
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:34 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 29, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

October 29, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning.

Connecting leads off on the eve of the midterm elections next Tuesday with a story on how the AP covers elections.

If you would like to share any stories you might have from your days of election coverage, send my way and I will share in Connecting Mailbox.

Paul

Q&A - How AP counts the vote



By Erin Madigan White
The Associated Press

As votes in the U.S. midterm elections roll in across the country on Nov. 4, it's The Associated Press that will be counting the results through the evening. The news industry and the public turn to AP, a not-for-profit cooperative, to provide fast and reliable results on national, state and local races and key ballot measures.

Here, Washington Bureau Chief **Sally Buzbee**, explains why AP plays such a critical role for both the public and the press.

How does AP count the vote?

On election night, AP assigns stringers in nearly every county in the U.S., and in towns and cities in New England, to gather vote tallies from county clerks and other officials. They phone in the results to AP vote tabulation centers, where an AP election worker enters the results. Web teams check for election results on county and state sites, and the AP also processes direct feeds of election results in some states from secretaries of state, and from some counties. The returns are filtered through myriad checks and verifications before being transmitted to AP members and customers, and ultimately the public. The results are updated throughout the evening.



AP's vote count is considered by news organizations and

the audiences they serve to be the definitive source of race results. In fact, formal government announcements of results often don't come for weeks after an election.

Who makes the call?

Experienced journalists in each state are responsible for calling races. They've got on-the-ground knowledge that no other national news organization can match, as well as detailed data on voting history and demographics. The race callers in each state are assisted by experts in AP's Washington bureau who examine exit poll numbers and votes as they are counted. A "decision desk" in Washington, overseen by myself and Political Editor David Scott, and headed by David Pace, AP news editor for special projects and elections, has final signoff on all high-profile calls.

When do you make the call?

In states with exit polls, we call top-of-the ticket races at poll close only if we're confident the leader's margin is sufficient to overcome any potential error in the exit poll, which is conducted by Edison Research for AP and the broadcast members that make up the National Election Pool (NEP).

In races that we can't call at poll close, we make the call when we're convinced that the trailing candidate can't catch the leader, given the size of the outstanding vote and the voting history of those counties. We never make a call if the margin between the top two candidates is less than the threshold when a state would require a recount.

This is a key detail: AP does not call any race until all the polls in that jurisdiction have closed.

Does speed trump accuracy in the social media age?

Speed has always been important in elections, but AP values accuracy above all else. We're proud of our long history and well-earned reputation of being the gold standard for election calls. For example, in 2012, AP called 4,653 contested races with a remarkable accuracy rate of 99.9 percent.

Calling races, from the national level to state legislatures, is a vital function AP provides to members and customers. Being able to accurately and quickly call those statewide and state-level races is critical to their ability to provide strong election night coverage for their audiences around the world.

Where can I find AP's election coverage?

Member newspapers, websites, national and local broadcasters and major portals all carry AP election results, as well as text stories, photos, videos and interactives. The AP Mobile news app features election coverage from AP as well as member newspapers. Our reporting and statistics also drive conversations on social platforms

such as Facebook and Twitter.

Does AP tweet results?

The AP and our individual journalists share information that's already been reported on the wire on Twitter and Facebook, but we don't break news there. We're going to share our calls in all races for U.S. Senate and governor from @AP and @AP_Politics on Twitter, but in a way that ensures the calls reach our members and customers first.

