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Connecting - February 25, 2019

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Connecting

February 25, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

A celebration of the life of longtime AP Washington newsman **Tom Raum** drew family, friends and colleagues Saturday to share their memories and stories - and our colleague **Chris Connell** was there to file a story for his Connecting colleagues, with great accompanying photos by Washington AP photographer **J. Scott Applewhite**.

The gathering was held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia, not far from Tom and his wife Nora's house.



Today's issue also brings you the news of the death of longtime AP Sacramento newsman **Steve Lawrence**, who covered a major capital corruption scandal and governors ranging from Ronald Reagan to Arnold Schwarzenegger during a nearly four-decade career with The Associated Press. He died Friday at the age of 71.

From today's [Poynter Morning MediaWire](#):

Most interesting quote of the weekend

The news cycle in the past few days has been dominated by the anticipation of the Mueller report and fallout of the Jussie Smollett story. One story that seems underplayed is the arrest of Coast Guard Lt. Christopher Paul Hasson, a self-described white supremacist who allegedly had a hit list of prominent Democrats and journalists from CNN and MSNBC. That led to this quote from former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on Sunday's "Meet the Press:"

"The civility in our dialogue is deviating downward such that individuals like this Coast Guard lieutenant feel emboldened and perhaps even entitled to take matters into his own hands."

Maybe something for all of us, including journalists, to think about as we voice our political opinions.

Got thoughts about that? I look forward to hearing from you with these and other submissions for Connecting in the week ahead.

Paul

The baby alligator in the bathtub and other Tom Raum stories



Stepson Jason Wolf sailing with Tom and Nora.

By **CHRIS CONNELL** ([Email](#))

When family and friends gathered in Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday (February 23) to pay tribute to Tom Raum, they spoke about a life well spent on the Chesapeake Bay, in a basement darkroom and, oh, yes, the AP newsroom, in that order.

Tom, with his passion and genius for pursuits outside work, no doubt would have approved those priorities.

Not that his sterling professional accomplishments were slighted.

"I knew I could trust in the integrity, honesty and accuracy of Tom Raum," said former Clinton press secretary Mike McCurry.

There was nothing "flashy about Tom. He was not one to thrust himself to center stage," he said. "But when I would try an audacious pin of spin, he would (ask) a withering question that ... put me in my rightful place."

"That's because he was a reporter for the people. He was no enemy of the people," McCurry said to an ovation. "He had an uncompromising belief that people had a right to know and that people in government have an obligation to tell the truth."



Former Clinton White House press secretary Mike McCurry and family members. The Rev. Richard Raum is on far left. AP Photos/J. Scott Applewhite

Tom was 74 and just three years into what wife Nora - an attorney and longtime broadcaster for National Public Radio - called his "reluctant" retirement after 44 years with the news service.

Brother Richard Raum, a retired Presbyterian pastor from Fargo, North Dakota, began with a quote from Dr. Seuss - "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened" - and a prayer.

Five years apart, the brothers shared an attic bedroom in Bergenfield, New Jersey, where at school Dick toiled under the shadow of his brother, a math and science whiz. "He had a remarkable mind," said Raum, who imbibed his brother's love of literature and jazz. "He made wonderful drawings and in high school wrote a three-act play that was performed in church."



Chris Connell, reporting for Connecting, with Diane Duston.

Tom went off to Lehigh University as a physics major, but soon switched to English. He said the math had gotten too hard, but Dick believes Tom realized "he'd been wired by talent and temperament to be a generalist His curiosities were too diversified, his interests too varied, his attention span too short to drill down on any one thing."

Daughter Larissa Bradburn - named for the heroine in Pasternak's "Doctor Zhivago" - recalled the Austin-Healey convertible he purchased as the family car before conceding to the reality they needed a Ford Fairlane; a fondness for unusual pets, including the baby alligator kept in a bathtub, and the darkroom in their basement.

"Growing up for me was like living with a paparazzi. He was always snapping pictures of everything," Laurie said. "My entire childhood is captured in photos which looking back now is such a gift. At the time, as a moody teen, not so much."

