

SGA elections set for April 8-9

Maddie Sims
UP editor

Elections for Lamar University’s Student Government Association will open online April 8, at 8 a.m. and close April 9 at 4 p.m.

Voting will be accessible through Self Service Banner on the Lamar University website. Students will receive an email with detailed directions on how to access the link on April 8. The Student Govern-

ment Association will also promote the elections on their Instagram page @lamarsga.

Both the SGA President Jonah Smith and Vice President Antonio Maldonado decided to step down from their positions.

“Things started getting really busy for me personally, and I like to give 100% of my effort in everything that I’m in, and I feel like I’m getting so busy where I’m giving 90%, or maybe 95,” Smith said. “I feel

I’m not satisfied with what I could give if I run again, because I know that if this semester is busy, it’s going to be busier as I keep going along.”

Maldonado said both of them have given it a lot of thought and feel they have accomplished much throughout their term.

“(We) love to have a good impact on campus, but we’re also looking into our future,” he said. “After graduation, for example, I want to go to law

school. So, this next year will be pretty intense for me, studying for the LSAT and taking my classes like really seriously.”

Both Smith and Maldonado encourage students outside of the organization to vote.

“(The SGA members) are working to be the voice of students who aren’t involved and they address things to staff who might not notice in the day-to-day life of a student,” Smith said. “It’s a very impact-

ful way for them to type improve Lamar through the students’ eyes.”

Maldonado said Student Government is a vital part of every campus.

“We are the people who students elected to represent them in their meetings that they might not be able to attend with administration,” he said. “So, we are the students voices.”

For more information, visit lamar.edu/sga.



UP file photo

State Senator Carl Parker addresses the crowd during a ceremony naming a building on the Lamar University campus in his honor, Jan. 25, 1992.

State Senator, Lamar supporter Carl A. Parker dies at age 89

Maddie Sims
UP editor

State senator Carl Allen Parker died March 20, leaving behind a stellar legacy in the community, especially at Lamar University. He was 89 and died following a long illness.

His devotion to the needs and hardships of everyday folks and his conviction to improve their lives was instilled at an early age, according to his obituary published on the Melancon Levinston Funeral Home website. Parker was born on Aug. 6, 1934 in Port Arthur.

Parker earned a baccalaureate degree in government and economics from the University of Texas and completed his law degree at the UT School of Law. During his final year at UT, he met Beverly Stiegler, a student from San Antonio attending nearby Southwestern University. The pair married in 1960 and had three children.

Following law school and his first legal job as a Judge Advocate General in the United States Navy, Parker returned to Port Arthur and joined

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Cast members rehearse a scene from “Dangerous Corner,” March 28, in the Studio Theatre. UP photo by Gracie Anderson

LUTD to present ‘Dangerous Corner,’ April 11-14

Gracie Anderson
UP staff writer

The stage is set to look like a quaint 1930’s living room, the tension in the air is thick. Lamar University’s department of theatre & dance will present “Dangerous Corner,” by J. B. Priestly and directed by Sophia Watt. April 11-14 in the Studio Theatre. The play follows a group of family and friends following a dinner party.

“The play unravels everything that’s suspicious about my husband’s brother’s death,” Brianna Cobos, who plays Freda Caplan, wife to Robert Caplan (Jordan Albert), said. “As the play goes on, we start to figure out and open doors to the truth.”

We are introduced to the characters of Freda, Betty Whitehouse (Juliana McManus), Olwen Peel (Kiera Howington)

and Ms. Maud Mockridge (Ren Hollier). A radio play, named “The Sleeping Dog,” has just finished with a blood curdling scream, and the ladies engage in pointed dialogue. The subject of Milton’s death is brought up by Mockridge and things go south from there.

“My character is one of the biggest clients of the firm,” Hollier said. “She’s got the biggest ear for gossip and basically the whole time she’s trying to dig deeper and get anything she can out of all the other characters. She’s responsible for setting everything off by asking all the right questions at the right time.”

The men walk into the drawing room and mingle with the ladies until Mockridge goes home, then the real drama starts. It is revealed that Olwen was with Martin just before his death, or so that’s what she says.

She claims that there was a check that had been stolen, and that Martin told her his brother, Robert, was responsible.

