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# Connecting - August 21, 2019

1 message

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Wed, Aug 21, 2019 at 8:53 AM

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# Connecting

August 21, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2019,

Alums of the AP's Albany bureau have populated Associated Press bureaus throughout the world for decades - and about 50 of them joined some current staffers last Saturday for a reunion to celebrate their service, renew old friendships and begin new ones.

**Christine McKnight** shares a story of the gathering in today's issue and her husband **Jim McKnight** provided some photos to go with her story. The two once worked together in the Albany bureau at the time I started my AP career there.

**Connecting will take the rest of the week off** as Linda and I launch a driving trip through Kansas with her two sisters to reminisce on where two of them were born and to check in on cities where their family lived. An old Army air field at Great Bend where her parents, Ernie and Carolyn Saul, were married and where Linda was born is among our stops. Back then, it was a training base during WWII for B-29 flight crews.

Connecting will return to your Inbox next Monday. Meantime, send along your stories and memories.

Have a great rest of the week!

Paul

## Albany AP reunion celebrates 50 years of achievement and dedication



Current and former upstate New York AP staffers attending a reunion on Saturday held at the home of Marc and Carla Humbert on Tsatsawassa Lake east of Albany. Kneeling, from left: Jim McKnight, Mary Esch, John Kekis. Mary's Australian Shepherds are (l to r); Quinn and Jessy. Front Row, from left: Glavis Morrissey, Donna Liquori, Pam Hanley,

**Carolyn Thompson, Dave Duprey, David Bauder, Mary Fiess, Christine McKnight, Marc Humbert, Melissa Mansfield, Genaro Armas, Joel Stashenko. Back Row, from left: Bill Morrissey, Charles Hanley, Peter Slocum, Michael Hill, Frank Dobisky, Larry Elkin, Larry Lopez, David Germain, William Kates, Peter Coy. (Photos by Jim McKnight)**

**Christine McKnight (Email)** - Marc Humbert was driving a school bus in 1976 when Albany Chief of Bureau Ed Staats hired him as a vacation relief staffer. It was the beginning of what turned out to be a stellar AP career in political reporting for Humbert, who, with his wife Carla, hosted a reunion of about 50 former and current Albany AP employees, families and friends August 17 at his home overlooking Tsatsawassa Lake 30 miles east of Albany.

Staats, who was COB from 1972 to 1979, couldn't make the party. But he had an ironclad excuse: it was his wedding day.

"Mostly I recall all the fine journalism produced while I was on the road trying to take on that other news service whose name shall not be mentioned," Staats wrote in an e-mail to the reunion group. Staats, whose wife of 56 years, Charlene, died two years ago from brain damage caused by Alzheimer's disease, married Barbara Webb, who lost her husband to dementia. (They met at support group meetings.)



**Upstate NY AP staffers are welcomed to a reunion gathering at Tsatsawassa Lake by retired AP political writer Marc Humbert.**

Headlining the group of attendees at Tsatsawassa Lake were Pulitzer Prize-winner Charles Hanley, now at work on another book on the Korean War; Bill Morrissey, who worked in Buffalo and Syracuse (with brief visits to Albany on stories) from 1967 to 1972 and went on to serve as president of the Wire Service Guild from 1978 to 1986; David Bauder, a national AP reporter on the television industry; and David Germain, a retired AP national entertainment reporter.

Other APers attending included:

Genaro Armas, Cynthia Benjamin, Peter Coy, Frank Dobisky, Darren Dopp, Dave Duprey, Larry Elkin, Mary Esch, Mary Fiess, David Germain, Mike Hill, Pamela Hanlon, Mike Hill, William Kates, Mark Johnson, John Kekis, Donna Liquori, Larry Lopez, Melissa Mansfield, Christine McKnight, Jim McKnight, Peter Slocum, Joel Stashenko and Carolyn Thompson.

David Marcus, for whom Albany was his first posting as a bureau chief, sent an e-mail greeting.

"Even though I had been in newspapers for more than 30 years before I joined AP and had 16 months as ACOB in Philadelphia before I came to (Albany), I realized quickly that whatever I had learned before only helped me appreciate how good your work was, how good *you* were."

Lou Boccardi, former AP president and CEO, sent a reunion message, saying "how much gatherings like yours mean to the attendees and how much they testify to the bonds of fellowship that have long been at AP's core. AND one of its great strengths."

