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Connecting - December 20, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Dec 20, 2018 at 9:12 AM

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Connecting

December 20, 2018







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Construction workers line up for pay beside the first Rockefeller Center Christmas tree in New York in 1931. The Christmas tree went on to become an annual tradition and a New York landmark. St. Patrick's Cathedral is visible in the background on Fifth Avenue. (AP Photo)

Colleagues,

Since discussion focused Wednesday on the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center, our colleague **Francesca Pitaro** retrieved the photo displayed above from the AP archives to share with us.

Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting series:

Your most unusual story datelines

Joe McKnight (Email) - The story was of little significance and there was no followup or explanation. While working in Birmingham during the early 1960s, The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News called with a couple of stories, including a brief from Greene County. I don't recall exact wording but it went something like this:

"The village council voted unanimously tonight to change the name of the village of Intercourse to Beat Five. There was no discussion or explanation from members of the council."

I filed the rwo-sentence story under its new dateline; left a note that dayside editor Jack Stillman might want to find an explanation. But next day was busy and there never was a followup.

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Lisa Marie Pane (Email) - Most unusual dateline was probably ABOARD THE BLOCK ISLAND FERRY. I'm not sure if we assigned a state to it. I was sent to Block Island off the coast of Rhode Island, probably around 1994, to cover the second marriage for then-Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland. It was a weekend-long assignment. It's something we wouldn't cover today, which is good financially. I'm also doubtful of the news value. But it was great for sourcing!

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Robert Reid (Email) - In October 1993 as the US was closing its military bases in the Philippines, I visited the old U.S. Navy base at Subic Bay to report on Philippine plans to convert the real estate to civilian use. One of the Filipino officials squiring me around mentioned plans to promote Subic as a diving venue. When I told him I had a license he offered to take me diving. We dived down to one of the premier sites - the wreckage of the USS New York, a cruiser which saw action in the Spanish-American War and World War I. Later, the ship was recommissioned as the USS Rochester and transferred to Subic. After the Japanese invaded, the vessel was towed into the bay and scuttled in about 80 feet of water on Dec. 24, 1941. The vessel, nearly intact, lay on its port side, 8-inch deck guns still in place and propellers visible as schools of barracuda swarmed about. I filed a travel story with my most unusual dateline - AT THE BOTTOM OF SUBIC BAY.

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(Paducah Sun, Oct. 11, 1993)

ROBERT H. REID ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER AT THE BOTTOM OF SUBIC ... At least 25 ships rest at the bottom of Subic Bay, the site of Spanish, ... century

Spanish galleons to World War II warships lie in

-0-

John Wilson (Email) - My strangest, as Spokane correspondent:

"ON THE U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER" - about a farmer whose land spanned the Washington state-British Columbia border, and who kept both federal governments informed about strange things/people traveling through.

Connecting mailbox

Objects characterization of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in LA Times story

Tom Kent (Email) - The Dec. 18 issue of "Connecting" contains an LA Times story headlined, "Trump says he wants a government-run media outlet. He's ignored the one he has - so far." It's largely about the Voice of America, but contains a drive-by, passive-voice assertion that Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty - my former employer - has "been viewed as producing pro-democracy propaganda." Like most U.S. media, RFE/RL thinks democracy is better than dictatorship, but a propaganda shop it is not. I'm writing to the LA Times about this characterization and will share a link if they run it.

-0-

Trees from his 50 Rock images collection





Guy Palmiotto (Email) - Just two of many in my collection of 50 Rock images. The tree is undated, (oops) maybe 2001. The other, with the Takashi Murakami sculpture overlooking Prometheus, is from September 2003.

Something was always going on in the Plaza once it was permanently closed to traffic.

-0-

Another memory of that night the lights went out in NYC

Chick Harrity (Email) - Greg Nokes' excellent remembrance of the night NY went dark (Tuesday's Connecting) brought back my memories of that event.

I joined the AP in March of 1965 as a Photo Editor on the New York Desk and was working the overnight as the swing man on the photo desk.

I was living in Tudor City on 42nd Street between 2nd and 3rd Ave. and was fast asleep at about 7pm when I got a phone call from my mother in Allentown, Pa wondering how I was doing in the blackout.

Suddenly realizing there was no light anywhere I could see, I thanked her for the call and immediately called the office asking if they wanted me to come in early. They said yes so I grabbed my camera and jogged down 42nd Street making photos at Penn Station and the bars and taverns with overflow crowds that were operating by candlelight along the way.

When I got to 50 Rock, I climbed the stairs to the 4th floor and handed over my film and asked what I could do.

