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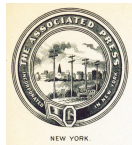
# Connecting - June 25, 2019

1 message

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Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 8:52 AM

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# Connecting

June 25, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019,

We lead today's issue with the sad news of the death of **Ed Shearer**, who covered sports for the AP for more than four decades.

He's been called "one of the really legendary sports journalists not only in the South but in the country." Ed died Monday at the age of 82. If you have a favorite memory to share, please send it along.

A **story** in Monday's AP report told how the New York Mets fined their manager and a star pitcher for their expletive-filled confrontation with a Newsday beat reporter following a weekend loss. Manager Mickey Callaway cursed at reporter Tim Healey and Jason Vargas had to be restrained from charging him in the cramped Wrigley Field clubhouse after a 5-3 loss on Sunday. There was no physical contact.

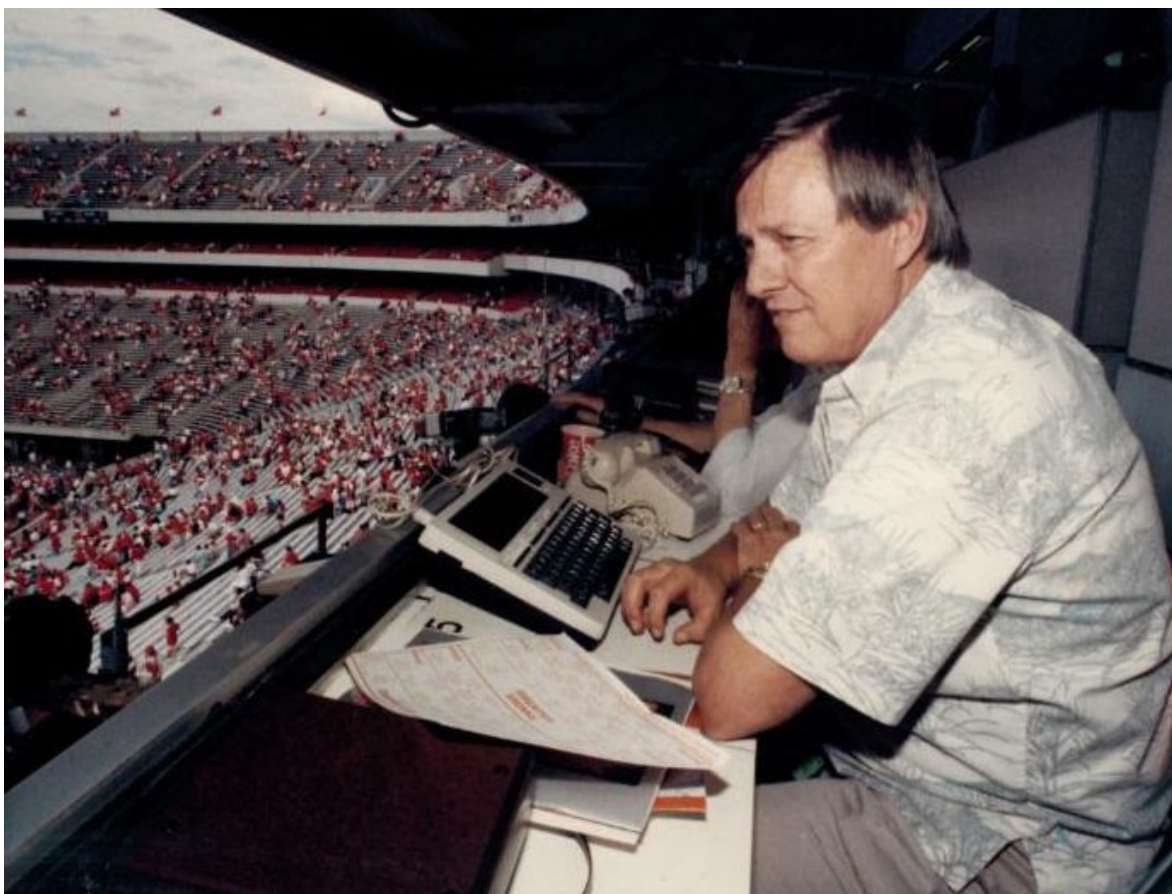
Connecting would like to hear your own stories of similar encounters with a news source - in sports or any other venue.

Today's issue brings you photos from the 25-Year Club celebration at AP headquarters in New York last Thursday night where some 200 gathered to honor the achievements of their colleagues. It was a well-organized event, carried off very well. It is my guess that there are very few companies these days that honor employees with significant work anniversaries in such a special way.

