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Connecting - September 11, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

September 11, 2019

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The 9/11 Tribute in Light as seen from Liberty State Park. Photo/Jim Gerberich

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 11th day of September 2019,

Today is the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Connecting believes it is worth reminding our readers how The Associated Press covered the events of that day.

We present you this recap from **Mark Mittelstadt** that appeared in the quarterly APME News magazine months after the attacks. AP was headquartered at 50 Rockefeller Plaza at the time - 4.7 miles from the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Today, AP headquarters rests right next door to where the towers once stood. Click on this link to view:

[AP coverage of Sept. 11.](#)

How did your life change after 9/11? How have your feelings or emotions of that day changed over the past 18 years? If you would like to share some thoughts with your colleagues, send along today.

Connecting leads with the sad news of the death of our colleague **Joe McKnight**, a 41-year AP veteran and frequent contributor to our newsletter. Joe died Monday at his home in Columbus at the age of 94. In the first 13 years of his retirement, Joe produced the Cleartime newsletter for AP retirees. If you have a favorite memory of Joe, please share with your colleagues.

-30-, my friend.

Have a good, reflective day!

Paul

Joe McKnight, 41-year AP veteran and former Cleartime editor, dies at 94



Click on image or link at left for story how AP covered 9/11.



In this 1986 photo, Columbus enterprise editor Joe McKnight (right) shows off his 35-Year AP pin to broadcast editor Andrea Weisgerber and Chief of Bureau Jake Booher. Photo/AP Corporate Archives

Longtime Associated Press reporter and editor Joe McKnight, an Alabama native who spent most of his 41-year career in Ohio and then in retirement wrote a column for AP retirees, has died at his home in Columbus. He was 94.

His wife Peggy McKnight says he died Monday after his health began failing several weeks ago.

The Selma native said in a Connecting profile published last year that "I got printer's ink in my blood at the age of 12 when I began delivering a route for The Selma (AL) Times-Journal and it's never left."

He joined The Associated Press in Atlanta in 1951, hired by CoB Lew Hawkins, and worked there until transferring to Birmingham in 1959. McKnight was named AP's

Wichita correspondent in 1963 and served there for four years before joining the Columbus bureau in 1967.

Over his 24 years with AP in Ohio, he served as state enterprise editor and assistant chief of bureau. He was hired by Columbus CoB Al Dopking and also worked with Columbus bureau chiefs Burl Osborne, Jim Lagier, Bill DiMascio and Jake Booher. "I feel lucky to have worked with so many good bureau leaders," McKnight said.



Joe in 1951

Sheila Gardner, who worked with McKnight in the Columbus bureau, remembered "he was always helpful and encouraging to me as a young staffer, and a true 'southern gentleman.' Andy Lippman was Cincinnati correspondent when McKnight worked in Columbus and said, "He was always encouraging and friendly to me, and had nice things to say about the bureau. He also tried hard to improve your writing."

In summarizing his career in the Connecting profile, McKnight said, "It took several years for me to realize I stumbled into a career with the best company in the world for a journalist. I made many mistakes, but the late Wick Temple was often quoted as saying it is better to make mistakes than to do nothing. It was a great way to spend 41 years."



Peggy and Joe McKnight in 2016

After retirement, McKnight served 13 years as editor of Cleartime, an AP retiree newsletter/column.

He and his wife were avid skiers, both water and snow, and McKnight played tennis until two years ago. He enjoyed woodworking, genealogy, organizing family pictures and publishing an annual newsletter for his high school class of 1943 in Selma.

Besides Betty, his wife of 69 years, he is survived by their three sons - Alan, Brian and Jonathan, four grandsons and one great-grandson.

Asked by Connecting if he would do it all over again if given the chance, he replied, "Yes." And is there anything he would change? "Damn little," he replied.