(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

Connecting mailbox

Story evokes fond memories for Mike Tharp

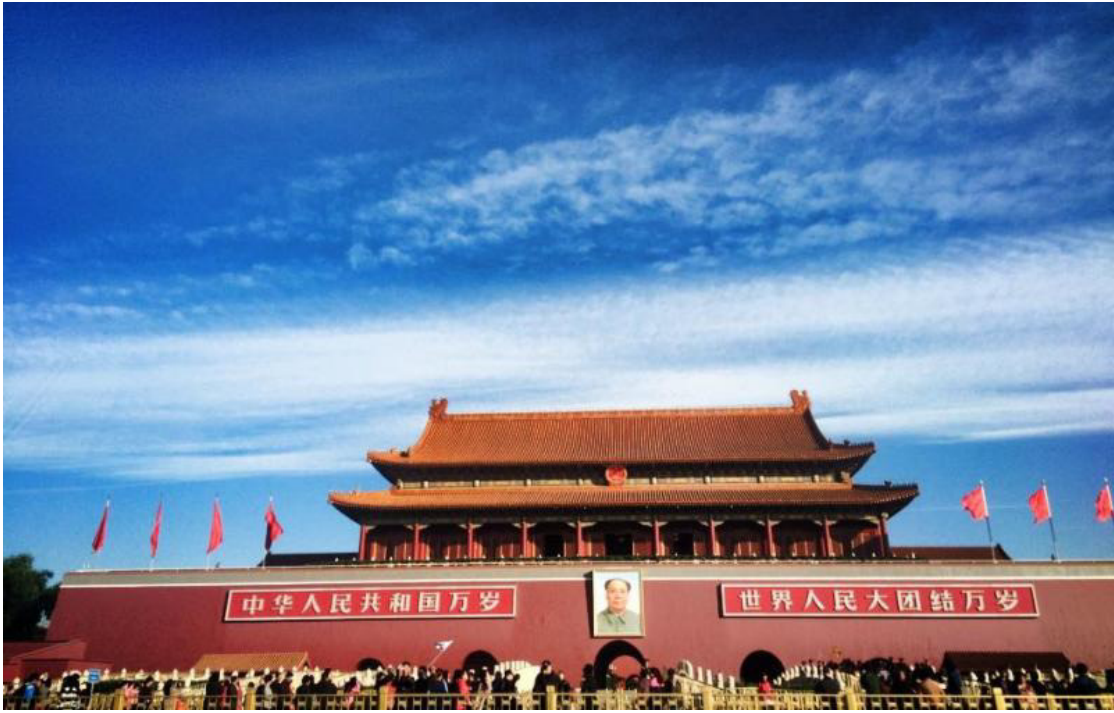
[Mike Tharp](#) -It was so evocative to see Kimura-san and Tetsuko-san in Tuesday's Connecting. Major doumos to Valerie for recognizing their amazing contributions. Kimura-san, Kanabayashi-san (who I hired away from AP/Dow Jones to join me at WSJ) and Tracy Dahlby (AP/DJ, FEER, WaPo, Newsweek, now a prof at UT) and I climbed Mount Fuji together in 1976. Kimura-san organized the hike. Tetsuko-san was kind to the new bearded guy at the WSJ desk in the AP bureau, and I shared macadamia nuts with her.

And I can't think about Asia without recalling Edie Lederer. In 1979, she and I and four other newsies were part of the first group of journalists to visit North Korea since the 1953 armistice. Every time I hear "What a Fool Believes" by the Michael McDonald-led Doobie Brothers, it reminds me of Edie. We danced to that song on a train carrying us to the DMZ--from the north side. They moved us at night so we couldn't see any of their military hardware.

Next time I saw Edie was in February 1991 at the bombed-out Holiday Inn in Kuwait City. I'd gone into Iraq with a combat engineer battalion when the Ground War started. When it ended 100 hours later, I headed for Kuwait - as did Richard Pyle, Neal Ulevich, Edie and others from Riyadh and Dhahran. A Kevlar helmet perched above her 5'3 frame, Edie hugged me like we were old friends. And, after two weeks together a dozen years earlier in the Workers Paradise, I reckon we were.

-0-

Connecting sky shot - Beijing



A sunny, clear sky over Tiananmen Gate in Beijing greeted Asia-Pacific News Director **Ted Anthony** on Sunday after he arrived on a red-eye flight for several days of AP business in China.

-0-

The story behind Associated Press candy

From Romnesko:

Why does the news service have its own sweets?

AP spokesman **Paul Colford** tells Romnesko readers: "The candy is confectioned in Blackpool in Britain, and our international marketing team in London has offered it at AP booths and displays at various international trade shows, such as Visa Pour l'Image in France, and attendees, they say, seem to love it." - via Ellen Nimmons



AP collections contribute to book on Lincoln, press

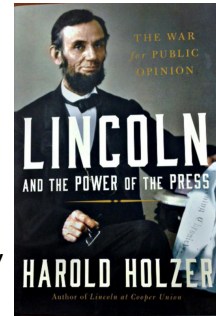


[Valerie Komor](#) - To mark the publication of his 47th book on Abraham Lincoln, "Lincoln and the Power of the Press," (Simon & Schuster, 2014), historian Harold Holzer hosted a book party at the New York Times building on Monday. At long last, Lincoln's well-known and well-documented respect for the press, and his fearlessness in using it during wartime to promote his cause, saving the Union, has found its most

comprehensive treatment (weighing in at 566 pages!).

