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Connecting - August 29, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

August 29, 2019

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In Morrill, Kansas, from left Cindy, Nancy and Linda leave a message at their great-grandparents headstone.



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 29th day of August 2019,

Ever take a trip down Memory Lane?

A week ago, I was behind the wheel of our Ford Edge for just such a trip - titled by Linda, "Paul Driving The Miss Daisies' Kansas Adventure" - in which I escorted Linda and her sisters Nancy and Cindy to 13 communities over a four-day, 1,000-mile journey that sparked a flood of memories for us all.



Their parents were married at an air base chapel in Great Bend, Kansas, (the WWII base, which trained B-29 flight crews, no longer exists) and moved often during the girls' growing-up years - 13 times to be exact. Our trip took us to nine of those places and to the grave sites of many relatives - at which the girls left a memorial stone that each of them signed, in hopes that some other relative or friend who stops by the grave site will see that they paid their respects.

In Chase, Kansas, once a happening place during the oil boom years, we toured the very same high school where their parents met and fell in love and walked the same hallways that they walked some 80 years ago. And paged through class pictures still displayed at the school.



The journey culminated with a gathering of my "Daisies" with their two living uncles and five of their six first cousins. In the photo above, they are going through scores of old photos and clippings - yes, real live newspaper clippings that may be extinct one day...

We got along great throughout the trip - reminiscent for the driver of the many multi-day membership trips he made as an AP chief of bureau. And when there was too much backseat driving, well this stop in Great Bend was just the trick:



Ever make such a trip? Connecting would love to hear about it.

Meantime, today's issue brings more thoughts on the crop or don't crop photo that appeared in the Austin American Statesman. One of our colleagues, retired AP photographer **Doug Pizac**, put on his reporting hat and called the Statesman for the inside story.

Have a great day!

Paul

To crop or not to crop: Discussion continues

D6 Thursday, August 22, 2019 Austin American-Statesman



Chefs and cooks who participate in the Comedor Run Club include, from left, Elmer Ferro of Comedor, James Robert of Fixe, Gabe Erales of Comedor, Trisha Sutton of Urban American Farmer, Philip Speer of Comedor, Liv Langdon of Liv Out Loud, Kat Sees of Comedor and Victor Navarro of Comedor. [CONTRIBUTED]

Doug Pizac (Email) - The other day Harry Cabluck posted an image published in the Austin American Statesman of a group of runners posing together with an apparent homeless man lying face down on the sidewalk in the background. There have been comments on why didn't a photo editor crop out the person versus was this a social statement about homelessness, etc. To get the story straight on what happened I contacted a couple people at the paper. It was neither of the above.

The photo was one of a few handout pix given to the reporter. The pix were chosen on his cell phone to see which showed the group the best whereupon the reporter uploaded the image file into the paper's database. The cell phone's small screen probably made the man look like a piece of cardboard or something else in the background. Once in the database, the photo was delivered to a remote facility where the paper's pages are laid out and sent to the presses. The photo staff did not see the image beforehand, let alone on a big monitor, and if they had, I've been assured the man lying on the sidewalk would have been cropped out.

Nor did any designer at the national design center that puts out more than 100 papers every day flag the photo for reconsideration.

I'm told the result of publishing the image as-is "has created a stir in our community, sparking debates."

Personal comment: In this age of downsizing staff, eliminating copy desks, streamlining procedures, etc. all to cut costs, I see what happened here as a workflow fail because of no checks and balances. In the past, photos and stories were reviewed by multiple eyes before making it into print. Today, content can be put into a database and automatically sent to a remote complex be put into the paper or directly posted onto a web page, Instagram, Facebook or Twitter account without scrutiny. And that can create dangerous and embarrassing situations. Or in this case inadvertently create dialog about homelessness which may result in creating a solution.

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Dennis Whitehead (Email) - I had not seen Harry Cabluck's post about the need for a crop of the jogging club photo as I was focused on the fascinating stories about Angus Thuermer. Wednesday's contribution by Francesca Pitaro is wonderful. The Haus Oberschlesien stationary is an ingredient to the story as that is where the German "insurgents" were staying awaiting their orders from Reinhard Heydrich. I was putting the finishing touches on the second edition of *The Day Before the War*, an e-book recounting the events of August 31, 1939, including details of the raid on the radio transmitter, Sender Gleiwitz, when my eyes went wide with Angus Thuermer, Jr.'s original post. I immediately contacted him and was flattered to learn that he'd read my earlier writings on the topic of Gleiwitz. More great benefits to reading *Connecting*!