Because of the power outage, the big Kodak film processor was not working and the darkroom staff was developing the film manually in large tanks but there was no way to make prints or transmit.

It was learned that the Newark Star Ledger had power, and overnight supervisor Jack Schwadel, another photo editor and a darkroom man immediately left by car to get there taking what film they had at the time.

There was still film being developed so I was designated to wait for it and then ride on the back of one of our photo messengers motorcycles with about a half dozen still damp rolls of 35mm film hanging over my shoulder all the way to Newark.

By the time I got there Schwadel had everything up and running so I wound up writing captions for the rest of the night.

I forget what time the power started coming back up at 50 Rock but it was early dawn when we were driving back to 50 Rock and as we came up either 2nd or 3 avenue the lights in the city were coming on block by block.

As you might imagine it was a magical sight and a great end to a once in a lifetime situation.

-0-

A cherished 50 Rock story involving his son

Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - I have many memories of 50 Rock, Paul, because that's where I broke in at AP in 1955 when I was still a student at the Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. However, a story I cherish is about my son, Jide.

After Jide's freshman year at Amherst College, Hal Buell kindly gave him a summer job at the photo department for \$300 a week, not bad at the time.

He spent some of his time at 50 Rock watching the Financial News Network on TV in the newsroom. At the end of the summer, Jide told me, "Next summer, I want to work on Wall Street."

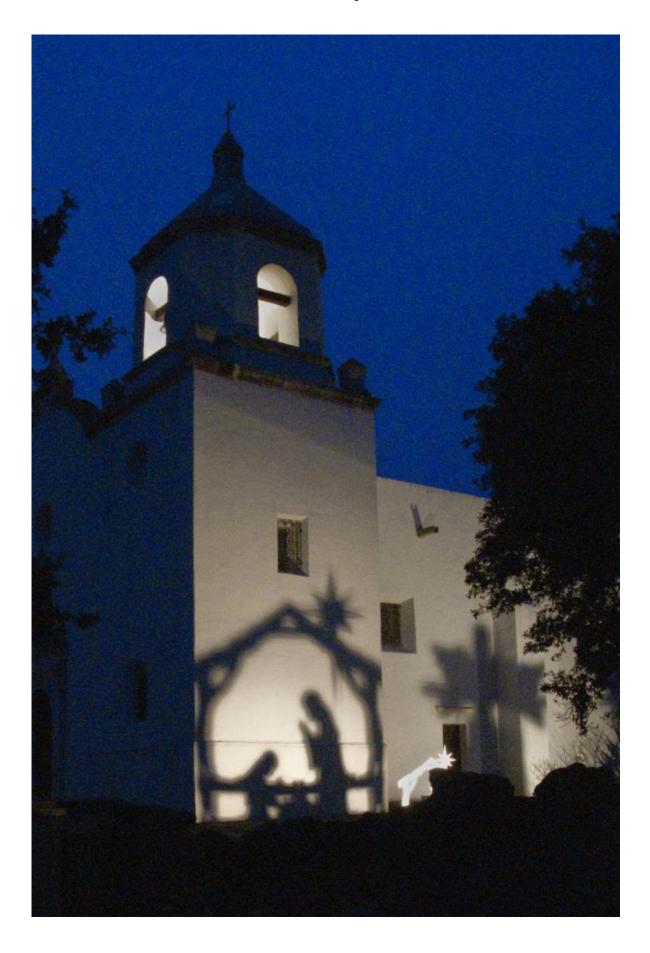
And he did. He became a summer intern at Goldman Sachs (for \$800 a week), starting a career that led to his becoming a partner in his early 30s.

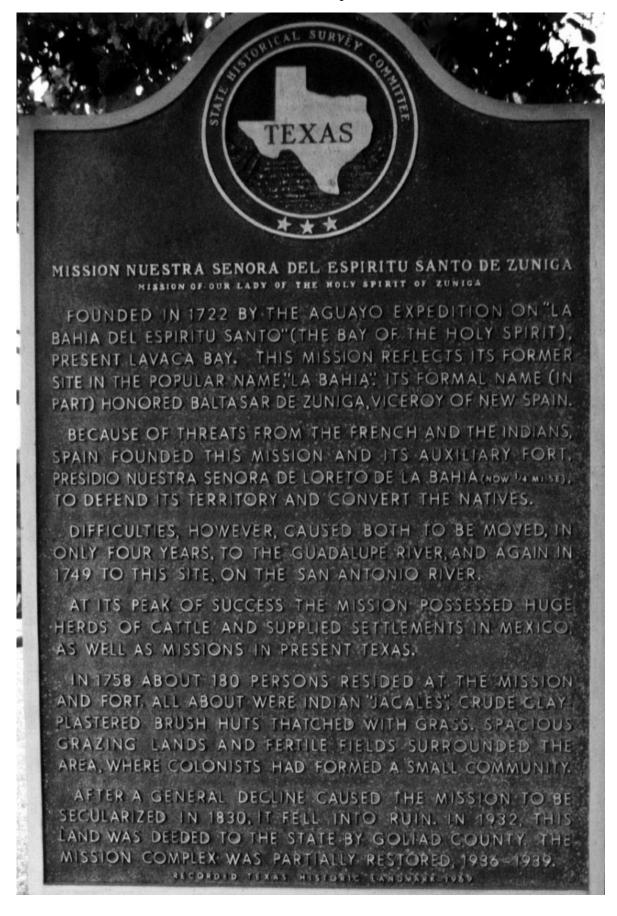
It was as a partner that he had the occasion to visit 50 Rock - at a time that Goldman owned Rockefeller Plaza. In other words, he returned to the offices where he worked as an intern but that this time as a Goldman partner he owned the place.

