3 students test positive for COVID in Vista dorm

Alondra Campos
News Editor
Jacob Barriga
Staff Writer

At least 19 University of La Verne students are currently in quarantine this week after three residents of the Vista La Verne dorm tested positive for COVID-19, according to University officials.

Housing placed the students under quarantine after coming in direct contact with the three who tested positive for the coronavirus, said University spokesman Rod Leveque. The first positive test was between Friday and Tuesday, Leveque said.

“The first positive test was a result of symptoms reported by a student, and the second positive test came through surveillance testing,” Leveque said. “The third positive test resulted from direct contact with one of the tested residents.”

The University conducts surveillance testing regularly, for which residents are tested randomly.

Leveque said when positive tests arise, the University conducts contact tracing, working with students to find anyone who has come in contact with the residents who have tested positive and places those students under quarantine as well. Students have the choice of remaining in their own rooms or transferring to a new room during the quarantine process.

“Once students complete their quarantine period, they are tested again,” Leveque said. “If the test results are negative, they are cleared to leave quarantine and go back into the surveillance testing pool.”

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently lowered the recommended quarantine period from 14 to 10 days, Leveque said the University is following the Los Angeles County guidelines, which still call for 14 days of quarantine.

With the winter break approaching, “if students would like to quarantine in their own home or residence, they are welcome to do that as well,” Leveque added.

City council to decide by March

Alondra Campos
News Editor
David Gonzalez
Editor in Chief

The city of La Verne is considering giving up its locally controlled fire department and instead contracting with Los Angeles County Fire Department for the same service instead as a way of addressing staffing shortages and other problems that have impeded the La Verne Fire Department recently.

This decision to consider this change came after a 4-1 vote by the La Verne City Council last month.

“At the end of the day, we are entrusted to protect our residents and if we can’t provide that, then we must look for other avenues to do so,” La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn said.

To study the relative benefits of this possible change, the city brought in a third-party consultant, Messina and Associates, to evaluate a report provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department about the services they could provide to La Verne and the possible costs. This report was sent out to all La Verne residents prior to the Nov. 2 meeting, and residents were invited to offer feedback.

“We had a 30-day comment period regarding the initial analysis for our community members to share their thoughts and opinions on the matter,” City Manager Bob Russi said.

That month-long window brought over 120 comments from La Verne residents.

Donna Redman, associate professor of education and for-
Young adults are marrying to afford health insurance

Gabriella Cummings
Staff Writer

Margaret Gough, associate professor of sociology, explained the link between health insurance and cohabitation and marriage in an audience of 19 people on Tuesday at her lecture titled “Longitudinal Models of Source of Health Insurance on Young Adults Cohabitation and Marriage” held via WebEx. Gough said research started last year in the fall was put on hold because of the pandemic.

She said she used longitudinal data to try to understand how health insurance and the source of it are related to cohabitation and marriage among adults and that prior to the Affordable Care Act, young adults were the most uninsured group in the United States. “They had very high un-insurance rates and their out of pocket health care expenditures were pretty substantial. About 4% of them had medical expenses of more than $1,500 a year that they were paying out of pocket to the ACA going into that,” Gough said.

Gough said that health insurance coverage for young adults that was implemented in 2010 to 2011 was expanded to young adults up to the age of 26 through their parents even if they were not still enrolled in school. Before anyone who was not enrolled in high school after the age of 18 could not be covered under their parents’ insurance.

“So prior to the ACA, if you were not enrolled in secondary education your insurance access through your parents cut off either when you graduated high school or at age 18 for all almost insurance. If you were enrolled in post-secondary school, you could be covered up until the age of 24,” Gough said.

She said that people decide to cohabit and marry at a young age, because they are looking for financial stability, accreditation, and the idea that they can save so they can afford a car or a house in the future, especially for low income adults.

“This was particularly the case for low-income adults in America today when marriage has become very desirable,” Gough said. “Health care costs may play a role in terms of people’s decisions about whether they’re going to marry, whether they’re going to cohabit.”

