions from the student

body are a necessity for the SGA to put on events to serve the students’ needs.

“Students coming out to our meetings, talking, being active and giving the student insight to these events help us figure out what they really want to see,” he said. “Having that makes our job so much simpler. We’re not sitting there guessing what students might want. Instead, we’re having real students there and being active

in the conversation and the event planning.”

SGA has always had high expectations, Ellis said, but he is ready to meet those standards.

“(We’re) just trying to maintain the level of student engagement, trying to make Lamar a name to talk about compared to other schools we have in the area around Houston,” he said. “After COVID, there’s been a small decline in student engagement, but we’re

still trying to ramp it up to whatever it can be. There’s no competition, just collaboration.”

Ellis said he is excited for what the semester has in store. The exact details are still being worked out, but Ellis said students should “stay tuned.”

The next SGA meeting is at 6 p.m., Feb. 18, in 120 Setzer Student Center. For more information, call Ellis at 409-880-8891.



EVITA TEZENO

EXHIBITION DATES:
January 18 - March 8, 2025

PIECE OF MY HEART

Museum Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm /
Sat 12pm-4pm (during exhibitions)

© Evita Tezeno, “Reflections on Time Past,” 2023
Courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles



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Cute Cupid or Erotic Eros?

Valentine symbol has roots in Greek, Roman mythology

Kami Greene
UP staff writer

Valentine’s Day is synonymous with flowers and chocolates, with singles at every corner awaiting Cupid to strike with his golden arrow of love.

The traditional image of Cupid is a cherub infant carrying a bow and two arrows, one of gold and one of lead. Anyone struck by the golden arrow immediately falls in love. However, anyone struck by the arrow made of lead falls out of love. But that is simply the modern version of Cupid.

The concept of Cupid derives from around 700 B.C. According to Greek mythology, Eros, the god of love and desire, is a handsome young man adorned with wings and a bow and arrow born to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and Ares, the god of war.

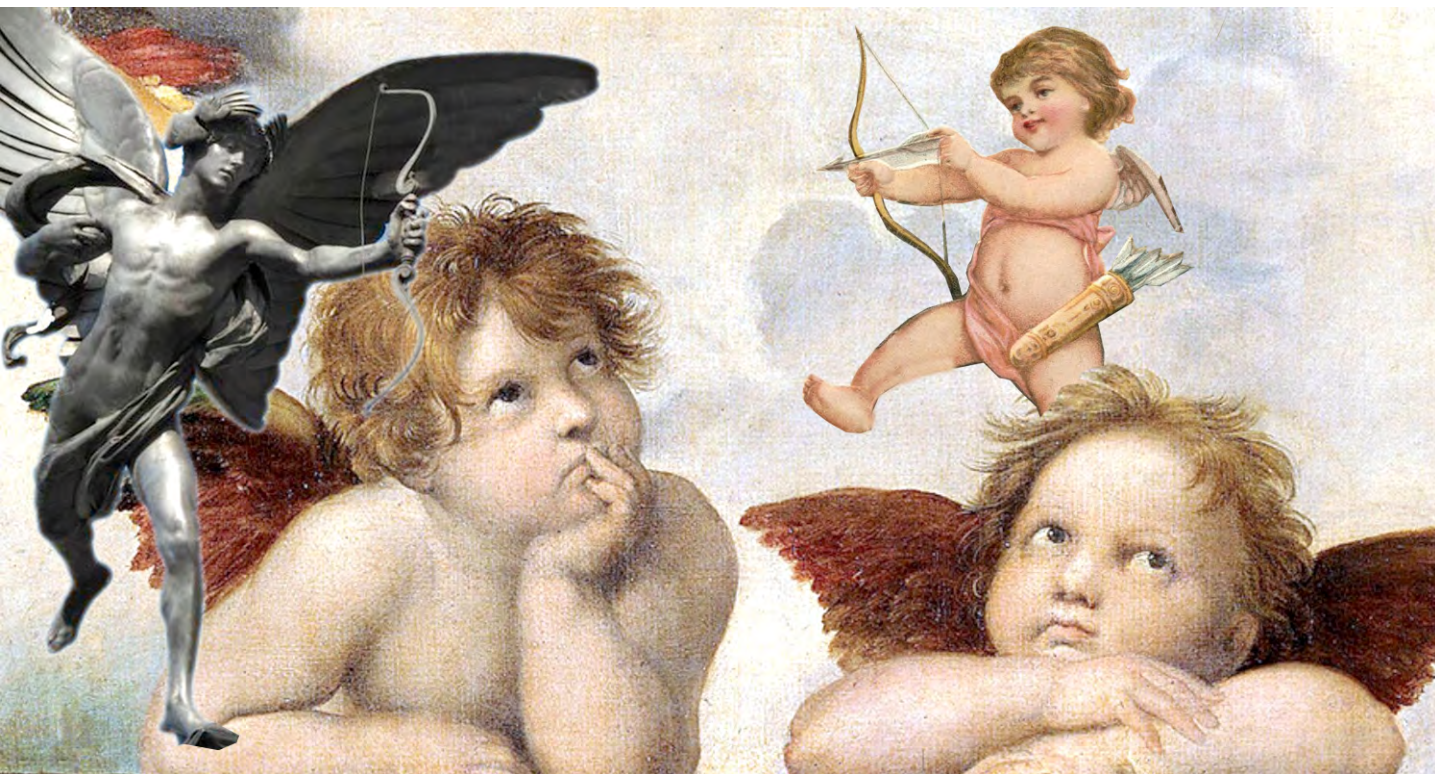
Eros was known to cause mischief and use his arrows to manipulate gods and humans into unwillingly falling in love for his own entertainment, which often led to chaos.

