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Connecting - March 09, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 8:01 AM

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Connecting

March 09, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Today's issue leads with a provocative question from former Oklahoma City Chief of Bureau **Lindel Hutson** wondering whether it's time to revive the "Fairness Doctrine." Noting the deep divide in American political thought, he considers whether reinstating the doctrine might produce more "real news" and less "constant one-sided commentary."

Send Connecting your thoughts on the subject. **Paul Stevens** returns to the editor's chair Monday. Send stories, photos, letters, tips to him at paulstevens46@gmail.com

Enjoy the weekend!

- Mark Mittelstadt

Time to revive the 'Fairness Doctrine'?

Connecting colleague **Lindel Hutson** wonders whether the current wide gap in American political thought might be bridged by bringing back the "Fairness Doctrine."

"**Sibby Christensen** referred to it in a recent Connecting regarding Walter Cronkite's comment that the Vietnam War was unwinnable," Hutson wrote Thursday. "The FCC fined CBS because Cronkite's opinion violated the Fairness Doctrine."

"Did eliminating the doctrine help create our current political polarization? Could Fox's Sean Hannity exist under rules of the Fairness Doctrine? Rush Limbaugh? Would there be more real news and less constant one-sided commentary?"

Hutson continues:

"A little history, courtesy of Wikipedia:

"It was an FCC rule introduced in 1949 requiring broadcast licensees to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that was -- in the FCC's view -- honest, equitable, and balanced.

"The FCC eliminated the policy in 1987 and removed the rule that implemented the policy from the Federal Register in August 2011.

"It had two basic elements. One required broadcasters to devote some of their airtime to discussing controversial matters of public interest. The other was to air contrasting views on those matters.

"Stations were given wide latitude as to how to provide contrasting views: It could be done through news segments, public affairs shows, or editorials. The doctrine did not require equal time for opposing views but required that contrasting viewpoints be presented.

"So without this rule, it's easy to see how party polarization has risen because the main argument for the doctrine was to ensure that listeners/viewers were exposed to a diversity of viewpoints.

"The fairness doctrine is not the same as the equal time rule, which deals only with political candidates.

"There have been attempts to revive it, but none have gotten any traction.



"A Broadcaster Freedom Act of 2009 was introduced to block reinstatement of the doctrine. It later was added as a rider to a bill which passed in the Senate but not in the House.

"The AP reported the bill was 'In part a response to conservative radio talk show hosts who feared that Democrats would try to revive the policy to ensure liberal opinions got equal time.'

"Obama opposed reinstatement of the rule. His spokesman said Obama believed -- as did Ronald Reagan -- that the electronic press -- 'the press that uses air and electrons' -- should be as free from government control as the press that uses ink and paper."

So what do you think? Connecting readers who spent years, if not decades, covering an increasingly coarse and divisive political debate in the United States -- what's your opinion? Does government need to step in and regulate what is broadcast? Is the current system beyond fixing?

Send thoughts to paulstevens46@gmail.com

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Digging out from two feet of snow

Guy Palmiotto and **Marty Steinberg** were among many Connecting readers coping Thursday with two feet or more of snow dumped on the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast by the latest storm. Steinberg shared this photo from his home in South Orange, N.J.:



Palmiotto, meanwhile, sent this view of his street in Rockaway Township in northern New Jersey where the storm left as much as 26 inches of wet, heavy snow. He also offered a fascinating time-lapse video.



Time-lapse video of heavy snow in Rockaway Township, N.J. (Guy Palmiotto)

John Willis, meanwhile, took exception to Connecting on Thursday referring to the storm as "Quinn." "Oh please, please, please do not let us fall into The Weather Channel hype of naming winter storms," he wrote. "It was a big Nor'easter, for sure. Is AP style now to follow The Weather Channel's wacky way of promoting each storm as the worst one since the last worst one?"

"TWC actually names winter storms when they happen in the autumn and spring. This practice is factually flawed. They may be winter-like storms, but a big snow storm that blows up on April 30 or November 30 is not a winter storm. Winter storms happen in the winter."

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Ex-APer Mike Hendricks receives SABEW award

Former Syracuse correspondent and Albany News Editor **Mike Hendricks**, now writing for Albany Business Review, recently won an award in the "Commentary/Opinion - Small" category in the Society of American Business Editors and Writers editorial competition.

The SABEW judges wrote: "Hendricks' elegantly written columns demonstrate a deep knowledge of local business and a strong desire to serve his community. He focuses on issues of interest to his readership that are unlikely to be covered elsewhere, and he offers solutions. That said, he doesn't shy away from broader topics, and uses personal experience to great effect in his piece on health care."

Congratulations Mike!

See the full list of awards [here](#).

Nick Ut receives award from Kerala Media Academy

Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist **Nick Ut** recently received the first World Press Photographer Prize instituted by the Kerala Media Academy. Ut, retired from The Associated Press, received the award during the International Photo Festival in Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala Media Academy was established in 1979 and is a joint venture of the Government of Kerala, Kerala Union of Working Journalists and Indian Newspaper Society.



