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Connecting - November 27, 2018

1 message

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Tue, Nov 27, 2018 at 9:13 AM

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Connecting

November 27, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

What was your worst shift at the AP?

That's a question posed for your consideration by Connecting colleague **Doug Richardson**, fresh on the heels of another question he posed for the group that was a home run: your most memorable quotes.

Doug gets the ball rolling again with his own reply:

My answer is easy: I was alone in the Indianapolis bureau on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. A Pacers game, plus 120 high school basketball games, and John Bartholomew, a member also known as "the kind of the fatals," calling in traffic deaths. The sports desk from NY is beating me up for the early lede on the Pacers, I've got dozens of high school basketball coaches calling in results, George the stringer is allegedly getting me quotes from the Pacers locker room for the first lede-write thru ...and Mike Conroy, the photo guy, walks in: Hey, how are you doing? God bless him, he took some scores over the phone.

But then there was the Saturday morning when I arrived to find that one of our wonderful interns had taken one of those "carbons" from members, edited it, and accused the by-line author of the story from the Muncie Star-Press of being charged with the murder she was reporting. I was pretty new to the AP then, so I remember a panicked call to my dear friend (news editor) Fran Richardson, about the process for a mandatory kill. I'm sure Lindel Hutson was involved at some point.

I look forward to hearing about your worst shift. If you have a story but didn't work for the AP, please share it as well.

Finally, don't miss today's The Final Word as my friend and colleague **Carol Stark**, editor of The Joplin Globe, tells how her ongoing battle against cancer - one we are all pulling for her to win - affected Thanksgiving dinner last week. In it, she wrote, "Then after I stop feeling sorry for myself, I will look around the table and realize that nothing has actually changed. The carefully planned meal once again has brought all the people I love together in one place. The favorite stories will be repeated and the grandkids will listen and laugh when they hear for the first time that my fear of fowl keeps me from actually putting my hand into the turkey cavity and pulling out the little bag of giblets. No, if I cook the turkey, all of that just has to bake along with the bird."

A note of encouragement would go a long way. She's at - cstark@joplinglobe.com

Paul

Budding topics: Covering the cannabis industry



Medical marijuana plants grow at LifeLine Labs in Cottage Grove, Minn. AP PHOTO/JIM MONE

With the recent legalization of marijuana in Canada and the growing impact of the cannabis industry, we sat down with AP's cannabis beat team editor, Frank Baker, to find out how AP covers such a narrowly focused but widely newsworthy topic.

AP announced the addition of a dedicated cannabis team in early 2018.

"Our members and customers have told us this is an area of immense interest to them, and AP's geographic scope places us in a unique position to tell this story from multiple vantage points," said AP's deputy managing editor, Noreen Gillespie.

We went behind the scenes with Baker to find out how the cannabis beat team covers an ever-changing industry to produce unique multiformat content with local relevance and national impact.

Q: What's the goal of the cannabis beat team?

A: To have comprehensive coverage of the evolving cannabis industry in the United States, Canada and beyond.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Sue Cross and this 92-year-old AP retiree have much in common

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - I thoroughly enjoyed the personal story of Sue Cross in Monday's Connecting Profile.

She is someone I would loved to work with in my 28 years with the AP. Ironically, I was in so many of the bureaus where she had served - I was born in Columbus, started my AP career there, and worked in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo. I also worked in Chicago when Al Orton was COB (1968). Strangely, I also visited Malaysia, Penang, on a tall sailing ship in 2001. We have much in common.

The Associated Press has been, and is, the greatest, not only in its news and photo coverage, but its moral standing, and creating the staff fellowship, and respect. I love the AP, and am thankful, as I know Sue is, that we had the experiences of a lifetime.

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Remembering Bob Brown - journalist victim at Jonestown



Brian Bland (Email) - Thanks to David Hume Kennerly for his story (last Friday) of how he raced to Jonestown 40 years ago, and for sharing his photographs that illustrate how a mass of apparently earnest people can be led to kill their own children as well as themselves.

About a month before that tragedy, I had visited Los Angeles from Reno, looking to move up in the news world. On a perfect California day, I walked into NBC's headquarters in Burbank to keep an appointment with a network assignment manager who'd been my boss at KTVU in Oakland a decade earlier.

When I walked out of the bright sunlight into the building, I couldn't see a thing for a few moments.

"Is that Brian Bland?" a loud voice exclaimed. "What in the world are you doing here?"

