



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - March 02, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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March 02, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Retired AP newswoman and editor **Peggy Harris** is first in with her response to the contention by NRA spokesperson Dana Loesch that many journalists "love mass shootings."

Peggy worked for the AP from 1992 to October 2017. She was a reporter in the Little Rock bureau before becoming a regional desk editor in Philadelphia.

Got a thought about the subject? Share it over the weekend in time for Monday morning's Connecting.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

News reporters are not out to capitalize on people's misery



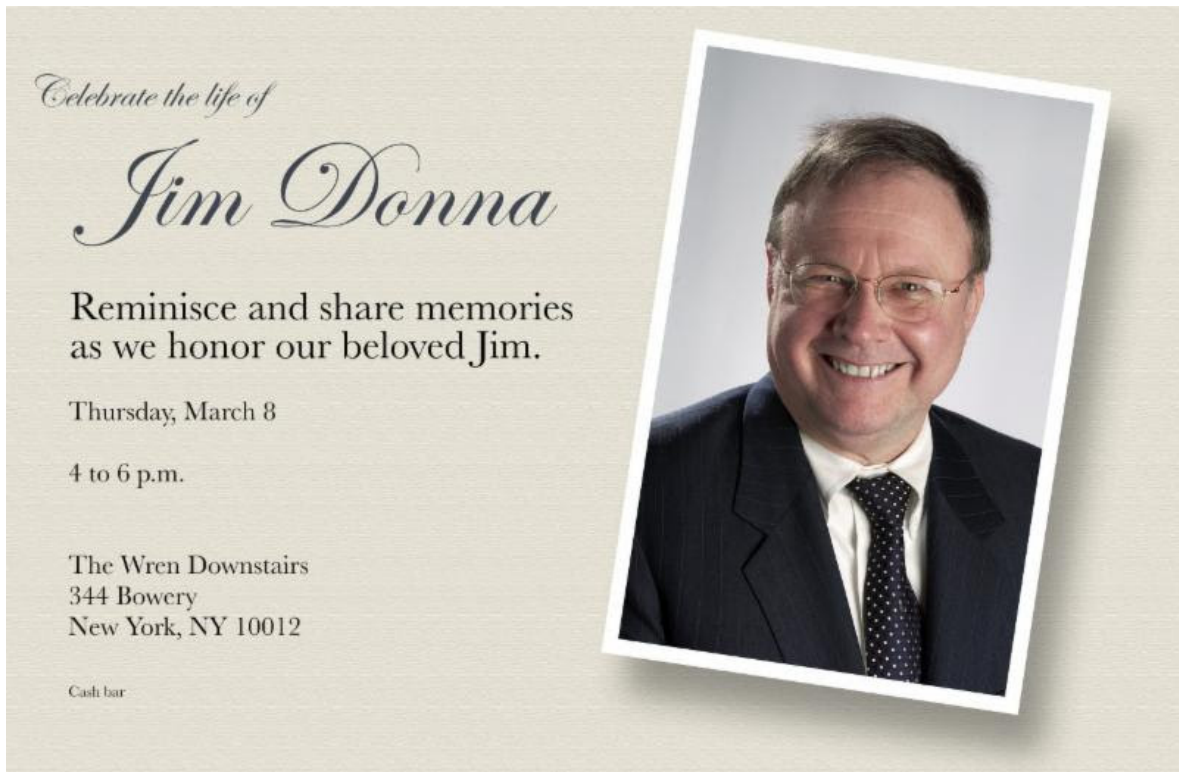
Backpacks and cleaning supplies lie in the hallway of Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Ark., March 25, 1998. The view is from a door used by students to leave the building during a false fire alarm, followed by a shooting. AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Peggy Harris ([Email](#)) - I'd like to say a few words in response to the characterization by Ms. Loesch that journalists "love mass shootings." (See Thursday's Connecting.)

I covered the 1998 school shootings at a Jonesboro, Arkansas, middle school when two children took several guns and ammo from a relative's weapons collection, set off the school fire alarm then opened fire on their schoolmates as they were filing out of the school. The two boys killed four 11- and 12-year-olds and a 32-year-old teacher and wounded many others. Regarding professional journalists, the only passion I saw in my colleagues and felt myself was a complete resolve to get the facts and to report them fairly and with sensitivity to a shocked and grieving community and country.

