

ANALYSIS

Political shift to right has its limits

Elements of Trump's vision for second term could clash with what his supporters thought they were voting for.

By DAVID LAUTER

WASHINGTON — With his victory, President-elect Donald Trump has reshaped American politics, putting together a conservative, working-class coalition, including a number of Black and Latino voters, which has the potential to hold a majority for years.

With a Republican-controlled Senate, probably the House as well, and a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court, he now has the opportunity to shift public policy significantly to the right.

Or he could impulsively drive the whole thing into the ditch.

In his victory speech early Wednesday, Trump claimed voters had given him a "powerful mandate."

They did, but for limited purposes.

What voters want

The campaign showed, and exit polls confirmed, that a broad swath of voters mostly want Trump to do two things — ensure against another bout of inflation and reduce the number of immigrants entering the U.S.

There's much less reason to think voters long to hand broad government authority over to Elon Musk or give Robert F. Kennedy Jr. control of federal health policy.

On other topics, there's strong evidence of what might be called an anti-mandate. Even in conservative

[See Analysis, A6]



Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

BRADLEY SELLER, left, hugs next-door neighbor Tim Francis for helping save his Camarillo house from the Mountain fire. Francis couldn't save his mother's house at right from the fast-moving blaze, which destroyed more than 130 structures in less than 24 hours.

How the Mountain fire exploded

'You're in a bad dream. You just want to wake up'

By CLARA HARTER, NOAH HAGGERTY, GRACE TOOHEY AND HANNAH FRY

Residents in the foothills above Camarillo who returned to their neighborhoods days after fleeing the Mountain fire were greeted by nothing more than devastation.

More than 130 structures were lost, most of them houses, when flames marched through the area, cementing the fire as one of the most destructive a Southern California neighborhood has seen in years.

[See Destruction, A8]



BURNED cars sit in front of a gutted house in Camarillo. "It happened so fast," said a resident who was abruptly advised to evacuate.

Volatile conditions dovetail to create one of area's most ferocious blazes in years.

By GRACE TOOHEY, NOAH HAGGERTY AND SANDRA McDONALD

The warnings Wednesday morning were dire: Southern Ventura County was primed to be hit with the region's most ferocious Santa Ana wind event in years, creating extremely critical fire weather in the area.

And the conditions lived up to the billing, with 60- to 80-mph gusts slamming the foothills of Moorpark and Camarillo. Alone, the winds were dangerous. But once a small fire ignited in the wilderness north of Somis, the seeds for disaster were firmly planted.

[See Mountain, A8]



JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON Associated Press

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky meets in September with Donald Trump, who has been a detractor in Kyiv's ongoing war with Russia.

Ukraine awaits 'surprise box' of another Trump presidency

By SABRA AYRES AND LAURA KING

KYIV, Ukraine — The war is never distant. In the skies above the Ukrainian capital, the buzz of drones is the stuff of urban nightmares. Glide bombs smash without warning into apartment blocks in Ukraine's east and south. Military funerals are a daily staple.

As the carnage raged, Donald Trump boasted he could end the fight in Ukraine in 24 hours. Now that he's the president-elect, Ukrainians are grimly gaming out the next move in their country's nearly three-year war with Russia, in which the United States has been Kyiv's prime backer.

In his victory speech early Wednesday, Trump appeared to allude at least

partly to Ukraine when he declared: "I'm not going to start wars. I'm going to stop wars."

For many Ukrainians, the principal worry is whether their government — faced with a potential choking off of vital military aid in a few short months — would be forced to accede to a negotiated settlement giving up parts of their country to

[See Ukraine, A4]

USC president says she plans to retire in 2025

Carol Folt is credited with cleaning up scandals she inherited in 2019 but faulted for handling of protests.

By TERESA WATANABE, JAWEED KALEEM AND RYAN KARTJE

USC President Carol Folt, who sought to reset the scandal-plagued university with major initiatives to boost athletics, expand

computing programs and widen student access — but also drew criticism for her handling of pro-Palestinian protests — will retire in July, she announced Friday.

"After more than twenty years of leadership at three great universities," Folt wrote to the USC community, "I am excited to embrace the freedom that comes with a next big leap, and to pass the baton to the next president who will be able to build upon our accomplishments and create a new chapter for this extraordinary institution."

