

CARDINALS FIRE UP HOMECOMING



For more pictures,  
see pages 6 and 7

UP photo by Carlos Vilorio



A young girl rides the mechanical bull during tailgating, Oct. 18.

UP photo by Kami Greene

Community, alumni, students  
come together to show spirit

Rayna Christy  
UP editor

Lamar University held its Homecoming, Oct. 18, with tailgate at lunchtime ahead of the big game against Southland Conference rivals UT-Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros.

Plummer Lawn and Provost-Umphrey Stadium were filled with students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans as they celebrated LU.

“This was my first time ever being at Homecoming,” Kaj Davis, Port Neches junior, said. “It’s not what I expected at all,

but not in a bad way. There’s more stuff to do here than I thought.”

The Homecoming tailgate featured bouncy houses, crafts, food and beverages. The College of Engineering tailgate drew a large crowd with its mechanical bull, where they held contests to see who could stay on the longest.

“It was really fun seeing how everyone came out and supported the College of Engineering,” Habi Duraippandian, Beaumont sophomore, said. “It was great seeing the teamwork. This was the most fun I’ve had

so far.”

Alongside the tailgate, a vintage car show was held at Spindletop Boomtown Museum and the Dishman Art Museum was open for visitors. LU volleyball played Houston Christian University in McDonald gym.

All around, activities encouraged LU fans to keep their energy up as they waited excitedly for kickoff.

“I love (Homecoming) because you see a lot more families and people outside of Lamar bring their kids,” Bri-

See **HOMECOMING**, page 6



LU President Jaime Taylor stands with Homecoming Queen and King, Dynasia Hickman and Bryce Hickman at Provost Uumphrey Stadium, Oct. 18.

Sheffield, Hickman crowned  
Homecoming King and Queen

Heather Harmon  
UP contributor

Bryce Sheffield and Dynasia Hickman were announced as Lamar University’s 2025 Homecoming King and Queen. Hickman represents the organizations Black Student Union and Relentless Bible Study. Sheffield represents the organization Man Up.

Sheffield said he decided to run for Homecoming Court to represent his friends and family and his love for Lamar.

“I would like my testimony to be out there, just to show how important and how great of a school Lamar is,” he said.

“Homecoming, it doesn’t feel real at all. It’s the best feeling ever of being able to hear my friends, my family, coming out here — just it’s just the best feeling ever. It’s so surreal. I might cry a little bit.” Hickman said.

If you feel like you want to go for it, have fun,” she said. “It’s great experience and it’s also, if you want to get into political science or government, it gives you networking (skills).”

UP staff  
earn 9  
national  
awards

University Press staffers have earned nine Pinnacle awards from the College Media Association. The awards were announced at MediaFest25, October 16-18, in Washington, D.C.

“It’s really exciting to see our staff get the recognition for all the work they put in,” UP editor Rayna Christy said. “These awards reflect our commitment to journalism and media in gen-

See **CMA**, page 4

KVLU fundraiser to begin Nov. 3

Rayna Christy  
UP editor

KVLU 91.3, Lamar University’s public radio station, will host its fall fundraising campaign, Nov. 3-11. The theme of the campaign is “An Enduring Legacy in Southeast Texas.”

The campaign is dedicated to Al Dugan, one of the founding members of KVLU in 1974 and a longtime host and supporter.

The campaign also includes a fall giveaway, a print of Cattail Marsh by photographer Cathy Spence.

“KVLU is a nonprofit, so we are funded by primarily three sources,” Shannon Harris, devel-



UP photo by Rayna Christy

Volunteer August Strain, Fort Worth junior, works in the KVLU studios, Oct. 15. The public radio station will hold its fall fundraiser, Nov. 3-11.

See **KVLU**, page 2



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The scariest monster in the world is human beings and what we are capable of.”

— Jordan Peele

NOTICE

The University Press can be read online at [www.lamaruniversitypress.com](http://www.lamaruniversitypress.com). For updates, follow us on Facebook, or on Instagram and X @uplamar.

Jim Gilligan Way to temporarily close

A portion of Jim Gilligan Way, located in front of the John Gray Center, is temporarily closed for utility work. While the eastbound lanes will remain open, the westbound lanes will be unavailable. The John Gray Center driveway will remain open for entrance, but vehicles must exit near the G-2 parking lot, located beside the dorms and the Science and Technology building. The roads are expected to reopen by Oct. 29, with weather permitting.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

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KVLU from page 1

opment director, said.  
Harris said the station receives support from Lamar University, as well as grants and underwriters that support programs.  
“But, the third part that is really vitally important, we are funded by our listeners,” Harris said.  
KVLU hosts a fall and spring campaign, along with various other fundraisers.  
“We come to our audience two to three times a year and ask for their support,” Harris said. “We’ll be on the air in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening to make the case for public radio.”  
This financial support helps to pay for NPR packages and programming, which are the station’s programs with the most listeners.  
“This year, it’s particularly important because we lost our funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, so we need to make up

the shortfall,” Harris said. “The grant from the (CPB) was \$98,000, so that’s a big chunk there that we’re adjusting to.”  
CPB was funded by the federal government, but has been excluded from the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for the first time in over 50 years.  
On Aug. 1, the CPB announced that they would begin an orderly wind-down of operations, and only a small transition team would be left to close out operations, according to [spb.org](http://spb.org).  
“Just in terms of funding, (the CPB cuts) put us in a very vulnerable position,” Harris said. “I will say that we had a tremendous response to our summer campaign, and our pre-campaign response has been really great for this fall campaign also. So, I think our listeners are informed