Granted some individuals and groups operate as journalists in the gross stereotypical fashion Ms. Loesch described. But just as all gun-rights advocates are not ignorant, callous people, all news reporters are not out to capitalize on people's misery. Our work seems so obviously critical and fundamental to a free and open society, it is mind-boggling that Ms. Loesch (in Trumpian fashion) goes after journalists who are exercising rights that protect all Americans, including her.

Celebration of Jim Donna's life to be held March 8 in New York



A photo of the day, from Moscow



Journalists watch as Russian President Vladimir Putin gives his annual state of the nation address in Moscow, Russia on March 1. Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP Photo

Trump adrift: Tumult in West Wing amid exits, investigation



President Trump arrives to speak to the White House Opioid Summit in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, March 1, 2018, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By **JULIE PACE, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Rattled by two weeks of muddled messages, departures and spitting matches between the president and his own top officials, Donald Trump is facing a shrinking circle of trusted advisers and a staff that's grim about any prospect of a reset.

Even by the standards of Trump's often chaotic administration, the announcement of communications director Hope Hicks' imminent exit spread new levels of anxiety across the West Wing and cracked open disputes that had been building since the White House's botched handling of domestic violence allegations against a senior aide late last month.

One of Trump's most loyal and longest-serving aides, Hicks often served as human buffer between the unpredictable president and the business of government. One

official on Thursday compared the instability caused by her departure to that of a chief of staff leaving the administration - though that prospect, too, remained a possibility given the questions that have arisen about John Kelly's competence.

Hicks' departure comes as special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation appears to be circling the Oval Office, with prosecutors questioning Trump associates about both his business dealings before he became president and his actions in office, according to people with knowledge of the interviews. Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, has also been weakened after being stripped of his high-level security clearance amid revelations about potential conflicts of interest.

Read more [here](#).

Mexico Has Its Spyware. A Reporter Has a Few Phones to Juggle.



Azam Ahmed, the chief of The New York Times's Mexico bureau, talking with an editor on a satellite phone while reporting from a remote Haitian village after Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Credit Meridith Kohut for The New York Times

By The New York Times

How do New York Times journalists use technology in their jobs and in their personal lives? Azam Ahmed, the Mexico bureau chief, who is based in Mexico City, discussed the tech he's using.

What are the most important tech tools that you've found for doing your job?

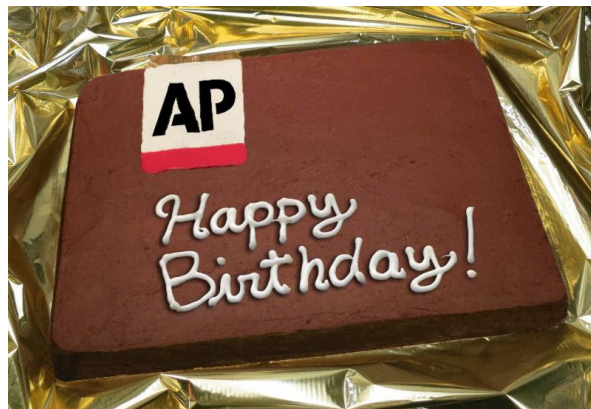
My phone and the various messaging apps that I use are the only truly indispensable technology I have.

WhatsApp is probably the most widely used messaging service in Mexico. It's pretty much the only way to get busy people to respond to you. Some sources use Telegram and Signal, so I do as well, like other reporters covering sensitive issues they don't want monitored.

My colleagues will laugh about this, but I also use a GPS watch when I'm going off the grid, to have my coordinates wherever I am. When I was previously in Kabul, Afghanistan, a few of the other reporters teased me for using it, but I've found it reassuring to always have my whereabouts available when I'm in remote areas without any service - especially if it's a violent area or one where kidnapping is a possibility.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Doug Kienitz - texas.golfing@verizon.net

Ken Fields - ken-fields@comcast.net

Maryann Mrowca - maryann.mrowca@gmail.com

Greg Brock - brockula@hotmail.com

On Saturday to...

Daniel Patrick Beegan - daniel.beegan@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Charles Richards - charlesarichards@sbcglobal.net

Stories of interest

The profit-fueled rise of partisan journalism is tearing America apart (Washington Post)

By Hugh Hewitt

In late 1811 and early 1812, the town of New Madrid in the Missouri territory was hammered by three major earthquakes. "The ground heaved and pitched, hurling furniture, snapping trees and destroying barns and homesteads," wrote Elizabeth Rusch in Smithsonian Magazine. "Sections of riverbed below the Mississippi rose so high that part of the river ran backward."

