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# Connecting - July 11, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

July 11, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019,

Please join me in congratulating our Connecting colleague **Joe Edwards** on his election to the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame.

Joe covered the Nashville music scene for most of his 42 years with The Associated Press. He retired in 2012.

I look forward to your story and photo contributions to the newsletter. Including any favorite memories of working with Joe.

Paul

## **Joe Edwards, one of AP's top music writers, named to Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame**



**Joe Edwards with grandkids Mia (left) and Gavin Posnack in 2013.**

Joe Edwards, who covered the music industry in Nashville for most of his 42 years with The Associated Press, has been elected to the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame.

In the mid-1980s, stories he wrote about the enduring popularity of the song "Rocky Top" inspired the Tennessee General Assembly to name it a state song. Edwards retired in 2012.

"Joe knew decades ago that the Nashville music scene would be an important part of AP's mission and he set the bar high for those who followed," said Adam Yeomans, AP regional director and former Nashville bureau chief. "He was truly AP's first country music writer and set a standard for what has become a major beat for AP."

Edwards was one of six selected to the 2019 class of inductees into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame, an independent partner with Middle Tennessee State University.

According to Hall of Fame bylaws, inductees represent those who have made significant and substantial contributions to the journalism profession.

This year's induction ceremony will take place on August 6 in conjunction with the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Annual Conference in Murfreesboro.

Edwards, born and raised in Crawfordsville, Indiana, wrote for the AP in Nashville from 1970 until retiring in 2012. For much of that time, he reported on the music industry.

For several years, he voted on nominees for the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He also was a commentator for the old Nashville Network cable channel. During his long career, he interviewed celebrities including Dolly Parton, Taylor Swift, Garth Brooks, Willie Nelson and many others. He once appeared briefly on the syndicated TV show "Hee Haw."

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism/English at Eastern Kentucky University and was a summer intern in newsrooms at the Cincinnati Enquirer and



Joe with Dolly Parton

Journal Review in his hometown. In college, he was editor of both the Eastern Progress at Eastern Kentucky University and the Trailblazer at Vincennes University in Indiana.

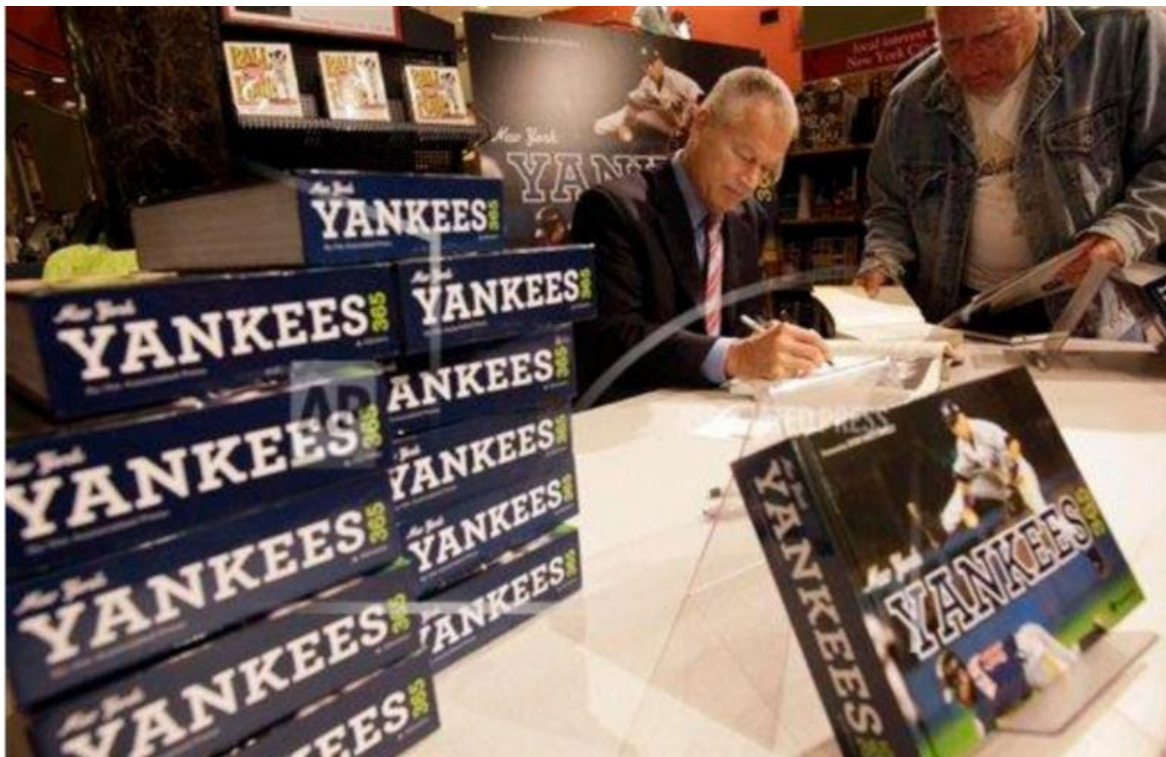
Joe and Sandra Edwards have been married for 28 years. Adult daughter Melissa Morris works in real estate in Huntsville, Alabama. Stepson Jeff works in IT for Deloitte and stepdaughter Leslie works in retail, both in the Nashville area. Grandchildren are Mia and Gavin Posnack in the Nashville area and Abby and James Morris in Huntsville.

