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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Oct. 20, 2021,

Here's some good news to start your day:

Our colleague **Meg Kinnard** ([Email](#)), AP political writer based in Columbia, S.C., who was diagnosed with breast cancer in February, is back home in South Carolina after living in Houston since Aug. 10 for surgery and radiation at MD Anderson Cancer Center - all while still writing for the AP.

She **tweeted** this Tuesday:

“When I was first diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer earlier this year, I said that I had every intention of rolling into 2022 cancer-free. This morning, I found out that I beat my goal by a couple of months. NO EVIDENCE OF DISEASE. That's it. That's the tweet.”

She added: “Thank you, everyone, for the kindness and encouragement you've shown over this past year. Although my type of cancer has a high recurrence rate, thanks to the clinical trial I'm in at @MDAndersonNews, I'll be able to have scans every 3 months, so I can stay on top of it.” (Shared by Myron Belkind)

On a sad note, CNN anchor and Chief National Correspondent **John King** told viewers on Tuesday that he has multiple sclerosis and is immunocompromised. Before joining CNN in 1997, King worked for the AP for 12 years. He was named chief political correspondent in 1991 and played a key role in AP's political coverage of the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections.

We wish him well.



AUTHORS ALERT! WRITTEN A BOOK IN THE PAST YEAR?

If you have written a book in the past year, Connecting would like to feature it in our annual listing of books authored by Connecting colleagues. The book issue will appear in a couple weeks – so this is an invitation to send me the following: Name of book, jpg image of the cover and your headshot, and 300 words on the book including where it can be purchased. Also, if you have a book in the works for near-future publication, include it. Send along the information soon.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Scoop: James and Kathryn Murdoch's next media investment (The AP!)



Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images

By Sara Fischer
Axios

James and Kathryn Murdoch are nearing a deal to make a multi-million dollar investment to support the formation of a new climate reporting hub at the Associated Press, two sources familiar with the deal tell Axios.

Why it matters: The duo has increased their investments in media projects in the past few years via their non-profit organization called Quadrivium Foundation.

The foundation was launched in 2014 to fund groups focused on the advancement of "democracy," "technology and society," "scientific understanding," "climate change" and "ocean health."

James Murdoch is the former CEO of 21st Century Fox and the youngest son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch. He resigned from the board of News Corp. last year, citing disagreements with the editorial content published by the company, which is home to The Wall Street Journal and other publications.

Details: The new hub will employ roughly 20 journalists, and will be backed by multiple donors, sources tell Axios.

It will support the AP's existing climate reporting efforts. The outlet is already working with several foundations, including the Rockefeller Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and Walton Family Foundation, to fund climate and environment coverage.

As a part of its standards protocol, the AP says it always maintains editorial independence when working with such partners.

The big picture: Kathryn and James Murdoch have increased their investments in media companies in recent years via Quadrivium Foundation. The donation to the AP will likely be one of their more sizable media investments to-date.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

CNN's John King discloses he is immunocompromised



CNN's John King. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business

New York (CNN Business) - CNN anchor and Chief National Correspondent John King told viewers on Tuesday that he has multiple sclerosis and is immunocompromised.

"I'm going to share a secret I've never shared before," King said. "I have multiple sclerosis. So I'm grateful you're all vaccinated."

The disclosure came on King's program, "Inside Politics," during a discussion about how General Colin Powell, who died of coronavirus complications, was more vulnerable to the virus because he also had multiple myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells that suppresses the body's immune response.

King pointed out that people should get vaccinated not only to protect themselves, but also to protect those who are immunocompromised. People with certain medical

conditions are still more susceptible than others to catching Covid-19 even after being vaccinated because they are less likely to mount an immune response, or may have a harder time fighting the infection.

Read more [here](#).

Powell's 'lasting impression'



Charles Hanley (Email) -- I never met Colin Powell, but the one time I “covered” him he certainly made a lasting impression. It was from 6,000 miles away, on the evening of February 5, 2003, as I sat in a stifling hot conference room in Baghdad, with Iraqi officials and others, and watched on CNN as Powell delivered his “indictment” of Iraq at the U.N. in New York.

Those of us who understood this WMD stuff knew, point by point, it was claptrap. Didn't matter. I'd written a set-up the day before debunking likely Powell talking points. That piece was spiked, without consultation. Instead the wire carried a piece extolling the historical brilliance of U.S. intelligence work. (Earlier off-script pieces of mine also had been spiked. We didn't cover ourselves in glory in those days.)

