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# Connecting - September 06, 2019

1 message

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Fri, Sep 6, 2019 at 8:55 AM

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# Connecting

September 06, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019,

Today's issue brings the sad news of the death of our colleague **John Hartzell**, a newsman in the Milwaukee bureau for nearly 40 years, who died Wednesday night at 71. Our thanks to his longtime friend **Jim Carlson** for sharing John's life story with Connecting.

Our colleague **Bobby Baker** ([Email](#)) - retired longtime Richmond chief of communications who is now in home hospice - asked, "Please pass on to all those who dropped me an email my sincere thanks for all the kind words and prayers! They lifted my spirit."

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## John Hartzell, 'voice of the AP' in Wisconsin, dies at 71



**John Hartzell and his daughters, in the early '80s.**

John Hartzell, a reporter and desk supervisor in the AP's Milwaukee bureau for nearly 40 years and who was considered by many Wisconsin members as "the voice of the AP," has died at the age of 71.

Hartzell, who worked in the Milwaukee bureau for his entire career, had been hospitalized with leukemia and went into hospice care a few days before his death Wednesday night, said his wife, Carmella, and daughter, Rose Hartzell-Cushanick, from San Diego. John and Carmella Hartzell had moved from the Milwaukee area to San Diego several years ago to be with their daughters' families, including their grandchildren. He would have turned 72 on September 19.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

In the Milwaukee bureau, Hartzell worked as a reporter and manned news desks, handling breaking news, organizing coverage and working with member newspapers and broadcasters. He joined the AP in June 1969.

"John worked the early shift, rising before dawn and arriving at the bureau just as the staff of many PMs newspapers were arriving for work," recalled T. Lee Hughes, former Milwaukee chief of bureau. "Especially in the days of the slowspeed wire, when wire copy often got backed up, he was often deluged with member requests for re-transmissions and specific stories. During my visits with member editors, they often commented how much they appreciated John's unfailing courtesy and efficiency in meeting their needs. To many of them, he was the voice of the AP."

Former Milwaukee news editor Jim Reindl noted Hartzell's "excellent knowledge of local issues and Wisconsin and a well-developed relationship with the state's member newspapers, which was incredibly important to our report in those days given the size of Wisconsin and the fact we had bureaus only in Milwaukee and Madison to start."

He went on disability in 2008, completing a 39-year career, and officially retired in 2012.

Hartzell is survived by his wife Carmella and two daughters - Jennifer Ann Hansen and Rose Hartzell-Cushanick, both of San Diego, and five grandchildren.

Both daughters recalled when their dad took them to the Milwaukee bureau for Take Your Daughter to Work Day. "We had to be there at 4 or 5 a.m.," Hansen said. "He was such a hard worker. I definitely got my excellent work ethic from him!"

Hartzell-Cushanick remembered when the family was at a Wisconsin Badger game when students charged onto the field pushing over the football goal post. "A number of students got very injured and I remember my dad thinking to call the AP right away to report what had happened since he knew what he witnessed was important news."

If you would like to send a note to his wife Carmella, her address is: [6960 Golfcrest Dr., San Diego, CA 92119](#).

## ***Remembering John Hartzell***

**Jim Carlson** ([Email](#)) - My thoughts of John Hartzell go back a long way - all the way to June 1971 when another staffer and I joined the AP in Milwaukee on the same day. John had already been on the job for a couple years, and our friendship would stretch out almost 40 years.

In those early years, John worked wildly varied schedules each week, starting at 5 a.m. on Monday and winding up working the late shift on Saturday night. He said the only good thing about it was that he always had Sunday off so that he could make it to church. It showed how important his religion was to him from the start.

Our union was also important to him - the same Wire Service Guild that later won work rules to prevent that kind of extreme scheduling. For years, John served as shop steward for Milwaukee.

Like most of us who found our way to AP, he was what some would call a classic news junkie. He had a keen interest in politics and did a great job on the occasional assignments to cover political events.

Over the years, he settled in as early supervisor, opening the bureau and handling breaking news and calls from AP member editors and broadcasters. He had a good rapport with the members, an important part of the job.

And he always had that news sense, to know when something big is happening and how to go about covering it.