As time progressed, the image of Eros as the attractive god of love, desire and fertility was replaced by the Romans with a little cherub boy who makes people fall in love at the request of his mother, Venus.

Cupid is depicted as being more playful than Eros, who is more mature. Cupid represents love, desire and attraction rather than Eros’ representation of fertility and sexuality.

The word erotic, which Merriam-Webster defines as “devoted to, or tending to arouse sexual love or desire,” comes from the Greek god’s name. One does not equate cute Cupid with carnality, at least not anymore.

As Christianity engulfed Europe in the Middle Ages, Cupid’s concept underwent various artistic interpretations, and his once angelic features



UP staff graphic

took a demonic turn as the once angel of love became the demon of fornication, corrupting the minds of the faithful with lusty, carnal desires.

This sinful depiction of Cupid is attributed to the Middle Ages artist Theodulf of Orleans. The Universal Life Church Monastery website states that Theodulf believed Cupid to be a wicked demon “who wields ‘the devil’s force,’” and “Cupid’s quiver was a symbol of his ‘depraved mind,’” his bow a symbol of “trickery,” and his arrows a symbol of the ‘poison’ of lust.”

While trust in the god of love was lost during the medieval period, Renaissance artists who were infatuated with mythology restored Cupid to his cherubic roots.

Two centuries later, Cupid struck the hearts of people in the 1800s and became the symbol of Valentine’s Day,

a holiday that began in the sixth century B.C. but became popular in the Victorian Era. He was pictured in various Victorian art pieces, Valentine’s cards and cameos.

However, unlike his naked appearance in the past, Eliza Thompson in Shutterstock writes, “If Cupid wanted to fly around shooting love-tipped arrows at innocent bystanders, then he’d have to do it clothed.” This led Victorian artists to cover Cupid with fabric over his private parts or dress him in a toga.

By the 19th century, Renaissance Cupid struck gold in the greeting card business. Rachel E. Greenspan in Time Magazine writes, “The industry really hit its stride in the 1850s after Congress voted to decrease postage in an effort to circumvent the privatization of the post office. This postal re-

form made it possible for everyday Americans to send and receive mail — while the Industrial Revolution brought the advent of printing press technology.

“So, when Hallmark began manufacturing Valentine’s Day cards in 1916, this mass production meant sending postcards was much cheaper and easier. As Valentine’s Day became more convenient, Cupid imagery only continued to grow,” she writes.

Having a nearly naked winged baby as the face of Valentine’s Day may be an unlikely turn of events, but if one knows how his Greek and Roman roots intertwine, one can see how this once deity became an adorable cherubic angel of love.

