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Connecting - September 12, 2019

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com> Thu, Sep 12, 2019 at 8:59 AM
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Connecting

September 12, 2019

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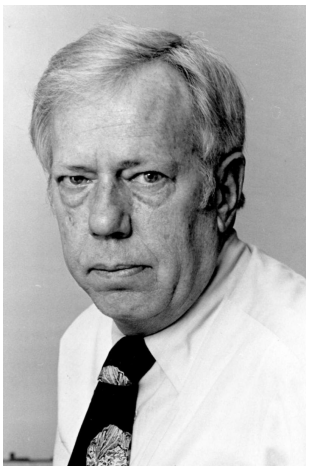
Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 12th day of September 2019,

Each of us remembered the horrors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in our own ways - and two of your Connecting colleagues contributed their memories to share in today's issue. We lead with their stories. Not too late to share your own stories...

If you would like to send a note of condolence to **Peggy McKnight**, wife of our colleague **Joe McKnight** who died on Monday, her address is: 1142 Rockport Lane, Columbus, OH 43235. Joe served the AP for 41 years and then in retirement edited a retiree publication, Cleartime.



Joe during his Columbus days. Photo/AP Corporate Archives

Connecting colleague **Mike Holmes** recalled: "Joe McKnight was our enterprise editor when I was named news editor in Columbus way back when. Joe was a gentleman of the first order and as solid a newsman as they came. His advice to a young editor was priceless."

Have a great day!

Paul

Your memories of 9/11

Sean Thompson (**Email**) - Here's a photo of mine from the first Memorial in Light, taken on the last night it was lit on Sunday, April 13, 2002, from the waterfront in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. It's the only photo I have that is with the Library of Congress and also in the 9/11 Museum Collection.

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Robert Reid (**Email**) - On Sept. 11, 2001, I was working in the AP bureau In Brussels, an important European post long on creature comforts but short on adrenaline.

The bureau's mission was to report on important issues including introduction of the euro common currency and the shaping of the European Union along lines that are

now under assault by Brexit and the rise of nationalism.

Although the staffers were doing important work, I wasn't. I was European News Editor, a high-sounding job with little authority. New York called the shots, and the bureau chiefs enjoyed great autonomy. My days were filled with passing instructions from the foreign desk to the bureaus or dreaming up stories that I doubt many people ever read. I felt like a fifth wheel.

All that was about to change in ways I couldn't have imagined. What began as a quiet, routine day would define the rest of my career.

I wish 9/11 had never happened. The pain it caused for millions of people will last their entire lives.

Since 9/11 did happen, however, I'm grateful for the opportunities it opened for me.

The terrible events of 9/11 began unfolding at mid-afternoon in Brussels. Like millions of others, I sat in front of a television set transfixed, watching the North Tower hit, the Pentagon under attack, the World Trade Center buildings collapse. It was so difficult to process those images that I remember phoning Ellen Nimmons in New York and asking: "Did the building really collapse?"

Days later, International Editor Sally Jacobsen called and asked if I would fly to Islamabad and take charge of a ramped-up control desk being organized to manage the reporting and editing from Afghanistan as America geared up for war.

Except for a break at Christmas, the assignment lasted a year - through the beginning of the war, the fall of Kabul, the first attacks against Americans, the kidnap-slaying of Wall Street Journal correspondent Daniel Pearl by Islamic extremists and much more.

About two weeks after I returned to Brussels - and a much-needed vacation in southern France and Spain - I was asked to go to Cairo to help with preparations for another post-9/11 war - in Iraq.

For the next decade, my life was absorbed by the currents unleashed on 9/11 - the "Forever Wars," al-Qaida, Fallujah, Ramadi, Abu Ghraib, suicide bombings, the Iraq surge, the Afghan surge, the Arab Spring, the death of Moammar Gadhafi and the killing of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, a pleasant hill town I'd remembered fondly as a great place for lunch.

I loved it. I loved all the great colleagues I met from all over the world - some of whom died in service of the AP. I loved the challenge of reporting truly historic events. (I could have done without some of the post-midnight demands for rewrites but nothing's perfect.)

And for me, it sure beat European Union summits.

