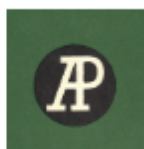


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Connecting

November 12, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 12th day of November 2020,

Connecting appreciates the nice comment on Wednesday's special Veterans Day Memories edition, including this from **Frank Eltman**, who said, "Thanks so much to everyone who contributed inspiring stories of their military service ... And thank you, one and all, for your service."

And this from **Gene Herrick**, who said, "Congratulations to you and all of the reporting Connecting members who so unselfishly served our country with military service. We also recognize all of our nation's military service people – male and female, and those who cannot hear us today as they lay in the cold grounds of the world. This country would not be the nation it's known for without them. God bless."

Former AP chairman **Frank Daniels Jr.** ([Email](#)) wrote as well, and noted that "I went in the Air Force in January 1954, got married in June and got sent to Japan in August to

help run the airport until December 1955. It was a fun time.”

Another colleague, **Roger Wallace** ([Email](#)) offered this about his brother, **Doug Wallace**, who worked for the AP in Denver for a year after leaving the Army. “Doug served in the Army from 1969-72 including two tours with the Infantry in Vietnam. He separated from service in February of 1972 and worked as a copyboy in the Denver bureau before resigning to pursue a career in construction. Doug suffered from PTSD. Vietnam took 20 years to cause my brother's death. He was like a square peg trying to fit in a round hole. He died almost 20 years after separation.”

On the subject of journalists and the military, Connecting colleague **Kristen Hare** of Poynter wrote an article Wednesday headlined: “Vets only make up 2% of journalists. This group wants to change that.”

The story relates that on Wednesday, Military Veterans in Journalism announced a \$250,000 investment from the Knight Foundation aimed at supporting veterans through six-month fellowships, workshops, mentorship and two paid staff positions for MVJ. Her story noted a report that 7% of Americans are military vets, but that number shrinks to just 2% among journalists, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Click [here](#) to read.

Earlier this week, our colleague **David Bauder** – AP’s media writer – told about receiving a threat on social media. And we invited colleagues to share any such experiences they may have had in threats on the job. We lead with first responses.

And...don’t miss touching remembrances in today’s issue by **Michael Putzel** and **John Temple**.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Your experiences with receiving threats while on the job

A visit from a distraught father...

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - The only time I felt my physical well-being threatened was early in my career when a distraught father unexpectedly showed up in our tiny basement newsroom.

In my first year out of college I was employed by The Record of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and assigned to cover City Hall and police. In the fall of 1977 a fire in the second floor of a detached, older garage killed a popular high school wrestler. My story on our first publication date a couple days later included information from police stating the boy and some of his friends had been out at night. When he became ill, they took him to the space above the garage of a friend's house, put him on an old sofa to lie down and lit a candle, then left. Coming back later to check on him the boys discovered the fire.

My story included quotes from firefighters saying beer cans littered the floor, making it difficult to walk amid the smoke and darkness. It also included a tentative medical examiner's finding the boy had a high blood-alcohol level.

The day the story appeared a grim-faced man appeared around the editor's desk divider and said nothing. When Editor David Westphal asked if he could help him, the man at first said nothing, then asked to see me. Dave pointed in my direction.

The man walked over to my desk, stood a foot away, said he was the boy's father. "I just wanted to see the face of the person who wrote that horseshit story," he said. He stood there for what seemed like an eternity, obviously angry, then left. By that time, as I recall, Dave had gotten up and moved closer in case the confrontation turned physical.

The following weekend the police chief called me at home to say the wrestler's mother alerted them her husband had left the house upset and with a shotgun. The chief said they didn't know whether he was coming for me, to do harm to himself or something else. As a precaution they sent a police car to sit in front of our house until the father was found.

I didn't hear any more that day. When the squad car left, I assumed the father had been located. The police chief later told me the man was angry and left home but never did anything to hurt himself or others.

We heard from a high school proofreader that the wrestler's friends and others at the school denied they had been out drinking and they were angry at our coverage. I can only imagine what the blowback would have been if the internet, email and social media had existed then.

In hindsight and with experience from nearly 40 years in the profession, I now think I should have tried to talk to the father during that tense newsroom exchange and to invite him, with the editor, to go to a side room to talk about his son.