He and his wife Carmella liked to get together with AP colleagues and later brought their two daughters along as well. My wife Ellen and I recall one time when we invited the Hartzells to see our new sailboat and they turned out despite the rain that had us all wearing rain gear and looking for cover. It made a great photo.

After he left AP, John showed his usual diligence in compiling commentaries from many news sources on what our polarizing governor was doing in Madison, and

later what was happening in Washington after the 2016 election. His "Grate Scott" and "Trump Makes Us Grate Again" emails kept coming for years.

He was equally concerned about trends in news media - in other words, the decline and deaths of so many newspapers over the past couple decades. His emails alerted us to developments that threaten the business he loved so much.

Through his health challenges, John kept up his singing with his church choir in Milwaukee and later in San Diego where he and Carmella moved to be near their daughters' families.

I was glad he and I could sing together at our farewell party in 2009 on a version of "So long, it's been good to know you."

(A photo of the two of us singing was on the cover of the Wireport of November 2009.)

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**Dan Day (Email)** - I was terribly saddened to hear of the death of John Hartzell, one of the great members of the Milwaukee staff who brought me into the AP and graciously showed me the ropes.

John and I worked a lot of early-morning shifts together, and I remember how he'd pounce on the phone whenever it rang. He was a model of energy and efficiency in fending off whatever came into the bureau in the Milwaukee Sentinel building. It was John who taught me how to maneuver stories on the old slow-speed Wisconsin PMS wire, pounding away on the old push-button console that was parked next to the "mouse" computers.

John was tenderly devoted to his wife, Carmella, and his children. A true romantic, John would place an ad for Carmella in the Journal-Sentinel classifieds every Valentine's Day. I became a new father when our daughter, Katie, was born a few months after I joined the service in 1981, and John became a mentor to me, coaching me on how to be a loving father merely by describing his own family.

One morning John and I were sitting side by side and I felt a weird sensation in my shirt. I opened a couple of buttons and fished out a baby bootie. It had clung to my T-shirt from static electricity in the cold, dry Milwaukee winter. John and I laughed uproariously.

One of the legendary stories about John passed along to me by MI colleagues was that when John and Carmella set their wedding date, John penciled "JDH" onto the vacation sign-up sheet that was pinned to a bulletin board. John would check that sheet every day as he arrived to make sure no one with more seniority had bumped him.

Fairly close to the wedding, a couple of guys in the bureau decided to have a bit of fun and crossed out John's initials from the week of his wedding and wrote in the initials of another member of the staff.

As I recall the telling, for some reason John took his time going to the vacation sheet the next day, making the pranksters wait an inordinately long time. Finally, John went over to the board, cried out, ripped the sign-up sheet away and stomped over to the office of bureau chief Dion Henderson.

The matter was all sorted out and John got his time off.

John Hartzell was a terrific newsman, devoted to his family. I am sorry he has left us too soon.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Best of luck with what's next, Rickie T*

**Karl Swanson** ([Email](#)) - Rickie T (as Rick Pienciak was known back in the day) and I started working together on nights in the NY Buro, brought in by the inimitable Craig Ammerman. Rick and I started many a shift grabbing a "dirty dog" in the Nathan's below 50 Rock, and a dinner break with a rum and coke across the street at Brew Burger. He was a newsman, I was night supervisor. We collaborated on stories big and small, but it was those social times we shared that made the Buro Desk more than just a job. Rick added a nicely twisted perspective to every conversation and observation. He was, and I'm sure is, one of a kind. Best of luck with what's next, Rickie T.

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## ***A 'beating Washington' story - from someone who later became AP's Washington bureau chief***

**Sandy Johnson** ([Email](#)) - I have a "beating Washington" story too. When extremists attacked a military parade in Cairo in 1981, they fired on VIPs including Egyptian president Anwar Sadat. The wire buzzed with urgent after urgent update about whether Sadat was injured. I was staffing the desk in Sioux Falls, S.D., and took a call from then Sen. Larry Pressler. The senator said he wanted to relay his shock and condolences on the death of Sadat. I said, "Did you just say Sadat is dead?" Pressler, then a member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, said the committee members had just been briefed that Sadat been assassinated. I thanked him, and quickly got off the call. I dialed Washington, explained to an editor who shall remain anonymous that I had a statement from Sen. Pressler that Sadat was dead. I gave him all the notes I had. He said thank you and hung up. I watched the wire waiting for the bulletin citing Sen. Pressler as a source. It never came. AP was hours behind on that story. I transferred to WX two years later. The editor was still there, but I never mentioned the Sadat story to him.

