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Connecting - January 04, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Jan 4, 2018 at 9:31 AM

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Connecting

January 04, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!



Gerald Herbert/AP

Connecting colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) shared a story from Business Insider that offered a "click-bait" package Wednesday on what it called "17 unbelievable stories that got lost in the relentless news cycle of 2017." [Click here](#) for a link to the story.

Beyond an image collection made up largely of AP's great photojournalism, Mark noted, the BI list is interesting.

Mark wondered whether fellow Connecting readers who spent most of their careers evaluating the significance of news developments would agree?

Here's the link and the list in no particular order:

The Pentagon's \$22 million UFO investigation program

1 million people contracting cholera in Yemen

Puerto Rico burning the dead after Hurricane Maria

A Croat war criminal's suicide by poison during his trial at the Hague

Trump's conflicts of interest

Obama letting Hezbollah off the hook in order to secure the Iran deal

Hobby Lobby's illegal smuggling of artifacts from the Middle East

The terrorist attack that killed more than 300 people in Egypt

The continued rise of American militias

Monsoon floods that killed 1,200 people and left a third of Bangladesh underwater

Trump's long-term judicial impact

The mini-civil war between Iraq's government and Iraqi Kurds

The arrest of Reuters journalists who uncovered mass graves in Myanmar

The Department of Justice demand for information on all visitors to an anti-Trump resistance website

The war in Ukraine is still happening, and shows no signs of ending anytime soon

The assault of anti-Erdogan protestors by the Turkish president's bodyguards in Washington, DC

A Philadelphia Eagles defensive end donated his salary to fund scholarships for underprivileged youth

Drop a note to Connecting with your thoughts.

Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Larry Blasko ([Email](#)) - I doubt that I'm alone in wondering how the Hell Larry Kaplan could get through an article on nonprofit journalism as a "new wave" and not mention that the AP has been riding that wave as a not-for-profit since 1846. (See Wednesday's issue.)

Or that as the membership who once provided AP's major support became inadvertently non-profit, how Mother AP learned to hustle in the marketplace to support the mission.

I guess it has something to do with AP being the oxygen in the air that journalism breathes -- not really noticed until it's cut off.

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Begging to differ on future of newspapers

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Regarding "Saving the Free Press..." from American Prospect, I beg to differ at least somewhat.

In January, 2017, I attended the annual winter meeting of Wyoming Press Assn. and talked to many of the editors and publishers whom I had known for years.

The general impression I got was that they are not growing, BUT they are in no imminent danger of fading. Many of them, all from small cities and towns, expressed the feeling that their readers want to read who got married, divorced, arrested, died, etc. So they keep subscribing to the hometown newspaper.

This was somewhat borne out some years back by a study published by Harrison Cochran, at that time publisher of the Aurora Daily Sentinel in Colorado. His study told of the problems of the big-city papers, those problems would pass on down to the mid-size papers, and the future of the small-town papers was not all that clear.

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On Sonny Bono and his death on the ski slopes



Michelle Morgante ([Email](#)) - With the recent mentions of Sonny Bono and Lake Tahoe, I couldn't help but share my own memory. First, I am writing to you from Lake Tahoe, right in the shadow of the Heavenly ski run where Bono made his last descent. The photo I'm sharing was made yesterday (Jan. 2) from the 18th floor of the Harrah's hotel.

As a girl, I came up here almost every year for family vacations (my dad was a pretty decent gambler) and Harrah's was our favorite place to stay. I was a big fan of the Sonny & Cher TV show that was broadcast in the early '70s. So, during one trip to Tahoe in 1974, while riding an elevator in Harrah's with my older brother, I recognized the face right away when the doors opened and in stepped Sonny Bono. I was thrilled, but my brother and I weren't the sort to intrude on his personal space, so we said nothing. In those close quarters, he seemed to want to be alone. He seemed sad. He looked down and his shoulders slumped forward. I held myself stiff, not wanting to even breathe during a moment that seemed so intense to 7-year-old me.

But the elevator stopped, the doors opened and there stood a big guy, a look-alike for Hoss from Bonanza with a big white hat and everything, and he broke out in a grin as he stepped in. "Why, Sonny Bono!" he said, bellowing each syllable. "Let me shake your hand."

His enthusiasm made me wonder whether my brother and I should also have asked for a handshake, but then we reached the lobby and Sonny slipped out into the casino, his face still down and shoulders slumped and I was glad that we hadn't.

It was a short time later that I heard that he and Cher were divorcing. The word "divorce" was still a new one for me, and one that would become sadly common during the remainder of my childhood. I often think of that moment in the elevator as one that, for me, encapsulated the 1970s.

AND...