The AP Corporate Archives opened its collections to Holzer during the research phase, and in March of 2011, Holzer spoke here on the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's First Inaugural. In that lecture, Holzer tried out portions of the book and was very well-received.

In the photo above, Valerie, who is director of AP's Corporate Archives, looks on while Holzer inscribes a copy of his book. Photo by Ralph Blumenthal.



Welcome to Connecting



[David Tirrell-Wysocki](#) - I was with The AP in the Concord Bureau from 1977 to 2009. For most of that time, I was Northern New England Broadcast Editor.

Being in NH meant covering presidential politics, so I covered nine NH Presidential Primaries. My first one, as a radio member, was in 1976 (Hello, my name is Jimmy Carter). By far, the biggest story of my career was the Challenger disaster, which I witnessed from the grandstand at Cape Canaveral, standing with Christa McAuliffe's parents and her son's third-grade class.

Now, I am executive director of the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications in Manchester, NH. It's a non-profit founded in 1999 by Mrs. Loeb, publisher and president of the NH Union Leader. We offer free classes and cheap workshops on topics such as First Amendment, writing, photography, social media, public speaking, public relations, police-media relations, etc. I started teaching newswriting here in 2000 and gradually got pushed upstairs. Now, I coordinate programs, bring in new instructors and bring out the trash.

I also write for Concord Hospital publications.

Sometimes, I miss being in the middle of what's going on in the news. But I never have missed driving to work before dawn and driving home after dark, on the same day!

-0-

[Bill McCloskey](#) - Bill was hired at AP Radio as Assistant Managing Editor in July 1975, shortly after it was established exactly 40 years ago in October 1974. He came from one of the original APR affiliates WASH-FM in Washington, where he was news director, and frequent contributor to AP's D.C. metro desk. He says Burl Osborne was his AP rabbi.

After what he describes as a "terminal disagreement" with a new supervisor, he took the "opportunity" to move to "wireside" at WX, where he was assigned to cover the Federal Communications Commission, and backup on Postal, Housing and Transportation. When he asked how those beats got strung together he was told that at one point all four agencies were located at 12th and Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, so they were part of the daily "run." Before the tracks were ripped up, reporters were issued trolley tokens to go on their daily runs. There are rumors that some reporters walked their rounds and pocketed the tokens.

Having been on both the admin and Guild payrolls (Admin for 9 years and Guild for 2) he finds it interesting that his two AP pensions are almost to the penny equal.

Through the FCC beat connection, Bill was introduced to the folks at Atlanta-based BellSouth Corp., where he was hired in 1987 as director of media relations in Washington. At BellSouth he found one of the easiest jobs in the world, giving away beer and food to reporters who visited the 1500 or so BellSouth Media Lounge at national political conventions from 1988 through 2004.

In retirement since 2007 and with full-season tickets to Washington Nationals and Washington Capitals professional sports events, his presence is accounted for about 120 nights a year. His afternoons are occupied as a stay-at-home copy editor for Warren Communications News, publishers of Communications Daily and other trade newsletters.

Part-time work makes it easy to get away for visits to family in Los Angeles and

Phoenix, and what he vows will become an annual visit to Jamaica <http://www.bluefieldsvillas.com>

Bill is on the national board of the Society of Professional Journalists and served on its Executive, Finance, and Bylaws committees. He is also on the board of the SPJ's charitable arm Sigma Delta Chi. He is a member of the Radio Television Digital News Association and, of course AARP. Bill is also a member of the National Press Club and serves on its Broadcast Committee.

He and his wife Nancy live in Bethesda, Md.

Stories of interest

[The Ben Bradlee we knew: Friend, fierce editor and a truth-seeker above all](#)

By Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

Four decades ago, Ben Bradlee told us his general theory of newspapering and life: "Nose down, ass up and moving steadily forward into the future."

He understood the past and its importance, but he was utterly liberated from it. The past was history to learn from. And he refused to let himself be emotionally encumbered by it or deterred by either the lows or the highs.

