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# Connecting - May 02, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2019,

Pickleball, anyone?

Our colleague **Cliff Schiappa** tells you why it is one of the hottest new sporting pastimes as Connecting launches what we hope will be stories from you on a

favorite sport or other exercise passion that you've taken up in retirement, or that you've taken up while still working.

Don't keep your passion to yourself. It may benefit many others who are fellow readers. Send along a story (with photos) to share with your colleagues.

Have a great day!

Paul

## **Pickleball: Funny name, serious exercise**



**Former AP Tulsa newsman and business writer Clayton Bellamy is seen returning a shot on the pickleball court last February. Bellamy has won numerous gold medals in competitions he has played around the Midwest. (Photo by Leo Villaseca-Cruz)**

**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - Mention the word "Pickleball" and you'll either get a puzzled look or an excited reply such as "Oh yeah! Let's hit the court!"

As one of America's fastest growing sports, pickleball is finding its way into small towns and large cities, taking over tennis courts, and sometimes leaving a ruckus in its wake. A headline in The (Palm Springs) Desert Sun last summer read "Pickleball vs. Tennis: Palm Springs Players Argue Over Court Space and Tape Residue." The battle between paddlers and racquetees convinced the Parks and Recreation Committee to keep tennis in one park, and pickleball in another, thus keeping the competition on the courts and not in City Hall.

The sport is especially popular among retirees and others who want to transition from running around a large tennis court (78 feet by 36 feet) to something more manageable and easier on the knees. A pickleball court is only 44 feet by 20 feet with a net that is the same height as a tennis net. Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Wash., and is played with a short-handled paddle and a ball very similar to a whiffle ball.

Former AP Tulsa newsman and business writer Clayton Bellamy, 46, has won 13 tournament medals including six gold and is ranked at the 4.5 level for mixed doubles and 4.0 for singles and men's doubles. He first tried the sport during college at the University of Missouri in 1992, then picked it back up in 2015 and "I've been hooked ever since," he says.

"Pickleball is structured to create great balance between power, finesse and strategy," says Bellamy. "I've lost to people that when I look at them, I think there's no way they're athletic enough to beat me, whether they're older, appear out-of-shape, whatever. Yet, it happens regularly. The learning curve is fun, steep and ongoing and I like that challenge."



**Pickleball is a very social sport around which friendships can be formed. Former AP Kansas City ACoB Cliff Schiappa, at far left, is seen with his buds, all new friends he has made on the court. This photo was shot at 11 p.m. on March 6th after they played for two hours following a cocktail party Schiappa had thrown at his condo in Palm Springs. It's not uncommon for this group and others to play for three hours or more each day.**

**(Photo by Rene' Bernard)**

AP Indianapolis Staff Photographer Darron Cummings was talking with former AP staffer Cliff Schiappa while they were in Chicago for Bob Graves' retirement party and Schiappa was going on about the sport which he'd only been playing a couple of months. Cummings realized the basketball court in his neighborhood was barely used so he bought a portable pickleball set and will soon be laying down the lines and introducing his neighbors to the sport. Cummings said, "I'm looking forward to not only playing pickleball with the family but also with neighborhood friends. It'll be a good form of exercise for all of us!"

Schiappa first learned about the game from his longtime friend Dan White ([www.danwhite.com](http://www.danwhite.com)) and they played a few matches at a place called Chicken and Pickle ([www.chickennpickle.com](http://www.chickennpickle.com)) in Kansas City, Mo., before Schiappa moved to Palm Springs. Now whenever he travels, Schiappa brings his paddle and balls with him, never knowing where the next game might be.

Pickleball is a social game, with players introducing themselves as they pick up games at local parks or private courts. It's not uncommon for friendships to develop on the court as players make a habit of showing up at the same court at the same time each day.

Getting started in the sport is fairly easy and inexpensive. A beginner's paddle starts at about \$25 and balls are about \$2.50 each. On public courts there's no fee to pay, and places like Chicken and Pickle charge about \$5 per hour to play. There are plenty of videos on YouTube discussing all aspects of the game, including the basics such as serving and scoring. For additional information about the sport, including how many calories it burns and why the sport got its wacky name, check out [www.pickleballportal.com](http://www.pickleballportal.com) and for purchasing equipment, you might consider [www.pickleballcentral.com](http://www.pickleballcentral.com).

And while those videos are great for inspiration and instruction, there's nothing better than hitting the court for firsthand experience. Anyone who has played a racquet or paddle sport, including badminton, table tennis, racquetball, or tennis, will find similarities with pickleball and would feel comfortable on the court in a short while.

Now erase that puzzled look when someone mentions "Pickleball" and invite them to grab a paddle and start playing!

