Campus Times

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Leo food pantry fights food insecurity

Olivia Russo
Staff Writer

Food insecurity has been a concern among college students since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the holiday season approaching, students at the University of La Verne have to look no further than what is already happening on campus.

College students with food insecurities have limited access to appropriate food.

They may struggle with knowing where their next meal will come from without the assistance of on campus dining halls.



Vicente Rodriguez

The Leo Food Pantry has gathered many resources for students for the Thanksgiving holiday. It offers four different types of food bags – regular, vegetarian, kosher and halal.

To combat this problem, ULV has monthly pickups from the Leo Food Pantry, which hands out food and personal items for students that may need some extra food to get through each month.

For the holiday season, the pantry has partnered with Bon Appétit to bring holiday meal packages to students who may not have the funds to celebrate Thanksgiving.

"When I started to oversee the pantry, it was during the pandemic," Adrianne Montero-Camacho, director of accessibility and SOS services, said.

"By the time we were finally able to get back on campus and resume our normal operation, we knew that our students were struggling financially, even more than they probably ever had before," she said. "We know that not every person recognizes Thanksgiving as a holiday, but I think there's a lot of pressure put around a big meal or spending time with family."

By signing up, a student can receive a holiday meal package containing all of the basic Thanksgiving meal items, feeding about a family of four.

If a student is vegetarian, they can select that option, and substitute a turkey with gravy for tofu cutlets and mushroom gravy.

The meals are prepared in the two days leading up to the pickup date, where the Bon Appétit staff works in the kitchen to cook and pack all of the meals needed.

Students will then show up the Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving to collect their meals.

"We like to prepare a little bit extra," Anthony Flores, catering and marketing manager at Bon Appétit, said. "So if you order for like a hundred, we're gonna give you 115, because we always know there are some people who show up to dinner late, so just accounting for any additional meals."

Last year, 144 students signed up to collect a meal for Thanksgiving, and the drive gave away 114 meals to students throughout the course of the two days.

With the excess meals, a local pastor was able to give them out to his congregation.

Over the course of the two days, many staff and faculty signed up to help hand out the meals, leaving them to take shifts.

"This has just been a part of my life," Ebony Williams, manager of student outreach and support, said.

"Just being able to participate in a program like this, where we are seeing students who are in need, means I am fulfilling what I am meant to do while I'm here," she said.

This year, holiday meals will be handed out Nov. 26 and Nov. 27, students will be able to pick their own pick-up time on which day works best for them and their schedule.

"Any time somebody can feel better about what they're eating, even their surroundings… It feels pretty good actually to be able to meet different demands of different people," Gilbert Talbot, general manager of Bon Appétit, said.

Faculty and staff can help by donating to the holiday meal initiative or volunteering to help hand out meals.

Others can help by spreading the word about the drive as well as following **@leofoodpantry** on Instagram for more information.

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Reed emphasizes relationships

Lillian Barocio
Staff Writer

Jonathan Reed, professor of religion, discussed the importance of relationships during this month's "What Matters to Me and Why" lecture series Nov. 14 in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space before roughly 50 community members.

The gathering included a 20-minute presentation by Reed, followed by questions and a light reception, including sweet chili pistachios, one of Reed's favorite snacks.

During his talk Reed explained the importance of relationships in three different ways – "expand, deepen and explore" – as key to living a good, healthy and long life.

"Prioritize relationships and if you prioritize relationships, you'll live longer and be happier," Reed said.

Reed talked about inspirational quotes he refers to in his own life from Maya Angelou, and Carly Simon and Mark Twain.

In an effort to expand his relationships and do some good, Reed and his wife, Annette, opened their home to a Ukrainian refugee family recently, who lived with them for a few months.

In the process, they all became good friends and have stayed close.

"I was very interested in the fact he took in refugees and I thought it was cool he built such a good relationship with them as well," said Sydney Sensat, a junior year kinesiology major who attended the lecture.

Reed also talked about his relationship with his wife, and their 40-year marriage.

He said they set aside time for dinner and dancing every Friday night, in addition to going on vacations, hiking and bird-watching.

Reed said it's important to slow down and enjoy the little pleasures life has to offer.

"My biggest takeaway from this talk was building your relationships, not only with people but with nature," said Julissa Espinoza, director of civic and community engagement.

Reed also talked about the importance of exploration and doing new things with loved ones.

He said he frequently explores with his wife and grown children. They explore their boundaries in various adventures. One of these activities he recalled was white water rafting.