Corina Ruelas, a sophomore criminology major, attended Gough’s presentation and said she was able to gain some major takeaways from it. “Something I took away was that it’s so unfortunate that health care coverage is so expensive that if people consider getting married in order to be able to afford it with both salaries rather than getting married solely because they’re in love,” she said.

Gabriella Cummings can be reached at gabriella.cummins@laverne.edu.

LVFD... Continued from page 1 to the report. In the report shows that the La Verne Fire Department has difficulty with employee retention, which is exacerbated by several factors, including a negative perception of the department, lower salary and benefits, limited advancement opportunities, and uncertainty about the department’s future.

La Verne resident Victor Arteaga said that he was in favor of the Los Angeles County Fire Department taking over because of the lack of resources the city can provide to the fire department.

“The size of that (Los Angeles County) department logistically can provide more resources, more safety than La Verne, including hazard materi- als and wildland maintenance,” Arteaga said. “I think there’s a better flow of logistics when the county is providing all those services, and we aren’t off the radar but on the radar as one of the communities that needs that preventative maintenance.”

Arteaga, who was a reserve for the La Verne Fire Depart- ment from 1990 to 1996, said that he has seen issues with staffing and response times, especially to northern parts of La Verne, where he lives. Arteaga said that moving to Los Angeles County Fire Control department might help that.

Arteaga said that the most important thing to consider was keeping the community safe.

“I know the most important thing is being able to provide the emergency services that we pay for,” he said. “God forbid it causes a loss of life or prop- erty, and that’s what our tax dol- lars are put to. Needless to say, I’d be a lot better off if I knew there was never an issue with staffing or equipment needed by firefighters in providing those services.”

Ultimately the review left the city council with two options: Either the city shifts to the Los Angeles County Fire Department control and faces the increased costs, or the city maintains its lo- cal control of its fire department and directs additional funds to increase local staffing.

“If we choose not to fall under county control, we would need to rebuild the fire depart- ment,” Hepburn said. “One of our main drivers, and I believe it’s retention rates — mainly due to a lawsuit we had a while back.”

In 2018, the La Verne Fire- fighters Association sued the city after several firefighters claimed that Fire Depart- ment chief Peter Jankowski lied about the department’s “inade- quate” equipment and secretly recorded union members when they gave the chief a vote of no confidence.

The lawsuit ended in a $5.5 million settlement for the La Verne Firefighters Association, Hep- burn said. Following the lawsuit, many firefighters left to go to other agencies, including many of the seasonal firefighters. Ever since the fire department has found it difficult to maintain a full staff.

“In order to maintain our lo- cal fire department we must start with finding strong leadership,” Redman said adding that there has been high turnover in the highest ranks of the La Verne department.

Under the Los Angeles Coun- ty Fire Department, the La Verne Fire Department would also receive unlimited mutual aid and resources to protect its residents, eliminating the worry of mutual aid now arriving late to an emer- gency.

Andrew Glaze, president of the La Verne Firefighters Asso- ciation, said the association is excited to work with Los Ange- les County and provide a safer option for the city.

“If we choose to go under a small fire department like ours with lim- ited external aid, transitioning up to Los Angeles County would be safer for our response time to fires and increase the staff, making it the safer option for residents,” Glaze said.

Glaze said the nine fire- fighters currently on duty for the La Verne area could be turned into 72 firefighters if they were un- der county control, including the firefighters serving the three other nearby fire stations.

“I look over at those ULV dorms, some of which are five stories high, and we don’t have the capability to safely fight a fire if one were to occur in those buildings,” Glaze said. “Los Angeles County has three fire trucks within a mile radius of ULV. We don’t.”

“A 5 to 10 minute delay of aid can cause significant safety issues,” Glaze said.

Terms of the possible change are expected to be drafted by March 2021, then brought back to the City Council for final review.

