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# Connecting - July 10, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

July 10, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019,

We made a call in Tuesday's edition for your thoughts on the media's use of graphic images - such as the migrant father and his daughter who drowned in the Rio Grande - that might awaken us to the human cost of decisions.

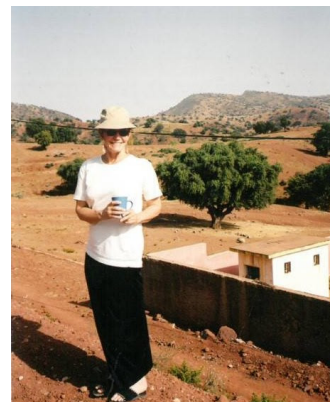
We lead with the first responses, from colleague **Mike Tharp** who relates his experience as executive editor of Merced (California) Sun-Star, and **Ray Newton**, who shares his thoughts.

I look forward to hearing your own thoughts.

Connecting would like you to know that those who wish to send a card to the wife of our late colleague **Dick Benke** can do so with this address: Karen Benke, [1766 Evergreen Ct, Minden, NV 89423](#).

My latest Spotlight in my hometown newspaper on Sunday focused on **Maureen Micus Crisick**, whose Fort Dodge roots led her to a career in poetry and a love of Morocco: "Writing for me is hearing the sounds and the rhythm of the words," she said. "I just fell in love with the language. It's in my DNA."

She also founded a program to help young Moroccan girls in need to get a high school education. Click [here](#) for a link to the story.



Have a great day!

Paul

## On choosing to run photo of dying Marine

**Mike Tharp** ([Email](#)) - This may jibe with the Connecting discussion over the photo of the drowned father and daughter in the Rio Grande.

In September 2009 at our morning and afternoon news meetings of the Merced (Calif.) Sun-Star, our online editor Brandon Bowers showed the AP photo of a dying Marine in Afghanistan. I recall that the cutline said something about his parents opposing its distribution.

At both of our news meetings, as executive editor, I made the call to use the photograph inside the paper, with a long cutline, and to post it on our website. I felt

the people in our audience needed to know the nature and the extent of the sacrifices our servicemen and women are making in the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I served 13 months as a soldier in Vietnam, covered seven wars, and went to Iraq that summer and the last on special assignment. Those experiences strongly influenced my decision to publish the photo. People have become desensitized. They're used to a sanitized version of war, and that's no basis on which to make judgments or to cast votes.

So we published it.

Then the fit his the shan. Calls, emails and of course online comments attacked me every which way but nice. There were demands to boycott the newspaper, to fire me and worse.

Our ME, Victor Patton, and our newsroom assistant, Connie Hodges, backed me, which meant a lot. Connie's daughter had done two tours in Iraq, and Connie was adamant that people should know what happens when we send others to war.

The Saturday after we ran the picture, I wrote my weekly column about why I chose to use it. What made people angriest was my statement that "I'd do the same thing tomorrow."

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## Images capture moment that makes us realize fragility of life

**Ray Newton (Email)** - Yes, I do believe that the AP (or any other responsible and reputable medium) should publish/distribute images such as that of the 23-year-old father and his daughter who drowned in the Rio Grande. Such images, discomfiting as they may be, are not "sensationalizing" the event. Rather, they portray a reality that reveals the severity of a human crisis affecting thousands seeking asylum.

That photograph has a precedent-other images which illustrated the unpleasant reality of suffering, pain or death, e.g., the My Lai massacre, Kent State, and Nick Ut's napalm image-and many more. The photographer did not provoke or stage the image. Rather, the image captures a moment in time that makes us realize the fragility of life. This is not "fake news."

Perhaps we all need to reread Robert Burns' 1794 dirge "Man," in which the oft-quoted phrase "...man's inhumanity to man" appears. The poem is an intense reminder that humans can be horribly insensitive to each other.

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Karol Stonger's profile sparks memories from days at beloved 50 Rock***

**Pierce Lehmbeck** ([Email](#)) - in a note to Karol Stonger he shared with Connecting:

Just finished reading your contribution to Paul's July 8th Connecting and hasten to tell you I thoroughly enjoyed it. Our careers paralleled one another and I remember you as the talented, busy-busy young lady who always smiled when she passed others on the 4th-thru-7th floors at beloved 50 Rock. I must add that your story has taken a good time-chunk out of what has been and still is a demanding day doing the things seniors do on a super-hot Florida day. I do not regret it. The cast of characters -- Gallagher, Cappon, Fuller, Perkes, Boyle, Boccardi, Blackman, Resch, Buell and so many others -- triggered memories of my own and so far I've spent a good two hours deep inside myself, sometimes smiling, often chuckling, occasionally tearful, but always grateful for the experience. There were tears aplenty when Hal Boyle finally surrendered to that terribly painful Lou Gehrig disease. A group of us had hung out with him during his last days, and the NY Bureau's Mary Schurz was with him the night he passed on.

