Today, plenty of sunshine, a bit less wind for most, high 45. **Tonight,** clear, a light breeze, low 31. **Tomor**row, partly sunny, cooler, high 42. Weather map appears on Page B12.

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

TRUMP INCITES MOB

RAMPAGE IN CAPITOL FORCES EVACUATIONS; IT'S 'PART OF HIS LEGACY,' A REPUBLICAN SAYS







After scaling the walls outside the Capitol on Wednesday afternoon, some in the crowd made it into the House chamber as lawmakers and others scrambled for cover.

President Lit Fuse for Chaos, **Biden Declares**

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR and JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON - Presidentelect Joseph R. Biden Jr. denounced the storming of the Capitol on Wednesday as the violent expression of President Trump's refusal to accept his defeat, calling it "an assault on the citadel of liberty" and saying the president had stoked the mob with his brazen and false claims that the 2020 election had been stolen.

In direct, forceful language, Mr. Biden called the scenes of chaos in the halls of Congress "a dark moment" in the nation's history, appealed for calm and made clear that he held Mr. Trump accountable for instigating violence that left members of both parties and allies around the world appalled.

"At their best, the words of a president can inspire. At their worst, they can incite," Mr. Biden

"This is not dissent," the president-elect said in remarks from Delaware as scenes of the armed takeover of the Capitol played out on television screens. "It's disorder. It's chaos. It borders on sedition and it must end now.'

The day had started as one of triumph for Mr. Biden and his party, with Democrats coming off elections that sealed control of the Senate by picking up two seats in Georgia and Congress scheduled to clear away the last formal Republican objections to his victory by certifying the Electoral College outcome.

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Americans at the Gates: The Trump Era's Inevitable Denouement

BV PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON - So this is how it ends. The presidency of Donald John Trump, rooted from the beginning in anger, division and conspiracy-mongering,

MEMO

comes to a close **WASHINGTON** with a violent mob storming the Capitol at

the instigation of a defeated leader trying to hang onto power as if America were just another authoritarian nation.

The scenes in Washington would have once been unimaginable: A rampage through the

citadel of American democracy. Police officers brandishing guns in an armed standoff to defend the House chamber. Tear gas deployed in the Rotunda. Lawmakers in hiding. Extremists standing in the vice president's spot on the Senate dais and sitting at the desk of the speaker

of the House.

The words used to describe it were equally alarming: Coup. Insurrection. Sedition. Suddenly the United States was being compared to a "banana republic" and receiving messages of concern from other capitals. "American carnage," it turned out, was not what President Trump would 4 Years of Provocation End With Invasion of Seat of Democracy

stop, as he promised upon taking office, but what he wound up delivering four years later to the very building where he took the

The convulsion in Washington capped 1,448 days of Twitter storms, provocations, race-baiting, busted norms, shock-jock governance and truth-bending

from the Oval Office that have left the country more polarized than in generations. Those who warned of worst-case scenarios only to be dismissed as alarmists found some of their darkest fears realized. By day's end, even some Republicans suggested removing Mr. Trump under the 25th Amendment rather than wait two weeks for the inauguration of President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.

The extraordinary invasion of the Capitol was a last-ditch act of desperation from a camp facing political eviction. Even before the

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Democrats Take Senate With Victories in Georgia

Lawmakers Back Biden's Victory in Arizona

By NICHOLAS FANDOS and EMILY COCHRANE

WASHINGTON - Congress moved late Wednesday toward confirming President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s victory after a mob of loyalists urged on by President Trump stormed and occupied the Capitol, disrupting the final electoral count in a shocking display of violence that shook the core of American democracy.

There was no parallel in modern American history, with insurgents acting in the president's name vandalizing Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office, smashing windows, looting art and briefly taking control of the Senate chamber, where they took turns posing for photographs with fists up on the dais where Vice President Mike Pence had just been presiding. Outside the building, they erected a gallows, punctured the tires of a police SUV, and left a note on its windshield saying, "PELOSI IS SATAN."

