Gang Injunction Ruling Has Local Impact
By Julia Wick
Ledger Contributing Writer

Echo Park resident Peter Arellano’s father and uncle were once involved with a gang, a long time ago.

As such, for the last five years, something as simple as sitting on his own front porch with family members could have made Echo Park resident Peter Arellano subject to arrest.

In 2013, the now 23-year-old Arellano was served with what is known as a gang injunction—a sort of group restraining order tied to a geographic area—limiting his movements, actions and associations, despite his claims that he had never been a gang member, according to an American Civil Liberties Union member, according to an

Los Feliz Sees Spate of Break-Ins
By Allison B. Cohen

LOS FELIZ—The Village has seen a spate of burglaries over the last month, according to Los Angeles Police Dept. data and reports from local stores.

McCall’s Meat and Fish Company on Hillhurst Avenue reported its store had a break-in the first week of March. “They smashed in the front door and stole our safe,” said co-owner Karen Yoo.

Additionally, Yoo reported Hillhurst Liquors and Lassen’s Natural Food and Vitamins, both on Hillhurst Avenue were broken into in the last month, according to local reports.

In the wake of February’s shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, calls for increased school security measures are at an all time high.

Immaculate Heart students protested March 12th, calling for more stringent gun laws in the wake of the February 14th school shooting in Parkland, FL.

But some local high schools are already ahead of the curve.

According to Immaculate Heart President Maureen...
Transparency Needed from LAPD

Los Feliz Village stores had 10 robberies or burglaries over a 30-day period, in February and March, and sadly, the Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD) ignored our request for more information on this recent crime spree.

This is nothing new. Nearly all of our requests for information are ignored by the LAPD and that’s by an entire department whose job is to only provide the public and news media information.

One important mission of any newspaper, large or small, is to keep its readers informed, especially of crime. We cannot do that without the LAPD’s cooperation.

LAPD’s Chief Charlie Beck recently announced he will retire in June. As part of a search for his replacement, I recently filled out an LAPD questionnaire asking what qualities were needed in finding a new chief. I answered by simply saying, “one that believes in transparency.”

The public is invited to give feedback about the direction of the LAPD under a new chief. Its Board of Commissioners will meet April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at Griffith Park’s friendship auditorium.

“As the Police Commission seeks a new chief for the LAPD, now is the time to speak up for the future direction of the LAPD,” read an announcement of the event on Los Angeles City Council member David Ryu’s website.
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It’s that time of year again, as music lovers head to the desert for the twin weekends of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Every year sees many local Los Angeles artists performing, and this year 10 have connections to the Los Feliz, Silver Lake and Echo Park neighborhoods.

Here are some of the local heroes who will take the stage.

FRIDAY (April 13th and 20th)

Perfume Genius is the alter ego of Mike Hadreas. While Hadreas is mostly Seattle-based, he also keeps a home in Silver Lake. Perfume Genius’s fourth record of lo-fi pop, 2017’s No Shape, made several critics’ best of lists.

The enigmatic Elohim intentionally obscures her biographical information in interviews, but we know she’s from L.A. and has played the Echo. She’s released a few singles over the last few years, including the summery KCRW favorite “Hallucinating,” and her self-titled debut record finally comes out on April 27th.

Formed in 2015 when singer-guitarist Lydia Night was just 14, L.A.-based teen punks The Regrettes have quickly become indie rock stars. They’ve played with Sleigh Bells and Peaches and took the stage at Echo Park Rising. The band’s debut record, Feel Your Feelings Fool! was released in January 2017 and they celebrated with a release party at the Echo.

SATURDAY (April 14th and 21st)

Sister trio HAIM grew up in the San Fernando Valley, but got their start playing in clubs like the Satellite and the Echo. Lead singer and guitarist Danielle Haim now lives in Silver Lake. Their second record, Something To Tell You, came out in July.

Bluesy garage rocker Benja-
**Five Local Dispensaries Can Now Sell Recreational Pot**

By Ethan Varian, Ledger Contributing Writer

Nearly three months after California’s recreational marijuana law went into effect, five dispensaries in East Hollywood, Silver Lake and Atwater Village have been issued temporary licenses to sell recreational pot, according to the newly formed Department of Cannabis Regulation.

They include Greenhouse Herbal Center in East Hollywood; MOTA, Barr Corporation and Silver Lake Caregivers in Silver Lake; and Greenwolf in Atwater Village.

The temporary approvals are first being issued to existing medical marijuana dispensaries that comply with regulatory measures set forward by Measure M, which voters approved last year.

There are currently 129 businesses in Los Angeles that have been issued temporary licenses. The approvals must be displayed in stores until permanent licenses are issued.

The submission period for dispensaries to be approved under Measure M expired on March 5th.

Now, applications from the general public will begin to be accepted at the department’s discretion.

The department will also establish a “social equity” program prioritizing applicants from communities that have historically been affected by “the war on drugs,” according to city documents.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti’s office did not respond to inquiries about the application process on deadline.

Last year, the Los Angeles City Controller’s office released data showing that 563 marijuana businesses had been issued criminal complaints by the Los Angeles City Attorney’s office. Four were in East Hollywood and Silver Lake along Sunset Boulevard.

At a February press conference, Los Angeles Police Dept. Deputy Chief John Sherman estimated there were between 200 and 300 marijuana businesses operating illegally in the city.