Have a great day!

Paul

## **Longtime AP sports writer Ed Shearer dies at 82**



Ed Shearer covering Tennessee-Georgia game in 1988. (Photo courtesy Corporate Archives)

**BY PAUL NEWBERRY, AP Sports Writer**

ATLANTA - Ed Shearer, a longtime sports writer with The Associated Press who covered the Olympics, Super Bowl, World Series and Hank Aaron's 715th homer but left his most lasting mark as the "SEC Seer," a prognosticator of Southern football known throughout the nation, died Monday. He was 82.

Shearer's son, Jim, said his father's health deteriorated after he took a fall May 10, breaking bones in his wrist and lower back. He was in hospice care when he died at an assisted-living facility in Talking Rock, a small town in north Georgia.

Working at the AP for more than 40 years, Shearer covered a range of sports but was most passionate about college football. In an era when many states did not have a full-time AP sports writer, he traveled the region extensively covering the biggest game of the week. He also was a regular at major postseason games such as the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans and the Senior Bowl all-star game in Mobile.



"He was pretty much the big-game AP writer," said Claude Felton, the longtime sports information director at Georgia.

Shearer parlayed his extensive knowledge into the popular "SEC Seer" column, a fixture in Southern newspapers giving his predicted scores for that weekend's games in the powerful football conference.

"He was one of the really legendary sports journalists not only in the South but in the country," Felton said. "I would run into people all over the country who would ask, 'How's Ed Shearer doing? Have you seen Ed Shearer lately?'"

Read more [here](#). Shared by Arlon Southall.

## AP honors its veteran employees

### 25 years



Inductees to the AP's 25-Year Club pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt at the annual 25-Year Club Celebration for current and former employees at New York headquarters, June 20, 2019. From left are: master control room operator Ken



Hason, New York; Gary Pruitt; sports reporter Melissa Murphy, New York; and race and ethnicity reporter Jesse Holland, Washington. (AP)

## 30 years



Staffers marking 30 years of AP service pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt. From left are: Steve Ciaschi, New York; Ken Locke, New York; Charles Rex Arbogast, Chicago, rear; Luke Sheridan, New York; Gary Pruitt; Michelle Williams, Nashville; and Sue Boyle, New York. (AP)

## 35 years



Staffers marking 35 years of AP service pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt. From left are: Walter Rastetter, New York; Wayne Chin, Washington, front; Malcolm Ritter, New York; Gary Pruitt; Patty Woodrow, Washington; and Paula Froke, Philadelphia. (AP)

## 40 years



Staffers marking 40 years of AP service pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt. From left are: Brian Friedman, New York; Linda Harrell, New York; Skip Foreman, Charlotte, N.C.; Marcia Dunn, Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Rich Carter, New York; Sally Hale, Philadelphia; Gary Pruitt; Joe Madison, New York; and Tom Leone, Cranbury, N.J. (AP)

## 45 years



Steve Eshchuk, right, New York corporate finance accountant marking 45 years of AP service, poses with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt. (AP)

**And a few other snapshots from the dinner:**



**Brooke Lansdale, deputy director of news operations (left), leads a tour of the AP newsroom.**





**Hal Buell, left, retired global executive Newsphotos editor, and Santos Chaparro, retired photo operations manager.**



**A scene from the buffet line.**



**Paula Froke (35-Year Club) introduced by emcee Lauren Easton.**



**Susan Clark and Charlie Monzella**





**From left: Jesse Holland, Skip Foreman and Jack Stokes.**



**Linda Deutsch and Gary Pruitt**





Paul and Linda Stevens with Diana and Paul Heidgerd

## Connecting mailbox

### *'Eglute' helped launch a 39-year AP career*

**Adolphe Bernotas** ([Email](#)) - I never thought of having a career as a journalist. I preferred a good job as a good reporter.

I grew into the first half of my childhood as a World War II refugee. My family spent eight years in pre- and post-war Germany, in camps of Lithuanians who had fled the Nazis and Soviets in 1944. The resourceful Lith communities established schools, basketball teams; theater, music and dance groups; and newspapers, including a children's magazine, "Eglute," the little fir tree.

"Eglute" gave prizes and listed names of readers who solved puzzles, especially word games. I was a frequent winner. By 1952, I was 11 and living in Waterbury, Conn., where I had two paper routes - the morning Republican and the weekly

Waterburian, which sent me \$25 for the best essay on bicycle safety and I was hooked.