It was NBC News cameraman Bob Brown, another KTVU alumni. We'd never been close friends, but our paths had crossed occasionally at news events, where we'd catch up a little and move on. I was surprised he recognized me so quickly in the dim hallway.

Bob could not have been nicer. When I told him I was there to see our old boss, and was hoping to work in L.A., he insisted on escorting me upstairs to the office, where we said our goodbyes.

Just over a month later -- two weeks after moving to L.A. -- I was at Bob's funeral, sitting among those who'd worked with Bob, including several former and current KTVU employees who'd come down from the Bay Area. Bob's friend and co-worker Geraldo Rivera eulogized Bob, rightly, as one of the very best in his profession.

Among the film clips that often accompany TV stories about Jonestown is film that Bob was shooting at the airstrip near Jonestown when he was wounded, then killed.

[Click here](#) for a link to a recent San Francisco Chronicle story about Bob.

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The game went on in Fayetteville, too, day after JFK died

Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - Mike Moran wrote in Monday's Connecting about covering a University of Nebraska football game the day after the JFK assassination. I had a similar experience.

On the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 22, 1963, I huddled around the AP printer in the newsroom of the student newspaper at Texas Tech as bells kept sounding, alerting us to the latest reports on the fatal shooting of President Kennedy as his motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

I was a senior journalism major and was assigned to cover the final regular season game in 1963 for the Texas Tech Red Raiders on the road against the Arkansas Razorbacks. But now the trip was questionable. All across the nation, schools were deciding not to play.

In the Southwest Conference, the Texas Tech-Arkansas game was the only one not postponed. It was Homecoming at the University of Arkansas, and school officials decided the game would go on. The parade and other Homecoming festivities were canceled.

I got aboard Texas Tech's chartered plane to Fort Smith, Ark., where we spent the night. Everyone seemed to be glued to the TV, watching assassination coverage.

Saturday morning, we made the short drive north to Fayetteville, where "Sooeey, Pigs!" cries filled the air as the Arkansas Razorbacks defeated the Texas Tech Red Raiders, 27-20.

A year later, as a UPI reporter in Dallas, I took dictation on the trial of Jack Ruby, who shot alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald on Sunday morning, Nov. 24, 1963, in the basement of the Dallas Police Headquarters on live TV.

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Tom Eblen no longer with us, or is he?





Jeannie Eblen ([Email](#)) - Tom sat in that passenger seat while I drove, so I lowered the head restraint on the seat and slipped this Large-size T-shirt from Kansas Press Association over the seat back and it fit just fine, so I think I'll just leave it there - I think Tom would be glad it's helping advance the message we both value.

(Connecting colleague Tom Eblen died in 2017. His wife Jeannie is a Connecting colleague,)

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Eating a chitlin supper all part of the job



Evergreen Piggly Wiggly

7 mins • 🌐



Aunt Bessie's Cleaned Chitterlings, 5lb pkg, \$13.99

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Great price cleaned!

Years ago when I was a reporter at The Montgomery Advertiser I traveled to Daleville, Alabama, to do a story on the Dale County Chitterling Society.

A group met monthly at a local café to enjoy a chitlin supper. To write the story I had to taste them, right?

Boiled and fried chitterlings, baked sweet potatoes, collard greens and cornbread.

The more I chewed on that chitlin the bigger it got in my mouth. Managed to wash it down with sweet tea though.

The collards, sweet potatoes and corn bread were good.

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Those turkey leg-feuding kids grew up



Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - In a picture combo I shared in Connecting last week, taken for a 1958 AP Thanksgiving feature in Minneapolis, 6-month-old Cindy Chevalier had a huge turkey leg taken from her by her two-year-old brother, Greg. Their dad is Bill Chevalier, a Connecting colleague and a former AP writer in Minneapolis.

Bill, an AP retiree, just sent me this picture that was shot on Thanksgiving Day five years ago when Greg, left, and Cindy, re-enacted their "famous child cruelty photo" taken at Greg's house.

Mat Pennington joins Radio Free Asia



Mat Pennington and wife Thaksina Khaikaew, a former AP photographer and reporter, with their children Victoria and Benjamin.

After 19 years at AP, Washington-based foreign policy writer, Mat Pennington ([Email](#)) is leaving the news cooperative for a job at Radio Free Asia. He'll still be based in DC. In his new position, Mat will direct RFA's Southeast Asian services which broadcast daily in Burmese, Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese. The network focuses on coverage of Asian nations that restrict a free press. He'll be overseeing its reporters based in Washington and in Asia.