Humbert was subsequently brought on full-time in Albany when Peter Slocum moved to Augusta, Maine to take over the AP's statehouse operation. He went to the state Capitol in Albany full-time in 1980, became Capitol correspondent in 1981 and was named state political editor in 1995. He retired from the AP in 2007 after a career that spanned the governorships of Hugh Carey, Mario Cuomo, George Pataki and Eliot Spitzer. Humbert was succeeded at the statehouse in 1995 by Stashenko.



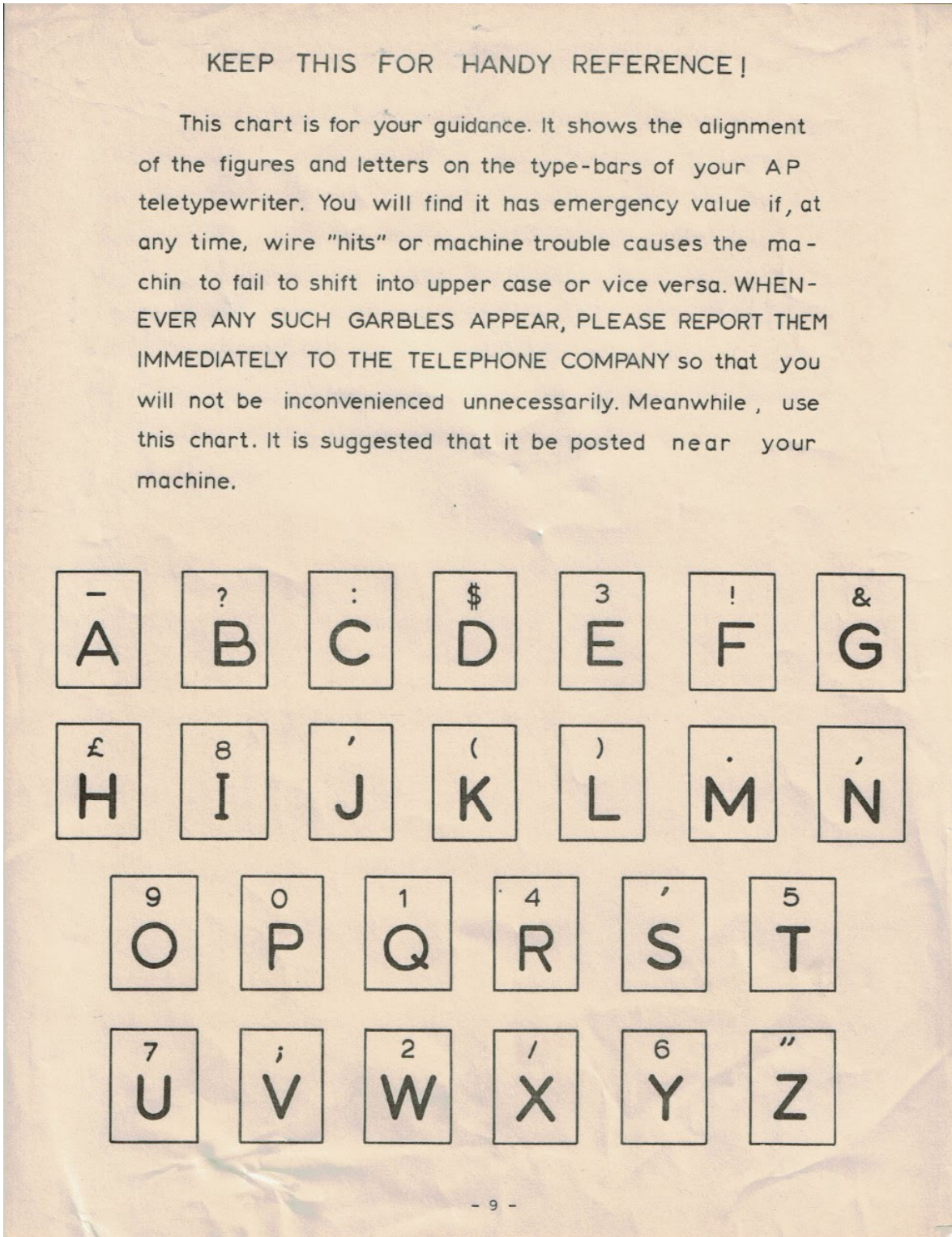
**Enjoying a lovely summer day at the lake are, from left: former Albany AP staffers Christine McKnight, Joel Stashenko and Mary Fiess joined at the right by Ann Slocum, the wife of former Albany and Augusta, Maine, AP staffer Peter Slocum.**