Joe Edwards' email address is - [ejmichael@bellsouth.net](mailto:ejmichael@bellsouth.net)

## Connecting mailbox

***Jim Bouton, who died Wednesday, signing AP Book on Yankees in 1970***





Former New York Yankees pitcher Jim Bouton signs copies of the Associated Press book "New York Yankees 365," in New York, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009. Bouton was a 20-game winner, won two World Series games, spent 10 years in the big leagues - and made a bigger impact with a pen in his hand than a baseball. Bouton wrote the book "Ball Four" in 1970. He died Wednesday. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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## ***Youngstown Vindicator remembered for using bylines over AP copy***

**Claude Erbsen** ([Email](#)) - I have never been to Youngstown, Ohio, or held a full copy of the Vindicator in my hands. But the news of its impending demise saddens me. Back in the days when I was COB for Brazil, in the 1960s, it was one of the few domestic newspapers I knew of that was generous in its use of bylines over AP copy. And the Columbus bureau was generous in sending tear sheets to foreign bureaus whose copy had been graced with bylines in the Vindicator. They were always received with gratitude by both US-based and local staffers.

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## ***With Dick Benke on other end of line, everything was in good hands***

**Marty Steinberg** ([Email](#)) - Dick Benke helped break in this raw rookie Gen Desker in 1984. He was tough and testy at first, but I soon I found him one of the easiest persons to deal. He was a true team player, dedicated to the cooperative mission of getting the news out, just like capturing that runaway hot air balloon that Paul Simon wrote about in an earlier Connecting. I always felt Dick's steadiness on the other end of the line during the numerous stories emanating from the LA bureau (and later from Albuquerque) gave me reassurance that everything was in good hands.

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## ***Karol Stonger's apartment longevity challenged but not exceeded***

**Marc Humbert** ([Email](#)) - What a wonderful report by Karol Stonger in the July 8 Connecting. I especially loved the picture of her sitting under the wing of the Indy race car, interviewing a pit crew member.

And, while I can't beat Karol's 50 years in the same apartment, Carla and I have been in the same house on the shore of Tsatsawassa Lake east of Albany for 47 1/2 years. When we moved in in 1972, the place was a non-winterized cottage with an adjacent outhouse. The place was owned by Carla's family. That first February night, the temp went to 22-below zero. We had just docked in NYC earlier in the day, met by family, at the pier. We waited for our car to be unloaded along with our two cats (all acquired while in Europe) and then headed north. It was supposed to be a temporary arrangement. We thought we would stay until after our first child, son Jake, was born in May of that year. But, we never left.

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## ***Typewriters used by AP in Moscow bureau were under tight government control***

**Henry Bradsher (Email)** - On the subject of typewriters, they were a problem in Moscow during the Soviet period.

Any device capable of reproducing written or photographic material was under tight government control as part of rigid censorship. The Leninist-Stalinist state sought to prevent any circulation of information contrary to its authorized versions.

The dissident movement that became active in the 1960s somehow had a few hidden typewriters. In secrecy, some of its members typed up multiple copies of accounts of official horrors and challenging articles for covert circulation. Some of these daring people were caught and imprisoned or forced into exile - including the late Lyudmila Alexeyeva, a friend of my wife and me, who became the most prominent crusader for democracy in Putin's autocratic Russia.

In the 1960s, when I was AP bureau chief in Moscow, all we had was two very old typewriters. They had been salvaged from American embassy junk some years earlier. We kept them working with some tinkering and ribbons that the government did agree to sell us. Even typewriter paper was controlled, so we did most of our writing on the backs of handouts from the official news agency, TASS.

