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Connecting Nov. 10, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Nov. 10, 2022,

The 2022 midterm election day has passed – but in many cases, the beat goes on – and it is with appreciation of the task confronting AP journalists involved in bringing the world an accurate picture of what happened and why.

We lead today's issue with a few election day stories relating to the media.

The recent death of **Janet Leissner**, who joined the AP Washington bureau after a great career with CBS News, sparked this memory from the AP bureau chief who hired her:

<u>Ron Fournier</u> - Steve Komarow and I hired Janet Leissner into the WDC bureau in hopes of finding a partner in leadership who brought new skills and experiences to the table. She delivered on those two scores and more: She was an immensely decent and kind person who cared deeply about AP's history and values. Since his passing, Steve has been alive in the memories of so many friends at AP and throughout journalism. We all miss him dearly. And now Janet ... May their memories be a blessing.

LAST CALL TO VETERANS: Veterans Day 2022 will be celebrated tomorrow and Connecting plans to honor in that day's edition all our colleagues who are military veterans (this includes all colleagues, not just those who worked with AP). Today, please send me an email with your branch of service, your years of service and locations of service.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Media narrative of US election: Bad news for Trump, GOP



Supporters of Republican gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin watch as media outlets begin to call the race for Democratic incumbent Kathy Hochul at Zeldin's election night party, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans awoke Wednesday to Election Day outcomes that remained nearly as murky as the night before: "House, Senate control still hangs in the balance," a CNN caption blared.

Yet if the results of midterm elections hadn't solidified, the media narrative clearly had. Good night for Democrats. Bad night for Republicans. Bad night, especially, for Donald Trump.

This quick analysis took shape despite the very real possibility that Republicans would wind up wresting control of one or both houses of Congress from the Democrats. From the coverage's perspective, Republicans had failed to meet expectations.

"Republicans wildly underperformed, and heads should roll," conservative commentator Ben Shapiro tweeted.

The Washington Post's website headlined, "Congress Hangs in the Balance as Democrats Defy Expectations."

The New York Times headlined, "Control of Congress Hinges on Closely Fought Races." Yet further headlines on the newspaper's site said there were no signs of a red wave that Republicans expected, and the lead analysis story was about why an expected GOP rout fell short.

Read more here.



The Media's Big Miss

CNN Reliable Sources with Oliver Darcy

The White House believes that the press has "egg on their faces, yet again."

That's according to a White House official who spoke candidly with me on Wednesday about the media's "red wave" narrative that wasn't.

Heading into Tuesday, the dominant narrative in the press — especially right- wing media — was that Republicans were on track to have a big, if not monster, night. Focusing largely on the fragile state of the economy, coupled with the fact that the incumbent party historically doesn't perform well in such elections, the press had all but declared that Democrats would get trounced from coast-to-coast.

But, as election results came in Tuesday night the great wave turned into a mere ripple. Pundits such as Ben Shapiro noted the view had gone "from red wave to red wedding." Even on Fox News, the right-wing cable network that had heavily hyped the red wave presumption to its audience, pundits acknowledged the reality. Marc Thiessen, a former speechwriter for President George W. Bush, called it an "absolute disaster" for the GOP.

So what happened?

Read more here.

Opinion: Biggest loser of the midterm elections? The media.

By Dana Milbank The Washington Post

We don't yet know precisely who won the 2022 midterms, but we certainly know who lost.

I'm sorry to say that my colleagues in the political press blew it.

The headlines coming into Tuesday's elections almost uniformly predicted a Democratic wipeout. Here's just a small sampling:

The bottom is dropping out of the 2022 election for Democrats

Democrats, on Defense in Blue States, Brace for a Red Wave in the House

Red tsunami watch

The Republican wave is building fast

Democrats fear midterm drubbing as party leaders rush to defend blue seats

Why the midterms are going to be great for Donald Trump

Breaking down the GOP's midterm momentum

Democrats confront their nightmare scenario on election eve as economic concerns overshadow abortion and democracy worries

I pulled those from The Post, the New York Times, CNN, Axios and Politico — but the rest of the news media called it much the same.

Read more here. Shared by Len Iwanski, Dennis Conrad.

The 2022 midterms, as told by newspaper front pages



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VOL. 96, NO. 100, 11/9/22 FINAL .

PIVOTAL PA. MIDTERM

SHAPIRO ROLLS TO VICI **GOVERNOR: DEMOCRAT CRUISES U.S. SENATE: FETTERMAN**

TO EASY WIN OVER MASTRIANO

DECLARES HE IS THE WINNER



Attorney General Josh Shapiro declares victory at an election night event, Tuesday in Oaks, Pa. Mr. Shapiro will succeed term-limited Gov. Tom Wolf in January, Austin Davis, of McKeesport, will be lieutenant governor.

