

RED, WHITE & READY

Lamar to celebrate Homecoming with weeklong festivities

Regina Ruiz
UP staff writer

Lamar University's Homecoming week will kick off Oct. 13 with a schedule of events leading up to Saturday's football game against UT-Rio Grande Valley.

The theme, "Vanquish the Vaqueros," ties into Saturday's matchup, but organizers say the focus is on building campus pride and community spirit.

"We want to make sure Homecoming feels like it's for everyone," Kyle Fayan, associate director of student involvement, said.

"It's not just for football fans or for Greek life. It's about building pride and connection across campus."

The week will include many free activities and events which will have many giveaway aspects, including free Homecoming themed LU swag.

The Homecoming schedule is as follows:



Aidean Tutt helps decorate the STARS office for Homecoming.

UP photo by Regina Ruiz

Wednesday, October 8 – Thursday, October 9

Royal Court Applications will be open all day. All applicants must be sponsored by a registered student organization. Applications are available through LUHub.

Royal Court Information sessions will be held in 122 Setzer Student Center-Bayou South from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Oct. 8 and 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 9.

Monday, October 13

Voting for Royal Court begins and will be open through Oct. 16. Voting will take place on LU Hub.

Homecoming week festivities will begin with "Wake Up to Homecoming," a breakfast taco giveaway, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in The Quad in front of the Setzer Student Center.

The annual bonfire and Royal Court showcase will be

held at 6:30 p.m. at the Bonfire Field opposite Spindletop Boomtown Museum. The Homecoming Royal Court showcase will be held before the bonfire.

Tuesday, October 14

Students can take advantage of the Resource Market held in Gentry Hall at Cardinal Village beginning at 7:30 a.m. Students will be able to learn about different campus resources. Free

hot chocolate and donuts will be provided.

At 12:30 p.m., "Cardinal Craze" will allow students to get in touch with their creative side at a DIY-based event in the Setzer Student Center Atrium.

The Cardinal Activities Board will host a mum-making themed night as part of their weekly Patio Nights, 7 p.m. at the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center.

Wednesday, October 15

The Career Center will partner with CAB for a non-industry-specific "Hire a Cardinal Career Fair." The event offers an opportunity for students to network and seek opportunities within any field. The event will be hosted in the Montagne Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LU's softball team will play San Jacinto College at 5 p.m. at the LU Softball Complex. Entry is free with student ID.

See **HOMECOMING**, page 2

LU listed as great place to work in poll

Carina Wyman
UP contributor

Lamar University has been named one of the nation's 76 Best Colleges to Work For.

Lamar received honors in four categories, including "Confidence in Senior Leadership," "Professional Development," "Compensation and Benefits," and "Inclusion, Belonging and Community."

The Great Colleges to Work For program compiled the list.

President Jamie Taylor said there are several reasons why Lamar earned a place on the list.

"The faculty and staff are very focused on students, and they all appreciate that what they do has an impact on students," he said. "That creates meaning and life in our community. If you have a purpose and you know that your job is important, that creates job satisfaction."

The results, posted on the Great Colleges to Work For website, are a result of an assessment process that includes a questionnaire and survey, and employee feedback was one of the main factors taken into consideration in this process, according to a press release.

See **WORK**, page 2

Cards run win streak to 4



Lamar wide receiver Izaha Jones catches the ball midair in the second quarter of LU's win 24-17 over Nicholls State at Provost Umphrey Stadium, Oct. 4. For more coverage, see page 11.

UP photo by Carlos Viloria

LU recommends Copilot AI

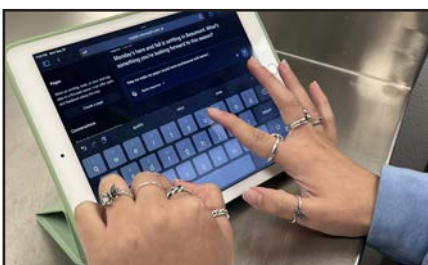
Maria Rodriguez
UP news editor

AI is an increasing presence in everyday life, from simple editing to complex research assignments.

Lamar University recommends Microsoft Copilot as the preferred tool for students and faculty.

Copilot offers several tiers of AI services, Srinivas Varadaraj, AVP enterprise services and IT division, said.

"The difference between the search engine edition and the edition for organizations is that there is a difference in the security and privacy terms," Varadaraj said. "The one which requires a sign-in has a little shield after you sign in with your Lamar account. What it does is that, under the terms,



A student uses Copilot on their tablet.

they say we won't expose (data) to anybody. This is your stuff."

Effectively, whatever is put into Copilot stays within that software, so users' privacy is protected.

Other AI systems, such as ChatGPT, are learning from and sharing information in other searches, Ashley Dockens, associate provost of academic innovation & digital learn-

ing, said.

"(Copilot) is something you can take a little more comfort in knowing that whatever you're putting in isn't going to show up on somebody else's searches," she said.

Copilot can do what other AI systems do, such as solving problems or creating outlines, Dockens said.

"It could help you help draft content for a PowerPoint, organize your study notes into a song so you can put it to music," she said. "Anything you could dream of creating that could be text, image, code — it could do those things."

The drawback of AI is that it can produce inaccuracies because it's

See **COPILOT**, page 4

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Every traveler has a home of his own, and he learns to appreciate it the more from his wandering.”
— Charles Dickens

NOTICE

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HOMECOMING from page 1

LU Football Head Coach Pete Rossomando will host a live radio show on the Patio at the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The show will break down the weekend’s matchup and he will share his insights on the Homecoming game. Students will have the opportunity to win a free food voucher, which may be redeemed in the concession stands during the game.

Thursday, October 16

Brook Shivers Dining Hall will host its annual fall-themed

lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The weekly Student Success Workshops will continue at 1 p.m. in Morris Hall at Cardinal Village. LU volleyball will play the University of the Incarnate Word in McDonald Gym at 6 p.m.

Friday, October 17

The Homecoming concert will take place in the Neches FCU Arena at the Montagne Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature rapper G Herbo, with Iann Dior as the support act. The concert will

begin with a pep rally by LU’s cheer and dance teams. “We wanted to elevate the experience this year,” Hayden Jackson, student engagement coordinator, said. “Last year’s concert was a success, but students wanted more. By adding another artist and making it feel like a full show, we’re giving them that.”

