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Connecting - November 02, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Nov 2, 2018 at 9:19 AM

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Connecting

November 02, 2018

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Join the campaign to name a
US Navy ship for Joe Rosenthal!

USMC Combat Correspondents Assoc.
Joe Rosenthal Chapter

Tom Graves
Team Leader and Historian
415-860-7241
tom@USSJoe.org
www.USSJoe.org

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

"Raising the flag at Iwo Jima" by AP photographer **Joe Rosenthal** is one of the most famous photographs ever taken - and many say it was THE iconic image of World War II.

A petition drive has been under way to get a U.S. Navy warship named for Rosenthal that "will keep his name in public in a place of honor, and keep alive the sacrifices of our Armed Forces protecting our Freedoms" as noted in the online flyer above that has been distributed widely. (Rosenthal died in 2016.)

Connecting colleague **Joe Galloway** recently received a copy and sent it along to Connecting. [Click here](#) for a link that tells you more about the campaign and how you can join the petition drive. And for more on Joe and the photo, visit the Pulitzer site by [clicking here](#).

You will note in today's Today in History that on this date in 1976, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter became the first candidate from the Deep South since the Civil War to be elected president as he defeated incumbent Gerald R. Ford.

Got a favorite memory of covering the Carter years? Send it along.

And one more reminder, if you have published a book in the past year and would like to share news of it in Connecting's upcoming book issue, send along 300 words, a picture of the cover and a headshot of you. We have about a dozen submissions now.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

AP VoteCast debuts Tuesday

By **LAUREN EASTON**

The Associated Press will debut its new VoteCast election survey on Nov. 6, helping to tell the story of why the winners in the U.S. midterm elections won.

Developed with NORC at the University of Chicago, AP VoteCast will provide data about the makeup of the American electorate nationwide and in all states holding an election for U.S. Senate or governor in 2018.

Deputy Managing Editor David Scott, who oversees AP's polling unit, explains how the survey works:

VoteCast is based on the surveys of more than 122,000 registered voters in every state, taken until the moment polls close. How do you find respondents?

We start by mailing a postcard to a random sample of registered voters in 25 states, inviting them to take our survey either online or by phone. We also try to reach those registered voters directly by phone. At the same time, we're conducting a random-sample survey of registered voters nationwide using NORC's based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Finally, we survey self-identified registered voters in all 50 states using opt-in online panels, which allows us to interview a very large number of people in just a few days. More details are available in the VoteCast methodology statement.

Read more [here](#).

Alexa can now talk about the midterm elections (drawing from AP, Ballotpedia)

By KHARI JOHNSON, VentureBeat

Amazon today (October 31) announced a series of updates to Alexa's knowledge base so the intelligent assistant can deliver helpful information ahead of, during, and after the U.S. midterm elections scheduled to take place on Tuesday.



Alexa was asked millions of election-related questions in the lead-up to the 2016 election, Amazon VP of Alexa information Bill Barton said in a blog post today announcing plans to tap knowledge bases from the Associated Press and Ballotpedia.

Say "Alexa, what's my election update," and Alexa, basing answers on your location, will tell you about gubernatorial, congressional, or Senate candidates. Alexa is also now able to answer questions like "Alexa, when are the polls open?"

On Election Day, as the votes come in, Amazon is working with the Associated Press for Alexa to deliver election updates and tell Echo speaker users how a candidate is doing based on their name and deliver up-to-date results in closely watched congressional or U.S. Senate races.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Dennis Ellsworth honored by AP colleagues for 42 years of service as Kansas, Texas and Missouri newspaperman



From left: Rod Richardson, Kia Breaux, Dennis Ellsworth, Paul Stevens and David Bradley Jr.

Paul Stevens - My longtime friend Dennis Ellsworth ([Email](#)) retires November 9 as executive editor of the St. Joseph (Missouri) News-Press, concluding a 42-year career in newspapering. AP colleagues Kia Breaux and Rod Richardson joined me, Dennis' wife Deborah and News-Press chairman (and former AP director) David Bradley Jr. for a farewell lunch hosted by Bradley,

We presented Dennis with an AP Mark Twain Award and thanked him for his years of service on behalf of the AP at the seven newspapers where he worked - in Kansas, Texas and Missouri. Dennis also worked in the AP's Topeka and Bismarck bureaus before returning to Kansas to begin his fulltime newspaper career. "Truth is, I was homesick in the bicentennial summer of 1976 when I made a fateful decision to leave the AP and return to Kansas," he said. "I hope I have shown over the last 42 years that I have nothing but respect for everyone I left behind. I have truly enjoyed the relationships formed with the many talented journalists of the AP and in my newspaper career."