Throughout the rest of the production, Caplan leads the investigation, desperate to get to the bottom of his brother’s death.

“Somebody says the wrong thing, something they shouldn’t know about Martin’s death,” Albert said. “It’s a lot of back and forth: Why do you know this? How would you have known that?”

As the events unfold, we find out who actually stole the money. The relationships between the characters reveal a web of hidden secrets.

The family is rich and privileged, but Olwen is an outsider, Howington said.

See **LUTD**, page 8

\$2 Sack of Books sale set for April 5-6

Aaron Saenz
UP contributor

The basement of Beaumont’s downtown library resembles a cityscape with roads between tower blocks. Except, these cardboard skyscrapers are, in fact, rows upon rows of used books, waiting to find a good home.

The Friends of the Beaumont Public Library is hosting a “Sack of Books” sale, April 5-6, at the downtown library. FoL members can start shopping, April 5, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Membership costs \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family and may be purchased at the door. General admission is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 6.

Patrons may purchase a paper grocery sack for \$2 and fill it with



UP photo by Aaron Saenz

Elaine Wikstrom, left, and Phil Kauper sort through boxes ahead of the Friends of the Beaumont Public Library’s \$2 Sack of Books sale, set for April 5-6.

as many books as they can. There is no limit to the number of bags that may be bought. H-E-B donated 750 bags for the event.

Elaine Wikstrom, Friends of the

Library president, said the organization receives books from donations and surplus library books.

See **BOOKS**, page 2

LU Big Event volunteers aid nonprofits

Clarissa Hernandez
UP contributor

Lamar University held The Big Event, March 23, where volunteers were divided into different groups and assigned to a non-profit organization.

Beaumont Mayor Roy West started the morning with a motivational speech thanking the volunteers for helping the community.

“What y’all are doing today is making a difference in people’s lives,” he said. “By doing what you’re doing you might be inspiring others.”

One of the groups volunteered for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club at Sam Houston Ele-

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“April prepares her green traffic light, and the world thinks: Go.”

— Christopher Morley

NOTICE

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BIG EVENT from page 1



UP photos by Clarissa Hernandez

An LU student, above left, oversees a play activity at Sam Houston Elementary, March 23, as part of Lamar University's Big Event program, while another, below, oversees the bounce house.



mentary in Port Arthur. The students helped set up for the Family Fun Fest Event at the school, which was held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Students were each assigned a station at the event. Some led games and activities while others passed out fliers and managed the sign-in table.

Port Arthur senior Vicky Longoria volunteered as part of LU's Hispanic Society. She implementing support for youth should always begin at a young age.

“Being able to see the future generation of leaders at such a young age is so fulfilling and exciting, because they will each grow into different individuals with different goals and aspirations,” Longoria said.

The Big Event is the largest one-day, student-run service project. Lamar University first participated in 2017.

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“We had a local church donate their whole library because they had no use for it anymore, so it's things like that how we get books for the sale,” Wikstrom said. “When we get donations, we'll go through them and sometimes find family books or yearbooks. With these, we try our best to track down the family or person to give this back to them.”

Visitors will be able to browse through every type of genre, from children's books to cookbooks, from fiction to non-fiction. The books are sorted by genre.

“We've been working on sorting and putting the books in boxes since January, and we're all just volunteers,” Wikstrom said. “You can see our age, so it wasn't easy, but we've managed to do all this.”

Paul Eddy, director for the Beaumont Public Library System, said he grew up with libraries which led to a master's degree in library sciences.

“My Dad was a librarian and being around him made me want to do the same,” Eddy said. “I have been a librarian since 1994.”

Eddy has worked in the Beaumont library system for 15 years. At the last sale, in November 2022, Eddy said around 100 people were in line when the doors opened, and 800 to 1,000 attended throughout the whole day.

“In total, we were able to sell over 1,000 bags,” he said.

Eddy estimates that the sale will feature between 3,000 and 5,000 books. There will also be a selection of other media, including vinyl records, CDs and cassette tapes.

The Beaumont downtown library is located at 801 Pearl Street.

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the law firm Long and Parker (now the Parker Law Firm). He was admitted to the bar in 1958 and was licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit and the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas. He served for nearly four years as a lawyer in the Naval Reserve, handling more than 500 claims for and against the government, and contested court martials. His practice included criminal defense, family law, business transactions, personal injury, and even representing foreign governments.