The group observed a moment of silence for four AP staffers who had passed away since a similar gathering in 2013 at the home of Jim and Christine McKnight in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Those individuals included former COB Chuck Green, former Chief Capitol Correspondent David Shaffer, former bureau secretary Debi Foland and former teletype operator Marie Randio. Humbert noted that Randio had served as a kind of unofficial "den mother" to green AP staffers and kept them out of trouble.

"Sad that I wasn't able to make it, but it was fantastic to see the Facebook pics," Shannon McCaffrey wrote to Humbert. "I firmly believe that my time at the AP in Albany - and especially at the statehouse - was the most valuable part of my career. It gave me the building blocks and the passion to stay in this crazy business for so long!"

*Christine McKnight worked in Albany's AP Bureau from 1973 to 1978, including a stint as news editor. She was hired by Ed Staats.*

## Type bars on AP Teletype



**Joe McGowan (Email)** - Thought the Connecting folks might be interested in this.

## New-member profile: Bobby Ross

**Bobby Ross (Email)** - I got my first newspaper byline as a Texas high school sophomore in 1984. Suffice it to say that I enjoyed seeing my name in print.

After three years with small Oklahoma newspapers and nine years with The Oklahoman, I joined AP in 2002. I spent a year in the Nashville bureau (2002-2003) and two years in Dallas (2003-2005). I covered religion, politics and general assignments. I had a blast with stories ranging from the grassroots fight over a state lottery referendum in Tennessee to the religious right in then-President George W. Bush's home state of Texas.

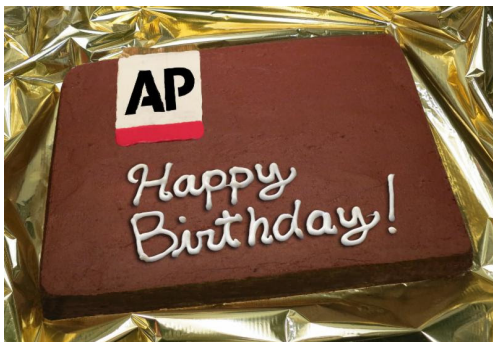


I still recall the night I was scheduled to be the midnight-to-8 a.m. desk person in Dallas but got my dates mixed up. I got a late-night call and rushed to the office with my then-young son sleeping in his car seat because my wife and our other two children were out of town. I managed to stay awake through the entire shift, and Keaton (now a senior journalism major who just finished a summer internship with The Oklahoman) only stirred a few times.

I left AP in 2005 to become managing editor at The Christian Chronicle, an Oklahoma City-based international newspaper for Churches of Christ. I later served as chief correspondent and was promoted to editor-in-chief a few months ago. We have 134,000 subscribers in all 50 states to our monthly tabloid. I do a mix of reporting and editing and have been blessed to travel to all 50 states and 15 countries for stories.

My wife, Tamie is a fellow journalist. We have three grown children, a daughter-in-law and an absolutely perfect grandson, who just turned 1. Three decades after earning my journalism degree from Oklahoma Christian University, I've entered Oklahoma Christian's graduate school this fall to pursue a master's of theology in Christianity and culture. That should help me in my religion reporting as well as my Bible knowledge.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

**Jay Reeves - [jreeves@ap.org](mailto:jreeves@ap.org)**

**Kendal Weaver - [kendalweaver45@gmail.com](mailto:kendalweaver45@gmail.com)**

*On Thursday to...*

**Norm Black - [normanblack73@gmail.com](mailto:normanblack73@gmail.com)**

**Jenny Volanakis - [jvolanakis@gmail.com](mailto:jvolanakis@gmail.com)**

*On Friday to...*

**Dave Tenenbaum - [dmt013@gmail.com](mailto:dmt013@gmail.com)**

*On Saturday to...*

**Dave Lubeski - [davelubeski@gmail.com](mailto:davelubeski@gmail.com)**

*On Sunday to...*

**Joe McKnight - [jbmatap@aol.com](mailto:jbmatap@aol.com)**

**Reid Miller - [mzeemiller@gmail.com](mailto:mzeemiller@gmail.com)**

**Welcome to Connecting**



**Brian Bragg** - [cardinal177@mac.com](mailto:cardinal177@mac.com)

**Ken Smith** - [kgsmith72@bellsouth.net](mailto:kgsmith72@bellsouth.net)

**Steve Wolgast** - [wolgast@ku.edu](mailto:wolgast@ku.edu)

## Stories of interest

***Oregon officials request criminal investigation into newspaper reporters over after-hours phone calls, emails*** (Washington Post)