Excuse me, but I loved it! All the best from Guangzhou, China.

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Nativity scene in San Antonio





Harry Cabluck (Email) - A candidate, if you seek another holiday photo:

Shadow of a nativity scene cast onto the wall of Mission La Bahia was shot last year at San Antonio, Texas.

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Connecting sky shots - Monument, Colorado





Michael Weinfeld (Email) - Since you're posting sunset photos, here are a couple taken from the deck of our new house in Monument, Colorado. We moved here in May, after 35 years in Virginia, where I commuted to the AP BNC in Washington to work as the Broadcast Entertainment Editor.

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A Chevy Chase look-alike?



Bill Schiffmann (Email) - Not sure how you'll take this ... in your Santa picture, you look exactly like Chevy Chase in Trading Places when he invaded the Duke & Duke Christmas party.

Have a great holiday...

(Ye Olde Connecting Editor response: I need to charge Chevy and Co. for royalties! At least he didn't compare me to Bad Santa...)



A local look at life expectancy



This Nov. 29, 2018 photo shows Delbarton, West Virginia, a state that eclipses most others in the percentage of people affected by diabetes, heart disease and obesity. (AP Photo/Tyler Evert)

By Lauren Easton

An AP analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics, which revealed just how much location can impact life expectancy, has been localized by member news organizations.

The data for more than 65,000 census tracts showed how certain demographic qualities affected life expectancy in most neighborhoods.

"Life expectancy is surely one of the rawest and most basic forms of inequality, but sometimes overlooked in the full time focus on politics," AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee said in a tweet. "This is an important AP analysis."

Newspapers from the Tampa Bay Times to The Morning Call of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and others used the AP data to publish local stories.

Here is a selection of localized reports

Read more here.

'A moral disaster': AP reveals scope of migrant kids program



Migrant teens walk inside the Tornillo detention camp in Tornillo, Texas, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018. The Trump administration announced in June 2018 that it would open the temporary shelter for up to 360 migrant children in this isolated corner of the Texas desert. Six months later, the facility has expanded into a detention camp holding thousands of teenagers. (AP Photo/Andres Leighton)

By GARANCE BURKE and MARTHA MENDOZA

Decades after the U.S. stopped institutionalizing kids because large and crowded orphanages were causing lasting trauma, it is happening again. The federal government has placed most of the 14,300 migrant toddlers, children and teens in its care in detention centers and residential facilities packed with hundreds, or thousands, of children.

As the year draws to a close, some 5,400 detained migrant children in the U.S. are sleeping in shelters with more than 1,000 other children. Some 9,800 are in facilities with 100-plus total kids, according to confidential government data obtained and cross-checked by The Associated Press.

That's a huge shift from just three months after President Donald Trump took office, when the same federal program had 2,720 migrant youth in its care; most were in shelters with a few dozen kids or in foster programs. Some of the children may be released sooner than anticipated, because this week the administration ended a portion of its strict screening policies that had slowed the placement of migrant kids with relatives in the U.S.

Read more here.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Lynn Elber - lelber@ap.org

Rik Stevens - rikstevens1220@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Stephanie Mullen - smullen@ap.org

Don Ryan - dryan.nmg@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Report: 53 journalists killed worldwide so far in 2018



FILE - In this Dec. 15, 2014, file photo, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi speaks during a press conference in Manama, Bahrain. A New York-based organization dedicated to the safety of journalists says the number killed worldwide in reprisal for their work, including Khashoggi, nearly doubled in 2018. Khashoggi was one of 53 journalists killed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 14, 2018, the committee said. (AP Photo/Hasan Jamali, File)

By VERENA DOBNIK

NEW YORK (AP) - The number of journalists killed worldwide in retaliation for their work nearly doubled this year, according to an annual report by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The New York-based organization found that 34 journalists were killed in retaliation for their work as of Dec. 14, while at least 53 were killed overall. That compares to 18 retaliation killings among the 47 deaths documented by the committee in 2017.