Nick Ut with award

Connecting mailbox

Picture this -- Trump meets Kim Jong Un

Joe Yeninas ([Email](#)) _ Wow, what a great picture -- President Trump and Kim Jong Un together, two guys with very bad hair. Make sure **Nick Ut** is on standby.

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Man bites dog -- will he seek treatment in Canada?

John Willis ([Email](#)) _ My cousin, who reads the internet from cover to cover daily, found this little gem from The Washington Post, and I was just wondering why it hasn't gotten much traction in the U.S. At least I haven't seen it on television or read about it elsewhere. When dog bites man it's not news. When man bites dog, it's front page. This seems in that



category to me:

Hundreds of Canadian doctors demand lower salaries. (Yes, lower.)

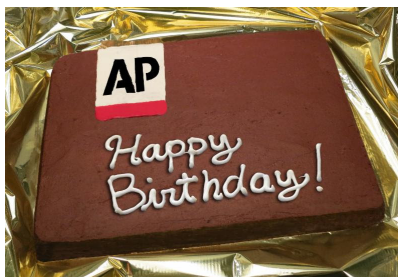
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Gateway to another era



Mark Mittelstadt (Email) _ An officer of a nonprofit which operates a spiritual retreat northwest of Tucson, I recently walked the fence-line surrounding the property. The land, at the base of Safford Peak, is adjacent to the western division of Saguaro National Park. The 80 acres is what remains of a much larger parcel homesteaded 100 years ago by a World War I veteran who came to the area in 1917 seeking relief for breathing problems. At one time the land was used to film Westerns and included a popular guest ranch where movie stars and other guests stayed. During my walk I came across this gate, still somewhat intact but a victim of the punishing Arizona climate, cactus and time.

Connecting wishes a Happy Birthday!



Saturday

Tena Haraldson - haraldson.t@gmail.com

Sunday

Kernan Turner - mrkrt@ashlandhome.net

Stories of interest

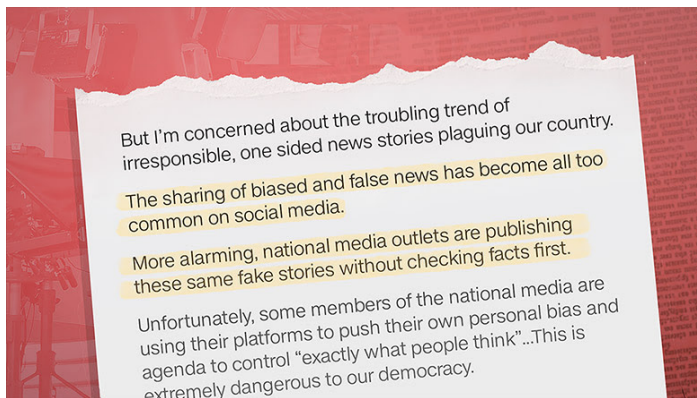
How the Parkland students got so good at social media *(New York Times)*

The secretary of education, Betsy DeVos, had only just announced that she would visit Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School when the students began to react. "Good thing I was already planning on sleeping in tomorrow," Emma González tweeted out to her 1.2 million followers Tuesday evening. "Literally no one asked for this," said her classmate, Sarah Chadwick, to an additional 269,000 followers. And with a handful of tweets, the students had overtaken another adult official's narrative. They were in command of their own story once again. It has become obvious that many of the most well-known students at Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, Fla., are adept at using social media, and Twitter in particular, where many journalists spend much of their time talking to one another.

Read more [here](#).

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Sinclair's new media-bashing promos rankle local anchors (CNN)



"This is so manipulative." That's an anchor at a local TV station owned by Sinclair, describing the company's latest mandate, a promotional campaign that sounds like pro-Trump propaganda. Internal documents call the new initiative an "anchor delivered journalistic responsibility message." But the staffers who shared the documents with CNN say the promos are

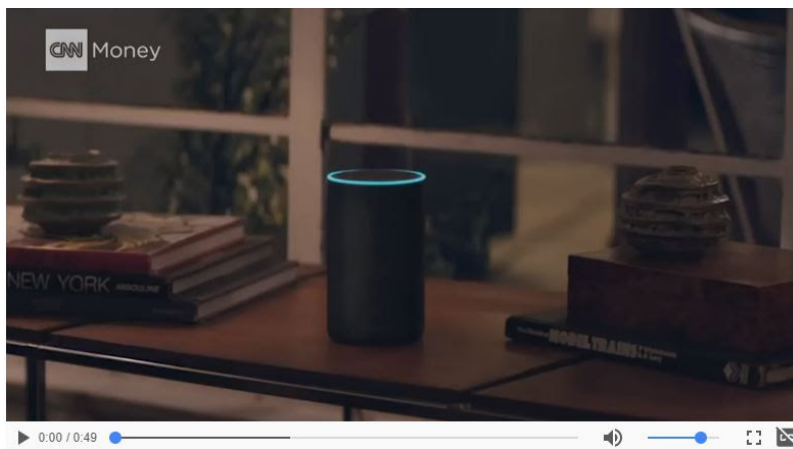
inappropriate -- yet another corporate infringement on local journalism.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Alexa is laughing at users and creeping them out

It's quiet in the house. Nobody else is home and the cat is fast asleep. Then you hear a disembodied woman's voice let out a short, mocking cackle. No, you're (probably) not being haunted, it's just Amazon's Alexa voice assistant malfunctioning in a profoundly creepy way. Some Alexa users have reported hearing an unprompted laugh from their smart speaker devices in the last day. The laugh happens randomly, when nobody is using the device, or in response to request to turn on or off lights. "We're aware of this and working to fix it," Amazon (AMZN) said in a statement, confirming the issue. The company did not elaborate on how widespread the laugh is. In a later statement, Amazon said the device can mistakenly hear the command, "Alexa, laugh."



