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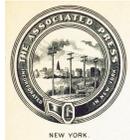
# Connecting - June 09, 2017

1 message

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# Connecting

June 09, 2017

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*AP Photo/Andrew Harnik*

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Today is All Things Comey in the aftermath of fired FBI director James Comey's testimony Thursday before the Senate intelligence committee - and we lead today's issue of Connecting with stories by The Associated Press relating to the media.

**James Warren** of Poynter offers an interesting perspective from the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors awards luncheon held in Springfield, just after the Comey testimony.

No doubt there's more to come.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

# Comey's release of Trump memo to newspaper: Was it legal?



Former FBI Director James Comey is sworn in by Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., foreground, during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on Capitol Hill, Thursday, June 8, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, Pool)

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and SADIE GURMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - When former FBI Director James Comey revealed Thursday that he orchestrated a disclosure of damaging details about his conversations with President Donald Trump, he demonstrated his savvy use of media and his skills as a Washington operator. He also kicked up a hornet's nest of questions about the legal and ethical implications of the move.

Trump's personal lawyer made Comey's secret gambit a central piece of his defense of the president against the fired lawman's testimony. Attorney Marc Kasowitz claimed Comey made "unauthorized disclosures" of privileged communications. He said he would leave it to the "appropriate authorities" to determine whether Comey's plan should be investigated along with the leaks of material that have infuriated Trump.

But Comey seemed unconcerned about that prospect when he acknowledged the move Thursday before a throng of cameras and a packed Senate intelligence committee hearing room.

With vivid detail, he told the panel when the idea dawned on him - "in the middle of the night" - and what moved him to act. He said he was reacting to Trump's cryptic tweet saying Comey better hope there are no tapes of their disputed conversations about the Russia investigation into election-season hacking. Comey said the president's message convinced him he needed to get his account, detailed in contemporaneous memos, out quickly.

"My judgment was, I needed to get that out into the public square. And so I asked a friend of mine to share the content of the memo with a reporter," Comey testified. "I asked him to, because I thought that might prompt the appointment of a special counsel."

The friend, who was later identified as Columbia University law professor Daniel Richman, read part of the memo to a reporter from The New York Times, according to the newspaper. The paper reported Trump had asked Comey to drop the investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Read more [here](#).

## Coverage of Comey testimony plays out with partisan spin

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) - The extensive coverage of former FBI Director James Comey's Senate testimony on Thursday gave Americans time to pause and focus on the slowly unfolding story about President Donald Trump and Russian involvement in the presidential campaign. But there was no rest for partisan spinners.

Broadcast networks cast aside regular schedules for three or four hours. So did cable news networks, bracketing Comey's first public appearance since being fired by Trump with hours of their own talk. His plain-spoken answers to questions from alternating Democratic and Republican senators offered quotes for each side to latch on to.

"Depending on which camp you're in, you could say that Comey totally condemned President Trump today, or you could say the president was exonerated by Comey," commentator Dana Perino said on Fox News Channel. "The thing is, this was just another log on the fire, because America is going to continue to push forward on this."

Television commentators did not break in to Comey's testimony, but through headlines put onscreen - called chyrons - they were able to choose often contradictory points of emphasis. That was the case when Comey talked about Trump's discussion with him about former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

Read more [here](#).

## The view from the Illinois APME luncheon in Springfield

**James Warren, Poynter** - Shortly after former FBI Director James Comey finished his much-hyped Senate testimony Thursday, the annual awards luncheon of the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors began in Springfield, the home of Honest Abe Lincoln.

There was some interest in Comey who, as one friend put it aptly, came off as the earnest lead actor in a minor-league summer production of "Private Lives."

But it was short of intense. No talk of blockbuster revelations, calling President Trump a liar, affirming significant Trump assertions or this as a historic "J'accuse moment" akin to Emil Zola's 1898 open letter to the French president. Or Iran-Contra or John Dean testifying about Watergate.

It was a hint of a national vs. local media divide that can be as notable - perhaps more so - as the right vs. left lens through which the hubbub of Donald Trump is generally inspected. It's interesting, since Springfield is the state capital, home of the Lincoln Museum, one of the most popular presidential museums, and where novice U.S. Senator Barack Obama announced his long-shot candidacy for the White House.

Read more [here](#).

## More of your pets in workplace stories

**Susan Ragan** ([Email](#)) - The dog story was pretty short for me. I couldn't leave Xeus, my German Shepherd, alone for eight hours which would have been the least since the assignment was two hours away and we had to do the stakeout bit. It was a story about a congressman in Ceres, CA.