The monthly series is sponsored by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Black Student Services and the Center for Multicultural Services.

The next "What Matters to Me" talk will be Dec. 5.

*Lillian Barocio can be reached at **lillian.barocio@laverne.edu.***

On the Cover

A young visitor gets up close and personal with a donkey at Mt. San Antonio College's farm day on Saturday. The petting zoo had animals that also included goats, pigs and rabbits. They offered activities such as pony rides and a kids zone for families. / photo by Vicente Rodriguez

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Plane crash misses crowd at NHRA

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating a plane crash that happened at around 11 a.m., Sunday at the In-N-Out Burger Pomona Dragstrip during the National Hot Rods Association finals.

The passenger plane narrowly missed the race track and hundreds of spectators, while trying to land at the Brackett Field Airport.

It was a single engine Piper PA-32 aircraft flying from Apple Valley, carrying four passengers, who suffered moderate to severe injuries. No one on the ground was harmed by the crash.

Sunday was the NHRA's final competition, marking the end of the drag racing season. The plane crashed into the parking lot just to the left of the stands, just short of the race track, where it damaged vehicles in the vicinity of the crash site.

First responders and safety crews on-site responded to the crash, and officials delayed the races for two hours.

"I saw the plane coming in, there's actually two planes, kind of following each other, and this one was a little bit low," Ricky Thurman, who witnessed the crash, said. "All of a sudden one just never made it across and veered off and hit a truck and a trailer."

The crash site was relatively contained with five vehicles and three trailers damaged. Many who attended the race events brought trailers and RVs to camp out during the weekend-long event.

"This picture is from a buddy of mine, whose trailer got hit," Steve Rawding, a friend of one of the damaged trailer owners, said.

Of the vehicles damaged, one of the trucks had its top half crushed from the plane's descent. A hazmat team was on scene responding to potentially dangerous airplane fuel that spilled from the plane.

NHRA officials covered the fuel in sand to avoid fires that could be ignited by the heavily modded hot rods nearby.

There was initial confusion as to whether it was a passenger plane or a stunt plane from the opening ceremony. There was no noise coming from the plane other than when it crashed.

"Just like a boom," Thurman said. "Other than the initial crash, I don't know if the engine was still running or not."

Races resumed around 1 p.m. and all activities in the pit continued as normal, while first responders dealt with the plane.

The section nearest to the crash was vacated and closed off to spectators.

–Kael Matias



photo courtesy of Steve Rawding

The wreckage of a crashed Piper Cherokee sits among RVs owned by NHRA racers at the Fairplex in Pomona on Sunday. The plane crashed while on approach to Brackett Field Airport from Apple Valley, delaying the NHRA In-N-Out Finals for about two hours.



Chris Rogers

Firefighters, other first responders and Fairplex employees work to contain spilled fuel and secure the wreckage of a Piper Cherokee that crashed at the Fairplex in Pomona on Sunday. The crash took place during the NHRA In-N-Out Finals at about 11 a.m.

Adjuncts frustrated by time cards, may unionize

Olivia Russo
Staff Writer

As of July 1, adjunct faculty have been required to clock in and clock out in real time to record their work hours – from teaching their classes to meeting with students, to preparing for class at home.

This system was implemented over the protests of adjuncts and full-time faculty on behalf of the adjuncts. After several months of the system, adjunct faculty members are still unhappy with it, and have quite a few specific concerns. Though most who have expressed concerns about the problematic new system declined to be interviewed because of the precarious nature of their semester-to-semester contracts.

"I have to stop my class and clock in, so I can get paid," said Linda Bartelt, adjunct professor of education. "So many adjuncts are feeling as if, 'All of my professionalism is going out the door when I have to interrupt something because I forgot to clock in and out.'"

Adjunct faculty were moved from flat-rate per-class contract pay to timecards in 2019 in response to a state law, under which the University would have had to substantially increase adjuncts' flat-rate pay or switch adjuncts to an hourly timecard system.

The University switched to timecards then to save money.

From 2019 until July 1 of this year, adjuncts could record their work hours once every two weeks for the previous two-week period. But in July all hourly employees at the University were moved to the punch-in punch-out system, which many faculty contend is even more difficult to do adequately or accurately, as the nature of the work, including class prep, grading, answering student emails and more may happen during odd or off-hours.

Full-time faculty responsible for staffing classes across the University – more than half of which are taught by adjuncts – are concerned that if the University does not find another pay structure for adjuncts soon, they will begin to lose adjuncts, many of whom have been with the University for decades.

