Campus Times

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Inside

Wildfires continue to burn p2

Claremont turns out for art walk p4

Volleyball stays undefeated p8

Athey considers cannabis conversations

Karina Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Nicholas Athey, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, discussed "Cannabis-related political discourse on Twitter: A Mixed-Methods Approach" Tuesday in the Lewis Center classroom before an audience of roughly 40 people.

Cannabis, its use, and misuse is a divisive topic of discussion, said Athey, whose scholarship focuses on drug policy. He said he used quantitative and qualitative research methods.

"The quantitative side I'm doing descriptive … analysis." Athey said. "I (also) do a sentiment test of the tweets," Athey said.

Athey noted that the word "marijuana" is no longer used frequently, and cannabis is preferred.

"I'm actually really interested in 'cannabis' and 'marijuana' because marijuana has often been used as a derogatory term," Athey said.

He also discussed the use of the words "pot" and "weed."

"'Pot' and 'weed' are interesting because they also have negative connotations, so you would expect there to be more of a negative sentiment," he said.

X serves as a stage for people of all walks of life to engage in discourses similar and different to their own, Athey said, making it a good place to gauge discourse on the topic.

Athey began his research in 2020. He got a special written permission from X to download thousands of tweets to conduct his research. He divided the cannabis tweets into six categories: economy, government, public health, justice, substance use and abuse, and other.

"I learned a lot, but what I appreciated most was the history and everything that has taken place," Leticia Arellano-Morales said.

Alessandro Morosin, assistant professor of sociology and criminology added that his own skepticism of the cannabis industry was reinforced because of what he called "the mass commodification of cannabis in the states where it (is) legal."

"Some of the negative effects can be seen in labor, the environment (and) the whiteness of who owns the industry," Morosin said.

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Nicholas Athey, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, presents his study on the online debate surrounding cannabis Tuesday in the Lewis Center Classroom.



Canille C. Nan

University hires permanent VP of enrollment

April Cambero
Editor-in-Chief

The University has hired Alaina Dunn as vice president of enrollment management. She started last month.

Dunn,who served previously as assistant vice president of admissions for Palo Alto University, replaced Eric Bishop, who held the position on an interim basis. She said her interest in coming to La Verne was both practical and personal.

"I saw a place where I could do good," Dunn said. "It immediately felt like a place I knew. It felt comfortable, it immediately felt like community."

As vice president of enrollment, Dunn she will oversee the offices of financial aid, admissions for all programs. She will also work with advising and career services offices.

Dunn said she does not have a specific plan yet for increasing the University's enrollment, which has been steadily declining for the past five years. Though she said she has identified a couple of strengths so far.

"One is you have really strong staff in leadership roles in different divisions, especially in admissions," Dunn said. "You also have a new (interim) president who is bringing a lot of energy and enthusiasm for innovation, so that is going to be really good as well."

Last year the University celebrated the appointment of a new president, Pardis Mahdavi, who started in fall of 2023. Mahdavi resigned from the University in June of this year, less than a year from when she started. Former University trustee Mark Hicks served as acting president during the summer. Risa Dickson, who began her term as interim provost early this year, was named the interim president to serve until a new permanent president is appointed.

Dunn said she hopes enrollments will grow across all student populations, from traditional to non-traditional to online. She added that she is excited to partner and build connections with everyone on campus.

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Wildfires devour Southern California

Stephen Gilson Jr.
Arts Editor

Portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside counties have been engulfed in wildfires, most of which are still burning out of control uncomfortably close to the University of La Verne.

The Line Fire, which started Sept. 5 in Highland, has been ravaging the San Bernardino mountains, and had consumed almost 40,000 acres by midday Thursday. It has forced evacuations and evacuation warnings in Running Springs, Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead and Silverwood Lake and surrounding areas. This fire was 18% contained by Thursday afternoon.

The fire was apparently started by arson. 34–year-old Justin Wayne Halstenberg of Norco, has been arrested on suspicion of starting this fire.

The Bridge Fire, the largest in the state and closest to the University of La Verne started burning Sunday and has ravaged more than 51,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest in four days with 0% containment by Thursday afternoon.

The northernmost sections of La Verne, Claremont, and Upland have been issued evacuation warnings, and several communities nearby have been ordered to evacuate, including Wrightwood and Mount Baldy – where several La Verne faculty live. This fire had destroyed more than 33 homes by midday Thursday.