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### ***'I like the AP version better!'***

**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - David Morris' wonderful retelling of AP re-scooping itself via CNN reminded me of a similar experience while working as a student intern at The Courier of Waterloo, Iowa, in the mid 1970s. One summer day the "State" edition - mostly news from northeastern Iowa - published a photo of a clever street sign or some such. The image ran landscape on the back page of the edition over either two or three columns in an eight-column layout.

Someone from Des Moines AP saw the photo in the mailed edition, called the Courier photo staff and asked them to transmit it over the state photo split.

The next day the same photo was displayed large above the fold on Page One with an AP Photo credit. Holding up his copy of the front page, Chief Photographer Jim Humphrey came out of the photo department and announced loudly in the direction of the editing desk "I like the AP version better!"

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## ***Jerry Nachtigal among 6 to be honored as South Dakota State University Distinguished Alums in 2019***

BROOKINGS - Six graduates from the 1960s, '70s and '80s will be honored as Distinguished Alumni of South Dakota State University during activities on Hobo Day weekend Oct. 4-5.

Those to be honored are:

- \* David Lane, Naples, Florida, Class of '86;
- \* Barry Markl, Fountain Hills, Arizona, Class of '68;
- \* Jerry Nachtigal (deceased), Class of '81;
- \* Larry Ness, Yankton, Class of '69;
- \* Pamela Roberts, Pierre, Class of '77;
- \* Shirley Sneve, Lincoln, Nebraska, Class of '78.



**Jerry Nachtigal**

**From the story:** Nachtigal, a Brookings native, earned a degree in journalism and began an 18-year career with the Associated Press. He then served four years as communications director for the Missouri governor's office. In 2003, he returned to South Dakota as senior vice president of public affairs for Citibank. He died from cancer April 16, 2017.

Read more [here](#).

## **AP names 4 to global religion team**



**By Lauren Easton**

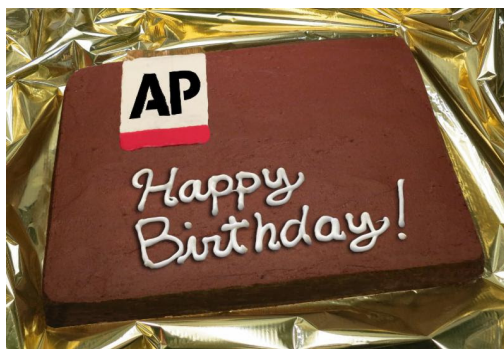
AP Global Religion Editor Sally Stapleton sent this memo to staff Thursday announcing four additions to AP's new religion team:

In late April, AP announced the launch of a global religion team, along with Religion News Service and The Conversation, with a \$4.9 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. We're happy to let you know about some of the journalists joining us in New York and Cairo. Three colleagues will begin in September in the roles of news editor, national reporter for religion and politics, and Islam reporter.

Some of you may know our new colleagues but many of you will be familiar with the talented work done by former WSJ investigative reporter Gary Fields, AP national political reporter Elana Schor and former WSJ and Bloomberg reporter Mariam Fam, who is returning to the AP and Cairo. They join former Boston Globe Spotlight reporter Michael Rezendes, who started this spring in Boston and will relocate to New York this month as an investigative correspondent focusing on religion.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Al Habhab - [judgealbertandjanethabhab@mchsi.com](mailto:judgealbertandjanethabhab@mchsi.com)**

**Cliff Schiappa - [schiappa@aol.com](mailto:schiappa@aol.com)**

**Karen Testa Wong - [testawong@gmail.com](mailto:testawong@gmail.com)**

***On Sunday to...***

Steve Paul - [stevepaul92@gmail.com](mailto:stevepaul92@gmail.com)

