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# Connecting - May 23, 2019

1 message

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Thu, May 23, 2019 at 8:51 AM

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# Connecting

May 23, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2019,

Our congratulations go out to **Chuck Raasch** on his great journalism career of more than four decades that ended last week with retirement - well, he calls it "retooling." Read our lead story to see why.

We also congratulate colleague **Alex Sanz** of the AP Atlanta bureau, selected as a Silver Circle inductee by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast chapter.

And if you want to read about a well-traveled dog by the name of Odious Beast, well, his owner/handler **Mort Rosenblum** shares his story. Our stories of your pets continue to be a best-seller.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Chuck Raasch retires - or 'retools' - after newspaper career spanning 43 years

**Chuck Raasch** ([Email](#)) has completed a 43-year career in journalism - but he doesn't consider his new life's chapters to be called retirement.

"I'm not retiring," he told Connecting. "I tell people I am retooling. If anyone is interested in Smithsonian tours, starting in September I am leading one on my book, Imperfect Union, about war correspondents and one in particular, a New York Times correspondent who arrived at the battle of Gettysburg to learn that his son had been gravely wounded and captured. We will be going to the actual battlefield. I am going to try to be an ambassador for journalism and all the great work AP and other legitimate news organizations do."

Raasch has been the Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch since 2014 after decades as a political editor, correspondent and national columnist at Gannett News Service and USA Today in Washington. He was one of USA Today's original cover-story writers. His last day with the Post-Dispatch was May 17.



In an announcement to staff, Post-Dispatch AME/Metro Marcia Koenig said Raasch covered six presidential campaigns and that his favorite campaign was also the most frustrating one -- 2000. She noted: "Chuck says, 'Some of my nightmares still include Al Gore droning on about "lockboxes" and W trying to define 'compassionate conservatism.' " He had bylines from 49 states - all but Hawaii - and four continents.

Chuck and his wife, Sandy Johnson, are South Dakota State University graduates. Sandy is a former AP Washington chief of bureau and is now president and COO of the National Press Foundation.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In one of his final stories for the Post-Dispatch, Chuck wrote about six people who stood out during his decades of reporting. Click [here](#) to read the story.

## Atlanta AP's Alex Sanz honored

**Alex Sanz** ([Email](#)), deputy director of newsgathering for the U.S. South, has been selected as a Silver Circle inductee by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast chapter.



**The Gold & Silver Circle** is one of the academy's most prestigious awards, honoring a lifetime of dedication to the television industry. It's a milestone immortalized in silver and gold, and an honor reserved only for dedicated broadcasters who have left their mark. Sanz and others selected will be honored on September 13 at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead in Atlanta. Inductees for the Silver Circle have at least 25 years of experience.

In his AP position based in the AP's Atlanta bureau, Sanz helps oversee breaking news and enterprise across all media formats in 13 states. A video journalist at AP since 2013, Sanz has covered stories that include the Charleston, South Carolina, church shooting, the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the American space program, including the flight test of the Orion spacecraft and the development of the Space Launch System.

Originally from South Florida, Sanz began his career as a reporter at the Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, and later worked as an anchor and reporter at television

stations in New York, Indianapolis, Houston and Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland University College.

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Hard-pressed AP strives to remain journalism's 'one true north'***

By Marc Wilson ([Email](#))

Columnist, News & Tech

Once upon a time - and this is not a fairy tale - there was a Golden Age of journalism.

I was fortunate during that Golden Age to work for three profitable daily newspapers, five bureaus of The Associated Press, and own and edit a weekly newspaper.

Today, times are tough for most journalists, as we've all seen.

Of particular concern to me is The Associated Press - arguably the most important news organization in the world.

A media bias chart (produced by Ad Fontes) rates the AP as the best news media company in terms of most original reporting and least (or balanced) bias. That's a lofty achievement in today's badly fractured media and political environment where viewers of MSNBC see news presented in an opposite fashion from Fox News - i.e., Rachel Maddow's worldview vs. Sean Hannity's.

Despite cutbacks in budgets and staffing - and reduced support from its original owners, newspapers - the AP continues great work.

But not as great as it once did.

Read more [here](#).

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# Let's see, 95 across...