To report an illegal business, email: cannabiscomplaints@city.org

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**CRIME** from page 1

March. Yoo added that Bru Coffee on Vermont Avenue, has also recently experienced a break-in.

Attempts to speak with those owners were unsuccessful. A request for information from the Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD) was additionally not returned.

Los Feliz Hi-Tech was also burglarized between closing March 6th and the early hours of March 7th. In that instance, burglars forcibly pieced the Apple retailer’s front door.

Hi-Tech owner Diego Thomas later said nothing was stolen from his shop during the break-in.

According to LAPD crime statistics, there were five burglaries on Hillhurst and Vermont avenues in Los Feliz Village and another five local robberies between February 22, 2018 and March 21, 2018.

All but one of the burglaries occurred between midnight and 3 a.m., according to the data, while most of the robberies occurred in the afternoon or early evening between 1:50 p.m. and 7:40 p.m.

Addressing Our Rising Crime
By Assemblymember Laura Friedman

When polled, there is one single issue that the public—across demographic, economic and geographic lines—consistently ranks as their top concern and that is public safety. For this reason, community safety is a top priority for me as an elected official.

It is my belief that, as legislators, we are doing our job best when we consider safety first when proposing legislation.

Across the nation and here in California, crime has been decreasing. However, the same cannot be said of our region, which has actually seen an uptick in crime—especially property crimes.

While there was a decrease nationwide in the number of property crimes of 1.3% from 2015 to 2016 and a decrease statewide of 2.9% during the same time period, Los Angeles County actually saw an overall increase of 5.7%.

Like many of the key issues we face at the local and state levels, rising crime is the result of a wide variety of systemic problems that all require addressing.

Factors such as poverty, barriers to education, housing and mental health services and even well intentioned legislation, all play a role in influencing the overall crime rate and the types of crimes that are committed.

Crime is unfair to everyone, and if we do not help offer quality rehabilitation options for offenders, then we are doing nothing but throwing them back into the cycle of crime, whether we lock them up for a few days, a few months or a few years.

This year, there will be different efforts tackling this issue from all sides, some working in harmony and others in isolation. At the same time signatures are being collected for a ballot measure that would aim to roll back some of the effects of Prop 47, 57 and AB 109 there are also serious efforts to entirely eliminate our state’s bail system.

Like all equally complex issues, there is no magic solution to instantly resolve the issue. It’s my view that there needs to be a real path towards rehabilitation with treatment that’s proven, coupled with serious penalties that truly hold criminals accountable.

Reducing crime is something everyone can agree on, but how we get there is up for an honest debate.

As always, I want to hear your thoughts. Please contact me at assemblymember.friedman@assembly.ca.gov

[UNITED STATES CONGRESS]

Working on Federal Funding For Early Earthquake Warning System
By Rep. Adam Schiff

We built on a successful pilot project conceived by the U.S. Geological Service, Caltech, U.C. Berkeley, the University of Washington and the University of Oregon, demonstrating the technology was sound and that building the system was feasible and affordable.

Thanks to bipartisan congressional support, we were successful in obtaining federal funding, which has grown in the years since, bringing us closer to a full roll out.

The construction of earthquake early warning system, also known as “ShakeAlert,” will save lives and protect property and infrastructure. Imagine receiving a text message or hearing an alarm in a public building alerting you to an earthquake that will hit in 15 seconds.

We are working on federal funding for a West Coast early earthquake warning system, also known as “ShakeAlert,” which will be saved lives and protect property and infrastructure. Imagine receiving a text message or hearing an alarm in a public building alerting you to an earthquake that will hit in 15 seconds.

Completing the earthquake early warning system, also known as “ShakeAlert,” will save lives and protect property and infrastructure. Imagine receiving a text message or hearing an alarm in a public building alerting you to an earthquake that will hit in 15 seconds.

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[UNITED STATES CONGRESS]

Completing the earthquake early warning system, also known as “ShakeAlert,” will save lives and protect property and infrastructure. Imagine receiving a text message or hearing an alarm in a public building alerting you to an earthquake that will hit in 15 seconds.

“ShakeAlert” is coming along well, but we still have work to do to ensure we have enough sensors installed and that the information can be disseminated quickly and efficiently to the public.

Congress recently passed a spending bill that continues ShakeAlert funding, despite the President’s desire to eliminate the program.

With the necessary investment, the system can be fully built out within two years. Hopefully, that will be in time. After all, the operational costs for continued maintenance are minuscule compared to what will be saved if we have the system ready to go before the next big quake.

The “ShakeAlert” technology is proven to save lives and property. The federal government should continue to invest in it so we’re ready.

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Los Feliz Ledger
May 2018
several years of the 2010s. As a result of these advancements, older adults could retain their cognitive function while spending more time with friends and family. However, in the case of the car, AI technology is also advancing very fast, particularly in the personal assisting area. It is becoming popular to use navigation apps, streaming services, smartphone personal assistants, ride-sharing, home personal assistants and "smart home" devices, all of which feature some element of artificial intelligence. Perhaps the biggest application will be seen in the lives of older adults and disabled individuals as a means of helping them to remain active, independent, and most of all to reduce isolation.

For example, the Google Assistant, Amazon’s Alexa/Echo and the ELLI Q robot all incorporate voice interaction. Thus, you can use these assistants for reminders, setting alarms, playing music or news, managing medications and connecting to family and friends.

So, onward to the future!

Free Local Education Event for Seniors

The Foundation for Senior Services will host a free community workshop and complimentary lunch for seniors or those with aging loved ones April 7th at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church.

