



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - September 28, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 28, 2018 at 9:11 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

September 28, 2018

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Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh is sworn in before testifying during the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018 on Capitol Hill in Washington. (Tom Williams/Pool Image via AP)

Colleagues,

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

That was a tweet from the AP - based on an AP story - that moved before Thursday's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Some journalists thought it was carrying things too far, as noted in a story in The Hill. What did you think?

And what were your thoughts on the hearing - and the coverage? Connecting would like to know.

Layoffs are unfortunately a part of the landscape of newspapering these days - and they are announced to staffs in various ways.

At the Daily Oklahoman on Thursday morning, according to a Poynter story below, employees assembled for a mandatory meeting to learn that Oklahoma's largest daily was purchased by Gatehouse Media and were told there would be layoffs. The publisher told the staffers that those who had been laid off had just been notified via email, and their firings were effective immediately.

The entire room then checked their phones to learn their fates, and the meeting disintegrated. Sad, sad, sad on many levels.

Paul

## Your thoughts on the Kavanaugh-Ford hearing





AP Photos/Andrew Harnik, Pool

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - I had other commitments and was unable to watch the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Probably a good thing for my TV set. I caught bits and pieces of the testimony and questioning live on the radio and then have watched several highlights - or lowlights - on cable news tonight.

My initial reaction is that I am extremely disappointed -- nay, disgusted -- that we have come to this point, turning judicial nominations into nasty, bitter partisan fights over just about everything except a nominee's judicial experience, knowledge and acuity to sit on the nation's highest courts. The rancor only serves to further divide a deeply divided public. I fear our body politic is broken beyond repair. I cannot see who or what will be able to bring about conciliation and healing. I worry for the future of the country.

As far as Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and Judge Brett Kavanaugh, from the little I heard and saw I thought they both performed well in their respective times before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Each was passionate, emotional, well-spoken. I came away from the hearing much the way I came to it: I do not believe Dr. Ford; I do not believe Judge Kavanaugh. I do believe facts. And on that basis I believe there are more facts - his calendar, the fact that three supposed witnesses had no recollection of the party, among others - to collaborate Judge Kavanaugh's denial that he was present when the alleged assault took place.

# 1 hearing, 2 witnesses, vastly different takeaways

By **MARJORIE MILLER** and **JOCELYN NOVECK**  
The Associated Press

It was one hearing, with just two witnesses. But, in an era of political polarization and yawning cultural divides, Americans came away having heard very different things.

Millions of men and women listened to nervous-but-composed college professor Christine Blasey Ford tell the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday that she was "100 percent" certain that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers, and they lauded her credibility and courage in speaking out.

Others saw a woman with a spotty memory who failed to prove Kavanaugh was her abuser, and believed the judge as he repeatedly choked up and vigorously defended himself. "The allegation of misconduct is completely inconsistent with the rest of my life," he said.

Americans followed the hours of testimony from their homes, in their cars, in offices and in classrooms. Wherever they were, though, it seemed most responded through the prism of their own politics, and personal experiences. Few people interviewed by The Associated Press seemed to have had their minds changed by anything they heard.

Read more [here](#).

## AP gets pushback after comparing Kavanaugh-Ford hearing to Kennedy assassination, Challenger explosion

By **JOE CONCHA**, The Hill

The Associated Press on Thursday faced pushback on social media for comparing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and space shuttle Challenger explosion moments to the Senate hearing of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Ford.

In a Thursday morning tweet, AP asked: "Will the Kavanaugh-Ford hearing be a where-were-you moment?"

"Like the Kennedy assassination, Challenger explosion and the twin towers, will the Kavanaugh-Ford hearing be a where-were-you moment?" asked the AP headline.

Some prominent media members pushed back quickly on the comparisons with some noting that it would have been better to compare this to the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas confirmation hearing in 1991.

Some pointed to the tweet as being tone deaf by comparing it to historical tragedies with mass casualties.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

## On the naming of Renate Dolphin by The New York Times

**John Nolan** ([Email](#)) - You asked for reaction to The New York Times' identifying Renate Dolphin in its Judge Brett Kavanaugh-related story. Here's my reaction:

I would like to know whether the Times asked Ms. Dolphin whether she wanted to remain confidential, or if she was OK with being identified in the article. The reporter should have asked her this.

Assuming that she raised no objection to being identified in the article, I have no problem with the Times' use of her name. I would have been inclined to identify her, as well. The woman injected herself into this issue by signing onto a letter made public, in support of Kavanaugh.



It seems highly newsworthy that Kavanaugh and his buddies referred to her by name (at least, her first name) in print, in the high school yearbook (that could be seen as indicative of who Kavanaugh was in high school), and that there would be questions today, as a result, about why the woman would have signed onto a letter of support for Kavanaugh.

