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Connecting - September 26, 2019

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 26th day of 2019,

Our colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** brings us the following:

Are controversial tweets made seven years ago when a story subject was a 16-year-old high school sophomore fair game in a news organization's otherwise positive profile of him? How would you have handled a virtual head-on collision this week between legacy and social media at Iowa's largest newspaper, the Des Moines Register? Tell Connecting your thoughts.

The relevance of old posts and comments on social media is at the core of harsh criticism leveled from virtually every quarter at the Register for its account of a 24-year-old Iowa State University fan. His sign facetiously seeking beer money has raised nearly \$1.4 million, which he is donating to a University of Iowa children's hospital.



Carson King poses for a portrait in his front yard on Monday, Sept. 23 in Altoona. "At work, people recognize me. At Target, people recognize me," he said. "I'm happy with all of it - none of this could have happened without people out there recognizing me and realizing this is a good cause." (Des Moines Register Photo: Olivia Sun)

The Register was preparing a profile Tuesday on Carson King, whose televised hand-made sign "Busch Light Supply Needs Replenished" included his Venmon account. It was briefly shown on ESPN, whose popular and widely-viewed football show College Gameday was taking place in Ames, ahead of the rivalry game between the Iowa State Cyclones and the Iowa Hawkeyes. When the sign initially raised a few hundred dollars, King announced he would donate the money to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. The hospital overlooks Iowa's Kinnick Stadium, and a tradition has started in which everyone in Kinnick -- including Iowa players and their opponents -- wave to the children and their families.

The campaign has since taken off with beer giant Anheuser-Busch pledging \$330,000 and several Iowa companies jumping in with significant donations.

Working on the profile, Register reporter Aaron Calvin, doing a "routine background check on King that included a review of publicly visible social media posts," found two racist jokes King had posted on Twitter in 2012, Executive Editor Carol Hunter **said in a statement**. The tweets referenced the Tosh.O comedy show, wildly popular at the time. Hunter said when the reporter asked King about the jokes he expressed "deep regret."

Hunter said that prompted a discussion involving Register editors about how best to proceed. "Should that material be included in the profile at all? The jokes were highly inappropriate and were public posts. Shouldn't that be acknowledged to all the people who had donated money to King's cause or were planning to do so?" she said. "The counter arguments: The tweets were posted seven years ago, when King was 16. And he was remorseful. Should we chalk up the posts to a youthful mistake and omit the information?"

The decision was made to include them but at the end of the profile.

However, King, a Rapid Response Team Officer at Prairie Meadows Casino, Racetrack and Hotel, had gotten out ahead of the story, holding a news conference to discuss the tweets. The meeting with reporters was covered by local television.

The Register story appeared headlined "Meet Carson King, the 'Iowa Legend' who's raised more than \$1 million for charity off a sign asking for beer money."

The backlash was immediate. Twitter and Facebook were full of posts from users angry that the Register had chosen to include the seven-year-old tweets.

The controversy deepened when Internet users discovered numerous racist and hateful Twitter comments from the reporter, Calvin. The paper was forced to issue a Twitter statement late Tuesday night stating "The Register is aware of reports of inappropriate social media posts by one of our staffers, and an investigation has begun." Click [here](#) for related Washington Post story.

Many Facebook and Twitter users shared images of Calvin's objectionable posts, saying there was no need for additional investigation. Other social media, including Hawkeye football fan sites, were full of venomous comments towards the paper, with many users threatening to cancel the paper.

Des Moines TV station KCCI reported Wednesday the Register's Facebook post from Hunter had received more than 10,000 responses. The tweet has more than 4,700 replies. The Register's Facebook page lost more than 11,000 followers since Tuesday, a decline of nearly 8 percent, KCCI reported.

Neither the Register nor Hunter would comment Wednesday on Calvin's status. The reporter himself locked his Twitter account but not before posting a seeming apology: "Hey just wanted to say that I have deleted previous tweets that have been inappropriate or insensitive. I apologize for not holding myself to the same high standards as the Register holds others."

On Wednesday Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds proclaimed "Carson King Day" for Saturday when Iowa hosts Middle Tennessee at Kinnick. King is expected to be on hand and lead the wave to the children's hospital. Meanwhile, more than 150,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the Register to issue a front-page apology.

If you were in Carol Hunter's chair, how might you have handled the controversy? Let us know.

Have a great day!

Paul

Jesse nailed it!

