LAUSD’s Ethnic Studies Ahead of State Plans
By Allison B. Cohen

As California’s Dept. of Education reworks its controversial ethnic studies curriculum that received much pushback when a draft was released last June for not including study on anti-Semitism and, according to some, for being biased and too ideological, the Los Angeles Unified School District has had its own ethnic studies course without controversy since the 2016-2017 school year. LAUSD’s version, for high school students, is a semester-long elective and focuses on the history, challenges and current condition of four key groups: African Americans, Latino Americans, American Indians and Asian Americans. Additionally, the course has a 4-week “Identity Unit.”

New Bridge Changes Face of Atwater
By Carl Robinette, Ledger Contributing Writer

ATWATER VILLAGE—A white spire that rises 126 feet out of the Los Angeles River now dominates the skyline in North Atwater Village as part of a new bridge that will soon offer safe passage across the river for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

Poor Cell Service Near Hollywood Sign Raises Safety Concerns
By Daniel Langhorne

LAKE HOLLYWOOD—Representatives of the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC) have asked Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu to study adding a cell tower in the Lake Hollywood Park area to improve signal strength in a community now overrun, they said, by Hollywood Sign viewers.

DWP Office Plans Rankle SLNC
By Daniel Langhorne

SILVER LAKE—The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) has slammed the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for moving forward with its plan to install a pre-fabricated office building at the Silver Lake Reservoir without studying its environmental impacts or the structure’s place in a pending Master Plan for the open space.

ABANDONED — A reader sent the Ledger this photo of the Mulholland Fountain at Los Feliz Boulevard and Riverside Drive, saying “the condition of the fountain is a disgrace and a health hazard. Meanwhile, L.A. City officials continue to grapple with forming policy regarding the safety of e-scooters and dealing with complaints they’re abandoned here, there and everywhere, like the one pictured here.

Docs Reveal Joseph Gatto’s Intent to Change Will
By Allison B. Cohen

SILVER LAKE—In the months before his murder, Joseph Gatto reached out at least six times to friends and family about disinheriting his daughter Nicole from his estate according to recently filed court documents.

Additionally, police found a note handwritten by Gatto about his estate on the desk where he was found slumped over dead from a single gunshot wound to the abdomen in 2018.

The revelations are part of a 389-page declaration Gatto’s son—former California Assemblymember Mike Gatto—filed with Los Angeles Superior Court in April, contesting $250,000 in executor and $383,000 in legal fees requested by his sister, Nicole, the executor of the estate.

According to the filing, Mike submitted the documents as the “final straw” to refute Nicole’s claim that finalizing the estate has been costly, because Nicole claims Mike and their sister, Mariann, are the cause of a “cloud of suspicion” hanging over her regarding their father’s death.

“Her own actions and my father’s own words are the source” of the suspicions, Gatto wrote in his declaration, filed under penalty of perjury.

EMAILS AND CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CHANGING THE WILL

According to the filing, Gatto has routinely updated his estate every few years since 1996. His last will is from 2009, naming Nicole as executor.

But emails Gatto wrote...
The Unexpected Consequences of AB5

in a companion bill to AB5 as AB710. The governor is also expected to sign AB710 into law this month.

The Ledger uses a distribution company that hires carriers for not only this paper, but other monthlies, weeklies and dailies. When AB170 passes and goes into law January 1, 2021, the distribution company will be mandated to reclassify those carriers as employees and will pass those costs on to us.

Many are well aware the newspaper industry is beyond struggling as many advertisers in local, regional and national newspapers have moved from print advertising to online and to Facebook, Instagram and others.

The expected increase in cost for the Ledger, regarding newspaper carriers, is 30%, and there is no way I can pass that on to my advertisers.

What this means is that we will likely have to stop delivering the paper door-to-door or even in bulk, at places like the library and the Alcove, and be forced to go online only.

We are not the only industry facing huge uncertainty about the new law. But it does seem that a bill intended to help labor and workers, may have the unintended consequence of actually contributing to workers losing jobs.

These consequences often have ripple effect. If the Ledger cannot be delivered, we will print fewer or none at all, which will then directly impact our printer and their employees and so on.

The bill, which goes into effect January 1, 2020, will prevent some companies from classifying their workers as “independent contractors.” Under the new law, they will be considered employees and will receive health care, workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance and the ability to unionize.

While much of the controversy has been how the law will impact workers in the so-called “gig economy,” such as Uber, Lyft and Postmates drivers, the bill will also regulate the newspaper industry, specifically in terms of the use of freelance writers and newspaper couriers, like the one that delivered this paper.

The issue regarding freelance writers—if they write more than 35 stories in a calendar year—does not impact us, as we are a monthly, but it will greatly impact dailies and weeklies.

However, the Ledger will be directly impacted regarding newspaper couriers, identified in a companion bill to AB5 as AB710. The governor is also expected to sign AB710 into law this month.

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Los Angeles: In Your Eyes
We see the hope for a healthy view of life

From routine annual exams and screening for early detection of eye disease and vision loss, Southern California Eye Institute at CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center is dedicated to providing the best solutions to eye care health challenges facing the world today.

Staffed by world-renowned physicians and researchers, Southern California Eye Institute advances innovation in stem cell and regenerative therapies, artificial intelligence and bio-electronic implants to further the prevention, early detection and treatment of eye disease and conditions including:

- Cataract
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- Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic eye diseases
- Oculo-facial plastics
- Dry eye
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- Lazy eye
- Neurological eye disease
- Eye tumors

Discover more about Southern California Eye Institute and how it is shaping the future of vision care and research at sceyes.org

833-270-EYES (3937) | www.sceyes.org
It's a part of our modern age that so many of us spend our days with our eyes fixed on our phones, looking at the latest tweet, text, or email, hardly noticing the world around us. At times, I am guilty of this myself, and I'm sure many of you are, too. But there is one antidote that I have found that works for me, and that is nature: the mountains, parks, and trails that surround and run through our home in Los Angeles.

