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HARDESTY ELECTED IN HISTORIC WIN



PHOTO MARK GRAVES/THE OREGONIAN VIA AP
Jo Ann Hardesty speaks at a rally at Portland City Hall in April. On Tuesday Hardesty was decisively elected to the Portland City Commission, making her the first-ever African American woman to serve on the council.

Hardesty Elected in Historic Win

Local and state races saw big wins for progressive candidates, causes

The Skanner News Staff

Jo Ann Hardesty, former state legislator and NAACP Portland branch president, was elected Tuesday as the first-ever woman of color on Portland's city council.

The race was bound to be historic regardless of the victor; in the end Hardesty won with 62 percent of the vote to Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith's 37 percent. Hardesty's 25-percent lead echoed the outcome of the spring primary, when Hardesty got 46 percent of the vote to Smith's 21 percent.

Last week The Oregonian reported on the partial release of poll results from the Smith campaign saying the race was too close to call. That poll was not the only one projecting a close race that turned out to be a landslide. As recently as last week some polls said Democratic Gov.

Kate Brown had only a slight lead over Republican Knute Buehler, leading to raised eyebrows and scratched heads in a state that hasn't elected a Republican governor since 1978. But Brown won with a six-point lead (as of Wednesday morning, Brown had 50 percent of counted votes and Buehler had 44 percent).

In the state legislature, Democrats won a supermajority, with 38 of 60 seats in the House of Representatives, giving them the power to raise taxes and reform Oregon's tax system. Portland-area voters ousted Rep. Julie Parrish in favor of Rep. Rachel Prusack; at press time Rep. Janelle Bynum was up 2 points in a race against Republican challenger Lori Chavez-DeRemer, currently the mayor of Happy Valley.

PHOTO: THE SKANNER ARCHIVES, JEFFREY HAYES, 11/19/1992

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Tracking Hate, Then and Now

*By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News*

It's difficult to read archived news stories about Mulugeta Seraw's death without drawing parallels to 2018, where the Portland metro area is once again receiving national scrutiny for far-right activity, including last year's stabbing death of two White men who stepped up to defend two Black teenage girls from a man who verbally accosted them with racist and anti-Muslim slurs.

Jeremy Christian, who is still awaiting trial for the murders but who

confessed to them immediately after, had been in frequent attendance at Portland-area rallies organized by the Vancouver, Washington-based far-right group Patriot Prayer, which — among other things — organized a "March Against Sharia" in Seattle in 2017 and just this week came under police investigation after a member of its Facebook group posted a comment about burning down the offices of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim advocacy group.

But when it comes to certain details, it's difficult to draw perfect parallels

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PHOTO: THE SKANNER ARCHIVES, JEFFREY HAYES, 11/19/1992
Unidentified woman holding sign that reads, "We must stop White Supremacy" at anti-racist rally held in November 1992 in response to the murder of Mulugeta Seraw.



PHOTO: JEFFREY HAYES VIA THE SKANNER NEWS ARCHIVE
Demonstrators marching in response to Mulugeta Seraw's murder by neo-Nazi skinheads in November 1992.

30 Years After

Seraw to be honored with conference, plaque

*By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News*

In 1980, Mulugeta Seraw came to the United States to pursue his education and to escape a nation gripped by a bloody, multifactional civil war. He hoped to return to Ethiopia eventually. He didn't expect to encounter violence in his adopted country.

Both of those expectations were destroyed in the early hours of Nov. 13, 1988. Seraw and two friends, Tilahula Autueh and Wondswon Tesfaye, who were also Ethiopian, were accosted outside Seraw's Southeast Portland apartment by a group of skinheads. One of them, Ken Mieske, took a bat to Seraw and crushed his head; he died of his injuries later that night.

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PHOTO: JENNY KANE
A message on the site Gab is displayed on an iPhone in New York Oct. 29. The social media site popular with far-right extremists and apparently used by the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting suspect, advertises as a haven for free-speech fans.

Online Threats Prove Difficult for Law Enforcement

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Prince Documentary is in the Works

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