Folt, 73, will remain at USC as a tenured professor. Her future had been in doubt after the USC Board of Trustees in July offered her an extension on her five-year contract — but would not disclose the length or terms — as they reviewed her performance. She took the helm July 1, 2019, with a contract that compensated her at the same level as former President Max Nikias. Rick Caruso, then USC board chairman, said at the time he had hoped she would serve for 10 years.

[See Folt, A10]

S. Korea talks of nuclear weapons

Atomic arms proponents say Seoul should not rely on U.S. for protection. Trump's win gives a boost. **WORLD, A3**

Drama over new LAPD chief's pay

Offer is lowered to \$450,000 from \$507,509 after a police commissioner raises budget concerns. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

BEYONCÉ is up for the Grammys' album of the year and song of the year.

Beyoncé makes Grammy history

The "Cowboy Carter" singer's 11 nominations bring her career total to 99, the most ever for an artist. **CALIFORNIA, B2**

Weather
Sunny and mild.
L.A. Basin: 76/51. **B8**

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‘The most volatile of volatile conditions’

[Mountain, from A1]

“We’re talking about the most volatile of volatile conditions that can come together to create the development of a large fire — fast,” said Ariel Cohen, the lead meteorologist at the National Weather Service’s Oxnard office. “And that’s exactly what we saw with the Mountain fire.”

Within hours, the blaze had jumped over the I18 Freeway from the rugged Santa Susana Mountains and was tearing across neighborhoods in the hills above Camarillo.

Fire officials are used to battling large fires this time of year, but a ruinous combination of extreme conditions and challenging geography hampered early efforts. The winds were so fierce that retardant-dropping aircraft had to be grounded for a time. The fire moved so fast that officials were forced to focus on evacuations rather than firefighting.

“We were presented with very, very extreme Santa Ana conditions. That of course changes our tactics,” said Capt. Tony McHale of the Ventura County Fire Department. “So we go into a more defensive posture, and the number one priority in that is human life.”

Water pressure in some areas also became erratic, forcing crews to shuttle water up to some key positions in the firefight — though it is still not clear what effect that might have had. Officials have said it did not affect operations, but others on the ground called it a challenge.

It probably didn’t help that much of southwest California was similarly on high alert for fires, included in that elevated red flag warning. At least one fire sparked at the same time in Malibu, which initially was also threatening homes.

The entire situation fueled what would become one of Southern California’s most destructive wildfires in recent years. In less than 24 hours, the Mountain fire destroyed more than 130 structures, primarily homes in the foothills around Camarillo, and damaged 88 others, fire officials said.

As winds started to subside Thursday night, firefighters made their first inroads against the blaze, reaching 5% containment. As of Friday afternoon, more than 20,700 acres had burned — the majority singed on Wednesday — and crews said the fire was 7% contained.

Officials are hopeful they’ve turned a corner in



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A HOUSE near Camarillo is burned by the Mountain fire. “You can’t breathe,” one local said. “It hits your chest and you’re gasping for air.”

‘We were presented with very, very extreme Santa Ana conditions. That of course changes our tactics.’

— TONY MCHALE,
a captain with the Ventura
County Fire Department

the fight, but both residents and crews remain stunned by the speed and force of the fire.

When a fire moves this fast and casts that many embers everywhere, it’s extremely hard to fight or predict, said Kyle Ferris, fire behavior analyst with the Mountain Fire Incident Command Team. He said the houses that ended up falling victim to the flames were virtually chosen at ran-

dom — at the mercy of wherever embers happened to land.

Linda Elmo, 75, watched as the winds picked up Wednesday morning, and though she was listening to the news, she didn’t receive notice about an evacuation until a firefighter knocked on the door and told her and her husband to “go, go, go!”

“It happened so fast,” Elmo said. All of a sudden, the blaze “was in this canyon by the house in the backyard.”

Firefighters first responded around 9 a.m. to a large brush fire on South Mountain in the Santa Susana Mountains. Within an hour, officials had issued the first evacuation orders around Moorpark as they tried to respond to the fast-moving blaze.

