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Connecting - September 27, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 9:01 AM

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Connecting

September 27, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Today's issue leads with a story on how a decades-long push for count transparency led to the trial of Bill Cosby that concluded with his conviction and sentencing on Tuesday to three to 10 years in prison for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his gated estate.

It's a most visible example of the work that AP bureaus have long undertaken on the state and national levels on court transparency and FOI issues.

Will the Kavanaugh-Ford hearing be a where-were-you moment?



In this Oct. 11, 1991, file photo, Anita Hill testifies in the Russell Caucus room on Capitol Hill in Washington where the Senate Judiciary Committee was hearing testimony on the nomination of Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court. (AP Photo/Greg Gibson, File)

That's the headline on [a story](#) by AP's **Calvin Woodward**, which leads:

Could it be, years from now, that you will remember where you were and what you were doing when Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford came to Washington to relive their conflicting high school memories?

Are we on the verge of one of those moments - like, for those old enough, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated? Or when the space shuttle Challenger exploded? Or the twin towers fell?

Do such indelible moments even happen anymore?

Your reaction to today's hearing will be welcomed. I look forward to your contributions to Connecting.

Paul

AP's decade-long push for court transparency key to current Cosby trial



Bill Cosby arrives for his sentencing hearing at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, in Norristown, Pa. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

By BRYAN BALDWIN

On Sept. 25, 2018, Bill Cosby was led away from a Pennsylvania courthouse in handcuffs, sentenced to three to 10 years behind bars for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his gated estate.

If it wasn't for AP Legal Affairs Reporter Maryclaire Dale's years of persistent coverage and AP's legal efforts to unseal court documents from a 2005 civil lawsuit against Cosby, the current trial might never have happened.

In pursuit of transparency on behalf of the public, AP pressed for a decade to unseal a 2005 deposition of Cosby answering investigator's questions during a civil lawsuit against him that was settled and never went to trial.

In 2015, the courts agreed with AP's position and ordered the deposition unsealed. In the filings, Cosby admitted he acquired drugs to give to women with whom he wanted to have sex.

That information led to his current trial.

Within days of the unsealing order from the court, the criminal investigation against Cosby was reopened. His 2005 deposition was used as evidence in the criminal case and, now, the first major sentence of the #MeToo era.

Without AP's reporting, the allegations may never have resulted in a trial.

[Click here](#) for link to this story.

Connecting mailbox

He wouldn't have named woman from Kavanaugh past

Norman Abelson ([Email](#)) - Doug Richardson's piece about the NYTimes story "outing" Ms. Dolphin by name, asks whether, as an editor, I would have run the story. (See Wednesday's Connecting)

I believe that query could be put, perhaps, in a larger context. Was the piece not part of a media frenzy, over-coverage of an admittedly important story? Have not some of the "news" stories already veered dangerously close to opinion, surmises and what-ifs? Why did some publications, including the Times, abandon their positive practices of protecting the identities of innocent or harassed women - even if they

may be "outed" later? How often has the Times protected the identities of people for a variety of reasons not rising to the level of hurt done to this innocent woman?

In its story, the Times seemed to have no problem protecting the name of a quoted man, "...another classmate who requested anonymity because he fears retribution."

I understand Doug Richardson's question is itself a what-if; after all, I am not the person under the gun with the story in hand. Nevertheless, given the amount of (negative) information already available about Kavanaugh, and assessing the potential damage to an innocent party, I believe I would not have run the story.

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Dave Mason was genial, gentlemanly competitor

Joe Galloway ([Email](#)) - Dave Mason was AP bureau chief in Moscow when I was UPI bureau chief. He was a genial, gentlemanly competitor. His wife was an heiress of the Pol Roget champagne family and came equipped with many cases of the family bubbly which always flowed at her dinner parties.

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AP reunion group tours Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

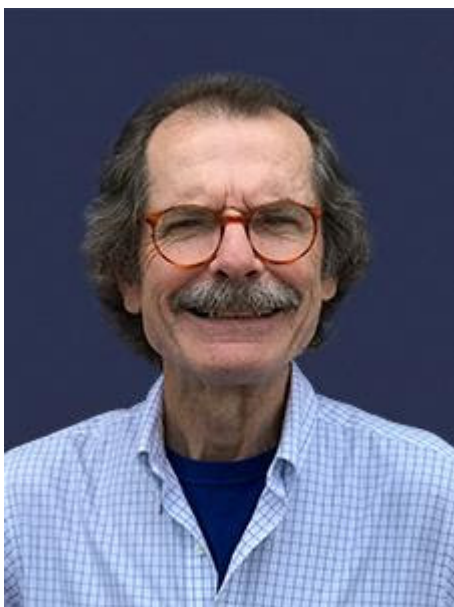


The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was a big hit for attendees of the Midwest AP Reunion in Kansas City this week. The museum includes a baseball field with 12 bronze life-sized statues of Negro Leagues stars - that's catcher Josh Gibson (who in 1972 was the second Negro Leagues player to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame) and batter Martin Dihigo (inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977) and an unnamed umpire. AP retirees viewing the exhibit, from left: Lindel Hutson, Brent Kallestad, Paul Stevens, Mike Holmes and Steve Graham.