The report issued Wednesday includes the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, a native of Saudi Arabia fiercely critical of its royal regime. His Oct. 2 death inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul has led to tremors on the global political scene around allegations that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was involved.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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'Let's eat Grandma' and other cases of comma to the rescue (News & Observer)

By LEONARD BEEGHLEY

She didn't mean it. It was an innocent mistake.

Lilly wrote "Let's Eat Grandma," then became upset after realizing what it meant.

"I don't want to eat my abuela!"

A simple change clarified her invitation: Let's eat, Grandma. This is how Lilly learned to love the comma.

Like Lilly, most people don't think about punctuation or its connection to writing well. Yet those little dots and squiggles provide important tools for self-expression. After all, we cannot always talk face-to-face, which means we must try to teach, persuade, or entertain others in writing.

Read more here. Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

Mapping the future of local news, together

By KRISTEN HARE

Hi and welcome to the final Local Edition of 2018. Let's look back at the past year. Just kidding - no one has time for that. Instead, here are tips from five of the topics we covered this year.

How small newsrooms can do big projects

Find something that inspires you. Figure out how it was made. Try it. Get better at it. Make the case to your newsroom for resources that will help you build on what you've started.

Don't wait for people with the right skills and know-how; get people with adjacent skills and know-how. Figure out the stories only your newsroom can tell. Find partners. Keep your stories boiling on the back burner.

Need inspiration? Here you go.

Read more here.

The Final Word

Houston in a fog

Tweet by Mizanur Rahman - deputy metro editor, Houston Chronicle - This is probably the first time @HoustonChron has run a front-page centerpiece photo shot by someone from an airplane with a cellphone! But it is amazing!



reform gets OK

Bipartisan vote in Senate a rare victory for Trump

By John Wagner and Karoun Demirjian

WASHINGTON - The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a sweep-ing overhaul of the criminal justice system, after a re-markable political shift from Republicans who voted in large numbers to save money by reducing prison sen-tences, handing a rare bi-partisan victory to President Donald Trump.

Donald Trump.
The First Step Act passed
on a vote of 87 to 12, with
dozens of Republicans, including Majorky Leader
Mach McConnell, Rély. joining all 49 members of the Democratic caucus to the Democratic caucus to approve legislation that even some GOP supporters fear could leave them vul-nerable to charges of being

soft on crime. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Charles Grassley, R-lowa, tried to allay those concerns shortly before the vote, stressing that Trump "wants to be tough on crime, but fair on crime" - and had told him personally that he had his "pen ready to sign this bill-"If anybody's got any doubt whatsoever about

whether or not the presi-dent is for this bill, I'm tell-ing you what I heard from his own words," Grassley

The product of years of negotiations, the legislation stood as a major turn for the Reform courbines on Asy tosses temporary restraining order on Prop B

By Jasper Scherer

A state district judge on Tuesday dissolved a temporary restraining order blocking implementation of the voter-approved charter amendment greeting pay parity to Houston firelighters and denied further attempts by the city and police union to delay the measure. State District Judge Fandy Wil-son, ruling in favor of the Houston Professional Pire Fighters Associa-tion, decided that voters were in-formed of the amendment's price tag — more than 800 million a year — before the election and approved it anyway. The measure, appearing on the November bellot as Proposition B, passed with 59 percent of

tion B, passed with our procure of the vote.

"While this Court is sensitive to the budget difficulties the Pay-Far-ity Amendment will produce, the Houston voters decided they

son wrote.
Tuesday's ruling throws out a temporary restraining order grant-ed Nov. 30, by state District Judge Kristen Hawkins at the request of the Houston Police Officens' Union, which further sought an injunction

which furthersought an injunction on the amendment.

The city of Bloutien, meanwhile, attempted to put the amendment on hold by applying for a "stage" Wilson denied the city and police union's applications.

Tuesday while lifting Hawkins' order. The police union does not plan

Gamaidssaid Tuessay

A spokesman for Mayor Sylves-ter Furner said he did not know if the city would appeal the ruling, but the mayor said in a statement that the city will grant the process of implementing the amendment, pending a final determination on the matter in the courts.

The implementation of Frop B "The incollementation of Frop B will not happen overnight, but the process does start new," Turner said. "I sek Houstonians to bear with us as we work through this process while the legal matters are

Prop B continues on Azg

All fogged up



Downtown Bouston sits in a blanket of fog as seen by a passenger on a Southwest flight to Scuttle on Tuesday.