Yogi Berra: 'Who the f--- are you?'

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - The St. Louis Cardinals swept a doubleheader from the Mets at Shea Stadium in New York on June 30, 1974.

In the bottom of the ninth inning in the second game, with the score tied 3-3, New York's Cleon Jones hit what appeared to be a game-winning two-out single to right field. Reggie Smith charged the ball and tried for a diving catch but trapped it.

Umpire Chris Pelekoudas gave the "safe" sign that it was a hit, the Mets ran off the field and the Cardinals charged the umpire to protest the call. (Replays, not in use then to review close calls, showed Pelekoudas was correct.) The umpires gathered, conferred, then overruled Pelekoudas, saying Smith had caught the ball, ending the inning.



Mets manager Yogi Berra was apoplectic but their decision stood and the Mets had to return to the field. Berra then brought in relief pitcher Tug McGraw, who had given up a pair of late-inning runs in the Mets' 5-2 first-game loss. He gave up two more in the 10th inning of the nightcap and the Mets lost 5-3.

In his clubhouse office afterward, Berra went berserk, unleashing a profanity-laced tirade that went on and on, and every reporter's question triggered another outburst.

Eventually Berra seemed to calm down, the subject of the call exhausted. So I, who did not regularly cover the Mets the way the beat writers did, asked him, "Why'd you bring in McGraw again?"

Berra replied, "Who the f--- are you?"

I told him, he studied my long hair and beard for an instant, and said, "Yeah, you look like you work for the f----- Associated Press."

"Well, I do and I just wondered why you brought in McGraw?"

"Well, that's a stupid f----- question."

"I don't think so. He got hit hard in the first game and ..."

Berra got up from behind his desk and started to come at me but one of the beat writers stuck an arm out to block him and shouted, "Don't, Yogi. He's okay."

I never did find out why he'd brought in McGraw.

The only other time I was threatened during an interview (or, in this case, trying to conduct one) was the evening of September 3, 1979, after New England had lost 16-13 to the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers in the season-opening Monday night NFL game.

I approached Patriots cornerback Raymond Clayborn and started to ask a question. He said not to bother him, I said, "I just want to ..." and he wheeled on me, cocked a fist and said, "Get your f----- ass out of my f----- face or I'll f----- ..."

I did what he recommended.

During the following week Clayborn got into fights with several teammates and the next Sunday, after the Patriots routed the Jets 56-3, he threatened several reporters. Will McDonough, a 44-year-old sports writer for the Boston Globe, tried to calm things down. Clayborn poked him in the eye and McDonough landed a punch that sent Clayborn flying into a locker.

McDonough and I were called to NFL headquarters to testify about Clayborn's behavior; he ultimately was fined \$2,000. The following season, Clayborn spotted me in a clubhouse, came over and apologized for threatening me, saying he'd been going through some emotional turmoil at the time. I thanked him.

Noriega not happy with photo he took



Greg Smith (Email) - Although I've been threatened a number of times, here's the story I thought of. After leaving AP (DN & NY), I free-lanced extensively in Latin

America. During early Panama days of trouble with President (dictator) Manuel Noriega, a few photographers heard of a private party with him involved out in the countryside. We found him and many others late at night very drunk and I'm told by third hand knowledgeable folks also very stoned. A small group of us was allowed in to take photos and at that time I had a technical camera set-up that would allow extreme close-ups from a pretty good distance without it appearing so. I'd already been to Panama a number of times to work but then I could not get back into the country again. Visas were refused a number of times. I didn't know why.

Go to the person who knows all; my wonderful longtime friend from DN and Central America days, Mexico's COB the wonderful Eloy Aguilar. He knew everyone. He and I crossed paths many times over many stories. I asked him what's up. He found out from folks within the Panama Presidential detail that my name was on a list. It seems a photograph I had taken and had been published had deeply offended the vain President who had horrible acne as a child and was very sensitive about it. His nickname (behind his back) was "La Pena", Spanish for pineapple meaning his acne scars. Eloy privately told me even if I could get another visa into the country, it could or would be a severe beating by his private thugs. I miss my ole friend. R.I.P. Eloy. Here's the photo (above) which was only printed one column in TIME but I found out a full page in a French magazine which is what set Noriega off.