After Powell's speech, E&P found prowar sentiment doubled overnight among U.S. editorial writers. The bombs fell six weeks later. That Baghdad building was turned into an ash-filled shell, as was much of Iraq. “An entire country was destroyed because of weapons that didn't exist!” an Iraqi scientist cried to me. Six months later I made it onto the wire with a lookback demolishing the Powell speech chapter and verse. The

State Dept. claimed he still stood by it. But the old general, by all accounts a decent, honest man, did eventually renounce the claptrap, which is more than most of the rest of 'em have done.

RIP, a good soldier who proved too good a soldier on one infamous day.

Colin Powell Visits the BNC

Brad Kalbfeld (Email) - In the mid 90's, when Colin Powell was seen as a potential presidential candidate, he visited the Broadcast News Center at 1825 K Street for an interview. Thelma LeBrecht, who covered national security for AP Radio and the Broadcast Wire, arranged Powell's visit and I was lucky enough to give him a tour.



He watched as I described the work world editor Russ Clarkson (foreground) and national editor Phil Soucheray (right) were doing to run the national broadcast wire. APTV video journalist Bill Gorman shot video of Powell's visit. LeBrecht is at left, and Powell's chief of staff, Col., Bill Smullen, is behind Gorman.



While touring GraphicsBank, Powell shared a joke with Assistant Managing Editor Ed Tobias, LeBrecht, GraphicsBank artist Chris Desautels, and me.



Broadcast business reporter Ken Giglio and general assignment reporter Dick Uliano spoke with Powell at the BNC Business desk.



This image of Powell during his BNC interview was on display in the BNC for more than a decade, until we and the Washington bureau moved to our shared DC facility on

13th Street in 2007.

My recollection is that we did two consecutive interviews, one for radio (with its domestic audience) and one for television (with its broad international audience). My apologies to the Washington photographer who made these images: I want to thank you for such great pictures, but for the life of me I can't remember who you were!

Proud moment at Oxford for Dr. Mittelstadt and his research partner

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Youngest son Dr. Brent Mittelstadt, a senior research fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford, and his friend and research partner Dr. Sandra Wachter, associate professor and senior research fellow, received Highly Commended recognition Tuesday in the university's Excellence In Impact Awards.



The award was presented by Oxford professor Roger Goodman: "This is for their very specific international impact on law, policy and business practice around the ethical use of artificial intelligence. New technologies shape and are shaped by society and in choosing how to govern emergent technology such as AI, beneficial developments should be encouraged whilst not losing sight of the essential rights and values upon which democratic societies are built.

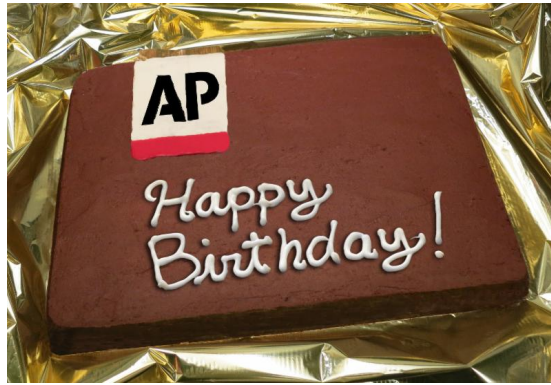
"Professors Wachter and Mittelstadt's work on algorithmic transparency, accountability and fairness in artificial intelligence has helped identify and close loopholes in data protection law, non-discrimination law and the forthcoming Artificial Intelligence Act. They developed practical tools to make AI human-understandable and less biased, and to help businesses regulate a civil society as the judiciary to respond to both the policy and the public pressure for greater algorithmic transparency and accountability.

"Google and Amazon are among the companies who have adopted the team's work on counter-factual explanations, on bias preservation and on conditional demographic disparity, with implications for millions of people around the world. The judges recognized how Professor Wachter and Dr. Mittelstadt have worked across disciplinary boundaries to fundamentally shape law, policy and business best practices in the UK, in Europe and globally.

"Many congratulations."

Click [here](#) for a video link.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bob Nordyke - bobpress@aol.com

Stories of interest

"Please Don't Forget Us"

By MORT ROSENBLUM ([Email](#))

BAYEUX, France — The Prix Bayeux jury was somewhere between Afghanistan and Gaza, deliberating over war coverage as we do each year, when my phone buzzed news as crucial to the world's fate as those noisier battles on Normandy beaches up the road a lifetime ago.

With tepid understatement, the Nobel Peace Prize committee cited "increasingly adverse conditions" for newsgathering, as it singled out Maria Ressa, the fearless Filipina who runs Rappler, and Dmitry Muratov, the Russian editor who has buried seven reporters since 2000.