Tom bought a 22-foot sailboat dubbed *Dulcinea* after Don Quixote's innamorata. "We kept it on the Potomac River and went out year round. It was never too cold, never too hot and we sometimes didn't even need wind. He just wanted to be out on the water." On sweltering days, sitting becalmed, he'd resist entreaties to turn on the motor. "My dad, ever the optimist, said, 'The wind's coming.'"



Tom in Deale, Maryland, in the early 1990s.

"DAD! Start the motor!"

"No, it's coming."

The seafood lover would bring home Maryland blue crabs "and let them run around our kitchen floor," she said.

"He loved to tell stories. He had a story about everything," Laurie added. "He loved to talk about his travels on Air Force One, his campaign coverage, speedboats with President Bush, cameos in movies, press corps sailing trips - all the stories he didn't write about in his articles."

Son Doug fondly remembered trips on *Vacilando*, a 27-footer Tom kept on Chesapeake Bay and named for a Spanish word meaning setting a course without caring how or when you get there.

Weekend were packed with activities - music, listening to Car Talk, exploring new sites, Sunday brunches - Tom loved to grill -- and sailing, sometimes overnight, "just the two of us, up a quiet creek in the Chesapeake," Doug said.

Peter Raum, now completing a Ph.D. in physics at Virginia Tech, said, "Dad was constantly taking my picture and dragging me out to the Chesapeake Bay ... I was more interested in playing Gameboy. (But) as an adult, I cherish these memories."



Former Reuters White House correspondent Gene Gibbons (left) conversing with Ann Blackman and Mike Putzel.

Tom also put up with Peter's obsession at age 9 with Pokémon and pro wrestling. They waited in line for two hours at a festival on the Mall "so I could get a limited edition Pokémon card, a Pokémon hat and a picture with a giant, cardboard Pikachu."

One year Tom made baseball card-quality, at-bat photos for every kid on Peter's Little League team. "I didn't think much of it at the time. I thought this was just what dads do."

Jason Wolf, Tom's stepson, related how Tom met Duke Ellington at a sparsely attended performance on Lehigh's campus while upstairs a packed audience of Engineers screamed and stomped at a Bo Diddley concert.

Not long afterwards, the college student went to the Five Spot Café in the East Village "and there at the bar was Ellington. Tom struck up a conversation, telling the gracious Duke, "I saw you perform at my school, Lehigh University, where there was a rock show going on upstairs. Do you remember that show?"

"Oh, I remember son. It was the worst gig I ever had."

"All his stories, including this one, illustrate how Tom was a storyteller at heart," said Jason. "In his work, he was never part of the story. He listened intently and he found the heart of the story. His stories were told plainly, directly, without being precious, but still full of life and wit. This is why he was a great reporter."



Former Washington bureau colleagues John Diamond, Dave Pace, Kim Mills, Michelle Mittelstadt, Jim Drinkard and spouse Kathy Drinkard, and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar. AP Photo by J. Scott Applewhite

Merrill Hartson, another former stalwart of the AP bureau, said Tom "could be dead serious on deadline, yet retain his sense of humor as well. He was among the most versatile writers and reporters in the AP," an expert on matters from the White House and politics to "sorting out the intricacies of the markets and economics."

"Tom's most memorable trait for us in the AP was that he was a quintessential team player. We all knew that he had our backs," Hartson said.

Tom surely would have laughed off all the encomiums.

His brother Dick told of the night he and friends stopped at a Blarney Stone for a few drinks before a Knicks game at the Garden. "I fell into conversation with a young fellow there who said he worked for AP," he recounted. When told of the familial tie, "he was awestruck. He said he'd only met Tom once, but that he was a legend at AP."

"When I related this to Tom, he replied without missing a beat, "Don't believe everything you hear in an Irish pub."

Donations in Tom's name may be made to Doctors Without Borders, the Chesapeake Bay foundation and the March of Dimes.