My wife Eve and I love to go on hiking trips with our friends, or, when we can steal away during the summer, evening hikes through Griffith Park. From time to time, I like to run alone in the Verdugos, with a little extra pace than usual, knowing that one of P-22's friends might be following me. This precious open space in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. When this bill passes, it will be thanks in no small part to local advocates, like those with the National Parks Conservation Assoc., which is celebrating its 100th year of protecting parks large and small, and advocating for open space across America.

Preservation of open space in our communities is not only good for our environment, but is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of residents of all ages. The Center for Disease Control has unequivocally stated that parks and trails areimportant for increasing physical activity, improving mental health, bears and birds of prey. For nearly two decades, I have made it my mission to protect the Rim of the Valley Corridor, a vast and beautiful area that makes a ring around the San Fernando Valley. We’re now closer than ever before to passing legislation to include this precious open space in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

In response to every piece that has been published, members of our community have reached out to me to share their own thoughts, perspectives, and ideas—starting a conversation and shaping the way I make decisions as a legislator.

When journalism is in decline, so too is the health of our democracy. It is disheartening that many communities in our state do not have the same resource. In the coming legislative year I will be exploring ways to help encourage entrepreneurs, like the ones who founded this paper, to invest in journalism. I’ll seek to understand how we can support existing local papers. If you have thoughts and suggestions, please share your ideas by calling (818) 558-3043 or emailing Assemblymember.Friedman@Assembly.ca.gov.

NOTE TO READERS: Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell and the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council declined to submit a column this month.
A Deep Dive into Reservoir History
By Lynne T. Jewell, Second Vice President

The Rowena Reservoir—the oldest of 10 reservoirs in Los Angeles—has been the centerpiece of the eastern side of Los Feliz for more than 100 years.

Recently this Los Feliz gem has become the subject of controversy. Some want the 10-acre Los Angeles Department of Water & Power-owned facility (which is still part of the city’s water supply system) opened for “passive recreation” and others don’t.

In 1988, the DWP’s Water Quality Improvement Program for open reservoirs was enacted, requiring the covering of reservoirs, including Rowena Reservoir. The DWP’s original proposal, an unsightly water tank on a concrete slab, see LFIA page 16.

Los Feliz Neighborhood Council
Creating Compost, Not Waste
By Sarah Tressler, LFNC Copywriter

On September 23rd, 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg admonished world leaders at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in a speech heard ‘round the internet. “The eyes of all future generations are upon you,” she said. It was a wake-up call to action (in case previous wake-up calls had been heretofore ignored).

Around the time Thunberg was giving the rich and powerful a public dressing-down, two Los Feliz residents took to Nextdoor, the neighborhood social media app, with composting questions.

Don’t let the story go untold.
Share your loved one’s story. place an obituary in your local newspaper
The Third Place
By Stephanie Vendig, Ledger Columnist

Volunteering in the community, the subject of my column last month, is definitely a benefit for someone moving into a different lifestyle after retirement. But equally beneficial is the notion of participating in the community through informal gatherings where people can easily engage with each other.

This is the notion of Third Place, a term coined by the late American urban sociologist and author Ray Oldenburg. According to Oldenburg, informal public gathering places are important for a functioning democratic society—civic engagement adds balance to our first place (home) and our second place (work).

With the Third Place, we can just enjoy the company and conversation around us. It can be a hangout, a home away from home. Community centers and events, gyms, houses of worship, and restaurants are all places where people can gather easily and so can be labeled third places.

The 25th Annual Music Box Steps Day will be one such opportunity for gathering together. This Third Place is organized by the Silver Lake Improvement Association; a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the community, and takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 19th, at Laurel and Hardy Park, 900 Vendome St.

All are invited to this free event, which commemorates Vendome St. Laurel and Hardy Park, 900 Sunset Triangle Plaza, and the park is across the street from the Music Box Steps where the legendary comedy duo lugged a piano up an endless staircase in their 1932 Oscar-winning short film The Music Box.

In addition to multiple screenings of the classic half-hour film, there will be free food, displays, a magic show, a raffle, and a live re-creation of The Music Box performed by local actors. Most importantly, there will be plenty of opportunities to engage with your neighbors.

Another Third Place is the Sunset Triangle Plaza, developed and maintained by the Silver Lake Improvement Association, with the help of the City of Los Angeles, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, and the 4th and the 13th council districts. The Plaza is at the junction of Griffith Park Boulevard, Sunset Boulevard, and Edgedale Drive and next to a pocket park.

Chairs, tables, and umbrellas are available in front of cafes for conversation and eating. There is a farmer’s market next to the Plaza and during the summer there is the outdoor Silver Lake Picture Show. In other words, this is a public space for informal gathering, conversations, and activities that encourage engaging with others.

So, go enjoy your community by dropping into one of these Third Places or by finding one—or two or three—of your own. They will enrich your life.

**Sunset Hall - Curriculum and Advocacy**

**Thanks to our ad sponsor Sunset Hall. They offer: Program for free-thinking older adults (323) 660-5277**

Beginning Conversational Spanish

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 & Advanced Thursdays 3:30-4:30

Griffith Park Adult Community Center Calendar

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019: Lunch, General Meeting and Program, 12 noon-2:30 pm**

Sign up for lunch at Friendship Auditorium between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Program: Professor Andrew Winemck of Lifelong Learning Program of California State University of LA will present “Analysis of the Medicare reform proposals.”

