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Connecting -- June 26, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Today's Connecting issue is a bit short on commentary from our members - but long in some interesting stories in the news that I share with you.

So I have room for one more story involving my dad as followup to the Monday Q-and-A that I wrote for yesterday's edition. It is my favorite one and why he was known to me, affectionately, as **The Grumpy Old Editor**.

When I was AP's Kansas City bureau chief, I got a letter of application for a news position from the bureau manager for UPI's Des Moines bureau. His resume looked good so I invited him to the Kansas City bureau to take the AP tests and interview with me.

The Messenger in Fort Dodge, Iowa, was then a UPI-served newspaper (my dad, as editor, had nothing to do with that decision). I made small talk with the applicant before he took the test and asked him if he knew the editor in Fort Dodge - without mentioning that the editor was my father. The applicant hesitated, then said, "Oh yeah, they have a grumpy old editor there who never likes anything we do."



Office home of Ye GOE

I didn't have the heart to tell him that "grumpy old editor" was my dad. His faux pas was not the sole reason he didn't get the job. But it didn't help.

Got a favorite story from interviewing an applicant - or from an interview in which you were the applicant? Send it along - or I'll pull from my reservoir once more.

Have a good day.

Paul

Washington's Sonya Ross inducted into SPJ Pro chapter Hall of Fame

Sonya Ross, race and ethnicity editor in the AP's Washington bureau, is one of the newest members of the Hall of Fame of the Washington, D.C., Pro chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

She was inducted earlier this month along with Tom Sherwood of WAMU, who covered politics for 28 years for NBC's Channel 4, and Robert Siegel, who retired after 41 years at National Public Radio.

Ross started with the AP as an intern in Atlanta in 1986 and worked there as a newswoman and legislative reporter until 1992 when she moved to Washington as urban affairs reporter. This assignment was followed (according to her LinkedIn page) by working as White House reporter, World Services editor, News Editor-Regionals, and since August 2010, as Race and Ethnicity editor.



Photo by Diane Parker

The announcement of her Hall of Fame honors was made at SPJ's annual Hall of Fame Dinner at the National Press Club in Washington on June 12. [Click here](#) for a story on the 2018 Dateline Awards for journalism excellence.

(Shared by Diane Parker.)

What does the future hold for the newspaper you're reading?

(John Brewer shares this story from the San Diego Union-Tribune in which John Armstrong, former AP Los Angeles and Seattle bureau chief and New York Membership executive, is quoted extensively.)

By **LOGAN JENKINS**

Talking to old-school readers worried about the extinction of pulp nonfiction, I like to say, "May you live to be a hundred."

But no matter how long we cling to this mortal coil, there will come a day - 2038? 2048? - when the last daily newspaper hits the last porch in San Diego.

Sixty years ago, Erwin Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, addressed the fear that newspapers would dwindle away.

"The day of the printed word is far from ended," he predicted. "Swift as is the delivery of the radio bulletin, graphic as is television's eyewitness picture, the task of adding meaning and clarity remains urgent. People cannot and need not absorb meaning at the speed of light."

Canham, of course, could not have foreseen a 24/7 firehose of superficial, often false and malign, mashups of screen images, text and sounds that pass for news to credulous clickers.

Read more [here](#).

Saudi women in driver's seat as longstanding ban is lifted



In this Sunday, June 24, 2018 photo, Hessah al-Ajaji drives her car down the capital's busy Tahlia Street after midnight for the first time, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (AP

Photo/(Nariman El-Mofty)

AP Images Blog

Saudi women steered their way through busy city streets on Sunday, driving to work, running errands and relishing a new era in which they are allowed to drive and no longer need to rely on men to move around.

A longstanding ban on women driving was lifted at midnight, ushering in a historic moment for women who have been at the mercy of their husbands, fathers, brothers and drivers for transportation. The ban had relegated women to the backseat, restricting when they could meet friends, where they could spend their time and how they could plan out their day.

"It feels beautiful. It was a dream for us so when it happens in reality, I am between belief and disbelief- between a feeling of joy and astonishment," said Mabkhoutah al-Mari as she pulled up to order a drive-thru coffee on her drive to work.

The 27-year-old mother of two is a driving instructor for women and already had a driver's license from the U.S., where she'd spent time in Tennessee studying. But on this morning, she drove freely in her hometown of Riyadh for the first time.

For most of her life al-Mari relied on drivers hired by her family, and she and her sisters had to coordinate drop-offs and pick-ups.

Read and view more [here](#).