Ex-AP California capital reporter Steve Lawrence dead at 71



In this 1990 file photo, former Associated Press Reporter Steve Lawrence, right, questions former State Sen. Paul Carpenter, center, as he leaves the federal courthouse in Sacramento, Calif. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncell, File)

By TOM VERDIN

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Steve Lawrence, a California government reporter who covered a major capital corruption scandal and governors from Ronald Reagan to Arnold Schwarzenegger during a nearly four-decade career with The Associated Press, died Friday.

His wife, Jane, said he had been battling cancer and had been in the intensive care unit at Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento for about three weeks. He was 71.

Lawrence was the longest-tenured member of California's capital press corps when he retired in 2009 after 37 years with the AP. He had built a reputation as a

tenacious reporter who never shied from asking the tough questions, yet also developed strong relationships on his beat, including with competitors.

"People liked him, the elected officials and staffers, but he was a true wire service reporter - he had to get the story so he would ask very blunt questions," said Jeff Raimundo, a former reporter with The Sacramento Bee who became friends with Lawrence while they covered the state Senate in the 1970s. "He was aggressive ... a very forceful reporter."

Lawrence covered the Legislature during most of his career in Sacramento, including an FBI sting operation in the late 1980s that led to bribery convictions against a handful of state lawmakers and other officials.

In those days, the capital press corps included dozens of reporters from multiple newspapers and news services, who competed fiercely for scoops.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Holly Kurtz.

Connecting mailbox

Judging women's role by byline count is f'ingly incomplete yardstick

Robert Reid ([Email](#)) - Still f'ing abysmal - especially at Reuters and the AP."

I don't know what constitutes "f'ing abysmal" vs just plain abysmal, but anyone who has ever worked for AP knows the power of the byline, or lack thereof. Judging the role of women based primarily on a byline count as an f'ingly incomplete yardstick.

Just off the top of my head, AP has a woman as executive editor and as a vice president for global news and enterprise. The top positions in AP Washington are held by women. A woman runs news operations in the Middle East. The manager of the sub-region that includes Iraq and Syria, hardly second-string operations, is a woman. I've been reading excellent material from northern Syria, reported and written by a woman.

The incoming news director for Europe and Africa is a woman. Another talented woman is AP's director of planning in Asia, as are the AP's Moscow news director and the top writer/reporter in South Asia.

Domestically the top stories director is a woman as is the deputy managing editor for US news.

That list is just off the top of my head without any research into operations at the state or domestic regional level.

These aren't token or low-profile positions. The partial list does not include women in major posts outside the editorial department.

True the AP doesn't have a good history in providing opportunities to women, and I assume the byline count is accurate. This is not to credit AP with solving the gender equity problem. I'm sure that problem still persists.

But surely the number of women in real positions of influence should at least promote AP out of the "fing abysmal" category.

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The AP and international reporting

Ford Burkhart ([Email](#)) - Robert Reid's comments were thoughtful and forward looking. I think he's pointing to a truth about the decade ahead: the old inverted pyramid has given way to reporting with much more depth and interpretation, which AP is doing quite well. That will be the future of AP news - richer, deeper, broader takes on events and trends. If a war started today, you wouldn't have newspapers pooling news and sharing the cost, as happened in 1846 - you'd have a race for interpretation of the factoids that we'd all know instantly. Let's hope AP will do that for many years as international news becomes a whole different animal.

Ford Burkhart (on the Foreign Desk in 1973, or '74?, when we sent the first news story from the UN Bureau to the desk by bulky computers and telephone lines.)

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Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - AP has been reducing its foreign coverage for years, Paul. The story isn't new. We're fortunate we have Reuters to keep AP honest.

A friend who runs an English-language daily in Macau has recently dropped AP service because days would go by without a story from China. He said he couldn't believe that in a country of 1.4 billion people, there wasn't something worth reporting every day.

As for the case of foreigners like Americans reporting from abroad, they often see story possibilities that locals miss because they are so accustomed to local circumstances. I found dozens of good social and economic stories in Nigeria, Pakistan and in the Philippines simply by going through local magazines aimed at women.

What I most treasure from 10 years reporting abroad for AP is a terse note I received on leaving Pakistan from Ben Bassett, then the AP foreign editor who was not noted for compliments, telling me that it would be a long time before anyone reported about the people of Pakistan better than I.

