OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 2A

Phyllis Galloway

Baker City, 1922-2021

Harry passed on Nov. 1, 2015. They traveled extensively around the world with Harry's pipeline jobs and settled in Baker City.

Phyllis was an excellent bowler, volunteered at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and the Baker City Senior Center, and loved fishing and picking berries in the mountains with Harry. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed watching her favorite basketball team, the Portland Trail Blazers, after whom she fondly named her Australian silky dog.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews in Australia, including Mavis' son, Barry Bazley, whom she helped raise when she was still in Melbourne. He stayed in touch with Phyllis and held a special spot in her heart. Having had no children of her own, she had two stepchildren, Evelyn Shelton (Donald) and Charles Dale Galloway (Marjorie), and a granddaughter, Sierra Galloway, all of Pennsylvania. She also had stepgrandchildren, Jon, David and Edward Patton, who spent numerous summers in Baker City with her and Harry. Stepson Elwood Patton (Carolyn) worked construction with Harry in Alaska and was a special person to both Harry and Phyllis.

The family would like to thank Hospice and Phyllis' good friend, Tamara Pearce, for the devotion and care they gave Phyllis to make her more comfortable.

Phyllis' and Harry's remains will be buried together in Orcutt's Cemetery at Noxen, Pennsylvania. Instead of flowers, donations, remembrances, and contributions can be sent to The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for Phyllis' family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

The Council, also by a 6-1 margin, elected Perry as vice mayor. Councilor Jason Spriet voted for Alderson. McQuisten nominated Perry.

Baker City's charter doesn't give the mayor veto power. The mayor presides over City Council meetings, enforces Council rules and signs ordinances and resolutions.

The vice mayor assumes those duties when the mayor isn't available.

Tuesday's 20-minute meeting was the first for five of the six councilors elected Nov. 3 — McQuisten, Sells, Alderson, Joanna Dixon and Johnny Waggoner Sr.

Spriet, the lone incumbent on the Nov. 3 ballot, was also elected.

Perry was elected to a four-year term in 2018 and was not on the ballot.

It was also the first meeting for City Manager Jonathan Cannon, whom the previous City Council hired in November.

All seven councilors attended Tuesday's meeting in person at City Hall.

Four of the new councilors — McQuisten, Dixon, Waggoner and Alderson — gathered on the front steps of City Hall at 4 p.m. Tuesday to be sworn in. The councilors requested that option due to occupancy limits in City Hall prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sells and Spriet were sworn in just prior to the meeting, which started at 7 p.m. inside City Hall.

After electing McQuisten and Perry, councilors appointed members to several committees and boards, including Alderson to the Airport Commission; Spriet to the Public Works Advisory Committee; Dixon to the North Baker Transportation Improvement Plan Committee; Sells to the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District; and Alderson to the Transient Lodging Tax Committee.

Councilors will meet for a work session on Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

WYDEN

Continued from Page 3A

Congress is also ready to help Biden lift the fog of conflicting policies and statements about the pandemic that has killed more than 367,000 Americans since the beginning of the pandemic. Democrats believe they will get significant Republican support for a major push to get vaccines created, transported and into the arms of Americans as swiftly as possible.

"Deployment without delays," Wyden said.

Because President Trump at first dismissed, then downplayed the exploding spread of the virus, Wyden said, Trump could never get beyond what the crisis meant to him personally. The national response became politicized. When Trump himself was infected, he was given emergency treatment using rare medicines that allow for a swift recovery. Instead of being chastened by his brush with COVID, Trump told Americans not to let it control their lives, and he personally rarely wore a mask.

Even when the Trump-initiated Operation Warp Speed helped scientists create two vaccines in less than a year, with more to come, Trump was still holding parties and large rallies with supporters who did not wear masks, spreading the infection.

"He didn't want to do the hard work needed," Wyden said of a national fight against COVID-19.

Biden has promised a "science-based" policy led by Dr. Anthony Fauci, director

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden

of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Under Trump, Fauci found his advice often ignored and endured the president's promotion of quack cures and personal opposition to the national effort to have Americans wear masks in public.

One of the hardest changes will be to level with Americans that COVID-19 will kill more people and cripple more businesses for much of 2021. In a separate press call on Friday, Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen said the limited amount of vaccine and the priority list of who should get the shot means that many in the state will have to wait until as late as autumn of this year for their turn. Other estimates have pushed the date into 2022.

"It is hard to turn away from the reality," Wyden said. "The fact is we have a coronavirus spike that is greater than spring. We're starting to get projections of other mutations of the virus."