The workshop will cover various topics related to aging, including nutrition, medication management, care management, advanced care planning, stress relief and more.

Saturday, April 7th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
2060 N. Vermont Ave. Contact Joyce Roberton (323) 363-4316 or Mary Hickey (323) 664-2111 for more information. Those interested in attending can register at foundationforseniorservices.site-ym.com/events
[LOS FELIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL]  
All Politics is Local  
By Luke Klipp, President

In a city like Los Angeles, with more than 4 million residents but only 15 City Council members, it can be tough to get the ear of our elected officials. To further complicate things, Los Feliz is one those few neighborhoods represented by more than one City Council member. And while both of our City Council members’ offices are very helpful, sometimes you need to be able to talk local issues with your neighbors and, together, to pressure City Hall to take action.

That’s where the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council comes in.

We organize neighborhood cleanups, sponsor community forums and events, and hold hearings on things like alcohol permits. Often, we make specific requests and offer feedback to the City on these and other matters, and we influence outcomes. However, our success depends on your involvement. We have over a dozen stakeholder committees, on topics ranging from recreation to public health and safety to transportation to business, any of which you can attend and join.

Also, on May 12th at the Elysian Masonic Temple (on the northeast corner of Vermont and Franklin), we will hold elections for our governing board, and we would love for you to come vote. That same day, outside our polling station, we will be hosting a tree giveaway. For more information, visit www.losfelizvotes.org.

Hope to see you there! And hope to see you around at one of our many upcoming meetings!

[OBITUARY]

Tamara Ghazarian

We are saddened to announce the passing and loss of longtime Los Feliz resident Tamara Ghazarian.

Tamara moved to Los Feliz in 1964 with her family and will always be remembered for her contagious smile and open heart to all.

Tamara always loved the fashion industry and worked in private design houses and the motion picture studios, contributing her keen sense of style to fashion.

She loved Los Feliz with a passion and always told her friends and relatives that she lived in an area of Los Angeles that was pure magic and full of flowers and nature.

Tamara passed away on February 24, 2018 from health complications.

She was a loving wife and mother. She is survived by her children Nelly and Rafik Ghazarian.

[SLNC]  
SLNC Hosts Notable Panel for #MeToo Discussion  
By Anne-Marie Johnson, Co-chair

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) welcomes newly elected David Valdez as Region 5 representative. David has lived in Silver Lake for 30 years and was appointed to the Los Angeles Arts Commission in 2015.

On Thursday, March 29th, in honor of Women’s History Month, the SLNC, in partnership with the Silver Lake Library, will present the final installment of the Words Can Help ... And Hurt series of community conversations. “Translating #MeToo Into Action” will be a provocative discussion of this global movement and how to support women who are experiencing discrimination or harassment in the workplace.

Guest panelists include actresses Jenifer Lewis, Black-ish; Amy Hill, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend; Melissa Sagemiller, Law and Order SVU and Ziba Zehdar-Gazdecki, co-organizer of the Long Beach Zine Fest.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Silver Lake Library Community Room, 2411 Glendale Blvd. All are invited.

Also, on Wednesday, April 4th, the SLNC will hold a community meeting regarding the proposed Silver Lake/Ivanhoe Reservoir walking path, which will precede the monthly board meeting.

Staff from Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu’s office will be in attendance and representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will present renderings of the proposed path. The meeting will take place at Ivanhoe Elementary School Auditorium, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

And on Sunday, April 8th, the SLNC’s Green Committee will host a walking tour of some of the glorious public steps in Silver Lake.

Charles Fleming, notable author of the “Secret Stair,” will lead the tour and share his unique knowledge of Silver Lake’s historic public stairways.

For more SLNC information, visit silverlakecns.org.

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Los Feliz Ledger

Page 8  
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April 2018
Southern California Sees Typical Post-Holiday Drop

Southern California real estate sales in January 2018 were down 23% from December and down about 1.5% from January of the previous year to a total of 15,247 homes or condos sold in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura, San Bernadino and Orange counties combined, according to data from Core Logic, a real estate analysis firm out of La Jolla, CA.

“A fairly sharp drop in recorded home sales between December and January is normal,” said Andrew LePage, a research analyst with Core Logic. “Not everyone wants to buy and sell around the holidays, meaning there are fewer deals to record in January and February—two relatively slow months that tend not to be predictive of the year.”

The median price paid for Southern California homes in January was $507,000, down half a percent from December and up about 11% from last January. According to LePage, this January’s median price increase “was the largest since spring 2014. The median’s double-digit annual gain [in January] mainly reflects the ongoing mismatch between housing supply and demand, especially in the lower price ranges.”

Locally, there were 50 single-family homes and 7 condos sold in our coverage area this January. Of those, 17 single-family homes sold in the Hollywood Hills’ 90068 zip code. The median price for the area was down 12% from January 2017 to $1.249 million. Five condos sold in the 90068 ZIP for a median price of $490,000, about 7% higher than the previous January’s median.

Meanwhile, 17 homes sold in Silver Lake/Echo Park’s 90026 ZIP in January. The median price for the area was up more than 31% from the previous year to $1.093 million. No condos sold in the area this January.

Los Feliz saw nine homes sell in the 90027 ZIP code for a median price of $2 million, roughly 10% lower than the previous January. The area’s condos, however, saw a median price increase of about 36% to $865,000 for the two sold.