By 11 a.m., widespread evacuations were ordered as the blaze marched toward the Camarillo foothills and higher into the mountains — where winds blew stronger, pushing stray embers even

farther ahead of the main blaze, up to a mile out, officials reported. Around 3 p.m., about six hours after the fire was first spotted, it had exploded to almost 9,000 acres without any containment, burning dozens of homes to a crisp.

Karen Cihigoyenatche, 81, and her husband Raymond, 92, were warned about the fire by a serviceman from their cable company, who begged them to leave the house.

She jumped into action, trying to call all of her elderly neighbors. She grabbed her emergency bag packed with cash, clothes and medicine.

“The traffic was really bad, and a lot of emergency vehicles trying to get through the traffic,” Cihigoyenatche said. “Unbelievable.”

CaroleAnn Higa, 77, and a roommate escaped their home to the roar of helicopters overhead. She stuffed some clothes and her respirator into her purse, and her roommate loaded her oxygen tank into the car. When

she exited the house, she said, the smoke was so thick she could barely see across the street.

“You can’t breathe,” she said. “It hits your chest and you’re gasping for air,” she said.

It still isn’t clear how the fire started, but officials are focusing on at least one bright spot: No deaths or major injuries have been reported.

Cohen said that’s a testament that the warnings were adequately dire and messaging well coordinated, which allowed emergency officials, pre-positioned resources and residents to be as ready as possible.

“You can’t completely stop something that has this much inertia spreading this quickly with as much fuel burning as fast as it is. However, when we see the fire stops at a certain point — it didn’t go all the way to the coast, for instance — ultimately, many lives were saved,” Cohen said.

The Mountain fire could have been a second coming

of the 2017 Thomas or 2018 Woolsey fires, but luckily it didn’t pan out that way, said Mark Lorenzen, the Ventura County Fire Department chief from 2012 to 2022.

The Thomas fire — which destroyed over 1,000 structures and burned more than 281,000 acres through Santa Barbara and Ventura counties — grew under similar circumstances as the Mountain fire, with low humidity, active Santa Ana winds and lots of dry brush in mixed urban and rural areas.

“All the conditions were perfect for a fire of this magnitude,” the retired fire chief said. If the windy conditions had persisted longer, Lorenzen thinks it could have been much worse.

“In spite of the homes that were lost there, there’s a measure of success in avoiding loss of human life,” he said.

Times staff writers Jireh Deng, Sean Greene, Noah Goldberg, Nathan Solis and Joseph Serna contributed to this report.

Utter devastation as blaze levels hillside neighborhoods

[Destruction, from A1]

More than 80 other structures were also damaged.

Entire homes were hollowed out and the contents inside — photographs, family heirlooms and personal treasures — reduced to ash. Fire officials are working to determine the full scope of the ruin.

“It’s a big system shock, almost like you’re in a bad dream,” said resident Brittanie Bibby. “You just want to wake up.”

The Mountain fire had burned more than 20,700 acres as of Friday afternoon, with parts of Camarillo and Moorpark hit hardest.

The greatest devastation occurred Wednesday when the fire charged unchecked through some neighborhoods, with erratic wind gusts sparking spot fires well beyond the main blaze. Winds were so powerful that retardant-dropping aircraft could not fly for several hours.

Fierce Santa Ana winds, which had sent the blaze racing toward homes earlier in the week, were beginning to ease Friday. The diminished gusts lessened the chance of the fire spreading farther, but threats still remain.

The fire is only 7% contained and more than 11,700 structures are still threatened, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

While red flag warnings — alerts for extreme fire danger — expired Friday morning, the National Weather Service said gusty northeast winds would continue through Saturday morning across parts of Ventura and Los Angeles



AL SEIB For The Times

BEVERLY HILLS Fire Department Capt. Kevin Kennedy inspects a home destroyed by the Mountain fire on Estaban Drive in Camarillo on Friday morning.

counties, especially in the mountains.

Gusts up to 40 mph would remain possible through Friday evening, but generally, peak winds were expected to drop to between 15 and 25 mph. In contrast, on Wednesday, sustained winds in the area were between 25 and 40 mph, with gusts reaching well above 60 mph, fueled by the fiercest wind event the region has seen in years.

