



MICAH RAY, in doorway, lives in the Haskell on Skid Row. He says it's better than being homeless but laments the dismal conditions. ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

Thirty years ago, when the Produce Hotel fell into disrepair, a newly formed nonprofit, the Skid Row Housing Trust, acquired and rehabilitated the turn-of-the-century building, restoring the brick facade and preserving 100 rooms for formerly homeless residents.

This story was repeated in the 1980s and '90s, as homelessness advocates and civic leaders poured money and energy into saving the old single-room occupancy hotels in Skid Row — first built for itinerant railroad and agricultural workers — fearing that their collapse would force thousands onto the streets.

Two generations later, livability and financial problems once again have thrown the SROs, which have tiny individual rooms and shared bathrooms, into disarray. Housing and health code inspectors

THE DEMISE OF SKID ROW'S CHEAP HOTELS

City leaders want to demolish SROs. That could be the death knell of last-resort housing for the homeless.

By Liam Dillon and Doug Smith

have found clogged toilets, cockroaches, filthy hallways and broken windows in the Produce Hotel and similar, if not worse, conditions at dozens of other properties.

But this time, Mayor Karen Bass' administration, nonprofit owners and service providers don't want to save the SROs. Instead, they'd like to see them gone — demolished or gutted in favor of new buildings with private facilities for every tenant.

"Ideally, they need to be replaced," said Carlos VanNatter, an executive with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. "These are old, turn-of-the-century buildings. They used to be flophouses. It's not an ideal living situation for a chronically homeless person to be in."

The demise of Skid Row's [See SROs, A8]

L.A.'s political left eyes more power

Progressive candidates advanced in the primary for City Council, setting the stage for runoffs.

By DAVID ZAHNISER

You might call them political progressives. Or maybe super progressives, given how much they want to reshape politics in Los Angeles.

Whatever the label, candidates on the left end of the political spectrum made crucial advances in the March 5 primary election for City Council, setting the stage for some hard-fought runoff campaigns and, potentially, an expansion of their power by the end of the year.

Progressive activists and advocacy groups helped reelect City Councilmember Nithya Raman, while sending two other left-of-center candidates — tenant rights attorney Ysabel Jurado and small-business owner Jillian Burgos — into runoffs against more moderate rivals.

"I think the results showed consistently across the board that when we show up, we win," said Bill Przulucki, executive director of Ground Game LA, a nonprofit advocacy group that has spent several years pushing the council to the left.

If Burgos and Jurado pre- [See Races, A16]



A SNOWBOARDER scrapes the top edge of the Olympic-size halfpipe at Mammoth Mountain, a celebrated resort that, like many, has seen injuries increase. BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

Look out below! Ski slopes are getting more dangerous

Medics blame selfie culture and a rise in recklessness

By Jack Dolan | Reporting from Mammoth Lakes

Last month, Mariusz Wirga, a Long Beach doctor, saw a break in his packed schedule, grabbed his skis and dashed off to Mt. Baldy to enjoy the fantastic new snow left by a recent storm.

A former ski instructor, he was carving a fine line, lost in the rhythmic pleasure of crisp turns, when out of the corner of his eye he saw a young snowboarder barreling toward him from above.

Wirga swerved to avoid the imminent collision, caught an edge and slammed to the ground so hard he felt his right arm pop out of the shoulder socket. It stretched as far as the muscles and tendons would allow, then snapped back with bone-shattering force. The pain took his breath away. He slid about 100 feet down the hill, knowing he would soon be in an emergency room.

[See Slopes, A7]

Quiet on the sets as Hollywood struggles after lengthy strikes

By Christi Carras and Marisa Gerber

After working nonstop on TV sets for almost all of 2022, unit production manager Matt Baker decided to take the rest of the year off. He looked forward to relaxing, playing golf and spending quality time with his wife and daughter. He expected to return to work after the

holidays.

Things did not go as planned. Baker has not been employed on a film or TV set since October 2022.

"I was ... pretty keenly aware that we were going through a change in the industry, and there was going to be some consolidation, and I think the strikes had a lot of effect on how the studios were going to move forward," said Baker, who has

worked on TV series such as Hulu's "Tiny Beautiful Things" and ABC's "Modern Family."

"It wasn't going to be like gangbusters like it was in '21 and '22," he added. "But I never in a million years thought that it would be this slow."

The Lake Balboa resident is far from the only entertainment professional in [See Hollywood, A11]

4 arrested in Russia attack

Authorities detain men suspected in assault on a concert hall that killed at least 133, Putin says. **WORLD, A4**

Doctors weigh in on ailing princess

Oncologists and others share what they can glean from Catherine's video about her cancer diagnosis. **WORLD, A5**

Weather
Afternoon showers. L.A. Basin: 64/45. **B10**

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BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

USC WINS IN A ROUT

McKenzie Forbes (25) celebrates USC's 87-55 victory over Texas A&M Corpus Christi in the NCAA women's tournament. **SPORTS, D3**



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