about what has happened, and they know the value of KVLU and public radio in general.”  
Memberships begin at a recommended \$20 a month, and listeners can also volunteer.  
“We can always use phone volunteers during our major campaigns, and you would contact Alicia at the business line if you would like to sign up to answer phones,” she said.  
“Another thing people can do is, if you’re a supporter of KVLU or a listener, share it with people you know. Share with them the value of public radio and the importance.”  
To donate, visit [kvl.org](http://kvl.org) and click the “Give Now” button. Donors can choose between a one-time donation or sustaining membership, and LU employees can sign up for payroll deductions by submitting a form to HR.  
Donations during the campaign may be made by calling 409-880-8164.

SCRABBLES by Dalia Osman

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# True Crime, False Truths

When one hears the term “true crime,” they often expect a documentary or podcast. Grisly details are a given, but one thing is always expected — that the story is true. However, what happens when one watches the story unfold just to realize that it is closer to a horror movie than it is the truth?

Ryan Murphy’s “Monster: The Ed Gein Story” premiered on Netflix Oct. 3, and viewers quickly realized that some of the killings were quite far from reality, despite the show’s advertisement as true crime. This raises the question: is it ethical

## Commentary



Rayna Christy  
UP editor

to fictionalize true crime?

True crime dramatizations center around real people, whether victim or villain. Names stay the same and attempts to match appearance are made. Yet there are times that the story does not stay the same. “Monster: The Ed Gein Story” is just the latest of Murphy’s dramatized true crime anthology, which begins with Jeffrey Dahmer, follows with the Menendez brothers, and now tells Ed Gein’s “story.”

First, imagine your family member went missing around the same time a killer was on the loose but there is no proof that she was murdered. In fact, the only leads in this unsolved case are two men and evidence points toward an abduction, not a killing. This is the story of Evelyn Hartley, a 15-year-old girl who went missing while babysitting in Wisconsin, around the same time grave robber and murderer Ed Gein was active.

The Netflix show fictionalizes the entire story, creating a plot where Gein abducts and murders Evelyn, despite there being no evidence of this in real life. Imagine yourself as Hartley’s family member, watching Evelyn’s story — except it’s not really her story.



Second, Ed Gein, in “real life,” was only tried and found guilty on one count of first-degree murder, although he did confess to one other killing and at least nine instances of grave robbing. But portraying him as a serial killer without proof is not ethical in the same way changing victims’ stories is not.

Both of these examples in “Monster: The Ed Gein Story” bring up ethical considerations of the true crime genre, ex-

ceeding the criticism Murphy received after the release of “Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story” regarding the ethics of using victims’ stories without the family’s consent. Not only were victims’ stories used without consent in the Gein show, but the stories were altered and dramatized with the real victim’s name plastered on.

If a storyline is fictionalized, it goes against the exact definition of the word “true”. So, is it truly ethical or fair to even

consider the “Monster” series true crime?

Had Murphy taken the route of Alfred Hitchcock’s “Psycho” or Tobe Hooper’s “The Texas Chain Saw Massacre” and created a horror movie inspired by Gein, the show would not be nearly as unethical. Labeling something as true crime, especially knowing society’s constant hunger for the gruesome details, only leads to misinformation and harm.

## UPeditorial

### Lose the Scroll, learn to speak

In an age of constant notifications and 10-second videos, real conversation is becoming a lost art. Many young people admit they’d rather send a text than make a call, and group chats often replace meaningful dialogue.

As attention spans shrink and screens dominate daily life, our patience for listening — truly listening — is disappearing.

It’s easy to see why. Social media rewards speed and reaction, not reflection. A heart emoji or quick “same” reply feels easier than engaging in a thoughtful discussion.

But when we trade depth for convenience, we lose more than conversation — we lose connection. Face-to-face talks teach empathy, patience and understanding. They remind us that communication isn’t just about words, but about tone, expression and presence.

On college campuses, students scroll through feeds between classes instead of meeting new people. Difficult topics get avoided because they take time — and time feels scarce. Yet the irony is that we’ve never been more connected and more alone at the same time.

Reclaiming conversation doesn’t require ditching technology. It starts with small choices — putting the phone down during lunch, asking open-ended questions, or simply listening without multitasking.

Real dialogue takes time, but it’s worth it. In a world that moves faster every day, slowing down to talk — and listen — might be the most radical thing we can do.

## The Slasher is Dead

### How horror outgrew the mask and the machete

Once upon a time, a masked killer and a bloodcurdling scream were enough to make audiences jump. Nowadays, it feels like the knife has dulled.

From “Halloween” to “Friday the 13th,” slasher films dominated horror for decades, defining generations of moviegoers who couldn’t resist a good scare. The slasher genre, once thrilling and rebellious, has become predictable, outdated and out of touch with what really scares us today.

The problem isn’t just that we’ve seen it all before — it’s that slasher movies rarely have anything new to say. The formula hasn’t changed much since the 1980s — a group of attractive teens, a remote setting, and a killer picking them off one by one. Audiences can practically guess who survives before the opening credits end. What once shocked and subverted expectations has

## Commentary



Regina Ruiz  
UP staff writer



turned into a tired routine.