Planes were back in the air Thursday and Friday, and with easing winds, firefighters were able to make their first real inroads against the blaze.

Crews were hopeful of gaining increased contain-

ment, but officials noted that the fire’s most active sections are now burning through the rugged Santa Susana Mountains, adding new challenges to the firefight. Humidity also remains low, which can help fuel wild-fire conditions, though it was expected to slowly build over the weekend.

“Firefighters are opportunists,” Ventura County Fire Department Capt. Tony McHale said Friday. “Today is all about aggressive suppression.”

Even as it seemed the tide could be turning in the battle against the blaze, the painful process of assessing the damage in neighborhoods ravaged by the fire

was just beginning.

In Camarillo Heights, the remains of burned houses dotted the landscape, seemingly engulfed at random. While crews tried to defend as many homes as possible, they were hindered at times by challenging terrain and poor access to water, McHale said.

Climate change has supercharged wildfires, causing them to burn faster and hotter, at times resulting in more-catastrophic damage.

Menlo Park Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen, who spent a decade as the chief in Ventura County, said firefighters prioritize evacuations before defending structures.

It used to be that there was more time to extinguish a fire before it became life-threatening, he said.

“Mother Nature, right now, is making our areas drier,” he said. “It makes the fire unstoppable.”

Some families lost every possession in the blaze.

Bibby, her husband, Kenneth, and their 15-month-old son had moved into their Camarillo home from Arizona two weeks ago after she inherited it from her father. They had filled up their credit cards working to turn the aging property into a safe place for their family.

By Thursday, it was gone. “All of our family memories,” she said, “all of our possessions, Social Security cards, death certificates, birth certificates, my husband’s father’s ashes, my father’s ashes and my mother’s ashes.”

Even the baby’s inhaler burned. But, she said, “being a mom, I don’t really have a choice to panic or to not think through the steps.”

Nearby, Breanna Hale stood atop the rubble where her childhood home used to stand. She was devastated.

“My grandma — my mom’s mom — just passed away very recently, and this was their house,” she said. “It’s very hard. ... This is a family home.”

On Wednesday morning, Hale was across town when she got the phone call to evacuate. With her mother in the hospital, no one was at the house, and Hale rushed back, hoping to grab treasured items.

When she got to a road closure, she began to run toward the home but was soon stopped by firefighters.

“I was willing to go into burning flames, and they would not let me up here to get anything,” Hale said.

Hale, who is adopted, had just three pictures of her birth parents. Two of them were in that house.

She expressed relief at having one remaining photo: “I’m just praying that things happen for a reason, and I got really lucky on some stuff.”

She visited the site of the house Thursday afternoon for the first time with a shovel in her hand, sifting through the smoldering ashes looking for anything of sentimental interest.

“My mom, she’s fighting cancer,” Hale said. “So I’m just trying to find the things that matter most to her.”

Gov. Gavin Newsom spent Thursday meeting with first responders and visiting communities affected by the blaze.

Around 5 p.m., Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in Ventura County to help mobilize resources to combat the fire.