Although love may be in the air, so is Cupid. Look out for an arrow from above from the Roman god of love.

CAB event aims to build bonds

Waylon Brooks
UP contributor

Lamar University’s Cardinal Activities Board hosted a speed friending and rock painting social event, Jan. 30, in 206 Setzer Student Center.

Participants sat at tables and painted rocks. While engaging in the activity, they were provided with cards meant to engage them in conversations with fellow attendees.

Patience Dickmu, a graduate student from Douala, Cameroon, said the rock she painted featured a posi-

tive message that tells people to smile regardless of what trials they are facing.

“Literally, it’s like a positive start to tell the world to smile, no matter how difficult life is,” she said. “I just need to smile. So, that’s what I’m praying, for people to smile more.”

Dickmu said she most enjoyed the speed friending aspect of the event.

“That’s why I came, to meet new people and talk to them,” she said. “I made two new friends.”

For information on upcoming event, follow CAB on LU Hub.

Humane Society seeks volunteers

Becca Wallage
UP contributor

The Humane Society of Southeast Texas is seeking volunteers. Director Taylor Westphal said positions include working the front desk, processing adoptions or entertaining the animals.

“We’re grateful for all the volunteers that we get and hope to make sure that you have fun while you’re out here,” he said.

College students often need community service hours for classes or organizations, Westphal said, and the Humane Society is willing to work with professors and students. Volunteering is also a way to de-stress from academic pressures.

The Humane Society offers a variety of services to help dog and cat owners take care of their animals. “We offer shared food programs

for those who can’t feed their animals,” he said. “We do low cost spays and neuters and a vaccine clinic. The number of things that we do now that we weren’t able to do before because of people coming and volunteering is expansive to say the least.”

As well as Lamar students, volunteer groups include the Girl Scouts and BARK at Westbrook High School. The Mildred Yount Manion Foundation Education Center, located at the Humane Society facility, offers resources to teach people how to take care of their pets.

“The biggest thing I want people to know is that our main priority is always going to be animal safety,” Ethan Holder, intake coordinator, said.

To sign up to volunteer, visit hsset.org.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

SEE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED WITH STUDENT LIFE!

WED 2/12

Free S'More and Hot Dogs
5:30 pm | Patio at the Rec Center

Free Swimming Lessons
6:30 pm - 7 pm | Indoor Pool

THU 2/13

Learn Your Love Language
12 pm - 2 pm | SSC Atrium

STEAM Career Fair
12 pm - 3 pm | SSC Live Oak Ballroom

FRI 2/14

Dine with Your Valentine
11:15 am - 4 pm | SSC Neches 120, RSVP Req.

TUE 2/18

CAB Patio Night Feat. Guest Comedian
7 pm - 9 pm | Patio at the Rec Center

THU 2/20

CAB Cardinal Craze
11 am - 2 pm | SSC Atrium

Involvement Fair
11:30 am - 2 pm | SSC Atrium

SAT 2/22

Service Saturday: Tugboat Island
8 am - 12 pm | Port Neches

TUE 2/25

CAB Patio Night
7 pm - 9 pm | Patio at the Rec Center

SEE MORE OF THIS WEEK'S EVENTS ON LUHUB

LU merch promotes school spirit

Rayna Christy
UP contributor

While students know of the Lamar University Bookstore merchandise, many don't know the other locations where merchandise can be purchased.

Lamar University has increased opportunities for students to access Cardinal merchandise to show their school spirit.

"First, we are partnering with the campus community to make merchandise more accessible on our campus," Jason Baldwin, chief financial officer and strategic analyst of the athletics department, said. "In addition to the LU Bookstore, operated by Barnes & Noble, we are operating a mobile gear and apparel trailer on site during home athletic events. We also make that merchandise available at the

Spindletop Boomtown Museum gift shop.

"Second, we are partnering with businesses throughout the Southeast Texas region to help build this momentum and make Lamar gear more accessible and available in local stores."

Athletics has also widened the selection by adding new options during the year.

"We want to make sure we are relevant to the sports team, and we make sure to do that in tandem with the university's marketing," Baldwin said. "We do that a couple of times each year and introduce new merch and branding."