Saturday, October 18

Game day will include many events for the Southeast Texas community. Big Red’s Classic & Antique Car Show will take place in the Spindletop Boomtown Museum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Dishman Art Museum

will be open for visitors to view “Part Geometry-Part Zen,” an exhibition of paper folding by artist Joan Son, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. LU’s volleyball team will play Houston Christian University in McDonald Gym at 11 a.m. The Boomtown Tailgate will take place on the Plummer Lawn, Lot E-3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tailgate will allow alumni and student organizations to collaborate and create more excitement for the Homecoming game, Fayán said. A Cardinal Walk to the stadium will begin at 12:15 p.m. The walk will feature LU’s

football team as they walk through the tailgate to the stadium. The Showcase of Southeast Texas, LU’s marching band, will present a pre-game show at 2 p.m. in Provost Umphrey Stadium. Shortly after at 2:40 p.m., the Cardinal Belles and LU’s cheer team will present a pre-game show. The big Homecoming game against the UT-RGV Vaqueros will kick off at 3 p.m. “Our goal is to build excitement leading up to Saturday,” Fayán said. “When students walk across campus, we want them to feel Homecoming everywhere they look.” For more information, visit lamar.edu/homecoming.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

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WORK from page 1

Nicki Michalaski, chair of the department of communication and media, said the faculty’s love for the student body and positivity are what make Lamar great. “I feel that teaching in a regional university where undergraduate students are important and valued allows me to make a change in

people’s lives, which, of course, is a wonderful feeling,” she said. “Dr. Taylor has really done a lot to help with the morale. His positivity and understanding of our student body brings a sense of light-hearted enjoyment to the process of education.” The Great Colleges to Work For program provides senior-level administrators and aca-

demic leaders with insights on the quality of the workplace experience for faculty and staff and the competitiveness of their policies and benefits, the organization’s website states. There are more than 1,000 institutions in their database. For more information, visit greatcollegesprogram.com or greatcollegeslist.com.

SCRABBLES by Dalia Osman

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STORY PACKAGE BY RAYNA CHRISTY AND REGINA RUIZ

Material legacy

Menil Collection unfurls Rauschenberg fabric show

HOUSTON — “You could describe the art world as a party at my dad’s house,” Christopher Rauschenberg said, recalling his father Robert’s boundless energy and curiosity.

That spirit fills the galleries of Houston’s Menil Collection, where “Robert Rauschenberg: Fabric Works of the 1970s” hang, wave and float like captured fragments of air.

The show runs through March 1 and features the Port Arthur native’s unique work with found cloth.

“I was really interested in setting up this exhibition so it was only loosely chronological,” Michelle White, Menil senior curator, said at a media preview. “We’re dealing with a really interesting period where he works in series. He often is working on multiple series at a time, and for an exhibition like this, which explores and celebrates different approaches to fabric, I find it really important to not delineate series in this exhibition.”

The first series catching the eye of visitors is the “Pyramid Series,” in which Rauschenberg utilizes soiled cheesecloth and cream-colored paper. These were run through a printing press to bind them together to mimic the typical arrangement in a printing studio when after being used to wipe stones or plates the material is hung up to dry.

After the “Pyramid Series,” visitors move on to the “Venetians” works from 1972-1973.

“This is the moment fabric really starts to come to the fore in his work,” White said. “He’s using very specific pieces of found cloth.”

One example is a mosquito net held in place by shoelaces in “Sant’ Agnese (Venetian)” from 1973.

After the “Venetians,” visitors are confronted by the “Hoarfrost” series, which incorporates text and images that are printed on gauzy fabric by way of solvent transfers.

“(Rauschenberg) was really interested in more experimental approaches to the printing studio,” White said. “He takes very lightweight, porous, transparent materials and pushes them through the printing press on a bed of solid cover images from the print newspapers. Sometimes it’s really hard to read, and that’s by design.

“He was really interested in kind of invigorating the image, letting some atmosphere feel



around the images he was working with.”

After the Hoarfrosts, we move into the colorful nature of the “Jammers.” The series takes its name from windsurfing sails, known as “jammers.” Rauschenberg took up the sport when he moved from New York City to Captiva Island, Florida in 1970.

Using lightweight materials such as silk, gauze, bamboo poles, and ropes, he constructed large, vibrant works that hang, stretch and float in space rather than rest on traditional canvases.

Entering the room where “Jammers” is located engulfs visitors in a newfound selection of colors and images.

The final gallery includes “Hiccups,” one of Rauschenberg’s most intricate pieces. The work features 97 individual panels of handmade paper, each individually printed, and connected with zippers.

“If you go back to Rauschenberg, his love of sewing and fashion came right off the cutting table,” White said.

The biggest highlight of the collection is “Tantric Geography.” This refers to the set and costume design he created for Merce Cunningham Dance Company’s “Travelogue,” which premiered in 1977.

“It can give you a sense of how Rauschenberg was deeply involved in modern dance and how that impacted his understanding of fabric, color,” White said. “We need to also think about Rauschenberg as a designer of stage sets and costume design.”

The museum will host “Dancing with Bob,” a performance series organized by the Cunningham Trust and the Trisha Brown Dance Company, which will bring excerpts of Rauschenberg’s stage collaborations to Houston in November.



“There was a sort of running joke, and it was not really a joke; it was true,” Christopher Rauschenberg said. “There was this sort of 20-year lag that Bob would do something, and 20 years later, people would finally kind of understand it and come to appreciate it.”

Robert Rauschenberg died in 2008, and Christopher said he feels proud of his father’s

work and hopes others are able to continue appreciating it.

“He’s gone,” Christopher said. “But what does it mean to say that he’s gone (when) people are still having their minds blown by looking at his work?”

The Menil Collection is located at 1533 Sul Ross St, Houston, TX. Admission is free.



“Tantric Geography” (background), “Whistle Stop” (left), “Unnamed” (right) and “Hiccups” (bottom) are all pieces included in “Robert Rauschenberg: Fabric Works of the 1970s”.

Reho’s art explores women’s roles

Heather Harmon
UP contributor

Ceramic artist Allison Reho will showcase her new exhibit, ‘There are no Nests in the Pines,’ at the Art Studio, Inc., Oct. 4-24.