Estes Thompson (Email) - Jesse nailed it (see story by Jesse Holland in Wednesday's Connecting). There was no escape from the next story, nor was one wanted by me - but my family may have. Once I crept out of a glorious home on a mountaintop in western Virginia where my friends slumbered on a Sunday morning to drive to eastern NC because a hurricane had changed course. Yet another time, during a family dinner at home, I handed my brand-new granddaughter to her mother, left the table and drove to Ocean Isle Beach to cover the deaths of college students in a house fire. But had I learned those assignments were handed to someone else I would have been upset.

Bobby Baker, always a gentleman, will be missed

Charles Bruce (Email) - I was saddened to learn of the passing of my friend and CoC colleague Bobby Baker. I was assigned as CoC in Des Moines in the summer of 1967. Bobby was the "early" or overnight operator at Des Moines during that time. He was attending electronics trade school in the day hours to qualify for further training as a technician for the AP. He graduated with his certification in electronics. Soon after that he was on his way to the 10th Ave shop in NYC. Bobby, his wife Marilyn and my wife, Celiene, and I socialized some and boated on the Des Moines River. Bobby was always a gentleman and will surely be missed by those close to him.

That toddler who once ran around 50 Rock is now laying out The Washington Post



Steve Hart ([Email](#)) - My daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hart will be celebrating her 26th birthday this coming week (9/30).

Some at 50 Rock may remember her running around photos and over to the General Desk and Graphics when she was a toddler, creating a little bit of havoc.

She laid out Wednesday's Washington Post A1 (at right).

Lizzie is a 2015 graduate of Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Journalism where she studied design. While in school, she was the Presentation Director at the student newspaper, The Daily Orange (The DO). While in that role, she led a redesign of the paper. She interned twice at Conde Nast, the second time for WIRED magazine as an intern designer.

She also joined the Society for News Design as a student which is where she caught the attention of The Washington Post. She joined the paper at graduation as an intern and after a few weeks was offered a permanent position. She has been there ever since.

She spent the first couple of years as a designer of the Arts and Style section and also digital pieces. Most recently she is designing the paper's Outlook section. And occasionally A1. Lizzie says she "is still creating havoc in the newsroom."

Her first paycheck from any journalism company was from the AP when in high school. She was an election stringer manning a poll for results from President Obama's first election. For the record, she got this totally on her own through the Stamford (CT) Advocate.

I joined the AP from UPI in 1988, first in Washington as a photo editor, moving to NY as a photo desk supervisor; then Corp Comm and Multimedia with the company's first Internet and Web efforts. I left the company in 2000 for Adobe.

AP changes guidance on the hyphen. Again.

By KRISTEN HARE, Poynter

Hyphen defenders (or is it hyphen-defenders?), take heart.

The Associated Press is reversing some of its March 2019 guidance on how we use of the wedding band of the punctuation world.



"Thanks to input from our users, we are reversing our decision to delete the hyphen from 'first-quarter touchdown' and 'third-quarter earnings,'" AP Stylebook Editor Paula Froke told Poynter in an email. "We agree that, for instance, 'first-half run' should be hyphenated. So to conform, we are returning the hyphen to the '-quarter' phrases."

In a March Stylebook update, Froke said, the AP noted the difference between commonly recognized noun phrases and compound modifiers in phrases. Her example: "Chocolate chip cookie" doesn't need a hyphen. "French-speaking people" does.

"To correct one misperception: The updates we announced in March did not call for fewer hyphens or no hyphens in compound modifiers," Froke said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

A Little Respect for the Daily Doormat

By MORT ROSENBLUM ([Email](#))

TUCSON, Arizona - At midnight, the presses rumbled like kettle drums in the basement, the newsroom went from clamor to calm, and I always felt a tinge of tribal thrill. Two kinds of people make up the world, a crusty editor once told me: newspaper people and the other kind.

The Arizona Daily Star, the city's conscience in the '60s, thudded onto doorsteps at dawn, thick with news about local corruption, a nation in ferment and a restive world beyond. Its proprietor had covered Hitler's fall; his editorials impacted like mortar shells.

We shared an ornate old salmon-colored building with our afternoon rival. From its iron balconies, we kept watch - literally - on City Hall and the tile-domed county courthouse. After work, we drank with inside sources who routinely spilled the beans at the Tucson Press Club.

Today, it is tempting to despair. The Star's skeleton staff works in a soulless suburban office to produce a shadow of its former self, printed in Phoenix. Gannett killed the 139-year-old afternoon Citizen in 2009 after its circulation dropped to 17,000 from 60,000 in its heyday.

Across America, when we need good newspapers more than ever, corporate owners strip them down and sell off parts. Thousands of broadcast and online "outlets" bury us with "content" of untested credibility. Interns replace pros who learned their craft the hard way.

