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# Connecting - August 02, 2019

1 message

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Fri, Aug 2, 2019 at 8:45 AM

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# Connecting

August 02, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 2nd day of August 2019,

**Janice Even**, the wife of our colleague **Dan Even**, shared the sad news Thursday night that Dan is in hospice care and is expected to live only a day or two. Janice said they are at their home in Dubuque, Iowa. He has long had heart issues and now his kidneys have failed.

If you would like to drop a note to Janice and Dan, you can do so through her email - [jmeven@yahoo.com](mailto:jmeven@yahoo.com) During his AP career, Dan worked in the Des Moines, Baton Rouge, Jackson and Albuquerque bureaus.

The post by Poynter's **Roy Peter Clark** on his affliction of saving coffee mugs has elicited some confessions from Connecting colleagues with a similar malady. We bring you the first responses in today's issue.

Have a good weekend.

Paul

## Mugged by mugs? Here are your stories



**Patrick Casey (Email)** - My wife Zhang Wanli and I have collected these Starbucks cups over the years. Most of them are gathering dust in a kitchen cabinet but we like the reminders of places, family and friends they provide.

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**Chuck McFadden (Email)** - You have no idea how comforting it is to know that I am not alone in my "mug malady." I have mugs from: St. Petersburg, Moscow, Cairo, Paris, Washington DC, Berlin, London, Rome, New York, Carmel, California, and San Francisco. The total is probably around 30, and I'm sure I left some out. Like Roy Peter Clark, I use about five. My wife thinks I'm nuts. But each mug brings back a memory of a place, and a trip.

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**Robert O'Meara** ([Email](#)) - I like my black and gold AP coffee cup , but I don't use it for coffee. Instead it has been my longtime holder of watercolor brushes.

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**Bill Schiffmann (Email)** - Your note on coffee mugs sent me to the garage for a stool to reach the outer limits of my kitchen cabinet. Total count, including a "Don't Tread on Me" mug at the library where I volunteer, is 41. The two pictured are faves, a Newseum piece urging trust and a seismograph image of the '89 World Series quake, which I survived, from the USGS.

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Chuck Zoeller ([Email](#)) - Hi Paul: coffee, laptop, wifi; I'm good to go.

## New book by former Helena AP newsman chronicles three decades of coverage

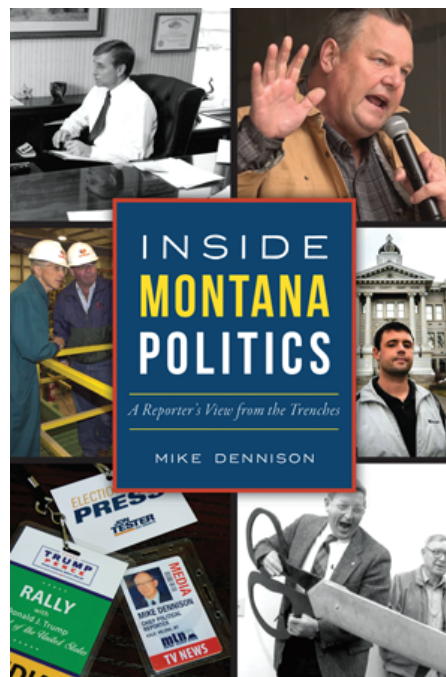


Several former colleagues joined Mike at a book signing Thursday night in

**Helena.** Pictured from left are retired Helena newsman Len Iwanski, retired Portland, Oregon, bureau chief Hugh Van Swearingen, Mike Dennison and retired UPI Helena newsman Bill Hanson.

**Len Iwanski** ([Email](#)) - Former AP Helena newsman Mike Dennison, a veteran Montana journalist, has written a new book, "Inside Montana Politics," chronicling his three decades covering government and politics in the state.

According to the Amazon description: For three decades, Mike Dennison has reported from the trenches on campaigns, crime and community. He has covered razor-thin victories by Senator Jon Tester. He has helped cover the downfall of Senator Conrad Burns, as well as the conservative senator's improbable compassion for a liberal friend charged with marijuana possession. Also examined are Governors Brian Schweitzer, Judy Martz and Marc Racicot and Montana's longest-serving U.S. senator, Max Baucus. And Dennison has tracked down stories beyond the Capitol, from the devastating fall of the Montana Power Company to a teenager falsely accused of rape who waited sixteen years to be fully exonerated. Dennison treats readers to the rare insights and highlights of a storied career in journalism, along with revelations that have never been exposed--until now.



Click [here](#) for a link to the book on Amazon.

Mike can be reached at - [mdennison@kxlh.com](mailto:mdennison@kxlh.com)

## Connecting mailbox

### *Remembering that teletype noise*

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - My first full-time newspaper job was at the Rockford, Ill., Morning Star and Register-Republic in 1967. For the first few months, I worked in the rather large newsroom where the sound of the teletypes - both AP and UPI - was pretty muffled. Then I moved to Sports, where those clacking machines were nearby, although behind a glass partition.