**SUNDAY CROSSWORD ELIMINATION** BY ROSS TRUDEAU Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

- 1 Vu
- 5 Command from Kirk
- 13 Drink word for "strained"
- 18 [High]
- 20 Unsuccessful competi-
- 21 One-footed creature
- 22 Cracked river barriers?
- 25 Spiced up
- 26 Sign of contempt
- 27 In a list, it's often wide
- 28 "Weekend"
- 30 Carl count
- 31 Pop by
- 33 Org. with quarantine authority
- 35 Western alliances
- 37 How the satisfied stand
- 39 "Psych"
- 40 What a generous mechanic might do after a wreck?
- 44 Indistinct mass
- 46 Deck-enclosing option
- 48 Branchid
- 49 Masi-ped locale
- 50 David or Saul?
- 53 "Sunday Morning" channel
- 55 -de-iac
- 56 Fiat
- 57 Greek X
- 58 Jolly syllables
- 60 Words of defeat
- 62 Chopite alternative
- 64 Kind of artery
- 65 DNC chair Tom
- 66 Pitance
- 68 Request to the local marriage oath writer?
- 72 Some dishwashers
- 73 Gap rival
- 75 Memoir for one
- 76 Ode's inspiration
- 79 Rib
- 79 Best Female Athlete, e.g.
- 80 Eur. country in the Olympics since 1992
- 82 Dulce alternative
- 86 Place to stay
- 87 Business card no.
- 88 Variety headline for director Lee's U.S. debut?
- 92 Golf sport
- 93 With 65-Down, when Lady Macbeth says, "Leave all the rest to me!"
- 95 Nonprofit reporting app.
- 96 Coal carrier
- 97 Magician's tote?
- 101 Clancy's "The \_\_\_ of Al Farsi"
- 103 More-than-stretchy statement
- 104 "The Yodeling Cowgirl" in "Toy Story" films
- 105 Novelist Rand
- 106 Rodeo contestants, at times
- 108 Quiet order
- 110 Run smoothly
- 112 It's dropped for emphasis
- 113 Implied
- 116 Pioneer 35mm cameras
- 118 Talks about woks?
- 122 Shmoo creator
- 123 Tapered cigar
- 124 Boss, "The Godfather" entorcer
- 125 Frank
- 126 Regular guys?
- 127 Headliner

**DOWN**

- 1 Some diaper changers
- 2 Panache
- 3 1607 settlement
- 4 Selling point
- 5 Abolish
- 6 Spooky
- 7 Like about 25% of Russia's population
- 8 Part of MVP
- 9 "The A-Team" muscle
- 10 Singer's skill
- 11 World Heritage Site org.
- 12 Sizzle "Over here!"
- 13 Member of the team
- 14 Flexible lunch hour
- 15 Directory name
- 16 College BS. result using a 1-4-5 scale
- 17 Consider
- 18 Throw in
- 23 Goller's wedge, e.g.
- 24 Delicious
- 25 Musical satire
- 32 Ph.D.'s next hurdle
- 33 French sweetie
- 34 Crab-kay villain
- 36 Wild attempt
- 37 Lunchbox staples, initially
- 38 Protected white sailing
- 40 Silicon Valley field
- 41 Flyer of "Stranger Things"
- 42 Works
- 43 Chopin work
- 45 Creamy soups
- 47 Mandrill as a rattan chair
- 51 Stark in "Game of Thrones"
- 52 Muffet law
- 54 Nurse
- 59 "Try it"
- 61 Creations with colorful blocks
- 63 Crunchy snack
- 64 Regret
- 66 See 50-Across
- 67 Breakfast staple
- 68 Hurting
- 70 - Mower College
- 71 Gets ready to play
- 73 Scrabble 8-pointer
- 74 Rainy
- 77 Driving aid
- 80 It covers the House
- 81 Encircle
- 83 Thin Mints seller
- 84 Trendy berry
- 85 Finger
- 88 Has
- 90 "Girls" Emmy nominee Hoffmann
- 91 "Oh, that's adorable!"
- 94 Make a mess of, as traffic
- 96 Swipe again?
- 99 Slingshot feature
- 100 January birthstone
- 102 Queens squad
- 106 2014 Lizzie Borden portrayer Christina
- 107 Flight safety equipment?
- 108 Crunchy side
- 109 Port opener
- 111 See 119-Down
- 112 Advanced teaching deg.
- 114 Machu Picchu denizer
- 115 Peter the Great, e.g.
- 117 Mar. arrival, in theory
- 119 Dr. who 111-Down
- 120 " tree falls ..."
- 121 USCG reception