The military analogy, so often a cliché, holds in his case: a great general, calm in battle, with the love and affection of his troops, of whom he was as protective as he was aggressive in sending them on their mission.

He was an original of his own creation, different from everybody else in his newsroom - different in temperament, different in outlook, and different even in his physicality and his language (a mix of high-church English and the locution of a savvy sailor). He transformed not only The Washington Post but also the nature and priorities of journalism itself.

-0-

[FBI faked Seattle Times to catch suspect](#)

The FBI wrote a fake news story and used a fake Seattle Times-like web address in 2007 in order to catch a suspect in a bomb threat, the Seattle Times reports.

In 2007, the FBI's Seattle office created a fake story with an Associated Press byline about bomb threats at schools with an email link "in the style of The Seattle Times." The story was sent via MySpace to a teenager suspected of sending bomb threats to a high school in the area. Once the suspect clicked on the link, hidden software sent

his location to the FBI, and he was arrested.

The scheme was revealed in a report published Monday by the Electronic Frontier Foundation and publicized by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Kathy Best, the editor of the Seattle Times, said the newspaper is "outraged" at the FBI.

-0-

[Victims of Isis: non-western journalists who don't make the headlines](#) (Kathy Gannon)

Last week, Islamic State militants released a fifth video of the British freelance journalist John Cantlie, wearing a Guantánamo Bay-style orange jumpsuit and appearing to read from a script.



The film's release was widely reported. Unsurprisingly: since August, Isis has released videos showing its beheading of two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff, as well as two British aid workers, David Haines and Alan Henning. All have been huge news events.

Less widely covered were reports that, on 13 October, Isis shot and killed the Mosul correspondent of Iraq's Sada news agency in the city's al-Ghazlani camp. Several local sources, as well as a Kurdish Democratic party spokesman and a medical centre, confirmed Mohanad al-Aqidi's death to numerous NGOs (members of his family have since disputed the reports, and al-Aqidi's fate is currently unclear.)

In photo above, Mohanad al-Aqidi, who is said to have been shot, and Raad Mohamed al-Azaoui, who was publicly beheaded. Photograph: Journalists Without Borders

-0-

[Washington Post creates Ben Bradlee award](#)

The Washington Post has announced the creation of The Ben Bradlee Award, a cash award in honor of the late Post editor that will be given annually "to honor the relentless and courageous pursuit of truth by an individual or team of Washington Post journalists."

"Over the past week, we have all been reflecting on the life and career of Ben Bradlee. What emerges most clearly in all the recollections - many of them highly colorful - has been the depth of Ben's integrity and his commitment to discovering

the truth," Post publisher Fred Ryan and editor Marty Baron wrote in a memo. "His values helped shape The Washington Post over many decades, and they endure in our newsroom today."

-0-

[The newsonomics of the Sun-Times national/local network play](#)

Coming, officially today, to your hometown: A templated, national/local, ready-to-go network of 70 news sites and apps that aim to make use of all the au courant digital news business knowledge of the day. It's called the Sun-Times Network, and it's the latest attempt to try to do local news at a national scale. It's turnkey. The big question: who exactly will open the door?

These new metro-wide sites have been loosed in the Android and iOS app stores, at least one for each of the 50 states, and covering the top 50 metro areas. The goal: to build a fast-scaling national ad network on a hybrid national/local model.

-0-

[USA Today, WSJ, NYT top U.S. newspapers by circulation](#)

The Alliance for Audited Media issued its last-ever six-month circulation report today. Here are the top newspapers in the U.S., by total average circulation in September 2014:

1. USA Today (4,139,380)
2. The Wall Street Journal (2,276,207)
3. The New York Times (2,134,150)

AAM is discontinuing the print report in favor of more detailed, more frequent reports on individual titles. This edition doesn't include comparisons to previous totals, which is kind, in a way, as rule changes have made comparisons to past performance, or other publications, increasingly difficult.

-0-

[What's in a 'scoop'? The White House has a strategy for that](#)

When the New York Times broke a story in June about the Obama administration's plans to expand its efforts on immigration enforcement, rival reporters spied a hidden hand behind the news. With its prescient timing and abundant details, the article looked very much like an "authorized" leak, a bit of news stage-managed by White House officials.