## **AP Pulitzer-winning team among finalists for Atlantic Media's Michael Kelly Award**

**By Poynter Morning MediaWire**

Atlantic Media announced the four finalists for its 16th annual Michael Kelly Award. The award is named after The Atlantic and National Journal editor killed in 2003 while covering the war in Iraq and honors work that displays the courage, determination and passion exemplified by Kelly. (Kelly, by the way, also was the character played by Hank Azaria in the movie "Shattered Glass.")

The finalists for the award are:

Hannah Dreier of ProPublica for her series on gangs and immigration depicting the plight of Latino teenagers trapped between the MS-13 gang and the government. (Dreier's series won the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing.)

Christine Kenneally of BuzzFeed News for her coverage of horrific child abuse at a Catholic orphanage in Vermont.

Maggie Michael, Nariman El-Mofty, and Maad al-Zikry of The Associated Press for their series on the war in Yemen. (This won the Pulitzer for international reporting.)

Connor Sheets from Alabama Media Group for his year-long coverage of police corruption.

The finalists will be honored at an awards dinner in Washington, D.C., on May 23, where the winner of the \$25,000 first-place prize will be announced. The other three finalists will each receive \$3,000.

Click [here](#) to view the finalists.

## **AP PHOTOS: Workers of the world, uniting on May Day 2019**



Members of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions hold up their banners during a May Day rally in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Thousands of trade union members and activists are marking May Day by marching through Asia's capitals and demanding better working conditions and expanding labor rights. The signs read "Let's win the wage struggle." (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)



Left wing demonstrators burn bengals on a balcony during the traditional May Day demonstration in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. (AP

**Photo/Markus Schreiber)**

PARIS (AP) - Recognizing the contributions and struggles of laborers on May 1 has roots in late 19th-century Chicago, but there was a timeless quality to some International Workers' Day observances held around the world Wednesday.

The labor unions behind the first May Day considered an 8-hour work day a cause worth striking for during the second industrial revolution. In 2019, the focus in several Asian countries was fair working conditions.

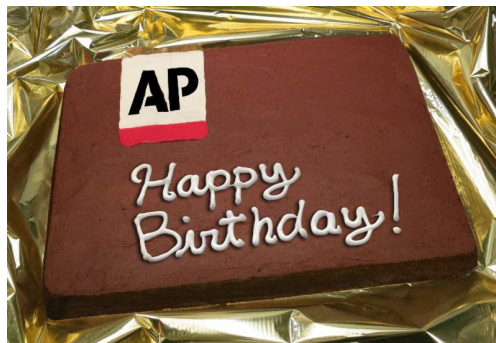
Workers marched through Hong Kong to demand a maximum work week of 44 hours, in Jakarta for a higher minimum wage and in Taiwan for more time off. Marchers demanded maternity leave and protections against workplace sexual abuse in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

Socialist parties picked May 1, 1889, as labor day to commemorate a Chicago rally three years earlier that brought a police crackdown, a mysterious bomb, at least 11 deaths and the subsequent executions of the rally's anarchist organizers.

On Wednesday in France, clusters of people wearing the black hoods and masks of modern-day anarchists pelted riot police with rocks and set trash cans on fire while darting in and out of a May Day march in Paris. France deployed 7,400 officers to protect the capital and other protesters from the violence.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

**Jean Capellos - [jcapellos@gmail.com](mailto:jcapellos@gmail.com)**



Tom Gillem - [tom.gillem@comcast.net](mailto:tom.gillem@comcast.net)

# Stories of interest

## ***An index of unreliable news websites*** (Poynter)

**By Barrett Golding**

Misinformation is a thriving industry on the internet, supported by social media shares, advertising dollars and political donations.

In the United States, scores of research reports try to measure how falsehoods spread online. These studies often require lists of untrustworthy "news" sources, but many of these lists have grown out-of-date and incomplete.

Better data means better results for researchers, reporters and readers. So the International Fact-Checking Network built a more complete dataset: an index of unreliable news sites.

To create the index, we combined five major lists (see below), then eliminated the sites that were no longer active. We only used lists that were public and curated by established journalists or academics, contained original data (rather than information from other lists), stated their criteria for inclusion and defined how they graded different sites (see our methodology for more).

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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***The Anonymous New York Times Op-Ed and the Trumpian Corruption of Language and the Media*** (New Yorker)

**By Masha Gessen**

Let's get the obvious points out of the way first: the anonymous Op-Ed published by the Times on Wednesday was a ploy by someone who wants to distance himself from what he perceives to be an imperilled Administration, while capitalizing on whatever credibility and popularity the Presidency still retains. The article added little to the public's understanding of the Administration—an understanding that has already been shaped by seemingly endless leaks and rumors from within the White House. Only the day before the Op-Ed was published, excerpts from Bob Woodward's new book, "Fear," added to the ever-accumulating picture of chaos, mendacity, fear, embattlement, and contempt for the President even within his senior staff. But, while the content of the anonymous Op-Ed is not newsworthy, in the sense of providing new information, the fact of its publication certainly is.