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Last Sunday's Puzzle Solved

1 ACROSS: 1. Vu; 5. Command; 13. Strained; 18. High; 20. Competition; 21. One-footed creature; 22. Cracked river barriers; 25. Spiced up; 26. Sign of contempt; 27. In a list, it's often wide; 28. Weekend; 30. Carl count; 31. Pop by; 33. Org. with quarantine authority; 35. Western alliances; 37. How the satisfied stand; 39. Psych; 40. What a generous mechanic might do after a wreck; 44. Indistinct mass; 46. Deck-enclosing option; 48. Branchid; 49. Masi-ped locale; 50. David or Saul; 53. Sunday Morning; 55. -de-iac; 56. Fiat; 57. Greek X; 58. Jolly syllables; 60. Words of defeat; 62. Chopite alternative; 64. Kind of artery; 65. DNC chair Tom; 66. Pitance; 68. Request to the local marriage oath writer; 72. Some dishwashers; 73. Gap rival; 75. Memoir for one; 76. Ode's inspiration; 79. Rib; 79. Best Female Athlete; 80. Eur. country in the Olympics since 1992; 82. Dulce alternative; 86. Place to stay; 87. Business card no.; 88. Variety headline for director Lee's U.S. debut; 92. Golf sport; 93. With 65-Down, when Lady Macbeth says, "Leave all the rest to me!"; 95. Nonprofit reporting app.; 96. Coal carrier; 97. Magician's tote; 101. Clancy's "The \_\_\_ of Al Farsi"; 103. More-than-stretchy statement; 104. "The Yodeling Cowgirl" in "Toy Story" films; 105. Novelist Rand; 106. Rodeo contestants, at times; 108. Quiet order; 110. Run smoothly; 112. It's dropped for emphasis; 113. Implied; 116. Pioneer 35mm cameras; 118. Talks about woks; 122. Shmoo creator; 123. Tapered cigar; 124. Boss, "The Godfather" entorcer; 125. Frank; 126. Regular guys; 127. Headliner.

23 DOWN: 23. Goller's wedge, e.g.; 24. Delicious; 25. Musical satire; 32. Ph.D.'s next hurdle; 33. French sweetie; 34. Crab-kay villain; 36. Wild attempt; 37. Lunchbox staples, initially; 38. Protected white sailing; 40. Silicon Valley field; 41. Flyer of "Stranger Things"; 42. Works; 43. Chopin work; 45. Creamy soups; 47. Mandrill as a rattan chair; 51. Stark in "Game of Thrones"; 52. Muffet law; 54. Nurse; 59. "Try it"; 61. Creations with colorful blocks; 63. Crunchy snack; 64. Regret; 66. See 50-Across; 67. Breakfast staple; 68. Hurting; 70. Mower College; 71. Gets ready to play; 73. Scrabble 8-pointer; 74. Rainy; 77. Driving aid; 80. It covers the House; 81. Encircle; 83. Thin Mints seller; 84. Trendy berry; 85. Finger; 88. Has; 90. "Girls" Emmy nominee Hoffmann; 91. "Oh, that's adorable!"; 94. Make a mess of, as traffic; 96. Swipe again?; 99. Slingshot feature; 100. January birthstone; 102. Queens squad; 106. 2014 Lizzie Borden portrayer Christina; 107. Flight safety equipment?; 108. Crunchy side; 109. Port opener; 111. See 119-Down; 112. Advanced teaching deg.; 114. Machu Picchu denizer; 115. Peter the Great, e.g.; 117. Mar. arrival, in theory; 119. Dr. who 111-Down; 120. " tree falls ..."; 121. USCG reception.

**Margy McCay (Email)** - I was visiting a sister in Springfield, Ill., where this crossword puzzle appeared in the State Journal-Register.

She got most of the answers, but I managed to get 95 across.



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## ***Glad that Black Sunday didn't come true***

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - I am old enough to remember Tom Harris' AP days (see Wednesday's Connecting). I believe he began crafting Black Sunday about the attack on the Super Bowl while working the early. Thankfully, that hasn't happened, especially since I covered 30 of them.

