

2 victories in Georgia assure Democratic control of Senate

BY STEVE PEOPLES, BILL BARROW AND RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Democrats won both Georgia Senate seats — and with them, the U.S. Senate majority — as final votes were counted Wednesday, serving President Donald Trump a stunning defeat in his turbulent final days in office while dramatically improving the fate of President-elect Joe Biden's progressive agenda.

Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, Democratic challengers who represented the diversity of their party's evolving coalition, defeated Republicans David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler two months after Biden became the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since 1992.

Warnock, who served as pastor for the same Atlanta church where civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached, becomes the first African American from Georgia elected to the Senate. And Ossoff becomes the state's first Jewish senator and, at 33 years old, the Senate's youngest member.

This week's elections were expected to mark the formal finale to the tempestuous 2020 election season, although



Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock wave to the crowd during a campaign rally in Augusta, Georgia, on Monday. Both Democrats flipped the state's U.S. Senate seats in this week's runoff election.

Michael Holahan/The Augusta Chronicle via AP

the Democrats' resounding success was overshadowed by chaos and violence in Washington, where angry Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying Biden's victory.

Still, the Democrats' twin victories in

Georgia represented a striking shift in the state's politics as the swelling number of diverse, college-educated voters flex their power in the heart of the Deep South. They also cemented the transformation of Georgia, once a solidly Republican state, into one of the nation's

premier battlegrounds for the foreseeable future.

In an emotional address early Wednesday, Warnock vowed to work for all Georgians whether they voted for him or not, citing his personal experience with the American dream. His mother, he said, used to pick "somebody else's cotton" as a teenager.

"The other day, because this is America, the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton picked her youngest son to be a United States senator," he said. "Tonight, we proved with hope, hard work and the people by our side, anything is possible."

Loeffler, who remains a senator until the results of Tuesday's election are finalized, returned to Washington on Wednesday morning to join a small group of senators planning to challenge Congress' vote to certify Biden's victory. She didn't get a chance to vocalize her objection before the violent protesters stormed the Capitol.

Georgia's other runoff election pitted Perdue, a 71-year-old former business executive who held his Senate seat until his term expired Sunday, against Ossoff, a former congressional aide and journalist.

Biden taps Garland for attorney general

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden has selected Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge who in 2016 was snubbed by Republicans for a seat on the Supreme Court, as his attorney general, two people familiar with the selection process said Wednesday.

In picking Garland,



Garland

Biden is turning to an experienced judge who held senior positions at the Justice Department

decades ago, including as a supervisor of the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The pick will force Senate Republicans to contend with the nomination of someone they spurned four years ago — refusing even to hold hearings when a Supreme Court vacancy arose — but Biden is banking on Garland's credentials and reputation for moderation to ensure confirmation.

Biden was expected to announce Garland's appointment Thursday, along with other senior leaders of the department.

Garland was selected over other finalists including Alabama Sen. Doug Jones and former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates.

The people familiar with the process spoke on condition of anonymity. One said Biden regards Garland as an attorney general who can restore integrity to the Justice Department and as someone who, having worked as both a federal prosecutor and a high-level supervisor inside the agency, will enjoy the respect of nonpartisan career staff.

Reaction

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"It makes me really passionate about me standing up for people," she said.

The unprecedented unrest at the Capitol, where thousands of supporters of President Donald Trump converged to protest the election, prompted a visceral reaction from Central Oregon lawmakers, officials and residents.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel called for Trump's removal, citing the 25th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. "Our country is under attack and our president is on the side of the attackers," he said. "This makes him unfit to serve, and his cabinet should vote to remove him."

Deschutes County Commissioner Phil Chang, who was sworn into office Monday, said it is wrong to contest the November presidential election by forcefully disrupting Congress.

"People who would seek to overturn the results of a free and fair election by violently breaking into and occupying our nation's capital are criminals," he

"Trump incited it, and there should be consequences."

— Jay Waldron, 75

wrote in an email.

But the events at the Capitol were keenly felt by the Bend council's newest members, who were sworn in virtually rather than in person.

Newcomer Megan Perkins said the distress she felt Wednesday reminded her of how she felt when working for a senator in Washington, D.C., on 9/11. "These aren't protesters, they are terrorists," Perkins said of the mob. "They have taken over a public building."

Fellow new Councilor Melanie Kebler blamed Trump for sowing seeds of chaos.

"Our president is fanning the flames for these people to act violently," she said. "I'm astounded that this is happening in our nation, that we have this many people who are willing to upset and deny our democratic institution. It needs to stop."

Anthony Broadman, who was also sworn in Wednesday, said he doesn't

believe the chaos in Washington will taint the start of the new council.