Reho said she has been working on the exhibit since 2015. The clay pots showcase the complexities of women as vessels, while also highlighting how women are a literal nest and the expectations that are put on women by the outside world.

When Reho was in college — she graduated with a BFA in art from Lamar University in 2012 — her specialty was painting. Reho said she was exposed to both pottery and painting, but she always saw that they held similarities.

“My painting was always kind of sculptural to begin with and painting was always predictable, while pottery, there’s a scientific part to it,” she said. “Although I didn’t study the scientific part to it, I really liked the inevitability of it.

“I got a little bored with how

predictable painting was and painting is also very lonely, while ceramics, there is a whole community.”

The pieces in the show are the result of 10 years of work. Over the decade, Reho said she’s had to change the way she approaches her projects.

“It’s way different now than when I started working on the pots, because now I have an 18-month-old son, so I can work in the studio when he’s taking a nap,” she said. “I have to be more particular in the decisions I make now. There is less room for trial and error.”

Although this is her third solo exhibition, Reho said this one is special because it will be her first solo show at the Art Studio. Her first show was 11 years ago at the High Street Gallery in Victoria House and her second was in New Orleans’ Aquarium Gallery two or three years ago, she said.

Reho said the pots represent her different relationships and the mark they left on her life.

“Each pot is about what I was going through while I was making the pot and how that



UP photo by Heather Harmon

Lamar alumnae Allison Reho presents “There are no Nests in the Pines,” an exhibition of her ceramics at The Art Studio through Oct. 24.

imprints on it,” she said. “I’ve always liked coil pots because you can make irregular forms, and I love the way painting looks on irregular forms. So, I knew I wanted to work on that medium for that reason.

“From there, they became these female vessels, and my different relationships became imprinted on them. I was thinking of how vessels are used to

hold something like as women we use our own bodies to carry our young.”

Reho said she is nervous about the reaction to the show.

“I’m worried that people won’t understand — what if people can’t see the vision?” she said. “What if the vision doesn’t come to fruition? What if I didn’t take it far enough to convey it?”

Reho said she keeps up with her teachers and her friends from Lamar.

“One of my good friends was a few years ahead of me, yet we still became good friends — she helped me price the pieces for my show,” Reho said.

She still has a close connection with the art faculty as well, Reho said.

“Xenia Fedorchenko, Donna Meeks and Linnis Blanton, I still consult them even though I graduated 13 years ago,” she said. “I have an adult relationship with them now.”

Being an art student was an experience Reho said she looks back on fondly.

“Everyone was always really supportive,” she said. “I liked being in this utopia world of art.

Everyone is making art when you’re in the art department, and being immersed in making art all day, every day is amazing.”

The Art Studio, Inc. is located at 720 Franklin St. in Beaumont. For more, visit art-studio.org.

For more on Reho’s art, visit allisonreho.com.

COPILOT from page 1

trained to show the most likely results. Lamar’s website states that users should “Acknowledge the limitations of AI. Approach critically, acknowledging potential inaccuracies, misleading information, or entirely fabricated content. Maintain skepticism and verify the validity of AI-generated output.”

Copilot will generate content, but will also provide a list of sources when re-

quested, showing where the information comes from, Varadaraj said.

“Not all AIs give you where they pulled information from,” Dockens said. “Microsoft Copilot does, so if you want to go see, ‘Is this a real thing?’ You can go to that link and investigate that further, just like you would do with a research source in class.”

Dockens said students should confirm secondary sources to ensure they receive the correct information. Users should always check

the references, Varadaraj said.

“It will sometimes take opinions as a source and incorrectly generate that one important thing when you get the result,” he said. “Follow the links to see where it’s actually coming from.”

Effective prompt writing is the best way to instruct AI for good results, Dockens said. “There’s a lot of different frameworks you’re going to find out there,” she said. “Most of them that are really, really solid, are going to tell

you to give AI a role.”

Some people don’t like to provide feedback to the AI, Dockens said.

“What I’ll do sometimes, if it goes off the rails in a direction I didn’t expect, I’ll say ‘No, that’s not exactly what I meant. I really am hoping for...’ and try to re-explain myself,” she said. “What you’ll see is it’ll go, ‘Oh, now I have clarity. I’ll do this instead,’ and oftentimes you will get a much better result.”

Students are encouraged to look at specific class policies

since different faculty and fields have different opinions, Dockens said.

AI is a learning tool and not a substitution for one’s own knowledge and skill, Varadaraj said.

“You can learn it, use Copilot, or any other type of tool to learn all the way,” he said. “But don’t let that be a substitute for your own skill and your own results.”

For questions, reach out to the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at citi@lamar.edu.

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NEW LOCATIONS COMING SOON

Dishman hosts Son’s origami show

Melissa Tristan
UP contributor

“You won’t see this show again, this is it,” origami artist Joan Son said about her exhibit, “Part Geometry-Part Zen,” at the Dishman Art Museum through Nov. 1.

The show is the largest she’s ever presented, displaying some of her very first origami works to her most recent. The Dishman exhibit shows the evolution of Son’s work throughout her career.

“I started working probably in April, gathering everything, planning it, and getting stuff packed up and organized,” she said. “Yeah, it’s been a full-time job.”

Featuring pieces from previous exhibits, one of the highlights is “Time Travelers,” a series of life-size dresses handmade entirely out of paper.

Another of Son’s centerpiece pieces is “Free Fall,” which features 2,000 origami butterflies draped over a corner of the museum, designed specifically for this exhibit. The installation is intended to soften the sharp edge of the gallery’s corner, inspired by feng shui, and includes a stream of gold butterflies in the middle, she said.

Son’s journey as an origami artist stretches back to childhood. Paper dolls and folded fortune tellers in school sparked her love for working with paper. In high school, a close friend taught her how to fold the origami crane and it stuck with her, she said.

Son said that after her mother’s death, she saw origami books in a bookstore, and she was pushed to take origami seriously.

“My first professional origami job (was) to do the win-



UP photo by Melissa Tristan

Joan Son stands with some paper dresses from her show “Part Geometry-Part Zen” at the Dishman Art Museum.

dows of Tiffany’s,” she said. “And then the next was the Museum of Natural Science, and then the Smithsonian Museum shops.”

Since then, Son’s work has been featured in museums across Texas and beyond, including the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, the Pearl Fincher Museum, the San Angelo Museum, the Stark Museum, and now the Dishman.

