

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

De La Rosa relishes role as Dean of Students

Sidra Ganni
UP Contributor

Elizabeth De La Rosa is on a mission. As the newly appointed Dean of Students at Lamar University, she brings not just experience, but an enthusiasm for student life and engagement.

Her energy is already reshaping campus culture as she strives to ensure that every student feels heard, connected and empowered to



Elizabeth De La Rosa, left, chats with SGA members in the Setzer Student Center, March 18. UP photo by Sidra Ganni

make the most of their college experience.

At Lamar, De La Rosa saw an opportunity to have a direct and lasting impact on students throughout their collegiate journey. Coming from a community college with a student body of 40,000, she

saw Lamar’s 18,000 population as a chance to work more closely with students, guiding them from their first year through graduation.

“I wanted a role that would challenge me and allow me to take my experience and formal education to the next level,” De La Rosa said.

“Lamar provided the perfect opportunity to bridge the gap between students and administration, ensuring we move toward student success together.”

De La Rosa said one of her goals is to create more opportunities for students to connect, participate and thrive. She envisions a campus where events are not just accessible, but also compelling enough to draw students in and make them feel like an integral part of the university community. However, she acknowledges

See **DEAN**, page 6



Bailey Jenkins, left, Juliana McManus and Gracie Parley rehearse “As You Like It” on the outdoor stage.

LUTD brings ‘As You Like It’ to outdoor stage

Caroline Otte
UP contributor

As William Shakespeare wrote, “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women are merely players.” This quote will become literal for Lamar University’s department of theatre and dance as they present an outdoor show, April 10-13.

This production will be staged outside to pay homage to original Shakespeare productions that took place in open-air taverns, director

Alan Brincks said.

“A lot of (the play) takes place in the forest of Arden,” Brincks said. “We have embraced that idea of going into the forest and going into nature to learn things, to find love, to find healing, to find ourselves, as many of these characters do in the play.”

Bailey Jenkins, who plays Orlando, said this is his first time doing an outdoor performance and he expects it to be a different experience, as the rehearsals move from the stage to the area behind the theater.

“We haven’t started the outdoor part yet,” Jenkins said. “Everything’s been in here with a prototype set that we bring in every rehearsal. I’m very excited to start the process of doing it outside and see where that kind of evolves the show from where we have it now.”

Cameron Durso, who plays Silvius, said putting on an outdoor production has brought on a different set of

See **LUTD**, page 6



UP photo by Sydney Vo

Cardinalpalooza goes ‘OT’

Lamar University’s Cardinal Activities Board hosted Cardinalpalooza, April 4, in the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center. Activities included games such as ax throwing and cornhole. Students could get their portrait painted and dip their hands in melted wax. The evening concert was headlined by The Mexican OT, above, with DJTJ as the opening act. For more, visit lamar.edu/events.

ABSA seeks members from all majors



Courtesy photo
Members of ABSA at a recent social event.

Maria Rodriguez
UP staff writer

Lamar University’s Asian Business Student Association is aiming to grow and the group, founded in 2022, wants students to know who they are.

“We are an inclusive organization in the College of Business,” Samina Shaikh, ABSA president, said. “I know we say Asian, and I know we say business, but you don’t have to be Asian or business to be in ABSA.”

ABSA is involved in numerous events on campus and locally, and they also host professional events to help students prepare for their

careers.

“You have to put yourself out there, network, and really make a connection with the other people,” Elaine Yang, ABSA treasurer, said.

ABSA hosts events centered around Asian culture and business-related.

“We host a Lunar New Year celebration,” Shaikh said. “We host a water lantern festival celebration. We’re about to do Holi, which is an Indian celebration. And then, because we’re also a business association, in a few weeks, on the 16th, we’ll have our annual Asian Night Market, where student businesses will come out and sell their products

and market themselves.”

ABSA takes a different approach to its organization, Yang said.

“Not only are we professional, but we try to push the fun,” she said

Fernanda Larrazabel, ABSA marketing coordinator, said the organization is all-inclusive and welcomes students from all majors. Most of the College of Business student groups are specific, but ABSA aims for a more expanded membership.

“(Others are) just very professional, which I think is very good,” she said. “But I feel like we have a good mix of professionalism, and

See **ABSA**, page 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The fool doth think he is wise,
but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.”