At the same time, I valued the work of locals as correspondents. As general manager and VP for Asia for UPI, I hired Brahma Chellaney, who had worked for AP, as our India bureau chief, I believe the first time an Indian served as head of a major news agency operation in India. He did a splendid job and has gone on to become a respected academic and global-class commentator in India.

When I was AP bureau chief in Manila, I tried to hire for AP a local reporter, Ben Alabastro, whose reporting for another news agency was courageous in the days of Ferdinand Marcos's martial law oppression. He evidently thought it would be too hot if he and I worked together. He turned me down. After Marcos threw me out in 1976, Ben joined AP.

Judy Gibbs Robinson leaves OU daily, citing toxic environment

Lindel Hutson (Email) - Former AP staffer Judy Gibbs Robinson has left her job as faculty adviser to the University of Oklahoma's daily newspaper, citing a toxic environment at the Norman school.

Judy spent 15 years with the AP, much of it in Oklahoma. She worked in Oklahoma City as broadcast editor after serving a stint on the General Desk. She also was news editor for North Carolina before returning to Oklahoma in 2003 and working for The Oklahoman.

A native of St. Joseph, MO and a graduate of the University of Missouri, she became adviser to the student paper - The OU Daily - in 2007. Judy also has worked in Missouri, Utah, Montana and West Virginia.

On her Facebook page last week, Judy said she accepted a retirement incentive effective Jan. 4 rather than return to a job ``that had become increasingly intolerable since I requested equal pay with a male colleague for the same work and then, when ignored, filed a grievance (which I lost for "insufficient evidence.")'

She continued, ``I won national advising awards in 2010 and 2012 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2015. I have a master's degree in journalism, a college teaching certificate and about 15 years classroom experience. But after filing a grievance, I was denied teaching assignments and relegated to a section of the entry-level media writing course I once coordinated.

``In Student Media, the director told me he wouldn't level the playing field because he "didn't have to." OU's Equal Opportunity office saw none of that as retaliation. So I put my head down and tried to go back to whatever work was left to me.

``Ultimately, the toxic environment proved too much. So I got out. I'm still in mourning; still trying to understand how my career could have ended this way.

``I'm sharing my story, my heartbreak, because I want other women to know the huge cost of seeking workplace equity."

OU Senior Devin Hiatt told OKC television station KFOR, ``It really felt sadly unsurprising based on everything that has been happening on this campus especially in the last year. We don't have all of the information yet but it was not that surprising to see women being structurally discriminated against at the University of Oklahoma."

In a statement published Saturday in The Oklahoman, the university said: "Investigators thoroughly reviewed documentation related to the complaint and interviewed staff and faculty. The investigators did not find discrimination. Higher education institutions have different pay allowances for different kinds of work. Evaluating total compensation alone does not provide a complete picture for comparison to other employees.

"Normally, we would not respond concerning the situation of a specific employee, but because the individual has raised these issues publicly we feel compelled to clarify," officials stated.

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A teacher who made a difference

Larry Blasko ([Email](#)) - The clear Original Sin culprit for Larry Blasko's 40-some years in journalism is the late Dorothy P. Herron who taught journalism and advised the student paper at Cleveland's Lincoln High School in the early 1960s.

Herron was married to Jim Herron, famed editorial cartoonist of The Cleveland Press, an afternoon paper then named among the 10 most influential in the United States. Herron herself wrote feature columns for the women's section, and how she wound up teaching the kids of factory workers and day laborers at a school overlooking the steel mills of Cleveland's Near West Side can only be explained by either a kind heart or masochism.

I had wanted to be an atomic scientist until someone pointed out that failing algebra could slow that down, so I took Mrs. Herron's class looking for an easy course. Her wit and insight - and stress on First Amendment rights and duties - got me hooked for a lifetime in more ways than one.

I joined the Lincoln Log, the school bi-monthly newspaper, and under Mrs. Herron's tutelage rose to Editor In Chief, as well as a humor columnist. As the boss, I weeded out staffers who couldn't write, making one disappointed girl Business Manager at Mrs. Herron's suggestion. The new BM's name was Helena Dubczak and we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in August.