A growing penchant to silence journalists has finally made headlines. In separate responses, both laureates made the same point: If trusted, truthful reporters cannot hold autocrats to account, we are all toast. And we are fast running out of time to react.

Those endless rows of graves near here, dug during my lifespan, make clear what havoc a self-obsessed megalomaniac can wreak. That war killed millions. If we get climate collapse, peaceful coexistence and runaway pandemics wrong, the likely toll defies imagination.

Over a photo of his newsroom, Muratov wrote: "The whole Novaya Gazeta and everyone who worked and works there. Alive and dead. This is their prize." He started the paper in 1993, helped by Mikhail Gorbachev. His bloodhounds still pursue the culprit who ordered the 2006 poisoning of Anna Polikovskaya, whose Chechnya reporting infuriated Vladimir Putin.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman.

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The news industry needs to do more to make women feel supported, believed and safe (Poynter)

By: Hannah Storm

It's been almost 10 years since the publication of "No Woman's Land: On the Frontlines with Female Reporters," the first book dedicated to the safety of women journalists and one that has become a touchstone for conversations and advice about this subject.

Almost a decade after I co-edited this book, our female colleagues still face significant harassment in their work — be that in the field, in newsrooms and online.

In recent months, I've heard of and from many female colleagues who have experienced gendered harassment in relation to their journalism, and witnessed the toll it is taking on their mental health.

Many say they have suffered at the hands of more senior colleagues, often in newsrooms, abuses of power in an industry long dominated by men, and often certain men: white, straight and university-educated.

Others are being attacked online, where virtual violence directed at women is frequently sexualized and where threats of rape are a regular occurrence, too often passed off as just another part of a journalist's job description, too seldom taken seriously because they are not real-life threats.

Read more [here](#).

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Fox News' Cavuto tests positive for COVID-19, urges vaccines (AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fox News Channel anchor Neil Cavuto tested positive for COVID-19, which he said was surprising but made him grateful that he was vaccinated.

Cavuto, who learned of the test results after Monday's episode of "Your World with Neil Cavuto," wasn't on the air Tuesday.

"While I'm somewhat stunned by this news, doctors tell me I'm lucky as well. Had I not been vaccinated, and with all my medical issues, this would be a far more dire situation," Cavuto said in a statement released by Fox News.

"It's not, because I did and I'm surviving this because I did. I hope anyone and everyone gets that message loud and clear. Get vaccinated, for yourself and everyone around you," the journalist said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Washington Post expands roles of 3 top editors in first major changes under new executive editor

(Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

The Washington Post will promote two veteran editors to new senior roles and will expand the responsibilities of a third top editor as part of a realignment of the newsroom's management, executive editor Sally Buzbee said Tuesday.

The appointments are the first major management changes under Buzbee, who took over leadership of The Post at the end of May after the retirement earlier this year of her predecessor, Martin Baron.

The changes involve editors whose names appear immediately under Buzbee's in The Post's published management chart, known as its masthead.

Buzbee has elevated Cameron Barr, currently managing editor for news and features, to a new position, senior managing editor, effectively making him the second-in-command in the newsroom's hierarchy. Barr, who joined The Post in 2004 and became a managing editor in 2015, will have overall responsibility for The Post's daily online and print editions, reporting directly to Buzbee.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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McCain book shares why she left 'toxic' times at 'The View' (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Meghan McCain says she decided to leave "The View" following her second day back from maternity leave in January when frequent foil Joy Behar said "I did not miss you" during a political argument.

McCain, who left this summer after four years as the daytime talk show's conservative voice, told that and other backstage stories in a new book, "Bad Republican," and a subsequent interview with Variety.

McCain had announced on July 1 that she was leaving "The View" because she did not want to be uprooted from her Washington life with her husband, commentator Ben Domenech, and daughter Liberty when the show returned to its New York studio.

She was more forthcoming in her book.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Wokeness and the English Language (Commentary.org)

By Michael Lewis

Language, the soul and tool of politics, is only rarely the subject of politics. But in the past few years, and with baffling speed, language has moved to the center of public life. The political conversation today churns with terms unfamiliar a few years ago: Latinx and BIPOC, cisgender and heteronormative, deadnaming and preferred pronouns. Some of these neologisms were made necessary by changing social realities. Others were created precisely to change those realities. For example, there was no need for Harvard School of Medicine to coin the phrase “birthing people” as a substitute for “mothers,” other than to topple the notion that only women can give birth.

Such terms emerge from the world of identity politics, the militant branch of the contemporary American left. And it is only natural that a movement that thinks in terms of racial and sexual identity would fixate on the words that define identity, to seek to control it. There are words that you may never say and there are words that you must always say, and a single misstep can bring serious, even career-ending consequences.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.