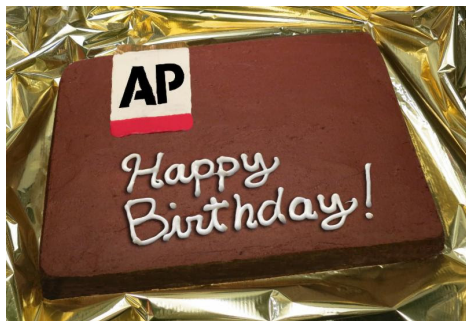


**Mike Johnson using one of the Moscow bureau typewriters in early 1968.**

But then I finally got the foreign ministry's press office that controlled foreign journalists in the USSR to authorize a fourth visa, raising the bureau from three to four writers. So I appealed for permission to import a typewriter for the new person. This was finally granted, on the promise that this typewriter would be exported when that particular person left. So far as I know, however, it stayed as replacement correspondents rotated through the bureau.

The FBI opposed our effort, because it meant that the Soviets demanded a reciprocal increase in their supposedly journalistic staff in the U.S. The FBI did not like having more people to watch for espionage activities.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Kelly Kissel - [kkissel@theadvocate.com](mailto:kkissel@theadvocate.com)

## Stories of interest

***'Bring a male colleague along': The controversy between a Mississippi reporter and candidate for governor*** (Poynter)



Larrison Campbell, a reporter for Mississippi Today (left, courtesy), and Robert Foster, a first-term Republican Mississippi state representative who is a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)



**By Tom Jones**

Larrison Campbell knows Robert Foster well. She has interviewed him numerous times. In fact, the reporter for Mississippi Today is the one who broke the story that Foster was running for governor in that state.

When she wanted to follow him on the campaign trail for a day - like the publication was doing with all the GOP gubernatorial candidates prior to the upcoming primary - she called Foster directly.

That's why Campbell was stunned when she heard back from Foster's campaign director, Colton Robison.

"Hey, I have a weird request," he told her, according to Campbell. "We're going to need you to bring a male colleague along."

And with that began a controversy making national news that is pitting what Foster, 36, claims is Christian values against what Campbell, 40, is calling sexism. Campbell wrote about the ordeal in a first-person piece for Mississippi Today, a nonprofit digital news outlet. Foster, a Republican state representative, has fired back on Twitter and a radio interview.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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***The Oklahoman faces diminishing returns and logistical nightmares after its purchase by GateHouse Media.*** (Oklahoma Gazette)

**BY MOLLIE BRYANT, MATT DINGER, GEORGE LANG AND MIGUEL RIOS**

After poor delivery service over the past few months, Mary Mendus decided to cancel her subscription to The Oklahoman.

The sound of folded copies of The Oklahoman slapping concrete in the pre-dawn hours was once familiar, but repeated cuts to the size, coverage, advertising and distribution have left many wondering not only if they will receive their newspaper that day but whether there soon will no longer be a daily newspaper at all.

Mary Mendus has subscribed to The Oklahoman for about a decade, but recent service quality made her cancel. Mendus said the service was good before around March. In fact, because she has to use a cane, her last carrier would bring the paper up to her porch.

However, a few months ago, Mendus said, "They just stopped delivering it." When she called to complain, she said they told her she would get replacement copies, which also did not arrive.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Patrick Casey.

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## ***Trump ramping up criticisms of Fox, usually a friendly venue***

By **DAVID BAUDER** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**

NEW YORK (AP) - During a live segment on a cable news network, from a sports bar in France where patrons were celebrating the United States women's World Cup Championship, a profane chant about President Donald Trump broke out.

The First Viewer was not pleased.

But the object of his ire was not CNN or MSNBC. It was his favorite outlet, Fox News Channel, and the president issued a not-so-veiled threat about the network's programming.

No president has been so closely aligned with a single news outlet as Trump is with Fox News, so his criticism carried added significance. While it was not the first time

he has singled out Fox, it was the most pointed, raising the question of how the network, and the president's supporters, would respond.

Trump on Sunday night wrote that watching Fox on the weekend was worse than watching CNN and MSNBC, outlets he frequently attacks. He said Fox is "loading up with Democrats" and criticized the network for using The New York Times as a source for a story. He also attacked Fox for hiring former Democratic National Committee head Donna Brazile as a contributor and poked at afternoon host Shepard Smith's ratings.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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## **Young adults show strong interest in news media, but express concern about the impact of news on democracy and unity in the country, study reveals** (Knight Foundation)

MIAMI - July 9, 2019 - A new report released today by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation reveals that a majority of young adults are concerned about the impact of news on democracy and unity in the country, expressing that news organizations might divide and polarize citizens.

Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, the report analyzes the findings of a survey of 1,660 adults between the ages of 18 and 34. It also surveyed large samples of African American and Hispanic participants to explore beliefs and behaviors across races and ethnicities.

The study shows that young people believe some news sources are actively hurting democracy and corroding national unity. Sixty-four percent of young adults say their least-liked news source hurts democracy and 73 percent say their least-liked news source divides the country. Only 47 percent say their favorite news source helps unite it. When comparing partisan attitudes, 51 percent of Democrats say their favorite source unites the public, while 42 percent of Republicans say the same.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

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## ***U.S. newsroom employment has dropped a quarter since 2008, with greatest decline at newspapers*** (Pew Research)

**BY ELIZABETH GRIECO**

Newsroom employment in the United States declined 25% between 2008 and 2018. Newsroom employment across the United States continues to decline, driven primarily by job losses at newspapers. And even though digital-native news outlets have experienced some recent growth in employment, they have added too few newsroom positions to make up for recent losses in the broader industry, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics survey data.

From 2008 to 2018, newsroom employment in the U.S. dropped by 25%. In 2008, about 114,000 newsroom employees - reporters, editors, photographers and videographers - worked in five industries that produce news: newspaper, radio, broadcast television, cable and "other information services" (the best match for digital-native news publishers). By 2018, that number had declined to about 86,000, a loss of about 28,000 jobs.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

## **Today in History - July 11, 2019**





## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2019. There are 173 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 11, 1972, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

### On this date:

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

In 1914, Babe Ruth made his Major League baseball debut, pitching the Boston Red Sox to a 4-3 victory over Cleveland.

In 1915, the Chicago Sunday Tribune ran an article titled, "Blues Is Jazz and Jazz Is Blues." (It's believed to be one of the earliest, if not the earliest, uses of the word "jazz" as a musical term by a newspaper.)

In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.

In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

In 2017, emails released by Donald Trump Jr. revealed that he'd been told before meeting with a Russian attorney during the presidential campaign that the Russian government had information that could "incriminate" Hillary Clinton. MSNBC "Morning Joe" host and former Republican congressman Joe Scarborough announced that he was leaving the Republican party, partly because of its loyalty to President Donald Trump.

Ten years ago: During a visit to sub-Saharan Africa, President Barack Obama addressed Ghana's Parliament, where he challenged the continent of his ancestors to shed corruption and conflict in favor of peace. Funeral services were held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for former NFL star Steve McNair, who had been shot to death in Nashville a week earlier by Sahel Kazemi (sah-HEHL' kah-ZEE'-mee), who then took her own life.

Five years ago: House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers, R-Ky., said that President Barack Obama's \$3.7 billion emergency request to deal with tens of thousands of unaccompanied children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border was too big to get through the House, as a growing number of Democrats rejected policy changes Republicans were demanding as their price for approving any money. Tommy Ramone, 65, a co-founder of the seminal punk band the Ramones and the last surviving member of the original group, died in New York.

One year ago: At a NATO summit in Brussels, President Donald Trump declared that a gas pipeline venture had left Germany's government "captive to Russia," and questioned the necessity of the NATO alliance. John Schnatter, the founder of Papa John's, resigned as chairman of the board of the pizza chain, and apologized for using a racial slur during a conference call in May. Porn star Stormy Daniels was arrested at an Ohio strip club, accused of touching and being touched by patrons in

violation of state law; prosecutors dropped the charges hours later, saying the law had been improperly applied.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Susan Seaforth Hayes is 76. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 72. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 70. Actor Bruce McGill is 69. Singer Bonnie Pointer is 69. Actor Stephen Lang is 67. Actress Mindy Sterling is 66. Former boxer Leon Spinks is 66. Actress Sela Ward is 63. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 62. Singer Peter Murphy is 62. Actor Mark Lester is 61. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 61. Singer Suzanne Vega is 60. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 60. Actress Lisa Rinna is 56. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 54. Actress Debbi (correct) Dunning is 53. Actor Greg Grunberg is 53. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 52. Actor Justin Chambers is 49. Actress Leisha Hailey is 48. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 47. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 46. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 46. Rapper Lil' Kim is 44. Actor Jon Wellner is 44. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 43. Rapper Lil' Zane is 37. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 36. Actress Serinda Swan is 35. Actor Robert Adamson is 34. Actor David Henrie is 30. Actor Connor Paolo is 29. Tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 29. R&B/pop singer Alessia Cara is 23.

**Thought for Today: "Life is a lot like jazz - it's best when you improvise." - George Gershwin (1898-1937).**

## 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.



**Paul Stevens**



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