AP Teletype has a new home in family owned North Carolina newspaper



Pictured left to right are Circulation Manager Barbara Conley, Reporter Alex Perri, Account Executive T.L. Smith, Classified Manager Linda McCants (behind plastic), Editor John Lanier, News Editor Derek McKissock, Typesetter Carol Martin, Bookkeeper Willow Walker, Reporter Matt McGregor, Account Executive Angie Baney, Production Foreman David Metcalfe, Co-Publisher Sean Trapp and reporter Jeremiah Reed. (Photo by Park Baker)

Ric Feld ([Email](#)) - Staff at the Transylvania Times gathered around their newly acquired vintage AP Teletype now on display in the lobby of the newspaper in Brevard, North Carolina.

After years of service in the Atlanta bureau, a complete rebuild by Craig Davis and Company in AP Tech and stints in Tallahassee and Orlando, the Teletype now has a "forever home" at the family owned local AP member paper.

I was an AP staff photographer from 1983 - 2006 based in Atlanta. AP has been in my blood since I graduated from SI Newhouse/Syracuse University. My first job was with a community paper in the D.C. area and WX Photo Editor Toby Massey took me on as my AP mentor. I kept after him as to the path to an AP position through stints at the Manassas Journal Messenger and the Orlando Sentinel until the AP hired me in Atlanta.

In my early years working for a PM paper, I assembled the morning drive news for a radio station by cutting and pasting from their AP Teletype. After acquiring the teletype in Atlanta it adorned my home offices, moving with me several times. On my last move we ran out of 'office space' so I began searching for a newspaper home where other journalists could continue to enjoy some AP history.

Sean Trapp, co-publisher of the Times, came through and an AP original lives on in the Western Carolinas.

Connecting mailbox

By night at the Sentinel, by day at the Journal

Robert O'Meara ([Email](#)) - Terry Ganey's article about the bifurcated St. Louis bureau (Connecting, Sept. 10) reminds me of a similar situation in Milwaukee.

When I joined the AP in 1948 the main bureau was next to the city room of the afternoon Journal. That's where COB Bill Weekes presided, not in an office but at a desk in the corner.

Our night office at the morning Sentinel was six blocks away, also next to the city room and next to the Teletype machine that connected William Randolph Hearst to his Sentinel employees.

After a workday at the office in the Journal we would gather all the information on working stories and walk to the Sentinel building. The night editor was Charlie Huston, like me a veteran of World War II, but we never talked about our service, probably because it was so noisy in that tiny room with its Teletype machines.

Western Union operator Ed Lohr also worked there, taking stories from our Madison capital correspondent, which we typed up and prepared for the early report next day.

About midnight, after preparing the early PMs report, we would gather everything needed and head for the day office at the Journal.

There were reports that sometimes staffers would stop at the nearby Big Stein tavern, but that was never proved.

-0-

Why he published story on murder of black man on Page One

Jim Willis ([Email](#)) - Cathy Wolfe's reference (Connecting, Sept. 10) to how race affected covering murders during the '70s reminded me of some of my own experiences.

I was having dinner with friends one night when one of the participants, the president of a predominately black junior college, noted we had published a story on the murder of a black man on page one of the Birmingham Post-Herald that day. I was editor of the newspaper and my friend suggested we had done that only because it involved violence in the black community.

I told him, no, that as a young reporter 30 years earlier, I wasn't allowed to write news stories on "LBMs." That was the newsroom term for little black murders in the '70s when I was a reporter at the Memphis Press-Scimitar. I promised myself that the killings of black folks would be just as tragic and just as newsworthy as the killings of white folks if I ever got to the point I could make coverage decisions.

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Stopped on way to bureau by officer who got dust in his eyes

David Tirrell-Wysocki ([Email](#)) - Mike Holmes' story (Connecting, Sept. 10) about not getting a speeding ticket while on the way to his burning bureau reminded me of a ticket I didn't get - probably because the officer had too much dust in his eyes.