The 90039 ZIP code, which includes parts of Silver Lake, Los Feliz and Atwater Village, had seven home sales in January for a median price of $865,000, about 14% lower than the previous year. No condos sold in 90039 this January.

The so-called “Ackermansion,” a five-bedroom six-bathroom home at 2495 Glen dower Ave. in the Los Feliz Hills that was the former home of science fiction and horror legend Forrest J Ackerman sold for $3.475 million, less than one month after it was listed. Lyonel Katz of Lux Realty was the listing agent and Rodolfo Arayas of Westmark Homes was the buyer’s agent.

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Making History by Continuing to Sell Historic East Side Home

The Historic Cravens Estate

CONGRATULATIONS to Dorothy Carter & Michael Orland of Carter+Orland Estates on an amazing sale!

From,
Gary Reavis & the Keller Williams Los Feliz team
Alpha Structural: Taking the Worry Out of Foundation Safety
By Kimberly Gomez, Ledger Columnist

It began when Linda Lopez noticed her floors were cracking and cracks were appearing in the walls of her home.

“Evidently gravity was pulling the bedroom towards the hillside and I would rather remain on the hill than be at the bottom of the hill,” said Lopez of her Mount Washington home.

On a recommendation, she called Alpha Structural to shore up and seismically retrofit her home to its foundation.

Such repairs aren’t unusual to the hillside and older homes you’ll find in historical neighborhoods such as Silver Lake and Los Feliz.

“Often times there’s a lot of soil shifting and insufficient depths of foundations that can cause cracking around doors and window frames, or the floors to slope in one direction,” said Max Olivo, Alpha Structural’s Vice President of Marketing. “We find that construction from 100 years ago was really good, but issues can be found where someone did some remodeling along the way.”

It is important to note that hillside-building codes have changed significantly over the years.

Many homes built in the 1950s and 1960s were constructed with foundation systems that, at the time of construction, were believed to be deep enough to withstand the forces of nature.

But structural failures of these homes during rainy El Niño winters and major earthquakes led to the more stringent foundation requirements of today.

Celebrating their 25th anniversary, Alpha Structural is a recognized leader in the engineering and construction of foundation and hillside repairs all over Los Angeles County.

Each of their projects is custom engineered by a team consisting of 10 draftingmen, two civil engineers and one structural engineer.

These teams, said Olivo, are key to avoiding construction delays and tailoring the repairs to the client’s goals and budget.

On a construction site in Echo Park, an Alpha Structural worker was recently standing in a trench—up to his shoulders—prepping for a steel cage to be lowered into the hole spanning the width of a four-car garage.

“Essentially we are looking at a soft-story building where it is structurally inefficient to support sideways movement that happens in an earthquake or shear forces like high winds,” said Olivo.

In 2015, retrofitting of so-called soft-story buildings—such as apartment buildings with tuck-under parking that proved especially vulnerable in the 1994 Northridge earthquake—became mandatory.

“We learned a lot, cause it was rough,” said Diekmann. “But that’s the whole point of a drill—to know where your holes are.”

In light of the new information gleaned from the November drill, a February lockdown drill at the school was far more successful.

“Had we not done any of these things last year, I’d be scrambling to do them now” post-Parkland, said Diekmann.

Instead, the February 14th shooting caused more subtle changes at the school.

“Everyone’s awareness has improved … and our communication about the campus is at a much higher level than in the past,” said Diekmann.

When finished, this building will be restored, greatly strengthened with grade beam footing and new steel columns and all existing parking will remain.

Not all of Alpha Structural’s jobs are as extensive.

“A foundation inspection is a good investment in your property. We can tell you if there’s nothing to worry about, or if there are issues and what it may cost,” to repair, said Olivo.

“Home buyers can get a clear picture of the house they are getting into and put [worry] to rest.”

Additionally, Alpha Structural assists homeowners enrolled in the Earthquake Brace and Bolt (EBB) program with the rebate process and necessary paperwork.

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SHOOTING, from page 1

Diekmann, the private Franklin Avenue girls’ school improved security gates last summer and hired a new security company in November after 25 years with their previous company.

According to Diekmann, the new company, Joffe Emergency and Security Services, specializes in school security and emergency situations, such as earthquakes, fires and lockdown situations like school shootings.

“They train their guards on how to function at a school,” said Diekmann, “not how to function guarding Netflix or a film studio” like other Los Angeles-based security companies.

Immaculate Heart had also increased their emergency situation drills prior to Parkland, both in frequency and intensity, according to Diekmann.

“There were set drills every year, but they were too orchestrated, too routine,” said Diekmann.

Now, she said, the school’s emergency drills are far more realistic.

During a November earthquake drill, featuring “injured” student actors and less prior direction for faculty and staff, administrators tested the school’s emergency communication and public information systems—and encountered a few stumbling blocks.

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$1,580,000

JUST LISTED

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Echo Park

$2,058,245

JUST SOLD
Union (ACLU) lawsuit on the matter.

If law enforcement officials declare a gang’s public behavior to be a “nuisance” and obtain a court order, they can add individuals suspected of being part of that gang to a list, subjecting them to rules that restrict their activity and ability to engage with one another.

Many individuals subject to such injunctions have never been convicted of a crime and have little recourse for getting their names removed from such a list, which many civil rights advocates say is a violation of due process and disproportionately affects men of color.