The newest of the local fires, the Airport Fire, which started Monday Trabuco Canyon in Orange County. It consumed almost 25,000 acres in just three days and was 5% contained by midday Thursday.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has issued air quality alerts due to smoke and particulate matter.

At least 13 people have been injured in these fires, and countless animals have been displaced, though no human deaths had been reported by midday Thursday.

For updates on the fires and evacuation warnings, visit watchduty.org or download the Watch Duty app. For air quality updates, visit the South Coast Air Quality Management District at aqmd.gov.

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On the Cover

Flames rage on Sunday evening at the Bridge Fire in San Gabriel Canyon, north of Glendora. The Bridge Fire has grown rapidly since it started and has quickly moved east, destroying multiple structures in Mt. Baldy and Wrightwood. / photo by Chris Rogers

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The Campus Times is committed to accuracy. When we make mistakes, however, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention.

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Letters to the Editor

The Campus Times encourages readers to submit letters to the editors regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. The Campus Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel. Letters may be sent to **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

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This slime has healing properties

Stephanie Amaya
Staff Writer

Roughly 30 students attended an "aromatherapeutic slime" event Wednesday in the Vista dorm's main lounge.

Students teamed up to create their custom slime batches using clear or white glue, "slime activator" and baking soda that they could mix with a choice of essential oils, foam beads, and small plastic fruit charms.

They also learned about the various essential oil properties, and listened to pop music.

The de-stressing event was run by Jessica Coorey, a Vista resident advisor and junior criminology major, who said she hoped the slime would relax, distract, and motivate students during difficult times personally and academically.

"I am just not trying to think about what tomorrow is going to bring," said Khailee Clark, a junior biology major who appreciated the chance to unwind with a batch of slime.

The off-beat event sparked her interest to take a break from homework and catch up with friends, she said.

"This was my first time trying to make aromatherapeutic slime," said Alexis Aguilera, sophomore business major, who said she'd wanted to make it before.

"But the ingredients were too complex from the YouTube videos I watched as a kid."

Aguliar added peppermint essential oil to her slime.

"I think … we should keep doing (such events)," said Aryanna Payan, sophomore business administration major.

"This was a needed break."

Payan said people who are full-time students or who work can benefit from finding a little time in the day to use slime.

"The beginning of the year is always stressful and I wanted to do something very fun," Coorey said, adding that the essential oils were key.

The orange scent is supposed to help with energy, lavender helps with sleep, tea tree oil is good for skin and peppermint helps for headaches, she said.

"I always (loved) scented things as a kid, and now I use essential oils every day," Coorey said.

Her perfect slime consists of white slime, pink foam beads and tiny fruit bowl charms scented with lavender and orange.

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Chris Rogers

Isac Paniagua, sophomore political science major, makes slime in the Vista La Verne residence hall main lounge on Tuesday. This event was meant to help distract and relax students through making essential oil-infused slime. Lavender, orange and peppermint were some of the oils available for use.

Sorority recruits new membership

Sonya Sexton
Staff Writer

Sigma Gamma Rho held its "Meet the Poodles" event on Sept. 5 in the Abraham Campus Center.

The intimate event was designed to help the sorority recruit new members for the upcoming school year. French toy poodles are the mascot for this sorority, but no actual dogs were at last week's recruitment event.

Current members provided potential recruits with information on the sorority's history and what it takes to become a member of the Black sorority, one of the "Divine Nine" sororities, founded in 1922.

There was also time for Q&A for potential recruits.

Sorority advisor Sheree Rome, a 2023 alumna, and sorority member Kendall Stanley were in attendance to help facilitate the event.

Each of the current members of Sigma Gamma Rho spoke about what drew them into the sorority, as well as the struggles that they have endured during their time within the organization.

Sigma Gamma Rho member Kristal Sullivan, a senior chemistry major, said that at the other schools that she attended she never felt comfortable enough to fully be herself.

"I wanted that opportunity to be surrounded by educated Black women and get that sense of identity that I wasn't necessarily missing, but I craved," Sullivan said.

Sullivan also connected with the values that Sigma Gamma Rho embodied and the community service opportunities available. Sullivan wanted a wider platform to complete community service than what basketball offered her, and Sigma Gamma Rho made that possible.

