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# Connecting - January 25, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

January 25, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Today's issue of Connecting brings you:

**Julie Pace**, AP's Washington chief of bureau, part of a panel addressing media bias, press access in the Trump administration and regaining public trust in era of fake news.

**Madhu (Krishnappa) Maron**, telling of the lessons in leadership, and life, that were imparted by her former boss - AP executive **Jim Donna**, who died earlier this month. Those lessons apply to us all.

**Randy Evans**, executive editor of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, on how a birthday gift from AP Iowa City correspondent **Ryan Foley** has benefited press freedom in Iowa.

Here's to a great day ahead!

Paul

## Gaining access and trust in an era of 'fake news'



From left, CNN political analyst David Gregory, CNN Chief Political Correspondent Dana Bash, The Atlantic staff writer McKay Coppins and AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics, Jan. 22, 2018. (Courtesy: University of Chicago Institute of Politics)

**By LAUREN EASTON**

A year into the Trump presidency, Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace addressed media bias, the state of press access in the current administration and how news organizations can regain public trust in an era of so-called fake news.

Pace joined CNN Chief Political Correspondent Dana Bash and staff writer McKay Coppins of The Atlantic in a panel discussion led by CNN political analyst David Gregory on Monday evening at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics.

Pace assessed the state of press access:

*It is true that a lot of what we feared at the start of this administration in terms of press access, our ability to cover the White House, has not come true. The briefings continue. They are on camera. We are still working out of offices in the West Wing, which was an open question for a while. We are still traveling with the president on Air Force One. We still see him most days. And, as I said, we can have more access to him than we did with previous presidents in some cases. That's the positive side.*

*I actually think that the "fake news" campaign is really dangerous. And it's not just dangerous here. I work for The Associated Press. We have reporters all over the world in countries where it's incredibly dangerous to work. We also have reporters in countries where there's an expectation that there's a free and fair press - they are western-style democracies. We have seen in Israel, we have seen in Europe, we have seen certainly in places like Turkey and Russia, other leaders picking up the "fake news" term and taking it further than [Trump] has. And that to me is the dangerous effect. It's not just what's happening in our press corps but it's this feeling among other leaders who are willing to cross the line that they can - that he's opened this door and they can walk through it.*

Read more [here](#).

## **Missing my mentor: leadership lessons from the best boss I ever had**



Jim cheering me on at my AP going-away party in 2000. Also pictured: Cindy Prater.

**Madhu Krishnappa Maron** ([Email](#)) - Earlier this month Jim Donna, my former boss and mentor, died of liver and kidney failure. Since his death, I have been missing him dearly and reflecting on the many blessings he bestowed upon me. Here are some of the lessons I learned from him which I pledge to carry forward even more conscientiously every day.

### ***Help Others Grow.***

I first met Jim in 1996 when he interviewed me for a Human Resources Manager position at the Associated Press, a job I desperately wanted. To work in Rockefeller Center, for the world's oldest and largest news-gathering organization would be a dream come true. As head of the HR department, Jim was the final interview in what had been a long process. I knew if I hit it off with Jim, the job would be mine. Luckily, I did.

That was the beginning of a decades-long professional bond and friendship that I have treasured every day. After I left the AP in 2000, we stayed in touch and Jim eventually hired me back for a year-long project that helped sustain MadhuCoach in its infancy. He then helped my business blossom with many generous coaching referrals and words of wisdom.



Jim helped me and many, many others grow professionally. My colleague Robert Naylor wrote after Jim's death, "Jim Donna was a mentor who approached me with the far-fetched idea that I should be an Associated Press bureau chief. He was a diversity champion. It was he who appointed me chairman of the AP Diversity Council. Above all else, he was a very decent man."

## ***Have Fun.***



Jim often said, "I've got a lot of little boy in me." He showed us his playful side every day.