Son has also included pieces from her robe series. “Earth Robe,” first displayed in Austin’s Scarborough building, is one of the few pieces she still owns from that collection.

“I thought, ‘Well, if I did a kimono shape that would suggest a human body, and it could be

really big, it could fill the window,’” she said. “So, that’s what I did.”

Son’s “Clouds” and “Flags” series offer visitors a view of the many different themes she has explored over her artistic years.

Son said bringing her work all together shows her journey from simple butterflies and cranes to complex folded and painted pieces.

“It’s one thing if it’s in my studio in Montrose,” she said. “But it’s another thing to be spread out on these walls.

“I feel really connected when I do a museum show. I get more involved, and I like the venue of the museum. It feels right. It honors the work.”

Philosophy also plays a large

role in her art. Son cites artist Agnes Martin as a major influence, specifically Martin’s instruction to, “Be obedient to inspiration.”

“Rather than just kind of thinking up something, I wait until this inspiration comes through,” Son said. “Because where does that come from? It comes from a mysterious place that we’re connected to.”

This outlook guided her in moments of doubt, reminding her that inspiration deserves trust and obedience, she said. Son’s work also blends photography, painting and design. Many of her recent pieces use enlarged photographs with acrylic paint layered on top, giving her a direct way to leave her

handprint on the image.

“When I paint, it’s fast,” she said. “It makes it more real for me, more original, that I put my hand work in it.”

Son’s connection to Japanese culture shows in her use of rare handmade papers, which she collected when visiting Tokyo in the early 2000s.

“The Japanese papers are so gorgeous and so long lasting,” she said. “In the ‘Free Fall’ piece, the gold papers are a Japanese tea chest paper, very thin, very strong. They don’t make it anymore. And I still have a few sheets of it. They’re very precious to me.”

Son said that the exhibit is not just an ending to this phase of her career, but a chance for visitors to witness the full arc of her career.

“Just the evolution of it I think is the most important thing, because the students will have their own evolution as their work develops,” she said. “To know that it might take 50 years to get it, that it might go through a lot of changes. So, it’s just the evolution of the work that I want them to see.”

The Carl Jung quote painted on the museum wall — “What did you do as a child that made the hours pass like minutes? Herein lies the clues to your earthly pursuits” — is one of Son’s favorites. It echoes her own rediscovery of origami as a lifelong passion.

“Joan Son: Part Geometry-Part Zen” gives visitors an opportunity to see the full scope of Son’s career before she moves on to new artistic pursuits. Son said she hopes visitors will not only see the evolution in her art but also feel inspired to follow their own creative path.

The Dishman Art Museum is located at 1030 E. Lavaca on the Lamar University campus.

THE IMPORTANCE of BEING EARNEST



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BEYOND AWARENESS

Counselors create safe space for students seeking help

Kami Greene
UP managing editor

Approximately 1,100 college-aged students a year lose their life to suicide due to mental health struggles.

Whether it be depression, anxiety, relationship issues, homesickness or suicidal thoughts, the Student Health Center counselors are ready to support students.

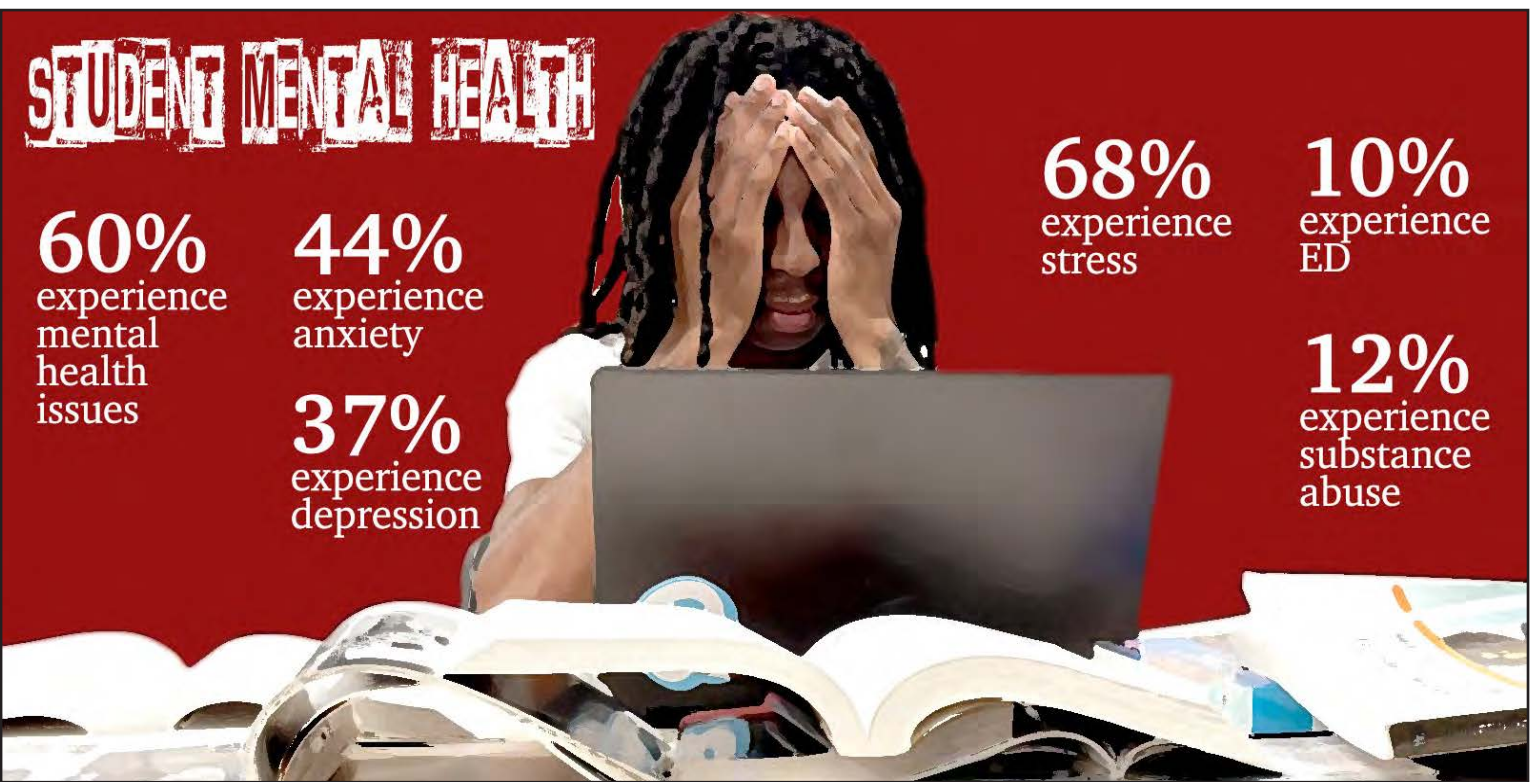
“You’re not alone,” Kierra Bridgewater, assistant director of counseling services, said. “Suicide ideation can feel isolating. It’s something that a lot of people aren’t struggling with, and so it makes it weird.