Robert H. "Bob" Reid served as acting news editor in Islamabad; assignment editor for the Iraq invasion; correspondent and later Chief of Bureau in Baghdad; News Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan; and Middle East Regional Editor before retiring in Berlin in 2014.

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Bill Kaczor (**Email**) - I was the Pensacola correspondent on 9-11 but was on temporary duty in Tallahassee that day covering a meeting of Florida's unique Governor and Cabinet. The latter is made up of other statewide elected officials who preside together with the governor over several state agencies. The meeting was held in an office building away from the capitol because the panel's regular meeting room was being remodeled. We already knew of early reports of a plane crash in New York but early in the meeting Gov. Jeb Bush was called away to take a phone call. Shortly thereafter the meeting was canceled and the capitol was ordered evacuated. I spoke briefly with Bush just before he departed from the meeting but at that time, he said he knew little about the situation.

I was immediately sent back to Pensacola to begin the biggest wild goose chase of my career. As the names of the hijackers, mostly Saudis, emerged, the AP started matching them to names of people in the United States. Several of them were shown to live or had lived in Pensacola. I was provided a list of names and addresses and began knocking on doors and talking to apartment managers scattered in a two-county area of the Florida Panhandle. After spending an entire day of this, it soon became apparent that none of the names on my list were hijackers. The names were the Arabic equivalent of Jones or Smith and shared with some of the Saudi air force personnel who had been sent to Pensacola Naval Air Station and nearby Whiting Field for training. In fact, some of the addresses were for on-base housing.

PHIL COALE /The Associated Press

Florida Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Cheryl Burris works at a console to identify air traffic entering the Southeast United States at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City.

My attention next focused on Panhandle military bases. One of the first stories I wrote was about the likely role that the highly secretive Air Force Special Operations Command would play in the upcoming war on terror. Base officials of course were mum, but I spoke to a couple retired officers in the area, including Gen. Chuck Horner, who had led the "shock and awe" air campaign in the Persian Gulf War, to get a sense of what the command's role would be. My lede was: "'Any time, any place'" is the motto for a major component of the Air Force Special Operations Command. Just don't ask when or where." It would be five months later before I was invited to Hurlburt to interview some of the veterans of the ensuing and still ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. They included combat controllers who accompanied Army special forces units, some on horseback, to call in air strikes.

Tyndall Air Force Base, recently mangled by Hurricane Michael, was headquarters for the 1st Air Force, a unit composed almost entirely of Air National Guard personnel. It is part of NORAD and in charge of protecting the continental United States from air attack. The commanding officer, Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold, described his frustration about being unable to get jet fighters scrambled quickly enough to thwart a threat that came from inside the United States. The unit's focus had been external threats but that changed immediately. A couple fighters did arrive in time to shoot down United Flight 93 but no decision had been made before passengers took

matters into their own hands, resulting the jetliner's crash in Pennsylvania before it could reach its intended target.

Another story that emerged from Tyndall came from the 1st Air Force's public affairs officer, Don Arias, whose brother, Adam, died in the attack on the World Trade Center. As it became apparent that the first Trade Tower crash had been intentional, Don called his brother, a stockbroker, at his office on the 84th floor of the second tower. Adam told Don that he could see people falling from the neighboring tower. Don told him "That's no accident. Get out of there." Those were some of their last words. Both brothers were former New York City firefighters. Witnesses said they saw Adam on the street, but he apparently went back into building to help others get out and was himself killed.

AP Photo of the Day

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump participate in a moment of silence honoring the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, on the South Lawn of the White House, on Wednesday, Sept. 11. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

Connecting mailbox

Tales of AP bureaus in member buildings: LA

Mike Short (**Email**) - When I joined The AP in 1966, LA had a day office at the PM Herald-Examiner and a night office at the morning LA Times, about a mile and a half away. Others who were there at the time might have better memories than mine; I can't recall when the practice ended.

Every day an editor would load a large briefcase with material the nightside staff would need. Somebody, maybe a day staffer whose shift was near an end or a nightsider on the way to work, would make the delivery.

With this arrangement we had access to some Times carbons and the early editions. A bonus was that our Times office was clean and the air conditioning worked. The disadvantage was that the nightside files were skimpy. Luckily, our isolated, quiet space was across the corridor from the Times archives, which were closed at night. And luckily the barrier to the Times files wasn't very high. When I was on nights and found myself missing useful data, I'd climb into the morgue and look for what we needed.

