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## Connecting - June 27, 2019

1 message

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Thu, Jun 27, 2019 at 9:11 AM

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# Connecting

June 27, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019,

Here's a suggestion from colleague **Norm Abelson** for a "summer fun" Connecting idea: What was the most embarrassing thing you ever did to your parents when you were a kid?

Norm shares that his reply would be the time he walked out on a music recital just before he was scheduled to go on, leaving his parents with egg all over their faces.

Look forward to you fessin' up with your own story.

Our prayers are with Connecting colleague **Tom Goodman** ([Email](#)) and his wife **Connie** on the death of their eldest son **Thomas John Goodman** at his home in Altoona, Iowa, where he died suddenly Monday at the age of 52. "Tommy John" Goodman was the father of three and a former two-time Iowa all-state basketball player at Sioux City North High School. Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

Have a good day!

Paul

## More memories of Ed Shearer

**Carolyn Carlson** ([Email](#)) - Ed Shearer was one of my favorite AP colleagues, a mentor and friend to me and just about everyone else who came through the Atlanta bureau. There was no one I'd rather be working on a story with -- sports or any breaking news story -- than Ed. He taught us how to keep our cool and get the work done.

One of my favorite examples of this came in the late 1970s during the AP's fierce competition with UPI. We were still taking stories via dictation from the ballparks. Ed was covering a Falcons game, dictating his story during the fourth quarter. It was finished and I was ready to push send when the Falcons won on a Hail Mary after the final buzzer.

Ed immediately began dictating, off the top of his head, a beautiful new lead and a couple of grafs to recast with the Falcons winning, told me where to pick up into the original story and the replacement story was on the wire within a minute or so of the end of the game. That story, of course, beat UPI in all the competitive papers.

That's a skillset few could claim then or now.

Ed was also at the other end of the telephone with me on the night of the general election in 1980 when he was assigned to get election results from the Georgia

Secretary of State's office. I sat at the computer and input the figures into boxes that went to both print and broadcast members. It was no big deal until around midnight when Ed noticed that the U.S. Senate race was looking squirrely.

The COB had long since called it, routinely, for the dynastic U.S. Sen. Herman Talmadge, D-Ga., but GOP upstart Mack Mattingly was starting to gain some momentum and the Secretary of State had announced that a computer malfunction in the populous GOP stronghold Cobb County meant none of those votes had been counted yet. Ed and I alerted the COB, who withdrew the "call," even though the evening TV news was over and most morning newspapers had already gone to bed.

Then things got tense as Ed continued to calmly dictate an ever-narrowing race until, about 4 a.m., Mattingly pulled ahead with 99 percent of the vote counted, and the Republicans had won their first statewide race in Georgia since Reconstruction. Only then did the AP call the race for Mattingly, but our job was done and Ed and I were finally able to call it a night.

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**Tom Jory** ([Email](#)) - Ed Shearer was a terrific guy and a great reporter. One Sunday morning, in 1971 or '72, Ed and I were the only news people in the Atlanta bureau, me covering the so-called protective shift before the start of the Monday AMs cycle, and Ed probably working on an SEC basketball roundup.

A call came in from a radio station about someone threatening to jump from a building near the bureau, and I asked Ed if he'd go out to cover the story, which he gladly agreed to do.

He was back a few minutes later to report the jumper had been talked down. He asked if I wanted a story and I said I did. He came back in minutes with a typewritten page which I took as his lead, capturing the drama of the event as he would have a hotly contested game. I was thrilled even though the story would be for the record only, and asked when I could expect him to finish it off. "I never write more than 300 words," he replied, and returned to his SEC roundup.

The story was expanded with background and details when the afternoon staff arrived an hour or two later, but as I remember it - and it was nearly a half-century ago - Ed's lead stood for the cycle. What I can remember explicitly is Ed handing me the story and returning to his desk as if nothing had interrupted his work.

## Connecting mailbox

## ***Where's Kokomo? It's an Indiana thing***

**Bob Daugherty** ([Email](#)) - I noted that Doug Pizac was unsure where Kokomo was without researching it (see Wednesday's Connecting). It's the only Kokomo I know of (maybe there are more). I thought I would give Doug a heads up. The Pharos Tribune is in Logansport, Indiana. It's an Indiana thing, where you head north to South Bend and south to North Vernon.