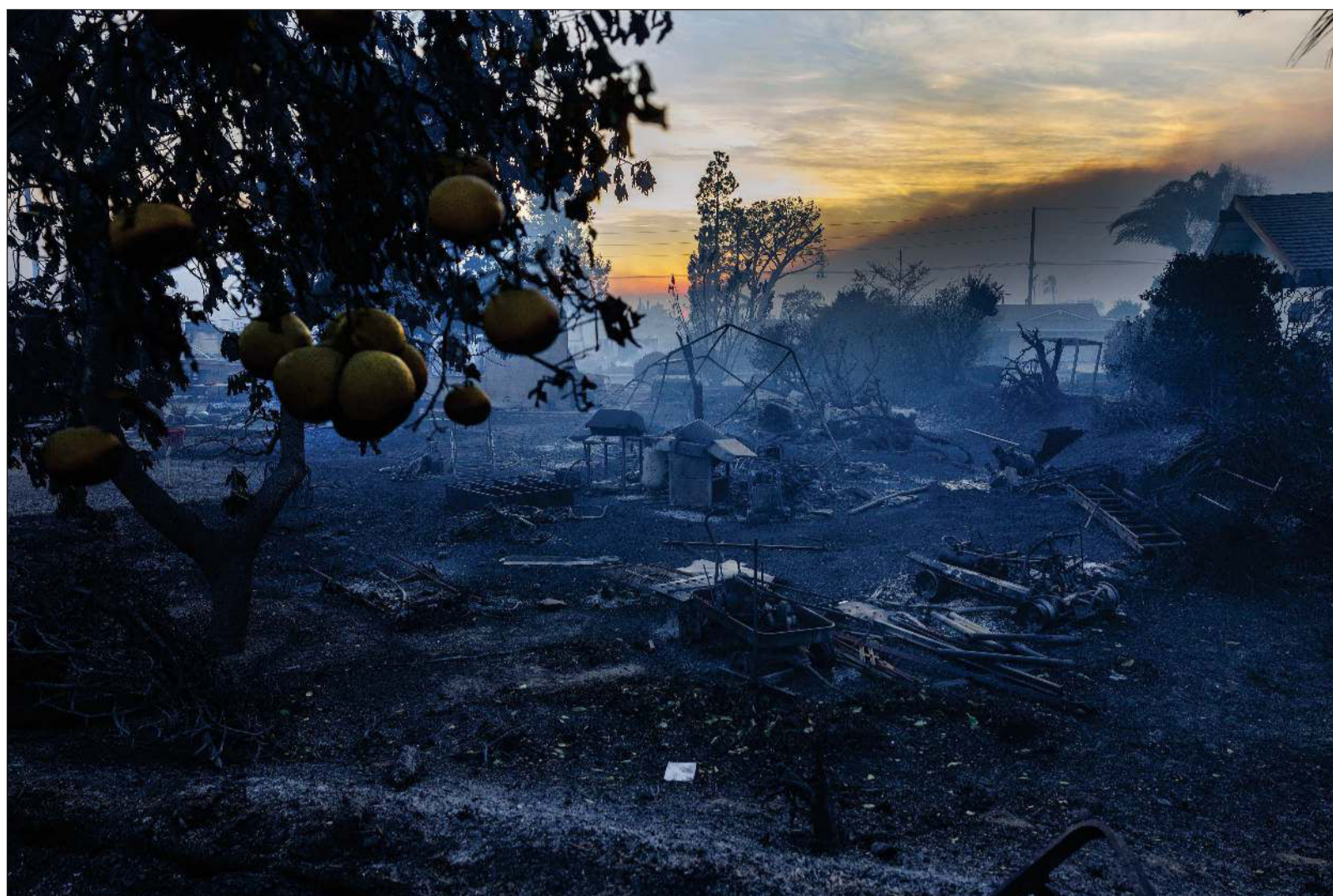
On Friday, a thick blanket of smoke hung over the the county, forcing many to stay indoors and dozens of schools to close.

All of Ventura County and much of northern Los Angeles County remain under air quality alerts for unhealthy conditions through at least Saturday afternoon.

Authorities are still trying to determine what sparked the fire.

Times staff writers Richard Winton, Noah Goldberg, Nathan Solis and Sandra McDonald contributed to this report.

CITY & STATE



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

SINGED CITRUS hangs on a tree in the backyard of one of the many homes burned by the Mountain fire in Camarillo. The fast-moving blaze, which ignited Wednesday morning, had scorched more than 20,700 acres in the mountains of Ventura County by Friday afternoon.

Their fresh start goes up in smoke

BY CLARA HARTER

Two weeks ago, Brittanie Bibby, husband Kenneth and their 15-month-old baby moved from Arizona to Camarillo to live in the home she inherited from her father, maxing out their credit cards to turn the dilapidated property into a safe place to live.

On Wednesday, that safe place burned to the ground, leaving the family with no home, no savings and no clue what comes next.

The next day, the shell-shocked parents struggled to come to grips with the financial toll of the incident and the catastrophic sentimental loss.

"We lost everything," Brittanie said. "All of our family memories, all of our possessions, Social Security cards, death certificates, birth certificates, my husband's father's ashes, my father's ashes and my mother's ashes."

Their property was among the 132 structures destroyed by the fast-moving Mountain fire, which ignited Wednesday morning and had scorched more than 20,700 acres in the mountains of Ventura County as of Friday afternoon.