Now I think I will spend some time re-reading his Help, Help, Another Day. He shares shelf space with Ernie Pyle, Bill Maudlin and other legendary friends and WW-II contemporaries. He'd appreciate that, I think.

Thank you for sharing, Karol, and for doing it so well.

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### ***AP's Americas Revenue team restructured***

A restructuring of the AP's Americas Revenue team was announced Tuesday by Michael Fabiano, vice president for Americas Media, and Ted Mendelsohn, vice president of Commercial Markets, as a way "to both best service members and customers and better exploit new commercial business opportunities."

On the Americas Media team, the East Region will be led by Regional Director Eva Parziale and the West Region will be led by Regional Director Jim Clarke. The two Groups/Key Accounts positions will be filled by George Garties and Jim Pollock. The new Director of Programming will be Peter Costanzo.

In the Commercial Markets group, Bruce Glover will head the newly formed Corporate & Government Markets team whose focus will be to aggressively pursue opportunities within enterprises and various government agencies, nationally and locally. Joining Bruce will be Dwayne Desaulniers as Director of Corporate Sales and Dave Rizzo as Director of Government Markets.

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## ***This typewriter was a sweet machine, faster than lightning***

**Joe Galloway** ([Email](#)) - The machine most beloved of rewrite guys at UPI in the older days was the 1936 black Remington. A sweet machine faster than lightning.

One new addition to staff at UPI Saigon in early 1966 arrived with two big air conditioners and a black Remington in his checked luggage. Good thinking!



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## ***Ernie Pyle served with Scripps-Howard Newspapers during WWII***

**Dennis Conrad (Email)** - The account (in Monday's Connecting) that referenced Ernie Pyle stated he was a UPI war correspondent. I believe he was actually with Scripps-Howard newspapers during WWII. My father, while with the 33rd Fighter Group in Thelepte, Tunisia, in early 1943, met him and other famous war correspondents and photographers visiting the most advanced airfield in the North Africa campaign.

## ***A lot learned from Horst Faas, AP Saigon staff***



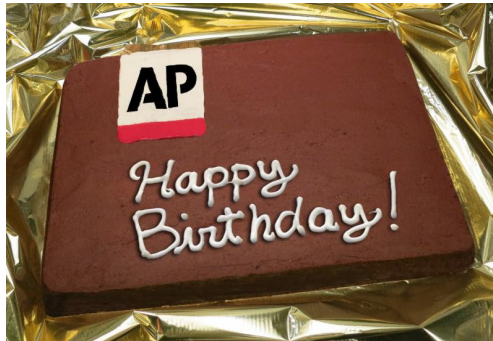
**In this April 1969 file photo shot by Associated Press photographer Horst Faas, a South Vietnamese woman mourns over the body of her husband, found with 47 others in a mass grave near Hue, Vietnam.**

**Repps Hudson (Email)** - In the spring of 1969, and three years before Nick Ut took his Pulitzer-winning "napalm girl" picture, I was working in the AP's Saigon office when the photo chief, Horst Faas, winner of two Pulitzers for his photos, came back from Hue where the Vietnamese had been digging up trenches holding the bodies of people assassinated by communists a year earlier during the Tet Offensive.

The trenches on the sandy beach were marked by the grass and weeds growing over the graves. The decaying bodies below provided nutrition, I think, for the vegetation.

I learned a lot about photos from Horst and his excellent staff.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Chuck Lewis - [chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com)

Nancy Nussbaum - [nnussbaum@ap.org](mailto:nnussbaum@ap.org)

## Welcome to Connecting



Bob Beardsley - [beardsleyr@aol.com](mailto:beardsleyr@aol.com)

# Stories of interest

## *Epstein story shows investigative journalism is thriving*



**United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Geoffrey Berman speaks during a news conference, in New York, Monday, July 8, 2019. Federal prosecutors announced sex trafficking and conspiracy charges against wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein. Court documents unsealed Monday show Epstein is charged with creating and maintaining a network that allowed him to sexually exploit and abuse dozens of underage girls.(AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

**By DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) - The Miami Herald's stories on sex trafficking charges against billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein illustrate a counter-intuitive trend: Investigative journalism is thriving as the news media industry struggles.

