
Connecting - November 09, 2015

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Here are stories of interest as we begin a new week.

A reminder that on Wednesday, Veterans Day, Connecting will salute its members who are veterans of the military services. If you are a vet and have not yet sent a note with your branch of service, years of service and a favorite story (with picture), send along today.

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Will I see democracy in my lifetime?



Aye Aye Win - Twenty-five years ago, on May 27, 1990, my father and I cast our ballots with the hope that we will see democracy in our lifetime. The results were ignored and our hopes dashed. My father left the world two years ago and he never got to see democracy. This morning, I have exercised my rights to see a glimmer of democracy but will I really get to see it?

Aye Aye Win retired in August as AP's Myanmar bureau chief and correspondent after 25 years with the news service; her father held that position before her. Here is the AP's latest story:

Myanmar voted Sunday in historic elections that will test whether popular mandate can loosen the military's longstanding grip on power, even if opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party secures a widely-expected victory.

People lined up in Buddhist temples, schools and government buildings since early hours to cast their votes in what election monitors called "a remarkable day" full of excitement and energy.

Among the early voters was Suu Kyi, the first time she has voted in an election. She was under house arrest during the 1990 polls that her party won, but which were rejected by the ruling junta. She was still under house arrest when the next elections were held in 2010, which her party boycotted, and she didn't vote in 2012 by-elections.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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On words and phrases

Jim Limbach - Phrases: Past history, past experience - as opposed to...?

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Kathy Gannon honored with McGill Medal



Kathy Gannon - is pictured when she received the McGill Courage Medal at the University of Georgia last week. She is shown with her husband, Pasha, left, and Charles David, dean of the Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. The next day, she gave a lecture at the university.

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'I violated the two-minute rule'

Gene Herrick - I violated the two-minute rule.

Following up on the conversations about the two-minute rule, brings back a memory of greeting a public relations dude of the ole school. It was a nice day in the Columbus bureau in 1970. In walks this chubby fellow with a cigar dangling from his half-smiling mouth. One automatically knew his type.

"Hi fellow," he opens with. I'm so-and-so, of such-and-such, he said. He informed me he had this wonderful news release. "Say, fellow, do you smoke cigars" he asked. I responded that I might smoke one a day. "I'll tell you, fellow, that if you get this news release on the AP wire, I'll give you a whole box of cigars"

I thanked him for his "generosity." I then explained to him that The Associated Press was a great and honest news agency, and that I was an honest and upstanding journalist.

"Furthermore," I said, "If I were to even possibly consider being bought off, I think you'd have to start in the million-dollar area." I thanked him for coming in, tossed his handout in the waste basket, and told him to get his butt out of the office.

Update: Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club'



Max Desfor, AP's oldest retiree, celebrated another year of life on Sunday. And, oh, what a life he lives!

100s

Max Desfor - 102

90s:

Jack Bausman - 91

Carl Bell - 91

George Bria- 99

Albert Habhab - 90

Elaine Light- 92

Joe McKnight - 90

Sam Montello - 92

Joy Stilley - 94
Elon Torrence- 98
Harold Waters - 92

80s:

Mercer Bailey- 88
Joe Benham - 81
Ben Brown - 82
Sibby Christensen- 80
Otto Doelling - 81
Phil Dopoulos - 83
Mike Feinsilber - 81
Lew Ferguson - 81
George Hanna - 85
Bob Haring - 82
Gene Herrick - 89
Ferd Kaufman - 88
Jim Lagier - 80
Joe McGowan - 84
Walter Mears- 80
Reid Miller - 80
Charlie Monzella- 84
Richard Pyle - 81
Gordon Sakamoto - 80
Joe Somma - 82
Arlon Southall - 83
Paul Webster- 83
George Zucker - 82

Stories of interest

Confessions of a Paywall Journalist (Washington Monthly)

Back in 2009, I had a job with a Washington, D.C.-based newsletter called *Water Policy Report*. It wasn't exactly a household name, but I was covering Congress, the federal courts, and the Environmental Protection Agency—a definite step up from the greased-pig-catching contests and crime-blotter stories I had chased at a community newspaper on Maryland's Eastern Shore, my first job out of college.

One of my responsibilities at the newsletter was to check the *Federal Register*-the official portal that government agencies use to inform the public about regulatory actions. In December of that year I noticed an item that said that the Environmental Protection Agency had decided that existing pollution controls for offshore oil-drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico were adequate, and that there wasn't enough pollution coming from those platforms to warrant further review or action.

Curious about that finding, I called Richard Charter, an environmentalist, oil-drilling expert, and senior fellow at the Ocean Foundation to ask him what he thought. Charter told me that the use of a general permit to cover discharges over a broad area like the Gulf of Mexico is ridiculous, and, more specifically, that there were ways in which the EPA went about reissuing the old permit that might not be totally legal under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Mike Holmes,

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In 'Spotlight,' the Artless Look of the Boston Journalist (*New York Times*)



"Spotlight," a movie about The Boston Globe's reporting on the sexual abuse of children in the Roman Catholic Church that opened in theaters on Friday, has caught the attention of critics.

But its costumes, based on the clothing of the real journalists involved, have caused comment for another reason: They have uncannily captured a particular style (or lack of style), that still distinguishes reporters and editors today.

When the movie's high-wattage stars, including Rachel McAdams and Mark Ruffalo, were pictured on set last year, their unglamorous outfits made tabloid

headlines.

The film's costume designer, Wendy Chuck, a veteran of subtle clothing choices in movies like "Sideways" and "Twilight," spoke Friday by phone on what makes newsroom-chic, and the challenges of making movie stars look like journalists. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Egyptian journalist faces accusations by military (AP)

CAIRO (AP) - A leading investigative journalist and human rights advocate is facing accusations from Egypt's military prosecutor, his colleague said Sunday.