**GPAC Club Halloween Party: Wednesday, October 30th, 4 pm**

8 pm Dinner, parade and entertainment. Mad tickets ($20) and raffle tickets are on sale in the GPAC Lobby starting October 1st.

GPAC Club Holiday Boutique: Saturday, November 2nd, 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m at Friendship Auditorium and GPACC: Arts & crafts, books, plants, GPAC Club cafe. If you are an artist and want to participate with your craft, contact Hettie Ramirez at (323) 376-5368 or leave your name and phone number at the desk in the lobby.

**The Lunch Program:** Lunch is served 5 days a week at the Center. $2 is the donation for those over 60 years and $6 for those younger. Daily lunch is served at 12:00pm. Come in for coffee and sign in at 10:30am.

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**

Saturday, November 2nd

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Griffith Park Adult Community Center & Friendship Auditorium

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Los Feliz Ledger

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Los Feliz Ledger October 2019

Los felizledger.com October 2019
SoCal Sales Dip, but Prices Remain High

According to data from CoreLogic, a real estate analysis firm out of La Jolla, CA, the decline of roughly a percent marked the seventh time this year that sales have fallen when compared with the same period in 2018. Newly built homes and condos fared especially poorly, falling 43% below the August average since 1988. Resales, meanwhile, fell only 10% below that average. But according to CoreLogic analyst Andrew LePage, the drop could have been worse, if not for a recent drop in mortgage rates that helped temper the decline.

“From March through August this year, when mortgage rates trended lower, home sales in August were the lowest since 1988. No condos sold countywide in August— one less than the month prior.” The median price for the area was about 7% month-over-month and 15% year-over-year to $1.5 million. Condo prices, however, were down about 5% month-over-month, but up under half a percent year-over-year, with 10 selling in the area for a median price of $578,000.

Silver Lake/Echo Park’s 90026 ZIP code also had 21 homes sold in August, six more than the previous month. The median price for those homes was $1.103 million, the same as in July, and a 10% increase from August 2018. No condos sold in the area.

Meanwhile, 14 homes sold in 90039—which includes parts of Silver Lake, Los Feliz and Atwater Village—in August, three fewer than in July. The median price for the area was up about 21% from July and about 24% from August 2018 to $1.430 million. Five condos sold in the area for a median of $851,000—about 3% higher than in July and 32% higher than the previous August. In Los Feliz’s 90027 ZIP code, 12 homes sold in August, three fewer than in July, for a median of $1.41 million, about half a percent above July’s median, but 22% below last August’s. Two condos sold in the area, two more than in July, for a median of $648,000, a decrease of about 2% month-over-month and about 3% higher year-over-year.

Comparatively, there were 4,869 homes and 1,794 condos sold countywide in August, an increase of 69 homes and 84 condos from the previous month. In the Hollywood Hills’ 90068 ZIP code, 21 single-family homes sold in August— one less than the month prior. The median price for the area was about 7% month-over-month and 15% year-over-year to $1.5 million. Condo prices, however, were down about 5% month-over-month, but up under half a percent year-over-year, with 10 selling in the area for a median price of $578,000.

One of the reasons last month’s median was unchanged from a year ago is because of a change in market mix, meaning a shift toward a higher share of sales occurring in some of the region’s more affordable areas,” said LePage.

Locally, 68 single-family homes and 17 condos sold in our coverage area in August, one fewer home and six fewer condos than in July, according to CoreLogic data.

Southern California home sales in August were the lowest for that month in four years, according to data from CoreLogic, a real estate analysis firm out of La Jolla, CA.

The decline of roughly a percent marked the seventh time this year that sales have fallen when compared with the same period in 2018. Newly built homes and condos fared especially poorly, falling 43% below the August average since 1988. Resales, meanwhile, fell only 10% below that average. But according to CoreLogic analyst Andrew LePage, the drop could have been worse, if not for a recent drop in mortgage rates that helped temper the decline.

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Los Feliz Ledger

**[HOUSE AND HOLMES]**

**Good Garage Gone Bad**

By Rob Loos, Ledger Columnist

In Los Angeles a garage is used for storing holiday decorations, earthquake supplies and all of the jumbo rolls of paper towels that you buy at Costco. But in my case, the garage is also my “Golf Shed,” with a rack for golf clubs, boxes for golf shoes, and a framed map of the infamous Scottish Golf Course, Carnoustie.

I grew up playing golf in Akron, Ohio where a round at Firestone Country Club took under four hours. But in Los Angeles County, golf is often a six-hour ordeal on the most heavily played courses in the world. Tee times are every seven minutes from dawn until mid-afternoon, and if you miss your turn, the grumpy starter makes you wait until somebody else is tardy for their tee time.

One Saturday, I was out the door at 8:12 a.m. to be sure I made it for my 9:36 a.m. tee time.

We have an electric remote that opens the Golf Shed door, but as I was reaching for my clubs, the rolling door started to close on its own. I pushed the button on the remote, but the garage door kept lowering. I held the button down for ten seconds—the door was still shut. I was stuck inside the garage with no way out as my tee time was fast approaching.

I opened the remote’s battery compartment, wiped the battery on my shirt, and put it back in. I saw my Dad do this once with a flashlight battery, so I thought the gesture might work, but it did not.

By this point seven minutes had passed, which is one more tee time closer to my losing out, and I was still trapped inside my garage with no viable plan for escape.

But regarding whether the LADWP, to determine whether it would perform its ‘lead agency,’ in this case the DWP, to decide if a water supply line was necessary. Christine Rodriguez with the state’s Natural Resources Agency—thegoverning body responsible for the law—said it was up to the discretion of the ‘lead agency,’ in this case the LADWP, to determine whether such a review was needed. LADWP spokesperson Dawn Cotterell said the agency determined in 2017 no review was necessary.