"I think it draws a very stark contrast between those kinds of politics, which don't put the interest of Americans at the top priority, and what we are doing at the City Council level, which is to ensure Bend is a great place to live," he said.

In Redmond, police prepared for a right-wing rally at Centennial Park outside City Hall, according to Sgt. Jesse Petersen. Only a handful of people showed up.

Redmond Mayor George Endicott said the mob at the U.S. Capitol could be a symptom of a chaotic past year. COVID-19, an economic depression and political upheaval has everyone on edge, he said. "It's like the perfect storm," Endicott said. "Everyone's frustrated with one or more of the different incidents going on."

In Hollishead Park in northeast Bend, Jay Waldron — who described himself as a centrist politically — also blamed Trump for the violent protest. "Trump incited it, and there should be consequences," Waldron, 75, told

The Bulletin.

Bend resident Francesca Blyth, 29, called the Trump supporters' storming of the U.S. Capitol "domestic terrorism."

"It's scary ... and disappointing, in terms of violence," she told The Bulletin Wednesday at Hollishead Park. "(I) wish the country was more aligned and willing to meet in the middle."

Sue Bastian, retired Tumalo resident and longtime progressive activist, was doing errands Wednesday in downtown Bend, where she plans a solo protest Thursday in response to the violence at the nation's capital.

"I'll be out here tomorrow with my sign that says, 'Racism, Violence, Hate and Fear,'" Bastian said. "That's what these people are all about."

Bastian has attended protests all over the world, including in Washington, D.C., which never escalated to the chaos on Wednesday, she said.

"We caused no problems," she said. "None whatsoever."

■ Bulletin staffers Garrett Andrews, Jackson Hogan, Brian Rathbone, Kyle Spurr and Brenna Visser contributed to this report.



George Plaven/EO Media Group

Pro-Trump demonstrators gather at the Capitol Mall in Salem on Wednesday.

One arrested for harassment at Salem rally

Salem

Continued from A1

The police department later tweeted that no force was needed to separate the groups. One person was arrested for harassment and disorderly conduct.

Many protesters held America, Trump and Gadsden (aka "Don't Tread on Me") flags, and some openly carried firearms. They chanted, "Freedom!" and hurled insults at Brown, calling her a tyrant.

One man standing at the Capitol Mall with a speaker said it was "1776 all over again."

"This is America," the man called out to cheers of support from fellow protesters. "Communism will never, never be America."

No official activity was scheduled inside the Oregon Capitol on Wednesday. Oregon electors had already cast the state's seven electoral votes for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on Dec. 8 during

an in-person ceremony that was streamed live.

The Oregon Capitol has been closed to the public since March 18, after the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Police sealed off the building Wednesday after Capitol authorities, anticipating problems, decided Tuesday night to close the building to the few workers who remain.

Metal shutters covered the glass doors at the east and west entrances. They already were in place on the iconic revolving doors at the north entrance. About two dozen troopers were stationed at the south entrance, which faces Willamette University.

Wednesday's protest was not the first instance of potential trouble at the Capitol, which was built in 1938.

Anti-lockdown, pro-Trump supporters briefly occupied a vestibule on the northwest side of the building on Dec. 21, when state lawmakers met for a one-

day special session. They were ejected, and police rebuffed their second attempt to force their way through the west entrance, although they broke windows on the doors. Five men were arrested, and Oregon State Police are seeking the identity of another man caught on camera.

Concrete barriers were placed in front of the Capitol on New Year's Eve. Salem Police arrested three people during New Year's Day protests, which extended to downtown and the governor's official residence at Mahonia Hall.

The Oregon Legislature is scheduled to start its 2021 session on Jan. 11, with the swearing-in of all 60 representatives and 16 of the 30 senators, and the election of the House speaker and Senate president. The organizational session is expected to last a day.

Lawmakers get down to business on Jan. 19, when the clock starts on the 160-day session.

At other capitols

Protesters backing President Donald Trump massed outside statehouses from Georgia to New Mexico on Wednesday, leading some officials to evacuate. Most people didn't wear masks amid the coronavirus pandemic, and some carried guns in places like Oklahoma, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and Washington state. There were some scuffles in states like Ohio and California, with some instances of journalists or counter-protesters being pepper-sprayed or punched, but most demonstrations were peaceful — some of them quite small — and only a few arrests were reported.