Stanley, part of the graduate chapter of the sorority, said that she had not planned on joining a sorority. But once she did some more research on the Divine Nine and this sorority specifically, she realized that this was something that she wanted to be a part of.

Stanley advised prospective members to learn about the various sororities on campus and choose the one they feel is the

Continued on page 6

Students explore majors and minors at academic fair

Justin Ries
Staff Writer

The University held an Academic Exploration Fair Tuesday in the Abraham Campus Center.

The Fair was designed for newer students who have yet to choose a major.

Professors from the various programs and majors were on hand to share and answer questions.

"I (showed up) to learn as much as I can about the other departments on campus and see if I have any interest in changes," sophomore kinesiology major Lucas Aguilera said.

About 100 students browsed the many booths that lined Barbara's Place, the lobby and the lounge area in Campus Center's first floor.

"Departments want to give (students) an idea of what a major can do for them, what kinds of different majors can lead to different careers," said Jonathan Reed, professor of religion..

"It's also a great opportunity to explore minors."

Food for the event was provided by Raising Cane's chicken fingers while they explored the different tables and listened to each major presentation.

" There was a lot of stuff that I didn't know about that I know now," said freshman business major Welsey Bragg.

Students showed up to the event in waves.

"I am sure of my major right now," said sophomore biology major Yolanda Caceres.

She was there to check out potential minors.

Many of the booths gave out gifts, including rubber band bracelets, donut holes and candy.

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Arts, etc...

Happenings

'Parallax'

The Harris Art Gallery is currently showing "Parallax," an exhibit of watercolor works and hand drawings by Jon Leaver, professor of art history, and sculptures handcrafted by Keith Lord, professor of art. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The show runs through Oct. 10.

Admission is free.

For more information visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition_tag/harris-gallery**.

'Evolving Ideas'

The Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College in Claremont will hold a closing celebration of the "Evolving Ideas" exhibition from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

This free event and the exhibit features the ceramics of artist Ruenell Foy Temps, showcasing four decades of the artist's work.

For more information visit **rcwg.scrippscollege.edu**.

Gallery Talks

The Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College in Claremont hosts weekly Gallery Talks from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fridays through November.

The series includes informal talks about current exhibitions presented by artists, curators, students, faculty and staff.

For more information visit **pomona.edu/museum/events/2024/09/gallery-talk**.

Sábado de Cultura

Eastland Center is hosting Sábado de Cultura, a free community event filled with music, dancing, and art, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. this Saturday. Enjoy family-friendly activities like face painting and crafts, at 2753 East Eastland Center Dr. in West Covina. A special performance by the West Covina Ballet Folklorico International Dance Company is anticipated at 5:30 p.m.

For more information visit **eventbrite.com**.

—Thatiana Gibbs

Artists showcase

Whimsical work

by April Cambero

photography by Vicente Rodriguez

Art fanatics, families and friends all joined various artists to view their work and hear their thoughts at the Claremont Art Walk on Saturday at various art galleries in the Claremont Village.

The artists that showcased their work seemed joyous, as guests floated through the studios to view the whimsical pieces that were displayed. Various studios in Claremont Village, such as Bunny Gunner, Ahmad Shariff Art Gallery, Claremont Lewis Museum of Art and the Claremont Forum all displayed the art of many local artists.

The hot summer night kept guests out of the heat and in the studios. The only moments that guests were outside was to enjoy some dynamic music by groups playing in front of some of the studios to help invite guests in.

Pianist Bobby Rennie played original and cover pieces in front of the Ahmad Shariff Art Gallery. Rennie often plays in Claremont Village for events like the Wine Walk and the Art Walk.

"My favorite part is being outside and seeing people just being out and about and everyone is here for a good time," Rennie said.

His method when playing in public is reading the room for the type of people that are around and what he thinks they would like to hear. Rennie enjoys playing piano covers of bands like System of a Down, Pixies and Tame Impala.



Artist Andrew Bentson hosts a reception for his exhibit "Unruly" at the Ahmad Shariff Art Gallery on Saturday for the Claremont Art Walk. Benson's exhibit features a variety of watercolor pieces from throughout the year.