Insults and rancor: Dems risk treading on Trump's home field



Passersby examine the menu at the Red Hen Restaurant Saturday, June 23, 2018, in Lexington, Va. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Saturday in a tweet that she was booted from the Virginia restaurant because she works for President Donald Trump. Sanders said she was told by the owner of The Red Hen that she had to "leave because I work for @POTUS and I politely left." (AP Photo/Daniel Lin)

By JONATHAN LEMIRE

NEW YORK (AP) - Political rancor over immigration boiled over into increasingly personal insults Monday, as President Donald Trump took a harsh shot at a prominent congresswoman's intellect and Democrats worried that some of their own anti-Trump rhetoric might play into his hands and backfire in November.

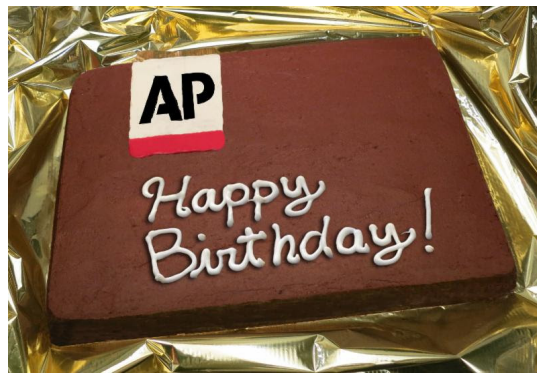
With language reaching belligerent levels seldom heard since the 2016 campaign, Republican tactics seemed aimed at least in part at activating loyal supporters for the midterm elections.

The issue of what passes for political civility in 2018 has been eagerly stoked by Trump, who has embraced the cultural battles playing out everywhere from restaurant tables to football fields to late-night comedy. And the ejection of White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and her family from a Virginia restaurant over the weekend symbolizes the public anger that has tied Democrats in knots, leaving them torn as to how to respond to a president who defies the norms of his office.

Trump punched back sharply Monday after Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters of California told a crowd in her state over the weekend that "If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd, and you push back on them!"

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

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Stories of interest

Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate - heroism in these dark days (Guardian)

By TIM DOWLING

Donald Trump has long operated under a strategy of normalisation - every new lie, each fresh outrage serves to overwrite what has gone before. The line between acceptable and unacceptable isn't where it was last year, or even last month. Under these conditions, it is hard to stay scandalised. By autumn, something will happen

that will cause us to shake our heads and say: "Caging children - remember when that was a big deal?"

Unfortunately for Trump, this tactic may not prove successful in retrospect: if you live long enough for history to judge you, the enormity of your crimes will only fall into sharper relief. Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate (BBC Two) is a first inkling of how it will feel to look back some years hence and think: wait, what happened there?

Beginning on the day of Trump's inauguration, the New York Times opened its doors to cameras as two reporting teams - one in New York, one in Washington - scrambled to figure out how to cover a White House like no other. "We have a president who is very comfortable not telling the truth," said the executive editor, Dean Baquet. You are free to treat this as a monstrous understatement, but remember: this was all of 18 months ago.

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

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Media merger would create 3rd-largest TV station group in US

ATLANTA (AP) - Gray Television Inc. and Raycom Media Inc. are announcing a merger that would create the third-largest television broadcast group in the United States.

Georgia-based Gray and Alabama-based Raycom said Monday that they've entered into an agreement to combine the companies in a \$3.6 billion deal.

The combined operation would have more than 140 television stations serving 92 markets, the companies said in a statement. The communities range from large TV markets such as Cleveland and Tampa-Sarasota, Florida, to small markets such as Ottumwa, Iowa, and Presque Isle, Maine.

Read more [here](#).

And...

CNHI explores sale of newspaper company

By CNHI News Service

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - CNHI, LLC, one of the country's leading providers of local news and information, said Monday it is exploring the sale of its newspaper properties in 22 states.

The announcement was made after its parent company, Raycom Media Inc., reported it has signed an agreement to be acquired by Gray Television group, a public company headquartered in Atlanta.

Donna Barrett, CNHI's president and chief executive office, said the company has retained the newspaper brokerage firm of Dirks, Van Essen, Murray and April to handle the sale of its newspapers.

"We're excited to open the next chapter in our commitment to top-flight community journalism," said Barrett. "We are looking for a transaction or transactions that will carry on CNHI's rich tradition of public service through award-winning journalism."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Max Thomson.

Today in History - June 26, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 26, the 177th day of 2018. There are 188 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 26, 1948, the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

On this date:

In 1483, Richard III began his reign as King of England (he was crowned the following month at Westminster Abbey).

In 1541, Francisco Pizarro, Spanish conqueror of Peru, was slain in Lima by rival conquistadors.

In 1870, the first section of Atlantic City, New Jersey's Boardwalk was opened to the public.