After the Echo Park injunction was issued, Peter Arellano “skipped neighborhood gatherings, holiday parties and other social activities out of fear of arrest” and underwent a lengthy period of Peter Arellano was not available for comment, but his aunt Veronica Arellano said that the family was deeply surprised when her nephew was served with the injunction in 2013.

“Peter was working. He had just graduated school and had been working ever since. There had not been a day that this kid had a rest,” she said.

Veronica Arellano said that she broke down in tears when she learned of the judge’s decision last Thursday.

“It was tears of happiness, tears of the pain that we had to go through with the harassing by the police,” she said. “Every emotion just hit. To know that my nephew can walk freely, and go to the doughnut shop if he wants to, or the liquor store to get his daughter something. Those are the moments that came through my head. It’s freedom.”

Peter’s story is not unique, according to Kim McGill of the Youth Justice Coalition, a nonprofit organization that joined the ACLU in bringing the suit.

“I worked for years on trying to have any type of civil rights available for people who were subjected to such injunctions,” she said. “McGill. “He had an uncle and a father who had been gang involved way back when they were young adults. There’s a lot of this kind of guilt by association and guilt by history, so even when your family members are no longer involved, you’re seen as. ‘Once a gang member, always a gang member,’ and that’s what happened with Peter.”

But while civil rights advocates like the ACLU, who represent rank-and-file officers like the Youth Justice Coalition, or the ACLU,

“Peter Arellano is very typical of how people get swept up into this system,” said McGill. “When his father was a police officer and the LAPD and the city attorney’s office first sought to impose gang injunctions, when they were put in place in communities of Watts, South Central L.A. and East L.A. where the violence was the highest. They were put in place in communities like West Covina and Pomona, where there were either major white populations, or brown or black people moving into a white community.”

see GANGS page 23

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[IN CASE YOU MISSED IT]

These are some of the stories we covered online only last month. In case you missed them, you can read more at losfelizledger.com

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OKS FINDING WAYS TO HELP PROPERTY OWNERS PAY FOR MANDATED RETROFITS

A Los Angeles City Council committee agreed March 19th to explore ways of helping property owners finance costly seismic retrofits required by a 2015 law.

INFORMATION NEEDED ON HIT AND RUN FATALITY ON 5 FREEWAY

Authorities need help identifying a driver who fled after colliding with a 25-year-old motorcycleist Emery Beck around 2 a.m. March 18th on the 5 Freeway near the 2 Freeway interchange. Becker was then hit by another car and died at the scene. The second driver was arrested on suspicion of DUI and vehicular manslaughter. The hit-and-run vehicle was described as a dark-colored sedan.

Anyone with information is urged to call the CHP at (213) 744-2331.

SCHIFF ASKS TRUMP TO UP 2039 FUNDING FOR PROJECTS, LIKE THE L.A. RIVER

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and other lawmakers March 19th urged the House Appropriations Committee to allocate at least $121 million in the 2019 budget to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for engineering and design projects across the nation, including for the Los Angeles River.

President Trump’s current 2019 budget did not include specific funding for the L.A. River, only $82 million for Army Corps projects nationwide.

KING AND MARSHALL AMONG 3,000 SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE DEMANDING SCHOOL SAFETY FROM GUNS

Students from Thomas Starr King, Middle and John Marshall High schools participated March 14th in National Walkout Day calling for gun law reforms in the wake of the February 14th shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

NUN IN KATY PERRY CONVICTED AFTER FIGHT DIES AT 89

Sister Catherine Rose Holzman, one of two nuns fighting a court ruling of the sale of a former Los Feliz convent to singer Katy Perry, collapsed and died March 9th during a court hearing on the matter.

RYU FUNDS $90K FOR ADDITIONAL SPRING BREAK PATROLS AROUND HOLLYWOOD SIGN

The Los Angeles City Council approved $51,320 to increase police patrols and other security around the Hollywood Sign during spring break between March 23rd and April 2nd.

ACTIVISTS PRESSURE CITY TO LIMIT AIRBNB

Demonstrators held multiple rallies throughout Los Angeles March 8th demanding city leaders pass laws regulating the short-term, like Airbnb, rental industry.

The city’s Planning and Land Use Committee is reportedly considering a city law limiting the number of rental days per host to 180 days a year, which can be increased through an appeals process.

LOS FELIZ HI-TECH BURGLARIZED, BUT NOTHING TAKEN

Los Feliz Hi-Tech, a Mac computer authorized seller and service provider, was broken into March 6th, its glass door forcibly pried open, according to the Los Angeles Police Dept.

But according to store owner Diego Thomas, nothing was taken from the store at 1805 Hillhurst Ave.

CITY RECEIVES MORE FUNDING TO CLEAN HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

With a backlog of requests for homeless camp cleanups mounting, a Los Angeles City Council committee approved March 6th the city’s Bureau of Sanitation’s request for more funding.

The number of cleanup requests for homeless encampments and illegal dumping sites nearly tripled between April 2016 and the end of 2017, according to the bureau, and the city finished the year backlogged by nearly 4,000 requests out of almost 20,000 requests it has received.

O’FARRELL TO RECEIVE LGBTQ LEADERSHIP AWARD

Equality Armenia, a non-profit whose mission is to achieve marriage equality in Armenia, will honor Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell with a Leadership Award at a red-carpet event honoring leadership in the LGBTQ community March 29th in Glendale.

O’Farrell is the first openly gay councilmember to be elected to the CD13 seat.