Assuming that Ms. Dolphin provided her responses to the Times with assent to use her name, it's a newsworthy issue that needed to be reported with her name included. As the article points out, she now seems to take a very different view of Kavanaugh, which is the point of the article.

## More on your memories of the Vietnam-era draft

**John Strachan** ([Email](#)) - It's unlikely any U.S president is going to nominate me for defense secretary, so I've ceased worrying that some intrepid reporter might discover just prior to my confirmation hearings that in 1967 as I was preparing to collect a college diploma in one hand and a likely draft notice in the other - that I had some ongoing correspondence with a group in Toronto that was counseling potential draftees looking to relocate to Canada.

As the troop buildup and opposition to the war in Vietnam continued into the late '60s, heading to Canada was a somewhat drastic (albeit popular) means of dodging the draft. I never would have gone through with it. I have always liked Canada, but I knew I could never deal with the brutal winters or the metric system.

My dad, a World War II veteran, hated the war in Vietnam. With my induction looming, his advice to me was, "Do whatever you can to get out of it. Just don't break the law." As the war lingered on into the 1970s and my younger brother was approaching draft age, my dad swore he would drive him to Canada before he'd see him inducted.

As it turned out, I never got the draft notice. A month before graduation, a fellow journalism major convinced me to enlist with him under the Army's "buddy system" (think Bill Murray and Harold Ramis in "Stripes.") For an additional year of service, we could be trained as military journalists at the all-services Defense Information School and be guaranteed assignments as such.

For me, three years doing something I knew and enjoyed would trump two years of, well, almost anything else in the Army - especially the infantry. It was a common

belief at the time that the Army was training every reluctant draftee to be a rifleman, regardless of their education or civilian skills.

The first of two cruel ironies played out after just a few cushy months editing the post newspaper at a pleasant Army base just outside Washington, D.C., I got orders for Vietnam, where I was assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's information office. I spent half my tour attached to an infantry battalion, where several times a week I accompanied troops to the field, took photos and wrote articles to promote their combat successes for military and civilian publications.

The second half of the tour was definitely better - a few months of temporary duty at "Stars and Stripes" newspaper in Tokyo, where I helped put the division newspaper together and had an opportunity to write for "Stars and Stripes" until I was called back to division headquarters to become part of the first group of GIs to go home early (six weeks) under President Nixon's initial troop withdrawals in 1969.

Oh, and that second cruel irony? After giving up an additional year of my life to guarantee working in my chosen career, I learned the Army had a critical shortage of trained communicators - writers, editors, graphic artists and photographers. The 9<sup>th</sup> Division checked the personnel file of every incoming GI and frequently had field staff like myself interview candidates for reassignment to the division information office.

## On the subject of typewriters

**Hal Bock (Email)** - In 1990, I was recruited by Newsfeatures to write the narrative for The Associated Press Pictorial History of Baseball. It was an exciting project but there was a lot of on and off with the publisher. When they finally decided to go ahead, there was one problem. The copy needed to be complete inside of one week.

This was the pre-computer age so I set up my trusty Smith-Corona with the cracked frame (the result of an unfortunate mishap at a hotel in Pittsburgh) and went to work. I wrote every day from about 8a when my wife left for work until about 6p when she came home. I was surrounded by a nest of research material, books and articles, me and my typewriter. Seven days later the manuscript of 35,000 words was done, all with the same ribbon. I was grateful the Smith-Corona held up under the workload and the volume, which went to two printings, is one of my proudest accomplishments for The AP.

There have been three books written in retirement. Each had an easier deadline.

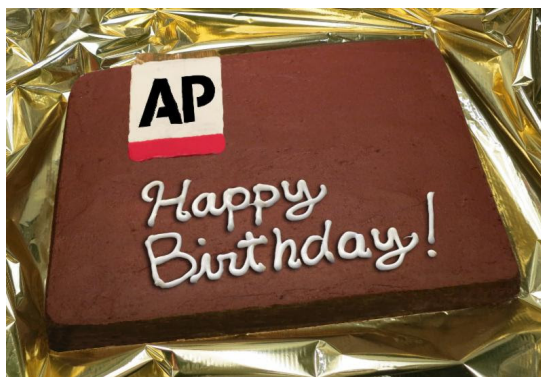


## A special weekend with his daughter and grandsons



**John Willis** ([Email](#)) - The past weekend I got the privilege of taking my daughter, Kelley, and my grandsons, Jonah and Jacob, to their first live Ohio State game in Ohio Stadium. It was about 1,345 miles round trip, but worth every minute of effort. Would you judge 49 hours and 22 minutes a road trip or whirlwind? Ohio State 49, Tulane 6. This photo is a 360 that Kelley tried. I am to the left in my old, 68 homage jersey and my grandson, Jonah is on the right in the black OSU windbreaker with the blue cap.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Jeff Barnard** - [jbarnardgp@gmail.com](mailto:jbarnardgp@gmail.com)

Linda Sargent - [lindasgt@swbell.net](mailto:lindasgt@swbell.net)

*On Saturday to...*

Gary Gentile - [apgary@gmail.com](mailto:apgary@gmail.com)

Brent Kallestad - [dakotaboybrent@aol.com](mailto:dakotaboybrent@aol.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Oklahoman sells to GateHouse Media, lays off several newsroom staffers*** (Poynter)

By **BARBARA ALLEN**

The Oklahoman Media Company, the state's biggest, announced today that it was being sold to GateHouse Media - and laid off 37 staffers.