In 1917, the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force deployed to France during World War I landed in St. Nazaire.

In 1925, Charles Chaplin's classic comedy "The Gold Rush" premiered at Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office by delegates to the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower joined Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in ceremonies officially opening the St. Lawrence Seaway. Swedish boxer Ingemar Johansson knocked out Floyd Patterson in the third round of their match at New York's Yankee Stadium to win the heavyweight title.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city's residents, declaring: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced his choice of Abe Fortas to succeed the retiring Earl Warren as chief justice of the United States (however, Fortas later withdrew in the face of stiff Senate opposition).

In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tennessee. Elvis Presley performed his last concert at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis.

In 1988, three people were killed when a new Airbus A320 jetliner carrying more than 130 people crashed into a forest during a demonstration at an air show in Mulhouse (muh-LOOZ'), France.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced the U.S. had launched missiles against Iraqi targets because of "compelling evidence" Iraq had plotted to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a handgun ban in the District of Columbia as it affirmed, 5-4, that an individual right to gun ownership existed. Juan Alvarez, who triggered a 2005 rail disaster in Glendale, California, by parking a sport-utility vehicle on the tracks, was convicted of 11 counts of first-degree murder. (Alvarez was later sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

Five years ago: In deciding its first cases on the issue, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the nation's legally married gay couples equal federal footing with all other married Americans and also cleared the way for same-sex marriages to resume in California. New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested in the

shooting death of Odin Lloyd; Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder. Seven-time champion Roger Federer was stunned by 116th-ranked Sergiy Stakhovsky in the second round of Wimbledon, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5); third-seeded Maria Sharapova was knocked out by the 131st-ranked qualifier, losing 6-3, 6-4 to Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal.

One year ago: President Donald Trump welcomed India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (nah-REN'-drah MOH'-dee) to the White House as the two leaders heralded an increasingly close strategic partnership. The Supreme Court said President Trump could forge ahead with a limited version of his ban on travel from six mostly Muslim countries. Helmsman Peter Burling and Emirates Team New Zealand won the America's Cup with a resounding romp against software tycoon Larry Ellison's two-time defending champion Oracle Team USA. Teemu Selanne (TAY'-moo suh-LAH'-nay) and Paul Kariya (kuh-REE'-uh), a dynamic duo in Anaheim for several years, were elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame. Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook capped his historic season at the NBA's inaugural awards show, winning the 2016-17 Most Valuable Player award.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 84. Actor Josef Sommer is 84. Singer Billy Davis Jr. is 80. Rock singer Georgie Fame is 75. Actor Clive Francis is 72. Rhythm and blues singer Brenda Holloway is 72. Actor Michael Paul Chan is 68. Actor Robert Davi is 67. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 63. Actor Gedde Watanabe (GEH'-dee wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 63. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 62. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 61. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 59. U.S. Bicycling Hall of Famer Greg LeMond is 57. Rock singer Harriet Wheeler (The Sundays) is 55. Country musician Eddie Perez (The Mavericks) is 50. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 49. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 48. Actor Sean Hayes is 48. Actor Matt Letscher is 48. Actor Chris O'Donnell is 48. Actor Nick Offerman is 48. Actress Rebecca Budig is 45. Retired MLB All-Star Derek Jeter is 44. Contemporary Christian musician Jeff Frankenstein (Newsboys) is 44. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 44. Rock musician Nathan Followill (Kings of Leon) is 39. Pop-rock singer-musician Ryan Tedder (OneRepublic) is 39. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 38. Actress Aubrey Plaza is 34. Actress-singer Jennette McCurdy is 26. Actress-singer Ariana Grande is 25.

**Thought for Today: "Nothing is improbable until it moves into the past tense."
- George Ade, American writer (1866-1944).**

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.

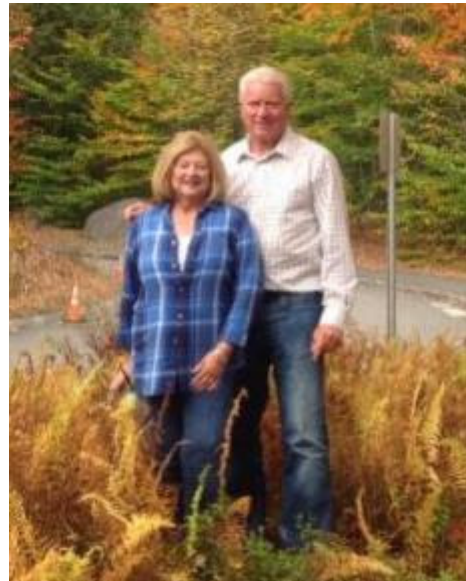
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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