Glenn White - [gcwhite1@gmail.com](mailto:gcwhite1@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Newsboys: How Child Labor Helped Build the U.S. Newspaper Industry*** (SUM/City University of New York)

Thousands of children and teenagers worked as newsboys in the U.S. in the 19th and early 20th centuries. They sold newspapers on city streets, on moving trains, in frontier towns, and even on Civil War battlefields. Many were sent to work by their impoverished immigrant families. Others lived on the streets or in group homes run by social welfare organizations. Publishers relied on newsboys to get newspapers into customers' hands, and the news industry successfully fought efforts to ban newsboys as child labor. Instead, newspapers promoted newsboys as symbols of the American dream who overcame poverty through hard work.

This fascinating history is laid out in a new book, *Crying the News: A History of America's Newsboys*, by Professor Vincent DiGirolamo (Baruch College). DiGirolamo details how these newsboys (and some newsgirls) lived and worked, but he also explores how their labor helped build the news business, and how they were perceived in the culture at large.

Often the newsboys' workday began well before dawn. They'd collect papers hot off the presses, then aggressively market them to customers by yelling out (and sometimes embellishing) the headlines. To preserve this cheap workforce of children, some as young as 5, newspaper owners "instituted an amazing array of welfare schemes, such as newsboy banquets, excursions, bands, teams, reading rooms, and night schools, to silence critics and better discipline the children's labor," DiGirolamo said in an email interview. Through articles, editorials and ads, publishers and editors also promoted the notion that working as a newsboy was a path to success.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Beth Harpaz.

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## ***AP BOOK EXCERPT: The 'Enemy of the People'*** (New York Times)

**By The Associated Press**

EDITOR'S NOTE - September 1st, 2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the beginning of World War II. In March 1933, six years before the war began, Adolf Hitler's storm troopers violently shut down a small German newspaper - the Munich Post - that had devoted close to a decade warning about Hitler's dangers to a free society and peaceful nation.

The raid on the Post occurred soon after Hitler rose to power. The newspaper had incurred the Nazi leader's wrath with its publication of embarrassing secrets about the Nazis and of documents leaked to the Post revealing Hitler's nefarious plans.

Had Germans paid heed to the Munich Post and others who dared to defy Hitler, World War II and the Holocaust would not have occurred. The following is excerpted from a recent biography published by The Associated Press called, "Enemy of the People: The Munich Post and the Journalists Who Opposed Hitler" by Terrence Petty:

Read more [here](#).

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## ***How The Times Uses FOIA to Obtain Information the Public Has a Right to Know*** (New York Times)

**By David McCraw**

*In an effort to shed more light on how we work, The Times is running a series of short posts explaining some of our journalistic practices. Read more from this series [here](#).*

The anonymous note was secretly tucked into an envelope, behind an official letter from a government agency denying our reporter's request for documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