"(Faculty) share knowledge and life experience, " said Yehia Mortagy, professor of information technology and decision sciences, , who is also chairman of the Faculty Assembly.

"That professional experience that is shared with the students is an important aspect of the education. And for us to lose our adjunct may not be the best," he said.

Adjunct faculty, via the Adjunct Council and Faculty Senate, have communicated their concerns to University administrators, including Interim President Risa Dickson, who declined to speak to the Campus Times for this story.

Time cards are administered through the office of human resources. Carletta Loflin Lacy, executive director of the University's office of human resources also declined to be interviewed on this matter, and directed reporting to Ani Kechichian, director of payroll.

"If (adjuncts) need assistance, if they need … individual training, the staff are regularly available, and we actually do … one-on-one training with our employees and even supervisors, " Kechichian said. "We are doing everything that we can do to make this transition easier for our employees, but it will require time for them to get used to it. "

Meanwhile adjuncts are considering unionizing.

"I think we have the people in place to maybe make this work, but it's a two-way street, " said Rick Hasse, instructor of accounting and finance and faculty senator. "I think the fact that we are willing to compromise and do it. But it's a tough situation. If this continues on for another semester next spring, there's going to be talk of unionization on this campus. "

This is not the first time adjuncts have considered unionizing.

In 2013 University of La Verne adjuncts filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board, the first step toward unionizing through the Service Employees International Union.

But the effort then was ultimately unsuccessful.

University administrators are aware of the new unionizing effort. They have acknowledged at Faculty Senate and Assembly meetings that the real-time timecard system and adjunct pay structure is problematic, and they say they are looking into it.

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Finding the best bagel

A hole-ly satisfying quest

Ethan Anderson
Assistant Editor

With final exams and grades approaching, nothing says comfort food like a fresh breakfast bagel sandwich.

Fortunately the community has several options within a five-mile radius of the University of La Verne. I tried five of the closest popular bagel spots, searching for the best.

To ensure fair judging, I ordered the same thing at each location.

Closest to the University is Miss Donuts and Bagels on the corner of D Street and Bonita Avenue.

Within walking distance from campus, it's a popular choice among La Verne students and staff.

Customers can expect to pay between $5 and $10 for a consistently good breakfast sandwich.

For a sausage, egg, and cheese bagel sandwich on a plain bagel the price was $9.16.

The sandwich included a sausage patty, scrambled eggs, and a slice of American cheese. My only complaint with Miss Donuts and Bagels was the untoasted bagel.

The bagel's soft interior became soggy from the oil and grease of the ingredients. Still, it's a convenient option.

One mile north of campus is the Bagelry and Brew on Foothill and D Street, my second stop. For their sausage, egg, and cheese sandwich, the price was $10.20, and it lives up to its premium price.

This was the only sandwich wrapped in foil, which keeps it warmer and less messy, something an inelegant eater like myself appreciates. Bagelry and Brew had the best-tasting sausage and bagel of the bunch.

As mentioned, I prefer a well-toasted bagel, and Bagelry and Brew checks that box. If you're willing to pay a little more for quality, this is an excellent option.

I headed west for my next option, Tastees Donut and Bagel at Foothill and Wheeler, 1.8 miles away. Bagel sandwiches range from $7 to $9.

The man working at Tastees was extremely friendly and respectful, which likely boosts business; people buy from people they like. This was the cheapest bagel at $8.68, and it ended up being my second favorite.

The sausage, sliced from a frank, had a unique taste, with provolone melted over the sausage and a buttered, toasted bagel. This bagel felt the most homemade, like it was made with care.

The fourth bagel shop I tried was La Verne Miss Donut and Bagel, not to be confused with Miss Donuts and Bagels on D Street.

This spot, on White Avenue and Foothill, sits on the north side of the street across from Target. They were out of plain bagels, so I chose spinach and cheese.

My sausage, egg, and cheese sandwich was $7.99. The sausage patty had a good sage flavor, strong but not overwhelming.

The toasted bun had a balanced ratio of ingredients, with no element taking a back seat. This was my favorite breakfast sandwich, with Tastees a close second.

The final spot was Bry's Bagels in Glendora, five miles west of campus at Arrow and Sunflower in the Glendora Public Market.

Though farther away, it's within reasonable driving distance and a good option for commuters.

My bagel at Bry's was $9.76, and I got a cinnamon raisin bagel as they were out of plain bagels and close to closing time.

