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NEWSLETTER

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Charlie Kirk: A Turning Point in Freedom of Speech - Kendall Mears

Charlie Kirk championed the ideal of the Marketplace of Ideas. The belief that testing the truth or the acceptance of ideas depends on their competition with one another through debate and application. This is the heart of freedom of speech, the ability to express opinions, ideas, and information without fear of retaliation or censorship. However, Kirk faced the ultimate form of retaliation, losing his life while engaging in debate with Utah students. However, even individuals who do not share Kirk's conservative values or faith realize the danger of a man being silenced for his opinions. Former Tonight Show host Jay Leno takes a passionate stance despite having disagreed with Kirk on several occasions. "I mean, it's the death of free speech, to think that you are so illiterate and so stupid you can't answer verbally, and you have to shoot somebody with a gun to win the argument." This has become a blood-chilling reality in society, where instead of having dialogue, people resort to violence instead of communication. With Charlie Kirk advocating against just that in one of his debates:

"When people stop talking, really bad stuff starts...When civilizations stop talking, civil war ensues. When you stop having a human connection with someone you disagree with, it becomes a lot easier to want to commit violence against that group...but what we as a culture have to get back to is being able to have a reasonable disagreement where violence is not an option." Freedom of speech should be free, but often it comes at a cost, and if the pattern of violence doesn't end, the cycle will merely repeat. The call for communication and debate has grown with Charlie Kirk's death, giving us the opportunity to course correct and pursue open dialogue with one another; keeping dignity and respect at the center of our conversation especially when expressing different opinions.

The Long Walk - 2025 - 108 Minutes - Rated R - 4.5/5

Cameron Pierce

Unrelenting in its brutality and unflinching in its violence, The Long Walk could easily have wound up being an unpleasant slog. Instead, thanks to excellent directing, a tight script, and downright impressive performances, it manages to be one of the best and most heartfelt Stephen King adaptations in years.

Coming up...

One Battle After Another

Red River Revel Kicks Off in Shreveport - Gabbi Olague

Shreveport hosted the first weekend of the Red River Revel Arts Festival from September 25 to 28. The annual event is known for food, art, and music. More than 80 artists displayed work in oils, acrylics, sculpture, jewelry, woodwork, glass, and metal.

Festivalgoers enjoyed food from Mother Klucker's, Cajun Korner Express, Churros & Crepes Vianey, and many more. Along with the food and art, live music filled the stages with genres ranging from rock and blues to gospel, jazz, and hip hop. Dance also played a central role in showcasing Shreveport, with several local companies performing throughout the weekend. Performer Moriah Graphia, a member of the Shreveport Metropolitan Ballet, shared, "This will be my ninth year performing at the Revel. What I like most is being able to perform for people who might not normally get the chance to experience ballet." She also enjoys supporting local artists, small businesses, and musicians, noting that her favorite part is hearing the wide variety of bands.

The Revel will return October 2 to 5 with more performances, family activities, and interactive events such as date night, paint your partner and a puzzle hunt.

Chop Wood Carry Water - Cameron Hays

Hays has coached basketball for 23 years. He was previously a coach at Division 1 schools Pepperdine and Colorado, as well as NAIA school Southeastern in Florida, the school that LSUS baseball defeated to win a national championship.

Hays sees this season as “in some ways like starting over”. Only three players returning from last season, two freshmen, and overall, twelve new players. On top of that there are two new staff members for LSUS women’s basketball. With all that said, Hays is very confident about his team. He fully believes in this group of girls. Hays intentionally scheduled tough teams at the beginning of the season to see early on what type of group he will be working with. “I don’t know how you can pretend you’re competing nationally and then you never play any tough teams.”

One way Hays described the roster was “a deep bullpen”. Every player can serve multiple roles on the team. Another word he used was versatile. Hays emphasized the idea that every player is bought in to playing for the team rather than themselves. Hays also emphasized that he came to Shreveport to win national championships. “Wherever I’ve been, the goal is to compete at the national level.”

At one point I jokingly asked if he thought the Lady Pilots would go 59-0 like the baseball team. As serious as can be, Hays stated “that’s our expectation”. “There won’t be a game we walk into that we don’t think we should win”. Winning is all Hays wants to do. It is why he took the job here at LSUS. He understands the standard and wants LSUS women’s basketball to hold their end up.