Gary Condit, who had had an affair with Chandra Levy, an intern in D.C. who disappeared on the eve of his re-election. So Xeus and I drove up to the tv truck wagon train and parked for the day. Never did see Condit that day. Of course, we never saw his wife, either. I don't even think he was in town. Shot the obligatory photo of his house.

That story went on for a while with no results, except that he lost the election from the bad publicity. Chandry's remains were found in a park in D.C. where they had conducted their affair.

Xeus and I spent most of the day in his favorite place, the car. I read and he watched all the tv chaos.



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**Andy Lippman** ([Email](#)) - An 18-year span of my AP career was shared with a silky terrier named Muffin that I bought as a puppy when I was working in AP Sports in New York.

I often spent so much time in the office while I was correspondent in Cincinnati, that Muffin literally learned to play "fetch" by himself. I'd come home and the dog had learned to bounce a ball against the wall and run after it.

He followed me to LA and then Kentucky, where I often had him ride shotgun when I visited newspapers and radio stations. I once had a manager at one of those lonely

radio stations in the middle of nowhere tell me that he saw me coming down the road, with a brown fuzzy head popping up and down in the other seat. He had no idea what was going on.

Muffin made quite an impression one weekend when I visited the home of Jack Ronald, editor and publisher of the Commercial-Review in Portland, Ind.

Jack and his wife had twin girls, but no dog and Muffin's arrival was highly anticipated. The girls even made him a dog house, which seemed to be met with little interest by Muffin.

The dog's visit however must have triggered a note from Jack to President Lou Boccardi.

A few days later I got a note that read simply:

"I hear you visited the home of Jack Ronald.

"I hear you brought your dog."

"Nice touch."

Even Muffin's death had an AP angle. I was working the AP booth at the trade show in Las Vegas when I heard that Muffin-then 18-had suddenly stopped eating and was very ill.

My dog sitters - an elderly couple - told me not to fret. "I'm an old man," the husband said. "I know when it is time to go. And when you come home, you'll find him buried under a rose bush in our backyard."

I could not get a flight back to LA until the next day, and I remember Elaine Hooker kept watch and comforted me.

I did find Muffin buried under that rose bush.

Now Muffin has been replaced in retirement by Atticus, a mixed breed rescue dog. He's 13 and the only thing he knows about the AP is what he reads in Connecting.

## Connecting mailbox

### *An AP contingent that made his night most special*

**John Lumpkin** ([Email](#)) - Thank you to Linda (Sargent) for sending Connecting a note about last Saturday night's Legends of North Texas event by the Press Club of Dallas.

What made it a wonderful evening was attendance of an AP contingent of long-time Dallas administrative assistant Pam Collins (now with AP Marketing), retired Fort Worth Correspondent Mike Cochran and three incredibly supportive "AP spouses" - Frank Collins, Sondra Cochran and Eileen Lumpkin, all of whom I cited in remarks.

The six of us, plus honoree Mike Blackman and his spouse, held a post-event dinner nearby at Palm restaurant. Mike Blackman's presence was appropriate; he and I began our careers together in metro journalism at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in the late '60s as general assignment and police reporters. He went on to work for The New York Times and Philadelphia Inquirer before returning to Fort Worth, where he eventually was appointed executive editor of the Star-Telegram while I was Dallas bureau chief.

(Mike Blackman is standing to my left in the Press Club photo.)

Mike Cochran is a previous inductee in the Legends, as was the late Burl Osborne.

The brief note in one of the links alludes to my remarks, which in part were:

"My main job in retirement now is 'professional grandfather.' But I don't have a daughter-in-law like the granddad in this story. He was in the hospital awaiting a visiting from his granddaughter, who ran ahead of her mother.

"Grandpa, I want you to make a noise like a frog when Mommy gets here.'

""Of course, I will, but why should I do that?"

""Because Mommy said, "When Grandpa croaks, we are all going to Disney World.""

I'm not a great public humorist, as Connecting readers know, but that did get a laugh from the audience. It didn't equal the reax to Dallas sportscaster icon Dale Hansen's multiple stand-up quips, for sure. That said, I hit my three-minute limit that the sponsors established. None of the broadcasters in the 2017 Legends class did.

The award was for both the AP experience and the post-AP service as director of the Schieffer School of Journalism at TCU, as the links Linda provided indicate. TCU joined the event as a sponsor and the current chair of journalism, Dr. Uche Onyebadi; my predecessor as director of Schieffer School, Dr. Tommy Thomason (a Connecting subscriber), and Emmy-award winner Aaron Chimbel, who was my first hire as professor of professional practice, represented TCU.