Wyden said that's why aid programs need to be untethered to artificial end dates created by guesses on how bad the situation will be months or a year down the road.

"You don't want people constantly worried about what is next," Wyden said.

Wyden said that on a practical level, that means federal aid to people, businesses, cities and states will be needed for as long as it takes. Under Republicans in the Senate, end dates for programs were always included, sometimes leading to dramatic deadlines like the end-of-the-year cutoff of most benefits that was narrowly averted at the last minute with a $900 million stimulus deal. Democrats wanted something closer to the CARES Act passed early in the crisis that pumped $2.2 trillion into the economy.

Wyden said he would like to see as many programs as possible be self-renewing until metrics showing a strong, sustained recovery is in place before they would be shut down or curtailed.

Wyden will mark 25 years in the Senate in February. At 71 years old, he announced recently his plan to seek another six-year term in 2022. Wyden said the reason is simple: "There is so much to do."

Other items on his personal legislative agenda include reviving a bi-partisan effort to limit prescription drug prices and making mental health care easier to obtain, particularly in rural areas like Central and Eastern Oregon.

"People can have widely different political philosophies, but will come together when they see a way to get a job done," Wyden said.

Wyden also hopes to continue his efforts to ensure the security and apolitical direction of the nation's intelligence agencies.

The Senate operates based on seniority and by running again in 2022, he says a little state can have a big presence on Capitol Hill. He pointed to his ability to get answers on the allocation of COVID-19 vaccines.

"There have been questions if Oregon is getting its fair share," he said.

Democrats' ability to get their objectives through Congress and on to Biden's desk rely on fragile majorities in the Senate and House.

With the twin victories of Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in Georgia's two U.S. Senate races on Tuesday, the Senate will have a 50-50 split between Democrats and Republicans.

The vice president is the president of the Senate and can cast a tie-breaking vote when necessary. This is crucial in the first days of the new Senate when Vice President Kamala Harris' vote ensures Democratic control of the Senate. U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-NY, will become Majority Leader and Republican Mitch McConnell will be minority leader. Democrats will become chairs of the committees — Wyden will lead the Senate Finance Committee.

Democrats won the White House and control of the Senate in the 2020 election, but lost seats in the House, which it already controlled. The new 117th Congress has a 222-212 Democratic majority.

Wyden will be taking part in a split Senate, but it isn't his first time. Republicans and Democrats each had 50 senators after the 2000 election. There's no official policy on how to make the division work, except for Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution, which says "The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided."

When the 2001 Senate met, Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, forged a power-sharing agreement. Since George W. Bush won the Electoral College vote in the 2000 election, the Republican vice president, Dick Cheney, was the tie-breaking vote. The two leaders agreed that while Republicans would hold committee chairmanships after Bush's inauguration, each committee would have an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. When there is an outright majority, that party also has a numerical advantage in the committee membership. The deal lasted five months, until Sen. Jim Jeffords, R-Vt., announced he was leaving the GOP to become an independent and would caucus with Democrats, giving them an outright majority.

Adding to the 2021 confusion is the new Senate actually has just 48 Democrats. However, Maine's Angus King and Vermont's Bernie Sanders are officially independents, but take part in the caucus of the Democrats, giving it 50 votes to equal Republicans.

Wyden said there has been no decision yet, but he thinks the power-sharing setup from 2000 is a good model. The alternative would be for Democrats to give themselves a majority on each committee, with each move requiring Harris to vote.

Though there is more open political animosity in 2021 than in 2001, the chairs of the committee and the ranking Republican are almost all more senior members who have worked in the more collegial atmosphere of sessions before. Sen. Michael Crapo, R-Idaho, will get the top GOP slot on the Finance Committee. He's been in the Senate since 1996, and was Wyden's colleague during their earlier tenures in the House.

"Senator Crapo and I have worked together on forestry, infrastructure, and other issues, making sure they got into the final aid packages," Wyden said.

Enjoying good relationships with Republicans means finding common ground based on shared principles. That usually leads to better legislation, Wyden said. But it is not a catch-all.

"It's not just agree to agree," he said.

Wyden also said he is ready to work with the Oregon delegation's newest member, U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario. Bentz joined a splinter group of Republicans to challenge some of the Electoral College votes last week, the focus of the riots at the Capitol.

Asked about Bentz's position and any linkage with the Trump supporters' rampage, Wyden said that's a private matter.