— William Shakespeare

NOTICE

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DEAN from page 1

that many students simply don't know where to start when it comes to engagement.

“There is so much to do, but many students don't always know where to look,” she said. “I want to make sure students are aware of all the opportunities available to them, encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones and try something new.

When I was in college, there were so many things to do on campus that I wasn't able to do otherwise, and this is something that I want to give to Lamar students.”

De La Rosa emphasizes the importance of spreading awareness about campus events and services, ensuring that students recognize and take advantage of the numerous opportunities available to

them. Whether it's leadership workshops, student organizations or social events, she said she wants students to feel empowered to step out of their comfort zones.

“I encourage students to explore LU Hub, check social media, and take a chance on something new,” she said. “You never know what you'll discover or who you'll meet. When I was in college I met so many people that ended up being my life-long friends.

Beyond campus events, De La Rosa said she is also passionate about strengthening the relationship between Lamar University and the Beaumont community, seeing great value in creating partnerships between students and local organizations and creating opportunities for professional growth and civic engagement.

“Building strong ties with the Beaumont community benefits everyone,” she said. “Whether it's service projects, internships, or community events, I want our students to

be involved and for the community to see Lamar students as an asset.”

Communication is another cornerstone of De La Rosa's leadership style. She actively encourages students to voice their ideas, concerns and aspirations. Whether through student government or direct conversations, she wants to ensure that every student feels heard.

The role of Dean of Students isn't just about policy, she said, it's about building bridges between students and administration.

“My role is to listen and advocate,” she said. “Without student input, I can't effectively address what matters most to them.”

De la Rosa's approach isn't just about making campus life more exciting; it's about preparing students for life beyond Lamar. She said she believes stepping out of one's comfort zone, attending events, joining organizations and engaging with the community can shape future suc-

cess.

Safety and security are also a top priority, she said, ensuring that students not only enjoy their time at Lamar but also feel secure and supported.

“My biggest goal in this first year is visibility,” she said. “I want students to know who I am, where to find me, and that I'm here to help. If I can't personally assist, I'll make sure they find someone who can.”

With De La Rosa at the helm, Lamar University is entering a new era of student engagement — one where opportunities are abundant, voices are amplified, and every student feels a sense of belonging.

Visibility and relationship-building are key aspects of her first year, she said, ensuring that students, faculty and the community know they can rely on her for support and guidance.

“The possibilities are endless — you just have to take the first step,” she said.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

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PAGES OF NOSTALGIA

Stark show spotlights artistry of children’s book illustration

Maria Rodriguez
UP staff writer

The latest exhibition at the Stark Museum of Art offers a whimsical, nostalgic trip back to childhood.

The exhibition, “Childhood Classics: 100 Years of Original Illustration from the Art Kandy Collection,” on display through July 12, features original artwork by illustrators such as Dr. Seuss, Jules Feiffer and Shel Silverstein.

“It demonstrates over 100 years of illustration and shows how children’s literature both educates and entertains,” curator Sarah Boehme said.

Boehme said the show is a traveling collection and has multiple contributors. The exhibition is making the stop in Orange through a suggestion from executive director Jennifer Dickinson.

“We all agreed that this was a new angle,” Boehme said. “Many of the artists in our permanent collection worked as illustrators, as well as fine art painters. It makes a connection that way with our collection.”

The exhibition features a section on Little Golden Books, with a particular connection to the Stark Museum. The best-selling book, “The Poky Little Puppy,” written by Orange-native Janette Sebring Lowrey, is highlighted with illustrations and a display of books.

“They will only be here for this version of the traveling ex-



The Stark Museum of Art in Orange is hosting “Childhood Classic: 100 years of Original Illustration from the Art Kandy Collection through July 12. The exhibition is augmented by works by Orange author Janette Sebring Lowrey, including “The Poky Little Puppy.”



UP photos by Maria Rodriguez

hibition,” Boehme said. “When it goes on to other museums, those pieces won’t be included. It’s very special. In addition, we have added in our lobby a case

of some of the books written by the author Janette Sebring Lowrey.”

Children’s literature is the focus of the exhibition, but chil-

dren are not the only intended audience.