One project I worked on was a management training program for AP's domestic bureau chiefs. My colleagues and I came up with the idea for a "baseball game" to capture the learning of the two-day seminar. We'd have the managers take turns "at bat" while one of us workshop leaders would "pitch" them questions. Easy questions were singles and harder ones were doubles, triples or home runs.

We weren't sure how such a game would go over with a skeptical crowd, but Jim had no doubts. He cheered us on to great success in the program and set us up to become trusted partners to the bureau chiefs, some of whom remain my friends to this very day.

Pictured above: Larry Laughlin, Sue Cross, Melissa Jordan, Dan Day, Charles Hill, Gary Clark, Paul Simon, Clotilde Dillon and Jim Donna (with his back to us, wearing a light-colored baseball cap)

## ***Shine From The Sidelines.***

Jim didn't need the spotlight; he knew how to make things happen from behind the scenes. He was a master influencer who used his keen intellect, winning smile and practicality to solve everyday problems while reshaping the entire AP.

Jim was the reason there was an HR job for me to interview for in the first place. He saw that AP needed to build its HR capacity and made the case to hire "outsiders", people who were trained in HR, to bring the department and the whole AP forward. Before Jim, HR was called "Humans" and was mostly staffed by journalists who had risen through the ranks. He helped us "outsiders" acclimate to AP's unique culture and paved the way for us to do our jobs well.

From Jim I learned that leadership doesn't mean being the loudest voice or having the highest title. He showed me how to shine from the sidelines.

In these three ways and many others, Jim redefined my ideas about leadership and power. He showed me that leading should be full of fun and in service of others. I learned that no matter what my role, I can and should make a difference.

[Click here](#) for a link to Madhu's post.

## **AP's Ryan Foley birthday gift benefits Freedom of Information in Iowa**

**By Randy Evans ([Email](#))**

**Executive Director, Iowa Freedom of Information Council**

Ryan Foley officially celebrated his birthday back in November. The AP correspondent's birthday gift arrived in the mail this week.

It wasn't a gift FOR Ryan. It was a gift FROM Ryan.

Back in November in the days leading up to the big day, Ryan posted a message on Facebook urging his friends to consider

making a birthday donation to the Iowa Freedom of Information Council.

In his post, the Iowa City newsman wrote, "Government transparency has never been more important in our state and country, and this organization does great work advancing that goal. I hope you will consider contributing as a way to celebrate with me."

Ryan's friends came through for the birthday boy big time. Their gifts totaled \$1,002 and ranged in size from \$100 to \$20. The donations arrived at the Iowa FOI Council in a check from Network for Good.

As a reporter, Ryan isn't afraid to ask the tough question. To save him from having to ask this time, I am pleased to report that the check has cleared the bank.



**Ryan Foley**

The Iowa FOI Council is a 40-year-old nonprofit education and advocacy organization. The Associated Press' Des Moines bureau has been a member since Day 1.

The council goes to bat on behalf of journalists or ordinary people when they have questions -- or problems -- with Iowa's open records and open meetings laws and government officials' compliance with the law.

The council has jawboned officials and lawmakers about the laws' requirements and has, on occasion, gone to court in the fight for openness.

Ryan is a skilled user of Iowa's sunshine laws, but there have been occasions when the Iowa FOI Council has lent a hand and pressed Ryan's case with government officials for access.

A couple of years ago, the University of Iowa refused Ryan's request for data about university-paid public opinion polling of Iowa residents and their perceptions of the university's party school reputation. Ryan had been the first to report that the polling work was awarded without bids, with the contract going to a company owned by a former state legislative leader who had no polling expertise.

The Iowa FOI Council jumped to Ryan's assistance with a stinging letter to the university president. The result, while unsuccessful in changing the president's position, did produce this palm-to-the-forehead quote from the university's top lawyer: "If you want to know what the public thinks about the university's reputation, conduct your own poll."