An estimate was that about 15 of those job losses came from the newsroom, though two people agreed to retire.

A story on [newsok.com](http://newsok.com) says that the sale will be final Oct. 1.

Employees reported being alerted via email yesterday to a mandatory meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday. They sat through a 35-minute presentation about the sale and upcoming changes before being informed of the layoffs.

Publisher Chris Reen addressed the staffers and said those who'd been laid off had just been notified via email, and their firings were effective immediately.

The entire room then checked their phones, as the meeting disintegrated.

Read more [here](#).

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## A US privacy law could be good for Google - but bad for you



**FILE** - In this Sept. 5, 2018, file photo, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., speaks with reporters after the Republican's policy luncheon on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen, File)

By **MARCY GORDON** and **MATT O'BRIEN**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Congress is taking the first steps toward setting national rules governing how companies use consumers data - although one of its goals might be to prevent states from enacting stronger privacy protections of their own.

The approach being pondered by policymakers and pushed by the internet industry leans toward a relatively light government touch. That's in contrast to stricter European rules that took effect in May and a California law that takes effect in 2020. Other states are also considering more aggressive protections.

However it works out, any regulatory push will find it challenging to reconcile the concerns of privacy advocates who want people to have more control over the use of their personal data - where they've been, what they view, who their friends are - and the powerful companies who mine that information for profit.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

## Today in History - September 28, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2018. There are 94 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Sept. 28, 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

### **On this date:**

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Va.

In 1892, the first nighttime football game took place in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, as teams from Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie.

In 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. (All were acquitted at trial, but all eight were banned from the game for life.)

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1939, during World War II, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty calling for the partitioning of Poland, which the two countries had invaded.

In 1964, comedian Harpo Marx, 75, died in Los Angeles.

In 1976, Muhammad Ali kept his world heavyweight boxing championship with a close 15-round decision over Ken Norton at New York's Yankee Stadium.

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1991, jazz great Miles Davis died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 65.

In 1993, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton went to Capitol Hill to begin selling the administration's health care plan to Congress.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush urged Congress to pass a \$700 billion rescue plan for beleaguered financial companies, saying in a written statement, "Without this rescue plan, the costs to the American economy could be disastrous." Chinese astronauts aboard the Shenzhou 7 returned to Earth after completing their country's first spacewalk mission. Austrian 16-year-olds voted for the first time in parliamentary elections under a law adopted in 2007.

Five years ago: Locked in a deepening struggle with President Barack Obama, House Republicans demanded a one-year delay in major parts of the nation's new health care law and permanent repeal of a tax on medical devices as the price for preventing a partial government shutdown threatened for Oct. 1. (Senate Democrats rejected the plan and the White House said that "any member of the Republican Party who votes for this bill is voting for a shutdown.") The Global Citizen Festival, highlighting world poverty, took place in New York's Central Park.

One year ago: The Trump administration said its relief efforts in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria were succeeding, though people on the island said help was scarce and disorganized. House Majority Whip Steve Scalise returned to the House chamber for the first time since he was wounded three months earlier by a gunman who opened fire at a Republican baseball practice.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brigitte Bardot is 84. Actor Joel Higgins is 75. Singer Helen Shapiro is 72. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 68. Rock musician George Lynch is 64. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 61. Actor Steve Hytner is 59. Actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 54. Country singer Matt King is 52. Actress Mira Sorvino is 51. TV personality/singer Moon Zappa is 51. Actress-model Carre Otis is 50. Actress Naomi Watts is 50. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 49. Country musician Chuck Crawford is 45. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 43. Rapper Young Jeezy is 41. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 41. Actor Peter Cambor is 40. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 39. Actress Melissa Claire Egan is 37. Actress Jerrika Hinton is 37. Neo-soul musician Luke Mossman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats ) is 37. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 36. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 32. Actress Hilary Duff is 31. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 26.

**Thought for Today: "To fight oppression, and to work as best we can for a sane organization of society, we do not have to abandon the state of mind of freedom. If we do that we are letting the same thuggery in by the back door that we are fighting off in front of the house." - John Dos Passos, American author (born 1896, died this date in 1970).**

## 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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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