Seymour Topping, AP

Michael Putzel ([Email](#)) - Seymour Topping, a legendary writer and editor for The New York Times who died Sunday at 98, was first hired by the AP to help cover the Chinese civil war between the U.S.-supported Nationalist government and Communist guerrillas in the years after World War II. At a critical moment when Mao Zedong's forces marched toward victory in 1949, he crossed the lines from covering the Nationalist forces to report on the advance of the Communists.

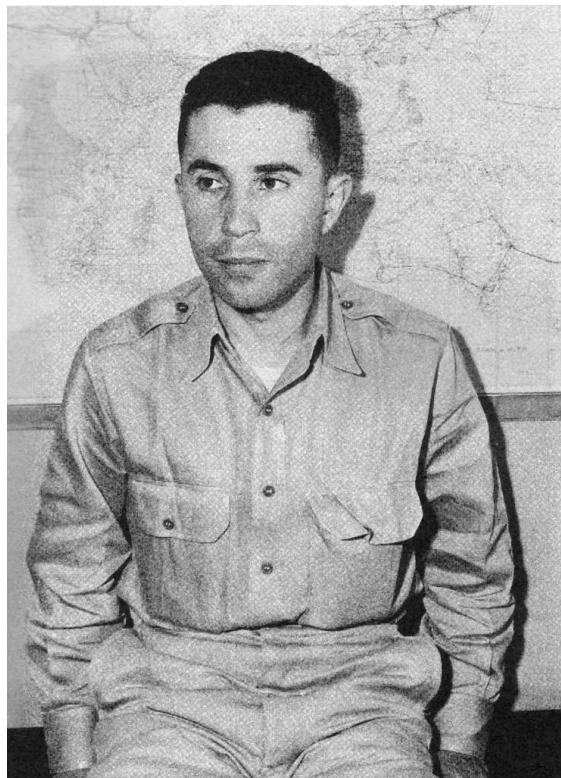
Topping was being held prisoner during the critic battle as he pursued an interview with Mao. The AP's request was refused, and Topping was put on a horse and ordered to leave the Communist-held area. They had been under bombing and artillery attack for days, but as he was about to set out to return to the Nationalist capital in Nanking, the firing fell silent. The Communists had won the decisive battle of the war.

In a remarkable interview conducted for AP archives by Claude Erbsen in 2006, Topping told of his ride back into Nationalist territory and to Nanking, where he filed his stories on the

revolution. As Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek retreated to the island of Taiwan, Topping met Communist troops entering the city and scooped the world on the fall of Nanking.

A few months later, the young AP correspondent was evacuated with diplomats and other foreigners to Hong Kong, where he received a cable from the AP foreign desk in New York directing him to go down to Saigon, Indonesia, to check out reports that “something seems to be going on there.”

“I wasn’t quite sure where Saigon was, but I knew that Saigon was not in Indonesia,” Topping told Erbsen. He generously excused it as a typo but said it was “indicative of the extent to which Saigon and Vietnam and Indochina was remote, outside of the loop of reporting.”



Having just been married to Audrey, the daughter of a Canadian diplomat in China, Topping boarded a plane with his bride and set off for Saigon, where they expected to continue their honeymoon. They checked into the Continental Hotel, still among the most famous hotels in Vietnam to this day, and were unpacking their bags when they heard an enormous explosion outside.

“We looked out of the window, and there was a café opposite, and a cyclo driver—a wheeled rickshaw driver—had obviously thrown a bomb. All the rickshaw drivers were scattering in all directions and the bar was blown up, and there were bodies of French soldiers and sailors lying all over the inside of the bar and on the sidewalk outside, and one staggered out holding his gut while we watched and saw him. And that was our introduction to Vietnam.”

His story was, likewise, an introduction to Vietnam for Americans and newspaper readers around the world. It was February 1950, 15 years before the first American ground troops landed in Vietnam in a protracted but unsuccessful effort to put down the insurrection the roving AP correspondent had witnessed. Topping was 28.

Au revoir



ABOVE: Erzsebet Fuchs Lanussé and John Temple in 2016. Photo by John's wife, Judith Cohn. **AT RIGHT:** Erzsebet in her early 20s.