Ryan Foley's email - [rjfoley@ap.org](mailto:rjfoley@ap.org)

## Connecting mailbox

### *When you say 'I think,' isn't that analysis?*

**Ed Tobias** ([Email](#)) - Doug Richardson has expressed a concern that's also been troubling me: When did AP policy change to allow reporters to express opinion, as they do every day on the various cable networks? Analysis, (appropriately labeled), yes. But I was always taught that the words "I think" are forbidden when reporting a story or when being interviewed.

It's not just AP journalists; it's, seemingly, reporters from all news organizations. The best (worst?) example of this is NBC's Hallie Jackson, who expresses her opinions each morning when she "anchors" a segment on MSNBC and then heads to her "day job" as NBC's Chief White House correspondent. But, AP reporters used to be above this sort of thing.

This opinion explosion helps fuel the fire of the "fake news" and "they're out to get me" claims.

As Pogo said "We have met the enemy and he is us."

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### *'AP is to report the story, not be a part of it'*

**Joe Edwards** ([Email](#)) - Re Doug Richardson's thoughtful question in Connecting:



As the country music beat writer for AP in Nashville in the 1980s, I was asked to appear on "Inside Edition" to discuss a controversy involving Billy Ray Cyrus and Travis Tritt. This was a story I had broken and caused quite a stir.

I told COB Kent Flanagan about the request, and he told me: "AP discourages this kind of thing."

I recall this standard from those days:

"AP is to report the story, not be part of it."

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## ***Connecting sky shot - Manhattan***



**Rob Kozloff** - Taken from AA305 as we came to town Tuesday, ready for Springsteen on Broadway concert.

# Old-time newspaper plant in 'The Post'

**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - After enjoying "The Post" on two viewings, former Oregon newspaperman Tim Marsh drilled down to learn more about various scenes in the movie. Among the many reasons Marsh liked Spielberg's production were scenes showing hot type newspaper production, including linotype machines and printing press.

From online research, Marsh (timmarsh@gmail.com) learned that Steiner Studios in Brooklyn, NY, were used. Three blocks away from the Brooklyn studios, Woodside Press was where linotype machines were filmed and front pages created. Printing presses were those of the New York Post in the Bronx.



(Link to photos showing the New York Post press:

<http://djkrugman.tumblr.com/post/92830345113/private-tour-of-the-new-york-post-printing-plant>)

Marsh contacted the Woodside Press in Brooklyn with questions about the scenes there:

"Yeah, they filmed the Linotype footage at Woodside, but all the printing presses were shot up at the New York Post printing facilities in the Bronx. ... the project was a lot of fun. It all started with me creating a front page (two actually) of the Washington Post from 1971 as close to original as possible to use as a prop. That appears in the film as well. But it grew from there and took over our space for almost three weeks with building and shooting and cleaning up. Quite an adventure."

Locating a working linotype was a challenge for the movie crew, but kismet intervened when one was located three blocks from Steiner Studios where the filming was under way.

From the New York Times, Marsh spotted this in a Christmas day article:

"While "The Post" is a stark reminder of what a company town Washington can be, the movie was actually made at Steiner Studios in Brooklyn. A vacant office building in White Plains, N.Y., substituted for The Post; the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of New York City on West 44th Street for The Times. The pressroom is The New York Post's."

The Set Decorators Society of America International added this:

"We were lucky enough to find a printer who still uses the linotype machines in his work in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. We were able to build out this space to make it seem as if it were part of the presses at The Post. The presses were actually shot at the New York Post printing press.

"The linotype is truly a fascinating machine, not unlike a primitive computer. Showing how the typeface was laid out before everything became automated really made the finale of the movie so dynamic."

Even star actress Meryl Streep was impressed with the authenticity of the backshop scenes:

"They really knocked it out of the park by finding and bringing in all these old movable-type printing machines that no longer exist. It was thrilling to do the scene there with the real typesetters. It was like stepping back in time. It gave me the chills..."

