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# Connecting - October 19, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

October 19, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

**AUTHORS, AUTHORS!!!**

Here is Connecting's annual call to the authors among us.

If you have written a book **in the past year**, I invite you to share the following information on it with your colleagues who may soon be in the shopping mode for the upcoming holidays:

**Name of book and a synopsis of no more than 300 words.**

**A jpg image of the book cover and a jpg headshot of you.**

**Where your book can be purchased, including a link.**

Ye Olde Connecting Editor will collect what you submit and publish information on your books in early November. Let me know if you have any questions. Please deliver the information to me by the end of this month.

We lead today's issue with a story on AP fact checking. Did you know there is a link for all AP FactChecks? Find all AP Fact Checks [here](#).

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## Fact-checking to 'reach deeper' into communities

**By Lauren Easton**

As the Nov. 6 U.S. midterm elections approach, AP has stepped up efforts to fact-check political misinformation circulating at the local, state and national levels.

"Over the past year, AP has worked to reach deeper into communities, taking advantage of the expertise of our journalists in all 50 states to produce AP Fact Checks and debunk misinformation on the state and local levels," said AP Fact Check Editor Karen Mahabir. "These local fact checks are of huge value to our members and customers across the U.S., and to a public hungry for objective, factual information, especially as we approach Election Day."

She added: "This work builds on AP's long and rich history of fact-checking, something that's deeply engrained in our entire global newsgathering operation."

A sampling of recent state and local fact checks includes:

Read more [here](#).

## Trump praises Montana congressman who body-slammed reporter



Rep. Greg Gianforte, R-Mont., speaks as President Donald Trump stands right during a campaign rally at Minuteman Aviation Hangar, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, in Missoula, Mont. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **ASHLEY THOMAS**

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) - President Donald Trump praised a Republican congressman for body-slaming a reporter last year, calling him a "tough cookie" and saying he thinks it might have helped him win election in Montana.

At a campaign rally in Missoula Thursday, Trump lauded Rep. Greg Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault for an attack on Guardian reporter Ben

Jacobs. The attack came a day before Gianforte won a 2017 special election to serve the remaining 18 months in the House term vacated by now-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

"Any guy that can do a body slam - he's my kind of guy," Trump said to cheers and laughter from the crowd. "He's a great guy, tough cookie."

His remarks praising Gianforte come amid an international furor over the apparent assassination of a Washington Post columnist, who, according to an account in Turkey's Yeni Safak newspaper, allegedly had his fingers cut off and was decapitated inside a Saudi consulate in Istanbul two weeks ago.

Read more [here](#).

## Mother, daughter desperate to leave Venezuela flee on foot



In this Sept. 2, 2018 photo, Venezuelan Sandra Cadiz holds up her handmade sign carrying the Spanish message: "Blessed driver, please help us with a ride," as her 10-year-old daughter Angelis stands with her on the road leaving Giron, Colombia, as they make their way to Peru. As rising numbers of Venezuelans flee, those who cannot afford a plane or bus ticket out are going by foot. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

## AP Images Blog

Barely able to feed her daughter and struggling to earn a living, Sandra Cadiz made the desperate decision to leave Venezuela.

But unlike most of the millions who have fled the nation's deadly shortages and spiraling hyperinflation in an exodus that rivals even the European refugee crisis in numbers, they couldn't afford a bus or plane. Instead, they would have to flee by foot, risking their lives as they tried to cross over two thousand miles of often unforgiving terrain ripe with danger.

Read more [here](#).

# Connecting mailbox

## *Is there a doctor in the house? More 'phone surgery' stories*

**Doug Pizac** ([Email](#)) - In 1988 I was shooting a portrait of Elizabeth Taylor and Robert Wagner in the morning and heading to Bogota, Colombia that afternoon for a volcanic eruption which killed over 20,000 people. Our hotel rooms had the old-style four-prong phone plugs from the '60s in the wall. Not being compatible with U.S. RJ-11 jacks I rewired the outlet. Back then I had a briefcase filled with plugs, 100-foot coil of phone wire, cutter/stripper and a crimper. (I still have it.) The next day the hotel manager approached me about my rigging; it was noticed by the maid. He wasn't mad but pleased, asking me if I could leave my handiwork. After checking out the manager relabeled my room as a "business suite" because of the RJ-11 jack, and upped the price.

Then in 1996 I was sent to Montana for the Freeman standoff. Instead of staying in town with the other media the Helena reporter and I rented the basement of a ranch inside the FBI perimeter. By residing inside the road block they couldn't keep us out. We asked the rancher if there was a second line like for a fax that we could also rent from him to transmit our stories and photos. He told us that he had been trying for years to get a second line to his home but couldn't get the phone company to do it.

Just down the road at the rural dirt road intersection and road block there was a small building and I noticed AT&T people there installing phones for the feds. A call was made to AP-NY communications who got hold of the phone company. The next day AP had a second line activated at the ranch via the power of AP at the time. I then opened my briefcase and rewired the house to put an extension in the basement for us and one in the rancher's office for his fax. The family was so pleased and grateful that one of them went out and shot a 20+ pound turkey for dinner in our honor. It was fantastic.