Baldwin said the school has an intentional approach to the new products.

"We want to make sure we are consistent in our brand image to support our place in the community and on the national stage," he said. "We



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio
Courtland Carmouche, Beaumont junior, looks through LU merch at the Spindletop Boomtown Gift Shop, Feb. 7.

have a central marketing team on campus that makes sure that anything new is reviewed and consistent with the president's image of the university and who we are."

While shirts, hats and bags are popular items, Baldwin said he hopes to see more

technology-related merchandise in the future.

"As we get further along with tech, I would love to see more technology-related products, whether its phone and iPad cases or laptop covers," he said. "Technology is embedded in almost everything

we do, and I think that's a great opportunity for us to show off our Cardinal pride."

Baldwin said wearing Lamar branded merchandise is more than just showing school spirit.

"It is about creating a sense of belonging and pride in our university community," he said. "Seeing our students and community wear Lamar-branded gear reinforces the strong connection we all share, and showcases our Cardinal spirit that extends throughout our campus and beyond. It's a visible celebration of our traditions, our achievements and our aspirations."

Baldwin said he encourages suggestions for merchandise and people can reach out to him or the central marketing team at jbaldwin8@lamar.edu, or visit the marketing department at lamarcardinals.com.

LUTD from page 1

"It's not all fire and brimstone," Brennan said. "It's very tame and it's sort of quirky and silly."

Kiera Howington plays Emma, an anxious, hard-working person who puts everyone ahead of herself.

"I think during this show, she kind of gives into what she wants a little bit, but a little too much, and then has to face the consequences," Howington said. "I personally don't have children, but I do have twin younger brothers who are kind of my children in a way, because I love them like they're my kids. But I think part of being able to play a mother is

very much feeding into how I want to protect my brothers, and how that relates to a mother wanting to protect her own children."

Nutella (Shelby Eason) is hell's sarcastic, yet nosy secretary.

"She doesn't enjoy the work that she's doing, and she makes it known," Eason said. "She says what she wants and does what she wants, but what she wants is not really what the narrative of the story wants. It's hard to find ways to make an uninterested character interested in the story, and I've found that Nutella is just excited by excitement. Whenever something interesting is happening she'll, peek over her phone and be like, 'Oh, what's

going on over there?'"

As Emma adjusts to her new job, she is met with the personification of her inner thoughts, played by Juliana McManus.

"Anything that (Emma's) thinking is what I say, and I kind of push her to do certain things," McManus said. "It's kind of like what you always want to say, but you have to bite your tongue. It's so liberating to be able to do and say these things, and since I'm the inner monologue, they can't see me."

"If I'm in an actor's face and yelling, or if I'm about to jump on top of them, or whatever it is that I'm doing as inner Emma, they can't look at me, they have no reaction. It's so

fun to just run around and just be wild and crazy and have no consequences for it. That's the most fun part."

Porter LaPray plays six characters with one of them being the devil.

"I truly think that most of my characters are pretty kind-hearted," he said. "I think that's something that comes through all of them, even though one of them is the devil."


"I feel like, in a way, I kind of encompass the male voices in Emma's world and the good and the bad of that. Even in the kindness, there's still kind of a tinge of stacking the odds against Emma. The devil might be the most important to Emma's world in the show, but even that is not exactly

true. But if you're playing the devil, what people are gonna remember is that you played the devil."

"The Self Destruction of Emma James" is a play for our time, Brennan said.


"Things are absurd, things feel untenable and overwhelming, and that's what our characters go through," she said. "But in the end, this ends up being a positive show and there's a lot of people finding others in order to get through, and that could be a lesson for our own lives. When you're going through hell, keep going."

Showtimes are Feb. 13-15 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. For tickets, visit lamar.edu/lutdtix.



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Department of Theatre & Dance

TICKETS



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE
2024-2025 SEASON

the self-destruction
of emma james

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
KATE BRENNAN

FEB 13 - 15 - 7:30 PM
FEB 16 - 2:00 PM

as you
like it



DIRECTED BY ALAN
BRINCKS

APRIL 10- 12 - 7:30 PM
APRIL 13 - 2:00 PM

dance
unleashed



FACULTY DANCE
CONCERT

MAY 2 - 7:30 PM
MAY 3 - 2:00 PM |
7:30 PM



Lamar players and coaches celebrate scoring against the Texas Longhorns, Feb. 9, at the LU Softball Complex.