John Temple ([Email](#)) - On Monday we received word that Erzsebet Fuchs Lanussé had died peacefully in her sleep. At 98, she was the last survivor of the cellar where she and her husband Henri hid with my parents at the end of WWII in Budapest.

They bid each other farewell in 1945 and never saw each other again. But our families reconnected 70 years later, when I found "Bozsi" in Royan, France, with the help of my French friend, Nathalie d'Harcourt. Bozsi and Henri had settled in the beach town near Bordeaux and raised three sons.



We visited her last a year ago, when we drank champagne and ate chicken paprika around her dining table. I wrote about Bozsi in an article published by The Atlantic. Click [here](#). Bozsi and I spoke almost every Sunday since we first met. We talked about politics, family, friends, food and the virus. At the end of every call, she would say: "Je vous embrasse."

(**POSTSCRIPT:** Bozsi wrote a book about her youth and wartime experience titled "Le dernier bateau d'Odessa." It was published in 2006 by Mercure de France and has been translated into German, but not English. The book, written in collaboration with Sylvette Desmeuzes-Balland, includes several chapters recounting her time hiding with my parents.)

Connecting mailbox

What would George Esper say about his nephew being fired?

Robert Reid ([Email](#)) – in reply to this question posed in Connecting on President Trump's firing of Mark Esper, nephew of the famed AP journalist:

"He shouldn't have tried to shut down Stars and Stripes. Karma can be brutal."

And this from **Dennis Conrad** ([Email](#)) – in regard to [this story](#) in the Military Times, headlined: "Exclusive: Esper, on his way out, says he was no yes man."

This reminds me that the first job I had in journalism was selling the Air Force Times door-to-door at the airmen's family quarters and outside the commissary at Hamilton Air Force Base, in Marin County, California, more than 55 years ago. I see the Air Force Times and Military Times are part of the same media company. As I recall, my papers cost a quarter and I got a nickel for each one sold. Maybe I also got some S&H Green stamps for redemption to get various items but maybe I have that confused with the Reader's Digest and TV Guide, which I also sold while in elementary school.

-0-

Enjoyed front pages from Poynter

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - I'm a little late but I really enjoyed Poynter's compilation of election front pages.

Whatever your political leaning one can't help but wonder how long those print pages will continue to exist. It was a joy to see them.

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On the closing of Kansas City Star presses, paper to be printed in Des Moines



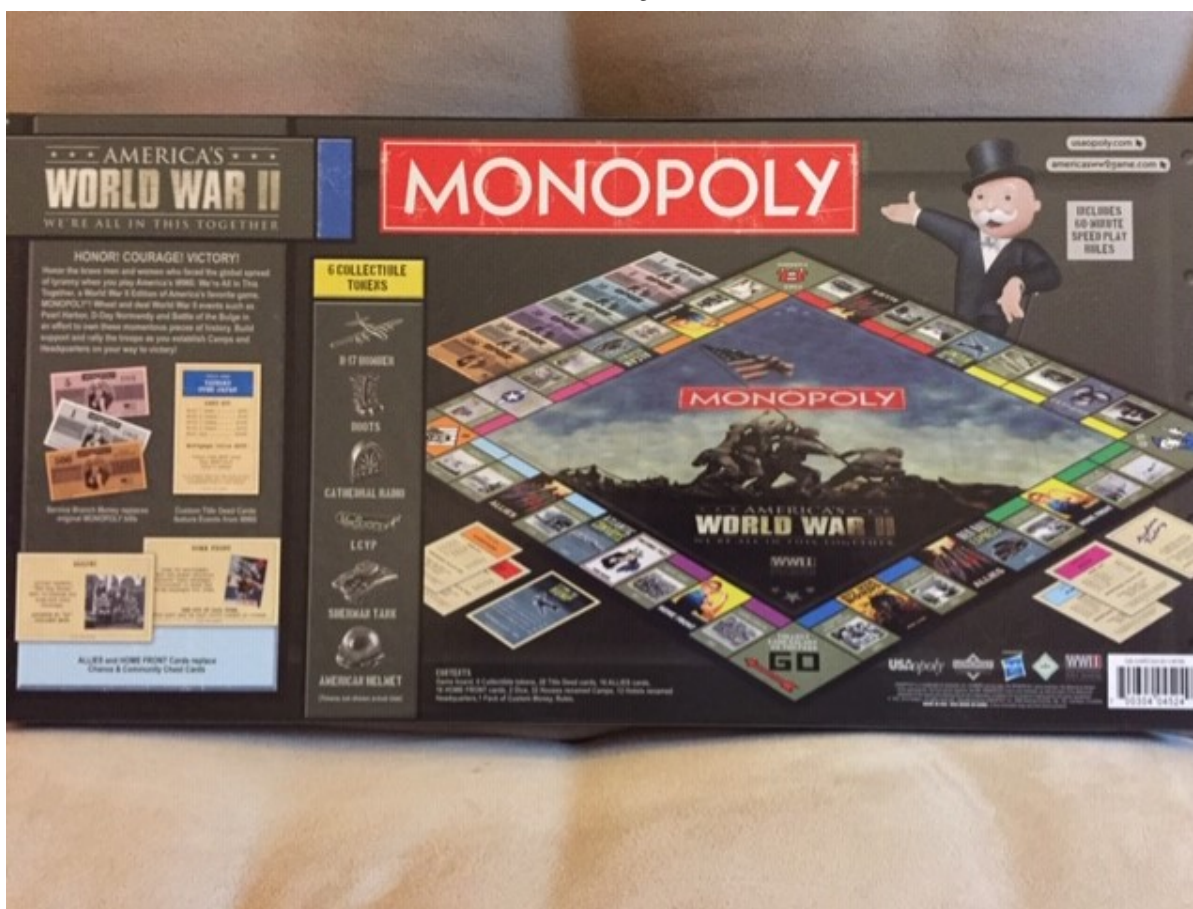
Scott Charton (Email) – Referring to [this story](#) in The Kansas City Star:

I'm sentimental, I know. But these physical edifices were so grand, conveying community influence and impact in the proudest sense. It was really special for AP journalists to work inside and visit these citadels. Now the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's grand Tucker Boulevard headquarters, with Joseph Pulitzer's principles on the wall of the soaring lobby, is being redeveloped for downtown tech office space. The P-D staff, those not working from home, are transplanted about a block away to a nondescript office building that could be an insurance agency. The Columbia Daily Tribune's stylized mid-70's building, with its two-story printing press space converted to an employee basketball court and gym as a perk, has been overhauled by Goodwill as a GED center for adults. The few CDT staff not working from home are in a small, drab storefront on the next block. The Springfield News-Leader building, a sprawling landmark on Boonville Road steps from City Hall, a fine watchdog perch, is up for sale. Sadly, there are scores of similar stories across the country. I know times are changing, but I'm feeling nostalgic. I miss the buildings.

Retired from daily journalism, all I can do is renew my annual online subscriptions to all of these papers and root for their staffs who keep on serving their communities.

-0-

World War II photos and Monopoly



Chris Carola (Email) - Not much into board games, but am looking forward to playing this one, ordered from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Received it a few days ago, opened it on Veterans Day. Nice to see Joe Rosenthal's famous Iwo Jima flag raising photo featured in the middle of the board. There are 22 black-and-white photos used as places on the board (D-Day Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Victory Over Japan, etc.), some of which may also be AP images.

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KHN and Associated Press Investigation of Inadequate U.S. Public Health Infrastructure During the Pandemic Wins Top Journalism Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has awarded KFF's Kaiser Health News and The Associated Press one of its top journalism prizes for a joint investigation that revealed the diminished state of the U.S. public health infrastructure in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AAAS gave the news organizations its Gold Award in science reporting for “Hollowed-Out Public Health System Faces More Cuts Amid Virus,” an investigation that found that the public health workforce in the U.S. is underfunded and under threat, lacking the basic tools to confront the worst pandemic in a century. The novel coronavirus has infected more than 10 million people in the U.S. so far and killed more than 238,000.

The AAAS is the world’s largest multidisciplinary scientific society, which also publishes research in the esteemed journal *Science*. Its Kavli Science Journalism Awards recognize distinguished science reporting for a general audience. The program, open to journalists worldwide, received entries from news organizations in 54 countries this year. Winners will receive their awards in a virtual ceremony held in conjunction with the 2021 AAAS Annual Meeting in February.