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## ***Forty-eight years ago four friends set off on a road trip. Three returned.***

**Paul Colford** ([Email](#)) - Here's my story about the drowning of a good friend, Pat Lenahan, and the aftermath, published by the Delacorte Review, in cooperation with Columbia Journalism School.

There is also be an [accompanying podcast](#) - the editor interviewed me about my experience writing the piece and "interviewing" the two other survivors, Charlie and Peter.

The story begins:



**Paul Colford (left) and Pat Lenahan in their hometown of Jersey City.**

## **When We Stopped at the Water**

**By Paul D. Colford**

Before leaving Jersey City that sultry August morning, we had to go buy these short-brimmed khaki hats that someone had seen in the window of an Army-Navy store up on Central Avenue. After all, they looked like the cap worn by Jack Kerouac on one of his book covers. And this was going to be our Kerouacian adventure: north to

Vermont, living like drifters, camping under starry heavens, burning up the last of summer before starting our freshman year of college.

Forty-eight years ago, we hadn't so much planned the junket, as decided on it. Charlie got his mother's Buick Special; Peter, Pat, and I squeezed in with our sleeping bags and other gear.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Long before AP, he longed to play shortstop for the Indians***



**Dan Day** ([Email](#)) recently had digitized a dozen years' worth of slides that his father had taken of the family during the 1960s and early 70s. "Long before I worked for the AP, I wanted nothing more than in life than to play shortstop for the Cleveland Indians," Day said. "One of the slides in the box I sent off was this image of my Pony League team in the summer of 1971 in suburban Cleveland. I'm the skinny, well-tanned guy on the far right, closest to the camera."

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## ***More AP style talk***

**Ford Burkhart** ([Email](#)) - Re the style question for your readers, following up on Tom Kent and "donuts."

Seems the word "when" is called for in a headline like: "2 Killed After a Highway Crash." "After" suggests, to me, two incidents, whether in a story or its headline. Or am I missing something that justifies "after"?

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## ***How the old (AP) neighborhood has changed***



**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - Oh how the neighborhood has changed! Former AP headquarters at [450 W 33rd Street](#) lost its concrete skin and replaced with reflective glass. The building, at right, as seen from the High Line at 10th Avenue and 32nd

Street, is part of the huge Hudson Yards development that includes a Neiman Marcus department store across the street at left.

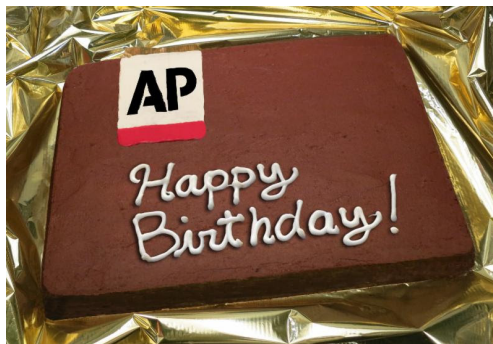
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## ***Connecting sky shot - White Mountains***



**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - Barren aspen provide a stark contrast as they reach lifelessly into a blue sky in the White Mountains of northeastern Arizona Saturday. The trees were among millions of pine and other species burned or damaged by the man-caused Wallow Fire which started near Alpine, Arizona, on May 29, 2011. By the time the fire was contained more than five weeks later, it had consumed 538,049 acres of land, including some in New Mexico. The aspen, like other trees in the blaze's path, are dead and eventually will fall to the forest floor. (Photo by Mark Mittelstadt)

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

Andy Alexander - [andyalexander1@me.com](mailto:andyalexander1@me.com)

John Daniszewski - [jdanziszewski@ap.org](mailto:jdanziszewski@ap.org)

Mike Holmes - [imikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:imikeholmes@cox.net)

Hank Waters - [hjwaters111@gmail.com](mailto:hjwaters111@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***The Espionage Act and a Growing Threat to Press Freedom*** (The New Yorker)

By Jameel Jaffer

The Justice Department's recent indictment of Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, has alarmed press-freedom advocates, with even some of Assange's fiercest critics warning that the government has crossed a perilous new frontier by using the Espionage Act to target a publisher. Another recent Espionage Act indictment has generated less controversy, presumably because its target is not a publisher but a government insider. Daniel Everette Hale, a former Air Force intelligence analyst, is alleged to have supplied classified documents to "an online news outlet"-apparently the Intercept, known for its aggressive reporting about war.