Parker entered politics, serving as a Democratic member in the Texas House of Representatives from 1962 to 1977 and in the Texas State Senate from 1977 to 1995. He also served as Speaker Pro Tempore of the House and President Pro Tempore of the State Senate. During his 32-years of public service, Parker sponsored or co-sponsored more than 400 bills that became law.

Included in his legislation was a bill which created the Texas State University System. He established Lamar State College-Port Arthur and Lamar State College-Orange, evaluating Lamar University to its current university status by changing the university's name from Lamar State College of Technology to Lamar University in 1969.

In 1992, the Carl Parker Building on the Lamar University campus was named in honor of his supportive role while serving in the Texas legislature.

Parker served on several committees in the House and

Senate including the powerful Appropriations Committee in both chambers. He was critical in merging environmental agencies to establish the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Committee and introduced legislation to create the Consumer Protection Act, and Texas' first industrial safety bill.

He served as chairman of the Senate's Education Committee for a decade, sponsoring the School Finance Reform Bill and the Educational Opportunity Act.

In 1989, Parker made it possible for Orange and Port Arthur campuses to access Higher Education Assistance Funds and in 1991 granted the two campuses degree-granting status while also establishing the Lamar Institute of Technology.

The Lamar University System was incorporated into the Texas State University System in 1995 when Lamar University, Lamar State College-Orange, Lamar State College-Port Arthur and Lamar Institute of Technology became separate entities within the system.

"I believe Lamar University is the greatest asset in Southeast Texas, along with Lamar State College in Port Arthur and Orange," Parker said in a 2008 article in The Record. "When you consider the students who would not have been able to go to school if it weren't for the two-year schools, they all fit together to bring us culture and scholarship and enhance our quality of life in general."

As well as the Lamar University building, The Texas State University System re-



Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, right, gestures during a press conference, Oct. 24, 1984, as Dr. Philip Johnson, John Gray Institute director, and Dr. Charles Turco, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, listen. Parker announced plans for an Economic Action Workshop to aid Southeast Texans wanting to start business.

UP file photo

gents approved the naming of the \$5 million Carl A. Parker Multipurpose Center at Lamar State College-Port Arthur in 1992. Other honors include being named Outstanding Senator by Lawmen's Magazine, Ten Best Legislators by Texas Monthly in 1991 and one of the seven best legislators by the Dallas Morning News in 1994.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

The following is a Jan. 29, 1992 story by UP managing editor, Craig Clark, detailing the naming ceremony for the building at Lamar University.

After extensive refurbishment cleaning and remodeling, the old Engineering II building has a new name. The building is now titled the Carl Parker Building, in honor of the state senator from Port Arthur.

A dedication ceremony,

which was attended by regents, the chancellor, the president of the university, faculty, students, local and state politicians and members of the community, took place on Jan. 25.

George McLaughlin, chancellor, began the ceremony by recognizing dignitaries in the crowd and then made several laudatory remarks about Parker's abilities and accomplishments for the university. He described Parker as a native son who has done "so much for the university." While addressing the audience, Texas Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said, "Carl Parker is the most effective, intellectual and intelligent senator in Texas today, without question."

"If you want the job done, you can call on Carl Parker," Bullock said. "He is a person of compassion and of heart who

doesn't look for recognition."

Bullock concluded his remarks by saying, "God bless you and God bless Carl Parker."

Carl Parker began a short speech, immediately eliciting laughter from the crowd by saying, "This is kind of like being at your own funeral... that's the only place that so many people say such nice things about you."

Parker outlined his commitment to Lamar and education in general by saying, "nothing is more important in a free society than an education."

He added that while he may have received most of the credit for the recent accomplishments at Lamar, his staff and other members of the Lamar community have been equally responsible for the advances made.

According to J.R. Prestige, Parker's budget director, the following are specific items and associated revenues which Parker has helped bring to Lamar over the past several years: the Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center, with \$600,000 carried on as a special item funding request for fiscal year 92-93; The Minority Scholarship Institute, which has been awarded \$130,000 annually, and the establishment of and procurement of funding for the John Gray Institute. He currently is working for funding for the Nursing Program Enhancement Fund.