Mat's new role brings him back to his journalism roots. He first wrote for AP in 1995 at a stringer in Laos, where he was working as a U.N. volunteer, raising awareness about the impact of unexploded ordnance left over from U.S. bombing during the Vietnam War. He joined the AP staff in the Bangkok in 1999 under bureau chief Denis Gray, covering Thailand, Burma, Laos and Cambodia. He later worked on the Asia regional editing desk when it was established in Bangkok in 2002, before transferring to Islamabad in 2003. He went on to become bureau chief for Pakistan and Afghanistan. He covered the earthquake that devastated Kashmir in 2005 and the political turmoil that hit Pakistan in 2007. He led the team that won the Society of Professional Journalists award for breaking news for coverage of the assassination of former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Mat, who was born in Dover, England, moved to another foreign country in 2011, taking up a position as a writer on U.S.-Asian affairs at the Washington D.C. bureau.

He's married to Thaksina Khaikaew, a former AP photographer and reporter. They met when they worked together at the Bangkok bureau. She went on to work for the BBC Thai service. She's now focusing on another profession - as an elementary school teacher - but still works part-time for Voice of America Thai language radio. They have two children, Victoria, 10, and Benjamin, 13.

(Shared by Connecting colleague Mat Pennington, whose new email address is - mattpenn_99@yahoo.com)

Elana Schor named AP politics reporter

Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace announced Monday a key appointment, sending this memo to staff:

I'm happy to announce that Elana Schor is joining the AP as a political reporter covering the 2020 campaign. Elana is a talented journalist who will bring deep experience in Washington and an eye for compelling stories to our political team.

Elana joins the AP from Politico, where she covered Senate politics for the Congress team, including progressive groups' influence on the Democratic agenda. She's done standout work over the past year on the Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearings and the way the #MeToo movement has roiled Capitol Hill.

One of the things that stands out about Elana is that she has a real interest in policy and the way what's being debated in Congress and on the campaign trail impacts people's lives. She previously covered environmental politics and policy for Politico and E&E News, as well as Congress for The Guardian and The Hill. A native of New York City, she was a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT and graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

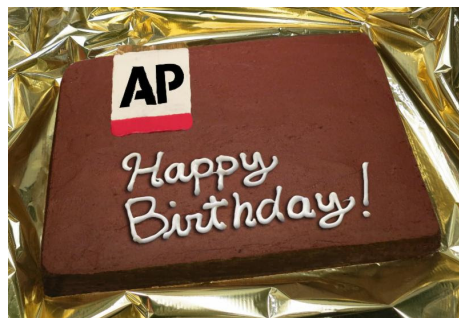


Elana Schor

Elana starts in the Washington bureau on Dec. 3. Please join me in welcoming her to the team!

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Ann Joyce - Joyce7890@comcast.net

Welcome to Connecting



Barb Stauffer - BStauffer_NEWS@ap.org

Stories of interest

International coalition to protect press freedoms could have unintended consequences (Poynter)

By TOM KENT

With the deaths of Jamal Khashoggi and so many other journalists, media unions and publishers are reviving efforts to create a new international legal structure to protect reporters.

It's a laudable cause. But such efforts can have complications that aren't immediately apparent.

There's also the question of whether new documents and institutions are the answer at all to the dangers reporters face.

The latest proposal for a legal solution is led by the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists. The IFJ says it represents more than 600,000 journalists in 146 nations, including some writers in the United States. The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, WAN-IFRA, has endorsed the effort.

Read more [here](#).

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Trump's Lies Are a Virus, and News Organizations Are the Host (Atlantic)

By DEREK THOMPSON

The news media today face an epistemic crisis: how to publish the president's commentary without amplifying his fabrications and conspiracy theories.

One flashpoint came several weeks ago, when President Donald Trump told Axios reporters that he planned to use an executive order to end birthright citizenship because, as he put it, "we're the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen." On Twitter, Axios CEO and co-founder Jim VandeHei wrote, "Exclusive: Trump to terminate birthright citizenship."

As many journalists quickly pointed out, this was multilayered malarkey. The president was proposing an unconstitutional means of obliterating the Fourteenth Amendment on the basis of a falsehood; more than two dozen countries in the Western Hemisphere have unrestricted jus soli laws, like the U.S. Axios was treating as fact a haphazard plan, in search of an impossible outcome, justified by a false assertion.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Deborah Mesce.

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Canada introduces a \$595 million package in support of journalism (Nieman)

While Americans spent last week pardoning (and eating) turkeys, our neighbors to the north were focused on bringing home the bacon for Canadian journalism.

