

Justices hand Trump broad immunity



YUBISELA HERNANDEZ of Fontana cradles Lionel Ramos, 1, as they float on Lytle Creek in the San Gabriel Mountains on Monday. The mountains are included in an excessive heat watch Wednesday through Sunday.

Californians told to brace for long, brutal heat wave

Hot weather, fire danger, poor air quality could last a week or more

By Grace Toohey

Authorities are warning of extreme health and wild-fire risks across California this week, as the longest heat wave of the year is set to kick off Tuesday, bringing triple-digit temperatures, with little overnight cooling, to the vast majority of the

state. “This is really just a long-duration heat event that will provide little to no overnight [temperature] relief,” said Antoinette Serrato, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Hanford, Calif. The heat wave is expected to bring dangerous temperatures through the Fourth of July holiday and into early

next week in many areas, particularly across Northern California, the Central Valley and southwestern deserts, she said. Much of Los Angeles County’s inland valleys and mountains, including the San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Mountains, are included in an excessive heat watch from Wednesday

through Sunday, when high temperatures from 95 to 110 degrees are expected. However, Southern California’s coastline should be largely spared from the worst of the heat. “This will be a statewide heat event and it may last quite a long time — beginning July 1 and perhaps not [See Heat wave, A7]

More angst over Biden after court decision

By Noah Bierman and Benjamin Oreskes

WASHINGTON — Monday’s Supreme Court decision giving Donald Trump immunity for past and potentially future presidential acts gave Democrats more urgency to defeat him, just as new polling showed that last week’s debate intensified voters’ concerns

that President Biden may not be the man to do it. The dueling pieces of news underscored the conundrum the party has been staring down for months: Evidence that Trump will have unchecked power in a potential second term energizes the Democratic base. But the increasingly high import of the election makes the choice to stick with Biden appear all the more

risky. “You can’t afford to lose,” said Mark Buell, an influential Bay Area Democratic donor and fundraiser. “In either case, you’re still down to the risk assessment of who has a better chance — another candidate or Biden?” Mark Gonzalez, the recently departed Los Angeles County Democratic Party chair and California state director for Biden’s 2020 cam-

paign, said he spent the weekend calming nerves of fellow Democrats. The ruling Monday only reaffirmed the stakes to people who were concerned about Biden’s fitness for the job and poor political standing, he said. A CBS poll released Sunday showed a growing share of voters — 72% — say Biden does not have the cognitive ability to serve as president. [See Biden, A5]

Six conservatives rule that former president cannot be prosecuted for official acts

By David G. Savage

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday gave former President Trump a broad shield of immunity from criminal charges.

In a 6-3 vote, the justices upheld Trump’s claim that he cannot be prosecuted for official actions he took while in the White House.

The six conservatives ruled that presidents and ex-presidents enjoy absolute immunity for exercising their core constitutional powers, including acting as commander in chief of the armed forces, and presumed immunity for their official acts.

The three liberal justices dissented, characterizing the decision as a stark and dangerous expansion of presidential power that in effect places the nation’s chief executive above the law.

The decision left the door slightly open to holding Trump accountable for some of his alleged “private” efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. The court sent the case back to a district judge in Washington to consider whether any of Trump’s efforts to overturn President Biden’s victory were unofficial and therefore subject to prosecution.

Although the case began as a challenge to the pending indictment involving Trump’s past conduct, the court’s explicit endorsement of presidential immunity may have a far greater effect in the years ahead, particularly if Trump re-

turns to the White House. “The president enjoys no immunity for his unofficial acts, and not everything the president does is official. The president is not above the law,” said Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. “But Congress may not criminalize the president’s conduct in carrying out the responsibilities of the executive branch under the Constitution. And the system of separated powers designed by the framers has always demanded an energetic, independent executive. The president therefore may not be prosecuted for exercising his core constitutional powers, and he is entitled, at a minimum, to a presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts.”

This outcome all but assures that Trump will not face a trial on the charges before the November election. And if he returns to office, he can order the Justice Department to dismiss the case.

The ruling would also extend a shield of immunity to Biden. Trump has declared that he would seek retribution if he returns to the White House, including by bringing criminal charges against those who have charged him. The court’s opinion makes clear that a former president cannot be prosecuted because of the actions of that administration’s Justice Department.

In dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, “Today’s decision to grant former presidents criminal immunity reshapes the institution of the presidency. It makes a [See Immunity, A5]



THE SUPREME COURT ruling was slammed as a “mockery” by the three dissenting liberal justices.

Newsom supports rival crime reform initiative

Fall ballot measure would compete with prosecutors’ tougher crackdown effort.

By Anabel Sosa

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic legislative leaders on Monday announced a new November ballot initiative to crack down on retail theft and fentanyl dealers, an effort designed to compete against a tougher anti-crime measure championed by a group of county district attorneys.

The measure would repeal the controversial criminal justice reform that California voters approved a decade ago, Proposition 47, which changed certain lower-level drug and property crimes from felonies to



THE PROPOSAL amounts to a political reversal for Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had said he opposed changing penalties under 2014’s Proposition 47 at the polls.

misdemeanors and invested in drug and mental health treatment.

Monday’s announcement is an abrupt political reversal for Newsom, who earlier this year said he opposed efforts to alter Proposition 47 through the ballot measure process and insisted that the necessary reforms could be handled legislatively.

The measure comes just weeks after the crime initiative proposed by a group of county district attorneys qualified for the November ballot. Newsom criticized the prosecutor-led plan as a regressive effort that could take California back to the 1990s era of mass incarceration.

The latest ballot initiative backed by the governor would address repeat shoplifting by making the third petty-theft-related offense [See Initiatives, A10]

Hurricane slams the Caribbean

Beryl makes landfall on an island in Grenada. It’s the earliest Category 4 to form in Atlantic. **WORLD, A3**

He’s plugged the gap nicely

Filling in for Mookie Betts, Miguel Rojas has thrived on the field and at the plate for the Dodgers. **SPORTS, B10**

Better benefits in Hollywood

A tentative contract offers workers in the IATSE union raises and expanded protections. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 88/64. **B6**

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