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AP's Lori Hinnant impressive in interview on migrants story



Kevin Walsh (Email) - In Belgrade, Serbia tonight. Watched a very impressive interview on "Euronews Tonight" with Lori Hinnant, AP's international security correspondent, on the story she co-authored with Bram Janssen about dead and missing migrants.

Very impressive reporting and big news in Europe. (See photo above.)

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

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He cherishes memories of early newspaper experience

Bill Kaczor (Email) - Continuing the discussion on early job experience, I had worked on my high school and college newspapers before getting my first real-world job. It was the summer of 1966 - between my sophomore and junior years in college - at the Mattoon Journal-Gazette in east-central Illinois. The paper was a small daily in a town less than 10 miles from Eastern Illinois University, where I was a student. It was too small to have copy boys. Reporters and editors took copy to wherever it needed to go next.

Part of my summer job was to type up handwritten stories submitted by our team of correspondents, most of them proverbial little old ladies, from even smaller towns

nearby. There was news of the two new members who had joined the Rebekah Lodge in Neoga, the tea party hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary in Strausburg, the bible class in Toledo, the 4-H Club meeting at the Liberty Hill Community Center in Greenup and the Eastern Star initiation in Trilla. Family reunions also were popular news items. The reports consisted mainly of lists of everyone who had been in attendance. The correspondents were paid by the word so they didn't hold back, and the newspaper strongly endorsed the idea that "names make news." After all, every name belonged to a reader or potential reader.

My first byline was headlined "Chism's Bugle Has Blown At Funerals for 46 years." It was about a veteran who had been a bugler in the Army in 1919 and continued playing taps (c.q.) at local military funerals after he was discharged. There also was a story about a local man who invented the "Holiday Safety Light" designed to be placed on the roof of a car. It would light up different colors to show how fast the car was going - red for stopped, of course, green up to 40 mph, amber up to 55 mph and blue for higher speeds. Obviously, it never caught on, but auto makers did eventually add a third brake light mounted above or below the back window. Then there was an interview with the grandnephew of Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abe's stepmother, who had lived nearby.

I also wrote about a campaign appearance by Charles Percy, a Republican who was running for the U.S. Senate. It was headlined "Percy Outlines 'Non-Partisan' Campaign" - something you are unlikely to see in these hyper-partisan times. The toughest assignment was to write an obituary on the area's first Vietnam War fatality after interviewing his parents at their farm home. About the same time, I also interviewed a local man who had just returned from Vietnam, where he had been a helicopter pilot. He told of narrowly avoiding bullets while in the cockpit and taking a shower on the ground.

The strangest assignment was to go on a tour of Mattoon's hospital and interview the administrator. My editor, Ralph Closson, told me to be sure to ask to see certain financial records. When I did so at the close of interview, the administrator refused to let me see them. When I got back, Ralph told me to just write a profile of the hospital minus the financial aspect. I had only written a few paragraphs, when he told me to stop. Ralph, who could have been the model for Ed Asner's Lou Grant character in appearance as well as demeanor, said the hospital administrator had just resigned and that he would write the story. Mine was spiked. Ralph had suspected something was wrong when he sent me over there and he was right. An audit triggered by the administrator's resignation showed a combined nine-month loss of nearly \$200,000 - probably close to \$2 million in today's dollars - at the hospital and a nursing home operated by the local hospital district.

I wound up returning to the Journal-Gazette for the fall and winter of 1966 as sports editor. That was after an ill-fated and brief transfer to a bigger university. I quit on the first day because I was unable to get any journalism classes and I couldn't work at the student paper because I wasn't in a journalism class. Shades of Catch 22. As sports editor, Ralph called me on the carpet once for running a syndicated automobile column, which usually covered racing or the latest models from Detroit, but in this instance offered tips on how to avoid being cheated when buying a used car. The local dealers were not amused and threatened to pull their ads from the

paper. I also managed to survive wobbly wooden "press boxes" at high school football stadiums. In one instance, we had to call for help from the fans below after the wind blew down the ladder that provided the only access.