By Kris B. Mamula

By Kns B. Mamula Puttourgn Post Gartele Matter and State State Matter and State Stat

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EXPANDED COVERAGE

donse. You must this measurest." Mr. Shapiro, the polished, 49 year-old programitis: from Monigomory County to an apparent win, despite Mr. Mastri-mory gald-plated resource. Mr. Mastri-ano, 58, is a retired Army combat cold-vanced dargeness and is a former profes-vanced dargeness and is a former profe-cardiale. A state senator from Franklin County, Mr. Mastriano bull: an uncon-vegular firs-side chats on Praebook to reach supportures, most of whom shared his views and support for former Presi-dent Donald Trump, while shuming

SEE GOV, PAGE A-4

Control of Congress hangs in the balance with key races still to be decided

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Both parties were notching victories in some of the most competitive races in Tuesday's miditerm elections, with several Demo-cratic incumbents winning key subarban House districts and Republicans holding an opun Senate seut in Ohio. Many of the races that could deter-mine control of Congress remained too early to call.

mine control of Congress remained too earry to call. In Virginia, Rep. Elabare Loria, a Nawy veteram who serves on the House committee investiga-ing the Jan. 6 insurrection, was the first Demo-ratic incumbent to lose a highly competitive House district, falling to former Navy helicopter Joko Jen Kigguns. But Democratic Reps. Abigul Samberger and Jennifer Wexton hield off spirited Republicant challengers in districts the GOP had hoped to flip.



John Fetterman greets supporters gathered outside of New Hope Baptist Church in Brad-dock, as he arrives to vote on Tuesday.



Mehmet Oz stands on stage with his wife Lisa as he speaks at an election night raily Tuesday in Newtown, Pa.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Mr. Oz, however, had not thrown in the towel. "When all the ballets are counted, we be-liere we will win this race," Mr. Oz said earlier in the right: at his election night pury in Bucks County, outside Philadelphia. "We've been closing the good all night. We have a lot in the right: at his election night pury in Bucks County, outside Philadelphia. "We've county, Mr. Fettermann was absed by 9 per-centage points as of 1 a.m., with an estimated \$5% of voce-having been counted there. Outside a polling place in Sequired Hill, wot was for Mr. Netterman to the Are the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, Mr. Fetterman

SEE SENATE, PAGE A-4

HISTORIC WIN FOR LEE

SEE RACES PAGE A-6

Courtey of Summer Les acmpaign Freeboote Denocrat Summer Les gives a speech after Republican Mike Doyle conceded the race in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District on Tuesday, Ms. Les is poised to become the first Black woman to represent the state in the LS. House, Story, Rag A-S





By: Annie Aguia Poynter.org

For big events, there's just nothing like print. Even as newspapers cut their print operations and embrace e-editions as a transitional measure, there's just something that feels historic about putting a story on the front page, fretting over the headline and photo choice until it properly encapsulates a moment in time (or, at least, until there's no more time left to fuss before deadline).

For the 2022 midterms, with high-profile races in a smattering of states and long vote counting times leaving some races still up in the air, that meant there were a lot of headlines to write Tuesday night that could still stand by Wednesday morning. Strategies vary from photo-heavy features on residents going to the polls, to asupdated-as-humanly-possible returns for the public record.

Here's a collection of newspaper front pages in states with much-watched races, via Freedom Forum.

Read more here.

More on retirement activities

Henry Bradsher - Well, Arnold Zeitlin has inspired me to follow up on my piece the other day -- if you have room the day after likely notes on election coverage.

Arnold Zeitlin's citation on aging from Alfred, Lord Tennyson, somehow repeated my own earlier Connecting piece on retirement activities. One suggested activity was explaining to adult education groups how journalism works and relating things learned and experienced while working. Yet another is collecting new information and presenting it.

To give examples of what new I've found both interesting and educational for me to research, as well as to the 60 and more people who sign up for my courses, I've taught on such things as the Middle Ages and on "A Century of Change" from the late 19th century until now.

This autumn's course was "Colonialism: from Caesar's Rome to Putin's Russia" that ended with the Ukraine war. Now I'm putting together – the graphics expected by this television generation are much of the work – a course for the spring on "China: from the Yellow Emperor of Legend to Today's Emperor of Communism".

No doubt Connecting readers who're retired have lots of good ideas for useful and interesting topics that will draw appreciative audiences.

A smile at the finish



<u>Marty Thompson</u> - The big smile from Sean Thompson of AP Images came as he held up his medal earned for finishing the New York Marathon Sunday. He also brought proud smiles to his parents, AP retiree Marty Thompson and wife, Janet. Sean's time was 4 hours, 24 minutes and 27 seconds. It wasn't Sean's first marathon this season; he finished the Chicago Marathon last month.