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## ***The AP and These Truths: A History of the United States***

**Steve Hart** ([Email](#)) - I just finished Jill Lepore's *These Truths: A History of the United States*. I highly recommend it as a good chronicle of how we got to where we are today as a nation.

For those who have read Howard Zinn's: *A People's History of the United States*, this is a must read.

All of this is relevant for *Connecting* because the AP plays a small, yet important part in the book. (Former AP executive editor) Kathleen Carroll has a key observation in it.

Even though it is nonfiction, I don't want to give anymore away, so I will leave it at that.

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## ***A deft touch at learning if James Stewart was dead***

**Steve Singer** ([Email](#)) - former AP staffer in Hartford, now with The Hartford Courant. - recalls this story from [the obituary](#) for Bruce V. Bigelow, part of the San Diego Union-Tribune team that won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting and a former AP Los Angeles staffer, who died June 29 at the age of 63.

One December, he (Bigelow) was asked to confirm a tip that Hollywood icon James Stewart had died. While calling the actor's residence, Bigelow wondered how to raise this potentially upsetting issue. He didn't want to baldly ask if Stewart was dead - what if he wasn't?

When a woman answered the phone, Bigelow was ready.

"The Associated Press," he said, "would like to know if the star of 'It's a Wonderful Life' has a holiday message for the world."

"How sweet!" said Gloria Stewart, the actor's wife. "Jimmy's at the store. Shall I have him call you when he returns?"

Stewart called back, issuing a warm statement the A.P. forwarded to clients across the country.

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## ***A meet-and-eat in South Pasadena***





Connecting colleagues Andy Lippman (left) and Cliff Schiappa got together for lunch at Andy's home in South Pasadena, California, early this week when Cliff was en route from his new home in Palm Springs to LAX airport.

## **Post-Michael Florida: Fear, frustration and life on the edge**





**Sandra Sheffield, 72, uses a washcloth to wipe sweat from her face, in her home, which now has no electricity, in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Panama City, Fla., (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)**

**By JAY REEVES**

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. (AP) - Missing relatives and worries that looters are just outside the door. Dirty clothes. Hours-long lines for gasoline, insurance adjusters, food and water. No power, no air conditioning, no schools, no information and little real improvement in sight.

Daily life is a series of fears and frustrations, both large and small, for thousands of people living on the edge, more than a week after Hurricane Michael flattened thousands of square miles in the hurricane zone of the Florida Panhandle.

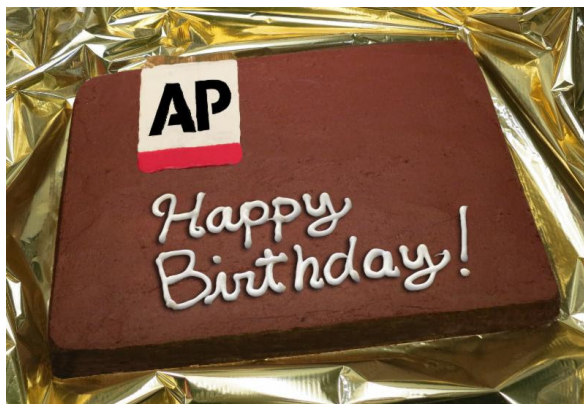
Erin Maxwell waited in line for fuel for more than an hour Thursday at a gasoline station that never opened. "I'm tired and want to go to sleep. I don't want to wait in another line," said Maxwell, eyes closed and her head tilted back on the seat.

Meanwhile, husband Mickey Calhoun fretted over the fate of his mother, Anita Newsome, 74. The retired sheriff's deputy was last seen when officers took her to a hospital the day before Michael made landfall, her son said.

"We can't find her or get word anywhere," said an exasperated Calhoun, 54, wearing stained khaki pants and a dingy towel draped around his neck.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Pat Kreger - [patkreger@yahoo.com](mailto:patkreger@yahoo.com)

Steve Herman - [sgherman@comcast.net](mailto:sgherman@comcast.net)

*On Saturday to...*

Bob Nordyke - [bobpress@aol.com](mailto:bobpress@aol.com)

*On Sunday to...*

John Montgomery - [johndmont2@gmail.com](mailto:johndmont2@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Greg Thompson - [gregmbt@aol.com](mailto:gregmbt@aol.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Community support positive to delisting misdemeanor stories, police reports after six years***

**Jon Rust** ([Email](#)) - publisher of the Southeast Missourian in Cape Girardeau and a former AP board member - shares these thoughts in relation to the story that follows on Cleveland.com:

Community has been overwhelmingly positive to our change in delisting misdemeanor stories and police reports after six years. We didn't receive a complaint about the new policy, but we did and have received many notes of appreciation. I think people understand - whether intuitively, empathetically or through their own experience - that a permanent, easily findable search result about a long-past indiscretion can reflect disproportionately on who a person has become.