I was speeding to the Concord bureau in - as they say - the "pre-dawn darkness." No fire. Just enjoying having the road to myself, or so I thought. As I flew over a small hill on a back road, I saw a cruiser parked in a dirt area off to the side. The

officer leaned forward to hit the blues as I passed, so I swerved off the road and came to a quick stop in front of him.

I rolled down the window as the officer approached in the cloud of dust I had stirred up. He coughed, waved the dust away from his face and asked if I knew how fast I had been going.

"Sixty-five," I confessed.

"Your speedometer (cough) is accurate," he said.

After a few minutes in the cruiser, where he learned my otherwise stellar driving record would fit on a sticky note, he returned, coughed, handed back my paperwork with no ticket and sent me on my way.

But wait, there's more.

At the bureau, I sent the "Good morning" message to let members know we were open. The phone lit up. Seems every broadcast newsperson in the area had shared in my adventure via their police scanners.

I did not make the news, but their calls made my morning.

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On the Iowa Caucus coverage trail again

John Gaps ([Email](#)) - Well, I'm working 16-hours a day again. I've been covering the Iowa Caucus campaign full time now. On my own dime.

I've launched our website - **USANewsIowa** - <https://www.usanewsiowa.com/> - and I would love to hear what my Connecting colleagues think. I'm writing again also, although if someone points out a typo (I'm my own editor) I just attribute it to a speech impediment in my typing. I'm having more fun than ever as I can show words and pictures exactly as I'd envisioned when working for AP.

Stories of interest

Local newspapers are suffering, but they're still (by far) the most significant journalism producers in their communities (Nieman)

By PHILIP NAPOLI AND JESSICA MAHONE

Local newspapers have always been the epicenter of local news ecosystems. While communities may have other sources of journalism, such as TV and radio stations and online-only outlets, the bulk of the reporting serving local communities has traditionally been provided by local newspapers.

Local newspapers have also been hit particularly hard by the economic challenges confronting local journalism, which raises questions about whether these papers still serve as the lynchpins of local reporting in their communities, and whether other types of outlets are stepping up to take their place.

With these questions in mind, we conducted a study that explores which types of outlets are the most significant producers of journalism in 100 randomly sampled communities across the U.S. This study is a continuation of previous research, in which we produced an inventory of all media outlets located within these 100 communities, and gathered a week's worth of news stories found on these outlets' home pages (over 16,000 stories in total). We then analyzed these stories to determine whether they met each of the following three criteria: 1) was the story original; 2) was the story local; and 3) did the story address a critical information need. More methodological detail can be found in our full report.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

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UNC's School of Journalism and Media gets largest gift ever and a new name (News & Observer)



Images of Walter Hussman and his wife, Ben, meeting with Susan King, the dean of UNC's School of Media and Journalism, at their home in Carmel, California, on August 6, 2019. The School of Media and Journalism will now be known as the Hussman School of Journalism and Media following a \$25 million gift by alumnus Walter Hussman. (Johnny Andrews/UNC-Chapel Hill)

By KATE MURPHY

CHAPEL HILL - Integrity, credibility and fearlessness will guide the students and the faculty of the newly named University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

With a \$25 million endowed gift, the largest in the school's history, Carolina alumnus Walter Hussman Jr. and his family are investing in the future of journalism with hopes of restoring the public's trust in the media.

"I think the solution is to get back to these bedrock values of journalism," said Hussman, chairman of WEHCO Media Inc., which owns newspapers, magazines and cable television companies in six states. "To explain to the public this is what we believe and let them know what we believe."

Hussman's core values of impartiality, credibility and truth are printed in every issue of the family's 10 newspapers and will be etched in granite at the entrance of Carroll Hall, home to UNC's award winning and nationally recognized journalism program.

The Hussman School will be the fifth named school at Carolina, along with the Kenan-Flagler Business School, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Eshelman

School of Pharmacy and Adams School of Dentistry.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Newspapers turn to lobbying against Facebook and Google (Axios)

By SARA FISCHER

Senior executives from 7 major newspaper publishing companies will head to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to convince lawmakers to do something about the dominance of tech companies over content creators, executives tell Axios.