New Car Fever



<u>Jim Bagby</u> - I thought the car of my dreams would arrive one sooner. But we were overcome by a case of New Car Fever, which was valuable for the lesson it taught.

Let me backtrack to our first new car. When Joann and I got married in 1964, I had a '57 Chevy. Nah, not a classic -- just a plain, used, two-door model for which I paid a hard-earned \$750. We made do with that for a year while we panted for a New Car. She squealed (we were young) every time she saw a T-Bird convertible, as the new Ford sportster flashed into the market. But I came from a GM family and visions of a Chevy Malibu, uh, peeled out in my head.

I'd just moved to work for a great southwest Oklahoma newspaper, the Lawton Constitution-Morning Press. I still miss the noise and the smell of the hot-type back shop, and covering 6 or 7 football games a week (junior high, high school, junior college and OU). But I digress. At a princely \$85 a week and Joann's Civil Service salary, NCF was gaining a foothold.

Our first mistake came during a trip to an area Chevrolet dealer. I played it cool with the "just looking" approach, but somehow mentioned we did not see a red, two-door hardtop Malibu 327 -- with bucket seats – in the showroom. And the second mistake was we left our phone number. You may not believe this, but the Very Next Day a fellow named Reginald called us. He had found our dream car!

He described it, I seemed to recall, in delighted detail, but somehow NCF kept me from thinking like a reporter and writing down the details. He did say he could have it for us in two days. "Oh, and by the way, it's not a two-door, it's a four – but much more practical for a couple thinking of the future!"

We talked about into the night and said ohwhattheheck, we're pretty tired of a twodoor. So I called back next morning and said "WE'LL TAKE IT!" Probably that

loud. And our friend Reg was as happy as we were – happier! Then through our NCF mist we heard a "but" – "It's not a 327 engine, It's a 283." What?!? Not a muscle car? Oh, well.

We could be there the next day to get it. Our first new car! We were there almost before the doors opened, and good old Reg was waiting. "Oh, you're gonna' love it! I did tell you it's blue, didn't I?" By now we likely would have taken it if it were orange. We couldn't stop grinning as we floated through the paperwork. We were halfway home before we realized we were sitting on bench seats.

SO, someone in my office later told me about his GM dealer at Walters, a little town about 20 minutes south of Lawton. We drove down there the following year, were greeted by the owner and his only salesman. I said we wanted a RED two-door Pontiac LeMans with a red leather interior and a white vinyl roof – plus bucket seats, a clock and a number of other niceties.

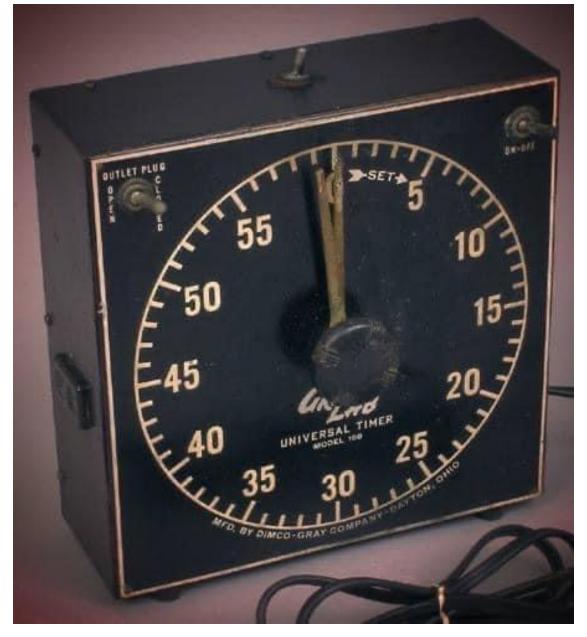
The response was: we'll have to order that and it will cost you more, but it will be exactly the way you want it. But we'll always take care of it for you. It was, they did and we bought two more cars from them before moving to Kansas City in 1971. That LeMans was the prettiest car we ever owned.

Blood Moon



Mark Duncan - Here's a snap of the Blood Moon early election day morning.

Once a staple of the darkroom



Ed Williams - Newspaper folks my age will know what this is...

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Eva Parziale

Welcome to Connecting



Chris Evans

Murray Evans

Dennis Kois

Caryn Rousseau

Mark Terrill

Stories of interest

Maribel Perez Wadsworth is leaving Gannett (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Maribel Perez Wadsworth, president of Gannett Media and publisher of USA Today, will be leaving the company at the end of the year,

Her departure was announced in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing Wednesday and later in a town hall she conducted for the staff of USA Today and Gannett's 200-plus regional papers.

She will be succeeded on an interim basis by Henry Faure Walker, CEO of Gannett's United Kingdom subsidiary Newsquest, according to a source who listened to the virtual town hall.

