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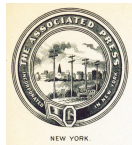
Connecting - September 30, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

September 30, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 30th and final day of September 2019,

Shana tova to our Jewish colleagues who are celebrating Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year.

We're saddened to relay news from our colleague **Paul Shane** that his wife of 58 years, **Karen**, died peacefully in her sleep of complications from Alzheimer's Disease. early Saturday morning. She was 77. You can reach Paul at - pjshane@gmail.com

A group of present and former AP colleagues gathered Friday night in Kansas City when our Connecting colleague **Carol Stark** was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Missouri Press Association at its annual convention. Carol, executive editor of The Joplin Globe and a staunch supporter of The Associated Press, died in August after a long battle with cancer. She had learned of her selection to the Hall of Fame just months before her death. On hand from AP were **Kia Breaux, Peg Coughlin, Connie Farrow, Rod Richardson, Paul Stevens** and **Jim Suhr**.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Bobby Baker's AP colleagues bid -30- to their friend



Dorothy Abernathy (Email) - We had a good crowd from the AP at the funeral on Friday of retired Richmond Chief of Communications Bobby Baker, who died of cancer. Those shown in the picture above are (Top Row from left), Richmond sports writer Hank Kurz; election and contest coordinator Heidi Brown; Bobby's widow, Marilyn; retired Philadelphia Chief of Communications Ray Gergen; retired administrative assistant Joyce DeWitt; retired AP staffer Bill Baskervill; former AP technician Roberto Rochet and (bottom row from left), AP technician Mike Mazzo; northern Virginia correspondent Matt Barakat and retired bureau chief Dorothy Abernathy. Not shown - former Richmond staffer Joe Taylor, who left before the photo was taken.

Additional AP staffers attended visitation on Thursday, including photographer Steve Helber; retired news editor Jean McNair; retired staffer Larry O'Dell and his wife, Linda; former staffer Zinie Sampson and her husband, Craig; and former staffers Bob Lewis and Karen Haywood.

His friends were impressed Tom Raum was writing the main AP stories on Watergate

Nora Raum (Email) - The Trump impeachment inquiry reminded me of one of my late husband Tom's favorite stories about working for the AP.

He came to the Washington Bureau during the height of Watergate after covering the state house in Tallahassee Florida. He worked the overnight desk. One of his jobs was to read the Washington Post when it came out in the middle of the night. Inevitably, there would be a front page story about Watergate that the AP didn't have. He'd have to call the White House reporters in the middle of the night to see if they could match it. The Washington Post owned that story. If the AP reporters couldn't match it, Tom would pick it up, rewrite it, crediting the Post and he'd get the byline.

His friends back in Florida were very impressed that days after he got to Washington, Tom was writing the main AP stories on Watergate!

More of your opinions on the Des Moines Register and Carson King

Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - A couple thoughts on this Des Moines Register fiasco:

- 1) Reporters ought to keep their opinions to themselves. Airing their thoughts on Twitter or in any other public forum is foolhardy.

- 2) That said, reporters are supposed to dig up information. He did. Maybe it was relevant and maybe not (my opinion). But the paper needed to know about the situation before deciding what went in and what stayed out of the profile.

- 3) And what about the editor(s) who approved its publication? I'm certain that Register editors have experience cutting information out of stories. Ultimately, they are the ones who had the responsibility for publishing this.

- 4) Finally, the explanation that they positioned the offending stuff at the bottom of the story is b.s. It was either relevant and publishable - or not. Whether it was found in the lead or the 28th graf is irrelevant. They knew people would read it.

-0-

Alan Sayre ([Email](#)) - A brief comment from yours truly on the Carson King fiasco:

The reporter is not the only person from the Des Moines Register who should be now looking for useful employment.

-0-

The Reporter Fired In The "Busch Light Guy" Scandal Said He Feels "Abandoned" By The Des Moines Register

Julia Reinstein

BuzzFeed News Reporter

The Des Moines Register reporter fired in the wake of a scandal involving offensive tweets - posted by a viral star he interviewed and then his own - broke his silence Friday, telling BuzzFeed News he had been "abandoned" by the newspaper after following standard editorial practice by performing a social media search on the person he was profiling.

"This event basically set my entire life on fire," reporter Aaron Calvin said.

Calvin, 27, was dismissed by the Iowa newspaper Thursday evening following criticism online in the wake of his article about 24-year-old casino security worker Carson King.

Read more [here](#).

New-member profile - Ann Levin



Ann Levin ([Email](#)) - After I took early retirement from the AP in 2009, I was a freelance writer and editor for a number of institutions and organizations, including Columbia University, the UN Population Fund and AARP. I also started to do personal essay writing and memoir - a major change in genre for a longtime AP'er. You can see some of the readings I've done with a writers' group called Read650 (<https://www.read650.org/>) on YouTube.

More recently, I've been working on a memoir about my older brother, who died suddenly and unexpectedly of a massive heart attack at age 40 back in 1993, when I was an editor on the National Desk. It explores the impact that his death had on our family and its persistent afterlife, especially as my siblings and I have confronted our own mortality. It's a book about family love, loyalty, and what grief looks like over time.

In addition to that, I continue to review books for the AP. I'm also a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. So, if you're ever in New York on a Saturday morning with nothing else to do, consider stopping by the museum. Every other weekend, I lead a tour of museum highlights as well as the modern and contemporary art collection.

You can also follow me on Twitter <https://twitter.com/annlevinnyc> and the website I'm in the process of building to document this new phase of my life. (<https://www.annelizabethlevin.com/>).

