



Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

**A HELICOPTER** makes a water drop on the Mountain fire burning on a hillside near South Mountain Road in Santa Paula. Officials warn that people living in the potential path of the blaze need to be ready to evacuate.

# At least 90 homes are destroyed by blaze; 5,000 others are at risk

The Mountain fire sweeps rapidly into Ventura County foothill communities.

By RICHARD WINTON, NATHAN SOLIS, GRACE TOOHEY AND NOAH GOLDBERG

Camarillo Heights resident Maurice Kerr stood inside the shell of his burned-out home Thursday morning. With the surrounding rubble still smoldering and smoke choking the air, the



**A FIREFIGHTER** douses a hot spot at a house along Valley Vista Drive in Camarillo as the blaze rages.

68-year-old said he did his best to fight the wind-driven Mountain fire, which started raining embers on his home soon after it started Wednesday morning. But facing 50- to 60-mph winds, the lone fire hose he was using — hooked up to his indoor pool — to try to beat back the flames wasn't enough. Nor were those of the firefighters who arrived and pulled him out as flames began to engulf the 4,800-square-foot ranch-style home, destroying it and dozens of others during the most extreme Santa Ana wind event to hit Southern

# State to fortify legal defenses before Trump retakes power

Newsom makes swift but largely symbolic call to action as next administration looms.

By TARYN LUNA

Launching his first salvo less than 36 hours after former President Trump was again elected to the White House, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday convened a special session of the Legislature, seeking to increase legal funding to protect California policies — on civil rights, climate change, abortion access and disaster funding — from an anticipated conservative federal agenda. Newsom's preemptive strike signals the return of the hostile relationship between Democratic-controlled California and the Trump administration, a feud that was a hallmark of the Republican's first term. "The freedoms we hold dear in California are under attack — and we won't sit idle," Newsom said in a statement. "California has faced this challenge before, and we know how to respond. We are prepared to fight in the courts, and we will do everything necessary to ensure Californians have the support and resources they need to thrive." The new special session

provides an early look at Newsom's plan to wage an aggressive and highly visible campaign to shield California from the Trump White House. The governor's move is largely symbolic: Lawmakers will likely pass the legislation at the same speed as they could have through the regular process. But the swift call to action allows Newsom to draw attention to himself and California in the national culture wars and has the practical effect of focusing the state Legislature's attention on his priority of defending against Trump. Republicans were quick to call it nothing more than a theatrical move. "This special session is a shameless political stunt. The only 'problem' it will solve is Gavin Newsom's insecurity that not enough people are paying attention to him," Assembly Republican leader James Gallagher said in a statement. In an interview in Orange County on Sunday, the Democratic governor warned that California will

**Harris' loss could be Newsom's gain**  
The governor's star could rise in party, but he faces Trump. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

# De León is paying price for audio leak

His likely defeat would leave Latinos with just four of L.A. City Council's 15 seats.

By DAVID ZAHNISER AND DAKOTA SMITH

In the secretly recorded conversation that upended his political career, Los Angeles City Councilmember Kevin de León kept returning to a familiar theme: preserving and expanding Latino political power. De León was captured on the recording saying he wanted to make sure his Eastside district "remains Latino" even after he's gone. He bemoaned the lack of political clout wielded by Latinos in L.A., especially when compared with the Black

community. Now, De León is on track to lose his seat, largely because of the scandal over the recording, which featured crude and racist remarks. His defeat, after a single four-year term, would leave Latinos occupying just four of the council's 15 seats at a time when they make up half the city's population. Tenant rights attorney Ysabel Jurado was leading De León by double digits on Wednesday in a district stretching from downtown to Eagle Rock. If that trend holds, she will become the first Filipino American to serve on the council. It would also mean that the 14th District, which takes in heavily Mexican American areas such as Boyle Heights and El Sereno, would not have a



ANDREW HARNIK Getty Images

**KAMALA HARRIS'** abbreviated campaign promised to "turn the page," but she lacked the time to clearly distinguish herself from President Biden, analysts say.

# Harris vowed change, but voters were unpersuaded

As part of incumbent administration, she was seen by many as a status quo candidate.

By NOAH BIERMAN

WASHINGTON — In the end, Vice President Kamala Harris could not overcome a central contradiction: She was the "turn the page" candidate who served with Joe Biden, the oldest and one of the least popular presidents in history. "I don't think there necessarily was a path here for her. If you're the vice president of an administration people want to fire, you're way behind the eight ball to start," said David Axelrod,

former President Obama's lead strategist. Voters in the world's Western democracies were bruised and angry after a life-changing pandemic, several years of price surges and a migration crisis. Many threw incumbent parties out, in some cases handing added power to previously fringe movements. Americans were no different. Three in four voters Tuesday prioritized the candidate "who could bring needed change," according to exit polling. "The previous four years, my eyes didn't lie to me," said CT Tilghman, a 50-year-old arborist from Reading, Pa. "We're seriously off track with where we're going and what we're doing." President-elect Donald

Trump, though he had been in office before and committed a host of previously disqualifying crimes and deeds, represented the ultimate change. He never followed a script, scoffed at the rules and spoke directly to the economic and cultural anxieties of the country in between grievances about his own perceived mistreatment. Harris, one of the most cautious and disciplined politicians in her party, defined herself in her stump speech as someone who would be "grounded in common sense and practical outcomes." But in her interviews, she often appeared uncomfortable and unwilling to go off message, famously saying in a friendly

# California regulators evasive on gas prices

Officials avoid direct answers on costs to consumers from energy transition.

By RUSS MITCHELL

California regulators are poised to vote Friday on a measure intended to accelerate the state's transition away from fossil fuels by imposing tougher carbon-reduction requirements for gasoline and diesel. California Air Resources Board officials months ago projected that the new standards would mean potentially large price hikes for gasoline. But now they claim they're unable to make any estimate about the price impact. That has raised predictable ire from the oil industry and Republicans, but some Democrats and environmentalists are also demanding that regulators give straight answers. State Sen. Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger) has called for the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office to review the policy and come up with its own estimate. "Recent developments and estimates have raised significant concerns about the broader implications of these policies," Hurtado said in an Oct. 29 letter to the analyst's office. She wants "an independent review to ensure transparency and accountability in the regulatory process."

**Election could solidify right's hold on court**

Trump's recapture of White House may extend conservative justices' dominance for decades. **NATION, A4**

**Family struck by a second tragedy**

Two boys survived a shooting. Now one is dead, the other missing with father after a boat accident. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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**Pitcher Ohtani could face delay**

Left shoulder operation might postpone Dodgers star's return to a mound but shouldn't affect his swing. **SPORTS, B10**

**Federal Reserve cuts interest rate**

What's next? It's uncertain as the central bank faces an unknown factor in Trump. **BUSINESS, A8**

**Weather**

Sunshine. L.A. Basin: 76/50. **B6**