Requests for delisting specific stories so far have typically centered on events in high school or college, and originally involved felony charges that were pled to misdemeanors. It's important to us to review each request on a case-by-case basis, though our inclination is to de-list unless it involves significant public or governmental issues.

## ***Fewer mugshots, less naming and shaming: How editors in Cleveland are trying to build a more compassionate newsroom*** (Nieman)

By LAURA HAZARD OWEN

When you hear the phrase "right to be forgotten," you may think of the European Union, where right-to-be-forgotten regulations allow nearly anyone to ask (and sometimes force) Google to take down search results they don't like. The result is a clash between free speech, the public's right to know, and privacy. There are legitimate fears that powerful people will be able to force news outlets to take down unflattering stories about them. (As of the start of this year, Google had received almost 34,000 requests from politicians and government agencies.) Critics of the broad European laws fear that nuance will be lost as search engines and news companies rush to comply with takedown requests.

But there's not always nuanced thought on the other side, either. Does everything really have to be preserved on the internet forever? If you commit a minor, dumb crime when you're young, is it fair for articles about that crime to pop to the top of the Google results when a prospective employer searches your name - for the rest of your life?

The old American newspaper standard is: Never change anything that's true; news values come first. But in 2018, it's clear that standard isn't exactly working; a brief item on Page A17 in one day's print newspaper doesn't have the same sort of impact as a permanent digital record. The stories we choose to cover - the mugshots we choose to run - these are choices, and newsroom policies need the same room for nuance that the EU's laws do.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - October 19, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 19, the 292nd day of 2018. There are 73 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 1789, John Jay was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the United States.

### On this date:

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1864, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's soldiers attacked Union forces at Cedar Creek, Virginia; the Union troops were able to rally and defeat the Confederates.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

In 1950, during the Korean Conflict, United Nations forces entered the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

In 1953, the Ray Bradbury novel "Fahrenheit 451," set in a dystopian future where books are banned and burned by the government, was first published by Ballantine Books.

In 1967, the U.S. space probe Mariner 5 flew past Venus.

In 1977, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York City.

In 1982, automaker John Z. DeLorean was arrested by federal agents in Los Angeles, accused of conspiring to sell \$24 million of cocaine to salvage his business. (DeLorean was acquitted at trial on grounds of entrapment.)

In 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value (its biggest daily percentage loss), to close at 1,738.74 in what came to be known as "Black Monday."

In 1994, 22 people were killed as a terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district.

In 2001, U.S. special forces began operations on the ground in Afghanistan, opening a significant new phase of the assault against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

In 2005, a defiant Saddam Hussein pleaded innocent to charges of premeditated murder and torture as his trial opened under heavy security in the former headquarters of his Baath Party in Baghdad.

Ten years ago: Retired Gen. Colin Powell, a Republican who was President George W. Bush's first secretary of state, broke with the party and endorsed Democrat Barack Obama for president, calling him a "transformational figure" during an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press." The Tampa Bay Rays held off the defending champion Boston Red Sox 3-1 to win the American League championship series in Game 7. Mr. Blackwell, the acerbic designer famous for his annual worst-dressed list of celebrities, died in Los Angeles at age 86.

Five years ago: Nine Lebanese pilgrims abducted in Syria and two Turkish pilots held hostage in Lebanon returned home as part of an ambitious three-way deal cutting across the Syrian civil war. Shane Victorino's seventh-inning grand slam propelled Boston to a 5-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers, clinching the AL championship series in six games. British actor and musician Noel Harrison, who sang the Academy Award-winning ballad "The Windmills of Your Mind," died in Devon, England, at age 79.



One year ago: Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House about a month after Hurricane Maria, described the situation in the island territory as "catastrophic"; Trump rated the White House response to the disaster as a "10." Counter-demonstrators greatly outnumbered supporters of white nationalist Richard Spencer, drowning him out as he spoke at the University of Florida. The Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 11- 1 to reach the World Series for the first time in almost three decades.

Today's Birthdays: Author John le Carre (luh kah-RAY') is 87. Artist Peter Max is 81. Author and critic Renata Adler is 81. Actor Michael Gambon is 78. Actor John Lithgow (LIHTH'-goh) is 73. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 73. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 73. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 70. Talk show host Charlie Chase is 66. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 61. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 60. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 58. Retired boxer Evander Holyfield is 56. Host Ty Pennington (TV: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 54. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 53. Actor Jon Favreau is 52. Amy Carter is 51. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 49. Comedian Chris Kattan is 48. Rock singer Pras Michel (The Fugees) is 46. Actor Omar Gooding is 42. Country singer Cyndi Thomson is 42. Writer-director Jason Reitman is 41. Actor Benjamin Salisbury is 38. Actress Gillian Jacobs is 36. Actress Rebecca Ferguson is 35. Rock singer Zac Barnett (American Authors) is 32. Singer-actress Ciara Renee (TV: "Legends of Tomorrow") is 28. Actress Hunter King is 25.

**Thought for Today: "If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace." - Hamilton Fish III, American congressman (1888-1991).**

## 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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