Prestige said that while Parker has been instrumental in getting budget items through the legislature, he is "only a part of the team that gets things done for Lamar University."



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

EXPO

Undergraduate and Graduate students are invited to attend the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research

Banquet Dinner
4/18 @ 5pm



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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE SEASON 2023-2024

A PSYCHOLOGICAL MURDER MYSTERY

Dangerous CORNER

A PLAY BY
J.B. Priestley

APRIL 11-13 – 7:30 PM
APRIL 14 – 2:00 PM

At a seemingly innocent dinner party, the guests are rapidly thrust into a series of increasingly damning revelations related to the death of a brother of one of the group. Made into films in 1934 and 1965, this play is a murder mystery that keeps you guessing and second-guessing as more secrets are revealed.

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APRIL 26 – 7:30 PM
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UP PICTURE STORY BY BRIAN QUIJADA



Cowboys chase crowds at South Texas State Fair

The smell of livestock and the dustiness of sand was felt throughout Ford Park as cowboys prepared to put on a show at the annual South Texas State Fair rodeo, March. 23.

The rodeo showcases many of the country’s top cowboys and cowgirls, some as young as 12-years-old. Activities such as roping, bull riding, and horse riding were part of the show.

Jace Dylan traveled from Lake Charles, La. to compete in horse riding.

“I love it, I wasn’t raised up in it and I just love it,” Dylan said. “I had a dream of wanting to be a cowboy. Nobody in my family did it. I just one day went and entered in a rodeo, had no idea what I was doing, and now I’m here.”

The origins of rodeo can be traced to the Spanish conquistadors and Spanish-Mexican settlers who brought horses and livestock to the Southwest in the 16th century. Cowboys began to compete against each other, and it eventually became the rodeo. Two of the earliest rodeos were held in Texas in 1883 in Pecos.

Unlike Dylan, Bedias, Texas native McCray Profilly said he started rodeoing at a young age.

“I grew up in it,” Profilly said. “My whole family kind of did it. My older brother does it. So, I just kind of took a liking to it at a young age and made it my profession.”



Profilly said he loves the competition and the whole environment that surrounds the rodeo. And the South Texas State Fair is close to home.

“It’s always a good rodeo, good environment,” he said. “And we like to chase the money and chase the crowds.”

Human cowboys weren’t the only ones riding. The arena was filled with laughter as fans watched monkeys riding dogs.

But it was the real cowboys who drew the most attention. Cole Ford, who hails from Sulphur, Louisiana, is another who follows the family tradition.

“My great grandfather trained roping horses,” Ford said. “He made the (Nationals Finals Rodeo) and my grandpa rode. My dad, my whole family done it. So, I just fell right into it.”





Despite a rainy start, the South Texas State Fair drew large crowds as spring weather brightened the festivities, March 21-31. Patrons enjoyed rides, games, food and even animals at a petting zoo.

UP photos by Meredith Winkler



THANK YOU, STUDENTS!

To Our Students,

On behalf of the Lamar University leadership team and athletics department, we want to Thank You for your outstanding support of our men and women athletes this year. We want to especially thank you for your support of men’s basketball as they played McNeese State in February. Your enthusiasm throughout the entirety of the game made for an electric atmosphere that fans and athletes truly enjoyed. Your support plays a tremendous role in building a winning culture. We are excited to see you in the stands supporting our student athletes at all sporting events through the remainder of the semester. See you there!

LET’S GO BIG RED! LET’S GO LU!



Jaime Taylor, President



Jeff O'Malley, Director of Athletics



The athletics event calendar can be found at lamarcardinals.com/calendar

LU welcomes first Victims Assistance K9

Daniela Contreras
UP contributor

The Lamar University Police Department has recruited its first Victim’s Assistance K9 unit, “Officer Derrick Boomer Lamar.” The Catahoula Leopard dog was unveiled, Feb. 14, at a Valentine’s photo shoot at Spindletop Gladys City/Boomtown Museum.

“I’ve been thinking about getting a victim’s assistance K9 for a while now,” Hector Flores, Chief of Operations and Chief of Police, said. “We got to a point this year where we really wanted to start that initiative.”

The police department picked Derrick’s full name to reference the university and the museum.