KHN and AP journalists interviewed more than 150 public health workers, policymakers and experts, analyzed state and federal financial records, and surveyed statehouses around the country. Their investigation found that governments at every level have failed to provide the public health system with the resources — both human and financial — that are required to protect the nation from pandemics.

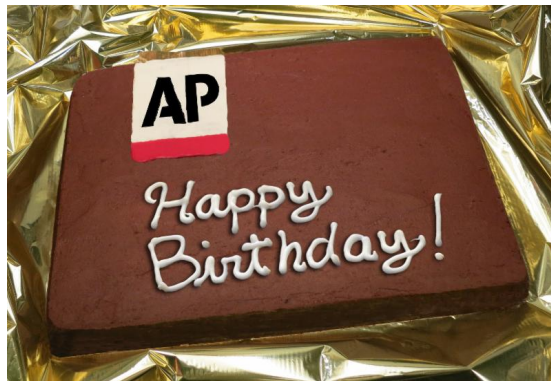
Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

Pondering what lies ahead



Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) -- Cell phone photo taken during my dog walk the other day in Chatham County, N.C.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Roy Bolch – wrbolch@verizon.net

Lee Mitgang - mitgangl@msn.com

Stories of interest

Official: Journalist killed in bomb blast in Afghanistan

(AP)

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A bomb attached to the vehicle of a radio journalist in southern Afghanistan exploded early Thursday, killing him, a provincial official said.

Omer Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in southern Helmand province, said a sticky bomb attached to Elyas Dayee's vehicle killed Dayee and wounded three others, including Dayee's brother, a child and another man.

Sami Mahdi, Radio Azadi bureau chief, tweeted: "My colleague and dear friend, Elyas Dayee, lost his life in a terrorist attack this morning." The attack took place in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

"He was a gentleman. Always had signature smile. This is terrible news. Elyas, you will be remembered dearly," Mahdi said in his tweet.

Read more [here](#).

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New Yorker fires writer Jeffrey Toobin after Zoom incident (AP)

By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) — The New Yorker has fired longtime staff writer Jeffrey Toobin after he reportedly exposed himself during a Zoom conference last month. He had already been on suspension and is also on leave from CNN, where he is chief legal analyst.

“I was fired today by @NewYorker after 27 years as a Staff Writer. I will always love the magazine, will miss my colleagues, and will look forward to reading their work,” Toobin tweeted Wednesday.

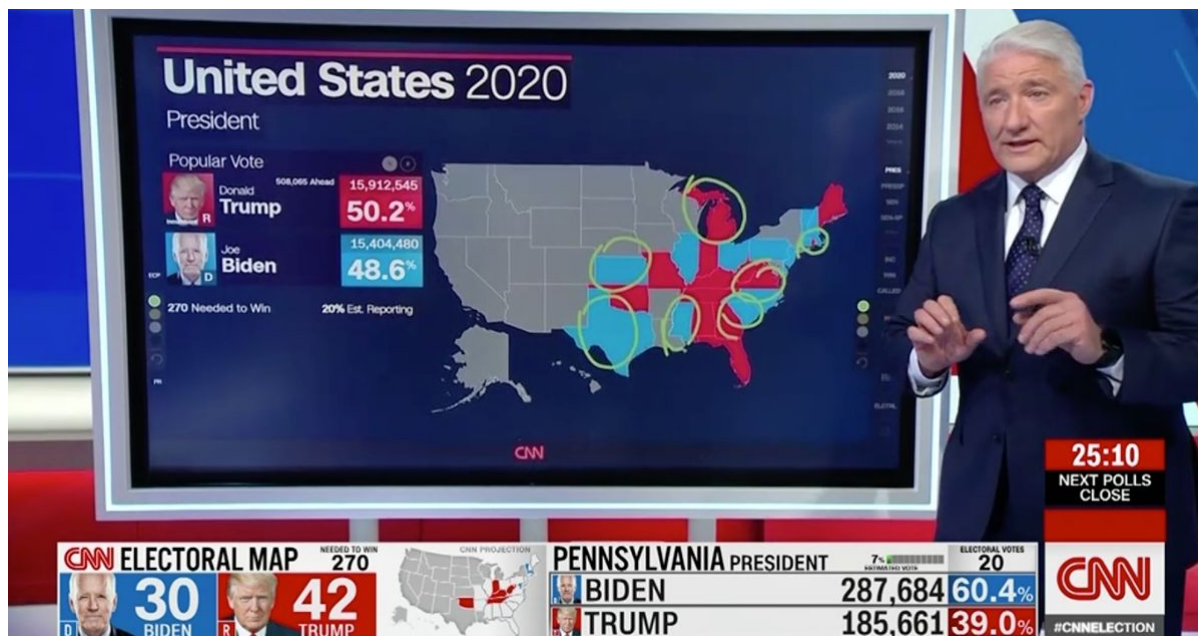
In a company memo, Conde Nast Chief People Officer Stan Duncan wrote that its “investigation regarding Jeffrey Toobin is complete, and as a result, he is no longer affiliated with our company.”