Simply, Classically Los Feliz

5160 Linwood Drive; Laughlin Park

Stated on a cul-de-sac at the highest point in celebrity-favored, gated Laughlin Park, this home enjoys wrap-around city, hills and Griffith Park views. All rooms are impressively-scaled. The floor plan is flawless. The original, elegant details are intact thanks to just two family owners over the past 90 years.

Our bedrooms on the top floor, plus guest/maid’s/chef/staff’s suite and service rooms on the bottom floor with outside entrance; pool; sunroom/den with Palladian windows on three sides plus fireplace; 3-car garage with direct entrance; nathskeller.

Reduced to $6,250,000

2 New Leases in the Los Feliz Estates

5250 Los Franciscos Way
3,430 sq. ft. 5 BR + 3.5 BA; pool; panoramic views; den; 3 fireplaces; small pet OK.
www.5250losfranciscos.com
$9,000 per month

5186 Los Bonitos Way
3,547 sq. ft. 3 BR + 4 BA; pool; views; family room; den; office; luxuriously updated.
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Two bedrooms on the top floor, plus guest/maid’s/chef/staff’s suite and service rooms on the bottom floor with outside entrance; pool; sunroom/den with Palladian windows on three sides plus fireplace; 3-car garage with direct entrance; nathskeller.

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$2,350,000
5 Bed | 4 Bath | 3,200 Sq Ft
Traditional in Prime Location
Karen Lower
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karen.lower@compass.com
DRE 01294657

2703 Franklin Street
$1,335,000
4 Bed | 4 Bath | 3,047 Sq Ft
Located in one of the best pockets of Silver Lake
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johnnyjohnston@compass.com
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5960 Roderick Road
$599,000
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,020 Sq Ft
An impeccably updated home located in prime Glassell Park
The Wilkinson Properties Group
323.487.2049
richard@wilkinson-properties.com
DRE 01812487

3960 Roderick Road
$599,000
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,020 Sq Ft
An impeccably updated home located in prime Glassell Park
The Wilkinson Properties Group
323.487.2049
richard@wilkinson-properties.com
DRE 01812487
The building would replace a maintenance yard and provide workspace for 29 LADWP employees who work on projects near the Reservoir and can’t fit, officials say, at the department’s downtown office.

of justification for why this could not be somewhere else.”

Requests for additional in-
formation and comment from Emmons were not returned.

The council approved the community impact statement on an 8 to 5 vote with board-
members Anthony Crump, Samantha Danner, Maebe A. Gell, Tina Lin, and Nicholas Fox Robbins in opposition.

According to Crump, to give you anything,” Crump said.

But SLNC councilmem-
ber Elaine Harris Roark said she thinks LADWP is being disingenuous.

“If they need facilities let’s talk about it,” she said. “I think there is something sneaky going on here and we should address it.”

Roark denied a request for clarification on her comment.
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5bd/8ba reimagined modern day castle. Views. Eric McCollum 323.646.5476

12165 Iredell Street
SOLD AT $5,275,000
4bd/6ba Tuscan villa on .87 acres of park like grounds. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

2228 Catalina Street
SOLD AT $3,525,000
C. 1939 classic country villa 3bd/3ba lot with pool. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

1666 S Cochran Avenue
OFFERED AT $2,364,262
4 unit building offers 4 - 2bd/2ba each. All remodeled! Rosemary Low & Natalie G. 323.363.0381

4966 Ambrose Avenue
SOLD AT $2,500,000
Modern home with subtle architectural details. Kat Nitsou 310.999.9080

3512 Griffith Park Blvd.
SOLD AT $2,483,000
Mid Century 3bd/4ba now reodeled with pool. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

3272 Lowry Road
OFFERED AT $2,450,000
C. 1920’s Spanish Colonial with 3bd/3ba. Pool/Spa. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

3923 Fernwood Avenue
OFFERED AT $2,150,000
Modern c. 1962 contemporary with pool & views. Jeffrey Young 213.819.9630

725 Burleigh Drive
OFFERED AT $1,998,888
C. 1927 by Calvin C. Straub, FAIA. Hab House. Michelle St. Clair & Joey Kiralla 213.504.4943

1943 Laughlin Park Drive
OFFERED AT $1,859,900
Architect, Carleton M. Winslow. 4bd/3ba c 1920s. Rosemary Low & Natalie G. 323.363.0381

2419 Berkeley Avenue
OFFERED AT $1,495,000
Two Craftsman bungalow c. 1924 on one lot. Pool. Jeffrey Young 213.819.9630

2419 Berkeley Avenue
SOLD AT $1,379,000
2 modern rebuild homes on a lot. 2bd/2ba + 3bd/3ba. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

3272 Lowry Road
OFFERED AT $1,985,000
C. 1920’s Spanish Colonial with 3bd/3ba. Pool/Spa. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

3272 Lowry Road
OFFERED AT $2,487,000
C. 1920’s Spanish Colonial with 3nd/5ba. Pool/Spa. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725 | co-listed

4966 Ambrose Avenue
SOLD AT $2,500,000
Modern home with subtle architectural details. Kat Nitsou 310.999.9080

4966 Ambrose Avenue
SOLD AT $2,500,000
Modern home with subtle architectural details. Kat Nitsou 310.999.9080

1661 Griffith Park Blvd.
OFFERED AT $3,995,000
2 houses on lot. 2bd/2ba California bungalow & 1bd/1ba Spanish. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

5861 Holly Oak Drive
OFFERED AT $2,275,000
Modern c. 1962 contemporary with pool & views. Jeffrey Young 213.819.9630

1661 Griffith Park Blvd.
SOLD AT $2,500,000
Modern c. 1962 contemporary with pool & views. Jeffrey Young 213.819.9630

6810 Cahuenga Park Trail
OFFERED AT $1,495,000
Views freshly remodeled bonus space. Views. Jeffrey Young 213.819.9630

4112 Baywood Street
OFFERED AT $3,000/MONTH
2bd/2ba California bungalow. Available now. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