Click on image to hear Alexa "laughing" or [here](#).

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 9, 2018

Today is Friday, March 9, the 68th day of 2018. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 9, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimac) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

On this date:

In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.

In 1796, the future emperor of the French, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais (boh-ahr-NAY'). (The couple later divorced.)

In 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. The Amistad*, ruled 7-1 in favor of a group of illegally enslaved Africans who were captured off the U.S. coast after seizing control of a Spanish schooner, *La Amistad*; the justices ruled that the Africans should be set free.

In 1916, more than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on

Portugal.

In 1918, writer Mickey Spillane, famous for his pulp detective novels, was born Frank Morrison Spillane in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

In 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-communism campaign on "See It Now."

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington, D.C., killing one person and taking more than 130 hostages. (The siege ended two days later.)

In 1983, Margaret Heckler was sworn in as secretary of Health and Human Services, the same day Anne M. Burford resigned as head of the embattled Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1997, gangsta rapper The Notorious B.I.G. (Christopher Wallace) was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

Ten years ago: Highway and utility crews worked overtime to recover from a huge storm that buried Ohio and other parts of the Midwest in snow and tore down power lines elsewhere. Spain's Socialist prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, won re-election as voters dismissed worries about a slumping economy, immigration and resurgent Basque militants to hand him a second term.

Five years ago: During U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's first trip to Afghanistan as defense chief, two suicide bombings, one outside the Afghan Defense Ministry and the other near a police checkpoint in eastern Khost province, killed at least 19 people; a Taliban spokesman said the blast outside the defense ministry was a message to the visiting Pentagon chief. Egyptian soccer fans rampaged through the heart of Cairo, furious about the acquittal of seven police officers while death sentences against 21 alleged rioters were confirmed in a trial over a stadium melee that had left 74 people dead.

One year ago: Fox News Channel's parent company announced it had settled a sexual assault complaint made by Tamara Holder, a former network contributor; The New York Times said the company had fired an executive, Francisco Cortes, and paid more than \$2.5 million. Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney urged Iraq and the world's nations not to let the Islamic State extremist group "get away with genocide," telling a U.N. meeting that what was "shocking" was not just the group's brutality but the "passive" response by the world's nations.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. James L. Buckley, Conservative-N.Y., is 95. Singer Lloyd Price is 85. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 84. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 82. Actress Trish Van

Devere is 77. Singer-musician John Cale (The Velvet Underground) is 76. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 76. Former ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 75. Rock musician Robin Trower is 73. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 70. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 70. Actress Jaime Lyn Bauer is 69. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 67. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 61. Actress Linda Fiorentino is 60. Actor Tom Amandes is 59. Actor-director Lonny Price is 59. Country musician Rusty Hendrix (Confederate Railroad) is 58. Actress Juliette Binoche is 54. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 50. Rock musician Shannon Leto (30 Seconds to Mars) is 48. Rapper C-Murder (AKA C-Miller) is 47. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 47. Actress Jean Louisa Kelly is 46. Actor Kerr Smith is 46. Actor Oscar Isaac is 39. Comedian Jordan Klepper (TV: "The Daily Show") is 39. Rapper Chingy is 38. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler is 38. Rock musician Chad Gilbert (New Found Glory) is 37. Roots rock musician Ben Tanner (Alabama Shakes) is 35. Actress Brittany Snow is 32. Rapper Bow Wow is 31. Rapper YG is 28. Actor Luis Armand Garcia is 26. Actress Cierra Ramirez is 23.

Thought for Today: "Inspiration is an empty bank account." - Mickey Spillane (1918-2006).

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.

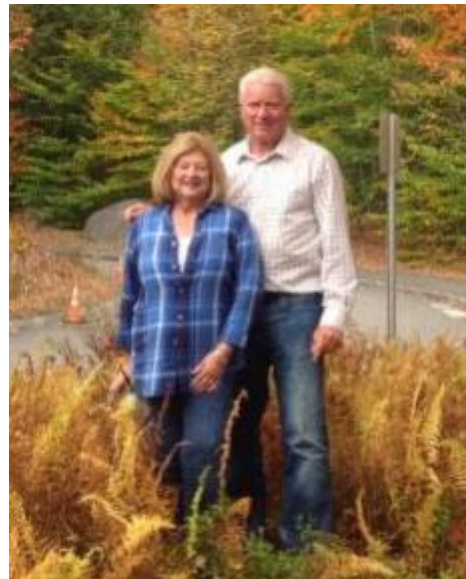
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"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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