“I want to assure everyone that we take workplace matters seriously. We are committed to fostering an environment where everyone feels respected and upholds our standards of conduct,” Duncan said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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CNN pundit John King planning visit to ancestral home in Connemara (The Irish Post)



By Jack Beresford

IRELAND'S FAVOURITE new CNN anchor John King is planning a trip around his family's ancestral home of Connemara - and there's a well-deserved pint waiting for him Keogh's pub in Ballyconneely.

The Boston-born broadcaster became an overnight sensation in Ireland thanks to his mastery of the CNN "magic wall" interactive election map and his insightful coverage of the unfolding drama of the US election.

King sent Irish social media into meltdown after he responded to Lisa McGee, creator of hit comedy Derry Girls who asked whether he was Irish yet.

"Always," the CNN anchor replied in a tweet before later tweeting out a four-leaf clover emoji.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lou Boccardi.

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Honored in 2008 by Illinois AP Editors *Barry Locher, former SJ-R editor, dies at 65*

By Bernard Schoenburg
The State Journal-Register

Barry Locher, who rose from a photography intern to editor of The State Journal-Register, died Tuesday at his Springfield home after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He

was 65.

He had been in home hospice care, and his wife, Debra, and three adult children – Tad, Bonnie and Joseph – were all there.

Locher worked at the newspaper for 33 years, leaving in 2007 following the sale of the publication from Copley Newspapers to GateHouse Media. It is now owned by Gannett.

“He was a great hands-on kind of guy, a good organizer,” said Pat Coburn, a former publisher of the newspaper who now lives in Chicago.

“He identified good people,” Coburn said of how Locher brought “shining lights” to the newspaper staff, “and then he let them do their job.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

-0-

Why a Trump Loss May Be No Match for Rupert Murdoch's Realpolitik (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

Presidents come and go. Rupert Murdoch remains.

For those who wondered how Mr. Murdoch, the octogenarian media magnate with a conservative streak, would react to the electoral defeat of President Trump, the past few days have brought a complicated answer, well-suited to the mercurial nature of Mr. Murdoch's world.

The New York Post, the Murdoch tabloid that attacked Joseph R. Biden Jr. and his son Hunter before the election, splashed a beaming Mr. Biden on its Sunday cover — “IT'S JOE TIME” — and described Mr. Trump as “downcast” and misguided in his efforts to claim the election was a fraud. The Sun, Mr. Murdoch's outpost in London, reached new heights of Fleet Street ingenuity by comparing the president's defeated visage to a crumple of skin on the actress Famke Janssen's kneecap.

The Wall Street Journal, which had rejected The Post's attack on Hunter Biden, has dismissed Mr. Trump's fraud claims, and its conservative opinion page is nudging the president toward a gracious concession. Fox News — home to “Hannity” and “Fox & Friends,” instigators and nurturers of Mr. Trump's rise — refused to retract an election night projection of a Biden win in Arizona despite intense pressure from Mr. Trump's aides, who reached Mr. Murdoch in England to plead their case.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Sibby Christensen.

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How the road led out of and back into journalism

(Nieman)

By **JULIA SHIPLEY**

It wasn't that long ago that Anne Christnovitch vowed never to take another job in journalism. It was the spring of 2018. She was the managing editor of the Standard-Examiner in Ogden, Utah — a position she'd been recruited for at the tender age of 26.

