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Connecting - March 07, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 8:53 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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Connecting

March 07, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

In case you missed, a reminder that this year's 25-Year Club Celebration has been set for Thursday, May 10, in New York. The annual AP service recognition program for eligible active staffers, retirees and alumni with more than 25 years of AP service will take place from 5:30-8 p.m. at AP headquarters. Eligible attendees will receive

invitations soon. If you would like further information, send a note to - recognition@ap.org

Mark Mittelstadt will assume the Connecting editor's role through the end of this week while Linda and I are making a reality out of California Dreamin'. Please direct your stories and contributions to Mark at - markmitt71@yahoo.com

Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Handsomest man in New York

Shirley Christian ([Email](#)) - About Mike Cochran's description of the "debonair" George H. W. Bush: When I covered the United Nations for The AP (1970-73) I considered the then U. S. Ambassador George H. W. Bush to be in a dead heat with Mayor John Lindsay for handsomest man in New York.

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A breakdown of press credentials at Winter Games

Tad Bartimus shared a breakdown of validated press credentials for the Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang - posted and produced by Anthony Edgar, head of the Olympic Games media operations:

PYEONGCHANG - The total number of validated press accreditations for the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 was 2,853 (1624 E, 744 EP, 142 ET, 57 EC, 286 ENR).

56.9 per cent of accredited press were writers/editors (E), 26.1 percent were photographers (EP), 17.6 percent non-right holding broadcasters (ENR), 5 percent technicians (ET) and 2 per cent were MPC support staff (EC).

2,309 (80.9%) of accredited press were male and 544 (19.1%) were female.

Xinhua News Agency had the highest percentage of female reporters for a major news agency, with 30 percent of their reporting team female. Xinhua also had the highest percentage of female photographers (29.4%), well above the other major news agencies average that ranged from 3.1 to 15.6 percent.

Overall, the trend of female reporters representing less than 20 percent of the overall press accreditations has not shifted in 20 years, but the percentage of female photographers has seen a significant decrease.

Fifty countries had accredited press reporting from Pyeongchang. Five reporters had their accreditations revoked for breaches of the IOC News Access Rules relating to broadcasting breaches.

BREAKDOWN OF VALIDATED PRESS ACCREDITATIONS						
WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES, PYEONGCHANG 2018						
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%	F%	M%
TOTAL	2309	544	2853	100	19.1	80.9
E	1254	370	1624	56.9	22.8	77.2
EP	667	77	744	26.1	10.3	89.7
ET	125	17	142	5.0	12.0	88.0
EC	48	9	57	2.0	15.8	84.2
ENR	215	71	286	17.6	24.8	75.2
NEWS AGENCIES (E EP ET EC ENR)					F%	M%
Associated Press					17.1	82.9
Reuters					20.4	79.6
AFP					19.0	81.0
Getty					17.6	82.4
Xinhua					30.0	70.0
Kyodo					14.5	85.5
Yonhap					10.7	89.3
NEWS AGENCIES (PHOTO EP)					F%	M%
Associated Press					9.5	90.5
Reuters					3.1	96.9
AFP					15.6	84.4
Getty					6.9	93.1
Xinhua					29.4	70.6
Kyodo					6.7	93.3
Yonhap					9.1	90.9
Validated 05 March 2018. © IOC						

AP Images Blog

The faces of Cuba's tobacco industry



In this Feb. 27, 2018 photo, Roberto Armas Valdes poses with dry tobacco leaves in a warehouse at the Martinez tobacco farm, in Cuba's western province of Pinar del Rio. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

One is a weathered tobacco picker who harvests bright-green leaves in the fields of Pinar del Rio province. Another is a Havana resident who selects the best leaves with elaborately manicured hands, her delicate nails decorated with acrylic swoops of color and tiny beads.

They are among the many faces of Cuba's tobacco industry, which is a rare bright spot in the island's struggling economy. Increased yields and better quality tobacco made 2017 one of the best ever for Cuban farmers and cigar producers. The country saw more than \$500 million in revenue, 12 percent more than the previous year, according to government and company officials.