Artist Andrew Bentson showcased his oil paint layered canvases at the Ahmad Shariff Art Gallery. Bentson started painting recently and found himself needing a change in his life. He is inspired by his line of work in landscape contracting and paints in an unorganized way that makes sense to him.

"My landscape paintings are not only about landscape, but the human experience and what I go through in life as well," Bentson said. "Turning 40 years old was a good time to start painting and I think it's all inspired by simply wanting to get the most out of life."

Bentson created his pieces in the span of seven months and used different techniques to create his unrefined pieces. One of the methods he mentioned that he uses often is painting with a squeegee to create certain lines and layering on the canvas.

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art displayed the art of Phil Dike, a local artist from Redlands, who noticed the beauty and energy of the environment, elements and people all around him.

About 15 people danced around the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art discussing the pieces of Dike while enjoying their light bites and refreshments that were offered by the museum.

The Bunny Gunner art gallery was filled with guests who had some sort of connection to the artist and adjunct professor of art at Mt. San Antonio Community College, Thomas Stubbs.

Stubbs created pieces that he no longer wants to look at because the more he looks at them the more he wants to critique them. Stubbs went into great detail of the pieces and described them in a way that was relevant to current culture and social issues.

"Some of them are kind of off the wall," said Stubbs. "I thought it was whimsical and funny."

Stubbs discussed the interesting piece that was produced from a figure drawing class that he turned into a piece that in-

Continued on page 6

Fiesta Patrias celebrates heritage

Performers wow the crowd

Stephen Gilson Jr.
Arts Editor

The Fairplex in Pomona recently hosted an event to honor Mexican Independence Day and Hispanic Heritage Month. The Fiesta Patrias music festival was Sunday.

A collaboration of Que Buena 105.5FM, 94.3FM and the Fairplex, the event was free, though parking was pricey.

About 500 people attended the festival, despite the 100-degree heat and some smoke from the nearby Bridge Fire.

There was plenty of food and fun.

"It brings our community together and allows families to be with each other," said Rafael Anaya, a production and sound assistant working at the event.

"Most of the time, our people are constantly working and have no time to have fun," Anaya said.

"Although a lot of the newer Latino music isn't to my personal taste, it really allows us to highlight and reflect our culture on the younger people."

Around the perimeter of the festival was a variety of food and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including Brazilian style lemonade, domestic and imported beers and all types of cocktails.

Food included massive smoked turkey legs, carne asada, fries and more.

Other vendors were on hand as well, including car repair shops, and swap meet-style pop up stands, selling kids' toys and offering various services for those who have family members in Mexico.

One stand worked in collaboration with Disneyland Resorts to promote their upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month events at the Disneyland parks in Anaheim.

Inside of the stand, a table was set up to relax and enjoy the movie soundtrack to Disney's "Coco."

Before entering, a life-sized version of both the protagonist Miguel Rivera and his pet xoloitzcuintli dog Dante were proudly displayed for attendees to take photos with.

"Films like 'Coco' really pull on people's heart strings," Samantha Rodriguez, "Coco" stand organizer said.

"Hispanic families are very close-knit and generational. The movie really highlights how important heritage and culture are to our people, and I loved how it represented our people so authentically," she said.

The main festivities started at 2:30 p.m., with artists like Natalie Jimenez and Grupo Clasificado proudly representing Hispanic culture and music to the energy-filled crowd.

Although the heat dwindled down the potential size of the audience, plenty of stands on the perimeter had set up portable gazebos primed with fans and water misters to provide cool shade to attendees who needed to beat the heat.

The Fairplex provided much bigger gazebos to accommodate the amount of people wanting a close view of the artists performing.

Medical personnel were also actively patrolling the venue and checking on guests to ensure they were staying hydrated and cool while enjoying the festival.

"I really enjoy the music our people create," Juana Delgado, a guest, said. "The main artist I came out here to see was Pequeños Musical. Events like this really allow families like mine to come out and spend time together."

Others attended the event after hearing advertisements for it on their commutes from work.

"I heard it on the radio on my way home, so I convinced my husband to come with me," Katherine Fernandez, a guest said.

"A lot of people tend to forget, so having festivals like this allows us to keep the music alive within our culture. It's great for bringing people together and having a good time," she said.

Que Buena 105.5FM and 94.3FM also held a raffle to give away a 2023 Nissan Leaf, retailing for over $30,000 during the festival.