The family started to collect donations on GoFundMe on Thursday and were able to get diapers and fresh clothes for baby



BRITTANIE BIBBY

BRITTANIE BIBBY holds her son, Ken. Two weeks after her family moved to a Camarillo home she had inherited, it was destroyed in the Mountain fire.

Ken. Brittanie planned to sleep in an evacuation shelter Thursday night and take a fresh stab at her mountain of tasks Friday morning.

"Being a mom, I don't really have a choice to panic or to not think through the steps, because I have a tiny human that is 100% dependent on me," she said. "So while I feel a whole bunch of things, I have to try to keep a clear mind so that I'm giving him the best care."

At the top of her priority list is trying to find a pediatrician; Ken suffers from asthma and his health is put

at risk by the thick wildfire smoke.

"We have been doing everything in our power to keep him in filtered air and clean air so he doesn't get triggered by the ash," she said, "because all of his medication and inhaler burned up."

When Brittanie received the evacuation alert around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, she ran to the nursery to try to pack up the baby's essentials, such as clothing and medicine. But, glancing out a window, she was met with a terrifying sight — gi-

ant flames leaping from structures just one street away as the wind swept smoke up the hill and toward her house.

There was no time to pack; the priority now was getting everyone out alive.

She grabbed her baby and helped her mother-in-law, Denise Bibby, her grandmother-in-law, Huguette Doucette, and her two elderly dogs get out of the house.

As she sped away, flames from burning brush leaped up and lapped over the car. A dark thought went through

her head: "I'm not going to survive."

The Bibbys made it safely to a friend's house. About three hours later, Brittanie felt herself going into shock.

"I went from being somewhat comfortable to absolutely freezing," she said. "Even though the house was like 75 degrees, my fingers turned blue and I had to be covered in blankets and sweaters."

Baby Ken has also been affected and is having difficulties sleeping in his confusing new surroundings.

"We're very sleep-deprived, because he spends a lot of the night crying," she said.

His parents are also on edge as they face an uncertain future.

They are still awaiting information from their trust attorney on whether the home was insured and are researching relief grants they may be eligible for.

On Sunday, Kenneth is planning on returning to work as a crew member at Trader Joe's. On Monday, Brittanie is scheduled to start a full-time customer service job at Walmart.

After feeling so happy to finally be settled into their new home, it's hard for the couple to adjust to this post-fire reality.

"It's a big system shock, almost like you're in a bad dream," Brittanie said. "You just want to wake up."

Metrolink CEO's home is among those lost in fire

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

When Darren Kettle attends the Metrolink board meeting Friday, he will be dressed down a bit — he won't be wearing a suit and tie, power or otherwise.

With some luck, though, the chief executive of the commuter rail service will have socks.

Kettle's house burned down in the Mountain fire on Wednesday, just a few hours

after he and his wife evacuated with one bag each. One thing he forgot to pack was socks.

Their house was in Las Posas Estates, on the other side of the hills from Camarillo Heights, another neighborhood struck by the fire.

Kettle was working at home when the power went out around 8 a.m.

His wife texted him saying she hoped the fire near Somis didn't go in their direction. At the time, Kettle

said he had not even heard about the blaze.

He researched it and saw that the fire was making its way toward their neighborhood. They hadn't been told to evacuate, but he decided to pack some belongings just in case. When the evacuation notice came, Kettle headed out, imagining that he'd be back home in a few hours.

"When I left the house, I saw smoke and flames, and it looked like it was blowing

in a different direction," Kettle said. But he added, "It just takes one ember in a bad spot."

Later, people started to send him pictures and videos that showed the Kettles' home burning. A neighbor confirmed the house was lost.

"The only thing left standing of our house is the two chimneys," he said. "My heart dropped to my stomach. It's just shocking, traumatic, like, wow. Speechless.

Just the range of emotions."

Kettle's neighborhood demonstrates the capriciousness of the fire, which had destroyed at least two dozen homes by noon Thursday. The house on one side of the Kettles also burned down, while the house on the other side survived.

Despite it all, Kettle took work calls Thursday and said he plans to attend the Metrolink board meeting Friday.