Modern horror has evolved far beyond blood and body counts. Films like “Get Out”, “Hereditary” and “The Babadook” prove that audiences crave psychological depth, social commentary and creative storytelling. Instead of relying on jump scares, today’s best horror movies tap into real-world fears — racism, grief, identity and technology. Compared to that, another masked villain with a machete feels almost cartoonish.

There have been attempts to redefine the genre; however, the new approach that slasher creators have grown accustomed to is showcasing gruesome acts of violence. A great example of this would be the “Terrifier” franchise.

Fans often defend “Terrifier” as “pure” slasher cinema — unfiltered and unapologetic. But that’s precisely the problem. The genre has devolved into a contest of brutality, where plot and character are optional. Violence used to serve the story. Now, the story

serves the violence. Watching “Terrifier 2,” it’s hard to tell where horror ends and sadism begins.

The worst part? The franchise’s popularity has encouraged imitators. Indie horror has begun chasing the same formula: more gore, less plot. Instead of evolving, the slasher genre has regressed into a carnival of cruelty. The artistry of tension-building — the dark corridors, the silent footsteps, the moment before the kill — has been replaced by lingering close-ups of mutilation.

That doesn’t mean there’s no place for gore or campy fun. Horror fans will always enjoy a good scream. But the genre deserves to evolve to explore new fears and perspectives that reflect the world we actually live in. We’ve already survived enough remakes, reboots, and “requels.” It’s time to let the slasher rest in peace.

After all, what’s scarier than realizing the same story has been killing creativity for decades?

#### Letters Policy

Individuals who wish to speak out on issues should send a letter fewer than 400 words in length to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 10055, Beaumont, TX 77710, or drop letters off at our office in the Communica-

tion Building. The writer’s name, address, telephone number and ID number must accompany each letter. Letters received without this information cannot be printed. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, style and pos-

sible libel. Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily those of the UP student management. Letters by the same writer on the same subject will not be published. Poetry and religious debates will not be published.

The opinions that appear in editorials are the official views of the University Press student management as determined by the UP Student Editorial Board. Opinions expressed elsewhere on this page are the views of the writers only and are not necessarily those of the University Press student management. Student opinions are not necessarily those of the university administration.



# Career Center offers job resources



UP photo by Emily Flores

Amy Dillow, assistant director of career and professional development, shows some of the clothing available from the Cardinal Career Closet to nursing sophomore Jacovian Adams.

**Emily Flores**  
UP contributor

From student to career professional, Lamar University’s Career Center aids students in building from the ground up with improved résumés, job connections and other career related proficiencies to ensure confidence when entering the work field.

The center will host events throughout the year and dates, as well as offering personal appointments through Handshake. The center is located in 102 Galloway Business Building.

“We host a wide variety of events covering professional attire to ethics,” Haley Tyson, director of Career Center and professional development, said. “We also have multiple employers who come present on ethics, leadership, professionalism, time management and information specifically related to their organizations and company culture.”

The Career Center supplies hands-on opportunities for students to focus on skills they will utilize in their careers by

participating in workshops with employees to get first-hand knowledge of what jobs are looking for.

Gabriella Smith, marketing major junior, attended the recent “Driven to Succeed: Career Fair Prep with Enterprise” workshop.

“I was looking forward to receiving professional advice that would help me with the career fair,” Smith said. “It helped me in career readiness by understanding what future employers are looking for. I received tips for résumés, LinkedIn profiles, interview questions and interview preparation.”

Smith said she was able to refine her résumé with the help of guest recruiter Mirela Bicakcic, Talent Acquisition Specialist at Enterprise Mobility. Smith said she was also able to learn how to be confident with interview questions and preparation.

Amy Dillow, assistant director of Career Center and professional development, said the Handshake app is a career and job database where students can connect with employers, find job and

internship opportunities, and register for career fairs and events.

“Students should use Handshake to explore career options, apply for jobs and internships, and engage with employers.”

Students using Handshake should sign up with their LU email.

The Career Center also offers a variety of resources.

“Another highly impactful resource available to our students is the Cardinal Career Closet, which allows students to dress professionally for career fairs, interviews and other events,” Tyson said. “They can check out suits, slacks, polos, blouses, ties, skirts, shoes and belts, ensuring they feel confident and look prepared.

“We also offer the Hire-A-Cardinal studio, where students can take professional headshots daily to enhance their online presence on platforms like LinkedIn and Handshake.”

For more information, email [careercenter@lamar.edu](mailto:careercenter@lamar.edu), or [lamar.joinhandshake.com](mailto:lamar.joinhandshake.com).

## CMA from page 1

eral. We pride ourselves on producing quality work with a string journalistic and ethical foundation.”

The Pinnacle Awards are CMA’s flagship national honors, recognizing the best student work in collegiate journalism, media production and organizational excellence. Winners are selected by a panel of experienced media

professors and educators.

First place went to staff artist Dalia Osman for her “Scrabbles” comic strip.

Second-place awards went to former sports editor Brian Quijada for sports game story, managing editor Kami Greene for personality profile, and sports editor Aaron Saenz and photo editor Carlos Viloría for news photo package.

Third place awards went contributor E.J. McMillen for general news photo. Third place was also awarded to former editor Maddie Sims and Meagan Lafley for investigative story.