The Fiesta Patrias Music Festival provided a great environment despite the hot and smokey conditions, and allowed families to come together to celebrate their heritage.

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Stephen Gilson Jr.

Mexican singer Natalie Jimenez electrifies the crowd with her vibrant vocals and costume on Sunday at the Fairplex in Pomona. The Fiesta Patrias Music Festival was hosted by Que Buena 105.5FM/94.3FM in celebration of Mexican Independence Day and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Belly Laughs fundraiser brings Saturday fun



Mia Byington

Comedian Lexie Grace performs on Saturday for Belly Laughs, a comedy show fundraiser, at Nambah Coffee in downtown La Verne. Grace carried out her set in front of a packed crowd of about 30 people. Belly Laughs was organized by United Collective, a nonprofit that provides accessible wellness and education through yogic philosophy.

New coach uses scientific approach

Ethan Anderson
Staff Writer

What kind of coach do you get when you blend science and raw passion? You get the University of La Verne's new cross country and track coach, Rob Lander.

Lander is a first generation college graduate, and ran competitively at Mt. San Antonio College before he transferred to Sonoma State.

Upon arriving, he found out men's cross country and track teams are no longer.

He soon met the women's cross country and track coach, Jim Hiserman, who needed an assistant coach.

"Maybe it was a blessing in disguise…it gave me a real introduction to coaching," Lander said.

Lander has spent the last nine years coaching cross country at Chaffey College where his team either qualified to advance to state championships or sent individuals every season of his tenure.

Lander coached at Claremont High School from 2003 to 2014 where he earned a plethora of awards including Track and Field Southern California Coach of the Year in 2005, San Gabriel Valley Cross Country Coach of the Year four times, and All-Inland Valley Cross Country Coach of the Year twice.

Lander gained experience coaching in NCAA Division I when he was the assistant coach at Cal State Fullerton from 2001-2003.

Rob Lander has always had a scientific and methodical approach to training and performance.

He wrote a 2001 thesis about elite distance runners' cognitive strategies to cope with exertion pain that he still references.

"I do lean on it as a coach," Lander said. "The last couple chapters are about the application, how to use it as a performance enhancement specialist."

He said he takes inspiration from numerous figures and mentors, including legendary college basketball coach John Wooden, aiding Lander in defining success.

"Success is peace of mind, it's a direct result of knowing you did everything you're capable of doing to be your very best," Lander said.

That line of thinking is at the core of the culture Lander wants to cultivate in the cross country program, what he described as "love, excellence, and team."

This definition of success is one that is less concerned for wins and more worried about day to improvement and self-fulfillment.

"The results are what they are. If the members of our team can pass the mirror test, knowing they did their very best, that's success and I won't waiver in that," he said.

Lander said he makes sure to stay up to date with the latest research on exercise physiology, and sports psychology.

Making sure his athletes are receiving and understanding the latest information that may help them perform to the best of their ability.

"He's definitely a running nerd," junior cross country runner Peyton Carrera said.

Lander's runners said they feel heard and understood by their new coach, especially after individual meetings with each individual member of the team.

"He's really open to suggestions, not the 'my way or the highway' type guy, really willing to listen to our opinions," junior cross country runner Thomas Taniguchi said.

The Leopards cross country team has been gaining momentum as of the last few years, slowly climbing the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings.

Last year they placed fourth in the conference championship and Lander is looking to build on that momentum.

"Our cross country programs have been steadily improving, I'm looking forward to Coach Rob adding to that and continuing the momentum," assistant athletic director Anthony Avila said.

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Liberty B. Garcia

Rob Landers joins the men's and women's cross country teams as the new head coach. Lander is bringing his experience from coaching with NCAA Divsion I Cal State Fullerton's team and Division II Sonoma State teams. Lander hopes to lead the way for this season's runners.

Whimsical work...

Continued from page 4

cluded some pop culture references. The painting depicted Trix cereal on the floor while a figure pointed a ray gun to the television set that a rabbit was jumping out of.

At the Claremont Forum, Artist Aimee Spriggs had set up about eight of her pieces that revolved around social justice and her time at a southern pilgrimage she recently participated in. The collection showcases her experience and is in efforts to have her viewers have discussions about social justice and what it means to them.

"I felt like it was really just an opportune moment to honor all that I was learning in community and engage with people in this way," Spriggs said.