"The Oregon delegation has a history of not commenting on members' votes," Wyden said. "I have worked with Rep. Bentz when he was in the Legislature and talked with him about crucial economic issues facing Oregon. There are many issues on which there can be common ground, like energy and natural resources."

Bentz votes against impeachment

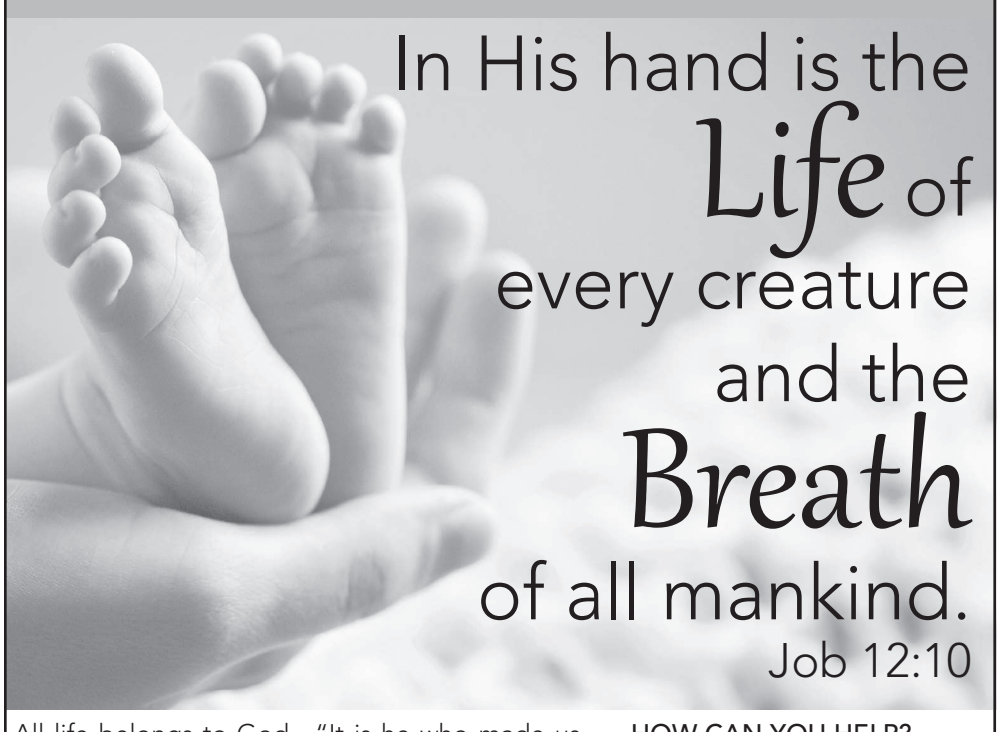
WASHINGTON — Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, voted against impeaching President Donald Trump on Wednesday, Jan. 13, joining most House Republicans in a losing effort to avoid a stinging rebuke to the president in his last week in office.

The impeachment was approved 232-197, with 10 Republicans joining all Democrats in the equivalent of an indictment for inciting a mob to violently invade and ransack the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

The article of impeachment for incitement of insurrection would normally be sent to the Senate for an extended trial to convict or acquit the president. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., can send the impeachment to the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the earliest he would consider the impeachment would be Jan. 19. That is the day before Biden replaces Trump as president during ceremonies at the Capitol.

— *Gary A. Warner, Oregon Capital Bureau*

Remembering National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 17



All life belongs to God. "It is he who made us, and we are his" (Psalm 100:3) He cares about each life so much that he has the hair on each head numbered (Luke 12:7). Every pregnant teen, every unborn child, every broken woman with an abortion in her past, every frightened kid who finds out he's a father is loved by the Creator. Each one has inestimable value and needs to know the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Your local pregnancy center wants to be His hands and feet to all those who are hurting, regardless of race or societal status. They reach out in practical ways including material help for those in need by providing peer counseling, accurate information, community referrals, pregnancy testing, and much more.

As a nonprofit organization, their services are made possible by donations from churches and individuals in our community. Please prayerfully consider what God would have you do to help this vital ministry in the coming year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Get involved in one of the fund raising events
- Host a baby shower
- Pray for this life saving ministry

Life is His

Rachel Pregnancy Center
A resource center for familes

541-523-5357
2192 Court, Baker City
PO Box 1086

MILLER'S HOME CENTER
BRINGING QUALITY PRODUCTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICING TO EASTERN OREGON

Try the SHIP TO STORE feature at millershomecenter.com
3815 Pocahontas Road, Baker City • 541-523-6404
3109 May Lane, La Grande • 541-963-3113