“We wanted to pick ‘Derrick’ because we’re known here at Boomtown for having an oil derrick,” Flores said. “Boomer, just because we’re Boomtown, and Lamar, because we’re in Lamar.”

As a Victim Assistant K9, Derrick will help calm victims of crimes and assaults, and offer emotional support, Flores said.

“Somebody that has been a victim of an assault, a victim of a violent crime, or depending on the type of crime that makes you feel bad about what happened — the dog is there to help you feel a little bit better about it,” Flores said.

Derrick’s emotional support service is also offered to people facing difficult situations and events, Chad Stegall, LUPD corporal and K9 handler, said.

“We’ll have people that they’ve had something bad happen in their personal life,

and they’re just having a really bad day,” Stegall said. “Instead of that person having to look at me in uniform, they can sit there and pet the dog, and take their mind off things.”

Stegall said the eight-month-old pup has been with the police department for three weeks after being picked from the PAWS rescue shelter in Beaumont.

“Chief (Flores) and I had to go to a couple places to pick the dog,” Stegall said. “(At PAWS), I got down on one knee just so I could see the dog’s reactions, and the other dogs weren’t paying any attention to me. (Derrick) took off running and jumped and gave me a big hug.

“They had so many dogs that are so pretty and well behaved. But when he came running to jump and hug me, I was like, ‘OK, that’s the one.’”

Stegall said LUPD hired a canine trainer who has been working with Derrick for two weeks. Stegall said the trainer estimates that it can take up to two months for a good dog to be released.

“(The trainer’s) exact words that she told me were, ‘You got to look at it as if I’m training two dogs’— me and the dog, because she trains me on how to train him,” Stegall said. “She comes to the house, and she goes through drills of different things that I have to do, because even though it’s a Victim Assistance K9, you still go through the basic canine training.

“He has to be able to sit, play, and then he has to be able to sit and stay in one spot while I walk away. One of the other things that he has to do is refer to his place, so he has to go to a



UP photo by Daniela Contreras
LUPD’s new victim assistance K9 unit, Derrick Boomer Lamar, above with his handler Chad Stegall, LUPD corporal, was unveiled Jan. 14 at Spindletop Gladys City/Boomtown Museum.

spot and not move, even in a crowd of people, and he can’t leave until I tell him to leave.”

Stegall walks Derrick around campus to meet the university’s students and faculty. The reactions from the people are really good, he said.

“They love the fact that we now have a K9 dog,” Stegall said. “People will be able, when they’re having a bad day and see Boomer on campus, sit and pet him and relax — enjoy his presence,” Flores said.

Derrick’s LUPD badge will be designated “in training” until he passes his certification test. Stegall said the certification tests his tameness and obedience. After that, Derrick’s

badge will change to “Victims Assistance K9.”

“I think he’s almost there,” Flores said. “He still has a training to complete, but once he’s done with that, he should be ready to go.”

The Setzer Student Center, Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, and Spindletop Gladys City/Boomtown Museum hosted Cardinal View, March 2, where Derrick demonstrated his advancements in training.


“There was a lot of people inside the Setzer Center, and I had him sit down right in the middle of the Setzer Center with people walking all around him, and him not move, not do

anything and let people pet him,” Stegall said. “I went 40, 50 feet away and he just sat there, let people love on him, and he never moved.

As far as him progressing, that right there is one of the biggest accomplishments.” Derrick’s trainer estimates he has four weeks left until he is ready to take the certification test.

“I’m anxious and excited at the same time, because it’s the test he has to pass,” Stegall said. “But we’ve been practicing it all and he’s been doing great.

“He already loves doing what he’s doing. He loves it. He already loves his job.”



SPINDLETOP BOOMTOWN MUSEUM
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

SPINDLETOP BOOMTOWN MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL 13TH:
Boomtown Square Trade Days & Car Show
1:00pm-4:00pm
Free admission

APRIL 20TH:
Western Wellness
11:00am-2:00pm
Free admission

APRIL 19TH:
Boomtown Jazz & Wine
5:30pm-8:00pm

\$10 entry- Free for LU students

APRIL 26TH:
Touchdown Throwdown Concert
8:30pm-11:00pm

\$10 entry- Free for LU students

5550 Jimmy Simmons Blvd, Beaumont, TX 77705
Contact (409)880-1750 for more information

New Boomtown director looks to future

Daniela Contreras
UP contributor

Jeanna Summy became the new Spindletop Gladys-City Boomtown Museum director, Jan. 3.