“I think everyone can find a connection,” Ashley Thornton, museum exhibition manager,

said. “It’s family and children, but a lot of adults and older generations can find connections, teachers, a lot of the local community. We have a lot of community voice labels.”

The labels give a chance for local teachers and librarians to add their perspective about the books displayed, Thornton said.

“Childhood Classics” offers a unique perspective on children’s books.

“It’s unique in the way that it introduces children’s literature as art,” Boehme said. “I think in certain circles, illustration is regarded as not the highest form of art. I think that you can see in the works of art how they stand on their own, even if you don’t know the story. You can appreciate the work of art as a work of art. There’s so many beautiful works in here, a lot of very fun works. I think that it’s something people really can find a connection to.”

As well as bringing childhood memories back to visitors, the exhibition reflects the changes in society and who is represented in the illustrations, Boehme said.

“There’s a section in the exhibition that shows how, especially in contemporary times, the books are more inclusive of different races, different ethnic backgrounds than we see in the early historic works,” Boehme said. “There’s more opportunity for many people to identify with the literature.”

The meaning of childhood classics will not be the same for everyone who sees the exhibition, but that is the creative aspect of art.

“To me, it means comfort within nostalgia, and just kind of remembering to look back a little bit, and finding joy in those little things now,” Thornton said.

The Stark Museum is located at 712 Green Ave. in Orange. Admission is free and hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday. For more, visit stark-museum.org.

Tapestry exhibit depicts historic Battle of Pavia

Maddie Sims
UP editor

Swords clash as soldiers battle across the plains of Pavia, just outside the Italian city’s walls. While the tale of the three-hour battle is short, the tapestries regaling its history will last a lifetime.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston presents “Knights in Shining Armor: The Pavia Tapestries” through May 26. The 1525 Battle of Pavia was the decisive victory between the kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, as part of the Italian War.

Court artist Bernard van Orley created the seven tapestries on display from about 1528 to 1531, each one made from materials such as wool, silk, silver and gold. Each one is 28-foot wide and 14-foot high and took 18 months for each group, or about five years for the group. As tapestries are more expensive to make than paintings, they serve as tools not just for storytelling but also as an expression of wealth and political power.

The tapestries are an incredible depiction of the

events of the battle and draw the viewer into the action. The battle was short and several scenes seem to be taking place simultaneously. It is as if we are surrounded by the action.

The tapestries are not hung chronologically, but architectural elements in the images lead the eye from one to the other, like detailed pictures in a storybook.

To aid the viewer in understanding the events of the battle, the exhibition features projected texts above the tapestries that narrate the action. It takes 13 minutes to read the captions and is well worth following the narrative. As the story progresses, projections illuminate parts of the panel to emphasize the action and characters in the narrative.

Each tapestry is incredibly detailed. Looking up close one sees the complexity of the construction with every stitch and seam visible. It is clear that each one was made with precision and care, down to the fashions of the people depicted — soldier and civilian alike — along with their facial expressions and physicality.

Statues of armor and medieval weapons are also featured, which gives viewers an



A detail from one of the Pavia tapestries, on display at MFAH through May 26.

UP photo by Maddie Sims

idea of the war trends at the time. The armor shines in its grandeur, the swords are larger than one would assume, and the guns are ornately decorated.

The tapestries and the armor are on loan from the Museo e Real Bosco di Capomonte in Naples, Italy,

where they have hung together for 500 years.

“Knights in Shining Armor: The Pavia Tapestries” is a remarkable lesson in history, as well as a remarkable showcase of a unique form of art that is rarely seen in modern

society. It is a must-see for art and history enthusiasts alike. Both the battle and the art of tapestry are underrated for their contributions to history.

“The Pavia Tapestries” is on display through May 26. For more information, visit mfah.org.

Lamar holds first ring ceremony

Jill Stokes
UP marketing rep

Lamar University held its first ring ceremony, March 29, at the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center. The event featured 85 students who received their rings surrounded by LU staff, family and friends.

“When you’re at a university, there are all these traditions, and you always think, ‘What would it have been like to start that tradition?’” LU President Jaime Taylor said. “Well, now I get to be a part of starting this tradition. It’s amazing. I can now imagine 50 years from now, somebody will wonder, ‘How did this ring ceremony get started?’”