The article asserts that the country is, to some extent, governed not by the President but by a group of people who have taken it upon themselves to moderate, modify, and even block the President's actions, or, as the anonymous author puts it, his "worst inclinations." We suspected as much—Woodward, for one, described how the former economic adviser Gary Cohn swiped documents from Trump's desk, lest he act on them precipitously. But having this state of affairs described in print further establishes that an unelected body, or bodies, are overruling and actively undermining the elected leader. While this may be the country's salvation in the short run, it also plainly signals the demise of some of its most cherished ideals and constitutional norms. An anonymous person or persons cannot govern for the people, because the people do not know who is governing.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

## Today in History - May 2, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, May 2, the 122nd day of 2019. There are 243 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by elite American forces at his Pakistan compound, then quickly buried at sea after a decade on the run.

### **On this date:**

In 1519, artist Leonardo da Vinci died at Cloux, France, at age 67.

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII, was arrested and charged with adultery; she was beheaded 17 days later.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Virginia; he died eight days later.

In 1908, the original version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with music by Albert Von Tilzer and lyrics by Jack Norworth, was published by Von Tilzer's York Music Co.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buck v. Bell*, upheld 8-1 a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of people to promote the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

In 1941, General Mills began shipping its new cereal, "Cheerioats," to six test markets. (The cereal was later renamed "Cheerios.")

In 1957, crime boss Frank Costello narrowly survived an attempt on his life in New York; the alleged gunman, Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, was acquitted at trial after Costello refused to identify him as the shooter. Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

In 1968, "The Odd Couple," the movie version of the Neil Simon comedy starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, opened in New York.

In 1972, a fire at the Sunshine silver mine in Kellogg, Idaho, claimed the lives of 91 workers who succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

In 1982, the Weather Channel made its debut.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

In 2008, Tropical Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, leading to an eventual official death toll of 84,537, with 53,836 listed as missing. Mildred Loving, a black woman whose challenge to Virginia's ban on interracial marriage led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling striking down such laws across the United States, died in Milford, Virginia, at age 68.

Ten years ago: The Dallas Cowboys' tent-like practice structure collapsed during a severe storm in Irving, Texas; a dozen people were hurt, including scouting assistant Rich Behm, who was left paralyzed from the waist down, and special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, whose neck was broken. Mine That Bird, a 50-1 shot, stunned the field by capturing the Kentucky Derby. Jack Kemp, former quarterback, congressman and vice presidential nominee, died in Bethesda, Md., at 73.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) met at the White House, where they threatened tough sanctions on broad swaths of Russia's economy if Moscow disrupted Ukraine's May 25 presidential elections. Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr., 95, died in Solvang, California.

One year ago: Attorney Rudy Giuliani said President Donald Trump had reimbursed his personal lawyer for \$130,000 in hush money paid to a porn actress days before the 2016 presidential election, comments that appeared to contradict Trump's past claims that he didn't know the source of the money. The Boy Scouts of America announced that the group's flagship program would undergo a name change; after being known simply as the Boy Scouts for 108 years, the program would now be called Scouts BSA. (The change came as girls were about to enter the ranks.) Two black men who'd been arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the company for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education; they settled separately with the city for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 83. Former International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge is 77. Actress-activist Bianca Jagger is 74. Country singer R.C. Bannon is 74. Actor David Suchet (SOO'-shay) is 73.

Singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin is 71. Rock singer Lou Gramm (Foreigner) is 69. Actress Christine Baranski is 67. Singer Angela Bofill is 65. Fashion designer Donatella Versace is 64. Actor Brian Tochi is 60. Movie director Stephen Daldry is 59. Actress Elizabeth Berridge is 57. Country singer Ty Herndon is 57. Actress Mitzi Kapture is 57. Commentator Mika Brzezinski is 52. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is 51. Rock musician Todd Sucherman (Styx) is 50. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson (AKA The Rock) is 47. Soccer player David Beckham is 44. Rock singer Jeff Gutt (goot) (Stone Temple Pilots) is 43. Actress Jenna Von Oy is 42. Actress Ellie Kemper is 39. Actor Robert Buckley is 38. Actor Gaius (GY'-ehs) Charles is 36. Pop singer Lily Rose Cooper is 34. Olympic gold medal figure skater Sarah Hughes is 34. Rock musician Jim Almgren (Carolina Liar) is 33. Actor Thomas McDonell is 33. Actress Kay Panabaker is 29. NBA All-Star Paul George is 29. Princess Charlotte of Cambridge is four.

**Thought for Today: "Have you ever observed that we pay much more attention to a wise passage when it is quoted than when we read it in the original author?" - Philip G. Hamerton, English artist and essayist (1834-1894).**

## Connecting calendar



**June 20** - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to [recognition@ap.org](mailto:recognition@ap.org)

**August 17** - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on [Tsatsawassa Lake](#), 68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY. Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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## 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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