During senior year, Mrs. Herron got me a job as "night editor" at the Press, i.e., the copyboy who answered the phone from 4 until midnight at the PMer until the

grownups started filing in. I also cleared copy from Teletypes (UPI--it was a Scripps-Howard flagship) and photo fax machines.

That would lead to summers on the police beat and as one of two editorial page interns under the gimlet eye of Jim Frankel, the unabashedly Jewish Editorial Page editor who would tell us when we screwed up "Ahh, how Christian of you!" I was then in Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. The other intern was a quiet guy from Yale named Strobe Talbott.

Yeah, that Strobe Talbott, as Google explains "a former journalist associated with Time magazine, and a diplomat who served as the Deputy Secretary of State from 1994 to 2001." We were cordial, but he was East Side while I was West Side, in Cleveland at the time a divide only slightly less than the Berlin Wall.

Mrs. Heron kept in touch, with Helen and I coming over to her gracious home in East Cleveland, and later, when I was a managing editor at Chicago's Lerner Newspapers, Mrs. Herron and I met a couple of times for drinks when I was in Cleveland visiting the folks. We then lost touch and she died in May of 2004, joining her husband, Jim, who died in 1987. They had no children.

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Connecting beach shot - Cape May



Larry Margasak ([Email](#)) - Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area outside Cape May, NJ. "Great to have the beach all to yourself in February."

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Connecting snow shot - Arizona, yes, Arizona



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Southern Arizona received a dusting of snow Friday from winter storm Quiana, prompting locals to get out and enjoy the rare scenery. This shot was taken at Saguaro National Park West just west of Tucson. As Mary and I were looking for photos, a van with two women pulled up next to us. One spotted my Iowa Hawkeyes license plate holder and pointed to a Tiger Hawk Iowa sports logo on the back of her vehicle. They were from West Liberty, Iowa, and had driven to Tucson to escape ... the snow.

Court records reveal a Mueller report right in plain view

By **CHAD DAY** and **ERIC TUCKER**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Donald Trump was in full deflection mode.

The Democrats had blamed Russia for the hacking and release of damaging material on his presidential opponent, Hillary Clinton. Trump wasn't buying it. But on July 27, 2016, midway through a news conference in Florida, Trump decided to entertain the thought for a moment.

"Russia, if you're listening," said Trump, looking directly into a television camera, "I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing" - messages Clinton was reported to have deleted from her private email server.

Actually, Russia was doing more than listening: It had been trying to help Republican Trump for months. That very day, hackers working with Russia's military intelligence tried to break into email accounts associated with Clinton's personal office.

It was just one small part of a sophisticated election interference operation carried out by the Kremlin - and meticulously chronicled by special counsel Robert Mueller.

We know this, though Mueller has made not a single public comment since his appointment in May 2017. We know this, though the full, final report on the investigation, believed to be in its final stages, may never be made public. It's up to Attorney General William Barr.

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

Best of the Week

AP breaks global news with unprecedented Maduro interview



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro is prepared for an interview with The Associated Press at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Feb. 14, 2019. At right is Ian Phillips, AP vice president of international news. AP Photo / Ariana Cubillos

"How quickly can you and your boss get here?"

The curt text message to Joshua Goodman from Venezuela's normally evasive communications minister promised a tantalizing scoop depending on the answer.

The message set Goodman and Ian Phillips, vice president for international news, on an intercontinental dash in order to secure embattled Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro's first-ever interview with an English-language news agency - and this week's Best of the Week.

Goodman, AP's Andean News Director, was on a tightly packed reporting trip to Miami when the message arrived. Phillips met Goodman in Miami and the pair flew to Caracas. On two hours of sleep they interviewed Maduro, resulting in a dominating all-formats beat for the AP.

The interview revealed Maduro's foreign minister had twice met secretly in New York with a Trump administration envoy. It came against the backdrop of tense relations between Venezuela and the U.S., which has joined other Latin American nations in

calling for the leader's ouster. While harshly criticizing the U.S. stance toward his socialist government, Maduro said he holds out hope of meeting President Donald Trump to resolve the crisis over U.S. recognition of Juan Guaido, Venezuela's self-declared leader.

