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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the $4^{\mbox{th}}$ day of November 2020,

We all woke up this morning – that is, if you slept at all overnight – to this headline on the latest Associated Press story on the election:

Presidency hinges on tight races in battleground states

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and ALEXANDRA JAFFE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of the United States presidency hung in the balance Wednesday morning, as President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden battled for three familiar battleground states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

It was unclear when or how quickly a winner could be determined. A late burst of votes in Wisconsin gave Biden a small lead in the state, but it was still too early to call the race. Hundreds of thousands of votes were also outstanding in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

As the story unfolds, click on AP Top Stories and AP Top Photos for the latest. Meanwhile...

"We endured the campaign. We voted. Now, maybe, we get back to being a country?"

That was the message shared by our colleague **Chris Sullivan** (**Email**) long before the first polls closed Tuesday in the 2020 General Election.

He continued:

"Thinking about the threshold where we stand as I looked over images sent from family members (photo above) who cast ballots in Connecticut, Virginia, Georgia and elsewhere, my mind strayed to `America, the Beautiful.' I looked up the lyrics, including this refrain from one of the less familiar verses:

'America! America! God mend thine every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!'

"And it seemed to me that this, in a nutshell, is the formula for us now. Flaws we have always had. Let's start trying again to mend them. Let's find that self-control that really is our soul in our best of times and, especially in this raw post-election moment, let's declare and demand that liberty and law have to go together."

Here's to a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

EXPLAINER: A long night, or more, before president is known



Election workers count absentee ballots into the early morning, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020 in Milwaukee at a central counting facility. (AP Photo/Stephen Groves)

By KEVIN FREKING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans won't know the winner of the 2020 U.S. presidential election until well into Wednesday — if not beyond that.

The main reason? Many states made it easier to request a mail ballot amid the coronavirus pandemic and concerns about crowded polling places. But mail ballots generally require more time to process than ballots cast in person.

DIFFERENT STATES, DIFFERENT APPROACHES

Some states with extensive experience in using mail-in ballots have adjusted for those extra steps.

In Florida, clerks can start counting ballots 22 days before an election. In North Carolina, beginning five weeks before the election, county boards insert approved ballots into a voting machine, allowing for a prompt tabulation on Election Day.

But other states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all with Republicanled legislatures and all of them swing states, made a conscious decision to wait so there would be no counting of mail-in ballots prior to Election Day, As a result, it could take days to tally enough ballots to project a winner. Read more here.

Let there be pizza on Election Night



Allen Matthews with poll worker colleague Jen Jones

Allen Matthews (Email) - I'm a poll worker in Alameda County (California) today (Tuesday). I figured the nation's pizza industry probably lost out on somewhere near 250,000 pies because the newsrooms are remote and there are no watch parties. I did my part and convinced my cohorts here to order pizza.

How a war correspondent wound up working for Nokia Software



AP Correspondent Aron Heller before departing on the first-ever direct flight from Israel to the United Arab Emirates on Aug. 31, 2020.

Aron Heller (Email) - In 15 years as a Mideast correspondent for the Associated Press, I received countless e-mails from readers to the thousands of stories I'd written. Most complained, critiqued and even threatened. But I never encountered anything quite like the one that arrived on June 6, 2020.

Responding to a global roundup about those who'd lost their jobs to the coronavirus pandemic, this random reader reached out to ask about the Israeli computer programmer I had profiled. He stumbled on the article in his local newspaper in San Jose and said he found it interesting since he was in the "software business" and had R&D contacts in Israel.

"I am not sure if it is possible for you to connect me with Itamar Lev," he wrote. "Either way, hoping he finds a solid job and we would be interested in talking to him."

Only the e-mail signature revealed who this mystery man was: Bhaskar Gorti: President, Nokia Software and Chief Digital Officer.

It was incredibly refreshing to encounter a stranger who had reached out simply to empathize with the plight of someone who was struggling, and to extend a genuine gesture to help. We quickly developed a rapport and I was happy to play matchmaker.

It was only after making the connection that eventually secured Itamar Lev a software engineering job at Nokia that I stopped for a moment to think: "Hey, why not me?"

I'd been pondering a career change for a while. As much as I loved journalism, I was tired of the daily grind and curious about what else was out there after covering elections, wars and countless eruptions of regional violence, political drama and religious strife. I had reported on breaking news across a variety of disciplines ranging from business to terrorism, entertainment to sports, and had interviewed a bevy of world leaders, military chiefs and elderly Holocaust survivors.