Regarding the photo, I initially found myself squarely in the middle, particularly since it's not a good photo. Today's postings by Doug Pizac and Mark Mittelstadt are well-taken, but then Mark pointed out the image credit of "Contributed." That settled the issue for me - either crop it or don't use it at all.

What's the backstory? Is the person dead? Is it the photographer's friend photobombing? If it was a staff photographer (probably a rarity at the Statesman now) or even a freelance, the editor could ask for details. In the absence of background information from a credible source, crop it or pitch it. While much can be read into the photo about poverty, lack of housing and malnutrition, the viewer can also wonder about the callousness of those pictured and the photographer in posing such a shot. Sure hope the chefs didn't pay the photographer for that service.

After spinning those items into one ball, I'll end with a shameless plug for *The Day Before the War* that is available as an e-book from Rakuten Kobo - click [here](#).

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Harry Cabluck (Email) - With appreciation to comments by Doug Pizac and Mark Mittelstadt regarding the photo printed in the Austin American Statesman.

This is to differ with Doug's opinion that the photo is a powerful image. Powerful, if the prone body had been composed in the foreground.

Photojournalistic-ly speaking, the picture, if to accompany a story about cooks, was poor. If a photo of a running club, still. As a common group shot, more.

An editor might ask, "Where's the cooking, where's the running, where's the people being fed; what's with the chaos in the background, trees, buildings, funnel effect; what's with the middle-distance shooting with a short lens; and what's the deal with the body in the background did you get his name?"

Pity the photographer, editor and reader.

Staff reductions at news organizations have made visual illiterates of the many.

One of the most beautiful pieces of writing I have seen

Linda Deutsch (Email) - Connecting has been so filled with rich and fascinating pieces of late. Beyond all of them, I must thank you for sharing Gene Johnson's extraordinary story: "[In the Face of Death, the Party of a Lifetime.](#)" (See Tuesday's Connecting)

It is one of the most beautiful pieces of writing I have seen on the AP wire or anywhere else recently. His eyewitness account of the last day in the life of a man who has chosen "death with dignity" was deeply moving, a portrait of the man painted with the unique insight and sensitivity of a great writer. It brought smiles and tears and reminded me how many poets masquerade as journalists.

Kudos too to Elaine Thompson for the wonderful photos.

I remember meeting Gene some years ago. If memory serves, his father was also a journalist.

This story should go into a journalism anthology .

New-member profile: Steve Bell

Steve Bell ([Email](#)) - I was with the AP in Albany and Buffalo from 1982-1987, having joined Mike Hendricks, Lew Wheaton, Marc Humbert, Mary Esch, Dave Jennings, Jim McKnight, Joel Stashenko, Joe Galu, and Diane Henk after several years at the Stamford Advocate. They were great years, under Cuomo the First for the most part, with everything north of Poughkeepsie and east of Utica up for grabs. I remember stories on the last two American snowplow manufacturers; re-use of Atlas missile silos across the Adirondacks; the last staffed fire tower in the Adirondacks, and tons of spot news. The Albany bureau in those days filled the B section of the Sunday Times - no bylines, of course.

After three years, the AP moved me to Buffalo with the late Jay Bonfatti and Ben DeForest, along with Jim McCoy and Rob McElroy. We covered the Terry Anderson hostage saga, because his sister lived in Batavia; the emerging Buffalo Bills; multiple barrels over Niagara Falls and the craziness that was Buffalo in those days.

I found the city to be a lovely place to raise a family and after two years, I jumped to The Buffalo News as city editor in 1987; followed by two years as business editor, six as managing editor and two as editorial page editor. When the trends in newspapers became clear, and with my wife remaining at the News for three more years before she too left, I joined Eric Mower & Associates.