4966 Ambrose Avenue
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Modern home with subtle architectural details. Kat Nitsou 310.999.9080

5681 Holly Oak Drive
OFFERED AT $2,275,000
Modern c. 1962 contemporary with pool & views. Jeffrey Young 213.819.9630

3272 Lowry Road
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C. 1920’s Spanish Colonial with 3bd/3ba. Pool/Spa. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

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2bd/2ba California bungalow. Available now. Rick Yohon 323.270.1725

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Deteriorating Relationship with Nicole

While the court filing shows the Gatto family was prone to bickering, the breakdown between Nicole and her father appears to have started in the spring of 2013 when Gatto became angry that Nicole had given a house key to Moreno to watch his house while he was visiting Mike, then an Assemblymember, in Sacramento.

When Gatto returned home, per the court filing, he became further upset when he found an outdoor security light had been smashed out at his house.

According to Mike’s declaration, his father said Moreno had accidentally broken the light with a fireplace poker trying to fend off an intruder. “This statement shocked and disturbed me,” Mike wrote, “both for its strange violence and for its lack of credibility.”

Further in Mike’s declaration he states valuables had been left behind at his father’s home the night he was killed, but the wooden file cabinet where his father kept his papers had been broken into and presumably emptied.

According to the filing, police told family members a fireplace poker had been used by the assailant to break into things in Gatto’s home the day he was murdered.

Other emails reveal Gatto deeply disliked Moreno, often using profanities to describe him. He wrote in one such email, he was frustrated Moreno was not working and was leaning financially on Nicole. “Sooner or later she will get upset with the boy toy,” he wrote in an email to Mike, September 22, 2013.

By the day he died, Gatto and Nicole were not speaking. “Nicole and Mark used the handyman who did work for me, but since they no longer speak to me, I know if I asked them for his number, they would tell me to get f**ked,” Gatto wrote in an email to Mike dated November 12, 2013 around noon.

According to police, Gatto was killed that day in the early evening.

The Missing Pages from the Notepad

According to the documents, the note left on Gatto’s desk was one of several he had written on a small notepad.

Mike, who, along with his sister had been banned for the most part, until 2017 from their father’s house after Nicole changed the locks shortly after his murder, wrote repeatedly to Nicole’s attorney over the years about the whereabouts of those missing pages, thinking they could be perhaps a holographic will, meaning one written in their father’s handwriting.

For months, Nicole’s attorneys told him, according to the filing, the missing notes—as well as some handwritten keepakes from Gatto to Mike’s daughters—could not be found. ‘There is no pack rat, his house filled with a lifetime of collections and keepsakes. But Mike argued being precluded from entering his childhood home didn’t help matters and questioned if Nicole was hoarding items out of spite or had possibly destroyed them, in violation of his willwritten notes about his estate.

“There is an ongoing murder investigation here,” Mike wrote in a letter to Nicole’s attorney in 2014. “We have a document that we can date to immediately before my father’s murder, that he wrote in his own hand, part of which was found at the desk at which he was shot; and that indicates very clearly that if he had lived, he intended to reduce Nicole’s share of the estate substantially, by approximately $1 million in fact.”

While Mike wrote he was not accusing Nicole, he felt the any additional notes written in his father’s hand and the one found by his side at the time of his death were central to the criminal investigation.

“The key elements of a murder investigation are means, motive and opportunity,” Gatto wrote to Nicole’s attorney. “It does not take a detective to grasp that this document is relevant to motive for at least two of the seven people the police need to clear.”

Initially, attorneys said Nicole was unable to locate any other pages from the notepad, even after hiring an outside search firm for the task, according to the filing. But, according to her attorney, Nicole ultimately found the additional notes later in 2014, scattered in their father’s bedroom, but they were deemed not legal estate documents and were, in her words, just “brainstorming” and rough notations.

Nicole’s attorney also corroborated Mike for intimating, in any way, her client, or Moreno, had anything to do with Gatto’s murder.

Additionally, in the filings, Mike indicates his father’s burial spot was without a headstone for a year and a half after his death, which he called a “pauper’s grave” that he could not “fathom.”

Additionally, in the filing, Mike details that in 2015, during a meeting with Nicole in the Citibank parking lot in Silver Lake, Mark unexpectedly attended “and placed his hand in his jacket pocket, in the classic B-movie, ‘I have a gun here,’ pose and said, this should shut you up.”

Nicole, Mike and Mariann Gatto did not respond to requests to be interviewed for this story. Attempts to reach Moreno were unsuccessful.

Additionally, Los Angeles Police (LAPD) detectives assigned to the case did not respond to requests for interviews and denied a California Public Records Act request on any recent documents showing movement on the case, citing providing so would endanger an ongoing criminal investigation.
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

The bridge will use about 300,000 pounds of steel and includes a deck for pedestrians and cyclists and a separate deck for horse riding. A web of steel cable stays connecting the spire to the bridge supports the structure and helps to create the unique look that has dramatically changed the landscape in the area north of Los Feliz Boulevard.

The completion of the 325-foot-long bridge has been long anticipated and met with some controversy after its original projected cost of about $4 million in 2011 soared to more than $16 million by the time the project was approved in 2017.

Originally expected to be completely funded through a $3.7 million donation by private philanthropist Morton La Kretz, the City of Los Angeles is now footing more than $12 million of the bill as part of “Vision Zero,” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti’s program aimed at ending traffic fatalities in the city by 2025.