“An opportunity became available here at the museum,” Summy said. “I was very excited to work with the community but also work with the University in higher education.”

Summy graduated from the University of Texas-San Antonio with a degree in community health, and was a social worker for seven years.

“I would say I feel really strongly about community and community advocacy,” Summy said. “Social work is very challenging, but it’s very rewarding. And your number one goal with that is you want to help people and you want to be a resource to people.”

Summy later worked in admissions and advising for higher education. She worked in Houston before moving to Lamar University in October 2022 as the transfer coordinator at the undergraduate advising center.

“I decided to move towards higher education,” Summy said. “I have experience work-

ing with veteran college students and International College students prior to coming to Lamar.

“And this is a very unique school because it’s a university. It’s got the university experience with dorms, we have athletics, the different baseball, football, dance team, all of that. But it’s a smaller campus so it’s more like a community campus feel. What that means is you have smaller classroom settings, more one-on-one with your teacher, and that really is what drove me to want to be with Lamar University.”

Summy said she took the opportunity to be director because of the history of Beaumont and the museum.

“I had an opportunity to still work with students, to still work with the University, and then also dive into the museum history aspect of it,” Summy said. “I think with (social work) background, I was able to use those skills, transfer them here because I do want us to be a resource for the students. There’s so much history here we have a lot of artifacts, but also resources, advocacy.”

Summy said her aim is for the museum to be more event oriented and community involved.



Jeanna Summy is the new Spindetop Gladys City/Boomtown Museum director.

Courtesy photo

“Right now, we have food, we have a taco stand, but we want to get people used to coming out here and seeing that food because we are going to get barbecue out here eventually,” Summy said. “And we’re also going to be serving coffee out there in the morning.

“We’re hoping to have some concerts, get some live music. We’ve got this awesome stage in this cool, historic backdrop of a Boomtown behind it.”

There is new fire pit and plans for a common area for the students and community, Summy said.

“We’re going to get a cover pavilion and shooting for the fall of this year, hopefully sooner though,” Summy said. “It’s going to seat about 100 people there’s going to be swings in there and TVs and fans. And so that’ll be another hangout, cool space for students, for Lamar faculty and staff.”

Summy said she also wants to get students and the community involved.

“We’re cleaning up around here, renovating. We’re getting the buildings painted, getting things cleaned and I’m looking

for help,” Summy said. “We are interested in helping the students and having them be a part of this.”

The taco stand in Spindletop Gladys City/Boomtown Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students and the community can rent the museum, and the Saloon, Caroline room, and Hammill Square upon request.

“A lot of new things are happening and I’m proud to be a part of that,” Summy said. “I think making a new name for Spindletop has been exciting.”

LUTD from page 1

“She loses her calm and collected manner as the show progresses and I think she is a very complex character,” she said.

Betty’s marriage to Gordon (Bailey Jenkins) is not as picture perfect as it seems.

“Betty came from riches,” McManus said. “She is your typical cliché popular girl and that shows throughout the play.”

As Robert’s investigation reveals various interconnecting truths and lies, he wres-

ties with his life, knowing he is the one who pushed this conversation in the first place, desperate for answers.

“Throughout the whole play, Robert is the one who is completely clueless to what could have been happening,

even though it all takes place in his own home,” Albert said.

Although the play was written in 1932, it resonates still. The audience is asked to question what they think they know as truth, especially based on how much infor-

mation we can only guess at.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m., April 11, 12, 13, and 2 p.m., April 14. General admission tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors, and \$7 for students with LU ID. For tickets, visit lamar.edu/lutdtix.

Free Admission

APRIL 25TH

DOORS OPEN 5:00PM
SHOW BEGINS 5:45PM

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Lady Cards split Sunday double-header

After a 13-run thriller yesterday, Lamar University softball split the final two games of their week-end series against Nicholls on Friday at the LU Softball Complex. A late rally from the Cardinals fell short in a 3-2 loss in Game 1, but a shutout from Sabrina Jolin in Game 2 paved the way for a 2-0 victory.