Honorable mentions went to contributor Luis Figueroa for portrait photo, Viloría for breaking news photo, and Sims and Viloría for magazine

cover.

Andy Coughlan, LU director of student publications, said the awards reflect the quality of the work produced by the students.

“It is gratifying to see the staff rewarded for their hard work,” he said. “It is also exciting to see the awards spread out among many contributors, and not just communication

students. The newspaper is open for submissions from anyone regardless of major.”

This year, CMA had a total of 3,358 entries and 1,165 finalists. The UP competes in Division II.

The awards are given for work produced during the 2024-2025 academic year. UP staffers earned six awards last year.

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# STINGY JACK O’LANTERN

## Irish myth leads to popular Halloween tradition

Kami Greene  
UP managing editor

Before yards were decorated with glowing carved out pumpkins for Halloween, turnips were once the face of spooky season, courtesy of the Irish legend of Stingy Jack.

According to early 1600s Irish folklore, Stingy Jack is a shunned, drunken man who resides in a small village in Ireland. Jack was notorious for committing bad deeds, thus piquing the interest of the Devil.

Before Satan claimed Jack’s soul, Jack proposed that the Devil allow him to have one final drink at a pub before he became bound to the underworld.

When it came time to pay for his tab, the Devil realized that Jack was not called Stingy Jack because it had a nice ring to it. Jack convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin to pay his tab.

However, Jack was as clever as he was stingy.

Instead of paying his tab, Jack put the coin into his pocket next to a crucifix, trapping the Devil, and continued his path of stinginess.

The Devil’s pleas of freedom were ignored until he struck a deal that upon being released, the Devil would not bother Jack for an entire year and that his soul would be spared.

A year went by, and this time, Jack asked the Devil to climb up a tree to pick some



UP graphic by Kami Greene using Microsoft Copilot

fruit. While the Devil was up there, Jack carved a cross into the tree, leaving the Devil unable to climb down unless he promised to leave Jack’s soul alone for 10 years.

Jack passed away shortly after, and due to his devious deeds, God would not allow him to pass through the pearly white gates, and the Devil, bound by his word, would not allow him to enter Hell.

The Devil gifted Jack a

piece of coal which he put into a carved turnip and the Devil sent him off to roam around into the night, with only the turnip lantern to light the way.

It is said that Jack has been wandering Earth ever since, with the Irish referring to him as “Jack of the Lantern” then later, “Jack ‘O Lantern.”

To keep this evil wandering spirit away, the people of Ireland and Scotland take inspiration from Jack’s lantern and

create their own carved out turnips that they place outside their windows to ward off Stingy Jack and whatever spooky souls that follow during Samhain, a pagan festival that is celebrated from Oct. 1 through Nov. 1. The festival welcomes in the harvest and invites the dark half of the year in.

When the Irish immigrated to America due to the Great Potato Famine in the 1840s,

they found that pumpkins were more abundant and easier to carve, thus creating a Halloween tradition of pumpkin carving that is still popular today.

Although it has been centuries since Jack’s carved turnip of coal illuminated the dark night, his legacy burns bright, gourd-ing — I mean, guarding — people’s home throughout Halloween’s fright.

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UP photo by Maria Rodriguez



UP photo by Kami Greene



UP photo by Regina Ruiz



UP photo by Sydney Vo

# HOMEcoming from page 1

anna Navarro, Jasper junior, said. “Maybe they’re alumni, or just (from) surrounding communities around here, and that’s so cute.”

The game did not disappoint — for full coverage, see the game story on page 11.

Homecoming day finished off a week full of events designed to build spirit, with “Wake Up to Homecoming” starting off Monday morning. Students gathered in the Quad to get breakfast before class, surrounded by red and white decorations.

“We wanted to do something in the morning to kick off the week,” Hayden Jackson, student engagement coordinator, said. “We thought, you know, who doesn’t love

some free food?”

Monday night brought the Homecoming bonfire and pep rally. Vouchers for free food were given at Cardinal Park, where students checked in for the bonfire. Everyone then walked from the dorms to the Spindletop Boomtown Museum in a parade led by the band. A pep rally and introduction of the candidates for Homecoming court began the festivities. Students, faculty and staff looked up at the pile of wood, stacked by Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, watched intently as the flames licked the night sky.

“There was good food, good music, good fellowship, and a great fire,” Veronika

Castanon, Palacios freshman, said. “This is my first time here, and I was highly recommended to come, and I’m glad I did. I thought there was a great turnout.”

Tuesday’s big event was Patio Night, where students gathered at the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center Patio to make their own Homecoming mums. The Cardinal Activities Board provided ribbons and the mum itself to ensure students could make just what they wanted.

Wednesday brought LU softball’s game against San Jacinto and the football “Coach’s Show” at the Patio. Head Coach Pete Rossmundo gave insight into the

Homecoming game, and students were able to get a free food vouchers to redeem at the game. In the Setzer Student Center atrium, students gathered for the “NPHC Wild West Hump Night,” where the fraternities and sororities showed off their strolls with a western twist.

Thursday’s events began with Cardinal Craze in the atrium, where students received Homecoming swag and various crafts. LU volleyball played the University of the Incarnate Word at the McDonald Gym.

On Friday, students gathered at the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center for the Homecoming concert. To

kick off the night, student organizations competed for \$500 in games like “finish the song” and musical chairs. The cheer and dance teams performed before the royal court winners and finalists for king and queen were announced.