The process starts in the tobacco fields of western Cuba, where pickers like Jorge Luis Leon Becerra harvest the leaves and move them by oxen to the high-ceiling drying house, where female workers thread them and hang them for the first in a series of drying and curing sessions. Among the latter is Delma Mendivez Martinez, who began working at the Martinez tobacco farm just over six decades ago, when she was 14.

Read more [here](#).

Why Data Nerds Embrace Election Night Jitters

By **JEREMY BOWERS**

The New York Times

As a senior editor on The New York Times's interactive news desk, members of my team are both reporters and programmers, and elections are my specialty. (I was responsible for feeding results to the infamous Times election needle that predicted, hours early, Doug Jones's victory over Roy Moore for the Alabama Senate seat vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.)

On any given election night, you will find me huddled over a laptop with a crew of designers, developers and graphics editors in a tiny conference room on the second floor of The Times's Manhattan headquarters. If we're lucky, there is a spread of tacos, giving the space the faint perfume of charred meat. A television screen on the wall is showing election results on The Times's website.

(For the Texas primaries on Tuesday, I hope we have barbecue brisket and sausage. It only seems right.)

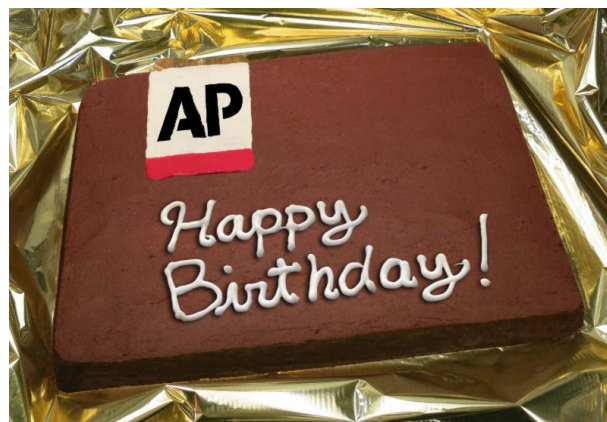
Read more [here](#). Shared by Dorothy Abernathy.

AP Photo of the Day



People walk past a public TV screen showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, in Tokyo Wednesday, March 7, 2018. After years of refusal, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss the fate of his atomic arsenal with the United States and has expressed a readiness to suspend nuclear and missile tests during such talks, a senior South Korean official said Tuesday. Japanese characters read: "North-South summit talks." (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Myron Belkind - myron.belkind@veriozon.net

Gary Clark - garyclark316@yahoo.com

Michael Giarrusso - mgiarrusso@ap.org

Deborah Rusolo - drusolo@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting



Elaine Ganley - eganley@ap.org

Stories of interest

Has Anyone Seen Robert Mueller Lately? (Slate)

By HEATHER SCHWEDEL

Would it kill special counsel Robert Mueller to leave the Justice Department one of these days? We're not asking that he walk a red carpet, pose in front of a step and repeat, or show up at that one pumpkin patch that celebrities always visit as a publicity stunt. Maybe he could just step out for 10 minutes and take a little stroll around the block?

Why are we clamoring for new Mueller pics like paparazzi stalking Jennifer Aniston? Because every time his investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election makes news-which is a lot these days-sites like Slate must use the same photos of Mueller we've been using since this past summer, the last time a photo was taken of the special counsel. Our nation's poor photo editors are stuck with a cache of boring, already-used shots of one of the most newsworthy figures of our political moment.

June 21, 2017, is the date attached to the most recent shots of Mueller in Getty Images, a photo service that Slate and many other news outlets subscribe to-eight long months ago. It's the same date of the last Mueller photos available from the Associated Press and Reuters, too. "Well obviously, Mueller is very busy and doesn't get out much because he's busy investigating Trump and his cronies," Slate designer Derreck Johnson told me. But "I hope he steps out for some coffee soon or makes a Target run."

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

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New report shows lack of progress for women of color in the media (Poynter)

WASHINGTON - Fifty years after the Kerner Commission criticized the news media for not sufficiently covering race issues, a new special report shows that women of color continue to be underrepresented in U.S. newsrooms and face multiple challenges in achieving equality in hiring and promotions.