Shenita Tucker (2 2B) led the Cardinals with three hits in Game 1. Brooke Davis (2B) chipped in two hits while Jayne Sepulveda and Aubrey Brown each recorded one. Emma Wardlaw got the start on the mound for LU but left after one inning with an apparent injury. Karyana Mitchell would pitch the following six innings of relief allowed three runs on seven hits and two walks with three strikeouts.

Trinity Brandon (RBI) had two hits in Game 2 while Jayne Sepulveda knocked in a run on an RBI single in the bottom of the fifth. Kalyn Xayaseng also tallied her first double of the season. Jolin pitched a complete game shutout for the Cardinals allowing seven hits on 66 pitches.

16-of-17 streak Cards sweep 25th-ranked Sooners

NORMAN, Okla. – Senior Jacob Ellis pitched 5.0 innings, and Lamar University scored six runs on nine hits, as Lamar University swept the 25th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners with a 6-3 victory Saturday afternoon at L. Dale Mitchell Park.

The victory moved Ellis to 5-0 on the season as Lamar improved to 22-5 (.815) overall. The Cardinals have now won 16 of their last 17 contests, after having their nation’s longest 13-game win streak snapped Tuesday at Houston.

For the series, the Cardinals pounded out 31 runs on 39 hits and recorded seven home runs.

The Cardinals nine hits Saturday came from four players with three recording multi-hit efforts. River Orsak and Austin Roccaforte each had three-hit games while Evans finished the day with two. Orsak was 3-for-5 with a double, Roccaforte went 3-for-4 with a home run and two RBIs. Evans also cracked a home run – his team leading seventh of the season

and had a double.

Senior Jacob Ellis (5-0) took the ball for Lamar and gave the Red and White 5.0 strong innings to get the win allowing just two earned runs on four hits with three strikeouts. He also pitched around four walks.

Ellis, who was one of four Cardinals to take the mound Saturday, was lifted in the sixth inning for Hunter Hesseltine who pitched 2.2 surrendering a run on three hits. Austin Neal recorded the final two outs of the contest to pick up his fifth save of the season.

Oklahoma went with Kyson Witherspoon who went 5.0 innings but he was hurt by some unfortunate defense behind him. He took the loss after surrendering five runs – one earned – on five hits. He did strike out seven Cardinals with one walk. Witherspoon suffered his second loss of the season to fall to 2-2.

For the second consecutive contest, the Cardinals got on the scoreboard in

the first inning. Kanin Dodge led off the game with an eight-pitch walk. He came around to score two batters later when Evans doubled to center. The relay throw got away from the cut-off man allowing Dodge to cross the plate with no throw.

Oklahoma managed to tie the game in the bottom half of the second inning on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Isaiah Lane, but Ellis managed to get out of the inning two pitches later, preventing the Sooners from hanging a crooked number on the scoreboard.

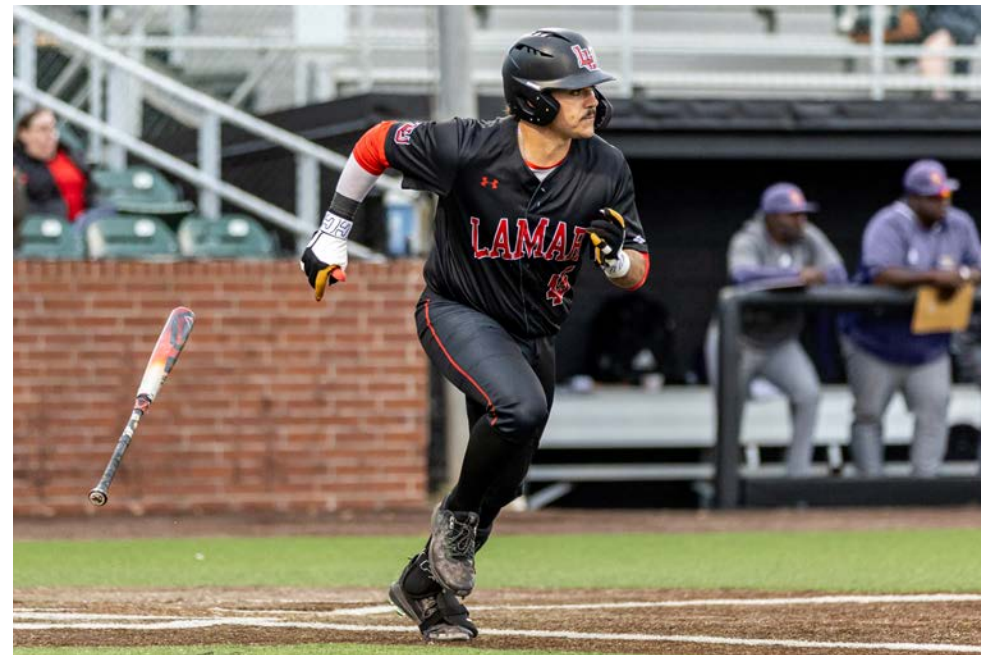
Roccaforte got the lead right back for Big Red in the top half of the next inning. The first-year Cardinal took a 1-1 pitch over the wall in left field giving LU back a one-run lead, 2-1.