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## ***Mike Merriam, Kansas advocate for free press and open government, dies at 66***

Michael W. Merriam, 66, former Legal Hotline attorney for the Kansas Press Association, Kansas Association of Broadcasters and the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government, died May 19, 2019 in Andrews, Texas.

He was born on Nov. 25, 1952 in Topeka, the son of John E. Merriam Jr. and Charlotte (Sawyer) Merriam.

He graduated from Topeka West High School, the University of Kansas and went on to earn his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Washburn University School of Law.

Mike practiced business, media, communication and First Amendment law during his 40-year career.

In 2014, he received the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government's "Above and Beyond" award for his lifetime of service on press and First Amendment issues. For years, he and Dr. Mike Kautsch traveled the state of Kansas promoting First Amendment education as "The Mike and Mike Show."



He married Paula Crowther on Nov. 17, 1973, and she survives.

Other survivors include children, John P. Merriam, Dr. Margaret Merriam and husband Dr. Carlos Molina, and Katherine Merriam; grandchildren, Sam Merriam, Parker Merriam, Elaina Merriam-Molina, Grace Merriam-Molina and Warren Merriam-Molina; and sisters, Linda McBride, Dianne Becket, Nancy McDonald and Sally Merriam.

No public services will be held. Private burial will take place at Mount Hope Cemetery, Topeka.

Merriam represented many newspapers, communications companies, broadcasters, media insurance companies and wire services through the years.

He proposed and formed the Kansas Bar Association's Media Bar Committee in 1988 and served for a time as an adjunct professor teaching mass media law.

(Shared by Doug Anstaett)

## More stories of your pets

**Mike Tharp** ([Email](#)) - My family had dogs and cats forever. As a grownup, I had four Australian shepherds. The Wall Street Journal paid to ship my first one, Lawrence (named after where he was born), to Tokyo in 1976. I visited him after work at Haneda Airport while he was in a brief quarantine. We used to freak out Japanese during my seven-mile runs--Lawrence off the leash, me a 6'3" foreigner. Barkley (named after my daughter Dylann's favorite basketball player) and his brother Friday kept me company in my home office for U.S. News & World Report in San Pedro, the LA port city. Dylann and I found a kitten in an alley there, and she named her Lucky. Lucky traveled with me to Central California where I was executive editor of the Merced Sun-Star. Twice during her 18 years with me, I went to Iraq for McClatchy. Our office manager, Connie Hodges, took care of her when I was gone. As editor, I commissioned a column by my longtime friend Jack Haskins called "The Old Trainer." Truly a Dog Whisperer, he wrote all about dogs, answering readers' questions. Wife Jeralyn lost her two Yorkies--at 14 and 15--within a year. She doesn't want to go through that again. I'm willing to take the chance. Please send encouraging notes.

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**Mort Rosenblum** ([Email](#)) - Reader's Digest used to run a rubric entitled, "The Most Unforgettable Character I've Ever Met." As it did not specify whether that meant only Homo sapiens, I would include O.B., who was born on my bedroom floor in Kinshasa in 1967. He was a Belgian shepherd, like the German kind but with a black coat, a barrel chest, and a broader culinary appreciation. His full name was Odious

Beast, which did not begin to cover it. His mission in life was to rid the world of cats. Also, he was a newshound.



**Mort with O.B. - Odious Beast - with his ear perked up on our balcony in Buenos Aires, with Randi Slaughter, Mort's former wife.**

O.B.'s mother, Pif, came with my rented villa in a lush patch of bush at the edge of Kinshasa. She was an unabashed racist, trained by her Swedish diplomat owner to bark like a crazed hellhound at any black person who was not Tarsis, the houseboy. (Tarsis was well into his 30s, but that is what expatriates called their servants. Once Mike Goldsmith heard a Belgian shout "Boy!" to a flight attendant on an Air Congo flight to Brussels. "Moi, je suis pas boy," he retorted. "Je suis hostesse de l'air." I'm not a boy; I'm a stewardess.)