“It’s hard for them to speak up, but once they do, I think they would be surprised at how many people are having passive suicide ideation. That’s like saying, ‘If I didn’t wake up tomorrow, I’d be OK with it.’ ‘I’m so stressed, I just can’t do it anymore.’”

Bridgewater said that while many believe that suicide is an active, physical action, sometimes signs of suicide start as passive thoughts. Recognizing early signs of mental health struggles can save a student’s life.

“Oftentimes, students will begin to verbalize certain words,” Cynthia Ksiazek, Student Health Center counselor, said. “Students will say things like, ‘Oh, what’s the use,’ when they’re writing an essay — they express passive or suicidal thoughts.”

When a friend hears another friend mention ending their life, whether it be se-



riously or passively, that friend should take heed and say, “let’s go on over to the Student Health Center,” Ksiazek said.

Bridgewater said she teaches people that suicide is not anything to joke about, because sometimes people really mean it.

“It’s truth masked in humor,” she said. Students will also walk their peers over to the SHC when they notice a change in behavior, Ksiazek said.

“Their body language may appear sad, and they are not smiling as much as they used to,” Ksiazek said. “They’re withdrawn and not showing up to class, or if they do come in, maybe they’re asleep or

they’re just not paying attention. They’re just not fully present. Their minds seem somewhere else.”

SHC counselors will also sometimes refer students for outside help, Ksiazek said.

“Depending on the rotation, we will refer them to the local emergency room and then a cop will do a full evaluation for that student to determine if they need inpatient care or further care from there,” she said.

Bridgewater said SHC staff can also assist students in getting accommodations at LU’s Accessibility Resource Center.

“Even if we don’t have the specific resource they need here, they still see us and we can refer them out so they can

receive the help they need,” she said.

Long term initiatives are also being implemented for the counselors to ensure students receive the best care, Bridgewater said.

“Right now, we are doing a quality study to improve our retention rate in counseling,” Bridgewater said. “That is for new students that come in for their initial appointment to make sure they return for their second appointment.

“Two out of four counselors are also trained in EMDR, which is eye movement desensitization in reprocessing. It’s a trauma-focused counseling, and we’re all getting trained in that.”

Even when the counselors

are unavailable, there is a system set up to provide on-the-spot care for students.

“We do something called a triage,” Ksiazek said. “It’s where we’re available at that very moment to speak with them, and that’s ongoing.”

Counseling appointments may be scheduled online, and students can expect an appointment within a week, Ksiazek said. Walk-in appointments are also available.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit lamar.edu/students/student-affairs/student-health-center, or call 409-880-8466.

For help with suicidal thoughts, call or text the suicide hotline at 988.

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18
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SATURDAY
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STUDENT EVENT SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
VOTE FOR ROYAL COURT • ALL DAY
Online at lamar.edu/luhub
WAKE UP TO HOMECOMING
8:30 - 10:30 AM • *The Quad*
GREEK LIFE REC DAY
5 - 6 PM • *New Intramural Field*
BONFIRE & ROYAL COURT SHOWCASE
6:30 - 9 PM • *Spindletop Boomtown*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
VOTE FOR ROYAL COURT • ALL DAY
Online at lamar.edu/luhub
PATIO NIGHT: MUM FACTORY
7 - 9 PM • *The Patio at the Rec*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15
VOTE FOR ROYAL COURT • ALL DAY
Online at lamar.edu/luhub
HIRE A CARDINAL CAREER EXPO
11 AM - 3 PM • *Montagne Center*
LU SOFTBALL VS. SAN JAC
5 - 7 PM • *LU Softball Complex*
COACH'S RADIO SHOW
7 - 8 PM • *The Patio at the Rec*
NPHC HUMP DAY
8 - 10 PM • *The Quad*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16
RESOURCE MARKET
7:30 - 8:30 am • *Gentry Hall*
CARDINAL CRAZE: HOCO SWAG
11 AM - 1 PM • *Setzer Student Center*
SPICEFUL
11 AM - 2 PM • *Dining Hall*
LU VOLLEYBALL VS. UIW
6 - 8 PM • *McDonald Gym*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17
SHOW US YOUR RED
11 AM - 1 PM • *Setzer Student Center*
HOMECOMING CONCERT FT. G HERBO
MEET ROYAL COURT WINNERS & FINALISTS FOR KING & QUEEN
6 PM • *Neches FCU Arena at the Montagne Center*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
BIG RED'S RIDE CAR SHOW
10 AM - 2 PM • *Spindletop Boomtown*
DISHMAN ART MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS
10 AM - 2 PM • *Dishman Art Museum*
LU VOLLEYBALL VS. HCU
11 AM - 1 PM • *McDonald Gym*
BOOMTOWN TAILGATE
11 AM - 2 PM • *Plummer Lawn*
CARDINAL WALK
12:15 PM • *E. Virginia Street*
SHOWCASE TAILGATE CONCERT
2 PM • *E. Virginia Street*
SHOWCASE PRE-GAME SHOW
2:40 PM • *Provost Umphrey Stadium*
LU FOOTBALL VS. UT-RGV
3 PM KICKOFF • *Provost Umphrey Stadium*

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STRIKING A NEW CHORD

Alma mater gets swinging update

Regina Ruiz
UP staff writer

Lamar University’s alma mater has a new sound this fall after a faculty recital performance unexpectedly led to the evolution of the traditional song.

Reese Maultsby, assistant professor of percussion and director of percussion studies, arranged a jazz-influenced version of the alma mater for a faculty showcase concert earlier this year. What began as a last-minute idea caught the attention of Lamar President Jaime Taylor and Vice President for Advancement Juan Zabala.