Those were the days. I cherish every one of them.

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Altering an iconic AP image



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - An old friend in Bangkok sent me the latest riff on an image I made of 1976 violence. The hanged student has relinquished its place under the tree to an image of the current prime minister. My correspondent says the altered image was found on an anti-government Facebook page.

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At least one company sees value in print

Check It Out—Free ‘Firewood’!

E. Turn Newspapers Into Free ‘Firewood’!

Recycle old newspapers into fuel for your fireplace, wood stove, or patio fire pit—save over the high cost of oil, natural gas, or even firewood. Easy-to-use press creates virtually ash-free 8½" x 3¼" bricks that can burn at the rate of 4 per hour. Heavy-duty steel. 10¼" x 5¼".

K95-03 Newspaper Press \$29.99



Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - This was promoted on the cover of a holiday catalog arriving today. Whatever Works (<http://whateverworks.com>) offers products for "Garden * Home * Pest Control." Despite the move to digital, it appears at least one company still sees a value in print.

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Recalling being accused of bias by governor

Norman Abelson (Email) - Recent Connecting pieces about news reporters injecting opinion or interpretation into their stories or during TV appearances, reminded me of a time I was chewed out by a governor who accused me of biased writing.

It was the 1950s, and I was a still-wet-behind-the-ears staffer in the Concord, N.H., AP office.

Writing about a governor's news conference I had just covered, I used some descriptive language around an issue that had obviously aroused his ire. My best memory is that I wrote something like "he appeared red-faced, and slammed his fist on the podium."

Might seem pretty tame by today's standards. But the guy didn't think so. That night at dinner the phone rang in our home. My wife answered, came back to the table and whispered: "It's the governor, and he sounds angry."

After listening to charges about my being biased and unfair, I tried to interject that what I had written had actually occurred. He was having none of it. I sort of apologized for what he thought I had done.

After a while, the rift in our relationship healed.

While I remained unrepentant, I did learn to be a bit more thoughtful in using descriptive prose - especially when covering that governor.

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Another redundancy

Jim Limbach ([Email](#)) - For the redundancy list: past experience.

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Amir Bibawy joins Marketplace as New York bureau chief

Marketplace news release:

Our Connecting colleague **Amir Bibawy** ([Email](#)) joins Marketplace as New York bureau chief and senior editor after nearly seven years at the Associated Press where he was, most recently, business breaking news and digital-strategy editor. In that role, he managed a desk of editors and reporters who were the "first response" team for breaking business and financial news across the U.S. He also led the department's digital products, including video and social media.



Previously, Amir was a producer at the AP's Nerve Center news hub in New York City, working on coordinating and managing top-story coverage across the AP's global newsroom. Prior to joining the AP, he worked for three years at Thomson Reuters' Insider, a multimedia and digital television platform. And he began his career in radio in Washington, D.C. in 2002 as a broadcaster and editor for Radio Sawa, the world's largest Arabic radio network.

A graduate of the American University in Cairo, Amir holds a master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics and a master's in Business and Economics Journalism from Columbia University.

In our conversations with Amir, we were all impressed by the breadth of his experience on multiple platforms and his keen understanding of finance and economics -core coverage areas for the New York reporters. Aside from that, Amir has a wry, warm style that will help him juggle the various demands of managing a large bureau.

Amir is a keen traveler, an avid bridge player and a watch enthusiast. He enjoys cooking and the performing arts in his spare time. He lives with his family in Brooklyn.