The sausage patty did not stand out compared to the others, but the cheese was quality and nicely melted.

It's hard to compare this to the others because the sweetness of the bagel changed the flavor dynamics.

Here are my picks, from best to worst: La Verne Miss Donut and Bagel, Tastees Donut and Bagel, Bagelry and Brew, Miss Donuts and Bagels, and finally Bry's Bagels.

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Anthony Eramya

Bagelry and Brew in La Verne offers more than 20 different bagel options, including the spinach and parmesan bagel and the mad cow bagel sandwich. The restaurant on Foothill Boulevard also has a drive thru.

Upland Thai restaurant offers familiar favorites

Margaret Contreras
LV Life Editor

Patra Dining is a new Thai fusion restaurant at C Street in downtown Upland.

But the fare and owner may be familiar to Claremonters, as its owner, Joyce Patra, ran the former Claremont favorite 50-Fifty Asian Fusion.

The Upland restaurant has a minimalist-yet-romantic feel, with exposed-stone walls.

Owner and head chef Patra is clearly beloved by the customers who followed her from 50-Fifty.

The fare, similar to her previous restaurant, ranges from chicken pot stickers to Thai beef salad and Thai barbequed ribs. There are soups and stews, and vegetable puffs that taste like light-and-fluffy samosas.

Upland resident Mirta Vaquerano was walking around downtown Upland and stumbled upon Patra Dining.

"I'm up for trying new food," Vaquerano said. "I'm glad I found a Thai food restaurant I like. I enjoyed the chicken pot stickers."

There are also vegetarian options, from crispy veggie rolls to steamed vegetarian dumplings and salads.

"I am not much of a meat eater," said Citrus College student Emma Mitchell, who dined at Patra's recently. "A friend of mine was talking about the food here. I decided to check it out, since I live in Ontario. I was glad to see there are veggie options for me."

Patra said she learned to cook from taking classes at the Culinary Institute of America, and from her father.

"I have so many ideas for recipes going through my mind," Patra said. "Like with the soup, I opened the refrigerator and saw that I had carrots and ginger. I decided I wanted to make it into a soup, but I wanted to make it

Continued on page 5



Jonas Holt

Patra Dining owner Joyce Patra prepares more beloved pot stickers for customers. Patra, who learned to cook from taking classes at the Culinary Institute of America, is loved by the customers who have followed her from her previous restaurant, 50-Fifty Asian Fusion, in Claremont.

Drag queens bust it down at Hamburger Mary's brunch









Top: Marlow The Fish werks for the audience during her final performance of the event Sunday at Hamburger Mary's. Marlow will co-host Torta Thursdays: Latin Divas Drag Revue at 9 p.m. every Thursday at Hamburger Mary's.

Bottom Left: Paradox Osa Magiq'elle serves on stage Sunday during drag brunch at Hamburger Mary's Ontario. The restaurant is open for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays only.

Bottom Right: Rainy Dayz lip syncs for the crowd in Ontario Sunday. Rainy Dayz performs regularly at Hamburger Mary's as well as other local drag venues.

Below: Melody Sings Facade performs for the second time during brunch Sunday in Ontario. She also hosts a show at Hamburger Mary's for emerging queens on Wednesday nights.

photography by Mia Byington

Thai restaurant...

Continued from page 4

feel cozy."

So for fall and winter she is offering a puree-type soup, only served during her dinner hours. The main ingredients in the soup are ginger and carrots.

She offers other items on her menu that are not Thai cuisine. During lunch, she has pasta with a meat sauce she makes from scratch.

Rancho Cucamonga resident and customer, Sandra Moreno, enjoyed the atmosphere and the food.

"I was so happy to find out that they opened a Thai restaurant here," Moreno said. "I was surprised to find options that my kids would like here. I will bring them with me next time."

The chef wants Patra dining to feel like a place where everyone can enjoy a meal, even if they do not like Thai food.

"Sometimes people don't feel like Thai, but want to be with their friends," Patra said. "That's why I also offer something that is not Thai food."

Patra is planning a grand opening for Patra Dining for mid-January.

With training new staff and holidays, she is optimistic for the date of the grand opening. She will be partnering with the Upland Chamber of Commerce to put the grand opening together.

Patra Dining is currently open for customers to eat in or takeout, including online ordering at **patradiningca.com**.