Spriggs sat with her thoughts and feelings about her experience on the pilgrimage and gave herself a few months to gather her inspiration for the collection. Spriggs spent two and half months bouncing around from canvas to canvas to finalize her pieces for the art walk.

April Cambero can be reached at ***april.cambero@laverne.edu***.

Sorority recruits...

Continued from page 3

best fit.

Rome always knew that she wanted to be a part of a historically Black sorority, but was unsure of which one.

She was nota aware that Sigma Gamma Rho existed until she started her college journey at Cal State San Bernardino.

Rome said she appreciated that she could bring her own personality to Sigma Gamma Rho, instead of having to fit into a specific box or stereotype.

Rome said she learned life skills via the sorority – how to dress, how to conduct an interview and more. And her sorority sisters have become lifelong friends.

Autumn Smith, a sophomore biology major, who calls herself a "military kid" who moved around a lot growing up, said she had never found a community of Black people.

She said she had not planned on joining a sorority, but she felt she fit right in with Sigma Gamma Rho

"I kind of see it as a salad," Smith said. "You know that's a tomato, you know that's lettuce, you know that's the carrots. I really like how everyone comes together and it's not this one thing; it's this beautiful array of Black women," Smith said.

Seeing educated Black women who are successful in their fields also drew Smith to the event since her goal is to become an optometrist after she graduates.

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Women's soccer stays hot with win

Bryce Anthony Edwards
Staff Writer

After a thrilling come-from-behind win against rivals Life Pacific on Sept. 4, in which the Leopards scored three goals in the final 12 minutes to win.

The women's soccer team had all the momentum going into their game against the Stanton Elks on Saturday.

The Leopards won in a dominant shutout victory, 3-0.

The game was slated to start at 4:30 p.m., but was moved to 5 p.m. because of the extreme heat. The referees also made sure to enforce mandatory water breaks during each half for both teams.

"I think it was slow and I think we could have beaten them by more. They had two subs, so we had an advantage." junior center back Kylie Klein said. "The game was a great learning experience for us. We're getting better every game, and every game is showing us things we need to improve on and things we're doing well."

La Verne La Verne had 26 shots total, with 12 of them being on goal.

"Our energy and work rate as a team has been amazing, and everyone has been giving 100% at every practice and game," freshman defender Annabelle Baggio said. "We're playing a new formation this year, and I think every game gives us a chance to continue to master it so we can be ready to compete when league comes around."



Chris Rodriguez

Senior forward Serenity De la Torre pushes the attack as Stanton freshman midfielder Beatriz Pinheiro applies pressure during Saturday's 3-0 win for the Leopards at Ortmayer Stadium. La Verne showed their attacking presence by ending the game with 26 shots.

Senior defender Kayla Allen started off the scoring in the 17th minute for the Leopards by capitalizing on a through ball from teammate senior midfielder Ana Preciado.

Senior forward Toni Escobar scored the Leopards' second goal of the night 10 minutes later in the 27th minute.

Freshman forward Eden Engebresten, scored her first goal of the season and as a Leopard, put the game to bed with a goal from the penalty spot.

"We were happy that we came out with the win, but at the same time there's a lot we can work on," senior midfielder Courtney Okumura said. "We created a lot of chances but were not able to make anything of it."

The Leopards dominated and won the game, but there is always room for improvement with SCIAC play looming.

"The team came together and played well as a unit," head coach Lauryn Pehanich said. "We were able to see a lot of different individuals' step onto the field and compete, as 24 athletes had an opportunity to showcase themselves."

With this win over the Elks and a 0-0 draw on the road on Tuesday against Westcliff, the Leopards are now 2-1-1 on the season and open up SCIAC play on the road at 7 p.m. Saturday at Whittier.

After, the Leopards return to action at Ortmayer Stadium at 7 p.m. Thursday against Elmhurst in another non-conference showdown.

"We are excited about what this group has to offer with our 10 seniors and the leadership that they are bringing," Pehanich said.

Jonas Holt contributed to this story.

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Leopards struggle to find the back of the net

Leila El Sabbagh
Staff Writer

Men's soccer fell to Stanton, 2-0, in their third game of the season after a rare 8 p.m. start time Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.