A race back in time



This photo of some of the 14,153 participants in the New York Marathon crossing the Queensboro Bridge from Queens into Manhattan on Oct. 21, 1979, is among the AP images that will be featured on LinkNYC kiosks. (AP Photo/A Stoltman)

By Lauren Easton

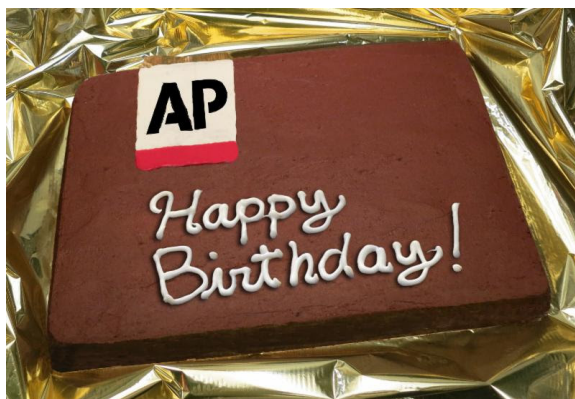
When tens of thousands hit the streets of the five boroughs for the New York City Marathon on Sunday, runners and spectators alike will be greeted with inspirational AP photos from past marathons along the course.

A selection of AP images of New York City Marathon runners from 1997 through 2017 will appear on LinkNYC kiosks along the 26.2-mile route. Visible to athletes and onlookers, the images depict how the marathon has evolved over the past 20 years and illustrate the spirit of the race.

AP has photographed the New York City Marathon every year since its inception in 1970.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Peter Leabo - peter.leabo@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Dena Sattler - denas@gctelegram.com

On Sunday to...

Richard Weiss - weisswrite@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Newsonomics: "Digital defeats print" is the headline as Gannett steps away from printed election results (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

Editors have long had to battle deadlines on election nights across America - pushing press runs to the last possible moment in order to get the most complete results into the next morning's paper. Print is many things, but it isn't a great real-time medium.

Now, though, Gannett is throwing the digital switch. Across its 109 local markets, readers will be directed - starting this Sunday, as editors are being urged to prepare readers in advance - to head to its digital sites for results. The idea: Recognize and act on the cultural changes - among readers and in newsrooms - to embrace real-time media for real-time news.

(And save a little money on newsprint.)

When long-time readers of the Des Moines Register, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, or Fort Myers News-Press open up their papers Wednesday morning, they'll see hardly anything in the way of results. They may see stories on voter turnout totals or "wrap-ups on the voting scene" or "a look ahead to what readers can expect in the days ahead." Even on Thursday, when nearly all vote totals should be in, don't expect to see newsprint used when cheaper pixels can do the job; the complete election results will be online, Amalie Nash, executive editor for local news at Gannett's USA Today Network, told me Wednesday.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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The New York Times is on pace to earn more than \$600 million in digital this year, halfway to its ambitious goal (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

The Failing New York Times released its third-quarter numbers this morning and, well, if the rest of the news industry was doing this well, we could shut down Nieman Lab and grab some worry-free beach time in warmer climes. Its ongoing transition from print to digital revenue has been managed without the staffing disruption just about everyone has seen, and it continues to see significant jumps in paying digital subscribers, seven years after launching the paywall and two years after its initial Trump bump.

It's doing fine. Take 98 percent of whatever energy you devote to worrying about the future of the Times and rechannel it into worrying about your local daily, which is very likely approaching existential crisis.

The Manhattan-based news-and-crosswords concern now has 2.54 million paying digital news subscribers, with another half million for its various other non-news products. Digital subscription revenue topped \$100 million for the first time in a quarter and it'll likely hit \$400 million for the calendar year.

Read more [here](#).

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Advice for women in local news from women in local news (Poynter)



The June 2018 class of Poynter's Women's Leadership Academy (Photo by Sara O'Brien/Poynter)

BY KRISTEN HARE

A few times a year, a group of women who are leaders in newsrooms around the world comes to Poynter for a week. One of the things that strikes me with each class is how much better it is because of the women there who work in local news.

Most of them work in newsrooms with very few resources. And most of them love covering local news despite that. They're entrepreneurs, they're talented journalists and they're leading change in their newsrooms.

Before the next class of the Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media started on Wednesday, I reached out to women who'd previously taken part in it or in ONA's Women's Leadership Accelerator and asked them one simple question: What's your best advice for women in local news?

Read more [here](#).

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Omnivorous GateHouse continues to swallow local papers (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

The GateHouse chain celebrated several markers today in its strategy of buying up small and mid-size market papers:

It now owns 145 dailies, more than 10 percent of the total, estimated at 1,350 to 1,400. (Because many of the markets are very small, that amounts to less than 10 percent of total U.S. newspaper circulation).