While many riders currently cross the riverbed on horseback to access the tunnel, it requires a level of expertise that prevents many novice riders from going into Griffith Park, according to Gilbert. “I’m sure there are simpler [bridge designs] that would have been less expensive, but we wanted a bridge and we’re getting a bridge, so we’re focusing on the positive,” Gilbert said.

In addition to fulfilling goals set by the city’s Vision Zero program, the bridge also satisfies part of the city’s L.A. River Revitalization plan, a program aimed at restoring the ecosystem and expanding parks along 32 miles of the river.

“You still have to get across the freeway somehow.” Martin said. “And it doesn’t really solve the problem of getting into Griffith Park [for cyclists].”

The bridge will connect North Atwater cyclists to the bike path that runs along the western bank of the river, the nearest crossing over the 5 Freeway is about half a mile south at Los Feliz Boulevard.

Local City Council Members David Ryu (Council District 4) and Mitch O’Farrell (Council District 13) both previously criticized the escalating costs of the project, but ultimately voted in support of advancing its construction in 2017, calling it an important infrastructure project.

At the time, O’Farrell said in an email to the Ledger that “going back to the drawing board” with the project would have made it even more costly than it had already become.

Despite the bridge’s growing price tag, many residents and community activists remain enthusiastic about the prospect of a new river crossing connecting Atwater’s equestrian center with an existing equestrian tunnel under the freeway between Griffith Park and the river’s western bank.

“We’re thrilled about having a safer equestrian crossing into Griffith Park,” said Gene Gilbert, who chairs the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council’s Equine Advisory Committee.

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“The L.A. River is an extraordinary treasure with limitless potential for the communities that surround it,” said Garcetti in a 2018 statement. “This bridge will give Angelenos better access to green space, creating a destination for people across Los Angeles to disconnect from city life and enjoy nature.”

The project comes as part of a recent bridge boom on the river as the city broke ground this year on the “Red Car Trolley” pedestrian bridge just below the Glendale-Hyperion overpass and the Taylor Yard bridge, currently under construction further south in the Elysian Valley.
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“Our concern is always public safety,” Skarpelos said. “I think it’s really important that a lot of these people don’t speak [English] and [poor cell reception] might get them into a predicament of some sort.”

Boardmembers also said poor reception prevents them from being able to call authorities to report illegal smoking in the high fire-risk area.

City employees have long grappled with spotty or non-existent cell service in the Hollywood Hills and Griffith Park, but the problem has been exacerbated recently as the public’s interest in seeing the Hollywood Sign continues to grow.

Ryu spokesman Mark Pampanin wrote in a statement that the councilmember acknowledges the neighborhood council’s concerns.

“He is certainly aware of the issues related to tourists coming into the hillsides and sometimes getting lost and is working on a broad number of strategies to improve safety, enforcement and access in the area,” Pampanin said. “We are happy to have HUNC’s involvement on these issues and look forward to exploring this idea further.”

The public safety hazard posed by lack of cell service in Griffith Park extends beyond stranded tourists.

In May 2014, a woman was forced to hike for half-hour until she could find cell service and call 911 after being sexually assaulted in an isolated area of Griffith Park. The violent assault vanished by the time authorities were notified and a police chopper responded in the area.

And Sally Menke, Quentin Tarantino’s long-time film editor, was found dead in Griffith Park in September 2010, during an extreme heat wave, after she went on a walk in the park in the morning.

When her family discovered she had not returned by the afternoon, they pinged her cell phone for her location. But due to poor reception in the park, the signal indicated Menke was in the flats of Hollywood, not Griffith Park. Her death was determined to be heat-related.

HUNC’s Sheila Irani, who represents the Lake Hollywood Homeowner’s Assoc. on the board, said she often sees people walking back and forth towards a cliff as they try to snap a “selfie” and worries that it would be impossible to call an ambulance if someone fell.

The study requested by HUNC will deal with installation and aesthetic concerns as well as the potential impacts of 5G antennas on wildlife and people.

Not only is HUNC seeking improved cell service for the area, but the council would like a full-time city park ranger to patrol Lake Hollywood Park and an area called “The Vista,” on Lake Canyon Drive, which has become an unofficial lookout spot for tourists to loiter and take photos of the sign.

Since the city closed an unpermitted pedestrian gate at the end of Beachwood Drive, which leads directly to the Hollywood Sign, in 2017, Irani said the problems associated with selfie-seeking tourists have simply shifted to Lake Hollywood.

“It went from bad to insane within months,” Irani said. “We’ve put a lot of thinking into solving this problem,” she said. “We say, ‘we get it,’ we live in the [country’s] second largest city and we have a landmark in our backyard.”

Allison B. Cohen contributed to this story.

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LFIA from page 5
was not well received by the community.
Consequently, a band of citizens who cherished open-air reservoirs formed the city-wide Committee to Preserve Open Reservoirs (CPOR). On behalf of the Los Feliz Improvement Assoc. (LFIA), local resident Molly Collins spearheaded preservation efforts and was a founding member of CPOR’s Rowena Water Committee.

In 1992, as a result of seismic concerns, the reservoir was drained and remained a dirt pit for the next decade. This was the backdrop as community residents and DWP officials negotiated back and forth, and ultimately agreed to a sunken 10-million gallon tank covered with an aesthetically pleasing landscape with decorative water features.

When the reservoir reopened in 2001, the DWP released a report specifically stating that public access to the site was “infeasible” due to the various operating water system components, some of which would pose a public safety risk.

Earlier this year, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, after conducting an arbitrary online survey, passed a resolution calling for the DWP to find a way to open the reservoir to the public. However, many of the nearby neighborhood residents, who worked hard to make the reservoir the desirable site it is today, have voiced frustration that their input and issues were not included in the discussion.