The restaurant is open seven days with lunch at 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on weekdays. Dinner is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

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Hello Kitty's 50th is marketing boom

Margaret Contreras
LV Life Editor



Vicente Rodriguez

Sanrio's Hello Kitty and Friends merchandise ranges from school products, cups, candy, ramen and shirts for sale at the Five Below store in La Verne. The Hello Kitty celebration will continue to her official birthday in November 2024 when she turns 50.

Hello Kitty turned 50 this year, which made consumers eager to buy the iconic kitty stuff, from clothing to accessories, to house decorations and more. Limited Hello Kitty items have been released throughout the year.

And with holiday shopping upon us, more and more merchandise is being released across the stores.

Fall Hello Kitty stuff included blankets, decorations, sweaters and more.

Winter stuff includes Hello Kitty Christmas tree decorations, blue Hello Kitty sweaters, cups, purses and more. Loungefly, a popular fashion accessory company collaborated with Sanrio, the Hello Kitty company, to release themed bags, wallets and backpacks.

Collections for Hello Kitty and the rest of the Sanrio characters, such as Melody, Kuromi, Badtz-maru, Cinnamoroll, and more are continuing to be released in stores such as Forever 21, Hot Topic, GameStop, Marshalls, Target, Five Below and more.

The craze for the new merchandise stems from social media and TikTok videos going viral with people getting into fights over some of the merchandise in stores such as Marshalls.

According to CNN business, the company itself pulled in $6.5 billion last year, ranking it right behind the Walt Disney company and Mattel, which brought us the Barbie doll.

"Personally I haven't seen too much aggression," said Nicole Kunzel, who works at Forever 21 in the Santa Anita Mall. "But if something gets too out of hand we have mall security step in."

Forever 21 has released new clothing with the Sanrio characters. The collection is called Hello Kitty and Friends, with clothing ranging from jackets, shirts, sweats and pajamas. There are accessories as well, with necklaces, hats, slippers and boots.

"Obviously the country is very reliant on social media and people sharing stuff they find," MINISO Santa Anita mall shopper, Ileana Aleyda, said. "I think it could be crazy, especially with Christmas coming."

MINISO is a Chinese store that was founded in 2013 in Guangzhou, China. There are stores around the world, including cities like London, Paris, Dubai, Los Angeles, New York and Istanbul.

MINISO has a collection that ranges mostly with accessories to decorate your home, stationary, cups and makeup. The store even sells perfumes and home fragrances.

When a certain item is not available in store, workers would recommend checking online and possibly order it to have delivered to the customer's home or to the store. But some consumers do not trust ordering the merchandise online.

"I prefer to shop in stores," Aleyda said. "You can see if it's like the way it looks online and too you can see if it's legit. There are too many people reselling this merchandise for a crazy amount of money."

Hop Topic also released a 50th anniversary collection, it ranges from varsity jackets to jeans to t-shirts. The store is also selling accessories, from wallets to small backpacks and mochi squish toys. The holiday Hello Kitty and Friends collection is also available with Christmas themes of small trees, tree skirts, pillows, cups and clothings.

Hot Topic Santa Anita mall worker Eve Alavez has seen some aggressive customers come through the store looking for particular items.

"People get aggressive with us when we don't have an item in store," Alavez said. "I personally don't think the holidays will bring too many aggressive shoppers. I usually try to encourage them to order it online."

Many fans have also decided to make or learn to make their own Sanrio merchandise. They are, however, not officially licensed sellers for the Sanrio company. However, craft stores like Hobby Lobby and Michaels sell do-it-yourself kits for people to learn how to knit or draw the beloved characters. There is even licensed fabric to make clothes.

Self-taught crochet seller, Tabitha Lee, found patterns and learned how to make the characters on fabric keychains and small stuffed animals.

"I have been doing crochet for about two years," Lee said. "I look up patterns online and I usually make them for myself or for my friends. I sell other things that I make like hats or key chains that look a bit similar to the iconic characters but are not really them, people can see they are different."

The love for the Sanrio characters is sometimes passed from generations to generations. Even with the limited Sanrio stores.

"I remember going to a Sanrio store with my older sisters," Lee said. "I think nowadays our generation is growing up and decided we should bring back some of the characters from our childhood. It's become a nostalgic thing now."

Margaret Contreras can be reached at ***margaret.contreras@laverne.edu****.*

Animals bring furry fun to Mt. SAC farm day

Mt. San Antonio College held its annual farm day event Saturday at the farm on campus.

In anticipation of an increase in foot traffic because of the event, the college organized for more food vendors as well as campus safety and volunteers to herd the crowd.

The event was free to the public and offered free parking, making it easily accessible for all to join. Many families and friends flocked to the event in excitement to see all that the farm offered.

