



THIS TENT site on Cahuenga Boulevard is targeted for clearing as part of Inside Safe, which is separate from the anti-camping law.

Baldwin to face his ‘Rust’ reckoning

With the conviction of film’s armorer, prosecutor promises the film’s star will ‘answer for’ shooting.

By MEG JAMES

After winning a conviction in the “Rust” movie armorer’s trial, New Mexico prosecutors now will turn their focus to actor Alec Baldwin, hoping to prove he is criminally liable for the accidental death of the film’s cinematographer in October 2021.

In fact, Special Prosecutor Kari T. Morrissey didn’t wait for the 12-person jury in Santa Fe, N.M., to find weapons handler Hannah Gutierrez guilty of involuntary manslaughter before introducing evidence that could be damaging to Baldwin.

During closing arguments Wednesday, Morrissey ripped into Baldwin and his gun use on the “Rust” set, particularly when he pointed his prop gun toward director of photography Halyna Hutchins, who was standing mere feet away, while he rehearsed a scene in a rustic church. Hutchins was shot, and died that afternoon.

“Alec Baldwin’s conduct and his lack of gun safety inside that church on that day is something that he’s going to have to answer for,” Morrissey vowed to the jury in Gutierrez’s case.

But legal experts gave mixed opinions over whether Gutierrez’s conviction will boost prosecutors’ chances of winning a guilty verdict against Baldwin in the “Rust” shooting. The actor-producer was charged in January with involuntary manslaughter in Hutchins’ death, which happened hours after she was shot on the remote movie location just south of Santa Fe. If convicted, he faces up to 18 months in prison.

Baldwin has pleaded not guilty; his trial is set for July. [See Baldwin, A7]

Report on anti-camping law roils L.A. City Hall

Leaked document says few people find housing and cleared sites are repopulated. Reality on streets is more complex.



AN UNHOUSED person on Hampton Drive is added to the L.A. Homeless Services Authority’s homeless count in Venice in January.

By DOUG SMITH, RUBEN VIVES AND DAVID ZAHNISER

In the final days before Tuesday’s municipal election, a leaked report purportedly exposing systemic failures of Los Angeles city’s anti-camping law reignited a heated debate among the law’s supporters and opponents on the City Council.

The report, prepared in November by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, said that only a small fraction of homeless people who were relocated from encampments had obtained permanent housing — and that hundreds simply moved back, in some cases more than were initially there.

The report, which had not been released to the public, was leaked to news organizations late last week, prompting foes of the law, known as Municipal Code 41.18, to say they had [See Report, A10]

ANALYSIS

A mixed primary verdict for D.A. Gascón

The progressive incumbent’s lead is weak, but his foe in November may be an ideal foil for him.

By JAMES QUEALLY

Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón had a rough Tuesday night, winning an alarmingly low share of votes for an incumbent after polls showed a majority of voters view him negatively.

But he may have also gotten exactly what he needed, experts say.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Gascón led a crowded primary field with 21% of the vote, followed closely by former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman with 17.7%. With more than 40% of the ballots still uncounted, only Deputy Dist. Atty. Jonathan Hatami, with 13.2%, stood in long-shot striking distance of preventing a November showdown between Gascón and Hochman.

Consultants and political observers said Gascón’s performance was weak for an incumbent in a countywide race. But the “godfather of progressive prosecutors” probably drew the opponent he wanted in Hochman — a former Republican whom Gascón can try to portray as a conservative in a November election during which some experts expect more liberals to turn out for the presidential contest of Joe Biden versus Donald Trump.

“This is not going to be a ‘shades of gray’ election,” said Dan Schnur, a former advisor to Republican politicians who teaches political communications at USC. “The fact that Hochman has been one of the most conservative voices in the race does allow Gascón to draw a more stark contrast in a left-leaning city like Los Angeles. But the fact that Gascón’s numbers are so low suggests that he still starts at a consider- [See D.A., A7]

Porter echoes MAGA election denials

False claim of rigged primary recklessly undermines faith in our system



DEMOCRAT Katie Porter, a distant third in the Senate primary, may have just risked her career — despite a belated attempt to clarify what she meant by “rig.”

MARK Z. BARABAK

Donald Trump didn’t write Katie Porter’s requirement post on social media. But throw in a few misspellings and capitalized letters, and he very well could have.

“Because of you, we had the establishment running scared,” she told supporters of her unsuccessful U.S. Senate bid in a statement Wednesday night on X. This, Porter continued, despite her being massively outspent on TV and facing an “onslaught of billionaires spending millions to rig this election.”

That word — rig — suggesting there was something illicit, fishy or not entirely kosher about this week’s California primary, [See Barabak, A10]



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