We’ve accidentally created the kitchen version of a flea market where every pot is interesting, but nothing matches.

big problem with where—and how—to put our diverse accumulation of pots and pans.

When I got remarried a few years ago, my wife and I merged our cookware collection—combining big, small, wide and narrow, stainless steel and copper, traditional and non-stick. We’ve accidentally created the kitchen version of a flea market where every pot is interesting, but covered there is no way to stack pot lids so they won’t fall when you pull one out of the pile. No matter how carefully you try to pry loose one lid, inevitably, a sizeable portion of the pile crashes and creates a loud cacophony of noise that sounds like a five-car pile up on Los Feliz Boulevard.

There must be a way to solve this problem. I envisioned one of those devices at the dry cleaners where you hang pot lids on a giant conveyor belt thatninger from the kitchen ceiling and delivers you the perfect top. As I was seriously considering this option, my wife suggested that I do what I always do.

So I phoned my amazing contractor friend Dave. I reached him as he was swimming in his lap pool after his morning 20-mile jog.

I explained my situation.

“Do you want the pot lids on top of the counter or inside a cabinet?” asked Dave.

I was amazed that there was a choice.

“Inside,” I answered.

“Then you want a ‘Pull out pot lid holder,’” he said. “Check the hardware store or online.”

Dave explained that there are various brands that line up the lids in a way that you can slide them in and out of the cabinet without the sound of a car crash.

I followed Dave’s advice, installed it with a screwdriver and now our pot problems are over.

Which once again goes to prove: “If I can’t figure it out— and I know that I can’t—my friend Dave can.”

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city’s own charter, which states decisions on access to Griffith Park must be made through a public hearing process via the Recreation and Parks Commission.

“It was both shocking and disturbing to hear the city argue in court today that, in their view, the general manager of the Recreation and Parks Department has the right to close every public access point to Griffith Park at his/her discretion without any public notice or public input,” Friends of Griffith Park said in a statement.

The Beachwood Drive gate was first installed, opened and publicized in 2015 by then Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge. Prior to that, there was no official public entrance to the popular Hollywood hiking trail—which provides close-up views of the Hollywood Sign—though hikers could easily access it.

Since then, the gate has sparked conflict between those who claim the Beachwood Canyon community does not have the infrastructure to support the tourists it draws and those who believe the access point is a public right.

“This ruling goes completely contrary to the intention of Griffith Park,” said Los Feliz Improvement Assoc. Parks Committee Chair Chris Laib “...We’re telling the folks that bought homes in upper Beachwood Canyon that they can’t hike in their own neighborhood. They have to drive miles to a different entrance … when they have easy and readily available hiking trails adjacent to their neighborhood. It’s ridiculous.”

As for Sunset Ranch’s trespassing concerns, Laib said, the city could easily build a new gate adjacent to the old gate that would not require pedestrians to trespass.

But some local residents were pleased by the decision.

“I think the most important thing to remember is that [prior to 2015] there never has been an [official] entry for the public at the end of the Beachwood [Drive] into the park,” said longtime Beachwood Canyon resident Sarajane Schwartz.

According to Schwartz, she doesn’t understand why people keep suing to reopen an entrance that she said was never technically meant to be open.

“People keep trying to push this when it’s unsafe, and there’s no infrastructure. It’s unsustainable,” she said.

Hollywood Estates resident Tony Fisch said while he supports people’s right to hike, he also supports businesses’ right not to have trespassers on their property.

“This damaged the ranch’s business. That’s their right and that’s their property. There’s plenty of access to get up into Griffith Park already,” said Fisch.

For his part, Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu, who inherited the trailhead problem when he succeeded LaBonge in 2015, shortly after the gate was first opened, said he was committed to solving the problem.

“The more time we spend on costly litigation is less time we are spending on finding solutions that work for everyone,” said Ryu in a prepared statement. “While some choose to litigate, I have worked closely with the Mayor’s Office, the Department of Recreation and Parks, [an outside contractor] and various community groups to identify those solutions.”

Read a longer version of this story online at losfelizledger.com

GATE from page 1

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Los Feliz Ledger
April 2018 losfelizledger.com Page 17

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were roughly 50 employees at the store said. “It’s day to day.” A store manager, who was also not authorized to speak on the record, said that an official closing date had yet to be announced.

Toys “R” Us, which got its start as a children’s furniture store some 70 years ago, is the largest toy distributor in the country after Amazon and Walmart, according to online statistics and market research portal Statista. The company filed a motion March 15th to liquidate its U.S. business, meaning more than 700 locations around the country will be closed or sold.

An employee at the Atwater Village location said he and other employees received letters informing them of the news that same week. The toy giant, which hadn’t been profitable since 2013, filed for bankruptcy in September 2017 and owed more than $5 billion in debt. The eventual closures are “expected to mean the elimination of thousands of jobs” across the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report. A manager estimated that there were roughly 50 employees at the Atwater Village location.

The Atwater Village store is one of about 20 Toys “R” Us and Babies “R” Us stores in the Los Angeles area. On Monday, March 19th—four days after the announcement—shelves at the Atwater Village store were still well-stocked and there were few visible signs of the impending closure. Many shoppers milling the aisles that afternoon said they decided to visit the store in the hopes of finding bargains after hearing news of the closures.

They would have to wait a few more days. According to a manager, liquidation sales wouldn’t begin until Thursday.