At the entrance of the farm, representatives from the Mt. Sac agricultural sciences department were there to answer questions about the event as well as the department and direct people to the right location.

Maps were posted towards the entrance and were available online as well. The event was scattered throughout the farm, starting with the petting zoo and pony rides at the entrance where the agricultural sciences department was. Deeper into the maze of the farm, other activities such as sheep shearing, milking demonstrations and the kid zone were embedded in the area.

The boundaries of the farm were spread out and a lot of walking was expected to get to each activity. The sun and animals were out to play as children and families lined up at the entrance for the quaint petting zoo.

Goats, sheep and a donkey were calm while small children offered love and comfort to the animals. Mt. Sac students Isabelle D'Antuono, psychology major, and Kaylee Dunn, nursing major, attended the event after hearing about the opportunity to be around the animals.

"I am a huge animal lover and when I heard about this event I was so excited to see everything," D'Antuono said.

Miniature ponies were available for carousel rides and many young children patiently waited for their turn to bask in the excitement. Farm Day highlighted many other animals aside from the petting zoo including horses and pigs.

Further into the event clubs from the college were out, such as the horticulture club, to sell indoor and outdoor plants and showcase their work.

The horticulture club also offered gardening tips, which representatives were very attentive making sure to ask questions to make sure guests were buying the right plants for their homes.

Housing many plants, the greenhouse was also open to the public and allowed viewing of the luscious flora kept on campus. Dunn was most excited for the plants as she enjoys the greenery and opportunity to spice up her room with plants.

"I love the plants, and the greenhouse is a super cool feature that I didn't know we had here at school," Dunn said. "I really enjoyed the overall feeling and it was a great way to also make it feel like fall around here."

Across from the plant sale, the aromatic smell of onions filled the air as food was available to guests with one of the vendors at the event selling water, soda, birria and tacos. As many children love the fun and play that a farm has to offer, Mt. Sac created a kid zone for more excitement for the children.

Bubble machines and bounce houses created riveting fun for the families in attendance.

—April Cambero

Men's basketball loses 3rd straight

Justin Ries
Staff Writer

The Leopards continued their season Wednesday evening at Frantz Athletic Court against Texas Lutheran, falling short, 95-83. La Verne is coming off back-to-back losses against Linfield and Life Pacific.

To kick off the first half the Leopards won the tip-off and got an offensive rebound trying to make their presence felt.

A turnover by senior guard Logen Howard led to Texas Lutheran's first bucket of the game.

After a few possessions on both sides with no points, senior guard Dahmaj Warren scored the first bucket for La Verne.

La Verne kept making their presence felt by hitting shots and rebounding to keep the score as close as they could in the early stages of the first half.

Texas Lutheran then went on a 5-0 run to push their lead to 12.

The Leopards kept making shots off some tip-ins from sophomore forward Kailen Green and tough buckets from Warren to cut into Texas Lutheran's lead.

The Bulldogs kept building on their lead in the first half bringing them up by 20 points in the first half.

Leopards head coach Richard Reed gave credit to Texas Lutheran for taking them out of La Verne's offensive game plan in the first half.

"They took us out of every single thing we tried to do," Reed said. "We had specific calls, reads, and calls we tried to make and they took us off our spot,"

The first half would end with Texas Lutheran leading, 48-32.

"Trying to be physical, as a team we need to be more physical, get more rebounds, play harder all 40 minutes than one half," Green said.

In the second half, Green continued to be physical in the paint with a blocked shot, which fell back into Texas Lutheran's hands for an easy put-back layup.

The Leopards kept making shots to try to cut into the lead with some three-point plays where Warren made baskets and drew fouls.

"We needed to score and I was trying to do everything I can to make that happen," Warren said.

This was not enough as Texas Lutheran's lead grew to 24 with just under nine minutes remaining in the second half. After that, the Leopards slowly started to chip away at the lead with some steals and blocks that led to transition buckets and free throws for La Verne. With 5:39 left on the clock, La Verne went on an 11-0 run to bring the lead down to 12 for Texas Lutheran.

This was led by two big threes from Howard and a three from Warren, along with a layup from senior forward Ryan Lin.

"I was trying to do anything to spark the team, get us going, bring energy to the gym and start a run," Howard said.

Texas Lutheran made some free throws to push the lead back up to 14.

Junior guard Karl Ashley scored on a layup and directly transitioned back on defense to draw a charge. The charge proved crucial as it then turned into a three-point play for Warren. Then, a steal by Warren led to a layup by Ashley to cut the lead to seven.