“They came up to me and said, ‘This needs to be the new version of the alma mater,’” Maultsby said. “I never thought it would turn into something official. It was just meant to be fun.”

The arrangement, which features a

New Orleans–style groove reflecting the cultural character of Southeast Texas, was adapted for marching and pep bands over the summer. It debuted at the university’s intramural field ribbon-cutting ceremony and has since been performed at athletic events.

The alma mater was originally written by Gilbert Rhodes Smartt, a math professor who took on the challenge after being asked to by then school president John Gray in 1954.

University leaders, including director of bands Andrew McMahan, music department chair Michael Bartnik, CoFaC Dean Golden Wright, and Zabala, helped formalize the change.

2018 graduate John Ellis said he supports the new arrangement.

“It’s rare to be part of a moment like this,” he said. “One day, students will look back and say, ‘I was there

when they changed the alma mater.’ That’s history in the making.”

“At first, I was attached to the old version because that’s what I knew. But when the tubas came in with that upbeat vibe, I thought, ‘I like this a lot.’ It felt like Lamar — fun, unique, and connected to our Cajun influence here in Southeast Texas.”

Other alumni, however, say the decision is bittersweet. Cameron Montgomery, a 2024 graduate who spent six years in Lamar’s marching and basketball bands, said the traditional alma mater carried a solemn weight that united generations of Cardinals.

“It was a serious moment for the entire student body to come together to celebrate Lamar, to review its ideals, to remind ourselves of what it means to be a Cardinal,” he said. “For me, it always gave me a time to look in and appreciate it for what it is.”

When he first heard the new arrangement, Montgomery said he felt “both excited and worried.”

“As a musician, it captured me — especially the saxophone counter-melody,” he said. “But at the same time, I lost track of the core melody. It made me wonder, where will this arrangement fit?”

The shift marks a change for Lamar, where traditions hold a deep connection for alumni. Maultsby said he understands the hesitation some may feel.

“Any change in tradition comes with challenges,” Maultsby said. “I think it’s important for people to see this not as a replacement of the old, but as a new addition.”

Maultsby said students in the marching band also contributed feedback during rehearsals, helping refine the performance for all instruments.

So far, Maultsby said, most reac-

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Laud you
to the skies.
We will ever need you
As our guiding star.
To us,
you’ll always be
Our glorious Lamar.



Courtesy photo

Reese Maultsby, LU assistant professor of percussion and director of percussion studies, works with students on his new arrangement of the school’s alma mater.

tions have been positive. Alumni and community members have expressed enthusiasm about the lively twist.

“To me, an alma mater is about bringing people together — students, alumni, faculty — all with arms around each other, singing and celebrating school pride,” Maultsby said. “This version is meant to capture that sense of fun and togetherness.”

Maultsby added that for incoming freshmen, the new version sets a spirited first impression.

“It has a beat, it’s danceable, it’s fun,” he said. “I love that their introduction to Lamar’s school song is one full of energy.”

Maultsby said he remains surprised that his arrangement has become part of Lamar’s legacy.

“I couldn’t be more honored,” he said. “I just hope that when people hear it, they feel unity and joy.”

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Special Angels Rodeo seeks help

Caraline Otte
UP staff writer

The annual Special Angels Rodeo will be held Nov. 8 at the T2 Arena and Event Center in Orange. Volunteers are needed to help with the event.

The Special Angels Rodeo began in 2014 to give special needs individuals an opportunity to participate in rodeo events.

“We’re hoping to empower individuals with special needs through the world of rodeo,” Kaylea Daigle, treasurer and media chair, said. “Our primary mission is to create an environment where these individuals can actively participate in a range of activities, build their self-confidence and enjoy the thrill of a rodeo, but in a safe and supportive and adaptive environment.”

Volunteers are able to assist by being “buddies” and are responsible for helping participants get around and enjoy the event.

“You get paired up with a special needs person and you walk them through all the carnival games,” Daigle said. “Some of them want to carry their own backpacks and goodies, and some of them can’t handle that, so you carry it for them. You become their friend for the day, and you just spend time with them.”

Sydney Vo, Beaumont senior, has participated in the rodeo last year and said she hopes students will reach out to participate.

“It’s a really great event that needs more volunteers and more people involved,” she said. “I just don’t think many people know about it.”

As well as “buddies,” there are a range of other volunteer options, Daigle said.

“We do ask for volunteer photographers,” she said. “So, if you want to come out and you don’t think that you have the social skills, or you don’t think that you’re confident enough to



Volunteers and participants have at past Special Needs Rodeos.

Courtesy photos

be paired with a special needs person, then you can take pictures for us. You can also help with setup or tear down crew, you can help with registration, and you can help serve in the food tent.”

Vo, who is a marketing major with emphasis on social media, photographed last year’s rodeo.

“I made sure to take photos of the volunteers and the people that came as Special Angels,” she said. “There’s stickers that say if it’s OK to take their photo or if it’s not OK on their backpack.”

The rodeo includes roping, a dunking booth, life-sized Jenga and barrel racing. There are even spaces that provide hippotherapy, which uses horses to help with balance, coordination and posture.

“While the participants are being led on the horse, they go through a

barrel pattern and get to feel like they are actually doing the race,” Daigle said. “We actually have a trailer that they have outfitted to hold wheel-chairs so that they can run a barrel pattern.”

Admission to the Special Angels Rodeo is free. Vo said a lot of work that goes into the event and Lamar students are able to get volunteer hours and give back to the community.

“This event is catered to giving parents or caretakers a break,” Vo said. “That’s what the buddies are for, so they can go and play with them.”

Volunteer opportunities are available before the event, but students may also show up on the day, Daigle said.

For more, visit specialangelsrodeo.org, or text 409-988-9478.







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URG research proposals due Oct. 15



Courtesy photo

Staff from the Office of Undergraduate Research prepare for the fall 2024 conference.