The Women's Media Center report, "The Status of Women of Color in the U.S. News Media 2018," offers a rare look at where women journalists of color are - and aren't - in legacy print, radio, TV and digital news. It is an important extension and extrapolation of data previously published in the Women's Media Center's annual "The Status of Women in the U.S. Media" study, and includes data about minority journalists released after the most recent version of that report that was produced in 2017.

Women of color represent just 7.95 percent of U.S. print newsroom staff, 12.6 percent of local TV news staff, and 6.2 percent of local radio staff, according to industry research that is based on news organizations' replies to professional association queries.

Read more [here](#).

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NRA issues threatening video warning journalists 'your time is running out' (Independent)

By Alina Polianskaya

The National Rifle Association has released a video containing a threatening message to journalists, warning them "your time is running out".

In a video posted on Twitter by NRATV, conservative political activist and TV host Dana Loesch tells "every lying member of the media" that they have "had enough".

Set to a backing track of ominous-sounding guitar music, the NRA spokeswoman appears on screen dressed in black with an hourglass by her side.

"We have had enough of the lies, the sanctimony, the arrogance, the hatred, the pettiness, the fake news," she said.

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

The Final Word

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HIT THE CHEVY WITH A LEVY, TAX YOUR WHISKEY & RYE

EU DOUBLES DOWN ON THREAT TO RETALIATE AS TRUMP'S TRADE WAR HEATS UP

COMMERCE SECTION

By Nicholas...

THE EUROPEAN Union will announce a package of "tariffs, financial penalties" against the US President Donald Trump if he fails to impose a 20 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium exports, as they grow a new trade war.

Over the weekend the EU's action already includes a 10 per cent tax on US-made cars, as well as a ban on getting other American goods including whiskey and rye.

"We are looking at possibilities to identify, starting on Monday, the goods from the US that are most responsible for the trade imbalance," said a European Union spokesman.

The threat of a trade war between the EU and the World Trade Organisation, "is very far off" and the world is deep into a "period of generalisation for the world."

"We are not ready to offer the world the full range of our services," Trump said last week. "We are not ready to offer the world the full range of our services."

European Commission spokesman for Margherita Schinas also warned in the blog: "The subject, the file, will be on the table again in the coming weeks."

will also be a reaction to Trump's threat, which will be with firms and organisations.

"We're looking at the fact that we've got a lot of goods from the US that are not being taxed properly, and we're looking at the fact that we've got a lot of goods from the US that are not being taxed properly."

EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmström said on Sunday night the commission president advised: "We are on the brink of a trade war. Don't let it happen. Don't let it happen. Don't let it happen."

Trump's trade war has been a "game plan" for the US, she said. "We are looking at the fact that we've got a lot of goods from the US that are not being taxed properly, and we're looking at the fact that we've got a lot of goods from the US that are not being taxed properly."

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Late filing reveals Laing debt woes

BUSINESS

By Nigel...

ONE OF Britain's biggest private-equity firms is struggling to secure a multi-million pound rescue package.

Laing O'Rourke, which is now leading the financial crisis in the private equity market, is struggling to secure a multi-million pound rescue package.

After making up 10 per cent of profits in its 2016, Laing O'Rourke reported a loss of 10 per cent in 2017, putting a strain on its balance sheet.

Laing O'Rourke's parent firm, the construction - which employs 15,000 people in the UK - was forced back to the negotiating table in March and a deal with banks was not reached.

Laing O'Rourke was due to repay £100m in October 2017, however, it appeared to banks to be unable to raise enough to meet the deadline.

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HEADLINE HALL OF FAME: How to explain the European Union's retaliation for President Trump's quixotic trade war? This London tabloid plumbed Don McLean's "American Pie" (From today's Politico Playbook)

Today in History - March 7, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 7, the 66th day of 2018. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what came to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

On this date:

In 1530, Pope Clement VII threatened to excommunicate England's King Henry VIII if he went through with plans to marry Anne Boleyn, who became Henry's second wife after Catherine of Aragon. (The pope made good on his excommunication threat in 1533.)

In 1793, during the French Revolutionary Wars, France declared war on Spain.