**TCU delegation that attended - from left, Dr. Uche Onyebadi, John Lumpkin and Aaron Chimbel.**

(P.S. - as Connecting also knows, I'm an alumnus of the University of Virginia, not TCU, as the Morning News summary said. There is a TCU journalism alumnus named John Lumpkin, our son, as is Eileen.)

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## ***Milwaukee's circus parade***

**Eileen Lockwood** ([Email](#)) - Many of us probably remember the exciting times when children in America's cities, big and small, excitedly anticipated the arrival of what was known as "the greatest show on earth" -- the circus. Clowns and acrobats and funny little midgets, magic shows and lively music -- and wonderful elephants, tigers and bears, all trained to perform their own tricks and interact with the circus people.

In smaller cities, the circus was the highlight of the year, usually preceded by a parade to the performance grounds. Eventually, other kinds of entertainment began to compete for more and more attention, but, surprisingly, in Milwaukee, where my husband, George, was making his way up the ranks at the Journal, a new and exciting dawn appeared, thanks to one man, Charles "Chappy" Fox, a retired railroad executive who had always been enchanted by the circus. Chappy played a heavy role in establishing the Great Circus Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where the renowned Ringling Brothers Circus was founded. It was Chappy who dreamed up the renaissance of a spectacular parade -- and who used his energetic spirit to elicit thousands -- and thousands -- of support dollars from the best-known and biggest brewery in Milwaukee at the time, Schlitz, whose public relations director, Ben Barkin, became almost equally enchanted by the possibility of joining forces. Thus was born, in 1963, The Great Circus Parade, held on a special day before the circus itself opened.



**George Lockwood on circus train**

During the year, the Baraboo museum housed a spectacular number of circus wagons and other equipment. Thanks to Schlitz -- and, of course, Chappy -- the wagons were moved to Milwaukee by train. And, you guessed it: Members of the press, including George, as well as radio and TV personalities, plus various friends and business acquaintances, were invited to share the train ride to Milwaukee. I was also invited a couple of times.

The train ride was followed the next day by a huge Schlitz-sponsored breakfast for city residents. Then came a few days of free live entertainment including some of America's best-known performers, e.g. Duke Ellington, as well as the Milwaukee Symphony.

The breakfast was a one-time event, and the celebrity performers were engaged for just a few years, but the circus parade went on, with a few "interruptions, from 1963 to 2009, a total of 30 times, always drawing huge crowds along Wisconsin Avenue.

And, besides being an invited guest aboard the circus train, on one occasion Chappy invited me to ride in the parade itself. I was the Old Woman in a Shoe.

P.S. One regular participant in the parade for several years was Ernest Borgnine ("Marty"), a spectacular "clown for the day," complete with three-foot-long clown shoes.

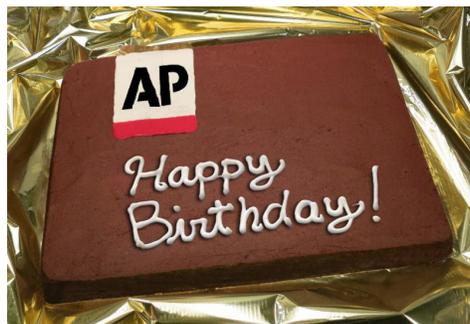
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***Is that a moose in the front yard? Yep.***



**Bill Beecham (Email)** - On Wednesday morning, my wife Fumiko, flew into the house a bit excited. She grabbed me to show the female moose in our front yard. I called the animal people and they said to leave it alone and let it wander. It did, and ate some of our bushes and flowers, before napping in the back yard. Eventually, the lady was stunned with a dart and fell asleep. A flatbed tow truck took her up into the hills and let her recover in a beautiful green valley.

**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

*Saturday -*

Bill Wilson - [wsw@rochsnet.com](mailto:wsw@rochsnet.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Dave Beard - [beardwrites@gmail.com](mailto:beardwrites@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***Comey calls New York Times report 'not true,' admits he triggered key leak*** (Poynter)

Former FBI Director James Comey offered a vivid look at the nexus of politics and press in Washington Thursday as he revealed he disclosed to the press a key memo about a meeting with President Trump.

It was a tale of revenge that could come back to haunt the president.

If there was a sliver of a doubt about Comey's finesse as a longtime inside bureaucratic player, it was dispelled during his much-heralded Senate testimony that prompted 24/7 pre-hearing speculated (especially on cable news networks) and blanket press coverage Thursday.

After being fired by President Trump, he contacted an unidentified friend at Columbia University Law School and asked the friend to leak a memo to the media, apparently The New York Times.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Comey's testimony both debunks and confirms previous reporting*** (Politico)

By HADAS GOLD

James Comey's congressional testimony may have refuted various claims by the White House and President Donald Trump. But it also called into question stories by several news organizations.