Evan Wolford
UP contributor

LU’s Office of Undergraduate Research is currently accepting grant proposals for research conducted in the spring semester. The submission deadline is Oct. 15. The grant is offered through the OUR for students to conduct research alongside their normal course load, as well as present their research at conferences. Applicants may submit proposals over any topic. The grant pays the student an

\$800 stipend, as well as offering up to \$1,000 in research support and \$500 in travel support. E.J. McMillen, OUR administrative assistant, said students are encouraged to apply regardless of their classification or major. “It never hurts to send in an application and see if you can start working on it,” McMillen said. Sneeha Jobby, Houston sophomore, said she is applying for the grant. “One of the biggest reasons why I picked Lamar University was because of their undergraduate re-

search,” Jobby said. “I think that being able to be involved in research as an underclassman is so valuable.” Elizabeth Sanders, LU director of learning and research, has conducted workshops for OUR and mentored students for OUR projects. Sanders offered advice for students applying for URG grants. “The worst anyone can say to you is no, and in that case, you haven’t lost anything,” she said. For more information, visit lamar.edu/research, email cbahrim@lamar.edu.

MWH to host Galveston storm lecture, Oct. 9

Josiah Boyd
UP contributor

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum will host a lecture, “Stories of the 1900 Galveston Storm: What We Have Learned,” presented by author Shelly Kelly at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 9 in the Carriage House. The talk will be followed by community storm plan updates from Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick. The free event is part of the museum’s ongoing lecture series and coincides with the 125th anniversary of the storm.

“I’m going to be discussing different stories from the 1900 disaster and then move into some of the impacts and lessons learned from the storm,” Kelly said in a Zoom interview. “Even though it’s been 125 years, I think we’ll recognize some of the same emotions and responses, like people helping people and



Courtesy photo

Residents stand amongst the debris of an area swept clean by the powerful hurricane that struck Galveston in 1900.

people taking care of each other.” The event is about more than just history; it is about learning from mistakes and

protecting human lives, Kelly said. “If we do not learn from the past, we are doomed to repeat it,” she said. “It does not mean

that it is going to happen the same way, but if we can take a lesson from something that we hear or experience, then it might help us in the future.

“Our hope is that we can take lessons from this to mitigate the loss of life in the future.” Branick will present a brief seminar discussing updated Jefferson County storm plans and hurricane preparedness following the lecture. “It’s important to have a plan when hurricane season rolls in,” Branick said. “Our area is always in line to have dangerous weather, so it’s important people have a plan for when something inevitably happens.” Branick said he has some simple advice for residents. “The two things I tell everyone to do for hurricane season in Southeast Texas is make sure your vehicle has fuel in it every time you get out of it, and make sure your insurance is up to date,” he said. The museum is located at 1906 Calder Ave. in Beaumont. For more information, visit mcfaddin-ward.org.

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Flock fans flames of fandom

Isaac Sandoval
UP contributor

At Lamar University, school spirit isn't just a phrase, it's a movement, led in large part by a student group known as The Flock.

Founder Carsen Barrett, Groves junior, said The Flock aims to boost student support for Lamar's athletic programs and create a vibrant, engaged campus community.

"I founded The Flock because I wanted to get students back into the stands," Barrett said. "Our football team is having its best season since the program restarted 15 years ago, and our basketball team was just one game away from March Madness."

"Everyone's doing their part on the field and court, so it's our job as students to show up and support them."

Barrett's passion for sports runs deep. Growing up he played basketball and soccer and said the current

success across Lamar's programs offers a chance to reignite excitement on campus.

"Golf, tennis, baseball, softball, volleyball — we've got a lot to cheer for right now," Barrett said. "It's a good time to be at Lamar."

Barrett's favorite sport is basketball, with men's tennis a close second. However, he said the impact of The Flock extends far beyond individual preferences.

O.J. Anakor, Houston senior, is a new member of The Flock. He said the sense of community is what keeps him involved.

"Carsen really motivates students to participate in events and support our teams," Anakor said. "Sports make a school, and being part of The Flock lets me feel like I'm part of something bigger."

The group primarily focuses on home games but has inspired some students to travel to support the teams as well. Anakor said that be-

fore joining, he likely would not have attended away games.

"Now, I even consider going to games in Houston," he said. "I'm really looking forward to cheering on Lamar against McNeese."

The Flock's support makes a tangible difference to the players, football kicker Ben Woodard said, adding that the students' energy has helped the team, especially during high-pressure moments.

"They do a fantastic job of getting rowdy and keeping the opponent on their toes," Woodard said. "It really helps push us and keeps us in the mix during tough games."

Woodard, is also a member of The Flock when he is not on the field.

"It's a good community to join," he said. "You get to meet new people and share common goals and interests with everyone on campus."

To join The Flock, visit their page on LUHub.



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio
Carsen Barrett, founder of the Flock, shows his school spirit during a recent game.

Cardinal View seeks students org tables

Rayna Christy
UP editor

Lamar University will invite high schoolers from across the state for Cardinal View, Oct. 25. This year's theme is "See Your Future."

"Our fall Cardinal View is our biggest recruitment event of the year for prospective students, because it's the biggest open house we have," Karen Sandoval Lopez, assistant director of the Welcome Center, said. "Every college is represented."

"Every year it just grows and grows. More students are hear-

ing about us and we're recruiting more students."

While Cardinal View is aimed at prospective students, current students are invited to get involved.

"A big thing right now is our table registration," Sandoval Lopez said. "A lot of the students can obviously table the event, but I think they don't realize what they can do with different organizations. Whether it's their student orgs or pre-professional orgs, they're all welcome to come and show our prospective students what they have to offer."

Organizations who table the

event will have the chance to win one of three \$1,000 prizes. The funds can be used in any way the organization chooses.

Student organization tables will be located in the Setzer Student Center, and should be fully set up on Oct. 24.

"We would love everybody to be out there, but we only have a certain amount of space," Sandoval Lopez said. "We don't want them to wait until the last minute, so that's why my main thing is just to register."

"We want them to come out and just show their spirit, show what their organization represents, show why they joined.

Just be excited, and get ready to hopefully welcome new students in."

Sandoval Lopez said it's important for prospective students to hear from current students, not just from staff and faculty.

"I think it's really important for them to be involved because they're welcoming in the next generation of students," she said. "I believe it's the college life, and it's better for them to see it from a student's point of view."

Sandoval Lopez said that while students might visit year-round, they don't stay for longer than an hour and half and are

not able to meet their professors or departments. Cardinal View allows them to meet everyone.