“We’re here to get rid of our gift card,” said Valerie Puente, a 36-year-old Eagle Rock resident shopping with her partner and young daughter. “We’re here to get rid of our gift card.” The company said they plan to honor gift cards until mid-April. After that, gift cards like the $45 one Puente received for her now almost three-year-old daughter’s first birthday, will be worthless.

The Atwater Village Toys “R” Us store opened in 1996, according to city records. The 45-acre Los Feliz Boulevard shopping mall, which also contains a Costco and Best Buy, was built on the site of the former Franciscan Ceramics plant. The factory closed in 1984 and the land was redeveloped in the 1990s.

A representative from Festival Companies, the commercial real estate firm that owns and operates the shopping center, said future plans for the soon-to-be-vacant big box retail space had yet to be decided. “It’s too soon to know anything,” leasing assistant Denise Long said.

Library to Host a “Look Under the Hood” of Architecture

Author/documentarian Bernard Friedman will speak on his new book, The American Idea of Home: Conversations About Architecture and Design, at the library’s Architecture and Beyond Lecture Series Thursday, April 19th, from 6:45 – 7:45 p.m., at the Los Feliz Library, 8794 Hillhurst Ave.

The compiled interviews on wide-ranging topics give readers insight on the design process from some of America’s well-known and up-and-coming architects. “We’re giving people a look ‘under the hood,’ so to speak, on how architects set the stage for them to turn a house into a home,” says Friedman, who is founder and creative director of the documentary production company, Flying Mind.

For more information, call the Los Feliz Branch Library at (323) 933-4710.

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[THOMAS STARR KING]

Protect Students, Not Guns

By Sasha Ivanir, 7th grade

I am 12 years old and I am scared to come to school.

There have been several school shootings in less than a two month span since January 1st, this year—five that occurred during school hours and resulted in physical according to a February 15th Washington Post tally, though nonprofit organization Everytown for Gun Safety puts the number at 17, including in their count any time a firearm was discharged on a school campus, regardless of injury or whether children were present.

Regardless of which number you go by, innocent lives have been taken because the right laws haven’t been put in place. It is crazy to me that you can legally buy a gun before you can legally drink.

A candy chocolate egg—Europe’s “Kinder Surprise Egg”—was banned in America to keep children safe. But a firearm that can kill 17 people in less than 20 minutes can be placed legally into the hands of an 18 year-old.

In 1791 when the right to bear arms was passed, guns had to be reloaded after every bullet and were not as dangerous as they are today. That law has not yet been updated.

Schools need to be a nurturing environment for children that will soon be the future. Schools need to be safe, sacred places to learn and grow intellectually—not battle grounds for psychopaths and mentally deranged individuals. It’s appalling that we have to worry about heinous crimes within our own school. The protection of us, the children, is more important than the protection of the 2nd amendment.

I advocated for gun control laws and school safety on the KSNC News channel at our school on Wednesday, March 14th.

[OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL]

Walk-a-Thon

By Hailey Caldera, 5th grade

Our Mother of Good Counsel is a Catholic School in Los Feliz. Every year in April we have a Walk-a-Thon fundraiser. We stop at locations like the firehouse, Palermo’s, Yuca’s, and other local businesses.

There will be oranges and water to keep us going, and the school designs a shirt every year and tells us to bring sunglasses. We normally have buds from other classes while we walk. We might pass by some pretty cool stuff too. Maybe we’ll pass by your favorite restaurant!

The walk is about 3.2 miles which is a pretty good reason for all those stops. We can bring our own water, and I suggest a light bag to hold the oranges and the water. It’s honestly really fun to get out of the school for a little while. It’s a cool experience that lasts about two hours.

This is how we raise money for our school every year. It’s fun to walk outside and get fresh air.

This year’s Walk-a-Thon will happen on April 27, 2018 starting at about 10:30 a.m. Maybe you’ll stop by to cheer us on.
[**LYCEE INTERNATIONAL DE LOS ANGELES**]

**Lots to Do at LILA**
By Max Campbell, 4th grade

Hi, my name is Max and I am in 4th grade at LILA Los Feliz. I enjoy studying at this school because we do research reports. I love researching people, animals, and places. I especially love putting it together and making a poster, slideshow or an article on google docs.

Recently I completed a report on the British explorer Captain James Cook, and now I am working on a report on echidnas and Australia. I especially love editing and animating. I find that when you’re finished, and when you have put everything together, it can be funny, satisfying and even mind-blowing!

After school we can sign up for after school activities like: mad science, toy making, violin, fencing, soccer clinic, art, etc. I take fencing.

There are also team sports: soccer, track, volleyball and basketball, but it’s not guaranteed that you will qualify, as you have to try out. I’m on the track and soccer team.

Every season there are 10 soccer matches against other schools. Each team has a name. Ours is Lilalions. At lunchtime, after you eat, there are tournaments. You sign up with two teammates and find a name. You wait until your name is called and then you play to get points. There is a schedule to know when you are playing. I love playing soccer!

I enjoy learning at this school because it makes me feel smarter, and when I become smart, it makes my life easier, better and more interesting because I have learned new skills!

---

[**GLENFELIZ ELEMENTARY**]

**Friday Night in the Garden**
By Lyana Monge, 6th grade

Our school is a Culinary Arts, Farm to Table School for Advanced Studies. That means that we focus a lot on gardening and eating healthy all year long.