Hepburn said many of the community’s concerns about this shift has to do with the his- tory of the La Verne Fire Depart- ment.

“We usually have Santa Claus hand out the fire trucks handing out candy during the holiday season, and a lot of people don’t want that to lose that personal touch with our fire department,” Hep- burn said. “I mean there is a 100 year history behind it.”

“Those kinds of things that the community holds dear to, which I do myself too, could poten- tially not be around,” Arteaga said. “Ultimately though, the most important is the emergency response.”

To read the full report, visit lvfdstudy.org.

Alondra Campos can be reached at alondra.campos@laverne.edu.

David Gonzalez can be reached at david.gonzalez96@laverne.edu.

CAMPUS TIMES ONLINE

The award-winning Campus Times online edition is updated throughout the week with event coverage and breaking news.

Visit lvcampusnews.org for cur- rent and past stories, and additional columns and blogs.

You can like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @lvcampusnews and Instagram @campustimes for all the latest updates on local and on-cam- pus news. Send us story ideas over social media or email to ctimes@laverne.edu.

Leos eye

November

Low-key

holidays

Hien Nguyen
Staff Writer

As the semester draws to a close and holiday season ap- proaches – amid the most dead- ly period of the COVID-19 pandemic – many are considering how they will adapt their holiday plans accordingly.

“I’m going to go back to my parents’ house because I know I will have a Zoom session with my extended family,” said sophomore educa- tional studies major Lauren Holcomb. Holcomb added that she also looks forward to doing Christmas carol singing and watch- ing holiday movies with her immediate family.

“The whole family has been cautious of the virus, we are committed to seeing each other on this special day but safely of course,” said sopho- more English major Emily Quinoy.

She said her family will also eat tamales, drink cham- purrado, Mexican hot cocoa, and play Uno on Christmas Eve.

“Family time is extremely important to us and we’ll con- tinue to enjoy time together on Christmas Day in some fes- tive pajamas, watch Christmas movies and feast on leftovers,” she said.

“Usually we go to Ecua- dor to spend Christmas with our families over there but obviously plans are cancelled because of COVID-19,” said sopho- more international studies major Bianca Biaqzerio. Biaqzerio said that this year she wants to focus on giv- ing back to the community and will be preparing care pack- ages for those in need.

“The holidays are a time to show appreciation to our loved ones. I would also like to talk about those who don’t have anyone to go to and are alone as well,” she said.

Hien Nguyen can be reached at hien.nguyen2@ laverne.edu.

"If we choose to go under a small fire department like ours with limited external aid, transitioning up to Los Angeles County would be safer for our response time to fires and increase the staff, making it the safer option for residents," Glaze said.
With the expected arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine in the coming weeks, it is critical to limit the number of customers at their respective locations as much as they can.

“Washing and sanitizing our hands repeatedly, keeping a minimum of six feet apart, and wearing a mask when leaving the house are all great steps to continue moving forward, but it does not stop there. Public spaces, like bars and restaurants, are some of the most popular places where COVID-19 cases reside. Because these places are sites of gathering, even if it is outdoors, they have a responsibility to stay closed or limit the number of customers at their respective locations as much as they can.”

Internships should include pay

Internships are an important stepping stone into the professional world for many college students. However, unpaid internships are exploitative and should be illegal.

In a world where time is valuable and students have to work through college, they may not be in the position to take on unpaid work. In 2018, 43% of all full-time undergraduates were employed and 81% of part-time undergraduates were employed, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

With the increasing cost of attending a four year university, it is no surprise why many students need to work during their academic career. Any employee of a for-profit company must be paid for their time under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, however interns are not considered employees according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

This means that interns are not required to be compensated for their work. However, interns do need to be the main party benefiting from the work arrangement for the internship to be legal.

Interns typically work 10 to 40 hours a week. If an internship is unpaid, people will be losing those hours when they could be working a part-time job with benefits and financial compensation. These are valuable hours that not everyone can waste on an unpaid internship.