Taylor welcomed the attendees and talked about how family

is the foundation to success at Lamar. He was followed by Freddie Titus, vice president of student affairs and strategic initiatives, who talked on the importance of the new tradition and what it signifies.

“It’s a constant reminder that you belong here, and a reminder of what comes next,” he said. “It’s a symbol of your resilience and your journey, from moving into the dorms to your first football game, joining clubs and making friends.”

Chemistry professor Paul Bernazzani announced the names of ring recipients as they walked across the stage. Student Government Association vice president Campbell Fuller gave the closing speech, where a ceremonial bell was rung.

“This bell will be rung to sig-



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio

Participants show off their rings at LU first ring ceremony, March 29.

nify achievement, legacy and growth,” he said.

The event was attended by 423 people.

Emily Robinson, assistant director for the office of service and leadership, said the event’s

success took a substantial amount of work but the turnout made it worth it.

“I think Lamar is a great place but we just don’t have a lot of opportunities to show that,” she said. “We don’t have

those traditions yet. So starting with this, we’ve already done it. So moving forward, to me, it’s already a tradition. You have to do it.”

Port Neches junior Kearstan Zabel said the ceremony connected her to the Lamar community.

“It was really good,” she said. “It made me feel like I was actually part of a family here. They made us feel like we’re valued, and not just a student walking by.”

Nederland junior Elizabeth Drago said her ring represents her college journey.

“I feel like it serves a purpose — it is a symbol,” she said. “It’s something tangible of all of my hard work accumulating to graduation.”

For more information, visit lamar.edu/advancement.

SETX presents ‘The Gin Game’ of life

REVIEW
Maddie Sims
UP editor

It’s a sunny Sunday afternoon at Bentley Nursing Home. Birds chirp in the trees by the back porch as a man plays cards by himself. When a woman, new to the home, joins him in a game of gin, the duo learn more about each other, and themselves in the process.

Southeast Texas Stages presents “The Gin Game” through April 12. The play focuses on two senior citizens in a rundown retirement home. Weller Martin (J.J. Jackson) is a self-proclaimed expert at the card game Gin. He is also a social recluse, turning his nose up at the local entertainment and evening activ-

ities. Fonsia Dorsey (Laura Chapman) is his foil, extroverted and more willing to strike up a conversation with someone new.

As they play round after round of Gin Rummy, the pair discuss their lives before Bentley, from their highs to their lows and everything in between. But to Weller’s dismay, Fonsia has a continuous streak of beginner’s luck. As she beats him in every game they play, a new side of Weller is brought to light — and also with Fonsia.

Jackson’s Weller is a hardened elderly man who has repressed issues underneath the surface, which are emphasized by Jackson’s acting. Visitors who remember “A Christmas Carol” will see Jackson in a role besides

the cranky, but loveable Ebenezer Scrooge which shows his amazing range.

Chapman’s Fonsia is joyful and funny. Her character is the ray of sunshine in Weller’s life and emanates the energy of a wholesome grandmother. But the second act is where Chapman’s range really shines and Fonsia becomes more than a stereotypical “wholesome granny.”

“The Gin Game” is a somber tale and does not sugarcoat the issues senior cit-

izens in nursing homes typically feel, such as loneliness and regret. As a younger person, it gave me a new perspective on getting older that no one really talks about.

Director Anna Goss ties everything together beautifully and mixes tragedy with humor and wit. It is a must see for audiences young and old.

Showtimes continue April 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. Southeast Texas Stages is located at 4155 Laurel Ave. in Beaumont. For tickets, visit setxs.org.



Courtesy photo

Laura Chapman plays Fonsia and J.J. Jackson plays Weller in Southeast Texas Stages production of “The Gin Game.” The show has two more performances, April 11 and 12.



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ART DECO GLAMOUR

MFAH retrospective highlights stylish Tamara de Lempicka

Maddie Sims
UP editor

Portraits of young women line the walls. Some look like they are posing for a picture or are leisurely resting on furniture. Each one displays their elegance front and center.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston presents “Tamara de Lempicka” through May 26. The retrospective features more than 90 of Lempicka’s works.

Tamara de Lempicka is one of the leading painters of the Art Deco era of artistic expression. Her art conveys the glamour of old Hollywood and the period between WWI and WWII.