The score remained unchanged until the top of the fifth when Lamar broke through with a three-run inning. The Cardinals scored those three runs on two hits and also took advantage of two Sooner errors. With the first two batters aboard, Varnado squared up to lay down a sacrifice bunt but the throw by the Oklahoma third baseman went off Varnado’s left elbow which allowed Roccaforte to score all the way from second. Zak Skinner brought the second run around on a sacrifice fly to center. The Cardinals closed the inning when Tanner Wilson reached on an error to score Varnado. Orsak tried to sneak across but the throw home beat Orsak to the plate for the final out of the inning.

The Cards tacked on an insurance run with a two-out long ball off the bat of Brayden Evans – his second of the series – to give Lamar back a three-run lead.

The insurance run turned out to be icing on the cake as the Cardinals’ bullpen kept the Sooners off the scoreboard in the ninth.

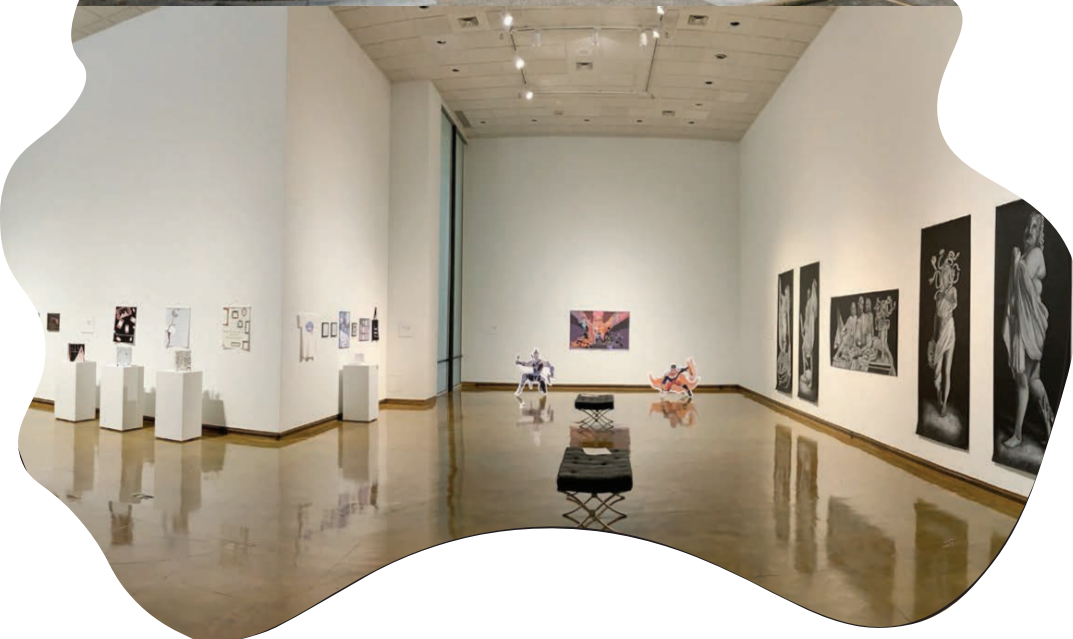
The Cardinals return to action Tuesday when they return home to host Sam Houston. The game against the Bearkats will begin at 6 p.m. and will be streamed live on ESPN+.



UP photo by Brian Quijada

Cardinal catcher Zak Skinner runs to first base against Prairie View A&M University at Vincent-Beck Stadium, March 19.

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