Some of the residents’ concerns: the safety of the drinking water, site security and maintenance, parking issues and the impact on wildlife.

Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu (CD4) wrote in the Ledger’s August 2019 edition that opening the park to the public “is necessary because parks and open spaces are vital resources to our health, our families and our city.” Ryu also submitted a proposal to the City Council requesting a feasibility study.

The LFIA supports the need for parks and open space in Los Feliz. However, in evaluating whether the Rowena Reservoir should be opened to the public, LFIA believes that all community voices and concerns should be heard in a thorough and open public process.
High School Sports Roundup
By Mike Guardabascio, Ledger Columnist

This month we’re updating the progress of the local football teams and taking a look at the top teams in the other Fall sports.

JOHN MARSHALL

Marshall’s football team is coming off a 2-9 season in 2018, but things are looking brighter in 2019 under first-year coach Manuel Gomez, who has the Barristers at 2-2, already equaling last year’s win total. Marshall defeated Belmont and Hollywood to start the year, then suffered setbacks at Roosevelt and Atleta.

The team has moved up a spot in the L.A. City Section Division II rankings, to No. 10. Marshall receiver Krystian Pavino has five touchdowns in 10 games, leading the way, and won the title at the Great Gow Run to lead the season, with junior Zachary Zambrano right behind him.

HELEN BERNSTEIN

The Bernstein Dragons football team opened the season ranked No. 11 in the Division III La Cañada Section rankings, and have moved up to No. 5 at the midway point of the season. Coach Daniel Lombard’s squad was 2-9 last year and have started 2-3 this season with wins over Eastside and Santee and losses to Inglewood, Torrington and Lincoln in a 54-50 thriller.

The team opens league play at home on October 4th against Mendez.

The Bernstein girls’ volleyball team had a 6-4 start and are also ranked No. 16 in the Ojai Invitational thanks to a great run from Daisy Santiago, who finished second in the race. Senior Violet Marko won the title at the Great Gow Run to lead the season.

IMMACULATE HEART

The Immaculate Heart girls’ volleyball team has started 3-4 overall but looking good in the L.A. City Section small schools division, as they’re ranked No. 6 in Division III.

BELMONT

It’s been a tough start for the Belmont Sentinels so far this year. After a 1-9 season last year, Belmont is 1-3 to start 2019, with a win over West Adams and losses to Marshall, Torres and Free.

First year head football coach Drew Casani’s goal was to turn around a Cubs team that was coming off their worst record since 1972, and while he admitted he had his work cut out for him this year, Loyola is already moving in the right direction.

The Cubs’ 2-2 start in 2019 already doubles their win total from 2018, as they’ve defeated Valencia and St. Bernard, and lost narrowly to highly-ranked Cathedral.

The team opens league play with home games against Serra and Alemany on October 4th and 11th.

The Cubs boys’ water polo team is ranked No. 3 in Division 1 in the CIF Southern Section, after an undefeated 4-0 start. Loyola’s cross country team is ranked No. 8 in Division 2 after a strong start to the season as well. Senior Anthony Stone is leading the way, and won the title at the Great Gow Run to lead the season, with junior Zachary Zambrano right behind him.

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IMMACULATE HEART

The Immaculate Heart girls’ volleyball team has started 3-4 overall but looking good in the L.A. City Section small schools division, as they’re ranked No. 6 in Division III.

BELMONT

It’s been a tough start for the Belmont Sentinels so far this year. After a 1-9 season last year, Belmont is 1-3 to start 2019, with a win over West Adams and losses to Marshall, Torres, and Free.

First year head football coach Drew Casani’s goal was to turn around a Cubs team that was coming off their worst record since 1972, and while he admitted he had his work cut out for him this year, Loyola is already moving in the right direction.

The Cubs’ 2-2 start in 2019 already doubles their win total from 2018, as they’ve defeated Valencia and St. Bernard, and lost narrowly to highly-ranked Cathedral.

The team opens league play with home games against Serra and Alemany on October 4th and 11th.

The Cubs boys’ water polo team is ranked No. 3 in Division 1 in the CIF Southern Section, after an undefeated 4-0 start. Loyola’s cross country team is ranked No. 8 in Division 2 after a strong start to the season as well. Senior Anthony Stone is leading the way, and won the title at the Great Gow Run to lead the season, with junior Zachary Zambrano right behind him.

The Bernstein Dragons football team opened the season ranked No. 11 in the Division III La Cañada Section rankings, and have moved up to No. 5 at the midway point of the season. Coach Daniel Lombard’s squad was 2-9 last year and have started 2-3 this season with wins over Eastside and Santee and losses to Inglewood, Torrington and Lincoln in a 54-50 thriller.

The team opens league play at home on October 4th against Mendez.

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Students, faculty and staff welcome the incoming freshmen. One of our most beloved traditions, Welcome Day, took place in September. Our welcoming spirit didn't end with Welcome Day, however. Just recently members of the Class of 2023 learned about the history of IH and got to bond with one another at the overnight Freshman Retreat.

Our welcoming spirit didn't end with Welcome Day. We usually also have dessert options like ice cream or crepes. We also have a playground for kids to enjoy with their parents. I have been to the food trucks many times and from my experience, it is very family-friendly. Sometimes we have the Humble Crust Pizza Truck for all the "picky eaters" out there. We usually also have dessert options like ice cream or crepes.

If you decide to come to the food trucks and don't know what to get, here are some suggestions: if you like sushi, head over to the Rainbow Asian Taco Truck, my personal favorite, or to "Roaming Italy" for the best gnocchi. Last but not least, make sure to check out Highland Hickory Barbecue; it is definitely a crowd pleaser. You might want to try to get it fast though, before it runs out!