Like those earthquakes, the election of 2016 produced two "rivers" in U.S. media. The Trump earthquake seems to have hastened the final split of American media into two very distinct waters, with very little irrigation connecting them. One of those rivers is thoroughly inundated with anti-Trump, #NeverTrump debris and sediment. The other is almost wholly free of those ingredients.

It isn't just cable news, though MSNBC and CNN are mostly in the former and Fox News almost wholly in the latter. The "two rivers" effect is mostly the result of the self-selected flows we direct ourselves to via Twitter feeds and chosen for us by Facebook's and Google's almighty algorithms. News consumers have to consciously seek out the other wellspring to make sure they aren't isolated from 40 percent of the country's views and heartfelt beliefs.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

-0-

Yes, there's a crisis of trust in journalism. But it's inside newsrooms, too (CJR)

By HEIDI N. MOORE

JOURNALISTS IN AMERICA'S MAJOR newsrooms are asking a question of their bosses: Is anyone in charge here?

Turmoil is currently engulfing The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Time Inc., NPR, and others-enough in fact to mark this moment as one in which internal civil wars are threatening to break out unless something changes. And the only thing that will fix it is a wholesale reckoning with newsroom culture that many newsrooms have long ignored and only just started to address. (Here's a hint: It starts with something media executives are not particularly practiced at, which is listening to staff instead of talking at them).

The basic problem: The intensifying economic pressures on the media industry have caused executives to ping-pong among bright, new ideas-Branded content! Pivot to video! Newsletters!-with hopes that the latest strategy will be the messianic answer to the media industry's ills. (Spoiler: none of them are, nor can be.) The head-swirling shifts in strategy-paired, usually, with restructuring and layoffs-have created deep rifts between reporters and newspaper management, a mutual wariness that's appearing across the industry as unprecedented mistrust.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

-0-

Texas Monthly makes major changes - including new editor - following Bumble backlash (Culture Map/Austin)

By KATIE FRIEL

The national magazine of Texas is undergoing some major changes. Texas Monthly announced on March 1 that Tim Taliaferro, who served a tumultuous 16 months as editor in chief, will no longer edit the magazine. Instead, he will be transitioning into a new role as chief innovation officer.

Taking his place as interim editor in chief is Rich Oppel, former editor of the Austin American-Statesman. Oppel was named the magazine's ombudsman in February after the Columbia Journalism Review published a report that Taliaferro had allegedly struck a deal with Austin-based Bumble to feature the company's CEO on the February cover of Texas Monthly.

"Throughout its 45-year history, Texas Monthly has been known for its quality journalism and an ironclad commitment to editorial integrity," Oppel said in a release. "These changes will help the organization continue in that tradition and bring our excellent stories to an even larger audience through innovative new avenues."

Oppel will remain at the top of the masthead while "a comprehensive nationwide search is conducted for a new long-term editor." He assumes the position in May.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Could you quit social media? Your answer may depend on your age (USA Today)

By **BRETT MOLINA**

More Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to give up Facebook, Snapchat and other social media.

According to a survey published Thursday by the Pew Research Center, 40% of respondents said they would find it hard to give up social media, up from 28% four years ago.

The Pew survey also found the younger you are, the harder it is to part ways with social media. More than half (51%) of social media users age 18 to 24 said it would be hard to give up social media, compared to 40% of users ages 25 to 29. Users over 50 had the easiest time logging off, with 66% saying it would not be hard to give up social media.

While Facebook remains among the most popular social media services, its growth appears to have flattened, according to Pew. About 68% of U.S. adults say they use Facebook, trailing only YouTube at 73%.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 2, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 2, the 61st day of 2018. There are 304 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 2, 1943, the three-day Battle of the Bismarck Sea began in the southwest Pacific during World War II; U.S. and Australian warplanes were able to inflict heavy damage on an Imperial Japanese convoy.

On this date:

In 1793, the first (and third) president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, was born near Lexington, Virginia.

In 1836, the Republic of Texas formally declared its independence from Mexico.