She was born in Poland in 1894 as Tamara Rosa Hurwitz and was taught to hide her Jewish identity at a young age due to the rise of anti-Semitism. She married Polish aristocrat Tadeusz Lampicki. The couple lived in St. Petersburg before fleeing to Paris at the height of the Russian Revolution in 1916.

Tamara needed to make money and wanted to be independent, so she decided to become an artist, first presenting her works at the Salon d’Automne in 1922 under the name “Monsieur Lempitzky,” before she became known as Tamara de Lempicka.

“Russian Dancer” is a standout piece from her early years. The painting has a glossy and refined appearance. The bright colors of the woman’s garments pop out



“Spring” by Tamara de Lempicka

and are pleasing to the eye.

Lempicka was described as a sponge who wanted to retain

as much knowledge of art as possible, but at the time, it was hard for women to be able

to study painting. Even so, she has been praised for her knowledge of male and female

anatomy in her nude paintings.

Pieces such as “La belle Rafaela” and “Reclining Nude” are painted beautifully and show the correct weight distribution when a woman lies down. Considering women were not allowed to attend life-drawing classes until the end of the 19th century, “Male Nude” shows how much she paid attention to the finer details of human anatomy.

Lempicka was a queer artist who did not hide her love for both men and women. “Portrait of a Man (Tadeusz Lempicki)” is a painting of her first husband is striking. The deco-style cityscape complements the angularity of the figure. Ironically, a painting of her female lover, Ira Perrot, “Portrait of a Young Woman in a Blue Dress,” is displayed right across from the Lempicka’s portrait. The portrait is sensuous, and one clearly sees the erotic undertone.

It is easy to imagine Lempicka would admire the modern queer artists of today such as Chapell Roan, a popular singer known for her songs “Hot To Go,” “Good Luck, Babe,” and “The Giver,” which are famously about her female lovers, as she herself is a lesbian.

By the 1930s, Lempicka honed her craft and created paintings which emphasized women’s fashion. Each piece has bright and vibrant colors. “Young Woman in Green (Young Woman with Gloves)”

See **LEMPICKA**, page 6



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Department of Theatre & Dance

TICKETS



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

LUTD from page 1

challenges.

"We live in a place where there's active construction," Durso said. "We have to be a lot louder, which sounds easy, but isn't because there's a difference between speaking loudly and yelling, and so we have to find the difference."

“We don’t have curtains, so we have to learn how to keep in character, because we don’t really have a place to

hide behind.”

Brincks said the Theatre department has not put on a Shakespeare production in a while, and that it is a slight challenge compared to other scripts.

"Shakespeare is still one of the most produced playwrights in the country, so it's good to give students that opportunity to do the work," Brincks said. "It takes a little bit of a slightly differ-

ent technique. Part of the beauty of Shakespeare is the language itself, so we're highlighting that in terms of production. We're still trying to remain true to what Shakespeare's story is, but also we're looking at, 'What is our story?'"

Jenkins said he relates to Orlando, and hopes to relay that to viewers.

"I want to show (the audience) what being a human

is about,” Jenkins said. “And that comes with the trials, the good things, the pros and cons of it all, and, more importantly, being openly passionate about something, and letting that kind of sweep you off your feet.”

Durso said Silvius is also someone the audience will be able to relate to.

"I hope I can show the audience that love is complicated, but it's worth it,"

Durso said. "That's what he's meant to represent. He's committed and love is a very big commitment."

Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m., April 10, 11 and 12, and 2 p.m. April 13. Audience members can bring outdoor seating such as lawn chairs or blankets.

General admission is \$15 and \$7 for LU students. For tickets, visit lamar.edu/lutdtix.

LEMPICKA from page 5

is a standout piece from this era. The woman's dress is a striking green, which pops out amongst the silver and grayscale backdrop. The model herself is poised and confident, like a lead actress standing in the spotlight.

"Spring" is a subtle, yet beautiful display of floral dresses. The women in the painting are posed tenderly in an environment that feels warm and alive.

In 1939, the threat of Nazi invasion led Lempicka and her second husband, Baron Raoul Kuffner, to leave for the United States to avoid persecution. She insisted on being known as Baroness Kuffner and focused on religious paintings themed around Catholicism.

"The Refugees" is a telling piece of this point in Lempicka's life. While the people in the painting are not her and Kuffner directly, the viewer is forced to confront the fear families felt with the rise of fascism in Europe.