By the time the Senate reconvened, hours after lawmakers had been evacuated from a Capitol overrun by rebels carrying pro-Trump paraphernalia, one of the nation's most polarizing moments had yielded an unexpected window of solidarity that briefly eclipsed partisan division. Republicans and Democrats locked arms to denounce the violence and express their determination to carry out what they called a constitutionally sacrosanct func-

"To those who wreaked havoc in our Capitol today, you did not win," Mr. Pence said in a sharp break from Mr. Trump, who had praised the mob. "Violence never wins. Freedom wins. And this is still the people's house."

Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the maiority leader, said the "failed insurrection" had only clarified Congress's purpose.

"They tried to disrupt our democracy," he said. "They failed."

Under pressure from their colleagues, some Republicans who had planned several hours of objections to Mr. Biden's victory agreed to drop their challenges, though Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri was expected to press forward with a challenge to Pennsylvania's electors. Lawmakers met into the night to debate and vote on an objection to Arizona's results lodged just before the violence broke out in the Capitol. The challenge failed in the Senate, 93 to 6, and the House turned it back on a vote of 303-121. But more than

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SOCIAL MEDIA REBUKE Facebook and Twitter have locked Trump out of his accounts. PAGE B1

As House Was Breached, a Fear 'We'd Have to Fight' to Get Out

This article is by Zolan Kanno-Youngs, Sabrina Tavernise and Emily Cochrane.

WASHINGTON — The mob of supporters pressed through police barricades, broke windows and battered their way with metal poles through entrances to the Capitol. Then, stunningly, they breached the "People's House" itself, forcing masked police officers to draw their guns to keep the insurgents off the chamber floor.

"I thought we'd have to fight our way out," said Representative Jason Crow, Democrat of Colorado and a former Army Ranger in Iraq, who found himself captive in the House chamber.

What unfolded at that point, at times on national television, was a

tableau of violence and mayhem that shocked the nation, one of the most severe intrusions of the Capitol since the British invaded during the War of 1812 and burned it

An armed standoff ensued in the House chamber, with police officers drawing their weapons. A pro-Trump protester casually monkeyed around at the dais of the Senate. Intruders in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's suite overturned desks and smashed photos. Others ripped artwork in Senate hideaway offices.

"This is what the president has caused today, this insurrection," Senator Mitt Romney, Republican of Utah, said as he and other senators were hustled off to a secure lo-

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By ASTEAD W. HERNDON and RICK ROJAS

Democrats ATLANTA gained control of the Senate on Wednesday by winning both of Georgia's runoff races, an electoral repudiation of President Trump that will give the incoming Democratic administration broader policy latitude even as the victory was temporarily overshadowed by a violent mob storming the United States Capitol in the name of the ousted incumbent.

The election of the Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff was a political triumph for the Democratic Party in a state that has stymied it for decades. It was also a jarring split-screen encapsulation of the politics of progress and grievance that have defined Mr. Trump's administration and the changing country he is sworn to serve.





The Rev. Raphael Warnock, left, and Jon Ossoff won runoffs.

On the same day that Georgia elected Mr. Ossoff, a 33-year-old Jewish documentary filmmaker, and Mr. Warnock, 51, a pastor who will become the state's first Black senator, an almost entirely white crowd of aggrieved Trump supporters, some carrying Confederate flags, descended on Washing-

ton to defy political reality. Mr. Warnock's own Twitter feed showed how quickly the mood

among Democrats had shifted. At 1:55 p.m. Eastern, he toasted his victory by thanking Georgia voters, saying he was "forever grate-Within two hours, he was

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TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-7

Scientists Warn U.S. on Variant

Experts said the nation is ill equipped to trace the especially contagious new mutant, but added that it's not too late to curb the contagion's spread. PAGE A7 **INTERNATIONAL A8-10**

The Heavy Hand of Beijing

For a time, the Chinese government wielded its power over Hong Kong with discretion. That's no longer true, as an arrest sweep illustrates. PAGE A8 NATIONAL A11-21, 24

Louisville Hires New Chief

Erika Shields, who stepped down as police chief in Atlanta after the killing of Rayshard Brooks, takes charge in a city reeling over Breonna Taylor. PAGE A20 ARTS C1-6

The Freedom to Create Suzi Analogue couldn't find a label that understood her experimental music, so

she started her own. She's on a mission

to provide a home for others. PAGE C1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Gail Collins