Every year around Earth Day, we also have an event called Friday Night in the Garden held after school. This year it will be on April 20th, from 4:30-6:30 pm at Glenfeli Elementary SAS. During this event, we have special guests visit our school. We have food samplings and a lot of fun things to do.

Some of the guests that will be at our event this year include Enrich L.A.’s Garden Ranger Farmer Ted, Chef Lovley, Arwater Farmer’s Market, USC Master Gardener Christine Anthony, Bio Contractors, and of course both of our parent groups. Our parent groups will host arts and crafts tables and sell food to support our event.

We also have all of our teachers and teacher assistants helping out by volunteering at booths. Some of their booths include food sales like salads, spa water, and parfaits, while other teacher booths include crafts tables, a raffle table, succulent planting, T-shirt and tote bag sales, and an information booth.

This event is always so much fun. We have free things like seed giveaways, crafts, information, and our succulent plantings. We also have some things for sale, like food, T-shirts, totes, raffle tickets, and beverages.

We hope that people from our community will come and join us for our event. It will be exciting and educational.

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[**HOLLYWOOD SCHOOLHOUSE**]

**Dream Week**
By Lane S. Lee, 6th grade

Hollywood Schoolhouse allows us children to learn in so many different ways. One of the most exciting ways we learn new intriguing concepts is during Dream Week. Dream Week is a week of having fun, learning new things, and bringing the whole school together through lessons involving STEAM. For example, some classes are teaching how weather works, how ice cream is made, how to build structures, and much, much more. I am looking forward to this year’s Dream Week, as I would consider it one of the best events at school.

Speaking of recent events, each month a special guest speaker for the sixth grade comes to visit. Each of these wonderful women talks about her career and endeavors. Anna Gay was our most recent special speaker, and she was truly inspiring. I can honestly say from my classmates’ feedback that they are encouraged by the life stories we get to hear and get a better understanding of what the real world is like.

As part of our service learning program at Hollywood Schoolhouse, fifth and sixth grade students volunteered with TreePeople. TreePeople is a nonprofit association that benefits both nature and people, as trees provide air and other natural resources for us. We helped prepare over 100 pieces of greenery for planting. This was a wonderful opportunity for my peers and me to take part in.

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GANGS from page 13

As an example, McGill cited the city’s first gang injunction against the Playboy Gangster Crisp in 1987.

“That was not the neighborhood experiencing the most violence—not even close. But it was the neighborhood that was right next door to Culver City and Beverly Hills and also the black community was moving in to what had been a traditionally white community.”

The March 15th court decision will affect the nearly 1,500 Angelenos whose names remain on gang injunction lists. More than 7,000 additional names had already been removed from injunction lists last year following an audit by the Los Angeles Police Dept. (LAPD) and the city attorney’s office.

SHOOTING from page 11

before,” said Diekmann.

Pilgrim School on Commonwealth Avenue had also implemented new security measures before the Parkland shooting, according to its Chief Operations Officer Maitre Cervik, who said the school had been working with a security consultant to take the school’s security “from reactive to proactive” just prior to the shooting.

Although the timing of the school’s increased security measures was coincidental, the school plans to incorporate lessons learned from Parkland into their security guards’ training, according to Cervik.

“It’s an ongoing process for us,” said Cervik.

Los Angeles Unified School District officials did not respond to multiple requests for an interview about any new security measures at John Marshall High School, but sent the following prepared statement via email:

“Marshall High School administrators and staff have met with their security staff and tightened up on all safety protocols. The principal is offering professional development to his staff with school police and recently heard an active shooter presentation by one of our officers.”

“A School in Bloom

By Lauren Berger ’18

In the spirit of Easter and renewal, Immaculate Heart continually breathes new life into its commitment to foster a school community of compassion, awareness, and sisterhood.

One such effort took place on March 14th when our high school and middle school students participated in the nationwide walkout, protesting gun violence and showing solidarity with the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Florida. Students and teachers stood silently for 17 minutes along Franklin and Western avenues, while other students held a memorial service on the quad for those who lost their lives.

Days later, IH hosted its annual community-building luncheon and fashion show. The Mother-Daughter Luncheon honors the generations of strong Immaculate Heart women and the bonds they forge—both maternal and sisterly.

Following a Holy Thursday prayer service, Immaculate Heart students began their Easter holiday, which continues through April 8th.

Over Spring Break, students rest and renew, tour colleges, and participate in school-organized trips to Japan and New York City. Part of Immaculate Heart’s Pandas Explore program, the bi-annual trips offer students a chance to experience new cultures and gain new perspectives.

When classes resume following Spring Break, Immaculate Heart High School will invite incoming 9th graders and their parents to a welcome breakfast and reception on Saturday, April 14th. We look forward to meeting our new Pandas and members of the Class of 2022!”
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**1354 Selvas Place**
Mediterranean

Dramatic 4 bed+3 bath 1930’s architecture with breathtaking views & situated on almost 1/2 acre of land. A hilltop home to provide privacy & filled w/old world details thru out. Beautiful LR, master suite and family rm each with high pitched wood ceilings. Charming formal DR leads to a lovely brick patio with outdoor fireplace plus overlook the magical grounds. 2 turret staircases. Lower level w/2nd kitchen. Home office. A very special place.

**IN ESCROW In The Glendale Verdugo Woodlands**

**1350 Harvard Boulevard #106**
New Orleans

$489,000


**JUST LISTED & SOLD In Los Feliz**

**1750 Harvard Boulevard #106**
New Orleans

$489,000