He also wants to get the word out about the Lady Pilots. Hays wants fans all over Shreveport to come to the games and see what is going on. Hays has one goal, to win a national championship. The next time you can catch the Lady Pilots is on October 3 when they host a scrimmage with a tough JUCO in LSU Eunice at 5 PM.



Solution to Shreveport Waste - Lora Golston

Anyone in Shreveport can buy a blue recycling bin, and fill it up with tin cans and plastic every week, but it doesn't mean that the waste will get picked up. And if it did, it is not every day that people can be paid for recycling. That's why the The Solid Waste Division and the Shreveport Green organization come together throughout the year to help people recycle their toxic wastes for profit. The City of Shreveport shut down their recycling program in 2020, causing disarray in the community. Recyclable items have had to go in the trash, and add to landfill. A year later, the City of Shreveport sued 6 companies for putting Shreveport waste into landfills outside of the city, alleging that this action required the City to charge its citizens for sanitation fees. So, if citizens noticed that recycling trucks stopped coming to their neighborhoods, then this is why.

Not all hope is not lost, in fact hope has only been recycled! To show their commitment to our community, The Solid Waste Division and Shreveport Green organization sponsor a Household Waste Collection event. Citizens have to call Shreveport Green's number to make an appointment. Afterwards, they can sell objects such as pest spray, old car batteries, used tires, and paint. The Solid Waste Division has a link to a flyer that better illustrates their request. Covid19 has taken a toll on our city's ability to address environmental issues, but there is still opportunities for a greener future.

50 Cent's 50 Million Shreveport Investment

- Brandon McWilliams

Since setting his sights on Shreveport, 50 Cent has made it his mission to revive the area by investing in downtown real estate and opening restaurants. In his latest move, he has secured a deal with Shreveport officials to begin a new district downtown. On Tuesday, September 23rd, the Shreveport council gave the green light for the creation of the "Film and Entertainment Gateway Economic Development District." He hopes to revive the downtown area by making it an entertainment and production center with his Millennium studio and Stage Works Studio at the head of that project. The district is expected to be a 50 million dollar investment from 50 Cent's own pockets, being one of the largest investments in northern Louisiana history. There would be a 2 percent sales tax within the area that would go wholly into a trust fund to be invested back into more redevelopment. Construction is said to begin late 2025 or in early 2026.



Daycare Workers or Charity Workers? - Abigail Johnson

...The majority of people could not keep up with the go-go-go lifestyle of a childcare worker. Waking up at 4:45 a.m. to work out or have a few moments before work is uncommon for nine-to-five workers. Despite the busy lifestyle, childcare workers are underappreciated. According to Indeed.com, the average childcare provider salary in Bossier City, LA, is \$10.66 per hour, which is 36% lower than the national average. Daycare workers are also subject to salaries as low as \$8.57 per hour, which is \$10.87 under living wage for one adult with no children. Even worse, the highest pay on the Bossier City, LA, pay scale for childcare workers is \$13.25 an hour, which is still \$6.19 under living wage. This means that in Bossier City, LA, childcare workers paid the average hourly rate (\$10.66) will make \$8.78 shy of living wage without governmental help. In contrast, Amazon Warehouse workers in Bossier City, LA, have an average hourly pay of seventeen dollars per hour, which is consistent with the national average for Amazon workers. Despite childcare workers' underpayment, they are still expected to not only care for children, but also to take classes each year. The stress of taking care of children, paired with added classes is a whole lot to ask of a person under living wage. Debbie says, " I am required to take classes each year in medication, health, behavior, and CPR."...

Faculty Facts - Bailey Monk

If you got to pick the book that everyone in the world would HAVE to read, what specific piece would you choose and why?

"As someone who has spent most of my childhood and adult life reading books, I think there are far too many to choose from. However, one that comes to mind at this moment is Markus Zusak's The Book Thief. In addition to being a great book, I believe that it introduces readers to the reality that history is much more nuanced and complicated than any one, "official" version ever tells us."

-Dr. James Curtis

Community Quiz:

Who is your favorite NFL team?

Click, respond and tune in to find out your neighborhood`s favorites!

Contact us at almagest@lsus.edu
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Last Issue's Community Quiz

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first community quiz! Here are the results from Volume 2:

What is your favorite local hangout spot?

Survey with Shreveport-Bossier residents, September 2025



Do you want to be featured in our next newsletter? Make sure to subscribe to our newsletter, respond to our community quiz and check back in every two weeks!

- The Almagest Team