Because interns are not considered employees, this means that they are not entitled to benefits, including disability and health insurance. With an unpaid internship, this would mean that the intern will not be receiving financial compensation or benefits at all. Working a part-time job could allow people to get those benefits.

The knowledge and career experience gained through internships are incredibly valuable. But not everyone can afford to work for free while in college, and our schools do not accept “knowledge and career experience” as payment for tuition bills.

Companies need to take into account the increasing cost of college and living and start offering financial compensation to their interns.

Gyms have also taken the extra precaution of closing their indoor workout facilities and moving all equipment outside instead.

However, even with this precaution, customers should still ensure that they maintain social distancing and wear masks. A small inconvenience could go a long way to save lives.

While we wait to see what changes the vaccine will bring, there are many decisions we can take that can either help save millions of lives or lose them.

As a society, we must push ourselves to strictly follow the Los Angeles County safety guidelines for the sake of our own lives and of others as well.

We cannot get complacent and rush a return to “normal” before it is completely safe.

COVID...

Continued from page 1

Vista La Verne is currently the only University dorm open, serving about 150 residents. This is the first time Vista has had a positive COVID test result, and students still say they believe housing staff is handling the situation well.

“I am nervous but... the staff is doing the best they can do under these circumstances” Kylie Fetis-Turner, junior business administration major, said.

Junior business administration major Austin Haines said that he is not scared of getting the virus himself.

“But I don’t want to be asymptomatic and take it home during Christmas because I have family members who have complicated health issues,” Haines added.

Vista will continue random testing, and all those living on campus may get a test at the University health center at no charge.

Alondra Campos can be reached at alondra.campos@laverne.edu.

Jacob Barriga can be reached at jacob.barriga@laverne.edu.
First Person Experience

Christmas lights bring cheer in Claremont

Destinee Mondragon
Staff Writer

With new stay-at-home orders in California, rising COVID-19 cases and life entering month 10 of virtual everything, holiday cheer may not seem as cheery for some this Christmas season. People cannot—or should not—gather for holiday celebrations like in normal years.

I have gone through almost all the holiday movies on streaming platforms and have yet to find a good gingerbread house kit in stores. But in my efforts to try to muster some personal holiday spirit while staying socially distanced, I drove around Claremont this week to see how the city was spreading holiday cheer via outdoor home decorations lighting up some neighborhoods.

I started off on Richmond Drive in Claremont Tuesday night. There was no line of cars to see the house, but there were some families on foot with face masks on.

One house on Richmond Drive stood out among several decorated, and it lit up the street with its many decorations. Twinkling lights hung from the tree in the front yard, and lights adorned the concrete in front of the property as well. There were inflatable Christmas characters: a snowman on a hot air balloon, and another snowman of the property as well. There were some homes that went all out over the top with decorations playing with their definition on how unique it was in needing to signify Christmas. For me, it stood out the most because I loved the style of the house and how unique it was in not needing to add over the top decorations or being the brightest on the street.

As I continued down Scripps Drive, houses were glowing with lights and Christmas music with families walking down streets and in cars. The efforts by so many people in Claremont truly embodies the spirit of Christmas in trying to keep the holiday cheers within the community. The joy across the faces of people looking at the Santas on front porches and children waving at the reindeers on roofs trying to get their attention is what Christmas is all about. Even though for me the experience was brief, it did feel as though things were somewhat normal, that Christmas season is upon us. And that despite everything we can make the most of the holiday season.

Claremont showed its Christmas spirit this year with houses covered in bright lights, such as this one on Richmond Drive.

Commentary

My grandfather’s homecoming united my family

Deja Goode
Senior Journalism Major, Arts Editor

Growing up, I spent my entire life knowing only one of my grand-parents from both sides of my family. My grandmother, Wanda, is the best grandmother I could ever ask for as she has taken care of me like she was my mother. But a part of me always wanted to know more. This year has been full of surprises, and luckily I had the pleasure of meeting my grandfather for the first time ever.