In announcing new charges against Epstein 11 years after the financier secretly got a sweetheart deal from federal prosecutors in Florida to settle nearly identical



allegations, New York prosecutor Geoffrey Berman said Monday that his team was "assisted by excellent investigative journalism."

"It's really gratifying," Aminda Marques Gonzalez, president, publisher and executive editor of the Herald, said Tuesday. "You hope your work will have impact. It's beyond your expectation to have your work cited as the basis for an arrest."

While Berman did not cite the Herald by name, it was obvious he was referring to the work of reporter Julie K. Brown, who in a series of stories, including a big investigative piece last November, reported on at least 60 women who said they had been sexually abused by Epstein between 2001 and 2005, when they were minors. Eight agreed to be interviewed.

The Herald's story came as news organizations are finding that investigative work helps them stand out and is rewarding in a rough business climate. Recent examples include stories looking into Russia's involvement in the 2016 election, Donald Trump's behavior before and during his presidency and sexual misconduct by public figures.

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

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## ***As the World Heats Up, the Climate for News Is Changing, Too*** (New York Times)

**By Marc Tracy**

As Europe heats up, Greenland melts and the Midwest floods, many news organizations are devoting more resources to climate change as they cover the topic with more urgency.

In Florida, six newsrooms with different owners have taken the unusual step of pooling their resources and sharing their reporting on the issue. They plan to examine how climate change will affect the state's enormous agriculture sector as well as "the future of coastal towns and cities - which ones survive, which ones go under," according to a statement released when the initiative was announced last month.

Florida's record-breaking heat waves, devastating storms like Hurricane Michael and increased flooding at high tide have not been lost on Mindy Marques, the publisher and executive editor of The Miami Herald, one of the six organizations taking part in the effort.

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

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## ***Court to Trump: Blocking Twitter critics is unconstitutional***

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**

NEW YORK (AP) - President Donald Trump lost a major Twitter fight Tuesday when a federal appeals court said that his daily musings and pronouncements were overwhelmingly official in nature and that he violated the First Amendment whenever he blocked a critic to silence a viewpoint.

The effect of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision is likely to reverberate throughout politics after the Manhattan court warned that any elected official using a social media account "for all manner of official purposes" and then excluding critics violates free speech.

"The government is not permitted to 'amplify' favored speech by banning or burdening viewpoints with which it disagrees," the appeals court said.

Because it involved Trump, the ruling is getting more attention than a January decision by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that found a Virginia politician violated the First Amendment rights of one of her constituents by blocking him from a Facebook page.

Read more [here](#). Shared by George Arfield.

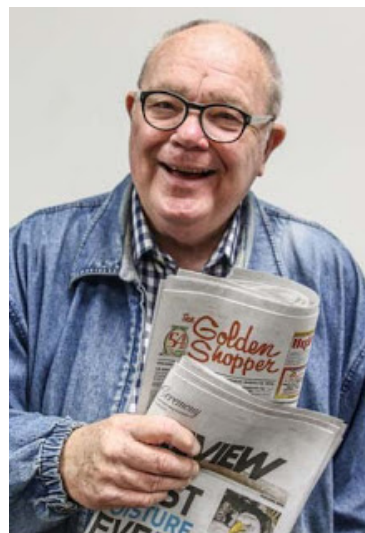
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## ***Successful rural publisher says newspapers need to tell their story: continuity, cooperation, credibility, commitment*** (Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues)

One of the most successful newspaper publishers in rural America is Peter Wagner of Sheldon, Iowa. In a column for state press associations, to which he often speaks, he reflects on the challenges facing newspapers and offers advice:

"We need, as an industry, to believe in ourselves and tell our story. No other information source has the reach of our publications. Broadcast, digital and social media are targeted, and cannot," Wagner writes, then gives examples that apply to every community, but that are not often shared with readers and potential readers.

"The local paper provides much needed continuity. Locally written and edited papers are the most reliable link to the past, as well as the most dependable source of informative details regarding what is happening that day or week." That continuity also applies to "various community interest groups."