Read more [here](#).

Elizabeth Kennedy named AP's deputy international editor



By Lauren Easton

In a memo to staff, Executive Editor Sally Buzbee announced on Wednesday that Deputy Washington Bureau Chief Elizabeth Kennedy will add the role of deputy international editor, a move aimed at making AP's news report more global:

Sally Buzbee - I want to let you know about an important move we're making to strengthen ties and foster more collaboration between our international news

operation and our foreign affairs journalists in Washington -- to make our news report overall more global. Effective immediately, Deputy Washington Bureau Chief Elizabeth Kennedy will also take on the role of deputy international editor.

One of the AP's biggest strengths is our ability to harness our global talents to break news. It is a longterm competitive advantage for AP that we want to expand. To that end, Elizabeth will work closely with Vice President for International News Ian Phillips and the international news directors to help direct and coordinate reporting from different parts of the globe, including Washington, to break more news. This aims to benefit all our customers, including our international customers.

Elizabeth will retain her title of deputy Washington bureau chief, and will continue to play a vital role in all aspects of the Washington bureau as the U.S. presidential campaign and impeachment inquiry ramp up. In specific, Elizabeth will continue to oversee the foreign affairs/national security team, and other reporters in Washington, as she does now.

We also want to identify more career opportunities for our journalists. With that in mind, Elizabeth will work closely with Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace, Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie, Ian and news directors globally to promote a healthy back and forth of talent and robust career development tracks.

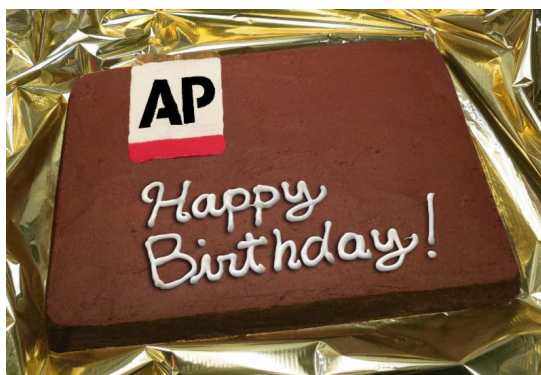
Elizabeth brings a wealth of experience to these additional duties. She has reported from and managed AP operations in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, with postings in Nairobi, Beirut, New Delhi and Bangkok. As Beirut bureau chief, she played a critical role in AP's strong coverage of the Syrian conflict. In 2012, the AP was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on the Syrian war. After joining the Washington bureau two years ago, she guided our coverage of the Mueller investigation - coverage notable for its good judgment and strong explanatory and analysis work. Elizabeth has also reported from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Asia, she oversaw AP news operations in all formats in South Asia, a territory that included India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. Later, she led the multiformat Southeast Asia news report through a spate of news that included the airport assassination of North Korea's Kim Jong Nam in Malaysia and a surge in insurgent activities in the Philippines.

Elizabeth joined AP in 1999 as an editor in New York. She later worked in the Trenton, New Jersey, bureau, where the stories she covered included the 2001 anthrax attacks and Sept. 11 detainees. She also worked as an editor on the AP's national and international desks in New York before moving to Nairobi in 2006.

Elizabeth will add the international duties immediately. Please join me in congratulating her, and Julie and Ian, on this important step.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jay Perkins - jrperk42@me.com

Story of interest

Washington Post editorial quietly broke open Trump's Ukraine scandal (Politico)

By MICHAEL CALDERONE

The White House's release of a readout of President Donald Trump's call with Ukraine's president largely vindicates a Washington Post editorial from Sept. 5 that first revealed that Trump had pressured Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Joe Biden.

While it drew some buzz at the time, the unsigned and loosely sourced editorial mostly went under the radar despite making the damning allegation that Trump was urging a foreign leader to probe a political rival - and doing so more than two weeks before the scandal fully broke open.

In the piece, The Post's editorial board described being "reliably told" that Trump "is attempting to force" Zelensky "to intervene in the 2020 U.S. presidential election by launching an investigation of" Biden. And Trump, they continued, "is not just soliciting Ukraine's help with his presidential campaign; he is using U.S. military aid the country desperately needs in an attempt to extort it."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Have you ever used a typewriter? 'Tools of the Trade' reminds us there's magic in those old machines (Chicago Tribune)



The "Tools of the Trade" exhibit of typewriters is now at the American Writers Museum in Chicago. (American Writers Museum photo)

By **RICK KOGAN**

For many years now I have used a computer keyboard to do most of the writing I do and, though the computer does the obligatory job, I still use, and much prefer, a typewriter.