O.B. was more pragmatist than bigot. He figured white folks got paid too well to break into isolated villas. Also, he knew the hired guard, armed with only a bush knife, was not much frontline defense. Whenever I got home sooner than expected, I would look for the watchman's eyes peering in darkness from behind the deep purple bougainvillea where he habitually sought refuge at any hint of threat. O.B.'s throaty growl was a lot more dissuasive.



Serious threat was limited in those heady Congo days of the 1960s. In the interior, sporadic rebellion by drug-crazed killers could get ugly fast. In Kinshasa, it took bad luck or poor planning to get into trouble. O.B. added measure of safety. Congolese tended not to like dogs. Street toughs and would-be home invaders never knew whether O.B. was on active patrol or just loping up at speed in case one of them had a spare lamb chop.

We logged a lot of miles cruising around town in a secondhand white top-down Triumph TR3. He'd wait patiently on the passenger seat as I popped in for briefings by U.S. and Belgian diplomats, who kept close tabs on a mercenary war raging to the east. A raised eyebrow and a drooling tongue were enough to keep any passersby from stealing the radio. Police had a habit of whistling down drivers for imagined infractions, which they'd happily excuse in exchange for a banknote. No one whistled with O.B. around.

During his puppy years, he was alone a lot in my home-office as I went off to cover those mercenaries and stories across Africa. He must have pawed through my papers and piqued interest in reportorial practice. As soon as we moved to Lagos, Nigeria, in 1969 during the Biafra war of secession, he revealed himself as a newshound.

O.B. loved correspondents, and he shared our sense of the pack. His eagerness to be part of the action nearly killed him. Each time I headed out on my motorcycle, he followed with such hellbent enthusiasm that he would fling himself at the spokes.

One night, I returned late from an assignment in Ghana, and house staff was frantic. O.B. had disappeared. We looked everywhere and tried everything. Not a trace. I went to bed distraught. Minutes later, I got a call from Simon Dring, who had just flown in on a short assignment for the London Daily Telegraph. "You looking for O.B.?" he asked.

The dog, tired of waiting for me, had decided to go find the pack on his own. We lived on Keffi Street on Ikoyi, a sprawling island of homes, offices and shopping centers. Except for following my bike for a few blocks until I could get him back to our yard, he had never ventured off on his own. He made his way among side streets and down a wide boulevard to the big bridge three miles away. Instead of following the roadway into Lagos, he somehow knew to make a jog over to Victoria Island. Then he blazed a trail to the Federal Palace Hotel, miles further, where visiting reporters stayed.

Simon had just gotten out of a taxi from the airport and was checking at the reception desk. He looked over to find O.B. standing upright, paws up on the counter, happily panting in his face.

In Nigeria, I had an open sporty Peugeot 204, bright red with black seats. No one believes this today, but back then you could park a car like that at midnight outside a nightclub in the maze of downtown Lagos and come back hours later, awash in Star beer and dizzy from dancing, and find it unmolested where you left it. Granted, a hulking canine presence inside helped...

Not much news broke in Singapore during our three years there, and O.B. was confined to a fenced-in backyard. He remained fearless. At a dinner party, our Chinese housekeeper, barely five feet tall, came in to say in a tiny voice, "O.B. got a snake." We rushed outside to find the dog face to face with a hooded king cobra, each preparing to lunge. I grabbed him by the tail - the dog, not the cobra - and yanked. O.B. spun around, pissed that I had interrupted his game.

Even without a story, O.B. knew his calling. We built a fancy new AP bureau in Singapore, and one day I brought him into work. He got so excited he dumped a foul-smelling pile on the new carpet. But it wasn't until we transferred to Argentina in 1973 that his newshound skills flowered.

By then, O.B. was a dog of the world. He had flown twice around the globe, and he knew all the tricks. Airlines, more indulgent back then, were kind to animals in the hold. He knew just when to bolt if let out of his box for exercise on stopovers. Our flight from Singapore to Buenos Aires was delayed in Rio de Janeiro as baggage handlers chased him around the airport. He lived high as befitting a gentledog of the press. In Singapore, his staple was horsemeat. In Buenos Aires, the butcher recoiled in shock when my wife placed her order. "Señora," he told her, with a withering look, "in Argentina we ride horses, we don't eat them." O.B. moved up to choice beef raised on Pampa grass.

He quickly adapted to circumstances. We lived on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of a fancy building in Palermo Chico. When dinner guests arrived, he opened the door for them, standing up with his paws on the latch handle and leaning back so the door swung open. He never managed to open a bottle of wine.