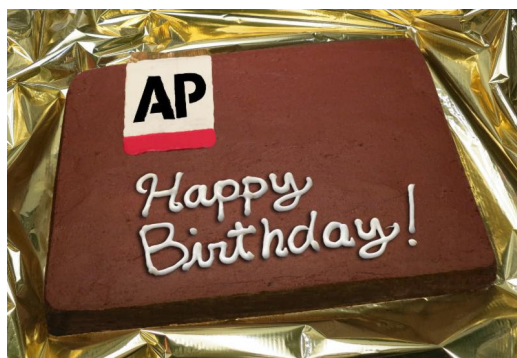
A nine-city independent ad and PR agency founded in Syracuse, Mower and I had a great 12 years together, during which I established a niche crisis and reputation management practice with clients such as Delaware North, Rich Products, the Seneca Nation, BlueCross BlueShield and a host of others. Great people and a fun place to work.

One year ago, on the verge of turning 65, I decided to cut back, work half time on just billable clients and I left Mower after serving for three years as the Buffalo office

head. The last year has been wonderful, giving me more time to travel, coach a high-school girls team and do a ton of volunteer work. My credo at Steve Bell Communications LLC is "work less, make more."

The AP taught me how to write fast, accurately and edit in layer upon layer of new, breaking information. In those days, we were the only 24/7 news organization and we were proud of the responsibility of being on the vanguard.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

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Stories of interest

O'Rourke campaign ejects Breitbart reporter from speech

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Beto O'Rourke's presidential campaign said Wednesday that it ejected a Breitbart News reporter from an event at a South Carolina college because it wanted to ensure that students felt "comfortable and safe."

The Texas Democrat's campaign found itself in a public confrontation with the aggressive conservative web site a day after its senior editor-at-large, Joel Pollak, said he was booted from an O'Rourke speech. He said the campaign told him was being ejected because he'd been disruptive at past events.

O'Rourke spokeswoman Aleigha Cavalier said that Breitbart walks the line between being news and a perpetrator of hate speech. The campaign asked him to leave because of Pollak's "previous hateful reporting" and the sensitivity of the topics being discussed with black students at Benedict College.

"Whether it's dedicating an entire section of their website to 'black crime,' inferring that immigrants are terrorists, or using derogatory terms to refer to LGBTQ people, Breitbart News walks the line between being news and a perpetrator of hate speech," Cavalier said in a statement.

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

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Facebook to require buyers of political ads to provide more information about who paid for them (Washington Post)

By Tony Romm

Facebook on Wednesday announced it would tighten some of its rules around political advertising ahead of the 2020 presidential election, requiring those who purchase ads touting candidates or promoting hot-button issues to provide more information about who actually paid for them.

The changes seek to address a number of well-documented incidents in which users placed misleading or inaccurate disclaimers on ads, effectively undermining a system for election transparency that the tech giant built after Russian agents spread disinformation on the site during the 2016 race.

Facebook already requires that political advertisers verify their identities. Starting in September, the company will require buyers of what are known as issue ads or advocates of a political candidate to include information about who is funding the

ads. To satisfy Facebook's new requirements, a business can submit its tax-identification number, or campaigns can share their own registration data from the Federal Election Commission, and Facebook will label them as a "confirmed organization" in its archive.

Read more [here](#).

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How The Media Enables Destructive Climate Change Hysteria (The Federalist)

By **DAVID HARSANYI**

Last weekend, the former chairman of psychiatry at Duke University, Dr. Allen Frances, claimed that Donald Trump "may be responsible for many more million deaths" than Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, and Mao Zedong combined. Frances, author of the fittingly titled "Twilight of American Sanity," would later clarify by tweeting that he was talking about the "[t]errible damage Trump is doing to world climate at this global warming tipping point may be irreversible/could kill hundreds of millions of people in the coming decades."

That's quite the bold statement, considering the hefty death toll the Big Three extracted. But, really, it isn't that shocking to hear. Frances' pseudohistoric twaddle comports well with the pseudoscientific twaddle that's been normalized in political discourse. Every year Democrats ratchet up the doomsday scenarios, so we should expect related political rhetoric to become correspondingly unhinged.

All of this is a manifestation of 50 years of scaremongering on climate change. Paul Ehrlich famously promised that "hundreds of millions of people" would "starve to death," while in the real world we saw hunger precipitously drop, and the world become increasingly cleaner. Yet, neo-Malthusians keep coming back with fresh iterations of the same hysteria, ignoring mankind's ability to adapt.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carl Robinson.