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

## **Today in History - July 10, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 10, the 191st day of 2019. There are 174 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 10, 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

### On this date:

In 1509, theologian John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Noyon, Picardy, France.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') to the Senate and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.)

In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T. Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was overturned on a technicality.)

In 1929, American paper currency was reduced in size as the government began issuing bills that were approximately 25 percent smaller.

In 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the Luftwaffe started attacking southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. John Paul Getty III, the teenage grandson of the oil tycoon, was abducted in Rome by kidnappers who cut off his ear when his family was slow to meet their ransom demands; Getty was released in December 1973 for nearly \$3 million.

In 1979, conductor Arthur Fiedler (FEED'-lur), who had led the Boston Pops orchestra for a half-century, died in Brookline, Mass., at age 84.

In 1985, the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk with explosives in Auckland, New Zealand, by French intelligence agents; one activist was killed. Bowing to pressure from irate customers, the Coca-Cola Co. said it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke.

In 1999, the United States women's soccer team won the World Cup, beating China 5-4 on penalty kicks after 120 minutes of scoreless play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

In 2002, The House approved, 310-113, a measure to allow airline pilots to carry guns in the cockpit to defend their planes against terrorists (President George W. Bush later signed the measure into law).

In 2004, President George W. Bush said in his weekly radio address that legalizing gay marriage would redefine the most fundamental institution of civilization, and that a constitutional amendment was needed to protect traditional marriage.

Ten years ago: General Motors completed an unusually quick exit from bankruptcy protection with promises of making money and building cars people would be eager to buy. Pope Benedict XVI stressed the Catholic church's opposition to abortion and embryonic stem cell research in his first meeting with President Barack Obama at the Vatican. British conductor Sir Edward Downes, 85, almost blind and growing deaf, and his terminally ill wife, Joan, 74, ended their lives together at an assisted suicide clinic in Zurich, Switzerland.

Five years ago: Germany demanded that the CIA station chief in Berlin leave the country as a new round of allegations of U.S. espionage worsened friction between

the two allies.

One year ago: A daring rescue mission in Thailand was completed successfully, as the last four of the 12 boys who were trapped in a flooded cave for 2 ½ weeks were brought to safety along with their soccer coach. The other eight had been brought out in the two preceding days. Rancher Dwight Hammond and his son Steven, who had been convicted of intentionally setting fires on public land in Oregon, were pardoned by President Donald Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 92. Actor William Smithers is 92. [Broadway](#) composer Jerry Herman is 88. Director Ivan Passer is 86. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 80. Singer Mavis Staples is 80. Actor Mills Watson is 79. Actor Robert Pine is 78. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 76. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 74. Actress Sue Lyon is 73. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 72. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 70. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 68. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 65. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 61. Actress Fiona Shaw is 61. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 59. Bluegrass singer-musician Tim Surrent (Balsam Range) is 56. Actor Alec Mapa is 54. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 54. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 54. Actor Gale Harold is 50. Country singer Gary LeVox (leh-VOH') (Rascal Flatts) is 49. Actor Aaron D. Spears is 48. Actress Sofia Vergara is 47. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 45. Actor Adrian Grenier (grehn-YAY') is 43. Actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (CHOO'-ih-tehl EHJ'-ee-oh-for) is 42. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 42. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 39. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 39. Rock musician John Spiker is 38. Actress Heather Hemmens is 35. Actress Emily Skeggs (TV: "When We Rise") is 29. Rapper/singer Angel Haze is 28. Pop singer Perrie Edwards (Little Mix) is 26.

**Thought for Today: "The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action in mind." - Frank Herbert, American author (1920-1986).**

## Connecting calendar



**July 27** - Services for **Ed Shearer**, a longtime AP sportswriter, will be held Saturday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, [4795 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338](#). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: **Lazarus Ministries**, [2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318](#). The family said that so we can thank you, please have acknowledgments sent to: [130 Kimberly Rd, Canton, GA 30115](#). A family contact is Sheri Browne - [sheribrowne@att.net](mailto:sheribrowne@att.net)

**August 6** - A scattering of ashes for former AP Concord and Indianapolis bureau chief **Dave Swearingen**, who died in 2018, will be held Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Reid State Park, [375 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548](#). Those attending should meet at the Todd's Point Parking lot and will head over to Half Mile Beach. While there is no formal service, brief remarks will be made. Dave's son Tim can be reached at [timswearingen71@gmail.com](mailto:timswearingen71@gmail.com)

**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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