Brendan Riley ([Email](#)) - Reading the emails about Sonny Bono's death 20 years ago brought back some vivid memories -- I was the AP correspondent in nearby Carson City, NV, and one of the first few reporters at the scene. Can't remember who called me at home, but it was early evening on Jan. 5 (my birthday) and the message was vague -- someone important had been in a serious ski accident a couple of hours earlier. I made the half-hour drive up the mountain to the Heavenly Valley ski resort and stayed up all night, calling in updates to AP. Did a live TV interview for CNN too. The next day, I skied to the accident site, on Orion's Run, saw the tree, with its scraped-off bark, that Bono hit, and confirmed he was not off in the trees but on the side of that popular intermediate run.

An early version of the AP story had the location right. However, in the next news cycle some editor plugged in the skiing-in-the-trees info which was wrong, due in part to a fuzzy scene description from a sheriff's deputy. I have skied that run hundreds of times and still know the location -- within 20 feet or so. Didn't know Jeff Williams, but got most of my info from his boss, Stan Hansen, the Heavenly mountain manager, who was a friend. I think the final conclusion was that Bono, probably skiing fast on the side of the run late in the day, may have caught an edge and hurtled headlong into the tree.

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It's cold in mid-Virginia



Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - This pic ain't gonna win no prizes, but it represents how cold it has been here in mid-Virginia. This area, just south of Roanoke, has a cold spell once in a while in the winter, but this year, like most of the nation has been suffering freezing temperatures for a couple of weeks now. In fact, down in the single-digits. This pic shows the ice formation in a small water fountain/pond in Roanoke yesterday. The water was still running, but the ice kept forming.

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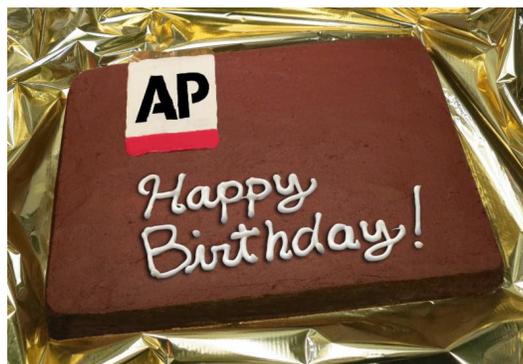
Moonrise, moonset - in Kansas City





Peter Leabo - ([Email](#)) - Views of the super moon's first rise and set of 2018, north of Kansas City, Missouri.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Dan George - dan.george@mindspring.com

Noreen Gillespie - ngillespie@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting



Marian Barger - marianbarger@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Powerful yet addicted to power: Why the New York Times is in the hot seat so often (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

When most newspapers get a new publisher, few people know or care. It gets a shrug, except by those directly affected.

But when Arthur G. Sulzberger took over this week as the top boss at the New York Times, even President Trump took notice, blurting out a tweet that managed to be simultaneously insulting, congratulatory and divisive. ("The Failing New York Times has a new publisher, A.G. Sulzberger. Congratulations! Here is a last chance for the Times to fulfill the vision of its Founder, Adolph Ochs, 'to give the news impartially, without fear or FAVOR, regardless of party, sect, or interest involved.'")

And all sorts of other bystanders - liberals, conservatives, First Amendment champions and media-haters alike - had advice (some of it venomous) to offer the 37-year-old publishing scion.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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The Biggest Secret - My life as a New York Times reporter in the shadow of the war on terror (The Intercept)

By **JAMES RISEN**

I was sitting in the nearly empty restaurant of the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia, getting ready for a showdown with the federal government that I had been trying to avoid for more than seven years. The Obama administration was demanding that I reveal the confidential sources I had relied on for a chapter about a botched CIA operation in my 2006 book, "State of War." I had also written about the CIA operation for the New York Times, but the paper's editors had suppressed the story at the government's request. It wasn't the only time they had done so.

Read more [here](#).

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Boston Herald gets another purchase offer

BOSTON (AP) - A second offer has surfaced for a Boston newspaper that filed for bankruptcy last month.

Tampa, Florida-based Revolution Capital Group is making a \$5.75 million bid for the Boston Herald. The offer was filed Tuesday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

The latest bid for the tabloid includes \$3 million for the company, \$2 million in severance payments and \$750,000 toward employees' paid time off.

GateHouse Media previously made an \$5 million offer for the Herald.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

On -30-

The origin of '30' at end of an article

What is the origin of the newspaper term "30" at the end of a news article? The Alabama Publisher gave 10 versions from varied sources in 1958:

At one place the deadline for copy was 2:30 in the morning. Time was precious to a newspaper man and 2:30 took time to say. To shorten it by a few seconds the term "30" was used and still is.

In the days before typewriters XXX (Roman for 30) on manuscript copy indicated the end of a story.