**By Meagan Flynn**

The Malheur Enterprise, a small newspaper in eastern Oregon, spent months investigating a state lawmaker's business deals and contract work in Malheur County. But on Monday, the newspaper reported an unusual development: Now the county wants to investigate the Malheur Enterprise - for harassment.

The problem? Reporters made too many phone calls and sent too many emails, at least in the eyes of local government officials.

The newspaper broke the news Monday morning after learning that Malheur County's legal counsel had asked the sheriff to investigate whether reporters' persistent attempts to contact officials, sometimes after business hours or using their personal email accounts, amounted to a violation of the law.



Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer, Len Iwanski.

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## ***Rude Awakenings: I'm not your partner, buddy***

(Columbia Daily Tribune)

**By RUDI KELLER**

One of the surest ways for the people paid to get my attention with news releases to instead annoy me is to use the phrase "media partners."

It seems to be appearing more and more, this clumsy construction intended to make me, as a journalist, somehow feel invested in whatever is being pushed for public consumption.

Sometimes it appears in the salutation, as in "Greetings Media Partners," used in a February release from Boone County Emergency Management. Or it can be in the body of the release, such as one summing up a news conference by then-interim Columbia Police Chief Geoff Jones that said he "spoke with media partners."

Another recent one from the city was headlined "Media partners invited to interview city manager finalists."

It's difficult to find a place to start to explain why I hate this phrase.

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

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## ***Reporter sues White House over 30-day suspension of press pass following confrontation***

(Washington Post)

**By Paul Farhi**

A reporter for Playboy magazine sued President Trump on Tuesday to regain a press pass he alleged officials suspended in violation of his constitutional rights.

Brian Karem, a CNN contributor who covers the White House for the magazine, said in the suit that the 30-day suspension of his credential is an attempt to silence his coverage and was decided arbitrarily. He named White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham and President Trump as defendants, and is seeking a temporary restraining order that would lift the suspension of his "hard" pass, which gives reporters largely unfettered access to the White House grounds.

Karem is the second journalist that officials in Trump's administration have sought to ban and the second to sue over the twin decisions, which are unprecedented in modern White House history.

The White House suspended the credentials of CNN reporter Jim Acosta last fall after he engaged in a testy exchange with Trump at a news conference. A federal judge quickly sided with him and CNN after they sued, issuing a restraining order against the White House, which lifted its ban.

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

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## ***Mental hazards of reporting not just a danger for war correspondents*** (Gateway Journalism Review)

**By Bob Chiarito**

After covering shootings several days in a row, Chicago freelancer Evan Moore had to report from a press conference that featured mothers of gun violence victims. It was almost Memorial Day in 2016, and the mothers, now anti-violence advocates, were urging people to stop the violence ahead of what historically has been a very violent weekend in Chicago, a sort of kickoff to the summer shooting season, where homicides seem to go up with the temperature. On that day, one of the victim's mothers recognized the 1,000-yard stare on Moore's face. "Baby, you'll be okay" she told the 36-year-old reporter, trying to comfort him.

As a freelancer, he did not have medical insurance and even if he did, he said he didn't consider talking to anyone at the time. He handled it instead the way many reporters have long handled covering traumatic events - by self-medicating with alcohol.

Three years later, Moore now is a full-time staffer at the Chicago Sun-Times, where he is an audience engagement specialist and helps with copy editing, has medical insurance and sees a therapist, and has moderated his drinking.

Over the last few years journalism has come a long way in addressing mental health issues resulting from having to cover more mass shootings and the seemingly never-ending amount of urban gun violence in American cities. Freelancers like Moore still slip between the cracks, whether overseas or while covering violent domestic stories. But more journalists are being open about post traumatic stress and the impact not only on their work but also on their personal lives - and more are getting positive responses.'