CNN and ABC updated earlier stories whose facts were challenged by Comey, while The New York Times is standing by a story that Comey said was mostly false.

Read more [here](#)

## **The Final Word**

***On the 45th anniversary of Nick Ut's famed Napalm Girl photo***



Retired AP photographer Nick Ut (right) spoke Thursday night on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Pulitzer-winning Napalm Girl photo. He noted that the event at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles was sold out. This photo shows Nick with David Ono, KABC news anchor who was host, as Nick talks about his life beyond that photo. Photo by Keith Douglas Sketon.

On June 8, 1972, Nick took one of the most iconic images of the 20th century - a crying Vietnamese girl fleeing after a napalm bombing attack. Nick was just 21 when he captured that photo, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize. The image, however, was just a blink in a collection of tens of thousands of pictures taken in a career spanning more than 50 years.

Nick retired earlier this year from the AP in Los Angeles, where he was known by virtually every reporter, photographer, cameraman, anchor and public official who has ever passed through this city.

The LA chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association sponsored the event.

## Today in History - June 9, 2017



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, June 9, the 160th day of 2017. There are 205 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On June 9, 1954, during the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., for publicly attacking a member of Welch's law firm, Fred Fisher, asking McCarthy: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

### **On this date:**

In A.D. 68, Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide, ending a 13-year reign.

In 1870, author Charles Dickens died in Gad's Hill Place, England.

In 1911, Carrie (sometimes spelled "Carry") A. Nation, the hatchet-wielding temperance crusader, died in Leavenworth, Kansas, at age 64.

In 1934, the first Walt Disney animated cartoon featuring Donald Duck, "The Wise Little Hen," was released.

In 1943, the federal government began withholding income tax from paychecks.

In 1946, Bhumibol Adulyadej (poo-mee-POON' ah-dool-yah-DAYD') became king of Thailand at age 18, beginning a 70-year reign that ended with his death in Oct. 2016.

In 1953, 94 people died when a tornado struck Worcester (WU'-stur), Massachusetts.

In 1969, the Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.

In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

In 1994, a fire destroyed the Georgia mansion of Atlanta Falcons receiver Andre Rison; his girlfriend, rap singer Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, admitted causing the blaze after a fight, and was later sentenced to probation.

In 1997, the final episode of "Married... with Children" ("Chicago Shoe Exchange") aired on Fox, ending the series' 11-season run.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, denounced by anti-American protesters on the streets of Rome, defended his humanitarian record as he met at the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI, who expressed concern about "the worrisome situation in Iraq." Rags to Riches became the first filly to win the Belmont Stakes since 1905.

Justine Henin (EH'-nen) claimed her third consecutive French Open title with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Ana Ivanovic (ee-VAH'-noh-vich).

Five years ago: Spain became the fourth and largest country to ask Europe to rescue its failing banks (however, the bailout was averted). Commerce Secretary John Bryson got into two car accidents while driving in the Los Angeles area after suffering a seizure (he ended up resigning his post). Three people, including two former Auburn University football players, were shot to death at a pool party near the Alabama campus; suspect Desmonte Leonard was later convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life without parole. Maria Sharapova (shah-rah-POH'-vah) won the French Open, defeating Sara Errani 6-3, 6-2 to complete the career Grand Slam. Union Rags nipped Paynter at the wire in a photo finish to win the Belmont Stakes.

One year ago: President Barack Obama endorsed Hillary Clinton to succeed him and urged Democrats in a web video to line up behind her, declaring: "Look, I know how hard this job can be. That's why I know Hillary will be so good at it."

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Jackie Mason is 89. Media analyst Marvin Kalb is 87. Former baseball manager and player Bill Virdon is 86. Sports commentator Dick Vitale is 78. Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin is 78. Rock musician Mick Box (Uriah Heep) is 70. Retired MLB All-Star Dave Parker is 66. Film composer James Newton Howard is 66. Mystery author Patricia Cornwell is 61. Actor Michael J. Fox is 56. Writer-producer Aaron Sorkin is 56. Actor Johnny Depp is 54. Actress Gloria Reuben is 53. Gospel singer-actress Tamela Mann is 51. Rock musician Dean Felber (Hootie & the Blowfish) is 50. Rock musician Dean Dinning is 50. Musician Ed Simons is 47. Actress Keesha Sharp is 44. Country musician Shade Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 43. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) is 42. Actress Michaela Conlin is 39. Actress Natalie Portman is 36. Actress Mae Whitman is 29. Actor Lucien Laviscount is 25.

***Thought for Today: "Next to the slanderer, we detest the bearer of the slander to our ears." - Mary Catherwood, American novelist (1847-1901).***

## 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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