By 1959 I was attending the Waterbury branch of the University of Connecticut and publishing, editing and writing the student newspaper, Hillside Highlights, and worked briefly at WATR (1320 on your dial). Then at the Storrs campus, I wrote for the Connecticut Daily Campus and the university's fine arts magazine and had a paid job at the UConn flack shop.

Left UConn for a year and went to work for the Naugatuck (Conn.) Daily News as reporter/photographer. Graduated in 1964, moved to Manhattan and reverse-commuted to New Jersey to the Bayonne Times and Jersey Journal. While at the Journal, moonlighted in the summer as managing editor of the weekly Fire Island (N.Y) News.

In March of 1967, showed up at the AP bureau in Concord, N.H., where I stayed for 39 years, and through the union struggled for fair compensation and conditions for AP staffers and retirees. After the Iron Curtain fell, traveled with International Federation of Journalists colleagues to ex-communist countries promoting western style reporting in Bosnia, Lithuania, Romania, Croatia and Mongolia. During 10 of those years in Concord, volunteered as New Hampshire Public Radio producer/presenter of a show on the art of opera.

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***Covered with dust from head to toe,  
celebrating a birthday***



**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - My wife Mary celebrated a milestone birthday Monday. Ahead of it, we spent a couple days and nights in a rustic mountain cabin approximately five hours northeast of Tucson. The temperature was 20-25 degrees cooler. In an unheated cabin it was downright cold.

Mary's still game to get covered with dust from head to toe riding in an ATV over back gravel and dirt roads. We toured the Blue Range Primitive Area of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest near Alpine, Az. The area is slowly recovering from the Wallow Fire, which destroyed more than half a million acres in 2011 and spread as far east as New Mexico. The fire was started accidentally by two men who were camping. They cooperated with prosecutors and plead guilty to misdemeanor charges relating to mismanagement of their campfire.

Mary's SLR as well as our clothes, faces and hair were coated with dust. Hot showers were in order before we could go to dinner at Hannagan Meadow Lodge.

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## ***Tight spots happen when covering wars - if you're doing your job***

**Mike Tharp** ([Email](#)) - When you've covered seven wars, you've run into tight spots.

At least if you're doing your job.

One of mine was in Somalia in December 1992. I flew from Nairobi to Mogadishu in a Russian Antonov cargo plane, filled with bales of khat, the leafy mild speed that millions chew for a cheap high. I foreswore.

At the Mog airport I was greeted by an English-speaking Somali with a beat-up Mercedes, a driver and two guards with AK-47s and bandoliers. U.S. News & World Report had arranged for me to pay them \$100 a day.

We drove straight to Baidoa, about 150 miles northwest of Mog. Some UN official was making an 'important' speech there about the civil war among Somali clans and the famine that would eventually kill 300,000 Somalis.

As per, the speech was filled with cotton-candy promises. I'm sure the AP, Reuters and AFP still filed useful stories. We drove back to Mog to the hotel where a few dozen hacks were staying. I left my gear in the cell-sized room and let the guards and interpreter go. I told the interpreter I wanted to just drive through downtown and glimpse the Green Line--like the one in Beirut, it separated warring clans.

I had made a dumb mistake.

The shelled city looked like something from the Korean War. I took notes. I didn't notice when the driver pulled into a cul de sac to make a U-turn to head back to the hotel. Our car was reversing in a small market where women displayed cooking oil, vegetables and a few other items on blankets.

While I was writing, a gun barrel poked me in the cheek. A Somali wearing a colorful turban-like koofiyad ripped off my sunglasses. Another stuck a gun barrel in my ribs. The driver was screaming in Arabic. I tried to grab my sunglasses back. The guy shoved the barrel deeper into my cheek. He reached down and grabbed the red fanny pack between my boots. It held my passport, credit cards and photos of my son and daughter.



I tried to grab that back. By now the driver was shrieking 'No! No! No!' in English. I let go. The bandits melted into an alley. He sped back to the hotel. I called my boss and told him what had happened. He said he'd arrange for me to get a new passport and company credit card in Nairobi. I told him they didn't get the money belt round my waist that held \$6,000 in cash.

After I hung up, the shakes started. Then they stopped. I went to the dining room for bottled water and camel meat stew.

Next morning an Egyptian interpreter came up to me. 'Someone has something for you outside.' We walked through the guarded gate. A guy was standing in the street, holding my fanny pack. The Egyptian said he wanted \$1,000 for it. I looked at the thief, said, 'F--k you,' and walked back into the hotel.

The Egyptian started crying. 'They will kill me! They will kill me!' he said. Clutching a \$100 bill in my palm, I walked back outside with him. The guy still stood there. I showed him the \$100 bill and he handed over the fanny pack. My stuff was inside. I turned to walk back in. The Egyptian hollered again. I threw the bill in the street and walked back to the hotel.