Headliner G Herbo and Loe Shimmy performed, and students sang and danced along to the music.

“(The concert) last night was so fun,” Taylor Grant, Houston sophomore, said. “Energy was high.”

This year’s Homecoming was a big success. As Lamar continues to grow, one can only imagine what next year’s will be like. See you there.





UP photo by Carlos Vilorio



UP photo by Sydney Vo



UP photo by Sydney Vo



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio



UP photo by Kami Greene

The color guard walks to the Provost-Umphrey Stadium during the Cardinal Walk, opposite top, Sigma Nu hosted a dunk tank during the tailgate, opposite middle, LU cheerleaders and students watch the bonfire at the Spindletop Boomtown Museum, opposite bottom left, and a student competes in a dance battle at the Homecoming concert.

The bonfire is reflected in a student's glasses, top. G Herbo performs at the Homecoming concert, above left, while students film the concert. A student in a fraternity flag stands in front of the bonfire, and students dance during tailgate, above. A student attempts a field goal during a timeout at the Homecoming game.



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio



# LIVING IN MEMORY

## Dia de los muertos provides links to ancestors

**Maria Rodriguez**  
UP news editor

The sights of calaveras, marigolds and candles fill homes as families celebrate their loved ones on Dia de los Muertos.

The holiday dates to pre-Hispanic times with the Aztecs. They believed Mictēcacihuātl, the Lady of the Dead, ruled Mictlán, the underworld, and watched over the bones of the dead, which were used to create a new life.

The Aztecs held a month-long celebration every year in her honor.

After the arrival of the Spanish, Dia de los Muertos merged with Catholic holidays, observed on Nov. 1 and 2, All Saints’ Days and All Souls’ Day, paving the way for the present-day holiday.

Families gather at cemeteries as it is believed the souls travel from the land of the dead to the land of the living.

Altars, known as ofrendas, are constructed in homes with pictures of loved ones and things they liked. The ofrendas are personalized to the departed, as they are offerings to welcome the dead to visit the land of the living. However, there are common items seen throughout all of the altars.

Candles are placed along the ofrenda to light the way for the souls, so they don’t get lost on their journey.

The marigolds, known as cempasúchil in their Aztec name, are strong in fragrance. The altar coordinator for the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles, Angie Jimenez, told NPR, “An altar just isn’t complete without (marigolds). And if you believe what the Aztecs believed, then your ancestors need the scent to find their way back to you.”

Another common image seen throughout the holiday is the calav-



UP graphic by Maria Rodriguez

eras, the iconic skulls. The skulls are made of sugar and placed along the ofrenda.

Mexican illustrator José Guadalupe Posada is best known for his skull prints. He was the creator of La Calavera Catrina, who is an icon in celebrations.

The original meaning behind his skull prints was political satire. Since then, the skulls have become synonymous with the holiday.

The ofrendas are filled with color to contrast the darkness that is asso-

ciated with death. It is meant to celebrate the life that was once lived. Papel picado is one of the most common ways color is added. The tissue paper objects hang from the sides of the ofrendas.

The holiday is celebrated every year in Mexico, but it is rising in popularity in the United States. The rise can be attributed to movies such as “Coco.” The movie follows Miguel as he suddenly finds himself in the land of the dead. He then meets Hector, embarking on the mission of reveal-

ing the truth about the generation-long ban of music from Miguel’s family. The film is steeped with traditional imagery.

Items for an ofrenda can be found in stores now, but it is important to remember the history and meaning behind the holiday.

Although Dia de los Muertos has adapted, it is important to know it’s not a Mexican Halloween. The holiday is a reminder that death is inevitable, but memories allow one to keep their loved ones alive.

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# Theater reveals ‘Importance of Being Ernest’

**Regina Ruiz**  
UP staff writer

Wit, deception and double lives take center stage as Lamar University’s Department of Theatre and Dance presents “The Importance of Being Earnest,” Oscar Wilde’s timeless comedy of manners that continues to charm audiences more than a century after its debut, Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in the Studio Theatre.

The play, directed by guest director Jennifer Onopa, follows the story of two men who invent alter egos to escape social obligations, only to find themselves entangled in romantic confusion and mistaken identities.

Senior Porter LePray, the stage manager for the production, said the show’s humor continues to connect with modern audiences.

“There are moments that are blatantly funny, but there are also all these jokes we keep finding,” LePray said. “Once the actors know the context behind a line, everyone can get in on the joke — even if we haven’t read the essay Wilde might’ve been referencing.”

Unlike modernized versions that adapt Wilde’s work to a contemporary setting, LU’s production embraces the play’s original 19th-century grandeur.

“We’re not trying to modernize it,” LePray said. “This will feel very big and Victorian — fancy sets, rich costumes and all. We want to be as big as we can in that studio space.”

Actor Bailey Jenkins, who plays Jack, said the enduring humor and depth of Wilde’s



The cast of Lamar theatre’s ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ rehearse for the play which opens Oct. 30.

UP photo by Regina Ruiz

writing make the production both challenging and rewarding.

“It’s a really old show, and the fact that it’s lasted this long and people are still performing it is so interesting,” Jenkins said. “There’s a lot of queer coding and personal expression woven into it. Wilde was persecuted for being gay, so he embedded a lot of his life experiences into the story in subtle ways.”