In one of its reviews, the New Yorker magazine wrote:

"As for authenticity, we are spirited back in style. Everything smacks of the nineteen-seventies, from the photocopier the size of a small car to the actual small car, a mint-green Fiat, in which Bradlee, just to be different, zips around D.C. Nostalgists for vanished technologies, meanwhile, will moan with delight at the recurring images of type being set by hand. (Call it hot-metal porn.)"

Not everything of interest was in the backshop, however. For instance, Marsh noted that reporters in the recreated Post newsroom were cradling their phones in their necks and not using handset shoulder rests. Some reporters in those days certainly operated without phone cradles, but "I venture a guess that the Washington Post during Watergate time had phone cradles on newsroom desks." (The phone shown here is the wrong style, but the cradle is right.)

Beyond the throw-back mechanics of newspaper production, Marsh also enjoyed a scene where a copy editor pencils out the first three or so words in a laboriously written lead.

"Enjoy the movie for the story and acting," Marsh advises. "But, enjoy it, too, for a look at how it used to be in newspapers' newsrooms, printing and production."



## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Gibbons - [jandsgibbons@gmail.com](mailto:jandsgibbons@gmail.com)

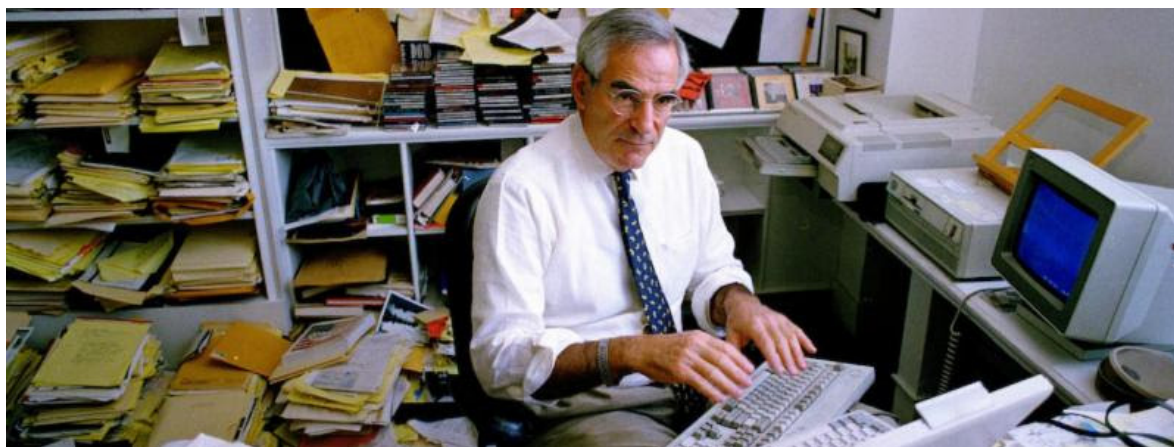
# Welcome to Connecting



Matthew Pennington - [mpennington@ap.org](mailto:mpennington@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

*What would David Halberstam do?* (Poynter)



Author David Halberstam works at his office in New York City on May 14, 1993. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

BY THOMAS D. HERMAN

Nearly 60 years ago, a young reporter in the Saigon bureau of The New York Times became the target of President Kennedy, who sought to silence his reporting of the United States' escalating involvement in Vietnam.

The choice David Halberstam - and the Times - made more than a generation ago to push back against Kennedy set a standard that can guide journalists today as they struggle to cope with President Trump's unrelenting assault on truth and their credibility.

"If the government is telling the truth, reporters become a minor, relatively unimportant conduit to what is happening," the Pulitzer Prize-winning Halberstam told me one afternoon in the sunny living room of his Nantucket home while I interviewed him for "Dateline-Saigon," a documentary film examining the press' controversial coverage of the Vietnam War. "But when the government doesn't tell the truth, begins to twist the truth, hide the truth, then the journalist becomes, involuntarily, infinitely more important."