The game against Stanton followed a 3-0 exhibition game win by the Leopards against Southern California Leadership University.

Weather and air quality postponed the men's and women's soccer games to later times, pushing them back an hour.

"It's always tough playing in the heat, especially on turf," junior midfielder Joshua Mezquita said. "Luckily, we've been able to adapt as much as possible and stay hydrated."

Ortmayer Stadium is built of synthetic turf, which can become up to 40-70 degrees hotter than surrounding air.

Stanton midfielder Dani Apata opened the game with an early goal in the third minute.

The match was a battle of rallies from both teams. The Leopards were a force in the offensive zone. However, they struggled to find the back of the net.

"We're knocking off the rust," Logan Reese, senior goalkeeper, said. "We're getting back into it and striving to become a game winning team."

Stanton freshman defender Francesco De Marco snagged another goal in the 36th minute, assisted by junior forward Francisco Goncalves.

The Leopards finally found the back of the net in the dying minutes of the first half, however the linesman flag went up as Anthony Bastidas was ruled offside, negating the goal.

Five minutes before going into halftime, the Leopards received a yellow card.

"Having hard work at the foundation of our team is really going to boost us past just relying on skill and having that hard work around everyone is just motivating every single day, day in and day out," Mezquita said.

After halftime, senior goalkeeper Hector Duenas-Peñawas substituted in for Logan Reese for the remainder of the game.

The Leopards once again were aggressive offensively but struggled to score a goal.

Multiple fouls and yellow cards were given to both Stanton as well as the Leopards late in the game, resulting in a missed free kick by Stanton's De Marco.

After a competitive performance, the Leopards were sent back into their home locker room with a loss and a season record of 1-2.

"I feel like we just need to make sure we stay on top of our game," Jullian Arellano, freshman defender, said. "We don't need any distractions. We just need to stay focused on us."

Head coach Trevor Persson has shed some light on the team's mindset and how going into their next game, the men's soccer team will be fueled and ready.

"We don't want to make them think that the next game is always going to be a win. It looks like our guys are pretty hungry," Persson said.

After dropping a non-conference match against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens on Wednesday evening, 3-0, the Leopards have now lost two games in a row and will look to bounce back at 7 p.m. Friday against the Whitman Blues.

Leila El Sabbagh can be reached at ***leila.elsabbagh@laverne.edu.***



Jonas Holt

Leopards' senior forward Adan Villareal gets double teamed and loses possession of the ball to the Stanton Elks on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium.

The Leopards struggled keeping possession and building up play all afternoon as the Elks won the game, 2-0, in comfortable fashion.

Leos survives upset in close match

Win raises La Verne's ranking

Jonas Holt
Sports Editor

The Leopards, ranked No. 11 in the nation, fended off a fierce challenge from the Edgewood Eagles to win in five sets, capping off the Whittier Invitational on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court.

With the victory, the Leopards improved their undefeated record to 7-0.

Despite entering the match as favorites, the Leopards found themselves in a roller coaster of momentum shifts throughout the contest, which ended 3-2 (25-18, 25-21, 17-25, 20-25, 15-12).

> 'When you're ranked No. 11 in the country, you're going to get everyone's best game, and Edgewood just gave us their best game.'
> *—Jeff Hendershot, head coach*

"When you're ranked No. 11 in the country, you're going to get everyone's best game," head coach Jeff Hendershot said. "And Edgewood just gave us their best game."

Freshman opposite Kimi Watanabe-Mayhew got the game underway with a kill.

The Leopards jumped to a 6-0 lead, highlighted by an ace from sophomore setter Malia Capistrano and a powerful kill from junior outside hitter Mya Ray.

Edgewood managed to score their first point with a kill from sophomore middle blocker Payton Millin, but couldn't contain the Leopards' surge, falling behind 11-4 before calling their first timeout of the game.

Out of the break, the Eagles responded with six straight points, capped by an ace from setter Mia Hinkamper.

The Leopards regrouped after a kill from sophomore outside hitter Lauren Gott, reclaiming control for good and eventually taking the first set, 25-18, after three consecutive points.

"I was definitely a little nervous coming in as a freshman, but just staying calm, taking deep breaths, and being myself has really helped me settle in and come into my own," Watanabe-Mayhew said.

In the second set, the Eagles started stronger, scoring four straight points to take a 4-1 lead.