One piece of AP lore I absorbed early on involved Dial Torgerson, a staffer who had left The AP not long before I arrived. One day Torgerson left the Herald Examiner and punctually delivered the satchel which, it turned out, he had augmented. After Torgerson departed, the night editor opened the bag and discovered among the news files a dead pigeon.

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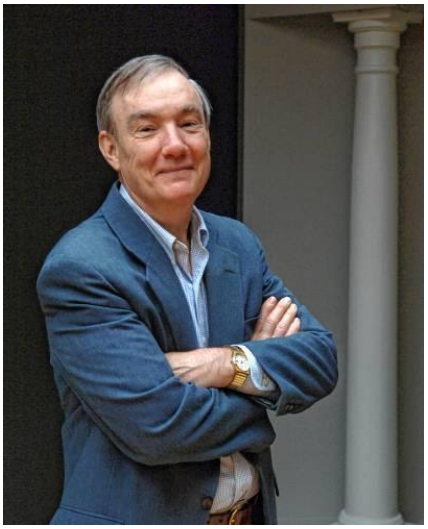
John Milne a treasured factotum of Granite State politics

Richard Chady (**Email**) - John Milne was a good friend ever since our college days in Grinnell, Iowa, in the 60s.

> John must be among the handful of journalists who qualified as a treasured factotum of Granite State politics. Several of us college pals relished his penetrating wit and precise language in describing candidates, reporters and local color. If a bout with leukemia 20 years ago hadn't reduced his energy,



John Milne

he might have become NH's David Yepsen for the campaign press and TV anchors.

John once gave me a tour of the NH Capitol, annotating portraits of various statesman and scoundrels (not surprisingly, there were more of the latter) going back to Franklin Pierce at least. I presume he's very well-known to the recent state leaders.

I enjoyed the Milne's hospitality, including John's skills as a gourmet chef, on a few summer visits to their big, rambling house in Concord, He loved his family, especially the new granddaughter he called Adorable Mona. Recently he and Lisa. moved to Portland, ME, to be closer to their daughter and her family. As another college friend said, "He was a gentle soul, and he will be missed."

Click **here** for a Concord Monitor story on his death.

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Dealing with censorship - from his days in Moscow and beyond

Henry Bradsher (**Email**) - How many reporters have to contend these days with censorship?

It's a different subject now compared with what it was long ago. Different forms of censorship exist, including murder, and pressures that often cause self-censorship.

Except for sometimes Israeli military vetting of foreign correspondent fillings, the last formal censorship of which I'm aware was in the Soviet Union and ended in 1962. Before that AP's bureau and other foreign correspondents in Moscow had to submit their copy to a censorship office before cabling or phoning out stories - often, after wearily waiting, at 4 or 5 a.m. Some phrases, paragraphs, even entire stories were cut by the censors.

After that, the Soviets tightened what we came to know as "censorship at source." Officials would not talk with us, and many ordinary citizens were intimidated by the

residual Stalinist danger of contact with foreigners. For example, when we obtained the unpublished phone number of the Soviet space agency (there were no phone books) and called to ask about a space launch, the immediate answer was, "You know you're not supposed to call us" and a quick hang up.

In days before photoshopped pictures, however, the Soviets maintained control of outgoing wirephotos, since a picture could not be denied the way an unwanted story could be. We had to take photos to the official Photokhronica Tass for transmission to AP London.

When I was Moscow bureau chief in November 1964, the USSR for the first time made public the fact that Richard Sorge, under cover as a Nazi journalist, had been its spy in Tokyo. Twenty years after the Japanese hanged him, he was made a Hero of the Soviet Union and a postage stamp with his likeness was issued. To illustrate the story, I had a photo of the stamp sent down to Photokhronica Tass for transmission with a caption saying he was a Soviet spy. They refused to send it, saying the USSR did not have spies. Well, what did it have?, I asked. They conceded having agents. So we submitted the photo again with a caption saying he was an agent, but the story accompanying it called him a spy.