But there was one field that was still largely out of my reach: technology. Despite being surrounded by people in Israel's primary growth industry of high-tech, their world remained an enigma to me. It didn't help that any time I inquired about what they did they'd struggle to explain, launching into an esoteric, acronym-filled description that only added to my confusion, and caused me to tune out.

It was a shame, since I figured that behind all that jargon there must be interesting stories that could resonate with outsiders like me. These people were changing the world, but I couldn't understand it.

To my surprise, Bhaskar related to my frustration. My interest in deciphering the mystery of technology melded with his desire to communicate better what they did. And that's how, a few months later, I improbably ended up at Nokia.

It's a wild story, one I think captures the power and reach of the news media, the enterprising initiative of a high-ranking tech executive and, to a larger degree, the shifting nature of both our industries.

Now, in my early days with the company, as I take my first baby steps into this ominous assortment of information, I'm on a journey of discovery of how to fulfil that mission of making technology more accessible to the masses, and how it can improve rather than hinder the world in which we live.

With technology becoming so central to every facet of our lives, we must understand and explain it better. I hope I can help.

(This story first appeared on LinkedIn and is shared with Connecting with permission of the author.)

More memories of 2020 election

Bill Kaczor (<u>Email</u>) - I have not seen the new movie about the recount, but I have read about it. The film's theory that Cuban-American anger over the Elian Gonzalez repatriation might have affected the outcome is much less likely than three other factors. One, of course, is the outmoded and undemocratic Electoral College. If not for

that, any recount in Florida would have made no difference in the outcome. Gore would have won the presidency with a national popular vote plurality of 48.4 percent to 47.9 percent for Bush.

The Electoral College isn't something easily changed, but two other variables also could have swung the election the other way. Palm Beach County's confusing butterfly ballot almost certainly resulted in several thousand Gore voters erroneously punching out Reform Party candidate Patrick Buchanan's chads. That easily was enough to overcome Bush's 537-vote final margin. It was a self-inflicted wound as the ballot was designed by Palm Beach County's Democratic supervisor of elections. Ralph Nader was the other factor. The consumer advocate, author and activist won about 97,000 Florida votes as the Green Party nominee. Democrats believed if Nader hadn't been on the ballot Gore would have gotten most of those votes. The Green Party's leftist philosophy obviously was more closely aligned with Democrats than Republicans.

Nader ran again in 2004, ironically, then as the candidate of the Reform Party to protest the "duopoly" of the two major parties. He was not a factor, though, in 2004. Bush easily won Florida by a 380,978-vote margin over Democrat John Kerry. Nader drew only 32,971 votes. No recount was needed.

As for the Elian Gonzalez theory, Florida's Cuban-Americans - especially back in 2000 - were so wedded to the GOP that it's hard to believe his return to Cuba by the Clinton-Gore administration changed many votes, if any at all. That's probably why no one thought of it until nearly 20 years later.

Besides great photography, Horst Faas also excelled as a collector

Henry Bradsher (<u>Email</u>) - Recent reminiscences about the legendary Horst Faas omitted one interesting facet of his extraordinary career.

It had begun by the time I first met him in Saigon in 1970. Reporting sporadically in Vietnam for The Washington Star, I would drop by the AP bureau to see friends from my AP years, and sometimes I also encountered Horst out in the field. Then he and I were together in Dacca (now Dhaka) in December 1971 when Bangladesh became independent but former freedom fighters bayonetted to death some prisoners – for which Faas and Michel Laurent shared for AP a photo Pulitzer. (Laurent later left AP and was the last journalist killed in the Vietnam war.)

The little-known but interesting activity of Faas was collecting items as investments in expectation that their value would go up.

On vacations from Saigon, he and a colleague (was that you, Peter Arnett?) collected Ming porcelain in Southeast Asia. Dishes and vases

from China's Ming dynasty from 1368 to 1644 are valued for their smoothness, pure whiteness, and translucent quality.

This porcelain was a trade item exported from China. Some from the silted-over remains of one-time Southeast Asian seaports turned up unappreciated in antique shops. Some found on South China Sea islands have been claimed by Beijing to show long-term ownership of the disputed area, although they probably were only traded there. Faas bought them and somehow stored them for sale through dealers.