Maduro addressed the turmoil directly, as well as his country's humanitarian crisis, telling Goodman and Phillips that he was preparing to sell more oil to India and praising Venezuela's ties to China and Russia.

Goodman's scoop came as the result of years of source development with the Venezuelan government, including sitting through Maduro's hours-long news conferences, cultivating pro-government sources and making sure cabinet ministers saw that AP's coverage of the nation was fair and balanced.

The story was a massive draw for customers, with video of the interview downloaded more than 840 by clients around the world, including ABC, Univision, and Fox News, which had been angling for its own sit down with Maduro. In a surprise first, Venezuelan state TV also carried the 42-minute interview in its entirety in prime time and clips were still being replayed four days later.

For his masterful source development, resourcefulness and quick work to put the AP ahead, Goodman wins AP's Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

Victims of the Paradise wildfire; stunning portraits of how they lived and died



Christina Taft poses with a photo of her mother, Victoria, on Feb. 7, 2019, at the burned-out ruins of the Paradise, Calif., home where Victoria died in the Camp Fire last fall. Victoria Taft refused to leave, saying that if the threat was real, authorities would order an evacuation. Her remains were recovered from the ruins of her living room. AP Photo / Rich Pedroncelli

The Camp wildfire that consumed Paradise, California, claimed 85 lives while virtually burning the town off the map. But beyond those facts lay a rich narrative of the individuals who perished while calling Paradise home.

AP San Francisco reporters Janie Har and Jocelyn Gecker set out to tell the stories of the victims of the deadly Paradise fire far more comprehensively than was possible in the immediate aftermath: Who were they? Where and when did they die? Did they even have a chance to flee? Did their families hold authorities accountable?

To paint a picture of how the tragedy unfolded, the pair spent months tracking down family members - many of whom were wary - to talk about their loved ones, assuring them that AP's coverage would be more than a recitation of the grim facts. Interviews with California fire officials, a newly available simulation of the fire's movement on the fateful morning and public records requests enabled AP to give the exact locations of where people died and their approximate times of death.

The result was a riveting package that coupled intimate portraits of the victims with the circumstances of their death. Most never had a chance to flee their homes as the fast-moving fire barreled through.

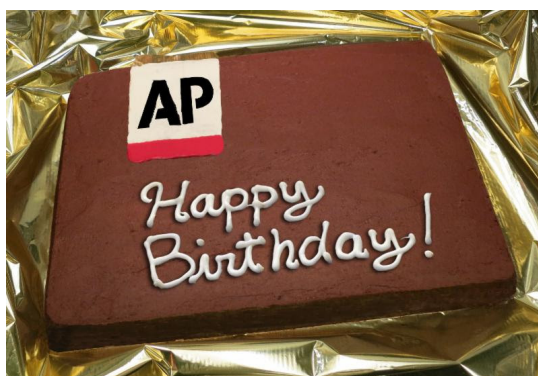
In addition to the mainbar, sprinkled with family photos of the victims gathered by the reporters, and new lead images by photographer Rich Pedroncelli, Har and Gecker wrote longer vignettes of the victims, under "Lives Lost.". An interactive map by New York top stories artist Francois Duckett showed the locations of all the victims, some with family photos, and the movement of the fire based on the public records. A video piece pegged to the 100-day anniversary of the fire, by Los Angeles video journalist Krysta Fauria, accompanied the story.

Also marking the anniversary, stringer photographer Noah Berger, who anchored the original fire coverage, showed the current state of devastation in Paradise, including some remarkable works of art that have risen from the rubble. That was accompanied by Los Angeles reporter Brian Melley's story on the long road to recovery 100 days out.

The moving package was well-received by members throughout California and from coast-to-coast, including The Washington Post and the Houston Chronicle. The mainbar had more than 37,000 pageviews with strong engagement, and the interactive had 50,000 views.