Four years before I was born, my grandfather called my father to let him know he was being let out very soon. The entire dynamic of my family changed for the better after that.

It was almost as if my family was preparing to meet a newborn child. Everyone was buying gifts and clothes, preparing a bedroom for him, and gathering the entire family near and far.

My great grandmother Maureen has lived in the same house in Los Angeles for 40 years, and for a lot of my family, that was the house they grew up in. All of my cousins, uncles, and aunts returned to their childhood home along with their children to celebrate my grandfather’s homecoming, and it was one of the most magical experiences, and possibly my favorite life experience, ever.

Spending 26 years locked away makes you miss out on a lot of things like technology, new additions to the family, music, trends, and even sports news which seemed to be very important to my grandpa. I spent three hours updating him on how to use his smartphone and how to book appointments online. Seeing his face light up with amazement was one of my favorite things, and quite amusing since this is normal to me.

However, the best part was watching him interact with all his grandchildren. There are about 16 of us, and he took the time getting to know everything we were doing. My heart started to ache when I realized how much he has already missed. He missed birthdays, graduations, a few funerals, and big family celebrations. His outlook on this situation was a lot different. When we all tried telling him funny stories and how we were sad he couldn’t have been there to see it, he told us how grateful he was to sit there and hear us tell him. He hung on to every single word, but he made sure to let us know that he wasn’t sad about it all.

In fact, he said he was more excited to make his own memories with us and live in the present. My grandfather said life is too precious to dwell on the past as it will make you miss out on the things that are right in front of you.

I was in awe of the situation because I have never met anyone with such a positive attitude in circumstances that don’t always seem so positive. It made me rethink how I see situations that I have been through in the past.

This is the most together that my family has ever felt, and the happiest I have seen everyone. All along the missing piece was my grandpa, and now we have a very large, but completed puzzle. I can’t wait to make new memories with my grandpa and with my entire family.

Deja Goode, a senior journalism major, is arts editor for the Campus Times. She can be reached at dejagoode@laverne.edu.
Fiction focuses on relationships, magic

Lilliana Perez, Staff Writer

Senior creative writing major Sienna Ruiz and alumna Tabitha Lawrence read their original work during the third installment of the Fall Fiction Reading Series on Dec. 4 over Zoom to an audience of 23.

“The Foxhole” based on Lawrence’s time at the University, centers around two characters, Beth and Dorian, who are in a complicated relationship.

The story begins at the end of their relationship and works its way backward.

“I wrote this from what I saw and experienced during my time at La Verne,” Lawrence said. “And I think this is what most college relationships are like at some point.”

Ruiz’s first story, “Middle Years” involved three main characters, Eric, Ricky and Ma- tilde, three middle schoolers who are close friends and get into trouble together. Ricky, who is going to flunk eighth grade, feels ashamed and is scared with how angry his mom will be because she works two jobs, and she left his father because he would beat her. Ricky’s friends and classmates have no idea of what is going on in Ricky’s life.

“There can be struggles,” Ruiz said. “But no one may notice, and I wanted to show that everyone has different backgrounds and struggles.”

Her second story, “The Collector,” is about a woman feeling scared of some sort of creature out to get her.

For this story, Ruiz said she wanted to have a magical creature, and she also wanted to address a real social problem.

“The main character has depression and I wanted to show that she is suffering,” Ruiz said. Professor of Creative Writing Sean Bernard, who coordinated the event, said he was proud of his students.

He said the virtual readings, each of which includes both current students and graduates, have been a great experience.

“I feel like I know the students, both current and graduates, fairly well, but what happened today is something that’s always profoundly delightful,” Bernard said. “Their ability to surprise me by reading pieces I had no idea existed, pieces that are tight, strange and ambitious. It was amazing.”

The final reading of this series will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 24.

Lilliana Perez can be reached at lilliana.perez@laverne.edu.