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Wichita Eagle to stop publishing Saturday newspaper*** (KAKE)

WICHITA, Kan. (KAKE) - The Wichita Eagle will stop printing a Saturday newspaper beginning this fall. The Eagle made the announcement in an e-mail to subscribers.

The Eagle plans to launch a new weekend package with expanded newspapers on Fridays and Sundays on November 16. Saturday coverage will be exclusively online. Subscription prices will remain the same.

"More and more of our customers are engaging with our local journalism online," the Eagle stated. "This is not unique to Wichita - it is a widespread trend in journalism, and in fact, many industries."

## **The Final Word**

## ***The 1619 Project details the legacy of slavery in America*** (PBS)



Four hundred years ago this month, the first enslaved people from Africa arrived in the Virginia colony. To observe the anniversary of American slavery, The New York Times Magazine launched The 1619 Project to reframe America's history through the lens of slavery. The project lead, reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones, joins Hari Sreenivasan to discuss.

### **Hari Sreenivasan:**

Today, the New York Times published the print edition of the 1619 Project. The name marks this month's 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved people brought from Africa to the then-Virginia colony. The Times says the project aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are. The project is led by New York Times magazine reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones, who is the author of the opening essay. She joins me now.

You have been working on this for a number of years, but you put this together very quickly. First of all, why? Why this topic? Why this issue?

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - August 21, 2019



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2019. There are 132 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On August 21, 2000, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

### On this date:

In 1609, Galileo Galilei demonstrated his new telescope to a group of officials atop the Campanile in Venice.

In 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 whites. (Turner was later executed.)

In 1863, pro-Confederate raiders attacked Lawrence, Kansas, massacring the men and destroying the town's buildings.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1912, the Boy Scouts of America named its first Eagle Scout, Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport. The musical play "La Cage Aux Folles" opened on Broadway.

In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

In 1995, ABC News settled a \$10 billion libel suit by apologizing to Philip Morris for reporting the tobacco giant had manipulated the amount of nicotine in its cigarettes.

Ten years ago: A wildfire broke out north of Athens, Greece; in the days that followed, the blaze spread, charring 80 square miles before being extinguished. A high-level delegation of North Korean officials paid their respects to late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gays and lesbians from serving as ministers.

Five years ago: Calling it a "miraculous day," an American doctor infected with Ebola left his isolation unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta; Dr. Kent Brantly warmly hugged his physicians and nurses, showing the world that he posed no public health threat one month after getting sick with the virus. Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the Missouri National Guard to begin withdrawing from Ferguson, where nightly scenes of unrest had erupted since a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old nearly two weeks earlier.

One year ago: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer, pleaded guilty to campaign-finance violations and other charges; Cohen said Trump directed him to arrange the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model to fend off damage to his White House bid. Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was found guilty of eight financial crimes in the first trial victory of the special counsel investigation into Trump's associates. Republican Cong. Duncan Hunter of California and his wife were charged with using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds for personal expenses such as family trips to Italy and Hawaii. The body of college student Mollie Tibbetts was found in an Iowa cornfield; authorities say they were led to the body by a farmworker from Mexico who was suspected of being in the country illegally and that he confessed to kidnapping and killing her while she was out running.

Today's Birthdays: Former NFL player and general manager Pete Retzlaff is 88. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 87. Playwright Mart Crowley is 84. Singer Kenny Rogers is 81. Actor Clarence Williams III is 80. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 80. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 80. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 78. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 74. Actress Patty McCormack is 74. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese is 72. Actress Loretta Devine is 70. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 68. Singer Glenn Hughes is 67. Country musician Nick Kane is 65. Actress Kim Cattrall is 63. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 60. Actress Cleo King is 57. Retired MLB All-Star John Wetteland is 53. Rock singer Serj Tankian (System of a Down) is 52. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 50. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 49. MLB player-turned-manager Craig Counsell is 49. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 48. Actress Alicia Witt is 44. Singer Kelis is 40. Actor Diego Klattenhoff is 40. TV personality Brody Jenner is 36. Singer Melissa Schuman is 35. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is 33. Actor Carlos Pratts is 33. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 33. Actor Cody Kasch is 32. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 31. Actress Hayden Panettiere is 30. Actor RJ Mitte is 27. Actor Maxim Knight is 20.

**Thought for Today: "I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential." - Shirley Chisholm, American politician (1924-2005).**

## 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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