For carrying the Paradise story forward with enterprising, sensitive work that focused on the victims' narratives, Har and Gecker share this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Susan Brady Boyle - sbrady@ap.org

Julie March - jmarch@ap.org

Diane Balk Palguta - dbpalguta@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting



Luis Alonso - luis_alonso@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

Alabama Newspaper That Called for K.K.K. to 'Ride Again' Has a New Editor: A Black Woman

(New York Times)

By Sarah Mervosh

A newspaper in a small city in Alabama that drew condemnation over an editorial calling for the Ku Klux Klan to "ride again" has a new editor and publisher: a 46-year-old black woman.

The new editor, Elecia R. Dexter, is taking over The Democrat-Reporter, a weekly newspaper serving Linden in western Alabama, at a "pivotal time," the newspaper said in a statement.

"You may have full confidence in her ability to handle these challenging times," it said.

The newspaper's longtime editor, Goodloe Sutton, who is white, stepped down this week amid widespread criticism of an editorial he wrote railing against "Democrats in

the Republican Party and Democrats" and calling for the return of the most infamous white supremacist group in the nation's history. In an interview with The Montgomery Advertiser, he went even further, suggesting that the Klan "go up there and clean out D.C."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Their News Isn't New: Sports Anchors in the Era of Social Media (New York Times)



Scott Van Pelt, the anchor of the midnight edition of ESPN's "SportsCenter," has leaned on personality and vulnerability to connect with viewers. Photo by Patrick Semansky/Associated Press

By Alex Wong

Scott Van Pelt closed an episode of "SportsCenter" last month with a two-minute monologue about the 31st anniversary of his father's death. Strengthened by two

friends who had recently lost their parents, Van Pelt spoke passionately about running from grief, and encouraged everyone to do the opposite - to articulate their pain so they could overcome it.

The segment went viral. It embodied the essential traits of Van Pelt's version of ESPN's flagship show - sensitivity, nuance and the courage to be vulnerable - that help him connect with viewers.

"It's a great reminder of the power of the microphone we hold in our hands," Van Pelt said.

But that power is changing - disappearing, even - as television viewing habits change and sports media develop new ways to bring fans what they want when they want it. (Now!) That means what was once a premier placement in TV sports - the anchor desk - is not the high perch it used to be. It is not clear anymore what it is at all.

Read more [here](#).

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Mr Jones review - newsman's heroic journey into a Soviet nightmare (Guardian)

By **PETER BRADSHAW**

Agnieszka Holland's *Mr Jones* is a bold and heartfelt movie with a real Lean-ian sweep. First-time screenwriter Andrea Chalupa has been inspired by her grandfather from eastern Ukraine to script this forthright, valuable drama about Stalin's genocidal famine there, and the courageous Welsh journalist Gareth Jones who first brought it to the world's attention in the 1930s. This was despite real personal danger in journeying there covertly - and the subsequent disparagement of Stalin's lickspittle New York Times correspondent in Moscow, Walter Duranty, a man whom posterity has revealed to be a singularly useless idiot.

James Norton brings his A-game to this film, giving a muscular, sympathetic performance as Jones, the idealist intellectual and man of action from Barry in Wales, who has a liking for reciting the medieval Welsh poem *The Battle of the Trees* and never removes his sweetly owlish spectacles. Peter Sarsgaard is the

creepy Duranty and Joseph Mawle has a recurring cameo as George Orwell who was said to be inspired by Jones's work and might even have named "Mr Jones", the proprietor of Animal Farm, after him. Jones and Orwell don't appear to have met in person, but the film imagines a lunch encounter, based on the fact that they shared a London literary agent: Leonard Moore. The movie has also created what appear to be fictional invention composites: chiefly a colleague of Duranty's called Ada Brooks, played by Vanessa Kirby (Princess Margaret from the Netflix series The Crown).

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cecilia White.

The Final Word

Do Not Disturb: How I Ditched My Phone and Unbroke My Brain (New York Times)

By Kevin Roose

My name is Kevin, and I have a phone problem.

And if you're anything like me - and the statistics suggest you probably are, at least where smartphones are concerned - you have one, too.