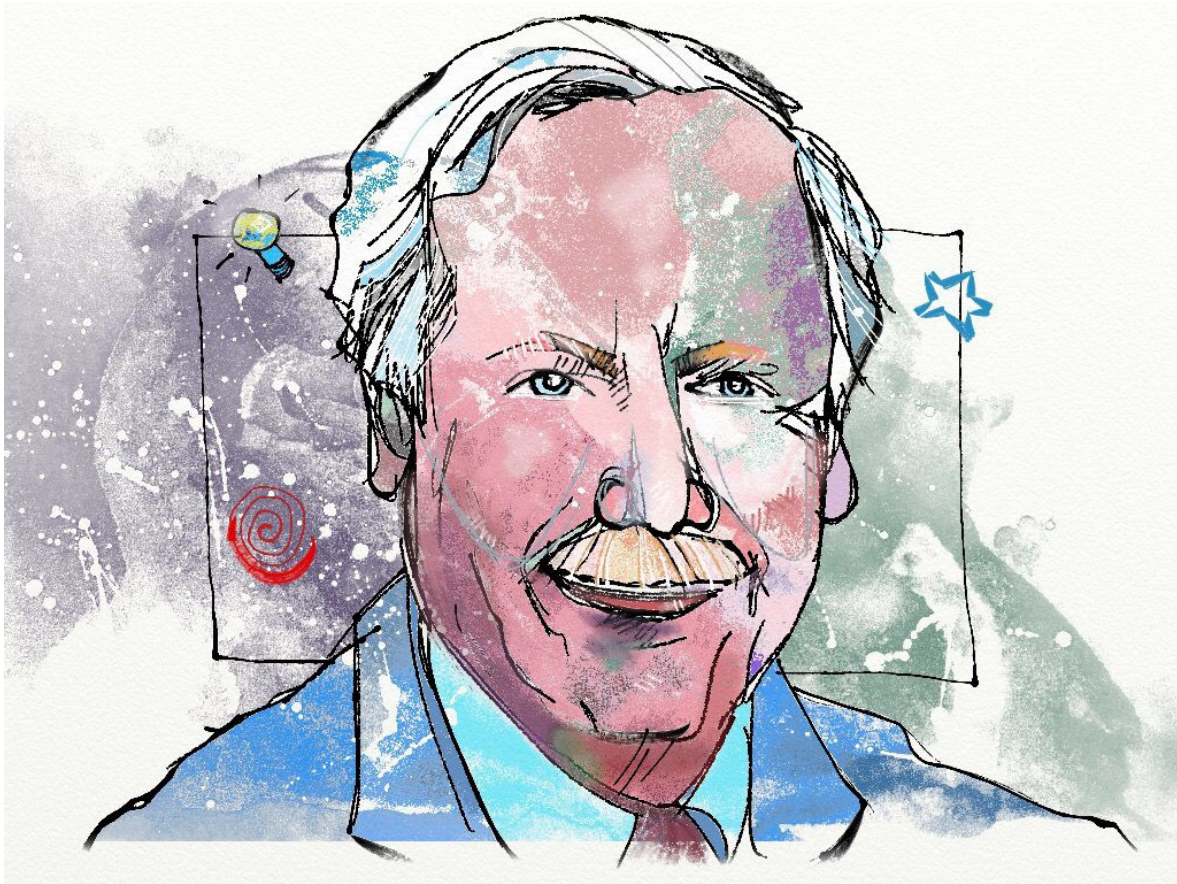
It apparently came from someone deep in the agency's FOIA bureaucracy. The request sought government documents related to the president's business interests. Typed in large-font print on plain paper, the inserted note said: "The processing of the request was highly irregular. The withholding was entirely unjustified ... The document was probably withheld for political reasons."

I had never seen such a whistle-blower note before, but it brought into sharp focus what we face every day in The New York Times's legal department as we continue to push against government secrecy through the use of FOIA. Whether it is helping our reporters as they go after documents in Washington and the Virgin Islands related to Jeffrey Epstein, or suing the C.I.A. over its refusal to release information about the United States' war efforts in Syria, we have made FOIA a centerpiece of our legal work at The Times.

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

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***The legendary editor who discovered 'Cathy' and 'The Boondocks' - and guided 'Doonesbury'*** (Washington Post)



Longtime comics editor Lee Salem. (The Washington Post)

**By Michael Cavanaugh**

Lee Salem's name was little known outside industry circles, yet for the better part of four decades, perhaps no editor had a greater impact on what newspaper comics tens of millions of people read over their coffee and juice boxes every morning.

He signed up "Calvin and Hobbes" and "Cul de Sac" and "For Better or For Worse." He discovered "The Boondocks" and "Cathy." He guided "Doonesbury" and "Fox Trot" and "The Far Side," among many other successful features. Meaning that beginning in 1974, when he joined Kansas City's fledgling Universal Press Syndicate, he had a highly influential hand in the last golden age of newspaper comics.

Salem steered strips and other syndicated features with reassuring wisdom and insight, as well as a native New Englander's unflappable reserve, which is why many writers and artists are especially mourning the longtime comics editor, who died Monday at age 73.

Salem, who retired in 2014 as president emeritus of the syndicate (now called Andrews McMeel Syndication), was renowned within the industry for having his creators' backs in times of controversy and then dealing with rankled newspaper editors and persistent media inquiries with a gentlemanly charm.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Martha Malan.