This was not enough for La Verne as they never could get over the hump, losing the game, 95-83.

Warren finished the night with 32 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Howard finished with 10 points, three rebounds and two assists. Ashley finished with 14 points, two rebounds and two assists.

They are 1-3 on the season.

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Emily Casillas

Senior guard Dahmaj Warren elevates for a layup against Texas Lutheran guard Kris Jones on Thursday at Frantz Athletic Court. Warren ended the night with 32 points and eight rebounds, but despite his efforts, La Verne lost to the Bulldogs, 95-83, and are now 1-3 on the season.

Leopards drop nail-biting home opener

Leila El Sabbagh
Staff Writer

Women's basketball dropped their opening game of the season, 82-80, against UC Santa Cruz Banana Slugs on Nov. 14 at Frantz Athletic Court.

Starting for the Leopards on their first game back were freshman guard Justine Prajitno, sophomore forward Alyssa Smith, senior guard Marissa Howell and senior guard Annie Trinh.

The Banana Slugs won the opening tip but the Leopards were able to make the first basket of the game. The communication from the La Verne bench generated intensity that translated to the court.

A physical, foul heavy opening quarter saw the Leopards up, 21-13.

"I think the sky's the limit for them. I think our biggest opponent is ourselves, so if we can lock down and do things we're supposed to do, the sky's the limit," head coach Anthony Mason said.

The Banana Slugs were able to come back strong in the second quarter, suppressing the Leopards offense for three minutes. However, after a steal by Howell, Smith was able to bank a three-pointer to tie the game, 24-24.

Banana Slugs junior wing Ariel Anderson was able to make a block on Leopards junior forward Niani Shields in the paint, forcing the La Verne offense to change their game plan.

The Leopards continued to be aggressive on defense trying to gain their hold on the game back. Despite impressive passing on offense, La Verne was unable to regain momentum.

Miscommunication from the Leopards caused a turnover, leading to a Banana Slugs basket.

Howell was a prominent player on the court for La Verne with four field goals made throughout the game and three three-pointers just in the second quarter.

"It felt really good especially since it's the first home game," Howell said. "Just seeing the ball going in the basket was a great feeling."

Going into halftime, the Leopards were down, 39-38.

"We realized we have to turn that switch," freshman guard Jasmine Prajitno said. "Just focus on our principles, our defense, and really focus on doing the little things right."

The Banana Slugs opened the half up quickly, scoring the first basket. Smith was able to continue to pressure Santa Cruz while defending.

"We tried to get better ball movement, playing with a purpose as well," Smith said. "We went in crossing out all the plans and decided to play with a purpose over everything."

Jasmine Prajitno continued to find lanes within the Banana Slugs defense to get the job done and get La Verne on the board. The Leopards were able to play as a unit with great communication and teamwork.

The Leopards headed into the fourth quarter down, 66-62.

After a competitive quarter by both teams, the Banana Slugs and Leopards traded layups to put Santa Cruz up by two 78-76. However, a foul by Trinh set La Verne back, 79-76.

To regroup, the Leopards called a timeout. Immediately after, Justine Prajitno was able to make two layups to put La Verne up, 80-79.

Another time out was taken by the Banana Slugs that worked in their favor. A three pointer by Santa Cruz sophomore guard Alyssa Jackson made the score 82-80.

As a final attempt to complete the comeback, the Leopards called a timeout but they were unable to score.

"We need to make sure we come together as a unit. We can't do our own thing," Smith said.

"We really just want this next game to be a win."

The Leopards played their first conference game against Occidental on the road Thursday and will travel to Life Pacific in San Dimas at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, starting their journey to win their third Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season championship in a row.

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Leopards advance to the round of 32

Jonas Holt
Sports Editor



Chris Rogers

The La Verne volleyball team celebrates their victory over Whittier at the SCIAC Semi-Finals match Nov. 14. The Leopards won the conference tournament, earning them an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III national tournament.

Volleyball made a historic run in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, clinching its first-ever tournament title with a 3-0 sweep over Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on Saturday evening.

The victory marks La Verne's first SCIAC Championship since 2008, securing the Leopards an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament, where the Leopards won their opening game, sweeping Messiah, 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-13).

In the SCIAC Tournament, the No. 13-ranked Leopards were led by junior outside hitter Mya Ray, who was instrumental in helping La Verne maintain control of the match, especially when the Athenas looked to rally in the second set.