The thing that I like about the food trucks is that everyone in the family can eat whatever they want, no fighting involved. If you decide to come to the food trucks and don't know what to get, here are some suggestions: if you like sushi, head over to the Rainbow Asian Taco Truck, my personal favorite, or to “Roaming Italy” for the best gnocchi. Last but not least, make sure to check out Highland Hickory Barbecue; it is definitely a crowd pleaser. You might want to try to get it fast though, before it runs out!

If you are interested in coming, the food trucks and flea market are in the parking lot of OMGC Church. You can walk in through the Vermont Avenue entrance, or drive in through the Dracena Drive entrance. I hope to see you there!
According to the course syllabus, the LAUSD course delves into race, American citizenship, stereotypes, enslavement of Africans, white supremacy, the Civil Rights movement, the country's Native American Apology resolution, an analysis of the Zoot Suit Riots, anti Japanese-American sentiment after World War II and U.S. immigration policies, to name just a few.

Literature as well as videos and films are used for teaching and discussion, including rapper Macklemore’s “Same Love,” President Barack Obama’s “Trayvon Martin Speech,” and Viva La Causa, an award-winning documentary about Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta’s grape strike and boycott demanding social justice for farmworkers in the 1960s.

For some students, the course has given them a new view on their own history and that of others. “I did not know how ignorant I was about other cultures and my own history,” said Alexander Rodriguez, 17, a senior at John Marshall High School, who took the class last spring. “My family would celebrate Cesar Chavez day and I didn’t even know who he was,” she said.

Emilia Sanchez, also 17 from Marshall, said the class helped her understand the struggles of African-Americans in the United States. “When you grow up Latino,” she said, “there’s a lot of anti-blackness in the community. But with the Civil Rights movement, you see how much black people have done to get the justice they deserve . . . We are so quick to judge people. You need to understand there is more,” to their story, she said.

The LAUSD’s Board of Education voted for such a course in 2014, which lead to the formation of a committee in 2015 of teachers, students and administrators, including Marshall High School principal Gary Garcia, to form guidelines.

At the time, Garcia worked on LAUSD’s division of instruction and had taught Chicano studies to high school students at Occidental College.

“The main idea,” Garcia said, “was to give teachers guidance on being able to be objective in a course which lends itself to subjectivity.”

According to Garcia, compromise on the committee was key. “Some members were super left,” he said, “and some were more conservative. I had to balance that,” to make sure the guidelines were as down the middle as possible. Soon after, LAUSD’s course curriculum was created by an advisory board to the State Board of Education.

Garcia also said how proud he is to have been a part of bringing ethnic studies courses to LAUSD students.

“I was super excited to converse that team,” he said. “That was one of my best accomplishments ever.”

The State Board of Education is currently reworking the curricula based on concerns it received to the draft proposal, and is expected to vote on it in 2020. The state’s version would be mandatory for high school graduation.
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**IN ESCROW in Los Feliz Hills**

3827 Carnavon Way • Monterey Colonial • $1,595,000

Stunning restoration in this elegantly presented 1930’s French Chateau, designed & built by F. Scott Crowhurst and magazine published. Sweeping views of the hills & city, and the idyllic garden. Enjoy a grand LR with a dramatic wood thatched ceiling. Cook’s kitchen, luxurious baths and a yard that’s perfect for entertaining.

**IN ESCROW in Los Feliz**

2054 New Hampshire Avenue • Spanish • $1,495,000

Lovely 1 story 3+2 1920’s residence. Gorgeous living room & large formal dining room with an original built-in buffet. The charming kitchen & cozy den lead out to the patio under a beautiful arbor & a wonderful flat yard. Hrdwd flrs. AC. Enclosed porch off DR for home office. Finished garage too! Great walkable location.

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**SOLD in Los Feliz**

4411 Los Feliz Blvd #207 • Modern • $716,000

Hard to find 2+1 corner unit located in the full service premiere building of the Los Feliz Towers located walking distance to Hillhurst. The floor-to-ceiling doors lead to the wide balcony off the LR and dining room. New flooring, custom cabinets. Amenities include Resort style pool, doorman & fitness room. Rep buyer.

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**JUST LISTED in Los Feliz**

3336 Tica Drive • Monterey Colonial • $1,595,000

Charm abounds in this picture perfect Craftsman Duplex. There is a 3+2 large front unit that feels like a home. Spacious living room and large dining room, eat-in kitchen with new quartz countertops. Rm. detached garage and laundry.

**JUST LISTED in Los Feliz Hills**

6516 Barton Avenue • California Bungalow • $895,000


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**FOR LEASE in Los Feliz**

2441 Lyric Avenue • Contemporary • $5,700

As they say you can’t always judge a book by its cover; well this is one of those! Somewhat understated on the exterior, but really modern and spacious on the inside! Large LR w/ fireplace and high pitched wood ceilings. Gorgeous wood floors. Central AC. New master bath. Freshly painted interior. Den w/ fireplace. Deck.

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**IN ESCROW in Silver Lake Hills**

1684 Rotary Drive • Architectural • Call For Price


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**COMING SOON in Silver Lake Hills**

2201 Vista Del Mar • Cottage • $925,000

Charm galore in this 1930’s 2+2 home. Step down into a spacious living room with fireplace and surrounded by windows. Spacious DR with built-in. Hardwood floors. Nice floor plan. Charming eat-in kitchen that leads to a cozy patio. Many original details. 1st time on the market in 30+ years! With TLC it could be fabulous!

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**JUST LISTED in Los Feliz Hills**

IN ESCROW in Los Feliz Hills

6016 Barton Avenue • California Bungalow • $895,000


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**IN ESCROW in Beachwood Canyon**

1684 Rotary Drive • Architectural • Call For Price


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