Why it matters: This will be just the 2nd time that the newspaper industry has sent members to formally lobby members of Congress. It speaks to the major increase in lobbying efforts that the newspaper industry has used in recent years to combat the economic decline of its industry.

The big picture: "Our belief is that the current antitrust laws don't allow us to work together," says Timothy Knight, CEO of Tribune Publishing Company. "I view what we're trying to do as rethinking how the game is played."

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

The Final Word



The American flag at the 9/11 Museum flies at half staff on the eve of the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Photo/Jim Gerberich

Today in History - September 11, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2019. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 11, 2001, America faced an unprecedented day of terror as 19 al-Qaida members hijacked four passenger jetliners, sending two of the planes smashing into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania, resulting in nearly 3,000 deaths.

On this date:

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des

Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1967, the comedy-variety program "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered on CBS.

In 1970, Ford Motor Co. introduced the Pinto, a compact that would become caught up in controversy over the safety of its gas tank. (The Pinto was discontinued in 1980.)

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) died during a violent military coup.

In 1998, Congress released Kenneth Starr's voluminous report that offered graphic details of President Clinton's alleged sexual misconduct and leveled accusations of perjury and obstruction of justice; the president's attorneys quickly issued a point-by-point rebuttal.

In 2006, in a prime-time address, President George W. Bush invoked the memory of the victims of the 9/11 attacks as he staunchly defended the war in Iraq, though he acknowledged that Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the attacks.

In 2007, a new Osama bin Laden videotape was released on the sixth anniversary of 9/11; in it, the al-Qaida leader's voice is heard commemorating one of the suicide hijackers and calling on young Muslims to follow his example by martyring themselves in attacks.

In 2008, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims.

In 2012, a mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Ten years ago: On his first 9/11 anniversary as president, Barack Obama urged Americans to come together in service just as they united after the terrorist attacks. Anti-abortion activist James Pouillon (PUHL'-yuhn) was shot to death near a high school in Owosso, Michigan. (Harlan James Drake was convicted of first-degree murder in the killing of Pouillon and the owner of a gravel pit, Mike Fuoss, and sentenced to life in prison.) Death claimed Hollywood writer Larry Gelbart at age 81 and poet and punk rocker Jim Carroll at age 60.

Five years ago: In a joint statement, 10 Arab states promised to "do their share" to fight Islamic State militants, but NATO member Turkey refused to join in.

One year ago: About 1.7 million people in three states were warned to get out of the way of Hurricane Florence, which was taking dead aim on the Carolinas. With Florence bearing down on the Southeast coast, President Donald Trump turned attention back to the federal government response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico a year earlier, deeming it "incredibly successful" despite a recent federal report finding that nearly 3,000 people died.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Earl Holliman is 91. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 80. Movie director Brian De Palma is 79. Singer-actress-dancer Lola Falana is 77. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 76. Singer-guitarist Leo Kottke is 74. Actor Phillip Alford is 71. Actress Amy Madigan is 69. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 66. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 66. Actor Reed Birney is 65. Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson is 62. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 62. Actor Scott Patterson is 61. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 61. Actress/director Roxann Dawson is 61. Actor John Hawkes is 60. Actress Anne Ramsay is 59. Actress Virginia Madsen is 58. Actress Kristy McNichol is 57. Musician-composer Moby is 54. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 54. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 52. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 52. Rock musician Bart Van Der Zeeuw is 51. Actress Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 49. Actress Laura Wright is 49. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 48. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 48. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 44. Rapper Mr. Black is 42. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 42. Rapper Ludacris is 42. Rock singer Ben Lee is 41. Actor Ryan Slattery is 41. Actress Ariana Richards is 40. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady Antebellum) is 38. Actress Elizabeth Henstridge is 32. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 32. Actress Mackenzie Aladjem is 18.

Thought for Today: "A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet and essayist (1803-1882).

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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