Trump rally spurs new rules at school

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Beverly Hills High School has limited students' ability to congregate in the wake of "spirited demonstrations" by pro-Trump pupils following Tuesday's elections.

The high school's principal, Drew Stewart, sent a message to families announcing that the school would not restrict students' individual exercise of their free speech rights, but would limit their ability to congregate in large groups so that all students would feel safe on campus. A Tik Tok video subsequently went viral showing many students in a Beverly Hills High School courtyard celebrating Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 presidential election.

The video shows dozens of students — mostly boys — dancing, cheering and crowding against one another. At one point, a school security guard holds up a Trump banner to applause.

"We have had ongoing exercises of student political speech over the past 2 days. Starting tomorrow, students will continue to be able to exercise this right individually, but will be restricted in their right to assemble," said Stewart in the email. "These assemblies have ended up creating a disruption to normal school activities and has also left many students feeling unsafe and unwelcome."

Stewart then told students they could no longer "congregate, circle up, shout, jump, etc.," according to the email.

Beverly Hills is a red island in the middle of predominantly blue Los Angeles County, a community where voters largely supported former President Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris. In one Beverly Hills precinct, Trump won 63% of the vote compared to Harris' 33%, according to voting data.

Divisions during the 2024 election season were particularly sharp, with Trump issuing harsh invective against Democrats, immigrants, the press and numerous other groups while Harris' camp blasted Trump's character and spoke about the threat he posed to democracy.

Beverly Hills Unified Supt. Michael Bregy said the decision was made to foster a safe, supportive environment for students.

"We value students' freedom of expression and encourage respectful civic engagement," he said.

Bregy said staff consistently monitored the "spirited demonstrations" this week and "acted swiftly to de-escalate when expressions crossed into disruption."

A source in the district, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said that students were bringing flags on poles, which is against education code. Administrators were present with the group of revelers, trying to make sure no one was injured.

"We have to stand within the group and until they start, you know, physically compressing on one another with their jumping, then that becomes dangerous," the source said. "Then we're crossing into the area where it's way beyond education code."

Republican Young Kim is reelected to House seat in O.C.

Associated Press declares incumbent the winner over Democrat Joe Kerr.

BY HANNAH FRY AND ANDREA CASTILLO

Republican Rep. Young Kim, who in 2020 was one of the first Korean American women elected to Congress, fended off a challenge from Democrat Joe Kerr, a retired fire captain, to secure a third term representing inland

Orange County in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Associated Press called the race in California's 40th Congressional District on Thursday, though official results will take longer. Control of the House remained too close to call.

Kim said in a statement Thursday night that she plans to "be an independent voice, bring common sense to Washington, and through bipartisanship, deliver results."

"There is so much to do to get our country back on track, and I am ready to get

back to Washington and continue to fight on behalf of my community," she said.

The race for the 40th Congressional District, which covers some of the most conservative cities in Orange County and portions of Corona in Riverside County and Chino Hills in San Bernardino County, remained relatively under the radar for most of the election cycle.

In past years, congressional Democrats' campaign arm included the district on their list of seats that could be flipped from red to

blue.

But this year, the 40th Congressional District did not appear on Democrats' roster and the nonpartisan Cook Political Report deemed it "likely Republican."

Though President Biden won the district by a narrow margin in 2020, Republicans maintain a voter registration advantage of nearly 5 percentage points.

Kim, who was born in South Korea and lives in Anaheim Hills, served in the state Assembly and unsuccessfully ran for Congress in

2018 before winning two years later.

She focused her campaign on lowering taxes and the burden of rising costs on middle class families, a time-tested message for Southern California conservatives that resonates with voters in the suburban district.

Kerr spent 34 years as a fire captain with the Orange County Fire Authority and served 17 years as president of the Orange County Professional Firefighters Assn., a labor union that represents 800 firefighters. He ran

unsuccessfully for the state Senate in 2022 and for the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 2018.

Kerr could not be reached for comment.

Much of Kerr's message centered on his time as a firefighter.

In a recent advertisement, Kerr promised to help push for federal legislation that would provide firefighters with healthcare.

Kim raised \$7.4 million for her campaign while Kerr amassed less than \$800,000, according to Federal Election Commission filings.