In 1867, Howard University, a historically black school of higher learning in Washington, D.C., was founded. Congress passed, over President Andrew Johnson's veto, the first of four Reconstruction Acts.

In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.

In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act.

In 1933, the motion picture "King Kong" had its world premiere at New York's Radio City Music Hall and the Roxy.

In 1939, Roman Catholic Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli (puh-CHEL'-ee) was elected pope on his 63rd birthday; he took the name Pius XII. The Massachusetts legislature voted to ratify the Bill of Rights, 147 years after the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution had gone into effect. (Georgia and Connecticut soon followed.)

In 1958, a multinational expedition led by British explorer Vivian Fuchs completed the first overland crossing of Antarctica by way of the South Pole in 99 days.

In 1965, the movie version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music," starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1978, the remains of comedian Charles Chaplin were stolen by extortionists from his grave in Cosier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland. (The body was recovered near Lake Geneva 11 weeks later.)

In 1989, representatives from the 12 European Community nations agreed to ban all production of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), the synthetic compounds blamed for destroying the Earth's ozone layer, by the end of the 20th century.

In 1995, the Internet search engine website Yahoo! was incorporated by founders Jerry Yang and David Filo.

Ten years ago: Dmitry Medvedev, Vladimir Putin's hand-picked successor, scored a crushing victory in Russia's presidential election.

Five years ago: The day after \$85 billion in across-the-board federal spending cuts went into effect, President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans refused to concede any culpability for failing to stave off the sequester. Alaska's 41st Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race kicked off with a festive ceremonial start in Anchorage.

One year ago: Under intensifying pressure, Attorney General Jeff Sessions abruptly agreed to recuse himself from any investigation into Russian meddling in America's

2016 presidential election, acting after revelations he twice spoke with the Russian ambassador during the campaign and failed to say so when pressed by Congress. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson was confirmed as secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development on a Senate vote of 58-41; a few hours later, the Senate backed former Texas Gov. Rick Perry to be energy secretary, 62-37.

(Stations: Rock musician Casey, one name, is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Cullum is 88. Author Tom Wolfe is 88. Former Soviet President and Nobel peace laureate Mikhail S. Gorbachev is 87. Actress Barbara Luna is 79. Author John Irving is 76. Actress Cassie Yates is 67. Actress Laraine Newman is 66. Former Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., is 65. Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is 63. Singer Jay Osmond is 63. Pop musician John Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 62. Tennis player Kevin Curren is 60. Country singer Larry Stewart (Restless Heart) is 59. Rock singer Jon Bon Jovi is 56. Blues singer-musician Alvin Youngblood Hart is 55. Actor Daniel Craig is 50. Actor Richard Ruccolo is 46. Rock musician Casey (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 42. Rock singer Chris Martin (Coldplay) is 41. Actress Heather McComb is 41. Actress Rebel Wilson is 38. Actress Bryce Dallas Howard is 37. NFL quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is 36. Musician Mike "McDuck" Olson (Lake Street Dive) is 35. Actor Robert Iler is 33. Actress Nathalie Emmanuel is 29. Singer-rapper-actress Becky G is 21.

Thought for Today: "Humor has a tremendous place in this sordid world. It's more than just a matter of laughing. If you can see things out of whack, then you can see how things can be in whack." - Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zuhl), AKA "Dr. Seuss," American children's author (born this date in 1904, died 1991).

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.

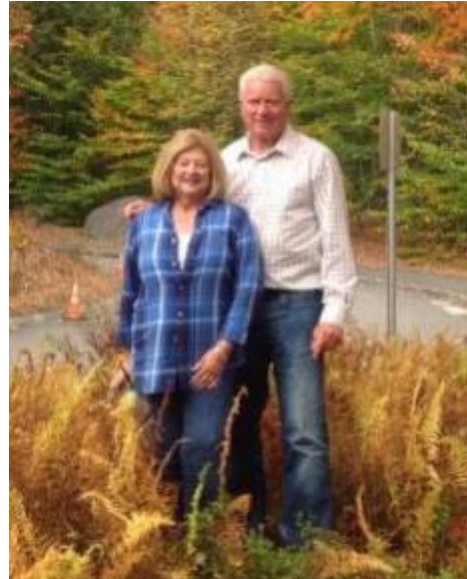
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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.



Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](https://www.google.com/maps/place/14719+W+79th+Ter,+Lenexa,+KS+66215)

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