Lempicka's work was featured prominently in the U.S. in the 1940s but was not respected by the press who dismissed her as simply a "baroness with a brush." Her later works are few and far between, but the beautiful still lifes, such as "Arums"



“La belle Rafaela” by Tamara de Lempicka

and “Arums (Still Life with Arums and a Mirror),” show Lempicka never lost her mastery of technique.

By 1972, her work was exhibited in Paris and created a renaissance. Lempicka was able to witness just before her death in 1980.

"Tamara de Lempicka" is a re-

markable glimpse into the artist's life and the people she loved and is a document to the art deco world between the wars. It is a wonderful display of chic modern art.

"Tamara de Lempicka" is on display through May 26. For more information, visit mfah.org.

ABSA from page 1

then also having fun and just being inclusive.”

Yang said the group relies on word of mouth to build its base.

"We're really kind of bringing in our friends and telling our friends to bring people," Yang said. "We're basically doing a plus one, for now, and then eventually try to build off of that."

ABSA aims to foster community, Shaikh said.

"It's important that we're here, and learning about people," Shaikh said. "And then people can understand that they have a voice in every capacity, in a professional setting, in a social setting — they can come to make friends. They can come to learn about very important skills that you need to have in college. They could come to learn about Asian culture."

ABSA's upcoming events include a self-defense class in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, April 9, and the Asian Night Market in the Baptist Student Ministry Courtyard, April 16.

For more, visit [lamarabsa](#) on Instagram.

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LU breaks ground on Vincent-Beck upgrades

Aaron Saenz
UP staff writer

President Jaime Taylor and LU baseball coach Will Davis joined donors to break ground on Vincent-Beck Stadium improvements, March 7. The work will feature a new building that includes a locker

room, coaches' offices, training room, film room, lounge, and equipment room.

The improvements are made possible through a donation from Teri and Glen Morgan. The facility will be named the Teri and Glen Morgan Baseball Complex.

Glen Morgan said he is ex-

cited to have the facility named after him, but more so because it is where he met his wife.

"There was a concession stand," he said. "One day I went up to get something, and there was the prettiest young lady I had ever seen in there selling drinks. The next day, I went to work, and I told my

law partners I was going to ask her out to lunch. I called her up and asked her to lunch and she said no. Not being used to rejection, I had to put extra charm. We went to lunch, and here we are, 40 years of marriage later, three kids and three grandkids.

"We've always wanted to do

something to recognize the fact that we did meet here. This is important to us. This is where everything started. With our 40th anniversary, it seemed like it was a time to get something done."

President Taylor said the improvements double down on Lamar's goal to improve its athletic facilities.

"We are committed to strengthening our entire athletic program," he said. "If you've been at a football, basketball, baseball or volleyball game recently, you have seen the investments we are making to improve the fan experience and to make sure our coaches and student athletes have the facilities they need to compete at a high level. Our goal is to compete for championships."

LU catcher Easton Culp said he can't thank the Morgan family enough for their donation to the baseball program.

"Seeing this new facility become a reality is a testament to our commitment and a reminder of just how much we're supported here at Lamar," he said. "The complex isn't just going to be a building, it's going to be a game changer. It's going to give us the tools and environment we need to work harder, push each other, and to bring more rings and trophies to Lamar."

The Terry and Glen Morgan Baseball Complex is expected to be completed in time for the 2026 season.

For more information, visit lamarcardinals.com/sports/baseball.



LU baseball coach Will Davis, President Jaime Taylor and donors break ground on contrsucton at Vincent-Beck Stadium, March 7.

UP photo by Aaron Saenz

Cards split doubleheader against UTA

Brian Quijada
UP sports editor

The Lamar baseball team split a doubleheader against UT-Arlington, April 6, at Vincent-Beck Stadium. LU won the first game 6-5 and lost the second game 4-2. Despite the loss, Lamar won the series after Friday's 3-2 win.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Mavericks struck first, taking a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning on an LU throwing error.

UT-Arlington extended its advantage to 2-0 in the second, capitalizing on an RBI single to center. However, Lamar quickly responded. Infielder Zane Spinn's two-out single to right center set the stage for Matt Ryan, who delivered an RBI triple to right to cut the deficit to one run.