It has now spent more than \$1 billion over five years on acquisitions.

This year's crop - totaling \$156 million - includes The Eugene Register-Guard in Oregon, the Austin American-Statesman and Palm Beach (Florida) Post (both formerly owned by Cox, which kept the Atlanta Journal Constitution), The Pueblo (Colorado) Chieftan, the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal, and, most recently, The Oklahoman in Oklahoma City. It also acquired a majority interest in an events business that produces 90 endurance races a year.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - November 2, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 2, the 306th day of 2018. There are 59 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 2, 1976, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter became the first candidate from the Deep South since the Civil War to be elected president as he defeated incumbent Gerald R. Ford.

On this date:

In 1783, General George Washington issued his Farewell Address to the Army near Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states with the signing of proclamations by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued a declaration expressing support for a "national home" for the Jews in Palestine.

In 1930, Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see) was crowned emperor of Ethiopia.

In 1947, Howard Hughes piloted his huge wooden flying boat, the Hughes H-4 Hercules (derisively dubbed the "Spruce Goose" by detractors), on its only flight, which lasted about a minute over Long Beach Harbor in California.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman surprised the experts by winning a narrow upset over Republican challenger Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1950, playwright George Bernard Shaw, 94, died in Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, England.

In 1959, game show contestant Charles Van Doren admitted to a House subcommittee that he'd been given questions and answers in advance when he appeared on the N-B-C T-V program "Twenty-One."

In 1986, kidnappers in Lebanon released American hospital administrator David Jacobsen after holding him for 17 months.

In 1992, movie producer Hal Roach died in Los Angeles at age 100.

In 1994, a jury in Pensacola, Florida, convicted Paul Hill of murder for the shotgun slayings of an abortion provider and his bodyguard; Hill was executed in September 2003.

In 2000, American astronaut Bill Shepherd and two Russian cosmonauts, Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, became the first residents of the international space station.

Ten years ago: Barack Obama and John McCain uncorked massive get-out-the-vote operations in more than a dozen battleground states the Sunday before Election Day. Obama's grandmother, Madelyn Payne Dunham, died in Honolulu at age 86. Paula Radcliffe defended her title at the New York City Marathon to become the second woman to win the race three times; Marilson Gomes dos Santos of Brazil won the men's race for the second time in three years.

Five years ago: Gunmen abducted and killed French radio journalists Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon in northern Mali, grabbing the pair as they left the home of a rebel leader.

One year ago: President Donald Trump tapped Jerome Powell to replace Janet Yellen as Federal Reserve chair at the end of her term in February. Authorities in Los Angeles and New York said they had opened new investigations prompted by sexual misconduct allegations against Harvey Weinstein. Twitter reported that a customer support worker who was on his or her last day on the job had deactivated President Donald Trump's Twitter account for a few minutes, resulting in an error message that the user "does not exist."

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jay Black (Jay and the Americans) is 80. Political commentator Patrick Buchanan is 80. Actress Stefanie Powers is 76. Author Shere (shehr) Hite is 76. Country-rock singer-songwriter J.D. Souther is 73. Actress Kate Linder is 71. Rock musician Carter Beauford (The Dave Matthews Band) is 61. Actor Peter Mullan is 59. Singer-songwriter k.d. lang is 57. Rock musician Bobby Dall (Poison) is 55. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage is 54. Actress Lauren Velez is 54. Actor Sean Kanan is 52. Actor David Schwimmer is 52. Christian/jazz singer Alvin Chea (Take 6) is 51. Jazz singer Kurt Elling is 51. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is 51. Rock singer-musician Neal Casal is 50. Rock musician Fieldy is 49. Actress Meta Golding is 47. Rock singer-musician John Hampson (Nine Days) is 47. Actress Marisol Nichols is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Timothy Christian Riley (Tony Toni Tone) is 44. Rapper Nelly is 44. Actor Danny Cooksey is 43. Rock musician Chris Walla is 43. Actress Reshma Shetty is 41. Country singer Erika Jo is 32. Actor-singer Kendall Schmidt is 28.

Thought for Today: "If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons." - James Thurber (1894-1961).

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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