## Today in History - September 6, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2019. There are 116 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Sept. 6, 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said tough interrogation had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

### **On this date:**

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent a telegram from Indian Harbor, Labrador, announcing that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1949, Howard Unruh, a resident of Camden, N.J., shot and killed 13 of his neighbors. (Found to have paranoid schizophrenia, Unruh was confined for the rest of his life; he died in a Trenton nursing home in 2009 at age 88.)

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that claimed the lives of eleven Israelis and five Arab abductors.

In 1985, all 31 people aboard a Midwest Express Airlines DC-9 were killed when the Atlanta-bound jetliner crashed just after takeoff from Milwaukee's Mitchell Field.

In 1995, Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing his two-thousand-131st consecutive game.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

In 2003, Justine Henin-Hardenne (EH'-nihn ahr-DEHN') won the all-Belgian women's singles final at the U.S. Open, beating countrywoman Kim Clijsters (KLY'-sturz), 7-5, 6-1.

In 2004, in Iraq, seven members of the First Marine Division from Camp Pendleton, California, and three U.S.-trained Iraqi soldiers were killed by a car bomb near Fallujah.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic, pounded Puerto Rico with heavy rain and powerful winds; authorities said more than

900,000 people were without power. (Hurricane Maria, which would destroy the island's power grid, arrived two weeks later.) A California parole panel recommended parole for Leslie Van Houten, who at 19 was the youngest of Charles Manson's murderous followers in 1969. (California Gov. Jerry Brown later blocked her release.)

Ten years ago: The White House announced the resignation of President Barack Obama's environmental adviser Van Jones, who'd become embroiled in a controversy over past inflammatory statements; Jones cited what he called a "vicious smear campaign" against him.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in an interview taped for NBC's "Meet the Press," said the surge of immigrant children entering the U.S. illegally had changed the politics surrounding the issue of immigration and led him to put off a pledge to use executive action that could have shielded millions of people from deportation.

One year ago: One after another, President Donald Trump's top lieutenants stepped forward to deny being the author of a New York Times opinion piece that purportedly came from a member of an administration "resistance" movement. The agent for actor Burt Reynolds confirmed that Reynolds, known for his roles in "Deliverance," "The Cannonball Run" and "Smokey and the Bandit," had died at the age of 82. Nike aired a controversial ad featuring Colin Kaepernick during the NFL season opener. Twitter permanently banned right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and his Infowars show for abusive behavior. A Dallas police officer fatally shot her neighbor, saying afterward that she had mistaken his apartment for her own. (Testimony in Amber Guyger's murder trial is scheduled to begin later this month.) India's Supreme Court struck down a law that made gay sex punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 84. Country singer David Allan Coe is 80. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 76. Actress Swoosie Kurtz is 75. Comedian-actress Jane Curtin is 72. Rock musician Mick Mashbir is 71. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 67. Actor James Martin Kelly is 65. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 62. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 61. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 61. Rock musician Perry Bamonte is 59. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 58. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 58. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 58. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 57. Rock musician Kevin Miller is 57. ABC News correspondent Elizabeth Vargas is 57. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 56. Actress Betsy Russell is 56. Actress Rosie Perez is 55. Rhythm and blues singer Macy Gray is 52. Country songwriter Lee Thomas Miller (Songs: "The Impossible" "You're Gonna Miss This") is 51. Singer CeCe Peniston is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Anthony (Az Yet) is 50. Actress Daniele Gaither is 49. Actor Dylan Bruno is 47. Actor Idris Elba is 47. Actress Justina Machado is 47. Actress Anika Noni (ah-NEE'-kuh NOH'-nee) Rose is 47. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 45. Actor Justin Whalin is 45. Actress Naomie Harris is 43. Rapper Noreaga is 42. Actress Natalia Cigliuti is 41. Rapper Foxy Brown is 41. Actor Howard Charles is 36. Actress/singer Deborah Joy



Winans is 36. Actress Lauren Lapkus is 34. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) is 31.

**Thought for Today: "The lesson of history is rarely learned by the actors themselves." - James A. Garfield, 20th president of the United States (1831-1881).**

## 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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