I was lucky.

A few days later an Italian journalist was killed in the same street market by a guy who stuck an AK-47 in his back, grabbed the Italian's gold necklace and shot him.

It was a tight spot.

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## ***Reminded of classic headline***

**Harry Dunphy (Email)** - With regard to her death and all the ink Gloria Vanderbilt's been getting (plus the moving send-off from her son Anderson Cooper), I seem to recall when she was a dashing socialite, she was the subject of a classic New York Daily News headline: "Gloria Sick In Transit Monday."

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## ***Are you spelling out names of states that used to be abbreviated?***

**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - I received this suggestion from fellow Connecting colleague Tim Marsh, and perhaps there might be other aspects of the new stylebook that are worth tossing out to the crowd:

Question CONNECTING might ask its readers: Are you following the new AP stylebook and spelling out names of states which used to be abbreviated? Or, are you finding old habit hard or impossible to break?

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## ***Standing in the Hall of Fame: Part-time Savannah resident Harry Atkins to be inducted into Michigan Sports HOF***



**Harry Atkins (right) with Michigan SID Bruce Madej in 2004. AP Photo/Carlos Osorio****By DONALD HEATH, Savannah Now**

Sportswriting demands a hit every time and Harry Atkins stepped up to the plate and delivered for the Michigan sports scene.

And when you produce like that, you're destined for the Hall of Fame.

On Oct. 5, Atkins, who was the sports editor for the Michigan Associated Press for 21 years (1979-2000), will be inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the MotorCity Casino in Detroit.

Revered Michigan sports figures Grant Hill and Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson will be among the 10 immortalized.

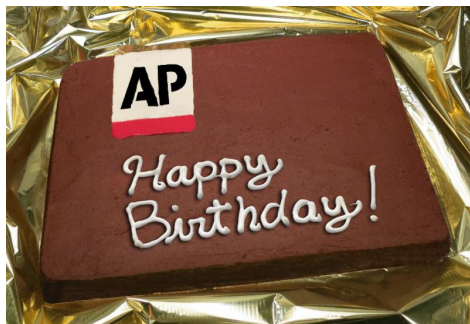
The Hall's first class in 1955 included baseball's Ty Cobb, boxer Joe Louis and golfer Walter Hagen.

Atkins' name joins them.

"Thinking about it gives me goose bumps," said Atkins, 79, who lives in Harbor Springs, Mich., but considers Savannah a second home.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Charles Hill.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Robert Naylor - [Robert.naylor@verizon.net](mailto:Robert.naylor@verizon.net)

Cecilia White - [whitecx@earthlink.net](mailto:whitecx@earthlink.net)

## Stories of interest

### *Justices side with business, government in information fight*

By JESSICA GRESKO

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court sided with businesses and the U.S. government Monday in a ruling about the public's access to information, telling a South Dakota newspaper it can't get the data it was seeking.

Open government and reporters groups described the ruling against the Argus Leader newspaper as a setback, but it was not clear how big its impact will ultimately be.

The paper was seeking to learn how much money goes annually to every store nationwide that participates in the government's \$65 billion-a-year food assistance program, previously known as food stamps.

Reporters at the paper, which is owned by USA Today publisher Gannett, asked the federal government in 2011 to provide information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Officials initially declined to provide all the information reporters were seeking. In response, the paper sued, arguing that the store-level data the government declined to provide is public and shows citizens how the government is spending their tax money.

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

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## ***Frustration, confusion as Bakersfield Californian faces layoffs and new ownership***

By EMMA GOSS

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (KBAK/KBFX) - The Bakersfield Californian has always been family owned and operated, a rare feat for a newspaper with a 122 year history. But come July 1, California Sound News Media Inc. will take the reins, and changes for the paper's print production and staffing have already been announced.

The paper was founded by Alfred and Virginia Harrell in 1897, and five generations later, their descendants, now the Fritts-Moorhouse family, announced earlier this month the paper had been sold to the Canadian-owned company that has other local California newspaper acquisitions.

This week at least six longtime editors were given notice that they will not have a job come July 1st.

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

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***Greentown newspaper stops publishing due to slumping ad sales*** (Kokomo Tribune)



Eastern High School students work in class on the Greentown Grapevine on Sept. 12, 2018. Tim Bath | Kokomo Tribune.

By **CARSON GERBER**

GREENTOWN - The Greentown Grapevine, which is managed by Eastern Howard School Corporation and is the only community newspaper in the state produced by high school students, is ending publication after 25 years in town.