Celebrating AP's 175th

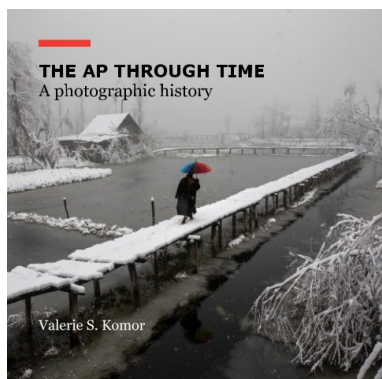
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [Here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History" - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

Today in History - Oct. 20, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 20, the 293rd day of 2021. There are 72 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 20, 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee opened hearings into alleged Communist influence and infiltration in the U.S. motion picture industry.

On this date:

In 1714, the coronation of Britain's King George I took place in Westminster Abbey.

In 1803, the U.S. Senate ratified the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1936, Helen Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, died in Forest Hills, N.Y., at age 70.

In 1967, a jury in Meridian, Mississippi, convicted seven men of violating the civil rights of slain civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner; the seven received prison terms ranging from 3 to 10 years.

In 1968, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

In 1973, in the so-called "Saturday Night Massacre," special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox was dismissed and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William B. Ruckelshaus resigned.

In 1976, 78 people were killed when the Norwegian tanker Frosta rammed the commuter ferry George Prince on the Mississippi River near New Orleans.

In 1977, three members of the rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd, including lead singer Ronnie Van Zant, were killed along with three others in the crash of a chartered plane near McComb, Mississippi.

In 1987, 10 people were killed when an Air Force jet crashed into a Ramada Inn hotel near Indianapolis International Airport after the pilot, who was trying to make an

emergency landing, ejected safely.

In 1990, three members of the rap group 2 Live Crew were acquitted by a jury in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., of violating obscenity laws with an adults-only concert in nearby Hollywood the previous June.

In 1994, actor Burt Lancaster died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 2018, Saudi Arabia announced that U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee) had been killed in Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul; there was immediate international skepticism over the Saudi account that Khashoggi had died during a "fistfight." (A U.S. intelligence report later concluded that Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman had likely approved Khashoggi's killing by a team of Saudi security and intelligence officials.)

Ten years ago: Moammar Gadhafi, 69, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was killed as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte (SURT) and captured the last major bastion of resistance two months after his regime fell.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama defended his health care program, long a target of Republicans and recently criticized by some Democrats, saying millions of Americans "now know the financial security of health insurance" because of the Affordable Care Act. The Los Angeles Sparks defeated the defending champion Minnesota Lynx for their first title in 14 years in Game 5 of the WNBA Finals.

One year ago: Two weeks before Election Day, President Donald Trump called on Attorney General William Barr to immediately launch an investigation into unverified claims about Democrat Joe Biden and his son Hunter, effectively demanding that the Justice Department abandon its historic resistance to getting involved in elections. More than 75,000 people in Wisconsin cast ballots on the first day of early in-person voting in the presidential battleground state. (More than 1 million Wisconsin voters had already returned ballots by mail.) The Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 8-3 in the opening game of a World Series played before just 11,388 fans at a neutral site in Arlington, Texas because of the coronavirus pandemic. James Randi, a magician who later challenged spoon benders, mind readers and faith healers with such voracity that he became regarded as the country's foremost skeptic, died at 92.

Today's Birthdays: Japan's Empress Michiko is 87. Rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson is 84. Former actor Rev. Mother Dolores Hart is 83. Actor William "Rusty" Russ is 71. Actor Melanie Mayron is 69. Retired MLB All-Star Keith Hernandez is 68. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., is 66. Movie director Danny Boyle is 65. Former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis is 64. Actor Viggo Mortensen is 63. Vice President Kamala Harris is 57. Rock musician Jim Sonefeld (Hootie & The Blowfish) is 57. Rock musician Doug Eldridge (Oleander) is 54. Journalist Sunny Hostin (TV: "The View") is 53. Political commentator and blogger Michelle Malkin is 51. Actor Kenneth Choi is 50. Rapper Snoop Dogg is 50. Singer Dannii Minogue is 50. Singer Jimi Westbrook (country group Little Big Town) is 50. Country musician Jeff Loberg is 45. Actor/comedian Dan Fogler is 45. Rock musician Jon Natchez (The War on Drugs) is 45. Actor Sam Witwer is 44. Actor John Krasinski is 42. Rock musician Daniel Tichenor (Cage the Elephant) is 42. Actor Katie Featherston is 39. Actor Jennifer Nicole Freeman is 36.

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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