Halberstam survived covering combat in Vietnam only to be killed in an automobile accident in California in 2007. But his warning - and his example - did not die with him.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

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## ***Christiane Amanpour Believes in the Power of Local News*** (New York Times)

By **AUDIE CORNISH**

Q - A number of women - including you, as the interim replacement for Charlie Rose on PBS - have taken over positions of men who were fired over sexual-abuse accusations. Are you surprised at the number of men in media who have been implicated?

A - Of course I'm surprised, especially when it's people you know and you've worked with, and then this kind of thing comes to light. But on the other hand, the patriarchy has dominated for thousands of years, and people see it as their God-given right. It's not just sexual harassment or abuse or all the other sexual issues - it's



everything. According to the I.M.F., when women are equally represented in all aspects of economy and business, it can cause national G.D.P.s to rise rapidly. In the United States, having equal numbers of women in the work force would raise America's G.D.P. by five percentage points. In India, by 27 percentage points. If people can't be persuaded to see a woman's right to control her own body as a moral issue, it's most definitely an economic one.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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## ***Here's who owns everything in Big Media today*** (Recode)

**By Rani Molla and Peter Kafka**

The media landscape used to be straightforward: Content companies - studios - made stuff - TV shows and movies - and sold it to pay TV distributors, who sold it to consumers.

Now things are up for grabs: Netflix buys stuff from the studios, but it's making its own stuff, too, and it's selling it directly to consumers. That's one of the reasons older media companies are trying to compete by consolidating. And new distributors like Verizon and AT&T are getting in on the action. AT&T, for instance, wants to merge with Time Warner.

Meanwhile, giant tech companies like Google, Amazon and Apple that used to be on the sidelines are getting closer and closer to the action.

To help sort this all out, we've created a diagram that organizes distributors, content companies and internet video companies by market cap and their main lines of business.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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## ***Newspaper wins censorship battle with Florida prisons*** (NorthPortSun)

By ANNE EASKER

A weekly Socialist newspaper won its latest battle with the Florida Department of Corrections when the department's Literature Review Committee recently overturned the impoundment of its Dec. 18 issue.

The Militant, based in New York City, has been embroiled in a free speech fight with the department over the last six months, in which time nine of its issues have been impounded, according to an appeal letter from the newspaper's attorney David Goldstein, dated Dec. 4. That's more than twice as many impoundments as in the prior decade in Florida and twice as many as in the rest of the nation, according to Goldstein.

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

## **The Final Word**

### ***A triple crown lunar eclipse on the horizon for next Wednesday***

**Doug Pizac** ([Email](#)) - Next week is a triple crown lunar eclipse -- supermoon, blue moon and total on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 31st. Below are the times for U.S. time zones from the EarthSky.com website.

Eclipse times for North American time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (January 31, 2018)

Partial umbral eclipse begins: 6:48 a.m. EST

Moon sets before start of total eclipse

### Central Standard Time (January 31, 2018)

Partial umbral eclipse begins: 5:48 a.m. CST

Total eclipse begins: 6:52 a.m. CDT

Moon may set before totality ends

### Mountain Standard Time (January 31, 2018)

Partial umbral eclipse begins: 4:48 a.m. MST

Total eclipse begins: 5:52 a.m. MST

Greatest eclipse: 6:30 a.m. MST

Total eclipse ends: 7:08 a.m. MST

Moon sets before end of partial umbral eclipse

### Pacific Standard Time (January 31, 2018)

Partial umbral eclipse begins: 3:48 a.m. PST

Total eclipse begins: 4:52 a.m. PST

Greatest eclipse: 5:30 a.m. PST

Total eclipse ends: 6:08 a.m. PST

Partial umbral eclipse ends: 7:11 a.m. PST

Moon may set before end of partial umbral eclipse

### Alaskan Standard Time (January 31, 2018)

Partial umbral eclipse begins: 2:48 a.m. AKST

Total eclipse begins: 3:52 a.m. AKST

Greatest eclipse: 4:30 a.m. AKST

Total eclipse ends: 5:08 a.m. AKST

Partial umbral eclipse ends: 6:11 a.m. AKST

### Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time (January 31, 2018)