Faure Walker will continue to run the UK papers, chief communications officer Lark-Marie Anton told me. The SEC filing said, "The Company will leverage the depth and breadth of its talented executives to manage the Gannett Media organization during this transition," but did not indicate whether Perez Wadsworth's job will ultimately be filled."

Read more here.

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Meta Lays Off More Than 11,000 Employees (New York Times)

By Sheera Frenkel, Adam Satariano and Ryan Mac

Since Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook in 2004, the Silicon Valley company has steadily hired more employees. At the end of September, it had amassed its largest-ever number of workers, totaling 87,314 people.

But on Wednesday, the company — now renamed Meta — began cutting jobs, and deeply.

Meta said it was laying off more than 11,000 people, or about 13 percent of its work force, in what amounted to the company's most significant job cuts. The layoffs were made across departments and regions, with areas like recruiting and business teams affected more than others. The divisions that were not cut as steeply included engineers working on projects related to the metaverse, the immersive online world that Mr. Zuckerberg has bet big on, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

"I want to take accountability for these decisions and for how we got here," Mr. Zuckerberg, 38, wrote in a letter to employees. "I know this is tough for everyone, and I'm especially sorry to those impacted."

Read more here.



Today in History – Nov. 10, 2022

Today is Thursday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2022. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 10, 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

On this date:

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis.

In 1928, Hirohito (hee-roh-hee-toh) was enthroned as Emperor of Japan.

In 1944, during World War II, the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood (AE-11) exploded while moored at the Manus Naval Base in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific, leaving 45 confirmed dead and 327 missing and presumed dead.

In 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991).

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication. Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

In 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a former finance minister of Liberia, claimed victory in the country's presidential election.

In 2009, John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of the 2002 sniper attacks that killed 10 in the Washington, D.C. region, was executed. President Barack Obama visited Fort Hood, Texas, where he somberly saluted the 13 Americans killed in a shooting rampage, and pledged that the killer would be "met with justice — in this world, and the next."

In 2018, President Donald Trump, in France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, canceled a visit to a cemetery east of Paris where Americans

killed in that war are buried; rainy weather had grounded the presidential helicopter. Authorities in Northern California said 14 additional bodies had been found in the ruins from a fire that virtually destroyed the town of Paradise.

Ten years ago: Two people were killed when a powerful gas explosion rocked an Indianapolis neighborhood, damaging or destroying more than 80 homes. (Five people were later convicted of charges in connection with the blast, which prosecutors said stemmed from a plot to collect insurance money.)

Five years ago: Facing allegations of sexual misconduct, comedian Louis C.K. said the harassment claims by five women that were detailed in a New York Times report were true, and he expressed remorse for using his influence "irresponsibly." The National Republican Senatorial committee ended its fundraising agreement with Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore in light of allegations of sexual contact with a teenager decades earlier. President Donald Trump arrived in Vietnam to attend an international economic summit, telling CEOs on the sidelines of the summit, "We are not going to let the United States be taken advantage of anymore."

One year ago: Kyle Rittenhouse took the stand in his murder trial, testifying that he was under attack and acting in self-defense when he shot and killed two men and wounded a third during a turbulent night of street protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin. (Rittenhouse would be acquitted of all charges.) A judge in Michigan approved a \$626 million settlement for Flint residents and others who were exposed to lead-contaminated water; most of the money would come from the state. A New Jersey gym owner, Scott Fairlamb, who punched a police officer during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, was sentenced to more than three years in prison. The government said prices for U.S. consumers jumped 6.2% in October compared with a year earlier, leaving families facing their highest inflation rate since 1990. Chris Stapleton was the big winner with six trophies including song and album of the year and Luke Combs claimed the biggest prize with entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards.

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer Bobby Rush is 88. Actor Albert Hall is 85. Country singer Donna Fargo is 81. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 79. Lyricist Tim Rice is 78. Actor Jack Scalia is 72. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 67. Actor Matt Craven is 66. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 66. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 63. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 62. Actor Vanessa Angel is 59. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 59. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 59. Actor Michael Jai (jy) White is 58. Country singer Chris Cagle is 54. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 54. Actor Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) is 53. Actor-comedian Orny Adams is 52. Rapper U-God is 52. Rapper-producer Warren G is 52. Actor Walton Goggins is 51. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Matt Maher is 48. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 47. Rapper Eve is 44. Rock musician Chris Joannou (joh-AN'-yoo) (Silverchair) is 43. Actor Heather Matarazzo is 40. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 39. Actor Josh Peck is 36. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 32. Actor Genevieve Buechner is 31. Actor Zoey Deutch (DOYCH) is 28. Actor Kiernan Shipka is 23. Actor Mackenzie Foy is 22.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

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 in



Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **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.

- **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?

- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens Editor, Connecting newsletter paulstevens46@gmail.com



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