Photo courtesy LU sports information

Softball swings into season

Compiled from reports

Lamar University’s softball team started the season strong winning three of four games this past weekend at the LU Softball Complex.

Veronica Harrison recorded four hits Friday as LU swept UL-Monroe 3-0 and 3-2. Along the way, head coach Amy Hooks recorded her 100th career victory.

The Cardinals split its two games Saturday, winning 4-3 against St. John’s while falling 13-7 to the No. 1-ranked Texas.

LU’s three wins in its first four games is the best start to a season since the program started in 2013.

It took Big Red eight innings

to defeat St. John’s in Saturday’s game one. Trinity Brandon and Sicily Windham each had two hits for the Cardinals while Gracee Hess had two RBIs, including the walk-off winner in the eighth.

Emma Wardlaw got the start and pitched 6.2 innings, allowing three runs on 11 hits with five strikeouts. Reagan Smith earned the win in relief, allowing one hit and striking out two batters.

St. John’s had two runners on base in each of the first two innings, but failed to score. In the third, the Red Storm loaded the bases, but Wardlaw and the Cardinals’ defense pulled off a great escape as a strikeout and two fielder’s

choices kept the game scoreless. The Cardinals broke through in the bottom half of the third as Wilson drove in Brandon for a 1-0 lead.

One inning later, Big Red added two runs with Hess grounding out to score Windham while Brandon singled in Aubrey Brown. The 3-0 lead stood until the top of the seventh when down to their last out, the Red Storm plated three runs across to tie the game.

Smith pitched a scoreless inning in the extra frame. Once the bottom of the eighth started, Windham collected a one-out single while pinch hitter Rose Gonzales followed with a walk. That brought up Hess and she would come

through with a single to center scoring Windham to give LU the 4-3 win.

During the loss to the Longhorns, Veronica Harrison picked up two hits, including a two-run homer, while Cimara-lei Wessling drove in two runs in her first at-bat of her Cardinal career.

The Cardinals used five pitchers as Madison Guidry was tabbed with the loss.

After starter Sabrina Jolin held the Longhorns scoreless for two innings, Harrison led off the bottom of the second with a single and reached second on an error. Makayla Valle pinch ran for her and advanced to third on a wild pitch before scoring from Raigan Brannon’s

sacrifice fly to hand LU a 1-0 lead. Despite giving up two singles to start the third inning, Jolin kept Texas off the scoreboard.

The Longhorn bats woke up as they tied the game in the fourth on a solo home run. Over the next three innings, Texas drove in 12 runs to grab a 13-1 lead going into the last of the seventh.

LU showed fight in the last inning scratching across six runs with Harrison launching a two-run blast while Wessling, Hess, and Brandon each delivered RBI singles.

The Cardinals play Nicholls State, Feb. 13, at the LU Softball Complex. The first pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m.

RGV ends Cardinals’ home streak

Compiled from reports

UT-Rio Grande Valley hit a game-winning three pointer to end The Lady Cardinal’s 16-game home court wining streak, Feb. 8.

Sabria Dean had put the Cardinals’ ahead with less than 30 seconds to play but it was not enough as they dropped a 58-56 decision in the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center.

Dean led the Cardinals with 23 points on 10-of-21 shooting from the field. R’Mani Taylor recorded 12 points including two three-pointers while adding four assists. Jacei Denley led the Cardinals with five assists while Akasha Davis totaled seven points and seven rebounds.

The Cardinals converted 41 percent of their field goals, but were outrebounded, 41-26.

UTRGV took a 31-23 lead into the break.

The Vaqueros stretched their lead to double-digits early in the third quarter before the Cardinals answered back with a 10-2 surge to get within three, 38-35.

With 7:05 to play, the Vaqueros’ had stretched their advantage to 50-40 before the Cardinals rallied to close the margin to 52-51 with under two minutes to play. UTRGV connected on a three-pointer to increase its lead to four before Davis answered with a three-pointer with 47 seconds left.