Argentina was sliding toward its Dirty War. We reporters did not know what was going on, but we heard it. Between midnight and dawn, piercing screams echoed through the streets. Police working with the clandestine quasi-official rightwing anti-Communist militia - the Triple A -- hauled off young men and women for interrogation by torture. For anonymity, they used black Ford Falcons with no number plates. At sunup, they showed up at police headquarters to punch in for their regular shifts.

Then the bombs started. Most were terror attacks by a half-dozen leftist groups fighting back. Some were rightwing assaults on suspected urban guerrilla cells. Before long, O.B. learned to judge by decibel level and pitch whether a reverberating boom was worth worrying about. He passed on this information to me with the volume and frequency of his bark.

At 3 a.m. one morning, shortly after we had collapsed into bed after a well-lubricated wild party, a thunderous blast shook the windows. I opened one eye and sank back into the pillows. O.B. let loose a five-alarm bark. When I did not respond, he came closer and barked again. "Go away," I'm told that I mumbled. "You're exaggerating." Then he shoved his muzzle under my neck, tossed my head in the air and blasted a full-throated howl in my face. I got up, pulled on some pants, and muttered, "You better be right, you little fucker."

The bomb was just around the corner at the building where Chilean Gen. Carlos Prats, who was Salvador Allende's army commander, lived in exile. When Augusto Pinochet took power in September 1973, Prats fled across the Andes to Buenos Aires. A year later, Pinochet's secret police set off a radio-controlled car bomb as he and his wife came home from a late dinner. The explosion was so powerful it blew debris up to the ninth floor. By the time my competitors caught up with the story, AP was miles ahead. No one in New York commented on an expense account item I sent in later: "Ground beef for stringer, \$5."

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Bob Egelko - [begeko@sfchronicle.com](mailto:begeko@sfchronicle.com)**

**Dave Tomlin - [dave.tomlin74@gmail.com](mailto:dave.tomlin74@gmail.com)**

**Jack Walker - [jcwalker41@aol.com](mailto:jcwalker41@aol.com)**

## Welcome to Connecting



Edwin Tamara - [etamara@ap.org](mailto:etamara@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### ***How The Advocate conquered New Orleans (and most of the rest of Louisiana, too)*** (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

Even before owners of The New Orleans Advocate bought the assets of its competitor, The Times-Picayune and NOLA.com, earlier this month, it charted a remarkable course of expansion in an industry that is relentlessly shrinking.

With papers in Baton Rouge and the Acadiana/Lafayette region, The Advocate has built a combined circulation of 100,000 and a news staff of 110. Both will grow as The Advocate absorbs The Times-Picayune's paid print circulation (at 43,400, slightly bigger than its own circulation of 35,500).

The combined digital site will pick up the NOLA.com name and use its faster technology, probably by early July, though a date has not yet been set. And the New Orleans Advocate will grow its news staff hiring some of those who lost their jobs as NOLA.com and the Picayune dissolve.

That thunderbolt overshadows what The Advocate had already accomplished a month earlier: winning its first Pulitzer Prize for local reporting and being chosen as a finalist in editorial writing, both honors for a painstaking investigation of jury practices that discriminated against black defendants.

The contours of the Advocate's success by now are familiar to many - a generous owner, John Georges; a deeply experienced and hard-charging editor, Peter Kovacs; and a host of strong news and business staffers as well.

However, I suspected there was a good deal more to this counter-cyclical tale and went to New Orleans earlier this month to see what I could find. I identified at least 10 reasons the Advocate became ascendant.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Media tries to avoid 2016 mistakes with massive 2020 field*** (Politico)

By **MICHAEL CALDERONE**

Marianne Williamson is a spiritual author whose most high-profile previous foray into politics was an unsuccessful run for Congress as an independent. In a field of nearly two-dozen Democratic presidential candidates, she wouldn't normally warrant much press attention.

But Williamson's campaign says she's hit the 65,000-donor threshold to qualify for the upcoming primary debates. And after 2016 - when the media was accused of anointing winners too early and missing the rise of Donald Trump - news executives and editors are anxious to make sure they give every would-be president a fair look.