"Students can come and meet (people) who could be their advisor, who could be their professor," Sandoval Lopez said. "Students get to see different departments. It could help them make a decision, or if they have questions, they can ask them right then and there."

Student organizations can register to host a table on LUHub. Registration deadline is Oct. 10.

For more, email visit@lamar.edu.

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Cards outrank Colonels

LU opens SLC play with 24-17 win over Nicholls

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

The nationally-ranked Lamar Cardinals continued their winning ways, beating Nicholls State 24-17 to open Southland Conference play, Oct. 4.

The name of the game was electric plays, as two of the Cards’ three touchdowns came from 80-plus yards. The Cards opening score came on the first play from scrimmage, with an 85-yard passing bomb from QB Aiden McCown to receiver Blake Thomas.

However, the Cardinal defense gave up two straight Nicholls touchdowns, with one being a 75-yard rush, to fall behind 14-7.

After the electricity of the opening play, LU’s offense seemed to have stalled with successive scoreless drives. But on their fourth possession, Big Red’s offense showed it could also grind it out with an 80-yard methodical drive ending in a three-yard rush by Aiden McCown.

Lamar tacked on a 21-yard field goal to head into the half with a 17-14 lead.

The second half was slow for both teams. The Cardinals offense stalled drive after drive, but the defense held the Colonels at bay, allowing only score a field goal in the third quarter.

The score was even at 17 entering the fourth quarter as



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio

Cardinal wide receiver Kyndon Fuselier scores on an 88-yard punt return to give Lamar University a 24-17 over Nicholls State at Provost Umphrey Stadium, Oct. 4. The win was the Cardinals’ fourth consecutive win. The Cards are 4-1 overall and 1-0 in the Southland Conference.

both defenses took over. It was the Cardinals’ D that turned the game, forcing the Colonels to punt. Nicholls’ punter was sending long bombs down the field all game, but Big Red finally capitalized with 3:36 to go in the game.

Returner Kyndon Fuselier fielded the ball and made four

Colonels miss, leading to an explosive 88-yard punt return touchdown. The PAT was converted, and the game ended in a 24-17 Cardinal win.

Head Coach Pete Rosso-mando said a big part of any win depends on the trust and depth of the team.

“In today’s day and age, in

the transfer portal windows, our guys are choosing to stay here,” he said. “They’re choosing to build a family. And at some point, they’re going to leave, and I wish them the best because they’ve given everything they have for the red and black of Lamar. We’re building something special. The players

have seen the growth of this program and we’re just continuing to get better.”

The Cardinals move to 4-1 on the season and their next game is a conference matchup against East Texas A&M, Oct. 11. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Commerce.

Cardinal soccer draws with SFA

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

The Lamar soccer team battled the Stephan F. Austin Lumberjacks to a 1-1 draw, Oct. 5 at the Lamar University Soccer Complex. The Cards ran their record to 4-5-4 on the season, 1-1-3 Southland Conference play.

The match started with a bang with the Lumberjacks scoring the first goal of the game at the 5:37 mark. It would take the Lady Cards about 20 minutes to respond when junior Lauren Smith scored to the top left of the goal off her right foot at the 27:54 mark.

The second half was a stalemate, as neither team was able to score. The Cards took six corner kicks in the second half alone but could not capitalize on any of their opportunities.

The Cards are currently sixth in the Southland conference with their next game coming against Southeastern Louisiana, Oct. 9.

The match is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. at the Lamar University Soccer Complex.

Red Bull’s F1 wings clips

COMMENTARY
Maria Rodriguez
UP news editor

Dynasties rise and fall as quickly as a Formula 1 car rounds a corner. Red Bull Racing had a near-perfect season in 2023, winning 21 out of 22 races.

Max Verstappen was crowned champion once again, and Sergio Perez made it first 1-2 finish for Red Bull as they easily won the constructors title as well.

They were set for more wins and history in F1, setting the stage for dominance — until the cracks began to show.

Success was short-lived, and instability for the team rose.

The first signs came in the 2024 season. Verstappen retired in the Australia race after his car was spitting flames. The once-winning team went winless for seven races, raising many questions.

Team principal Christian Horner admitted to Auto Motor und Sport magazine that the problems could be traced back to the 2023 Spanish Grand Prix.

This was the race where Perez pointed out struggles with the car, but the team chose to ignore him. Verstappen was still winning; thus, the issue was the driver, not the car.

However, prioritizing one driver over the other isn’t new for Red Bull. It’s a part of their history.

Former drivers Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber are a testament to the prioritization of a driver.

Throughout the years as teammates, Webber highlighted the preference to upgrade and develop Vettel’s car.

This has continued in the Verstappen era as he has flown through teammates.

Daniel Ricciardo, Pierre Gasly, Alex



UP photo illustration by Maria Rodriguez

Albon, Sergio Perez and Liam Lawson — every single one of them has struggled with Red Bull, while Verstappen has exceeded all expectations.

Lawson only lasted two races before being replaced by current, and sixth, teammate Yuki Tsunoda.

Being Verstappen’s teammate is hard, but it’s harder to navigate a team that doesn’t listen to feedback. Especially when other teams listen to their drivers’ feedback and adjust their cars as needed.

This is reflected in the F1 standings. Verstappen, through the struggles, is currently third while Tsunoda is languishing near the bottom of the list in 17th.

Uncertainty surrounds the second Red Bull seat as to who is set to drive alongside Verstappen next year in a season of regulation changes.

The instability worsened when key figures left Red Bull in the middle of last season to join other teams. The mastermind behind the car, Adrian Newey, left the team after a 19-year tenure. Sporting director Jonathan

Wheatley left to become team principal for Kick Sauber. And head of strategy Will Courtenay is leaving to join McLaren when his contract ends in mid 2026.

The biggest shock came in July when long-time team principal and CEO, Christian Horner, was let go. Horner had been the subject of accusations of harassment and creating a toxic work environment. Laurent Mekies, former team principal for Racing Bulls, was appointed to take his place.

It’s hard not to point the finger at Red Bull over their handling of their own team through the instability and uncertainty. Verstappen is undoubtedly one of the best drivers the sport has seen, but there is only so much he can do.

The hope is that Red Bull, under Laurent Mekies, will rise from the ashes of the Horner-led team and make the turnaround.

If things do not improve soon, they may find themselves without the services of the great Dutchman. Then we will see Red Bull without its wings.



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