Ray was named SCIAC Tournament Most Outstanding Player after an excellent performance in the championship match. Ray, who had 17 kills and 13 digs, was a force on offense, hitting at an impressive .366 clip.

The game's turning point came when La Verne, down by six points in the second set, exploded with an eight-point run to take the lead.

Key contributions came from sophomore outside hitter Lauren Gott, who finished with nine kills, and sophomore middle blocker Zacky Coaston, who tallied four blocks and four kills.

The momentum swung in La Verne's favor after Coaston delivered a massive solo block, and Gott added a block and a kill to tie the set.

Then, with an ace from senior libero Madison Smith capping the Leopards' turnaround.

Set one was a tight battle, with both teams hitting well over .300. La Verne took an early advantage thanks to Ray's eight kills, and although the Athenas fought back late, the Leopards held on to win, 25-23.

In the third set, La Verne quickly took control, building a 10-3 lead and never looking back.

A final kill from Gott sealed the victory, sending the Leopards to their first SCIAC Tournament title in 16 years.

Earlier in the week, La Verne advanced to the championship match by defeating Whittier 3-0 in the semifinals.

Ray once again led the charge with 18 kills and 14 digs, while Coaston contributed seven blocks in the sweep.

Despite Whittier's strong third-set challenge, the Leopards closed out the match with back-to-back kills from Ray and Gott. The dominance from them ended the game and thus the Leopards secured their spot in the finals.

The Leopards entered the NCAA Tournament, hosted by MIT in Boston, ranked No. 13, with a 23-5 record.

Their win over Messiah catapulted them into the round of 32, with their next match at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

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Men's water polo sends seniors out with a bang

Stephanie Amaya
Staff Writer

The men's water polo team grabbed their last win of the season on Senior Day against the Occidental Tigers in a close overtime match, 16-15, on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center.

The opening ceremony showcased their graduating players in a light, funny and heartfelt ceremony where they were surrounded by family and friends.

Seniors Eric Bates, Peter Trinh, Sawyer Nering, David Gutierrez, Steven Rios and Alam Chang-Barnuevo were honored.

"I think next year is going to be hard not to be able to come here everyday," Trinh said.

"Being able to be in the water with these guys, but I think with what we've created the last two, even four years is something you can't replace," Trinh said.

The Leopards started off a bit slow, with a Tigers' possession at the toss to start the game.

Occidental immediately made a drive to the cage, but were ultimately denied by Bates at the goal.

The Leopards made their first goal a minute into the game, setting the tone for the offense by Gutierrez.

Not long after, Chang-Barnuevo extended the lead over the Tigers to score from the wings.

A penalty by the Leopards resulted in a momentum shift for the Tigers.

The penalty led to the Tigers scoring three goals to end the first quarter, 3-2.

"We knew it was going to be a battle because we went into overtime with them at their pool earlier this year," Nering said.

"And the same thing happened today," Nering said.

A minute into the second quarter, the Leopards kicked off with a goal by sophomore attacker Jordan Baker. To once again follow up his teammates, Chang-Barnuevo scored for the Leopards in the sixth minute.

The Tigers answered back with two more goals.

With time running down, the Leopards countered with three goals, one made by sophomore attacker Nico Buono and two more for Chang-Barnuevo to end the second quarter with Leopards on top, 7-6.

In the third quarter there was more action of counter goals with both Tigers and Leopards to score three goals each, two for Trinh and one for Gutierrez, 10-9.

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers started with two goals in the sixth minute to lead the Leopards, 11-10.

A big battle for the win the Tigers scored two more goals against the Leopards' three goals made by Chang-Barnuevo, Trinh and Baker, which ended the fourth in a tie, 13-13, forcing overtime play.

Intensity was felt from both sides as the pressure became to build, both teams looking to capitalize on mistakes and penalties.

"The plan was just to cross, then go four or five zones if we needed it, then they sort of adjusted about moving their center away from the three posts, so we went to an 'M,' which we've done regularly throughout the season," head coach Pat Beemer said.

In overtime, both teams scored two goals, ending in another tied up score.

However, Chang-Barnuevo scored the final goal of the game, ending in a sweet victory for the seniors, 16-15.

"It was a fantastic and challenging game. It's always exciting to win, but most importantly we're happy we can send our seniors off with this feeling," Beemer said.

"I just trusted my boys in the water and they got it done," Rios said.

With the dramatic senior day win against the tigers, he Leopards end the season 8-20 overall and 3-9 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

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