"Thirty" was used to label the last dispatch when the Associated Press was established.

Early telegraph operators developed a code in which various numbers stood for different phrases. "Thirty" meant "end of item."

The end of the "Thirty tyrants" appointed by the Spartans at the close of the Peloponnesian War to rule Athens, finally overthrown by the Athenians, was the occasion for a general rejoicing. When copywriters finish the end of a story, they supposedly rejoice similarly.

Before newspapers had direct telegraph wires the operator would write at the bottom of the last sheet "3 o'clock," which was shortened to "3 o'c" then to "30."

"Thirty" was the number of a telegraph operator who remained at his post sending messages during a major disaster. He died at his post.

Thirty pica ems was the maximum length lines used in early typesetting machines. Thus "30" was the end of a line.

"Eighty" means farewell in Bengali. An English officer used the figures at the end of a letter to the East India Company in 1785. Adopting the figures for brevity in dealings, mistakenly made them "30."

The first message sent to the central press office during the Civil War totaled 30 words. The thirty together with the words "good night," and the signature of the sender were placed at the bottom of the sheet by the telegrapher.

Shared by Ed Williams.

Today in History - January 4, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2018. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 4, 1868, "The Moonstone" by Wilkie Collins, considered by some the first full-length English detective novel, began to be serialized in Britain and the U.S. in *All the Year Round* and *Harper's Weekly* (it was published in book form in July 1868).

On this date:

In 1717, France, Britain and Holland formed a Triple Alliance against Spain.

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gonzalez v. Williams*, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in March 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, for the second time, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of TIME as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (sohl).

In 1960, author and philosopher Albert Camus (al-BEHR' kah-MOO') died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 1967, "The Doors," the self-titled debut album of the rock group featuring the song "Light My Fire," was released by Elektra Records.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era.

Ten years ago: The government reported that the nation's jobless rate hit 5 percent in December 2007, a two-year high, fanning recession fears. Britney Spears lost custody of her two sons to ex-husband Kevin Federline a day after police and paramedics were called to her home.

Five years ago: The new Congress passed a \$9.7 billion bill to help pay flood insurance claims to homeowners, renters and businesses damaged by Superstorm Sandy. No. 10 Texas A&M beat No. 12 Oklahoma, 41-13, in the Cotton Bowl.

One year ago: President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to "look out for the American people" in defending his legacy health care overhaul, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence stood firm in telling Republicans that dismantling "Obamacare" was No. 1 on Donald Trump's list. Macy's said it was eliminating more

than 10,000 jobs and planned to move forward with 68 store closures after a disappointing holiday shopping season.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Rush is 91. Football Hall of Fame coach Don Shula is 88. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 81. Actress Dyan Cannon is 79. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 75. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 63. Actress Ann Magnuson is 62. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 62. Country singer Patty Loveless is 61. Actor Julian Sands is 60. Rock singer Michael Stipe is 58. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 56. Actor Dave Foley is 55. Actress Dot Jones is 54. Actor Rick Hearst is 53. Singer-musician Cait O'Riordan is 53. Actress Julia Ormond is 53. Tennis player Guy Forget (ghee fohr-ZHAY') is 53. Country singer Deana Carter is 52. Rock musician Benjamin Darvill (Crash Test Dummies) is 51. Actor Josh Stamberg is 48. Actor Jeremy Licht is 47. Actor Damon Gupton is 45. Actress-singer Jill Marie Jones is 43. Alt-country singer Justin Townes Earle is 36. Christian rock singer Spencer Chamberlain (Underoath) is 35. Actress Lenora Crichlow is 33. Comedian-actress Charlyne Yi is 32. Actress-singer Coco Jones is 20.

Thought for Today: "Happiness quite unshared can scarcely be called happiness; it has no taste." - Charlotte Bronte, English author (1816-1855).

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!

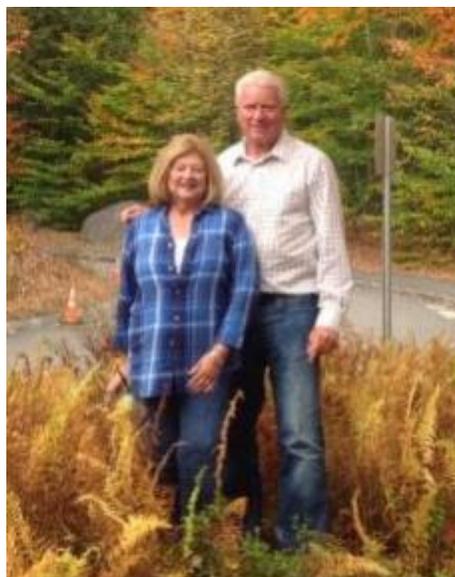
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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