Today in History - August 29, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 29, the 241st day of 2019. There are 124 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 29, 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division marched down the Champs Elysees (shahms ay-lee-ZAY') in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.



In this Aug. 29, 1944 file photo, U.S. soldiers of Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division march along the Champs Elysees, with the Arc de Triomphe in the background, four days after the liberation of Paris, France. The fighting for the liberation of Paris took place from Aug. 19 to Aug. 25, 1944. (Peter J. Carroll, AP)

On this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, Alexandria, Virginia, formally surrendered to British military forces, which occupied the city until September 3.

In 1862, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began operations at the United States Treasury.

In 1877, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Brigham Young, died in Salt Lake City, Utah, at age 76.

In 1957, the Senate gave final congressional approval to a Civil Rights Act after South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond (then a Democrat) ended a filibuster that had

lasted 24 hours.

In 1958, pop superstar Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana.

In 1965, Gemini 5, carrying astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles "Pete" Conrad, splashed down in the Atlantic after 8 days in space.

In 1966, the Beatles concluded their fourth American tour with their last public concert, held at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

In 1972, swimmer Mark Spitz of the United States won the third of his seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics, finishing first in the 200-meter freestyle.

In 1982, Academy Award-winning actress Ingrid Bergman died in London on her 67th birthday.

In 1996, the Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominated Al Gore for a second term as vice president. Earlier in the day, President Bill Clinton's chief political strategist, Dick Morris, resigned amid a scandal over his relationship with a prostitute.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

In 2008, Republican presidential nominee John McCain picked Sarah Palin, a maverick conservative who had been governor of Alaska for less than two years, to be his running mate.

Ten years ago: Funeral services were held in Boston for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who was eulogized by President Barack Obama; hours later, Kennedy's remains were buried at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington. Eight people were found beaten to death at a mobile home in Glynn County, Georgia; family member Guy Heinze (hynz) Jr., who reported finding the bodies, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole. Space shuttle Discovery and seven astronauts blazed into orbit on a flight to the international space station.

Five years ago: A federal judge threw out new Texas abortion restrictions that would have effectively closed more than a dozen clinics statewide in a victory for

opponents of tough new anti-abortion laws sweeping across the U.S. (The Supreme Court later struck down parts of the Texas anti-abortion measure as an "undue burden" on access to abortion.)

One year ago: Sen. John McCain was remembered as a "true American hero" at a crowded service at the North Phoenix Baptist Church after a motorcade carried McCain's body from the state Capitol. Kanye West apologized on a Chicago radio station (WGCI) for calling slavery a "choice." The government reported that the economy had grown at a strong 4.2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, the best showing in nearly four years. Paul Taylor, a towering figure in American modern dance, died at a New York hospital at the age of 88.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty Lynn (TV: "The Andy Griffith Show") is 93. Movie director William Friedkin is 84. Actor Elliott Gould is 81. Movie director Joel Schumacher is 80. Actress Deborah Van Valkenburgh is 67. Former Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew is 64. Dancer-choreographer Mark Morris is 63. Country musician Dan Truman (Diamond Rio) is 63. Actress Rebecca DeMornay is 60. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch (GOR'-suhch) is 52. Singer Me'Shell NdegeOcello (n-DAY'-gay-OH'-chehl-oh) is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Carl Martin (Shai) is 49. Actress Carla Gugino is 48. Rock musician Kyle Cook (Matchbox Twenty) is 44. Actor John Hensley is 42. Actress Kate Simses is 40. Rock musician David Desrosiers (Simple Plan) is 39. Rapper A+ is 37. Actress Jennifer Landon is 36. Actor Jeffrey Licon is 34. Actress-singer Lea Michele is 33. Actress Charlotte Ritchie is 30. Actress Nicole Gale Anderson is 29. MLB pitcher Noah Syndergaard (SIHN'-dur-gahrd) is 27. Rock singer Liam Payne (One Direction) is 26.

Thought for Today: "Be yourself. The world worships the original." - Ingrid Bergman (1915-1982).

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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