Hale provided intelligence support for U.S. drone strikes while he was deployed in Afghanistan, during the Obama Administration. Some of the documents he allegedly disclosed concerned strikes in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. The Intercept published the documents in the fall of 2015, at a time when U.S. drone strikes were especially controversial and Administration officials were contending that the strikes were lawful, necessary, and surgically precise. Hale believed that the strikes were



counterproductive and immoral, and that Americans had a right to know how the military was deciding whom to kill.

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

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## ***First lady's spokeswoman to be White House press secretary***



**In this June 21, 2019 photo, Stephanie Grisham, spokeswoman for first lady Melania Trump, watches as President Donald Trump and the first lady greet attendees during the annual Congressional Picnic on the South Lawn in Washington. First lady Melania Trump has announced that Grisham will be the new White House press secretary. Grisham, who has been with President Donald Trump since 2015, will also take on the role of White House communications director. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)**

**By DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Stephanie Grisham, longtime spokeswoman and confidante to Melania Trump, will succeed Sarah Sanders as White House press secretary, the first lady announced Tuesday. Grisham is jumping into her new role by accompanying President Donald Trump on a trip to Asia starting Wednesday.

Grisham is one of the few campaign officials still at the White House and is someone the president trusts.

"Stephanie has been with me from the beginning, as most of you know," Trump told reporters during an unrelated White House event. "And then over the last couple years she's worked for the first lady, done a fantastic job. The first lady loves her, thinks she's been, you know, just incredible. She's very talented."

In addition to becoming White House press secretary, Grisham will also take on the role of White House communications director, a strategic and forward-looking role that has been vacant since March, when former Fox News Channel executive Bill Shine departed.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Reporters Shouldn't Toast Sarah Huckabee Sanders for Civility's Sake*** (New York Magazine)

**By Sarah Jones**

At Rare Steakhouse's location in Washington, D.C., a dry-aged, grassfed, locally sourced porterhouse steak will run you \$125. A whole Maine lobster is a steal, by comparison; it only costs \$58. If you would rather not wash down your steak with an \$8 Heineken, it's possible to buy a bottle of Cabernet for \$700. It is the sort of place, where, on Monday, you could catch a brief glimpse of Sarah Huckabee Sanders from a distance. The Columbia Journalism Review reported that the expensive D.C. restaurant was the scene of a farewell gathering for Sanders, who recently announced that she was stepping down from her post as White House press secretary. Anita Kumar, the Politico reporter who helped organize the event, previously told HuffPost that the event would be a "casual gathering for reporters who have engaged with Sarah, many of whom have done so for years." Such events, Kumar added, occurred during other presidential administrations.

We don't know the names of every reporter who attended Monday evening's event. It's unlikely that everyone who attended did so to curry favor with Sanders or other White House officials, and there's no sin in hobnobbing with the people you cover as

long as you show up ready to work. But the details, as CJR and the Times reported them on Tuesday, were damning.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***What work are you proud of?*** (Poynter)

**By KRISTEN HARE**

About a year ago, I asked local newsrooms to share their ambitious work. I got so much. Then, when my editor, Barbara Allen, came to Poynter last year, she started collecting and sharing great local work, too.

It's never hard to find. But we want to make it easier to share. So starting next week and for the whole month of July, we're inviting you to share work from your local newsroom that you're proud of. You can find the Google form [here](#). We probably won't publish each submission, but we'll sure try.

In the meantime, I wanted to dig into our archives for last year's pieces.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - June 27, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 27, the 178th day of 2019. There are 187 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 27, 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black jurist to sit on the nation's highest court, announced his retirement. (His departure led to the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas to succeed him.)

### On this date:

In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.