But once again, the Leopards found their rhythm with kills from Ray and Gott, regaining the lead, 6-5.

A block from Ray stretched the advantage to 14-8.

However, errors allowed the Eagles to claw their way back to 18-17.

Late in the set, an ace from Capistrano gave La Verne a much-needed cushion at 21-20. Senior outside hitter Allison Whiteman sealed the set with a kill and an ace, giving the Leopards a 25-21 win and putting them up two sets to none and what seemed to be firm control of the game.

"We come out strong in these matches, but we just can't let our guard down and have to be playing at 110 percent all the time," Ray said.

The third set saw the Leopards get comfortable and drop in intensity, thus giving Edgewood life and momentum as the Eagles came out firing on all cylinders.

Edgewood capitalized on the Leopards' drop in intensity.

Eagles' middle blocker Abbey Falk delivered a critical block, pushing the Eagles to an 18-15 lead, forcing a Leopards timeout.

Out of the break, Edgewood's defense held firm, with Falk continuing to shine, and they took the set, 25-17, to cut the Leopards' lead to 2-1.

Momentum shifted further in the Eagles' favor in the fourth set, as they jumped to a 13-7 lead, fueled by strong blocking and kills from graduate student outside hitter Cassidy Spies and Millin.

The Leopards struggled with errors, and despite a brief rally, they couldn't close the gap, losing the set 25-20 as Edgewood forced a decisive fifth and decisive set.

With the match on the line and an upset looming as the Eagles had all the momentum, the Leopards regrouped.

Whiteman and Ray provided key kills, giving the Leopards an early 9-7 advantage.

"I've been in so many pressure moments and all those moments in my past prepared me for the new ones, so I was ready to step up and win this game in our home gym," Whiteman said.

A sneaky tip from junior middle blocker Kat Bloomer extended the lead to 10-7, and Ray's kill put them in the driver's seat at 12-8.

Though the Eagles fought back to 13-10, Ray's final kill brought the Leopards to match point, and an ace from Ray closed out the match, 15-12, allowing the Leopards to survive the upset with a hard-fought victory.



Emily Casillas

La Verne freshman opposite Kimi Watanabe-Mayhew and junior middle blocker Kaitlyn Bloomer attempt to block an attack by Edgewood outside hitter Cassidy Spies Saturday at the Franz Athletic Court. The Leopards came out with a huge win against Edgewood, 3-2. They Leopards currently hold an undefeated 7-0 record and are ranked eighth nationally.

The Leopards' run in the tournament improved their season record to 7-0, solidifying their status as a national contender.

Now ranked No. 8 in the nation, the road ahead will only become more challenging.

In a couple of weeks, La Verne will travel to Missouri for the Washington University Invitational, where they'll face three nationally ranked opponents.

The Leopards will take on No. 4 Wisconsin-Whitewater, No. 21 Cornell (IA), and finish with a match against tournament host No. 14 Washington-St. Louis.

"It's going to be like an NCAA regional out there in Missouri, so this is going to be a great opportunity and test for us," Hendershot said.

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LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Volleyball, Sept. 6.
La Verne - 3
Austin - 0

La Verne - 3
Santa Cruz - 2

Men's Water Polo, Sept. 7
Loyola Marymount - 26
La Verne - 8
.
Chapman - 18
La Verne - 9

Football, Sept. 7
Willamette - 27
La Verne - 24

SCHEDULE

Friday
Men's soccer vs. Whitman, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Men's water polo vs. Fresno @ Claremont Colleges, 10:30 p.m.
Men's water polo vs. UC Santa Barbara @ Claremont Colleges, 3 p.m.
Women's soccer @ Whittier, 7 p.m.

Sunday
Men's water polo vs. Cal Baptist @ Claremont Colleges, 9:30 a.m.
Men's water polo vs. Ottawa @ Claremont Colleges, 2 p.m.

Wednesday
Men's soccer vs. UC Santa Cruz, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

	Overall	SCIAC
La Verne	**7-0**	**0-0**
Whittier	6-1	0-0
Chapman	5-2	0-0
Claremont-M-S	4-2	0-0
Pomona-Pitzer	4-3	0-0
Redlands	3-3	0-0
California Lutheran	2-3	0-0
Occidental	2-4	0-0
Caltech	1-3	0-0