The monthly paper made the announcement in the June edition, citing rising costs and declining ad revenue and readership for the reason for the closure.

"The Greentown Grapevine staff is saddened to see the local newspaper come to an end," read the article announcing the closure. "It was an extremely difficult decision to make. We are thankful for the community's support and concern."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

## Today in History - June 25, 2019



## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 25, the 176th day of 2019. There are 189 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 25, 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

### On this date:

In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1876, Lt. Col. Colonel George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

In 1910, President William Howard Taft signed the White-Slave Traffic Act, more popularly known as the Mann Act, which made it illegal to transport women across state lines for "immoral" purposes.

In 1943, Congress passed, over President Franklin D. Roosevelt's veto, the Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act, which allowed the federal government to seize and operate privately owned war plants facing labor strikes.

In 1947, "The Diary of a Young Girl," the personal journal of Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that recitation of a state-sponsored prayer in New York State public schools was unconstitutional.

In 1967, the Beatles performed and recorded their new song "All You Need Is Love" during the closing segment of "Our World," the first-ever live international telecast which was carried by satellite from 14 countries.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, implicating top administration officials, including President Richard Nixon as well as himself, in the Watergate scandal and cover-up.

In 1996, a truck bomb killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds at a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a line-item veto law as unconstitutional, and ruled that HIV-infected people were protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 2003, the Recording Industry Association of America threatened to sue hundreds of individual computer users who were illegally sharing music files online.

In 2013, Democratic Texas State Senator Wendy Davis began a one-woman filibuster to block a GOP-led effort to impose stringent new abortion restrictions across the nation's second-most populous state. (Republicans voted to end the filibuster minutes before midnight, sparking a chaotic scene with demonstrators who succeeded in forcing lawmakers to miss the deadline for passing the bill.)

Ten years ago: Death claimed Michael Jackson, the "King of Pop," in Los Angeles at age 50 and actress Farrah Fawcett in Santa Monica, California, at age 62. North Korea vowed to enlarge its atomic arsenal and warned of a "fire shower of nuclear retaliation" in the event of a U.S. attack, as the regime marked the 1950 outbreak of the Korean War.

Five years ago: In an emphatic defense of privacy in the digital age, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled that police generally may not search the cellphones of people they arrest without first getting search warrants. Tim Lincecum (LIHN'-suh-kuhm) pitched his second no-hitter against the San Diego Padres in less than a year,



allowing only one runner and leading the San Francisco Giants to a 4-0 win. The NFL agreed to remove a \$675 million cap on damages from thousands of concussion-related claims after a federal judge questioned whether there would be enough money to cover as many as 20,000 retired players.

One year ago: Facing rising costs from new tariffs, Harley-Davidson announced that it would begin shifting the production of motorcycles sold in Europe from the U.S. to factories overseas; President Donald Trump accused the company of waving a "White Flag" in the tariff dispute between the U.S. and the European Union. Britain's Prince William arrived in Israel for the first-ever official visit there by a member of the British royal family, ending the monarchy's mostly hands-off approach to one of the world's most sensitive regions.

Today's Birthdays: Actress June Lockhart is 94. Civil rights activist James Meredith is 86. Author-activist Larry Kramer is 84. Rhythm and blues singer Eddie Floyd is 82. Actress Barbara Montgomery is 80. Actress Mary Beth Peil (peel) is 79. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed is 77. Singer Carly Simon is 74. Rock musician Ian McDonald (Foreigner; King Crimson) is 73. Actor-comedian Jimmie Walker is 72. Actor-director Michael Lembeck is 71. TV personality Phyllis George is 70. Rock singer Tim Finn is 67. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is 65. Rock musician David Paich (Toto) is 65. Actor Michael Sabatino is 64. Actor-writer-director Ricky Gervais (jer-VAYZ') is 58. Actor John Benjamin Hickey is 56. Actress Erica Gimpel is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo (dih-KEHM'-bay moo-TAHM'-boh) is 53. Rapper-producer Richie Rich is 52. Contemporary Christian musician Sean Kelly (formerly with Sixpence None the Richer) is 48. Actress Angela Kinsey is 48. Rock musician Mike Kroeger (KROO'-gur) (Nickelback) is 47. Rock musician Mario Calire is 45. Actress Linda Cardellini is 44. Actress Busy Philipps is 40. Jazz musician Joey Alexander is 16.

**Thought for Today: "A straight line is the shortest in morals as in mathematics." - Maria Edgeworth, Anglo-Irish novelist (1767-1849).**

## Connecting calendar



**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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