In 1846, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

In 1880, author-lecturer Helen Keller, who lived most of her life without sight or hearing, was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

In 1905, the Industrial Workers of the World was founded in Chicago.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg (SHEHR'-boorg) from the Germans.

In 1957, Hurricane Audrey slammed into coastal Louisiana and Texas as a Category 4 storm; the official death toll from the storm was placed at 390, although a variety of state, federal and local sources have estimated the number of fatalities at between 400 and 600.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon opened an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In 1984, the Supreme Court ended the National Collegiate Athletic Association's monopoly on controlling college football telecasts, ruling such control violated antitrust law.

In 1988, at least 56 people were killed when a commuter train ran into a stationary train at the Gare de Lyon terminal in Paris. In 1988, Mike Tyson retained the undisputed heavyweight crown as he knocked out Michael Spinks 91 seconds into the first round of a championship fight in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1990, NASA announced that a flaw in the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope was preventing the instrument from achieving optimum focus. (The problem was traced to a mirror that had not been ground to exact specifications; corrective optics were later installed to fix the problem.)

In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled, in a pair of 5-4 decisions, that displaying the Ten Commandments on government property was constitutionally permissible in some cases but not in others. BTK serial killer Dennis Rader pleaded guilty to ten murders that had spread fear across Wichita, Kansas, beginning in the 1970s. (Rader later received multiple life sentences.)

In 2008, North Korea destroyed the most visible symbol of its nuclear weapons program, the cooling tower at its main atomic reactor at Yongbyon. (However, North Korea announced in September 2008 that it was restoring its nuclear facilities.)

Ten years ago: Dr. Conrad Murray, the cardiologist who was with Michael Jackson during the pop star's final moments two days earlier, sat down with investigators for the first time to explain his actions. Actress Gale Storm, 87, died in Danville, California.

Five years ago: Over Russian objections, Ukraine's new president, Petro Poroshenko (por-oh-SHEHN'-koh), signed a free-trade agreement binding his country more closely to Western Europe. Leslie Manigat, 83, a prominent figure in the Haitian political establishment whose rule as president was cut short by a

military coup in 1988, died in Port-au-Prince. Bobby Womack, 70, a colorful and highly influential R&B singer-songwriter who had influenced artists from the Rolling Stones to Damon Albarn, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose vote often decided cases on abortion, gay rights and other contentious issues, announced his retirement. The Supreme Court ruled that government workers can't be forced to contribute to labor unions that represent them in collective bargaining. Joe Jackson, the patriarch of the singing Jackson family, died in Las Vegas at the age of 89.

Today's Birthdays: Business executive Ross Perot is 89. Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 81. Singer-musician Bruce Johnston (The Beach Boys) is 77. Fashion designer Vera Wang is 70. Actress Julia Duffy is 68. Actress Isabelle Adjani is 64. Country singer Lorrie Morgan is 60. Actor Brian Drillinger is 59. Writer-producer-director J.J. Abrams is 53. Former Sen. Kelly Ayotte (AY'-aht), R-N.H., is 51. Olympic gold and bronze medal figure skater Viktor Petrenko (peh-TREHN'-koh) is 50. Actor Edward "Grapevine" Fordham Jr. is 49. TV personality Jo Frost is 49. Actor Yancey Arias is 48. Actor Christian Kane is 47. Actor Tobey Maguire is 44. Rock singer Bernhoft is 43. Gospel singer Leigh Nash is 43. Christian rock singer Zach Williams is 41. Musician Chris Eldridge (Punch Brothers) is 37. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 35. Actor Drake Bell is 33. Actor Sam Claflin is 33. Actress India de Beaufort is 32. Actor Ed Westwick is 32. Actor Matthew Lewis (Film: "Harry Potter"; TV: "Ripper Street") is 30. Actress Madylin Sweeten is 28. Pop singer Lauren Jauregui (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 23. R&B singer H.E.R. is 22. Actor Chandler Riggs is 20.

**Thought for Today: "The main dangers in this life are the people who want to change everything - or nothing." - Viscountess Nancy Astor, American-born British politician (1879-1964).**

## 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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