When I earlier reported from Pakistan by cable to AP London, there was a curious way of uncomfortable bits disappearing from the cables as transmitted. A wild shot toward President Ayub Khan as he motored through Karachi about 1961, which I witnessed, was not in my cable as received in London. I reported the shouted complaint that "we need bread" of a roadside woman during a 1963 motorcade in Lahore. When I interviewed the regional governor the next day for other reasons, he chastised me for including this in my story of Indonesian President Sukarno's arrival. He contended it was not representative of a well-fed overall situation (but beggars could be seen in streets not cleared for parades). Turned out London hadn't received that bit, either.

Today censorship at source is widely common. Officials of many countries refuse to talk with journalists (as do, of course, many commercial leaders).

There are, however, other forms of censorship. One, now notable in Russia and many other nations, is driving out of business media that are critical of or investigate the activities of governments. In Russia only Kremlin-line television reaches most citizens, while the few local opposition publications struggle to survive without advertising by oligarchs dependent on Kremlin favors. In Hungary, virtually all media have been purchased under duress by allies of the autocratic prime minister in order to control what they publish.

Another form of censorship is murdering inconvenient journalists, as has happened from time to time in Russia, Malta and other places without proper legal investigation. In Slovakia, at least, the murder of a journalist who was looking into high-level corruption did bring down a government. Numerous journalists have been murdered in Mexico by drug gangs, and one local newspaper publicly asked the gangs to tell them what it could publish without getting its reporters killed. In the Philippines 34 journalists died in one politically inspired 2009 massacre, never properly prosecuted, and many continue to be killed yearly. Corruption goes unexamined in many countries, especially in the Balkans, because of danger to investigating reporters.

Other forms of pressure exist. In Pakistan television networks are sometimes temporarily closed for reporting things the nation's real power, the armed forces, do not like, and newspapers have to be careful if they want to be able to continue getting newsprint. In China, such newspapers at the Southern Weekly in Guangzhou daringly did investigative reporting for a while but have lately been tamed by Communist party officials into toeing official lines. Chinese media as a whole are under tight control. So are Cuban media.

Foreign correspondents in a number of countries feel the pressure. The excellent reporter in Iran for The New York Times, a Dutch citizen with an Iranian wife, has not been allowed to file since February. China has not renewed the visas for journalists who dug too deeply into corruption among the Communist party hierarchy. Those in China with journalism visas are shadowed and restricted when traveling in sensitive areas such as Xinjiang, and only allowed in Tibet on rare controlled tours.

And Israeli military censors were amused when I had to clear with them in Jerusalem in December 1978, while I was there on Middle East coverage, an analysis of the U.S. announcement of establishing diplomatic relations with China.

The sad facts of censorship multiply. Formal censorship may now be rare, but the ability of the media to do their job is often constrained.