Eventually, it just became white noise and I paid little attention to the teletypes except when I had to rip stories off or replenish the paper. Then came my first shift laying out the paper. All went well until I had to wait for the final piece of the puzzle - a West Coast baseball game. It was nearing deadline and I couldn't finish the page until I filled that hole. Suddenly, both wires went silent. It was truly eerie. Here I was waiting for a baseball story at nearly 1 am and nothing was coming in - nothing at all. I wondered if the machines were broken or if the circuit had gone out. I was actually sweating it out until - finally - one of the machines - I believe it was AP - came to life and there it was - the lede on the baseball game. Hurray!

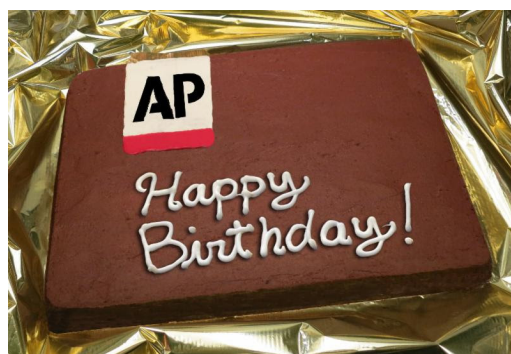
From that time on, I loved the sound of the teletypes and always had my heart stop a little when they were silent.

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## ***NC2000: From pioneering role to paperweight***

**Bob Daugherty** ([Email](#)) - The NC2000 was heavy, had a puny 2.3 megapixel file, non-interchangeable battery, a delicate and expensive storage card, rendered 'interesting color,' no in-camera preview, it was costly, other than the above shortcomings, it started a revolution in news photography and lives on to make a damn fine paperweight.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

**Dave Berry - [dberry08@gmail.com](mailto:dberry08@gmail.com)**



**On Saturday to...**

**Ben Curtis - [bcurtis@ap.org](mailto:bcurtis@ap.org)**

**Jim Hood - [jimhood44@gmail.com](mailto:jimhood44@gmail.com)**

## Stories of interest

***The Lowell Sun sports editor's farewell column was taken down. Here's every word of it.*** (Media Nation)

**BY DAN KENNEDY**

Note: The hedge fund-owned newspaper chain MediaNews Group recently laid off several people at its Massachusetts papers, including sports editor Dennis Whitton of The Sun in Lowell. Whitton posted a farewell column on The Sun's website and linked to it on Twitter, but when I tried to read it, it was gone - taken down (by management), he said in a tweet. (The column did appear in print.) An anonymous person with access to the CMS forwarded it to me, and I was able to verify that it was authentic. Here is Whitton's farewell:

## 40 years of memories

**By Dennis Whitton**

"And then one day you find, ten years have got behind you. No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun..."

- Pink Floyd, "Time"

LOWELL - It's more like 40 years have got behind me. Where have they gone? What do I have to show for them? Can I get some of them back?

After 35 years as The Sun's sports boss and another 5-6 behind that as a reporter, co-op, cub and otherwise, your intrepid correspondent will be leaving the building this afternoon for the final time.

Corporate cost-cutting is the culprit. Apparently I was making too much money to suit the suits, even with years of frozen wages. I didn't realize I was making so much. I would have spent more.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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## ***Newsonomics: The "daily" part of daily newspapers is on the way out - and sooner than you might think*** (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

What do you call a daily newspaper that's no longer a daily newspaper? "Sunday + Digital" sounds far less poetic.

That's now more than an academic question. Many publishers - if not most - are now seriously modeling and planning for the transformation of their businesses from seven-day newspapers to something...less, numerous industry sources tell me. And not just a little less - significantly less.

Blame Google and Facebook, blame tariffs and newsprint costs, blame Amazon and Uber for hiring away would-be early-morning newspaper deliverers - it makes little difference. We are on the brink of seeing major cutbacks in daily delivery and daily printing of newspapers, as soon as 2020.

"It is one of the top topics of discussion in the boardroom," says Peter Doucette, managing director of the Technology & Media Practice for well-used news industry consultant FTI. "The current operating model is under duress like we've never seen before. Our point of view is that the daily morning distribution model is no longer going to work in a three- to five-year timeline. That's broad, of course, and dependent on market."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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## ***Formula for Success: What Do Profitable Newspapers Have in Common?*** (Editor & Publisher)

**By Evelyn Mateos**

Success can be measured in many ways. On most occasions, it's measured by a number. In the newspaper industry, success perhaps means having the largest circulation or the most page views. Maybe those numbers mean little to readers who instead measure how successful a newspaper is by how it delivers important news to them.

However we might measure success, it seems that successful newspapers do have several things in common. Read on to find out the ingredients.

### A Compelling Mission

Today, a mission statement might sound like a sentiment of the past-and in fact, it was in the late 19th and early 20th century that newspapers began adopting these kinds of slogans, according to " Rise of New Media Baron and the Emerging Threat of News Deserts," a report by Penelope Muse Abernathy, the Knight Chair in Journalism and Digital Media Economics at the University of North Carolina.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Dying Gasp of One Local Newspaper*** (New York Times)

**By Richard Fausset**

WARROAD, Minn. - Whenever she thought her small staff would be facing a particularly stressful deadline day, Rebecca Colden, the publisher of the weekly Warroad Pioneer, declared a Bloody Mary Monday.