Presidents, of course, have long manipulated select members of the news media with "exclusives" designed to maximize an announcement's impact and enhance the administration's standing. The Obama White House is no different, but it has played

the game a little differently. It doles out scoops irregularly, White House reporters say, and does so primarily to news outlets with a perceived expertise or special authority on a topic.

-0-

[New York Times Reporter James Risen Laments Lost Art Of Undercover Reporting](#)

NEW YORK -- New York Times reporter James Risen acknowledged in his new book, *Pay Any Price*, that he posed in one instance as an investor to look into money laundering in the Middle East, a break with the journalistic convention of always identifying oneself as a reporter. One reviewer said the practice would be a firing offense at another newspaper.

Going undercover isn't encouraged at the Times either, which mandates in its handbook that "staff members may not pose as police officers, lawyers, business people or anyone else when they are working as journalists." A Times spokesman told The Huffington Post that a reporter would need to first discuss the possibility of doing undercover work in advance with a masthead-level editor.

Risen went undercover for reporting that appeared in his book, and not the newspaper. He recently told HuffPost that he chose to disguise his identity so he could meet with a Palestinian man suspected of laundering money. The FBI had considered investigating the man through a sting operation, Risen said. "I felt that it was necessary for the story to meet this guy," he said. "And I felt the only way to do it was undercover."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2014. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 1964, thieves made off with the Star of India and other gems from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. (The Star and most of the other gems were recovered; three men were convicted of stealing them.)

On this date:

In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London.

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world

premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1929, Wall Street crashed on "Black Tuesday," heralding the start of America's Great Depression.

In 1940, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number - 158 - in America's first peacetime military draft.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1966, the National Organization for Women was formally organized during a conference in Washington, D.C.

In 1979, on the 50th anniversary of the great stock market crash, anti-nuclear protesters tried but failed to shut down the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1994, Francisco Martin Duran fired more than two dozen shots from a semiautomatic rifle at the White House. (Duran was later convicted of trying to assassinate President Bill Clinton and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.)

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy came ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath are blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

Ten years ago: Four days before Election Day in the U.S., Osama bin Laden, in a videotaped statement, directly admitted for the first time that he'd ordered the September 11 attacks and told Americans "the best way to avoid another Manhattan" was to stop threatening Muslims' security. A seriously ill Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was flown from the West Bank to Paris for medical treatment (he died less than two weeks later). European Union leaders signed the EU's first constitution. Comedian Vaughn Meader, who'd gained fame doing satirical impressions of President John F. Kennedy, died in Auburn, Maine, at age 68.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama paid a post-midnight visit to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to honor the return of 18 soldiers killed in Afghanistan. A Coast

Guard C-130 plane and a Marine Cobra helicopter collided off the Southern California coast, killing seven Coast Guard members and two Marines. Deposed President Manuel Zelaya and his opponents agreed to a U.S.-brokered deal to end the power crisis that had paralyzed Honduras following a coup.

One year ago: Medicare chief Marilyn Tavenner, whose agency oversaw the "Obamacare" enrollment website, apologized to Congress for the severe technical problems that marred the online rollout of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. The U.N. confirmed an outbreak of polio in Syria for the first time in over a decade, warning the disease threatened to spread among an estimated half a million children who had never been immunized because of the civil war.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 77. Country singer Lee Clayton is 72. Rock musician Denny Laine is 70. Singer Melba Moore is 69. Musician Peter Green is 68. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 67. Actress Kate Jackson is 66. The former president of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, is 64. Actor Dan Castellana (TV: "The Simpsons") is 57. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 57. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 57. Actress Finola Hughes is 55. Singer Randy Jackson is 53. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 49. Actress Joely Fisher is 47. Rapper Paris is 47. Actor Rufus Sewell is 47. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-COOCH) is 46. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 45. Musician Toby Smith is 44. Actress Winona Ryder is 43. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 42. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 41. Actress Gabrielle Union is 41. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vionetta Flowers is 41. Actress Milena Govich is 38. Actor Jon Abrahams is 37. Actor Brendan Fehr is 37. Actor Ben Foster is 34. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 30. Actress India Eisley is 21.

Thought for Today: "Numerous politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. Never in history has the press seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians." - David Brinkley, American broadcast journalist (1920-2003).

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe](#)

This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215