Later in the same inning, Cardinal utility player Bryce Grizzaffi came through with a single to the pitcher, tying the game at 2-2.

The Mavericks regained a two-run lead in the top of the third, scoring once on a groundout to third and adding another with an RBI double to left center. UT-Arlington then made it a three-run game in the fourth with a solo home run.

Lamar mounted a comeback in the seventh, beginning with an RBI double to right center by Zak Skinner. LU outfielder Heladio Moreno followed with an RBI single to left center, pulling the Cardinals to within one run.

In the bottom of the eighth, Cardinal outfielder Damian Ruiz tied the game with a solo



Lamar's Zak Skinner (13) celebrates with his teammates after hitting a two-run homer, April 6, at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

UP photo by Brian Quijada

home run, setting the stage for a dramatic finish.

With the game tied in the bottom of the ninth, LU outfielder Tab Tracy drew a walk, and Skinner followed with a clutch double down the right field line. The hit delivered Lamar's second consecutive walk-off victory, securing a thrilling 6-5 win.

"The win was great," LU head coach Will Davis said. "The guys battled back and did a great job. We had some very clutch at bats, got some really clutch pitching from Austin Neil."

In the second game, Lamar went up 2-0 in the bottom of the first inning on a two-run homer by Skinner.

Arlington cut the deficit to one in the top of the third inning on an RBI single.

The game remained scoreless until the eighth inning where the Mavericks scored three runs without tallying a single hit. Arlington scored runs on a bases-loaded walk, a fielder's choice and a fielding error to turn the tables and take the lead and ultimately win the game.

"We didn't hit their

pitcher," Davis said. "That's part of the reason (we lost). We didn't really have very good at bats. Dealing with a couple injuries, losing the center fielder hurt. And they

didn't play very good as a team in the eighth inning. Had too many walks and didn't turn a double play that we should have. Just not very good overall."

The Cardinals, who lead the nation in hits with 346 on the season, are now 26-8 overall and 9-6 in Southland Conference play where they sit in sixth place.

Lamar return to SLC play for a three-game series against Nicholls State, April 11-13, at Vincent Beck. The first game will start at 6 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN+.

NCAA BASEBALL HITS TEAM LEADERS	
1. LAMAR (346)	2. GEORGIA (339)
3. GEORGIA TECH (333)	4. LSU (332)
5. LAMAR (331)	6. FLORIDA ST. (327)
7. HIGH POINT (326)	8. WAKE FOREST (325)
9. RICHMOND (324)	10. GEORGE MASON (323)
11. KANSAS (323)	12. UTSA (321)

Close encounters of a cute kind

Petting zoo charms all at South Texas State Fair

The air at Ford Park is filled with the sounds of laughter, the occasional moo from one of the world’s smallest cows, and the delighted squeals of children as they interact with the animals at the South Texas State Fair petting zoo.

The popular attraction, set up near the park’s outdoor venue, has drawn families, animal lovers, and curious fairgoers eager for a hands-on experience with various friendly animals.

From gentle deer and playful goats to towering camels, the petting zoo offers visitors a chance to connect with animals they don’t see normally. For Garrett Davis, Beaumont freshman, it was a surprising highlight of the fair.

“I came for the good food and the rides, but somehow I ended up feeding a giant tortoise,” the Lamar University criminal justice major said. “It’s not every day you get to do this kind of thing.”

Beaumont sophomore Madeline Warren said the petting zoo was an unexpected but welcome break from her busy schedule.

“I spend so much time at school and studying on top of work, so getting to just stand here and feed a baby goat is a nice escape,” the chemistry major said, with a laugh.

Beaumont Manning Gardner, a Texas A&M student studying port management, said visiting the petting zoo has been a tradition.

“I’ve been coming to this fair since I was a kid, so it’s nice to be back in my hometown and enjoy it again,” he said, as he scratched behind the ears of a miniature donkey. “It’s one of those things that never gets old.”

The petting zoo was one of the most visited spots during the fair’s run. As the students will attest, it’s an experience that never gets old.



A young boy feeds a baby cow, top, a young girl poses while feeding goats, above, and a mother and son enjoy the camel rides at the South Texas State Fair petting zoo at Ford Park, March 30.



Story and photos by Gage Gilliam



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