



DAVIELL MCKINLEY picks up her sons in Las Vegas. McKinley has been living in her car after being evicted from her L.A. apartment. Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

## City OKs payout for razing homes in the 1950s

Palm Springs approves \$5.9 million for Black, Latino families ousted for urban renewal.

BY REBECCA PLEVIN

PALM SPRINGS — The Palm Springs City Council has unanimously approved a \$5.9-million settlement with the Black and Latino families whose homes were razed and burned in a brutal urban renewal project in the 1950s and 1960s.

A standing-room crowd in the City Hall chambers Thursday night exploded into clapping and cheering, leaped to their feet and embraced.

"I feel like I can breathe finally," Pearl Devers said moments after the vote. Devers, a survivor of the enclave known as Section 14, called the settlement "a beacon of hope" for people across the world.

"What happened here should happen around the world," she said. "This is just the beginning."

The settlement package includes compensation based on the current value of personal property lost by verified former Section 14 residents and their families. Council members also agreed to create a day of remembrance to commemorate Section 14 residents' contributions to the city — a repeated ask during more than an hour of public comment.

Speaking passionately from the dais, City Council members thanked former Section 14 residents and their descendants for sharing their stories and expressed pride in being able

[See Palm Springs, A10]

## Schiff is set to take his fight across the Capitol

Longtime Trump antagonist prepares to revive that role as his state's junior senator.

BY LAURA J. NELSON AND KEVIN RECTOR

Rep. Adam B. Schiff is a darling of the Democrats, a fighter and political veteran accustomed to the limelight on Sunday talk shows and on the House floor.

In the Senate, the Burbank Democrat will carry a new title: freshman.

Schiff easily won California's U.S. Senate race on Nov. 5, and will be sworn in next month to serve out the remainder of the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein's term. He will start a six-year Senate term in January, the same month that his most powerful antagonist, President-elect Donald Trump, will move back into the White House.

Trump's election puts Schiff in a unique position for a freshman senator.

[See Schiff, A7]

## She raised alarms about her living conditions and is now homeless

Complaints about safety hazards were to no avail, then city ordered complex closed

BY PALOMA ESQUIVEL

As she stuffed her clothes and papers into a suitcase and prepared to walk out the door of 5700 S. Hoover St. for the last time, Daviell McKinley had no idea where she would live.

She'd been complaining about living conditions at the residential complex for years, writing increasingly desperate messages to city officials to try to get them to do something about the lack of hot water, the broken fire alarms, the electrical wires that hung from the ceiling, the pervasive mold and the overall neglect that made it feel as if the building was falling apart in front of her eyes.

For several years inspectors had been visiting the complex and ordering fixes. But those fixes didn't get



IN LAS VEGAS, Daviell McKinley, right, visits her mom, Jasette McKinley, at her apartment. Daviell can't live there because of government housing rules.

done, and there were few consequences for the owners. Instead, the building got worse while continuing to house dozens of vulnerable residents, including babies and children.

For McKinley, the situation had gotten so bad that she sent her children to live with her sister to keep them safe.

Then, in the summer, the city abruptly ordered the building vacated. The owner told residents they needed to leave by Aug. 19.

Now, that day had come and, like many of her neighbors, she didn't have a home lined up. She got into an Uber and headed to a motel a couple of miles down the road. She was stunned that this was the final result of her efforts to get help. She was homeless — again.

[See Housing, A6]

## Mountain fire led to issues with water pressure



JENNIFER OSBORNE For The Times

FIREFIGHTERS spray water on a burning mansion in Camarillo. Two water pumps in the area became inactive, halting or slowing the process to refill tanks.

Dry hydrants slowed crews' progress, but officials say supplies were always adequate.

BY GRACE TOOHEY

In a matter of hours, the Mountain fire charged rapidly across the Santa Susana Mountains and into nearby foothill neighborhoods, forcing widespread evacuations and demanding intense firefights from crews showered in red-hot embers.

Even as hundreds of firefighters around the region immediately kicked into action, the wind-driven blaze grew in unpredictable and dangerous ways, razing homes, tearing through orchards and threatening

thousands living in and around Camarillo, Moorpark and Santa Paula.

But officials made an early decision that would pay off: By prioritizing life-saving missions over property protection, no one died in the otherwise devastating wildfire. Only a few minor injuries were reported.

But not everything went off without a hitch. About five hours after the fire ignited near Somis around 9 a.m. on Nov. 6, some firefighters hit a snag in their response efforts.

"We are having some water issues up here where we've got low water pressure," one firefighter could be heard saying in recordings of radio traffic that day. He asked command staff to check with the water pro-

[See Pressure, A8]

### Hashtags keep queer voices alive

LGBTQ+ content creators find ways to stay ahead of China's censors. **WORLD, A3**

### Disneyland opens Tiana's Bayou

Replacement for Splash Mountain follows other changes to offensive tropes. **BUSINESS, A9**

### Maiava era ready to launch at USC

Trojans' first starting quarterback of Polynesian descent comes out of his shell. **SPORTS, B12**

### Weather

Sunny but cool. L.A. Basin: 67/47. **B8**

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