The last time I worked alongside him was in Portugal in 1975. In a struggle among Communist and other political factions after decades of dictatorship, the NATO member



seemed on the verge of falling under the control of a Moscow-trained party boss. Henry Kissinger gave up on it, but the U.S. ambassador in Lisbon, Frank Carlucci (later Reagan's secretary of defense), insisted the anti-Communist forces could prevail – as they did after turmoil that AP and I were covering.

While in Lisbon, Faas was occasionally on the phone talking to dealers in antique oriental rugs. He explained that their scarcity made them a hot item. Artistic old hand-knotted rugs were rising in value. He bought them, sight-unseen, on the recommendation of dealers to be held for later sale.

I don't know how much money Faas made from porcelain and rugs. But I was impressed by his eye for opportunity, not only with his cameras but also in business.

Connecting mailbox

Inland Press Foundation elects TownNews' Marc Wilson president, welcomes new officers, board members

Marc Wilson, chairman emeritus of TownNews, the digital services company he co-founded more than 30 years ago, has been elected president of the Inland Press Foundation.



Joyce McCullough, former president of Miller Media Group in LaSalle, Illinois, was elected vice president of the foundation.

The foundation board of directors met on Oct. 21, electing Wilson and McCullough as well as a slate of foundation directors.

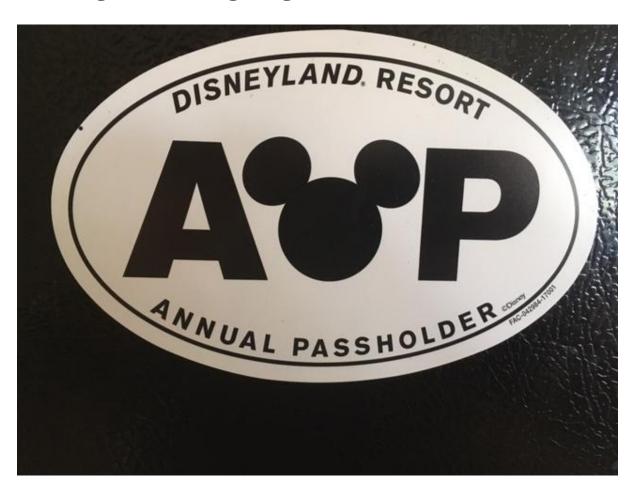
Wilson succeeds Jeremy Halbreich, the chairman and CEO of Dallas-based AIM Media Management LLC. Halbreich had served as foundation president during the recent merger of the Inland Press Association and

the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, forming America's Newspapers. He will remain a member of the Inland Press Foundation Board of Directors.

Read more here.

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AP Logo Police - Sighting



Shared by Kevin Noblet (Email)

Ophelia's lifetime as a 'dog for the ages'

Malcolm Barr, Sr. (<u>Email</u>) - Ophelia, a black miniature pug, has died at the age of 12 years. She was deaf when my wife, Carol and I adopted her from the Julia Wagner Animal Shelter, and blind and otherwise infirm when advanced age caught up with her earlier this week.

Me: It never gets easier – 15 of my best friends to date have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Who knows, maybe I'll get to see them again someday. Or, so they say.

Carol: There'll never be another Ophelia. She became "my dog" from the start. She was constantly in my lap and would follow me around up until her vision and hip problem made it difficult to move around. She enjoyed her life and did not hesitate to let us know when she was hungry or wanted to go to bed. I will never forget her sweet little face.



Ophelia was about 10 weeks old, and I was 75, when she was plopped into my lap on a busy Saturday morning at the Wagner Animal Shelter. The staff and I (then president of the Humane Society of Warren County) were asked by executive director Jane Johnson to foster a pet over the weekend because of shelter over-crowding. That "weekend" lasted 12 years. At the time we adopted the pup, we had a Japanese Chin named Hamlet and were trying to come up with a name for her.

"The answer is simple: You have a Hamlet and there's no question that you should have an Ophelia." This suggestion came from our Rockland neighbor and friend, Susan O'Kelly, a Brit who is well versed in the volumes of England's William Shakespeare, including the play, "Hamlet," and Hamlet's love for Ophelia. Hamlet, the dog, died a year or so later, his final months made more tolerable by his chunky little girlfriend.