"I feel compelled to give everybody a chance to prove that they're worthy of coverage," said Chuck Todd, who hosts NBC's "Meet the Press" and serves as political director.

"I don't even want to sit here and say, 'Yeah, we'll never have an embed on Marianne Williamson,'" Todd said. "How do I know that? She may get on that debate stage and



suddenly have a following, and there we will be."

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

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## ***Fake news changes shape as EU heads into elections***

**By KELVIN CHAN, LORNE COOK and ARITZ PARRA**

LONDON (AP) - Fake news has evolved beyond the playbook used by Russian trolls in the U.S. election. As the European Union gears up for a crucial election, it is mostly homegrown groups rather than foreign powers that are taking to social media to push false information and extremist messages, experts say.

And private and encrypted chat apps like WhatsApp are increasingly the favored platforms to spread false information, making it harder to monitor and fight.

There were worries that the bloc's May 23-26 vote for the EU parliament would be a ripe target for foreign meddling, given Russian interference in the 2016 ballot that brought U.S. President Donald Trump to power and allegations of disinformation - plus a lack of solid facts - surrounding Britain's Brexit referendum that same year.

So far, no spike has appeared on the 28-nation bloc's disinformation radars and tech companies say they haven't found signs of a coordinated operation by foreign actors. There is, though, a constant buzz of false information that mainly seeks to erode the EU's image and that has ground on since the last Europe-wide elections in 2014.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - May 23, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2019. There are 222 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

### On this date:

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces bogged down in Anzio began a major breakout offensive.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action which helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1975, comedian Jackie "Moms" Mabley, 81, died in White Plains, New York.

In 1977, Moluccan extremists seized a train and a primary school in the Netherlands; the hostage drama ended June 11 as Dutch marines stormed the train, resulting in the deaths of six out of nine hijackers and two hostages, while the school siege ended peacefully.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

In 1993, a jury in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, acquitted Rodney Peairs of manslaughter in the shooting death of Yoshi Hattori, a Japanese exchange student he'd mistaken for an intruder. (Peairs was later found liable in a civil suit brought by Hattori's parents.)

In 1994, funeral services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Ten years ago: Former South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, 62, leapt to his death amid a widening corruption scandal. Charles Donald Albury, co-pilot of the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, died in Orlando, Florida, at 88.

Five years ago: A 22-year-old armed with knives and a gun went on a rampage near the University of California, Santa Barbara; Elliot Rodger killed six students and wounded 13 other people before taking his own life. In a report potentially exposing the Catholic Church to new legal arguments by clerical sex abuse victims, a U.N. committee found that the Vatican did exercise worldwide control over its bishops and priests, and had to comply with the U.N.'s anti-torture treaty.

One year ago: NFL owners approved a new policy allowing players to protest during the national anthem by staying in the locker room, but forbidding players from sitting or taking a knee if they're on the field. A federal judge ruled that President Donald Trump violates the First Amendment when he blocks critics on Twitter because of their political views. For the first time in the 36 seasons of TV's "Survivor," the season finale ended in a deadlock, and a tiebreaker was needed to crown Wendell Holland as the champ.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Barrie is 88. Actress Joan Collins is 86. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 83. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 75. Actress Lauren Chapin is 74. Country singer Misty Morgan is 74. Country singer Judy Rodman is 68. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 68. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 65. Singer Luka Bloom is 64. Former baseball manager Buck Showalter is 63. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 61. Actress Lea DeLaria is 61. Country singer Shelly West is 61. Author Mitch Albom is 61. Actor Linden Ashby is 59. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 58. Actress Melissa McBride is 54. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 52. Actress Laurel Holloman is 51. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 49. Singer Lorenzo is 47. Country singer Brian McComas is 47. Actor John Pollono is 47. Singer Maxwell is 46. Singer Jewel is 45. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 45. Actor LaMonica Garrett is 44. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 39. Actor Lane Garrison is 39. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 38. Actor Adam Wylie is 35. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 33. Golfer Morgan Pressel is 31. Actor Alberto Frezza (TV: "Station 19") is 30. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 28.

**Thought for Today: "Life is like a game of poker: If you don't put any in the pot, there won't be any to take out." - Jackie "Moms" Mabley (1894-1975).**

## Connecting calendar



**June 20** - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. 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](#)).

## 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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