In 1850, in a three-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1918, Japanese corporation Panasonic had its beginnings as Konosuke Matsushita (maht-soosh-tah) founded Matsushita Electric Housewares

Manufacturing Works in Osaka. The musical comedy "Oh, Look!" featuring the song "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" opened on Broadway.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles (veh-SY) and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1955, the first TV production of the musical "Peter Pan" starring Mary Martin aired on NBC.

In 1967, the musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," based on the "Peanuts" comic strips by Charles M. Schulz, opened in New York's Greenwich Village, beginning an off-Broadway run of 1,597 performances.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1981, anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed kidnapped American Bible translator Chester Bitterman, whom they accused of being a CIA agent.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use." (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

Ten years ago: On the heels of a gloomy report that 63,000 jobs were lost in February 2008, President George W. Bush said "it's clear our economy has slowed" as he tried to reassure an anxious public that the long-term outlook was good. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power, who was acting as an adviser to Barack Obama, resigned after calling rival Hillary Rodham Clinton "a monster." Leon Greenman, the only Englishman sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, died in London at age 97.

Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously for tough new sanctions to punish North Korea for its latest nuclear test; a furious Pyongyang threatened a nuclear strike against the United States. The Senate confirmed John Brennan to be CIA director, 63-34, after the Obama administration bowed to demands from Republicans blocking the nomination and stated explicitly there were limits to the president's power to use drones against U.S. terror suspects on American soil. Sybil Christopher, 83, the wife Richard Burton left in 1963 to marry Elizabeth Taylor, and who became a theater producer and nightclub founder, died in New York.

One year ago: WikiLeaks published thousands of documents described as secret files about CIA hacking tools the government employed to break into users' computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs from companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung. The Commerce Department reported the U.S. trade deficit jumped in January 2017 by 9.6 percent to \$48.5 billion, the highest level in nearly five years as a flood of mobile phones and other consumer products widened America's trade gap with China. A freight train smashed into a charter bus at a rail crossing in Biloxi, Mississippi, leaving four people dead.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Willard Scott is 84. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 80. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 78. Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 76. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 75. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 72. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 72. Pro Football Hall of Famer Franco Harris is 68. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 66. Rock musician Kenny Aronoff (BoDeans, John Mellencamp) is 65. Actor Bryan Cranston is 62. Actress Donna Murphy is 59. Actor Nick Searcy is 59. Golfer Tom Lehman is 59. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl is 58. Actress Mary Beth Evans is 57. Singer-actress Taylor Dayne is 56. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 55. Author E.L. James is 55. Author Bret Easton Ellis is 54. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 54. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 54. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 52. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 51. Actress Rachel Weisz (wys) is 48. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 47. Actor Jay Duplass is 45. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 45. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 44. Actress Jenna Fischer is 44. Actor Tobias Menzies is 44. Actress Sarayu Rao is 43. Actress Audrey Marie Anderson is 43. Actor TJ Thyne is 43. Bluegrass singer-musician Frank Solivan is 41. Actress Laura Prepon is 38. Actress Bel Powley is 26. Actress Giselle Eisenberg (TV: "Life in Pieces") is 11.

Thought for Today: "Caveat actor." (Let the doer beware.) - Latin proverb.

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.

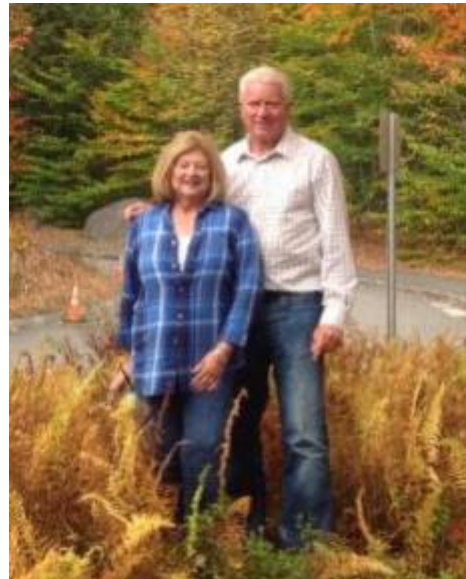
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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