Paul Colford's papers acquired by University of Texas' Briscoe Center

The papers of **Paul Colford** ([Email](#)) - covering his 40-year career in newspapering and The Associated Press - have been acquired by the Briscoe Center at the University of Texas.

Sharing the announcement made today with his Connecting colleagues, Colford said that while he has no ties to the university, "I've been impressed by their acquisitions of recent memory - such as the papers of reporters Jules Witcover, Wayne Barrett, Jack Newfield and others."



Paul Colford

Born and raised in Jersey City, Colford was night editor at Gannett's Courier-News in central New Jersey before he worked from 1980 to 2000 for Newsday and its now-defunct spinoff, New York Newsday, based in New York City, mainly as a feature writer and media reporter, producing weekly columns on the radio and publishing industries. Lured by Editor in Chief Ed Kosner to the (New York) Daily News to write a media news column in 2000 to compete with the New York Post, he was with the News until joining AP in 2007.

Ellen Hale, then senior vice president of AP Corporate Communications, hired him as director of media relations and he worked in that position for 10 years, retiring as an AP vice president.

"I never worked as a news gatherer at AP," he said. "I worked at defending AP when necessary and promoting its many strengths. Ten years flew by!"

Today, in retirement, Colford is writing and living at the Jersey Shore. "I go to the beach every day, except during blizzards," he said.

Here is today's [news release](#) from the Briscoe Center:

The Briscoe Center has acquired the papers of reporter and columnist Paul Colford. Colford's career in journalism began in 1975 in New Jersey. He went on to report for

New York Newsday and the New York Daily News, finishing his career as vice president for media relations at the Associated Press. He has also written extensive biographies of Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern.

"I'm grateful to Paul for choosing the Briscoe Center as the home of his papers," said Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center. "The collection represents a sharp experienced understanding of the news media from a person who worked as both a journalist and as a spokesperson who dealt with journalists."

Colford's papers include audiotapes, videos, photographs, press releases, newspaper clippings, and other materials that were gathered over the course of his career as a journalist. Much of his reporting focused on the media, including radio, the publishing industry and the rise of the Internet. The papers also include considerable research materials on the subjects of his biographies, Rush Limbaugh (1993) and Howard Stern (1996).

"As a media columnist and biographer, I've often found gold and indispensable details in libraries and archives around the country, including the Briscoe Center," said Colford. "I'm honored and thrilled to know my files, photos, clippings, and other documents will be preserved and made available before long to media historians, students, and other journalists for their work in years to come."

The Briscoe Center's news media holdings include the papers of New York newspapermen Jack Newfield and Wayne Barrett, as well as those of social columnists Walter Winchell and Liz Smith, the clipping morgues of the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune, and the archives of many television news producers and reporters.

AP Was There: The Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings



Anita Hill testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, Oct. 11, 1991. (AP Photo, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) - A conservative judge's nomination to the Supreme Court is suddenly jeopardized by graphic allegations of sexual misconduct. A Republican president says his nominee has been smeared but vows he will prevail. The accuser and the accused face off in a dramatic showdown on Capitol Hill.

There are clear echoes of Anita Hill's accusations against Clarence Thomas in 1991, as the Senate Judiciary Committee scheduled a pivotal hearing Thursday at which both Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford were to testify separately.

The cases are different: Ford alleges Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were high schoolers, while Hill alleged Thomas made unwanted sexual advances and lewd remarks while he was her employer.

Yet, there are more parallels. Like Kavanaugh, Thomas denied he had acted inappropriately. In both cases, the allegations became public only after the nominees had gone through their initial confirmation hearings. Both accusers initially sought to stay anonymous but later changed their minds.

The Thomas-Hill hearings riveted Americans, and the same is expected for Thursday's Kavanaugh-Ford hearing.

Here is AP's story from the day of Hill's testimony on October 11, 1991.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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Connecting mailbox

What will happen when newspapers kill print and go online-only? Most of that print audience will just...disappear (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

For American daily newspapers, the story of the last decade-plus hasn't been about mass closures - it's been about mass shrinkage. The pace at which newspapers are shutting down isn't much different from what it was in the late 20th century. Instead, just about every daily paper has gotten smaller - smaller newsroom, smaller budgets, smaller print runs, smaller page counts - year after year after year. It's death by a thousand paper cuts.

But shrinking can only go so far. In the second quarter of 2018, McClatchy's print advertising revenue dropped 26.4 percent year over year; Gannett was down 19.1 percent, Tronc 18 percent. They're not making new daily print newspaper subscribers anymore, and existing ones either move to digital or shuffle off this mortal coil daily. There's no Zeno's Paradox to prevent newspapers from eventually deciding one of two courses of action: going online-only or shutting down entirely. Even the most pro-print publishers will tell you that, someday, the "cost of print" and "revenue from print" lines will intersect on an accountant's projection and it'll be time to stop the presses for good. The only question is when: Two years? Five? Ten? Thirty?