After a Vaquero turnover, Dean delivered a go-ahead basket with 29 seconds left for a 56-55 lead. UTRGV’s missed its first attempt but grabbed the rebound and hit a three. The Cardinals had a chance to tie, but a three-point shot wouldn’t fall.

LU ((15-7, 10-3 SLC) will travel to Natchitoches, La., to take on Northwestern State, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

Buzzer beaters

Last-second layup gives LU 70-68 win over RGV

Compiled from reports

With the score tied and 1.5 seconds remaining, Lamar’s Ja’Sean Jackson heaved the ball the length of the court. It slammed off the backboard and into the hands of Andrew Holifield who let fly a floater from 10 feet as the buzzer sounded for a 70-68 Cardinal victory.

The win in the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center moves Lamar to 14-10 overall and 9-4 in Southland Conference play. LU remains tied for second in the SLC standings.

Holifield, who finished the night with 13 points and seven rebounds, was one of four Cardinals in double figures.

Alexis Marmolejos led the way with 19 points, while Errol White added 14 points and eight rebounds.

Jackson, who made the full court heave to set up the game-winner, netted 12 points and dished out four assists.

As a team, the Cardinals shot 27-of-64 (.422) from the field, including seven three-pointers, and were 9-of-12 (.750) from the free throw line. The two teams each finished with 37 rebounds but Lamar had a slight edge on the offensive glass, 11-9.

The Cardinals outscored UTRGV, 23-12, in fastbreak points and 28-10 in the paint.

UTRGV was held to a 21-of-55 (.382) but managed to keep things close from three-point range. The Vaqueros knocked down 16 triples



Photo courtesy LU sports information

LU’s Andrew Holifield shoots over a defender during the Feb. 8, 70-68 win over UT-RGV in the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center.

(.432) — eight in each half — preventing Lamar from running away down the stretch.

Lamar led by as many as 11 in the second half but a couple of late misses at the stripe — one coming with 27 seconds on the clock and then missing the front end of a one-and-one with eight seconds remaining — kept the door open for UTRGV.

The Vaqueros drew a foul with 1.5 seconds remaining and Howie

Fleming, Jr. hit both free throws to tie the game at 68 as it appeared the two teams were headed to overtime. UTRGV left just enough time on the clock to allow Lamar to get off the final play.

The Cardinals look to make it two in a row, Feb. 15, when they travel to Commerce to play East Texas A&M. The game will tip off at 2:15 and will be broadcast on News-talk 560 KLVI and streamed live on ESPN+.



Members of the Port Arthur Flaming Lion Dance Team perform a traditional Dragon Dance, Jan. 31, in the Setzer Student Center to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

UP photos by Sydney Vo

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thinkers, known for their charm and strategic mindset. According to Chinese astrology, a person’s zodiac year can bring both challenges and opportunities. This year, snakes are advised to be mindful when making major decisions and to embrace change. Samina Sheikh, ABSA president, said she was excited to be with her friends and celebrating Chinese New Year. “It’s an event we have hosted at Lamar for three years, and this is the biggest yet,” she said. Alex Tran, Port Arthur sophomore, highlighted the importance of cultural awareness. “I am excited about spreading my culture to other people so they can be aware and keep the traditions alive,” he said. Isabella Tran, a VSA of-

ficer, emphasized the significance of reconnecting with loved ones. “I feel like this is the time to connect with friends and family and embrace your culture and background,” she said. “It’s always a lot of fun getting to enjoy traditional foods like spring rolls and ch   th  i. One thing my family does is play blackjack and meet with all my relatives, since we don’t get to see each other often.” Jenny Tu, Port Arthur junior, said she is excited to get together with her friends and family to celebrate the culture and history of the holiday. “We eat together and have a lot of fun,” she said. Lunar New Year is celebrated in various ways across Asian culture. In China, it is known as the Spring Festival and includes traditions like giving red envelopes (hongbao) filled with money as a symbol of good luck. In Vietnam,

the holiday is called T  t, and families prepare traditional meals and honor their ancestors. Many feature fireworks, lion dances, and special performances to ward off bad luck and welcome prosperity for the year ahead. For more about LU events, visit lamar.edu/events.



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