



**GENARO MOLINA** Los Angeles Times  
**NORM** Langer, who runs Langer's Deli, said nearby MacArthur Park "is very important for the people who live in this area."

# Langer's Deli owner hungers for a MacArthur Park cleanup

'I'm considering closing,' Norm Langer says. But he's hopeful L.A. steps up.

STEVE LOPEZ

When he was a boy of 12 or so, and his parents were busy running the family restaurant, Norm Langer spent hours across the street in MacArthur Park. It was, at the time, an elegant urban oasis, with lolipop palms standing over a lake fed by natural springs. "I grew up in the park," Langer said, seated in a booth at the famous deli he now owns at 7th and Alvarado streets. "I'd play in the park, go for boat rides, take



nap. There was this whole area on the 7th Street side where older people played shuffleboard, backgammon, gin, all kinds of card games." Today, that carefree boy of yesteryear is 79. Langer's Deli is 77, with the number in bold yellow on the backs of employee uniforms. And the park of Langer's childhood, which dates from the 1880s, no longer exists. It hasn't for decades, and residents and police told me the long-festering urban nightmares — crime, extortion of local merchants by gangs, encampments, sales of stolen goods

by street vendors, and rampant, out-in-the-open drug activity — have reached new levels in the impoverished neighborhood of mostly Latino immigrants. Not long ago I came upon a zombie-like scene of contorted people gathered in the northwest corner of the park, their bodies rigid from overdoses of fentanyl or other killer drugs. That's two blocks from Langer's Deli, and I thought about him, and how disorienting it can be to grow old in a world unlike the one we remember or the one we imagined. "I'm considering closing," Langer told me, [See Lopez, A9]

# When influencers share too much

Details in social media personalities' posts may have set them up for home burglaries and even worse.

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Victoria Paris was in Europe, and everybody who watched her videos on Instagram and TikTok knew it. The 25-year-old social media influencer, who posts about design and style as well as tidbits from her daily life, has more than 400,000 followers on Instagram and

nearly 2 million on TikTok. On May 5, while she was away, her Silver Lake home was burglarized. Security cameras caught a man breaking in and leaving with designer purses and jewelry. He took a Louis Vuitton duffel bag, two Paco Rabanne bags, a Miu Miu bag, a laptop and all of Paris' jewelry, she reported to police. What helped her earn her livelihood — sharing her life online — had also made her a target. She'd previously posted photos and videos in her backyard, with a clear view of her neighborhood. Her car in the driveway was recognizable. She showed [See Mark, A8]



**MARCUS YAM** Los Angeles Times  
**GIRL SCOUT** leaders Giselle Burgess, from top left, Evelyn Santiago and Marissa Stranieri lead a meeting as girls from Troop 6000 work on crafts.

COLUMN ONE

# Scout troop for migrants lets girls be girls in a city of chaos

By Kate Linthicum | REPORTING FROM NEW YORK

Valentina Guaman, 12, raised three fingers in the air and recited an oath in Spanish. On my honor, I will try To serve my community and my country To help people at all times And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

It had been a year and a half since Valentina and her family had fled Ecuador — trudging through a dangerous, muddy jungle to escape South America, dodging authorities in Mexico and

spending cold nights in detention on the U.S. border, where immigration agents confiscated the beloved stuffed animal, Stitch, that her father gave her on her fifth birthday. Life in New York City, where the family ended up, hadn't been much easier. Her parents struggled to find work and the family bounced between migrant shelters and slept for a time on the sidewalk in Times Square. Valentina longed for her friends, her cats and her two older siblings back home. [See Scouts, A10]

# DNC's new vibe echoes Clinton

Democrats focused on changing of the guard while recalling themes from the ex-president's decades-old heyday.

BY NOAH BIERMAN

CHICAGO — Former President Clinton had trouble recalling the year of his first Democratic convention — either 1972 or 1976 — but wondered how many more he'd be around for. "All these young leaders coming up after me," he said in a wistful prime-time address Wednesday night. "They look better. They sound better. And they'll be exciting." Last week's Democratic National Convention was about generational change for a party whose leaders are in their 70s and 80s, including an 81-year-old president who was nudged out of the race last month by an 84-year-old former House speaker. The Beyoncé music, the coconut social media influencer booths and the roster of new convention speakers all contributed to the fresh, upbeat tone. But in other ways, it felt like a return to the Clinton era — with big and bold ideas for structural change that [See Democrats, A7]

# Political spotlight on Harris' California

Campaign is a fight to define the Democrat and her home state for the rest of America.

MARK Z. BARABAK

When Kamala Harris was formally installed as the Democratic presidential nominee, her home-state delegation had the best seats in the house, right up front. Visions of the Golden State and a parade of its personalities filled the convention's four-day program, and passes to California's after-parties — featuring appearances by John Legend, the Killers and Oakland's Tony! Toni! Toné — were among the hottest tickets in Chicago. Suddenly, California is at the center of politics, in a way the nation's most important and populous state hasn't been since former Gov. Ronald Reagan was in the White House. A California Democrat sits atop the party's presidential ticket for the first time in history, thanks in good part to the machinations of another California [See Barabak, A7]



## Ohtani joins exclusive 40-40 club

Slugger is first Dodger with 40 homers and stolen bases and could be first in MLB to 50-50. **SPORTS, D1**

## Starliner crew to ride with SpaceX

NASA decision to bring home two stranded astronauts is a blow for Boeing. **NATION, A5**

**Weather**  
Sunshine.  
L.A. Basin: 85/63. **B10**

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## Trading jabs over a homeless plan

Humboldt County accuses San Francisco of busing its problems north. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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