Beneath its humor and romantic misunderstandings, “Earnest” hides layers of social commentary, Anaya Adeosun, who plays Gwendolyn Fairfax, said.

“Sometimes deception is the only way people know how to live,” she said. “Wilde was critiquing a world that didn’t allow him to be truthful about who he was.”

While Lamar’s production remains true to its 1895 setting, Adeosun said the cast and director have found ways to make it relatable to modern audiences.

“Most of the show is historically accurate,” Adeosun said. “But it’s the flair — the way we highlight the characters’ quirks — that connects it to today. It’s still witty, still sarcastic, and still speaks to issues we face now.”

For Jenkins, portraying a character who leads a double life requires balancing humor with sincerity. He said one of the biggest challenges has been knowing how far to go with the comedy without losing the truth behind the character’s actions.

“It’s not a realistic play, but it’s still set in the real world,” Jenkins said. “You can easily

overact, so I’m always trying to find the truth within the exaggeration.”

Rehearsals have focused heavily on discovering those nuances through experimentation and collaboration, Jenkins said.

“Every time we run a scene, I try something new,” he said. “That helps with memorization, blocking and finding what works. When we finally have an audience, those comedic moments will sharpen.”

LePray praised the ensemble’s chemistry and energy, noting that nearly half of the nine-member cast are freshmen — a sign, he said, that the program continues to grow and inspire confidence in new performers.

“They’re making big choices and coming in bold,” he said. “As a senior, it gives

me hope that this program I feel so at home in will keep thriving.”

Jenkins credited the play’s wit and flexibility for keeping it relevant after 130 years. “It’s funny, it’s sharp, and it still speaks to modern audiences,” he said. “You can bring out different layers of meaning — or not — and it still works. That’s why it’s performed so often.”

While the production explores deep themes, LePray said it never loses sight of its comedic heart.

“I hope audiences leave with their sides and cheeks in pain from laughing,” he said. “It’s a story that makes you think about the time period, but mostly through joy and humor.”

For more ticketing information, visit [lutd.ludus.com](http://lutd.ludus.com).

# DOWNTOWN

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## GET INVOLVED AT LU!

# Division of Student Affairs

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22**

**Movie Night • 5pm-8pm • Cardinal Park**  
**Free Swimming Lessons • 6:30pm-7pm • Indoor Pool**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 23**

**Free STI Testing • 10am-2pm • Morris Hall**  
**Chew & Choose: Free Pizza! • 11am-1:30pm • SSC Atrium**  
**Ace the Interview • 12:40pm-1:40pm • SSC Cypress 125**  
**Canoe Battleship • 6pm-8pm • Indoor Pool**

**TUESDAY, OCT. 28**

**Patio Night: Pumpkin Patch • 7pm-9pm • Patio at the Rec**

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29**

**Nightmare at Boomtown • 5pm-8pm • Spindletop**  
**Free Swimming Lessons • 6:30pm-7pm • Indoor Pool**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 30**

**Cards Against Drunk Driving • 12pm-1:30pm • SSC Ballroom**  
**Sound Bath Meditation • 4pm-4:45pm • Rec Center**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 31**

**Career Isn't So Scary • 11am-1pm • Galloway 102**  
**CAB Boo Bash • 7pm-10pm • SSC Ballroom**

**TUESDAY, NOV. 4**

**Mindful Meditation • 4pm-4:45pm • Rec Center**  
**Patio Night: Cupcake Wars • 7pm-9pm • Patio at the Rec**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY EACH WEEK**

**Free Group Fitness Classes**  
Yoga, Belly Dancing, Toning, Cycling, & More  
*See schedule at [lamar.edu/recsports](http://lamar.edu/recsports)*

## See event details & more on LUHub!



# Red Beak to screen ‘Weapons’

**Josh Patterson**  
UP contributor

Red Beak Productions will screen “Weapons” for a Halloween movie night screening at 7 p.m., Oct. 24, in 103 Communication Building. The event is free for all students, faculty, and staff.

Red Beak is a student organization focused on filmmaking. They show films on Fridays throughout the semester.

“The goal of the event is just to bring people from the communication department, as well as all parts of Lamar, together to just have a good time and enjoy themselves, and enjoy watching a scary movie for the Halloween season,” Elijah Nelson, Red Beak public relations officer, said.

Students should register on LU Hub either before or at the event.

Concessions will be available for purchase, with water for \$1, soda for \$2, and snack items for \$3. Proceeds will go to funding future events and short films made by Red Beak Productions.

“Weapons,” written and di-

rected by Zach Cregger, was released in theaters in August. The film has a 93% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

“The movie takes place in a small town in the middle of the US,” Adam Baeza, Red Beak Productions president, said. “A classroom of children has gotten up in the middle of the night and ran off into complete darkness, never to return. The movie is showing the fallout of this disappearance from the eyes of the class teacher and one of the parents of the kids.”

The modern horror film is rated R for mature audiences.

“The movie contains strong graphical violence, swearing, and some brief sexual references,” Baeza said.

Doors open at 6 p.m. “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” and various horror shorts will be played before the main feature.

Baeza said students should come to the screening rather than viewing the film at home as Red Beak has paid the rental fee.

“Also, you get the social aspect of watching a great movie in a theater-like environment with

your friends,” he said.