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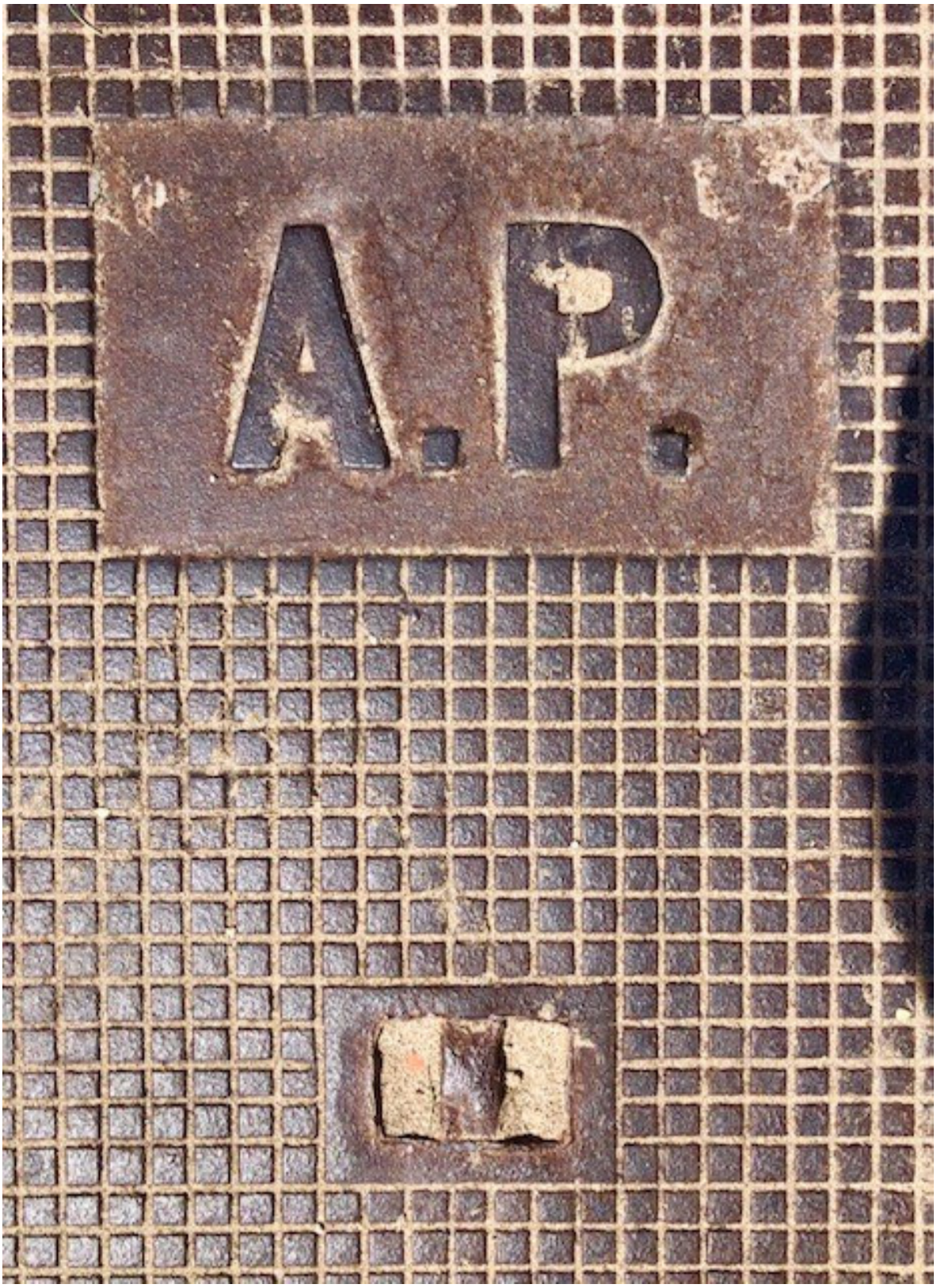
AP sighting - Sitges, Spain

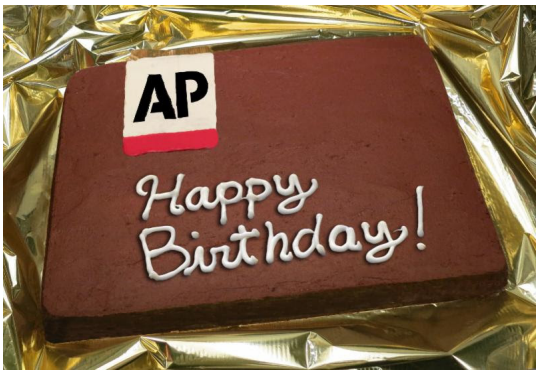


Cliff Schiappa (Email) - An AP sighting is seen on a cover plate for a water valve and meter in the Mediterranean beachfront town of Sitges, Spain where I was celebrating my 62nd birthday. When my former AP colleague Claudia Counts saw a Facebook post of me in Sitges, she replied with the following photo... a selfie before selfies were cool. The photo below shows (from left) AP staffers Maggie Walker, then CX photo editor; Vivian Bonatti, NY Photos; myself when I was KX staff

photographer; and Claudia Counts, NY photo editor. The four of us spent a week together in Sitges before reporting to Barcelona for the 1992 Summer Olympics.

Sitges is a short 30 minute train ride from Barcelona, so a number of AP staffers would escape the city on their day off to relax on one of many beaches there.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Dale Leach - daleleach21@gmail.com

Bill Vogrin - billvogrin@msn.com

Welcome to Connecting

Hiro Komae - HKomae@ap.org

Stories of interest

A California Type Foundry Is Keeping Vintage Printing Alive (Atlas Obsura)

These prefab pieces of type cast as solid units ("logotypes") allowed a restaurant to assemble a menu without requiring access to a typesetter. ALL PHOTOS: GLENN FLEISHMAN

BY GLENN FLEISHMAN

In an innocuous building in San Francisco's Presidio, the Grabhorn's Institute's Brian Ferrett boils lead and casts metal type using techniques and equipment a century old. Ferrett, is one of perhaps 100 people worldwide who cast type. At 44, he's unusually young. Most type-casters are decades older.