This was definitely one of those Mondays - indeed, the last of them. The Pioneer, the newspaper that had served this tiny town just below the Canadian border for 121 years, was one issue away from certain death.

When Ms. Colden woke up that day, she listened to a contemporary Christian song that had buoyed her spirit of late: "This is my story, this is my song/Praising my savior all day long." Now she was trudging into the newsroom on a cold May morning with vodka, olives and tomato mix. A mock-up of the front page greeted her on the newsroom printer, screaming out a bold, striking headline: FINAL EDITION. She sat at a desk and opened some bills, one of them stamped "past due."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Bob Daugherty, Paul Shane.

## The Final Word

***'Top Gun: Maverick' is Navy approved, down to the plot details*** (Stars & Stripes)



By **NANCY MONTGOMERY**



What's Capt. Pete "Maverick" Mitchell been up to the past 32 years since the Navy fighter pilot first expressed his need for speed in 1986's highest-grossing film?

Why, as a rear admiral played by Ed Harris asks Maverick in the "Top Gun: Maverick" trailer released two weeks ago, is he still a captain, despite more than 30 years of service and an unparalleled record shooting down enemy planes?

Cmdr. Ron Flanders, spokesman for Naval Air Forces in San Diego, can't, by contract, say.

"We'll probably have to see the movie to see what he's been doing," Flanders said.

But chances are it won't have been anything awful.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - August 2, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Aug. 2, the 214th day of 2019. There are 151 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, seizing control of the oil-rich emirate. (The Iraqis were later driven out in Operation Desert Storm.)

**On this date:**

In 1610, during his fourth voyage to the Western Hemisphere, English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into what is now known as Hudson Bay.

In 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress began attaching their signatures to the Declaration of Independence.

In 1876, frontiersman "Wild Bill" Hickok was shot and killed while playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, by Jack McCall, who was later hanged.

In 1921, a jury in Chicago acquitted several former members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team and two others of conspiring to defraud the public in the notorious "Black Sox" scandal. Opera singer Enrico Caruso, 48, died in Naples, Italy.

In 1922, Alexander Graham Bell, generally regarded as the inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia, Canada, at age 75.

In 1923, the 29th president of the United States, Warren G. Harding, died in San Francisco; Vice President Calvin Coolidge became president.

In 1934, German President Paul von Hindenburg died, paving the way for Adolf Hitler's complete takeover.

In 1939, Albert Einstein signed a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt urging creation of an atomic weapons research program. President Roosevelt signed the Hatch Act, which prohibited civil service employees from taking an active part in political campaigns.

In 1974, former White House counsel John W. Dean III was sentenced to one to four years in prison for obstruction of justice in the Watergate cover-up. (Dean ended up serving four months.)

In 1980, 85 people were killed when a bomb exploded at the train station in Bologna, Italy.

In 1985, 137 people were killed when Delta Air Lines Flight 191, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed while attempting to land at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

In 2000, Republicans awarded Texas Gov. George W. Bush their 2000 presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia and ratified Dick Cheney as his running mate.

Ten years ago: A mystery from the 1991 Gulf War was finally solved as the Pentagon announced that the remains of missing Navy pilot Michael "Scott" Speicher (SPY'-kur) had been found. Catriona Matthew won the Women's British Open for her first major title, beating Karrie Webb by three strokes.

Five years ago: Dr. Kent Brantly, the first Ebola victim to be brought to the United States from Africa, was safely escorted into a specialized isolation unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, where he recovered from the disease. Author Billie Letts, 76, died in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

One year ago: Pope Francis changed Catholic Church teaching on capital punishment, decreeing that the death penalty is "inadmissible" under all circumstances. Apple became the world's first publicly-traded company to be valued at \$1 trillion. The Trump administration proposed weakening Obama-era mileage standards designed to make cars more fuel efficient and less polluting.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nehemiah Persoff is 100. Rock musician Garth Hudson (The Band) is 82. Singer Kathy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 76. Actress Joanna Cassidy is 74. Actress Kathryn Harrold is 69. Actor Butch Patrick (TV: "The Munsters") is 66. Rock music producer/drummer Butch Vig (Garbage) is 64. Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., is 62. Singer Mojo Nixon is 62. Actress Victoria Jackson is 60. Actress Apollonia is 60. Actress Cynthia Stevenson is 57. Actress Mary-Louise Parker is 55. Rock musician John Stanier is 51. Writer-actor-director Kevin Smith is 49. Actress Jacinda Barrett is 47. Actor Sam Worthington is 43. Figure skater Michael Weiss is 43. Actor Edward Furlong is 42. Rock musician Devon Glenn is 39. TV meteorologist Dylan Dreyer (TV: "Today") is 38. Actress Marci Miller is 34. Singer Charli XCX is 27. Actress Hallie Eisenberg is 27.

**Thought for Today: "A beautiful soul has no other merit than its own existence." - Friedrich von Schiller, German author (1759-1805).**

## Connecting calendar



**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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