I don't love referring to what we have as an "addiction." That seems too sterile and clinical to describe what's happening to our brains in the smartphone era. Unlike alcohol or opioids, phones aren't an addictive substance so much as a species-level environmental shock. We might someday evolve the correct biological hardware to live in harmony with portable supercomputers that satisfy our every need and connect us to infinite amounts of stimulation. But for most of us, it hasn't happened yet.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - February 25, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2019. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 25, 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

On this date:

In 1570, England's Queen Elizabeth I was excommunicated by Pope Pius V, who accused the monarch of heresy.

In 1793, President George Washington held the first Cabinet meeting on record at his Mount Vernon home; attending were Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of War Henry Knox and Attorney General Edmund Randolph.

In 1836, inventor Samuel Colt patented his revolver.

In 1862, Nashville, Tenn., became the first Confederate state capital to be occupied by the North during the Civil War.

In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.

In 1919, Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at one cent per gallon.

In 1922, French serial killer Henri Landru, convicted of murdering 10 women and the son of one of them, was executed in Versailles (vehr-SY').

In 1964, Eastern Airlines Flight 304, a DC-8, crashed shortly after taking off from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 58 on board. Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) became world heavyweight boxing champion as he defeated Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

In 1983, playwright Tennessee Williams was found dead in his New York hotel suite; he was 71.

In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

In 1994, American-born Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein opened fire with an automatic rifle inside the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank, killing 29 Muslims before he was beaten to death by worshippers. At the Winter Olympics in Norway, Oksana Baiul of Ukraine won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating while Nancy Kerrigan won the silver and Chen Lu of China the bronze; Tonya Harding came in eighth.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama introduced former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as his nominee for commerce secretary after two earlier choices dropped out. A Turkish Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while trying to land at Amsterdam's main airport, but 126 of the people on board survived; nine were killed, including the pilots.

Five years ago: In a blunt warning to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, President Barack Obama threatened to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 if a crucial security pact wasn't signed. (U.S. and Afghan officials signed the pact in Sept. 2014.) Jim Lange, the first host of the popular game show "The Dating Game," died in Mill Valley, California, at age 81.

One year ago: China's official news agency said the country's ruling Communist Party had proposed scrapping term limits for China's president, appearing to lay the groundwork for Xi Jinping to rule as president beyond 2023. (China's rubber-stamp lawmakers approved that change on March 11.) The board of directors of The Weinstein Company, co-founded by Harvey Weinstein, said the company would likely file for bankruptcy after last-ditch talks to sell its assets collapsed. (A private equity firm emerged in May as the winning bidder for the company.) Students at the Florida high school where 17 classmates and staff members were killed returned to gather belongings that had been abandoned in panic during the shooting. The Winter Olympics in South Korea came to an end as officials from North and South Korea shared a VIP box at the closing ceremonies with U.S. presidential adviser and first daughter Ivanka Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann McCrea is 88. Actor Tom Courtenay is 82. Former CBS newsman Bob Schieffer is 82. Actress Diane Baker is 81. Actress Karen Grassle is 77. Former talk show host Sally Jessy Raphael is 77. Former professional wrestler Ric Flair is 70. Humorist Jack Handey is 70. Movie director Neil Jordan is 69. Rock singer-musician/actor John Doe (X) is 66. Rock musician Dennis Diken (The Smithereens) is 62. Rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm; Big Country) is 60. Actress Veronica Webb is 54. Actor Alexis Denisof is 53. Actress Tea (TAY'-ah) Leoni is 53. Comedian Carrot Top is 52. Actress Lesley Boone is 51. Actor Sean Astin is 48. Singer Daniel Powter is 48. Latin singer Julio Iglesias Jr. is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Justin Jeffre is 46. Rock musician Richard Liles is 46. Actor Anson Mount is 46. Comedian-actress Chelsea Handler is 44. Actress Rashida Jones is 43. Country singer Shawna Thompson (Thompson Square) is 41. Actor Justin Berfield is 33. Actors James and Oliver Phelps ("Harry Potter" movies) are 33. Actress Jameela Jamil is 33. Rock musician Erik Haager (Carolina Liar) is 32.

Thought for Today: "He who never leaves his country is full of prejudices." - Carlo Goldoni, Italian playwright (born this date in 1707, died 1793).

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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