Canada's federal government introduced a CAN\$595 million-over-5-years tax package to bolster the country's journalism market, including:

A temporary, non-refundable tax credit that will allow subscribers to claim 15 per cent of the cost of subscriptions of eligible digital news media. This is meant to help support digital news organizations in achieving a "more financially sustainable business model."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Carol Stark: Thanksgiving about more than full dinner plate

By Carol Stark

Editor, The Joplin (MO) Globe

I grew up in a household where food was more than just nourishment - it was an event. It was something to talk about, plan, anticipate and carefully execute.

For instance, by Wednesday my mother was already making plans for Sunday dinner. Would we have fried chicken with cream gravy or would it be a pot roast with the wonderful, rich beef broth gravy? Pie or cake? Certainly homemade hot rolls. Maybe Mom would even go all out and make her cinnamon apples.

There is possibly no other time when I miss my mother more deeply than during the preparation of the Thanksgiving meal. Daily meals were a mere warm up for Nancy Cowan when compared to her traditional holiday meals.



Thanks to her, my life is greatly enriched today by the memories of time spent in the kitchen. Not that I necessarily inherited her skill, but I learned quickly that food, dinnertime conversations and the magic when it all comes together doesn't happen by accident.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - November 27, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2018. There are 34 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 27, 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade - billed as a "Christmas Parade" - took place in New York.

On this date:

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, New York's Pennsylvania Station officially opened.

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy scuttled its ships and submarines in Toulon (too-LOHN') to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1945, General George C. Marshall was named special U.S. envoy to China by President Harry S. Truman to try to end hostilities between the Nationalists and the Communists.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant.

In 1967, the Beatles album "Magical Mystery Tour" was released in the United States by Capitol Records.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White. (White served five years for manslaughter; he committed suicide in Oct. 1985.)

In 1989, a bomb blamed on drug traffickers destroyed a Colombian Avianca Boeing 727, killing all 107 people on board and three people on the ground.

In 1999, Northern Ireland's biggest party, the Ulster Unionists, cleared the way for the speedy formation of an unprecedented Protestant-Catholic administration.

In 2000, a day after George W. Bush was certified the winner of Florida's presidential vote, Al Gore laid out his case for letting the courts settle the nation's long-count election.

In 2005, doctors in France performed the world's first partial face transplant on a woman disfigured by a dog bite; Isabelle Dinoire received the lips, nose and chin of a brain-dead woman in a 15-hour operation.

Ten years ago: Indian commandoes fought to wrest control of two luxury hotels and a Jewish center from militants, a day after a chain of attacks across Mumbai. Iraq's parliament approved a pact requiring all U.S. troops to be out of the country by Jan. 1, 2012.

Five years ago: In a short ceremony inside their Chicago apartment, Vernita Gray and her partner of five years, Patricia Ewert, made Illinois history as they became the first gay couple to wed under the state's new law legalizing same-sex marriage. Rising anger over deadly drone attacks spurred a Pakistani political party to reveal the identity of what it said was the top U.S. spy in the country and demand he be tried for murder. A crane collapsed at a Sao Paulo stadium being constructed for the 2014 World Cup, killing two workers.

One year ago: As he tried to bolster his support in the wake of a sexual harassment allegation, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken apologized to "everyone who has counted on me to be a champion for women." Authorities ordered a mass evacuation of people from an expanded danger zone around an erupting volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali; the eruption had closed the island's international airport, stranding tens of thousands of travelers. On Cyber Monday, the Echo Dot was the top-selling electronic item on Amazon, followed by the Fire TV.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gail Sheehy is 81. Footwear designer Manolo Blahnik is 76. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow is 67. TV host Bill Nye ("Bill Nye, the Science Guy") is 63. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 62. Caroline Kennedy is 61. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri is 61. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 59. Jazz composer/big band leader Maria Schneider is 58. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 58. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 56. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 56. Actor Fisher Stevens is 55. Actress Robin Givens is 54. Actor Michael Vartan is 50. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 48. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 47. Rapper Twista is 46. Actor Jaleel White is 42. Actor Arjay Smith is 35. Actress Alison Pill is 33. Actress Lashana Lynch (TV: "Still Star-Crossed") is 31. Actress-singer Aubrey Peeples is 25.

Thought for Today: "Pioneers are seldom from the nobility. There were no Dukes on the Mayflower." - Mack Sennett, Canadian-born American movie producer (1880-1960).

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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12/10/2018

Gmail - Connecting - November 27, 2018

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