The diminutive Ophelia made her mark in the local community by helping establish "Yappy Hour", a fundraiser for the animal shelter, 10 years ago at Vino E Formaggio on Front Royal's Main Street. About that time, she was "bridesmaid" to restaurant entrepreneurs Rachel and Christian Failmezger, as they strolled down Main Street to their marriage ceremony at the Gazebo. Ophelia trotted proudly behind, a well taught (by me) publicity hound.

Ophelia's "mid-life crisis" came when our son, then Staff Sgt. Malcolm Barr, Jr., U.S. Air Force, volunteered for duty in Iraq, leaving two huskies, Alfie and Lola, in our care while serving abroad. Asserting herself as only small dogs are prone to do, she became the unchallenged head of the (canine) household, a 15-pound bundle of energy versus two 70-pound invaders of her space.

Our friend, Dr. Roger Wilkes of the U.K, remarked via e-mail following her death that Ophelia was "a great character and very much the grand dame of the canines" at our home. Aside from her adopted parents, Ophelia leaves behind two large four-footed friends, La Diva, a Siberian Husky, and Goose, a German Shepherd mix. Diva continues as a "hostess" at the newly evolved "Yappy Hour" each Friday at the ViNoVa Tapas Restaurant on East Main Street, from 6 to 8 p.m., to raise money for the Julia Wagner Animal Shelter.

Ophelia has been immortalized in paintings by local artists Kelly Walker and Helga Heiberg, which we proudly display in our home.

R.I.P. dear Ophelia.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Richard Weiss - weisswrite@gmail.com

Stories of interest

AP PHOTOS: At churches, schools and stadiums, America votes



People line up on a playground before the door of a polling place opened at an elementary school in the Manhattan borough in New York Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. (AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

By The Associated Press

Americans are choosing between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden in what many are calling the most consequential presidential election in a lifetime, with the balloting shadowed by the coronavirus outbreak, economic downturn, racial tension and a sense that the future of democracy itself is at stake.

Voters flocked to polling places around the country before sunrise to cast their ballots on Election Day. They stood at a safe distance from one another in lines that snaked around schools, stadiums and churches.

Because of the huge volume of mail-in votes, the outcome may not be known for days or even weeks and could wind up in in court.

In downtowns ranging from New York to Denver to Minneapolis, workers boarded up businesses lest the vote — or uncertainty about the winner — lead to unrest of the sort that broke out earlier this year amid protests over racial inequality.

Associated Press photographers fanned out across the U.S. to capture voting on Election Day.

Read and view more **here**.

I Covered Media's 2000 Election Night Fiasco. Please, Let's Not Do That Again (NPR)



A man holds four copies of the Chicago Sun-Times, each with a different headline, on Nov. 8, 2000. Charles Bennett/AP

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

Twenty years ago this week, I begged my bosses to stop the presses so we could avoid reporting a huge story that wasn't true: that Texas Gov. George W. Bush had won Florida, and the presidency.

It was election night — specifically, the early morning hours of the next day — in November 2000. I was covering the media's serial missteps for The Baltimore Sun and realized The Sun was about to be caught up in it all. In the newsroom, I fought through throngs of colleagues who were mapping out the front page to warn Managing Editor Tony Barbieri: You don't know. You can't know.

Under duress to publish, Barbieri nonetheless paused to confer with Washington Bureau Chief Paul West. He soon called down to the presses, which had started to print front pages bearing a headline affirming Bush's win. It would have been "the kind of mistake that can follow you to the grave in journalism," West recalled Tuesday