'Three Billboards' impact revives search for 'truth' in mother's death

By Entily Foxhall

noon on a rainy October day when Brin Page walled into the Vidor Po-lice Department. She had driven 760 miles over two days from her Nashville home to be here, the such earlier of the borne to be here, the such earlier of the

ld case over the last year had gained traction. It inspired the movie "Three Billboards Outside Phone

Oscars in March. The TV Oscars in March. The TV show "Cold Justice" did as own investigation and postned a finger at Page's add in a season finale in October. Other Justice Page, told a British tabloid earlier this year that he'd fone nothing to regret" and that the billboards had "ruined my entire like".

dents, she was determined to keep the pressure on au-thorities to bring justice in the still-open case. The 39year-old set up a meeting with the police chief, Cold case continues on Ars



Erin Page is all smiles after Vidor Police Chief Rod Carroll returned her mother's wedding ring. She now wears it on her thumb.

Health care likely to set 2020's pulse

By Kevin Diaz and Allie Morris STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON - Legal appeals of a Texas Judge's roling invalidating the Af-fordable Care Act will push health care to the forefront of the 2000 election, zharpening a debate that helped Democratz win congressional seats in Texas and across the country

in Novembez Although President Donald Trump declared victory after Friday's court decision. Democrats see a wider opening for an at-tack that put Republicans on the defensive in the

2018 midterm elections. contributing to the loss of 40 seats in the U.S. House and handing Democrats control of the chamber.

Exhibit A might be Hous-ton Republican John Cul-berson, a nine-term in-cumbent who was defeated in November During the campaign, his Demo-cratic challenger, Lizzie Pacnill Fletcher, attacked Culberson for his meny culterson for his many water to repeal the Obama-era health care law, which includes protections for people with pre-existing medical problems such as agthma, diabetes and can

NEWSMAKERS

Penny Marshall dies

SPORTS

Pro Bowl-bound

The IO-4 Texans place four players WR DeAndre Hopkins, Ct. J.J. Watt. Fire Bowl roster, PAGE CT

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(Shared by Scott Charton)

Today in History - December 20, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2018. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

On this date:

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Georgia, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman nearly completed his "March to the Sea."

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving nine months for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1968, author John Steinbeck died in New York at age 66.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1995, an American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, NATO began its peacekeeping mission, taking over from the United Nations.

In 1996, Astronomer Carl Sagan died in Seattle at age 62.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples of the opposite sex.

In 2001, the U.N. Security Council authorized a multinational force for Afghanistan.

In 2005, a federal judge ruled that "intelligent design" could not be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district, delivering a stinging attack on the Dover Area School Board.

Ten years ago: A Continental Airlines Boeing 737-500 taking off from Denver veered off the runway into a ravine, injuring 37 people. Olga Lepeshinskaya, the Bolshoi Ballet's prima ballerina for three decades during Soviet times, died in Moscow at age 92. Movie director Robert Mulligan ("To Kill a Mockingbird") died in Lyme, Conn. at age 83.

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin pardoned jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky (mih-hah-EEL' khoh-dohr-KAHV'-skee), who had spent 10 years in prison on charges of tax evasion and embezzlement. A federal judge struck down Utah's ban on same-sex marriage.

One year ago: The House gave final congressional approval to a \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul, the biggest package of tax changes in a generation and the first major legislative achievement of President Donald Trump and House and Senate Republicans; some Republicans warned of a potential backlash against an overhaul that offered corporations and wealthy taxpayers the biggest benefits. Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston, died in Rome at the age of 86; his failure to stop child molesters in the priesthood had triggered a crisis in American Catholicism.

Today's Birthdays: Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 77. Rhythm and blues singer-musician Walter "Wolfman" Washington is 75. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 74. Rock musician Peter Criss is 73. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is 72. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 72. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 72. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 70. Actress Jenny Agutter is 66. Actor Michael Badalucco is 64. Actress Blanche Baker is 62. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 61. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, fIREHOSE) is 61. Actor Joel Gretsch is 55. Country singer Kris Tyler is 54. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 52. Actress Nicole deBoer is 48. Movie director Todd Phillips is 48. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 36. Actor Jonah Hill is 35. Actor Bob Morley is 34. Singer JoJo is 28. Actor Colin Woodell is 27.

Thought for Today: "Experience teaches you that the man who looks you straight in the eye, particularly if he adds a firm handshake, is hiding something." - Clifton Fadiman, American author, editor and radio personality (1904-1999).

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 selfprofile 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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