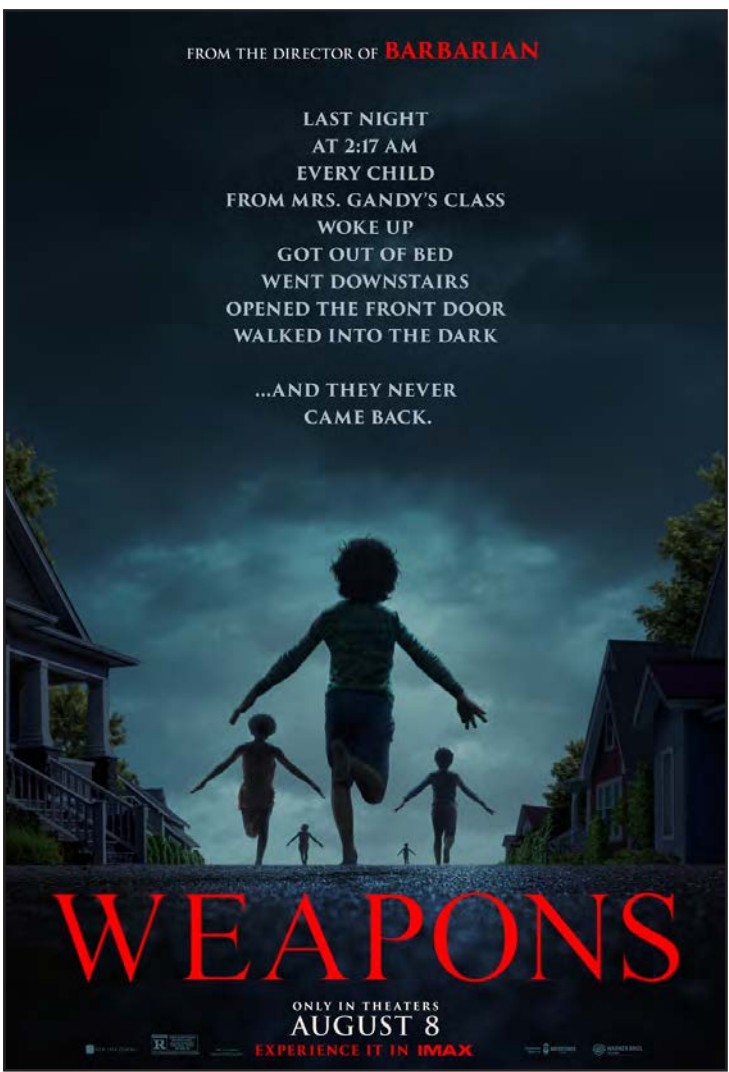
Kaylea Daigle, department of communications and media administrative assistant, said the department is supporting the event to bring students together for the holiday.

“We like to be festive and get our students involved with the department,” she said. “You don’t get the community and friendship at home as you would here on campus. Plus, we may have some concessions that you don’t have at home”

Baeza said he is excited to screen the film on a Halloween-themed movie night.

“I loved this movie when I saw it in theaters,” he said. “It’s still my favorite movie of the year so far. Also, I get to share not just the movie, but the experience of watching it with a bunch of other people. And I get to see their reactions to the movie, too. I like showing movies to people and I like to hear what they say after the movie is over.”

For more information, visit 116 Communication Building, or email [redbeakproductions@gmail.com](mailto:redbeakproductions@gmail.com).



# CAB to host dance, costume contest

**Josiah Boyd**  
UP contributor

Lamar University’s Cardinal Activities Board will host its first Boo Bash Halloween dance and costume contest, Oct. 31, in the Setzer Student Center Live Oak Ballroom.

Boo Bash is a free event open to all Lamar University

students and will feature music, free food, refreshments and a costume contest voted on by CAB staff.

“Students love to dance and are always looking for a reason to get out of their dorm room,” Hayden Jackson,” coordinator of student engagement, said. “We wanted to give students a

fun way to celebrate the holiday on campus, and students kept asking for a dance during the fall semester, so it was an easy choice.

“The dress code for the event is costume or casual. If you come in costume, make sure it is appropriate, and if you are not coming in

costume, come comfy.”

The top three best costumes will be awarded a mystery prize.

“We are going to have the red carpet set up, and will be taking pictures and judging all the costumes that come in,” Adriana Houston, CAB student worker, said. “We are really looking for crea-

tivity. I have seen some people come in with face paint and body art, but we can usually tell the front runners from the vibe when they walk in.”

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the dance will conclude at 10 p.m.

For more information, visit [lamar.edu/events](http://lamar.edu/events).

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# IT'S UP...AND IT'S GOOD



Ben Woodard kicks a 57-yard field goal with a minute remaining to give the Cardinals a 23-21 win over UTRGV, Oct. 18, at Provost Umphrey Stadium. UP photo by Carlos Vilorio

## Woodard’s kick gives ‘Cardiac Cards’ another late win

**Aaron Saenz**  
**UP sports editor**

The Lamar Cardinals faced off against the UTRGV Vaqueros for their Homecoming game, Oct. 18, at Provost Umphrey Stadium. The game was a sprint to the end, with Lamar capturing their sixth straight win, 23-21.

Lamar’s scoring started early and with a bang. At about the halfway point in the first quarter, quarterback Aiden McCown found receiver Blake Thomas streaking down the field for a 58-yard touchdown. The score would hold for the rest of the quarter, ending with LU up 7-0.