To make individual pieces of type, Ferrett fires up a caster, a fancy bit of mechanical gear with a motor, cams, and levers. He lights a gas burner to melt a pot of lead, antimony, and tin; a hood over each caster exhausts the gas and metal fumes. The recipe for this alloy dates back to the 1400s, and it's formulated to quickly cool and harden.

The type is sold by the pound to letterpress printers. With letterpress printing, letters and images stand in relief, allowing their surfaces to be lightly coated in ink on a press, and then squeezed with carefully calibrated pressure against paper. That "impression" transfers the ink to make a printed page or poster.

Read more **here**. Shared by Cynthia Denham.

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Express, commuter newspaper published by The Washington Post, shuts down after 16 years

By Paul Farhi, The Washington Post

Express, the free newspaper published weekdays by The Washington Post for Metro riders and other commuters, will shut down on Thursday, ending 16 years of publication, the company said Wednesday.

Managers of the paper cited its deteriorating financial condition for the decision to cease publishing. Although they declined to cite specific figures, they said the printed paper had recently begun to lose money.

Colorful and lively, Express was designed to be a fast read for public-transit commuters each morning, especially people who didn't subscribe to The Post. It featured eye-catching and sometimes cheeky cover illustrations that highlighted a single news story or trend, often one underplayed by The Post or ignored by TV newscasts.

Read more **here**. Shared by Paul Shane, Bill McCloskey.

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In a buyer's market for weeklies, where are the buyers?

By Al Cross (**Email**)

Director and professor, University of Kentucky Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues

Most days this summer, I have written a story about goings-on in Midway, a small Kentucky town where my students and I publish the Midway Messenger. When students aren't around, I pick up the slack, but it's a labor of love to provide coverage for a proud community that once had a paper of its own and has adopted ours, even though after 11 years I'm still something of a parachute publisher.

I've been in the newspaper business most of my life, but never as an owner, and our mainly online, non-commercial enterprise is as close as I am likely to get. But there are plenty of opportunities out there.

"It's a buyer's market right now for weekly newspapers," former weekly publisher Gary Sosniecki writes, in a package of stories that we're publishing to attract potential owners to community newspapers. This article introduces that package.

Read more **here**.

The Final Word

Announcing Five New Hires, Including Our First Taco Editor! (Texas Monthly)

By Robert Strickland

Pass the tortillas. As of September 18, Texas Monthly will have a taco editor on staff. José R. Ralat, a Dallas-based writer, is joining us to cover all things taco, from reviews and profiles to trends and Tex-Mex traditions. Ralat is one of five recent additions to the editorial staff and the tenth full-time new hire in six months.

Ralat's addition reflects our continuing commitment to covering Texas's unique and outstanding culinary landscape. In 2013, we became the first magazine to appoint a barbecue editor, Daniel Vaughn, who's been energetically covering our thriving smoked-meat scene ever since. As taco editor, Ralat will be a regular presence on texasmonthly.com as well as in print.

"José is one of the foremost experts on tacos in the state and the country," says Texas Monthly executive editor Kathy Blackwell, who recruited Ralat after long admiring his work. "We are thrilled to have him join our growing editorial team, and to share with our readers his wealth of knowledge about the amazing variety of foods that can be tucked into a tortilla."

Read more **here**. Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - September 12, 2019

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2019. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 2001, stunned rescue workers continued to search for bodies in the World Trade Center's smoking rubble a day after a terrorist attack that shut down the financial capital, badly damaged the Pentagon and left thousands dead. President Bush, branding the attacks in New York and Washington "acts of war," said "this will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil" and that "good will prevail."

On this date:

In 1846, Elizabeth Barrett secretly married Robert Browning at St. Marylebone Church in London.