— Associated Press

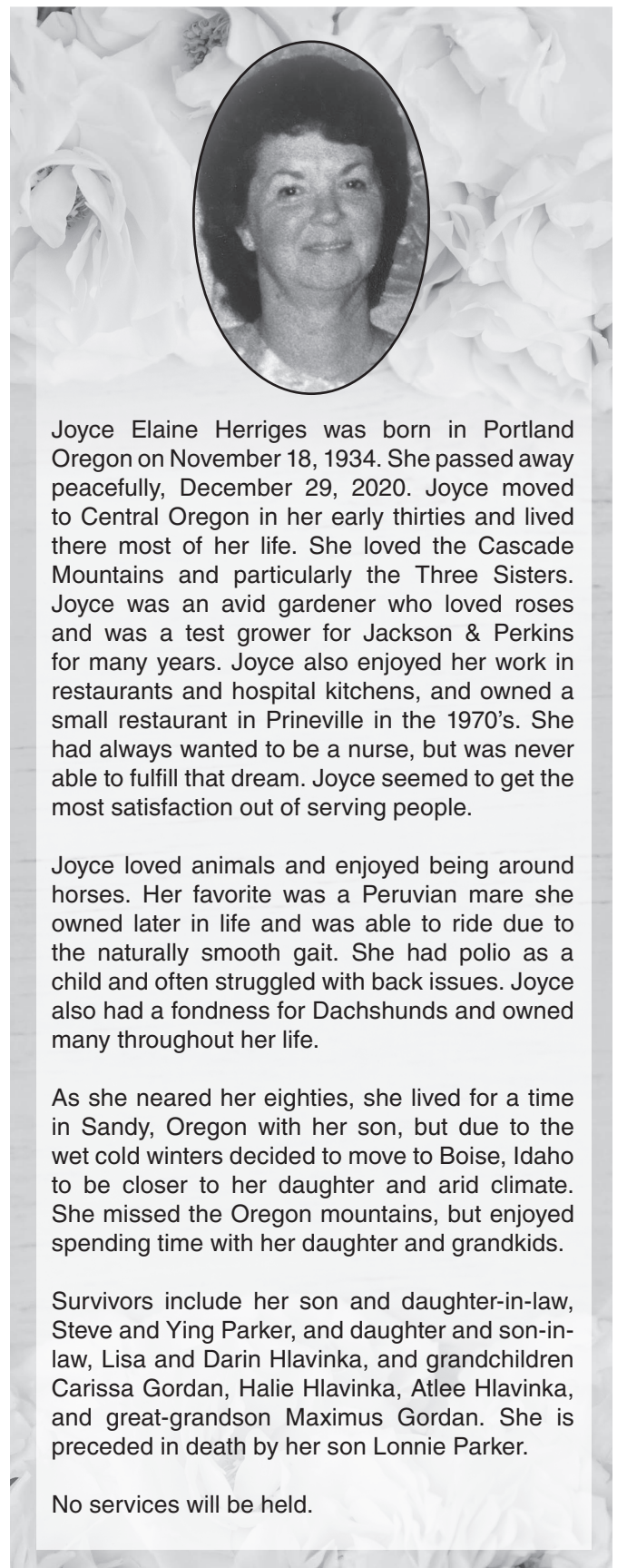
DEATH NOTICES

Walter "Walt" Richard Schneider
of Pasco, WA
March 9, 1927 -
December 22, 2020

Arrangements:
Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Schneider family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign our online guest book. 541.382.0903
Services:
A Private Service will be held.
Contributions may be made to:
Partners In Care: www.partnersbend.org 2075 NE Wyatt Ct. Bend Oregon 97701 541-382-5882

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines 541-385-5809
Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm.
No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.
Email: obits@bendbulletin.com



Joyce Elaine Herriges was born in Portland Oregon on November 18, 1934. She passed away peacefully, December 29, 2020. Joyce moved to Central Oregon in her early thirties and lived there most of her life. She loved the Cascade Mountains and particularly the Three Sisters. Joyce was an avid gardener who loved roses and was a test grower for Jackson & Perkins for many years. Joyce also enjoyed her work in restaurants and hospital kitchens, and owned a small restaurant in Prineville in the 1970's. She had always wanted to be a nurse, but was never able to fulfill that dream. Joyce seemed to get the most satisfaction out of serving people.

Joyce loved animals and enjoyed being around horses. Her favorite was a Peruvian mare she owned later in life and was able to ride due to the naturally smooth gait. She had polio as a child and often struggled with back issues. Joyce also had a fondness for Dachshunds and owned many throughout her life.

As she neared her eighties, she lived for a time in Sandy, Oregon with her son, but due to the wet cold winters decided to move to Boise, Idaho to be closer to her daughter and arid climate. She missed the Oregon mountains, but enjoyed spending time with her daughter and grandkids.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Ying Parker, and daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Darin Hlavinka, and grandchildren Carissa Gordan, Halie Hlavinka, Atlee Hlavinka, and great-grandson Maximus Gordan. She is preceded in death by her son Lonnie Parker.

No services will be held.