Lina Attalah, the chief editor of independent news website Mada Masr, said on Twitter that Hossam Bahgat told her over the phone that he has been moved to military prosecution following hours of interrogation by military intelligence Sunday.

Mada Masr reported that Bahgat said "he may be charged with 'publishing inaccurate and false information that harms national interests,' although no charges have been formally brought against him at this time."



The website reported that Bahgat received a summons at his home address in Alexandria on Thursday, and arrived at Military Intelligence headquarters in Cairo at 9 a.m. on Sunday. He was not allowed to be accompanied by a lawyer, the site reported.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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How Media Bias Works (Dick Morris.Com)

What happened to the email scandal? Or the Clintons' speeches? Or the uranium deal where Vladimir Putin got control of our mines? Or Hillary Clinton's lie about the Benghazi terrorist attacks being caused by a video? Or any of the scandals the media pursued with such zest and vigor until last week?

Some say that Hillary Clinton's winning the 2016 Democratic primary by surviving the Benghazi hearings. Others say there was nothing there in the first place.

The truth is that the four-year rule kicked in.

The four-year rule, widely honored but never admitted by the media, provides that it can be critical of the Democratic Party, President Obama or the Clintons for only three out of every four years. But when an election year looms, it has to cut it out and fall in line behind the party and its likely nominee, Hillary Clinton.

In other words, when the stakes are down, they have to cut out the criticism.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Doug Tucker.

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How journalism faces a second wave of disruption from technology and changing audience behaviour (Reuters Institute)

News is in the middle of a second wave of disruption, according to Nic Newman, digital media strategist and research associate at the RISJ.

The main reasons for the changes which occur in journalism as well as in society are: the new important role of mobiles, social media and video.

Let's focus on the most important point: mobile. It is THE device in the digital age because it is flexible and personal. The Reuters Institute Digital News report shows that in 2015 almost 42 per cent of people living in the UK used their smartphone to access online news. That is a strong growth compared to the figures from 2012, when only 28 per cent used their smartphone in this way.

Other interesting figures are: for 27 per cent of the UK population, their smartphone is the main way of accessing news. In the group of people under 35 years-old the figure rises to 45 per cent.

Another important fact when it comes to smartphones: mobile alerts via app or SMS are becoming a more important way of reaching customers. To quote Newman: "The lock screen of your phone is becoming the new front page."

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Susana Hayward.

Today in History - November 9, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2015. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 9, 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours left 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

On this date:

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1872, fire destroyed nearly 800 buildings in Boston.

In 1918, it was announced that Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II would abdicate; he then fled to the Netherlands.

In 1935, United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization (later renamed the Congress of Industrial Organizations).

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1953, Welsh author-poet Dylan Thomas died in New York at age 39.

In 1967, a Saturn V rocket carrying an unmanned Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a successful test flight.

In 1970, former French President Charles de Gaulle died at age 79.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in [South Africa](#), including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."



In 1988, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, a major figure in the Watergate scandal, died in Washington at age 75.

In 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West; joyous Germans danced atop the [Berlin Wall](#).

In 1999, with fireworks, concerts and a huge party at the landmark Brandenburg Gate, Germany celebrated the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Ten years ago: Three suicide bombers carried out nearly simultaneous attacks on three U.S.-based hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 victims, and wounding hundreds. Oil executives testified before Congress that their huge profits were justified, but got a skeptical reaction from lawmakers. Carolina's Erik Cole became the first player in NHL history to be awarded two penalty shots in one game. (Cole scored on the first, helping the Hurricanes defeat Buffalo 5-3.)

Five years ago: Continuing his Asia tour, President Barack Obama flew from India to Indonesia, his home for four years of his youth. Former President George W. Bush officially kicked off the release of his memoir, "Decision Points," with a book-signing in Dallas. A special prosecutor cleared the CIA's former top clandestine officer and others of any charges for destroying agency videotapes showing waterboarding of terror suspects, but continued an investigation into whether the harsh questioning went beyond legal boundaries. Seattle's [Ichiro Suzuki](#) won his 10th straight Gold Glove, tying the AL record for Gold Gloves by an outfielder shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Al Kaline.

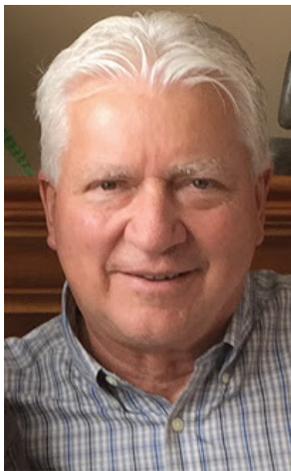
One year ago: The citizens of Berlin released almost 7,000 balloons into the night sky, many carrying messages of hope to mark the 25th anniversary since the fall of the wall that had once divided their city.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog is 84. Baseball Hall of Famer Bob Gibson is 80. Actor Charlie Robinson is 70. Movie director Bille August is 67. Actor Robert David Hall is 67. Actor Lou Ferrigno is 64. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 63. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 56. Rock musician Dee Plakas (L7) is 55. Actress Ion Overman is 46. Rapper Pepa (Salt-N-Pepa) is 46. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 45. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS'-kee) is 45. Actor Jason Antoon is 44. Actor Eric Dane is 43. Singer Nick Lachey (98 Degrees) is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sisqo (Dru Hill) is 37. Country singer Corey Smith

is 36. Actress Nikki Blonsky is 27. Actress-model Analeigh (AH'-nuh-lee) Tipton is 27.

Thought for Today: "We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it." - William Faulkner, American author (1897-1962).

Got a story 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!

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