In 1942, during World War II, a German U-boat off West Africa torpedoed the RMS Laconia, which was carrying Italian prisoners of war, British soldiers and civilians; it's estimated more than 1,600 people died while some 1,100 survived after the ship

sank. The German crew, joined by other U-boats, began rescue operations. (On September 16, the rescue effort came to an abrupt halt when the Germans were attacked by a U.S. Army bomber; as a result, U-boat commanders were ordered to no longer rescue civilian survivors of submarine attacks.)

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its Luna 2 space probe, which made a crash landing on the moon. The TV Western series "Bonanza" premiered on NBC.

In 1962, in a speech at Rice University in Houston, President John F. Kennedy reaffirmed his support for the manned space program, declaring: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see) was deposed by Ethiopia's military after ruling for 58 years.

In 1977, South African black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko (BEE'-koh), 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off, carrying with it Mark Lee and Jan Davis, the first married couple in space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space; and Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese national to fly on a U.S. spaceship. Police in Peru captured Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman. Actor Anthony Perkins died in Hollywood at age 60.

In 1994, a stolen, single-engine Cessna crashed into the South Lawn of the White House, coming to rest against the executive mansion; the pilot, Frank Corder, was killed.

In 2003, In the Iraqi city of Fallujah, U.S. forces mistakenly opened fire on vehicles carrying police, killing eight of them.

In 2008, a Metrolink commuter train struck a freight train head-on in Los Angeles, killing 25 people. (Federal investigators said the Metrolink engineer, Robert Sanchez, who was among those who died, had been text-messaging on his cell phone and ran a red light shortly before the crash.)

In 2012, the U.S. dispatched an elite group of Marines to Tripoli, Libya, after the mob attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. President Barack Obama strongly condemned the violence, and vowed to bring the killers to justice; Republican challenger Mitt Romney accused the administration of showing weakness in the face of tumultuous events in the Middle East.

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of protesters marched to the U.S. Capitol, showing their disdain for President Barack Obama's health care plan. The president, keeping up the drumbeat for his proposal, told a packed rally in Minneapolis, "I will not accept the status quo." Serena Williams' U.S. Open title defense ended with a bizarre loss to Kim Clijsters (KLY'-sturz) after Williams went into a tirade against a line judge who'd called her for a foot fault; following her outburst, Williams was penalized a point for unsportsmanlike conduct, ending the match, 6-4, 7-5.

Five years ago: A South African judge found Oscar Pistorius guilty of culpable homicide, or negligent killing, in the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp and declared the double-amputee Olympian not guilty of murder. (The verdict was overturned and replaced with a murder conviction by South Africa's Supreme Court; Pistorius is serving a 13-year prison sentence.) Ian Paisley, 88, the divisive Protestant firebrand preacher who had devoted his life to thwarting compromise with Catholics in Northern Ireland only to became a pivotal peacemaker in his twilight years, died in Belfast.

One year ago: CBS News fired top "60 Minutes" executive Jeff Fager, who had been under investigation following reports that he groped women at parties and tolerated an abusive workplace. The Food and Drug Administration warned that the use of e-cigarettes by teens was an "epidemic," and ordered manufacturers to take steps to reverse the trend. New York's City Council passed legislation allowing people who were born in the city but who don't identify as male or female to change their gender designation to "X" on their birth certificates; the measure also allowed parents to choose the "X" designation for their newborns.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ian Holm is 88. Former U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., is 80. Actress Linda Gray is 79. Singer Maria Muldaur is 77. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 68. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 67. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 67. Rock musician Neil Peart (Rush) is 67. Actor Peter Scolari is 64. Former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 63. Actress Rachel Ward is 62. Actress Amy Yasbeck is 57. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 54. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 53. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 53. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 52. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 51. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 50. Actor-singer Will Chase is 49. Actor Josh Hopkins is 49. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 45. Actress Lauren Stamile (stuh'-MEE'-lay) is 43. Rapper 2 Chainz is 42. Actress Kelly Jenrette is 41. Actor Ben McKenzie is 41. Singer Ruben Studdard is 41. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 39. Singer-actress Jennifer Hudson is 38. Actor Alfie Allen is 33. Actress Emmy Rossum is 33.

Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman is 30. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 26. Actor Colin Ford is 23.

Thought for Today: "Hope, like faith, is nothing if it is not courageous; it is nothing if it is not ridiculous." - Thornton Wilder, American playwright (1897-1975).

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter
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