It is on that machine - I used to have one on my desk in the Tribune Tower but since we moved into new offices my desk is now too small to accommodate it so it sits in my apartment - that I type letters of all sorts, even some stories. It is a Royal from the 1930s.

Does this make me hopelessly old-fashioned?

If so, I am in very good company, because there are still many people who use typewriters to very successful effect. There is David McCullough, the bestselling, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of historical non-fiction. There is Chicago's own David Mamet, who writes his plays, movies and novels in longhand in leather-bound journals before transferring those words onto paper with a manual typewriter. The late playwright Sam Shepard talked passionately of the "tactile experience" of typing. Though he was not ever able to test out computers, it's interesting to note that writer Nelson Algren was once jailed in Texas for stealing the typewriter he used to write his first novel.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Kelly Tunney.

Today in History - September 26, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2019. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 26, 1789, Thomas Jefferson was confirmed by the Senate to be the first United States secretary of state; John Jay, the first chief justice; Edmund Randolph, the first attorney general.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1892, John Philip Sousa and his newly formed band performed publicly for the first time at the Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield, New Jersey.

In 1907, New Zealand went from being a colony to a dominion within the British Empire.

In 1955, following word that President Eisenhower had suffered a heart attack, the New York Stock Exchange saw its worst price decline since 1929.

In 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

In 1964, the situation comedy "Gilligan's Island" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1977, Sir Freddie Laker began his cut-rate "Skytrain" service from London to New York. (The carrier went out of business in 1982.)

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Arizona, called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill ensuring two-day hospital stays for new mothers and their babies.

In 2003, President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tihn) opened a two-day summit at Camp David.

Ten years ago: Film director Roman Polanski was arrested by Swiss police on an international warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award from a film festival. (Polanski had fled the U.S. in 1978, a year after pleading guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl. Polanski spent two months in a Swiss jail and served seven months of house arrest before Switzerland's government decided against extraditing him to the United States.) Pope Benedict XVI began a three-day pilgrimage to the Czech Republic.

Five years ago: Fire broke out in the basement of a suburban Chicago air traffic control center, temporarily halting operations at O'Hare and Midway airports; an FAA contract employee, Brian Howard, was accused of cutting cables and setting the fire before slashing his throat. (Howard pleaded guilty to willfully destroying an air navigation facility and using fire to commit a felony, and was sentenced to 12 1/2 years in prison.) American warplanes and drones hit Islamic State group targets in Syria and Iraq as the U.S.-led coalition expanded to include Britain, Denmark and Belgium. Former first daughter Chelsea Clinton gave birth in New York to her first child, a daughter named Charlotte.

One year ago: As Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh prepared for a public Senate hearing on an allegation from a California professor that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her when they were teens, a third accusation of sexual misconduct came from a woman who said she saw Kavanaugh "consistently engage in excessive drinking and inappropriate contact of a sexual nature." President Donald Trump said his view of sexual misconduct allegations against powerful men, including his Supreme Court nominee, was affected by "a lot of false charges" that he said had been made against him by women he said had been "paid a lot of money" to make those charges.

Today's Birthdays: Retired baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 94. Actor Richard Herd is 87. Country singer David Frizzell is 78. Actor Kent McCord is 77. Television host Anne Robinson is 75. Singer Bryan Ferry is 74. Actress Mary Beth Hurt is 73. Singer Olivia Newton-John is 71. Actor James Keane is 67. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 65. Country singer Carlene Carter is 64. Actress Linda Hamilton is 63. Country singer Doug Supernaw is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 58. Actress Melissa Sue Anderson is 57. Actor Patrick Bristow is 57. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 57. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 57. TV personality Jillian Barberie is 53. Contemporary Christian guitarist Jody Davis (Newsboys) is 52. Actor Jim Caviezel (kuh-VEE'-zuhl) is 51. Actress Tricia O'Kelley is 51. Actor Ben Shenkman is 51. Actress Melanie Paxon is 47.

Singer Shawn Stockman (Boyz II Men) is 47. Music producer Dr. Luke is 46. Jazz musician Nicholas Payton is 46. Actor Mark Famiglietti (fah-mihl-YEH'-tee) is 40. Singer-actress Christina Milian (MIHL'-ee-ahn) is 38. Tennis player Serena Williams is 38. Actress Zoe Perry is 36.

Thought for Today: "Pity the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." - Don Marquis, American journalist-author (1878-1937).

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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