She'd begun her career as a crime reporter for a small newspaper in South Carolina, an outlet with high staff turnover and frequent furloughs. After two years there, she was offered a job as a digital producer at the Elkhart Truth in Indiana, so packed her ancient Buick Century and moved 900 miles northeast to begin working at a 125-year-old family-owned newspaper. Within two years, Christnovich had risen to the position of assistant manager editor. All good — until the paper was sold to Paxton Media Group, a privately owned newspaper conglomerate with a recent history of making deep cuts to keep papers alive. Anticipating layoffs, Christnovich accepted a job offer from the Standard-Examiner in Ogden, Utah.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Nov. 12, 2020



By **The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Nov. 12, the 317th day of 2020. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 12, 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

On this date:

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1929, Grace Kelly — the future movie star and Princess of Monaco — was born in Philadelphia.

In 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over Japanese forces.)

In 1975, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas retired because of failing health, ending a record 36-year term.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first Black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial (MAW'-ree-al), the winner of a runoff.

In 1982, Yuri V. Andropov (ahn-DROH'-pawf) was elected to succeed the late Leonid I. Brezhnev as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

In 1987, the American Medical Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1990, Japanese Emperor Akihito (ah-kee-hee-toh) formally assumed the Chrysanthemum Throne. Actor Eve Arden died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 82.

In 1994, Olympic track-and-field gold medalist Wilma Rudolph died in Brentwood, Tennessee, at age 54.

In 1996, a Saudi Boeing 747 jetliner collided shortly after takeoff from New Delhi, India, with a Kazak Ilyushin (il-YOO'-shin)-76 cargo plane, killing 349 people.

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 headed to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

In 2009, Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan (nih-DAHL' mah-LEEK' hah-SAHN') was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting

rampage. (Hasan was later convicted and sentenced to death; no execution date has been set.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama arrived in Japan from South Korea to attend a regional economic summit; it was the fourth and final stop on the president's 10-day tour of Asia. The Supreme Court allowed the Pentagon to continue preventing openly gay people from serving in the military while a federal appeals court reviewed the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. (The policy was rescinded in 2011.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Florent Groberg, an Army captain who shoved a suicide bomber to the ground and away from his security detail in Afghanistan. (Four people were killed in the attack; Groberg survived with severe injuries.) Twin suicide bombings killed at least 43 people in a southern Beirut suburb that was a stronghold of the militant Shiite Hezbollah group; Islamic State claimed responsibility.

One year ago: The Supreme Court said a survivor of the Newtown, Connecticut school shooting and relatives of the victims could pursue their lawsuit against Remington Arms, the maker of the rifle that was used to kill 26 people. Disney's new streaming service Disney Plus made its launch and suffered some technical difficulties in the early hours; Disney said consumer demand exceeded expectations. Venice saw its worst flooding in more than 50 years, with the water reaching 6.14 feet above average sea level; damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Former President Jimmy Carter underwent surgery in Atlanta to relieve pressure on his brain from bleeding that was linked to recent falls.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Brian Hyland is 77. Actor-playwright Wallace Shawn is 77. Rock musician Booker T. Jones (Booker T. & the MGs) is 76. Sportscaster Al Michaels is 76. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 75. Rock musician Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser (Blue Oyster Cult) is 73. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is 71. Country/gospel singer Barbara Fairchild is 70. Actor Megan Mullally is 62. Actor Vincent Irizarry is 61. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comaneci (koh-muh-NEECH') is 59. Rock musician David Ellefson is 56. Retired MLB All-Star Sammy Sosa is 52. Figure skater Tonya Harding is 50. Actor Rebecca Wisocky is 49. Actor Radha Mitchell is 47. Actor Lourdes Benedicto is 46. Actor Tamala Jones is 46. Actor Angela Watson is 46. Singer Tevin Campbell is 44. Actor Ashley Williams is 42. Actor Cote de Pablo is 41. Actor Ryan Gosling is 40. Contemporary Christian musician Chris Huffman is 40. Actor Anne Hathaway is 38. Pop singer Omarion is 36. NBA All-Star Russell Westbrook is 32. Folk-rock musician Griffin Goldsmith (Dawes) is 30. Actor Macey Cruthird is 28.

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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