It was mostly all LU in the second quarter, with three different scoring possessions. Big Red opened the quarter with a 71-yard drive that ended in a 30-yard field goal by Ben Woodard.

The Cardinals followed up with a defensive stop, followed by another scoring drive, ending in a 15-yard touchdown pass from Aiden McCown to receiver Kyndon Fuselier, giving him his third receiving touchdown of the season.

Lamar’s defense would finally crack, giving up a UTRGV rushing touchdown

after a lengthy 75-yard drive.

The only mistake the Vaqueros would make on this drive was giving Big Red two minutes to get the best kicker in range for a field goal, and they did. In a quick two-minute drive, the Cardinals got in range for Woodard to make a 53-yard field goal, ending the first half in a 20-7 Cardinal lead.

The third quarter was bleak for both teams, with no scoring taking place. Unfortunately, the Vaqueros were the ones to break a stalemate. UTRGV’s defense put their offense into scoring positions immediately. With a minute left in the third, Lamar fumbled inside the 10-yard line, setting up the Vaqueros with a quick scoring opportunity.

The Vaqueros scored as soon as the fourth quarter started after a short six-yard drive. UTRGV’s defense quickly stopped Big Red’s offense the very next drive, giving their offense a short field after a punt. The Vaqueros capitalized, scoring on a nine-yard passing touchdown, giving UTRGV a 21-20 lead.

It seemed like the energy was sucked out of the stadium, but the Cards still had Wood-

ard ready to step up to be MVP of the game.

In the Cards’ final drive of the game, quarterback McCown went down with an injury halfway through the drive, giving backup Robert Coleman the opportunity to win the game. He did enough to get LU into field goal range.

With a minute left in the game, kicker Woodard beamed a 57-yard field goal in between the uprights to give the Cards a 23-21 lead. The kick ties the school record for the longest field goal in Lamar history, held by 1987 kicker Mike Andrie. Most NFL kickers routinely miss kicks from this distance, so to see Woodard win the game for the Cardinals is insane.

Big Red’s defense just needed to hold the line for one minute, and they did. Defensive back Mar Mar Evans intercepted the Vaqueros, ending the game for a sixth consecutive Cards win.

Woodard said a game-winning moment is never too big for him, and knowing his teammates had his back was enough.

“I didn’t really think much about the moment,” Woodard said. “I trusted our field goal unit and knew I just had to do



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio  
LU’s Blake Thomas and LaDamion McDowell celebrate the first touchdown during LU’s 23-21 win over UT Rio Grande Valley at Provost Umphrey Stadium, Oct. 18.

my job. My long snapper Jacob Hefner and my holder Mason Stallons make my job easy. It calms the nerves to know that I am working with great athletes and great people. I’m just happy I was able to contribute and put points on the board for the team.”

The multitude of clutch fin-

ishes have given LU the nickname “Cardiac Cardinals.” Lamar moves to 6-1 on the season and remains atop the Southland Conference rankings.

The Cards continue their season against Northwestern State, Oct. 25. Kickoff is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Turpin Stadium in Natchitoches, La.

## Volleyball leads week’s LU sports action

Throughout homecoming week, LU’s golf, volleyball, softball and cross-country team competed in their respective events.

LU’s volleyball squad played twice this week against Incarnate Word Oct. 16 and Houston Christian Oct. 18, both games in McDonald Gym. The Cardinals won both matches 3-1 bringing their record to 12-11, 5-3 in Southland Conference play.

Volleyball won its fifth straight match as it defeated Houston Christian in four sets, 16-25, 25-23, 25-14, 28-26.

The Cardinals have won their last five matches in four sets. This marks LU’s first win over the Huskies since Nov. 1, 2016.



UP photo by Sydney Vo  
LU volleyball attacks during the game against HCU, Oct. 18, in McDonald Gym.

The soccer squad played Nicholls State in Thibodaux, La. on Oct. 19.

LU’s defense held Nicholls to four shots the entire match as the Cardinals posted their

fourth shutout of the season, but settled for a scoreless draw. By gaining a point in the Southland Conference standings, the Cardinals (5-6-5, 2-2-4 SLC) are tied for fifth with

McNeese, who lost to Northwestern State.

Both the women and men’s golf teams competed at different courses. The women’s team competed Oct. 13 and 14 in the Terrier Intercollegiate at the Country Club of Spartansburg, placing seventh as a team. Brook Frerich placed 12th overall.

The men competed in the Everett Buick GMC Classic at Chenal Country Club. David Schneider Jerez led the Cards, placing in the top 20. The tournament was the final event of the fall season.

Big Red’s cross-country teams competed in the Arturo Barrios Invitational at Texas A&M University. The Lady Cards top finisher was Ashton

Rainey, crossing the line at a 20:42 for a 6k. The men’s top finisher was Adrian Hahn Vadstein with a personal best 24:32 8k.

Lamar softball has opened up its fall season with multiple games. The team played San Jacinto College Oct. 15 at the Lamar University Softball Complex. This continues the Lady Cards streak of exhibitions before their regular season begins in the spring.

Lamar University senior receiver Kyndon Fuselier has been named a Phil Steele Mid-Season All-American. The Nederland native received second-team honors as a punt returner.

*Compiled by Aaron Saenz, UP sports editor*



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