So one of the questions I'm most interested in for the near- to medium-term future is what will actually happen when print newspapers start to disappear in large numbers, whenever that may be. Will those print readers just become digital readers? Will they spend as much time consuming local journalism on their phones as they do at their breakfast tables? Or will their attention wander as readers' competitive set widens to, well, everything else the Internet can offer?

Read more [here](#).

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A day after announcing new Missoulian publisher, Lee Enterprises changes course (Missoulian)

By **DAVID ERICKSON**

A day after introducing a new publisher to oversee its western Montana newspapers, including the Missoulian, Lee Enterprises changed course.

"Due to recent developments, Paul McArthur will not be joining Lee Enterprises," said Nathan Bekke, vice president of consumer sales and marketing and group publisher for the Iowa-based media company.

Bekke declined further comment. The company does not publicly discuss personnel matters.

Within hours of news reports about McArthur's appointment Tuesday, his past tweets and Twitter "likes" on topics ranging from the news media to Islam to the weight of flight attendants were being widely shared - and criticized - on social media.

Read more [here](#).

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Legendary Twin Cities journalist Barbara Flanagan dies at 94 (StarTribune)



By RICK NELSON

Barbara Flanagan was a tireless advocate for downtown Minneapolis vitality and historic preservation - at a time when neither was a mainstream topic.

A former influential and indefatigable reporter, editor and columnist for the Star Tribune, she started her one-of-a-kind journalism career in 1945 in the promotions department at the Minneapolis Times.

"She inspired, prodded, scolded and relentlessly made us believe we could take a perfectly good Midwestern city and will it to become the Star of the North," said R.T. Rybak, former Minneapolis mayor and a former newspaper colleague of Flanagan's.

Flanagan died peacefully in her Wayzata home on Monday. She was 94.

Read more [here](#).

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Deputy press secretary Raj Shah plans to leave White House after Kavanaugh confirmation hearings (Yahoo)

By HUNTER WALKER, Yahoo News

WASHINGTON - One of the White House's most visible staffers has his eye on the exit door. Raj Shah, a deputy press secretary who has stepped behind the podium for numerous daily briefings, has told multiple people he plans to leave the West Wing following the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Shah has been leading the communications efforts in support of the confirmation process since Kavanaugh's nomination in July. Two sources familiar with Shah's thinking said he thought that helping to shepherd the successful confirmation would allow him to end his White House tenure on a high note.

The now contentious nomination may have put a damper on Shah's departure plans.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

Today in History - September 27, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2018. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 27, 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

On this date:

In 1825, the first locomotive to haul a passenger train was operated by George Stephenson in England.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1917, French sculptor and painter Edgar Degas died in Paris at age 83.

In 1928, the United States said it was recognizing the Nationalist Chinese government.

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra performed together for the last time, at the Central Theater in Passaic, New Jersey, prior to Miller's entry into the Army.

In 1962, "Silent Spring," Rachel Carson's study on the effects of pesticides on the environment, was published in book form by Houghton Mifflin.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In 1979, Congress gave its final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons, and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture. The Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked, 7-7, on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the "Contract with America," a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

In 1996, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, a band of former seminary students, drove the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of Kabul, captured the capital and executed former leader Najibullah.

In 2004, NBC announced that "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno would be succeeded by "Late Night" host Conan O'Brien in 2009. (O'Brien's stint on "The Tonight Show" lasted just over seven months.)

Ten years ago: China marked its first spacewalk as astronaut Zhai Zhigang (zheyue zhu-dawng) floated outside the Shenzhou 7 for 13 minutes.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani spoke by telephone, the first conversation between American and Iranian leaders in more than 30 years. The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to secure and destroy Syria's chemical weapons stockpile.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans unveiled the first major revamp of the nation's tax code in a generation, a plan that included deep tax cuts for corporations, simplified tax brackets and a near-doubling of the standard deduction. Maria regained strength and became a hurricane again, pushing water over both sides of North Carolina's Outer Banks. Playboy founder Hugh Hefner died at the age of 91.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathleen Nolan is 85. Actor Wilford Brimley is 84. Actor Claude Jarman Jr. is 84. Author Barbara Howar is 84. World Golf Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth is 79. Singer-musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 75. Rock singer Meat Loaf is 71. Actress Liz Torres is 71. Actor A Martinez is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 69. Actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa is 68. Singer Shaun Cassidy is 60. Comedian Marc Maron is 55. Rock singer Stephan (STEE'-fan) Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 54. Former Democratic National Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz is 52. Actor Patrick Muldoon is 50. Singer Mark Calderon is 48. Actress Amanda Detmer is 47. Actress Gwyneth Paltrow is 46. Rock singer Brad Arnold (3 Doors Down) is 40. Christian rock musician Grant Brandell (Underoath) is 37. Actress Anna Camp is 36. Rapper Lil' Wayne is 36. Singer Avril Lavigne (AV'-rihl la-VEEN') is 34. Bluegrass singer/musician Sierra Hull is 27. Actor Ames McNamara is 11.

Thought for Today: "God loved the birds and invented trees. Man loved the birds and invented cages." - Jacques Deval, French writer, director and actor (1895-1972).

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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