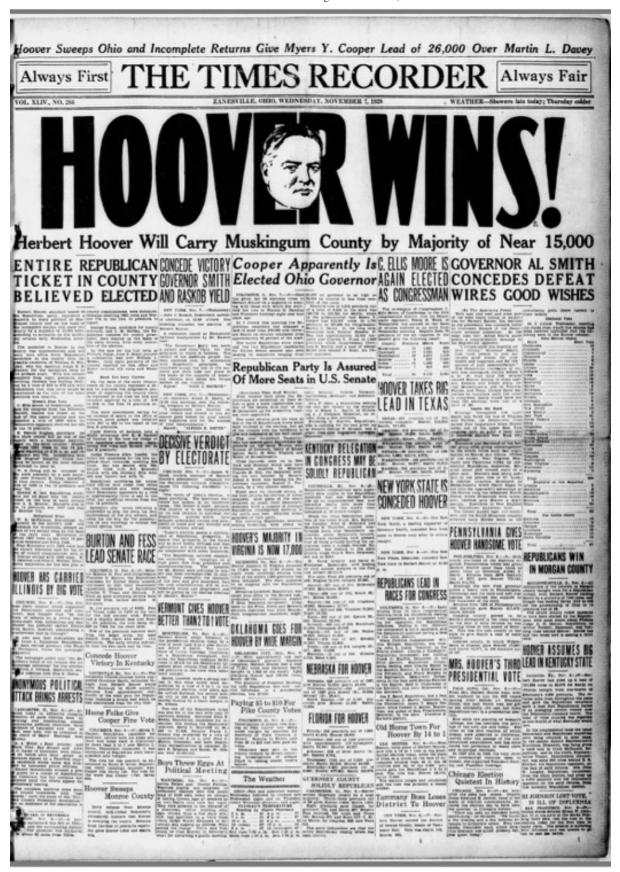
morning. "And so, by stopping them and telling them that it wasn't over there yet, we actually did our jobs."

Right now, many experienced journalists are thinking back to that fateful night in 2000 and wincing as they anticipate covering Tuesday's election returns. What happened that night has lessons and echoes for what to expect, what to hope for and what to fear from the media today.

Read more here.

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Front pages from the last 100 years of U.S. presidential elections (Poynter)



The (Zanesville, Ohio) Times Recorder, Nov. 7, 1928

By Kristen Hare

By November of 1920, a deadly pandemic had finally ended. The 19th Amendment had been ratified, giving women the right to vote, though it would take Black women decades more to exercise that right. And the U.S. elected its 29th president in Warren G. Harding.

One hundred years later, we're in the midst of a deadly pandemic, the resurgence of a civil rights movement and another presidential election. As we wait for the results, we wanted to share newspaper front pages from the last 100 years of U.S. presidential elections. These fronts come from newspapers.com.

Read more here.

Today in History - November 04, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 4, the 309th day of 2020. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

On this date:

In 1842, Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.

In 1916, CBS newsman Walter Cronkite was born in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of them, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1985, to the shock and dismay of U-S officials, Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko announced he was returning to the Soviet Union, charging he had been kidnapped by the C-I-A.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon [–] the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2001, NBC's "The West Wing" took eight honors at the twice-delayed Emmy Awards, including best dramatic series; HBO's "Sex and the City" won best comedy series.

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage, overturning a state Supreme Court decision that gave gay couples the right to wed just months earlier.

In 2014, riding a powerful wave of voter discontent, resurgent Republicans captured control of the Senate and tightened their grip on the House.

Ten years ago: Australian airline Qantas grounded all six of its Airbus A380 superjumbo jets after one of them blew out an engine over Indonesia; the plane made a safe emergency return to Singapore with 469 people aboard. An AeroCaribbean ATR 72 crashed in a mountainous area of Cuba, killing all 68 people on board. Hall of Fame baseball team manager Sparky Anderson died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 76.

Five years ago: Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Canada's new Liberal prime minister. A factory building collapsed in Lahore, Pakistan, killing more than 50 people. At the Country Music Association Awards, Chris Stapleton won for male vocalist, new artist and album of the year for "Traveller." Hollywood screenwriter Melissa Mathison ("E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial") died in Los Angeles at age 65.

One year ago: The Trump administration said it had formally notified the United Nations that the United States had begun the process of pulling out of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Iran broke further away from the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers by doubling the number of advanced centrifuges it operated. New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill, who'd been increasingly under fire amid a tug-of-war between reform advocates and police unions, announced his retirement. Former President Bill Clinton was among the speakers at the Detroit funeral of longtime U.S. Rep. John Conyers.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Loretta Swit is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 82. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 80. Former first lady Laura Bush is 74. Actor Ivonne Coll is 73. Actor Markie Post is 70. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 66. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 60. Actor-comedian Kathy Griffin is 60. Actor Ralph Macchio is 59. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 59. Saxophonist Tim Burton is 57. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 51. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 51. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 50. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 50. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 49. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 45. Actor Heather Tom is 45. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 40. Actor Emme Rylan is 40. Actor Chris Greene (Film: "Loving") is 38.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- My most unusual story tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.



- "A silly mistake that you make"- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- Multigenerational AP families profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- First job How did you get your first job in journalism?
- Connecting "selfies" a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

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