Partial umbral eclipse begins: 1:48 a.m. HAST

Total eclipse begins: 2:52 a.m. HAST

Greatest eclipse: 3:30 a.m. HAST

Total eclipse ends: 4:08 a.m. HAST

Partial umbral eclipse ends: 5:11 a.m. HAST

## Today in History - January 25, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2018. There are 340 days left in the year.

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

On Jan. 25, 1858, Britain's Princess Victoria, the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, married Crown Prince Frederick William, the future German Emperor and King of Prussia, at St. James's Palace. (The ceremony's tradition-setting music, personally selected by the Princess Royal, included the "Bridal Chorus" from Richard Wagner's "Lohengrin" and the "Wedding March" by Felix Mendelssohn.)

### **On this date:**

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1955, the Soviet Union formally ended its state of war with Germany.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President Milton Obote (oh-BOH'-tay) in a military coup.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67.

In 1993, a gunman shot and killed two CIA employees outside agency headquarters in Virginia (Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kansi was later tried and convicted of the shootings, and executed). Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous century-old catalog.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II ended his historic journey to Cuba.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush urged Congress to quickly pass an economic stimulus package void of extraneous spending, saying only quick action would kick-start the sputtering economy. Democrat Dennis Kucinich (koo-SIH'-nich) abandoned his presidential bid to focus on re-election to Congress.

Five years ago: The U.S. Department of Education declared that students with disabilities had to be given a fair shot to play on a traditional sports team or have their own leagues. Thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators marched through Washington to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court to protest the landmark decision that legalized abortion. A prison riot in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, claimed 58 lives, nearly all of them inmates.

One year ago: President Donald Trump moved aggressively to tighten the nation's immigration controls, signing executive actions to jumpstart construction of his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall and cut federal grants for immigrant-protecting "sanctuary cities." The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 20,000 points for the first time, ending the day at 20,068, two months after the index crossed 19,000 points. Death claimed actress Mary Tyler Moore at age 80 and actor John Hurt at age 77.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Claude Gray is 86. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 73. Actress Jenifer (cq) Lewis is 61. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 49. Actress China Kantner is 47. Actress Ana Ortiz is 47. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') (Mighty Mighty Bosstones) is 46. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 44. Actress Mia Kirshner is 43. Actress Christine Lakin is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia (ah-LEE'-shuh) Keys is 37. Actor Michael Trevino is 33. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 22. Actress Olivia Edward is 11.

***Thought for Today: "Love must be learned, and learned again and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs no instruction, but wants only to be provoked." - Katherine Anne Porter, American author (1894-1980).***

## 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.

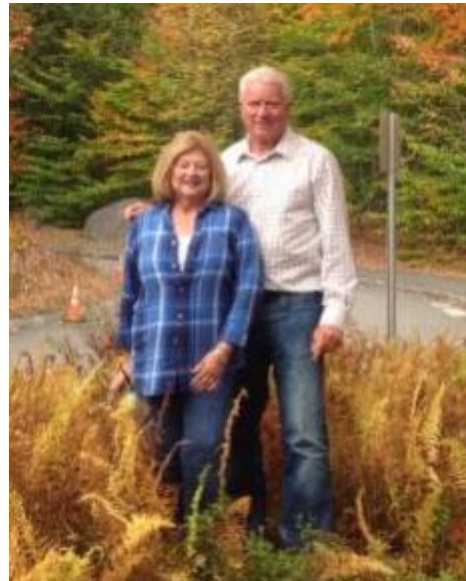
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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