On my years with the AP:

I joined the AP in Newark in 1989, then transferred to the former General Desk in 1991, eventually becoming a supervisor. In 1995, I was sent to Oklahoma City to help cover the aftermath of the bombing and, a year later, to San Diego to assist with the Republican National Convention. In 1998, I worked in Denver for a month, supervising the West regional wire and, in the fall, I filled in as California political editor in Sacramento, helping coordinate coverage of the 1998 gubernatorial and legislative races for state and national wires.

The following year, 1999, I was named national news editor, a job that then entailed working with AP editors in all 50 states and helping to oversee state and local election coverage. From 2006-2009, I was assignment editor for New York City bureau.

Former Salina Journal publisher dies

By JOHN HAWKS, The Salina (Kansas) Journal

Former Salinan Harris Rayl is being remembered as a person who left indelible marks on the area's news industry and the greater community.

"He was kind of quiet, and he was brilliant, to say the least," said Ben Wearing, former Salina Journal executive editor. "I think a lot of us really appreciated having Harris as a publisher."

On Friday, Rayl's family announced the Kansas newspaper executive and former Salina Journal publisher had died. Rayl died Thursday in Kansas City, according to his obituary. Harris came to The Salina Journal in 1982 as an editor, and in 1982 at age 32, Rayl became publisher of The Salina Journal.



In Wearing's eyes, Rayl's tenure saw The Salina Journal transform into a cutting-edge news service.

"He brought the Journal up to a more modern and aggressive approach to journalism," Wearing said. "In some respects, I think we became a much better newspaper."

Read more [here](#). Harris Rayl was a Connecting colleague and longtime friend of the editor.

Best of the Week

'Immersive' account of coral reef restoration leads 'What can be saved?' series



Health and science staffers, Washington-based environment reporter Christina Larson, left, and New York video journalist Kathy Young, interview a fisherman in White River, Jamaica, Feb. 11, 2019. AP PHOTO / DAVID GOLDMAN

In a company-wide collaboration, AP launches an in-depth series exploring heroic efforts worldwide to heal the planet.

Is that seaweed in my hair?

The first installment of "What Can Be Saved?" - a ground-breaking new series from The Associated Press - was so deeply immersive that viewers could almost smell the sea-salt of Jamaica. The island nation was the first stop in what will be 12 installments reported from five continents focusing not on the well-documented gloom of climate change, but on often unsung people around the world who are combating environmental destruction in big ways and small.

From Jamaica, the AP reporting team of photographers David Goldman and David Phillip, science writer Christina Larson and video journalist Kathy Young came back with the astounding narrative of underwater nurseries where islanders are growing coral by hand, branch by branch on underwater lines, to reverse decades of destruction to Jamaican reefs. The team's work wins Best of the Week honors.

As Larson's vibrant story captured, the Sisyphean task of coral farming is akin to planting a field one blade of grass at a time, and the visuals of divers tending their

coral gardens in limpid waters and drone shots showing blue, blue waters with the reefs underneath were simply knockout.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP investigation shines light on dark side of CBD craze



Jay Jenkins lies in the emergency room of the Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, S.C., May 2018, in a photo provided by his family. Jenkins suffered acute respiratory failure and drifted into a coma, according to his medical records, after he says he vaped a product labeled as a smokable form of the cannabis extract CBD. Lab testing commissioned as part of an Associated Press investigation into CBD vapes showed the cartridge that Jenkins says he puffed contained a synthetic marijuana compound blamed for at least 11 deaths in Europe. PHOTO COURTESY JOSEPH JENKINS VIA AP

The project pooled AP's resources across departments for a nationwide, multiformat effort that not only named CBD products that are spiked with dangerous manmade drugs but also exposed some of the people behind them.

Responding to AP's call for ambitious journalism in 2019, Holbrook "Bert" Mohr of the U.S. investigations team tossed out an idea during a brainstorming session: Authorities in Mississippi had found vapes containing fentanyl and synthetic marijuana in stores near Mohr's home. What caught his eye was that the product was labeled as CBD.

Mohr asked his daughter if she'd heard anything about CBD vaping and she said high school kids were getting so high they'd pass out. Mohr reasoned that with CBD's popularity taking off, CBD vapes spiked with street drugs might well be elsewhere. Thus began a collaboration by the Investigations and the Health and Science teams that would offer not just the exclusive results of laboratory testing - finding cheap and illegal synthetic marijuana instead of natural CBD in vapes and edibles - but also telling details about the people who bring dangerous products to market.

To assess the availability of spiked vapes, Mohr surveyed law enforcement in all 50 states and directed the gathering of 30 vape samples from four states and online. Those samples were tested at a well-credentialed lab. The reporting showed that whether a brand was spiked could depend on flavor and even location of purchase.

Read more [here](#).

Welcome to Connecting



Brianna Valentin - bvalentin@ap.org

Stories of interest

Student journalist scores big scoop in Trump-Ukraine story

By TAREK HAMADA

PHOENIX (AP) - A 20-year-old student at Arizona State University broke the news that a key State Department official who was involved in talks between President Donald Trump and the Ukrainian government had stepped down from his post.

Andrew Howard, a managing editor of The State Press student newspaper, reported Friday evening that Kurt D. Volker stepped down from his role as the State Department's special envoy for Ukraine.

"I'm not sure any of us thought it would just be this big scoop," Howard told The Associated Press. "It's just incredible."

Usually, the State Press competes with Arizona media outlets, he said.

"It turned out we were competing with the world," Howard said. "I was never thinking we have to beat the Times and the AP and the Washington Post."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

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The Whistle-Blower Knows How to Write (New York Times)

By Jane Rosenzweig

Ms. Rosenzweig is the director of the Writing Center at Harvard.

I can't tell you what's going to happen to his blockbuster complaint about the president's behavior, but I can tell you that the whistle-blower's college writing

instructor would be very proud of him.

As a writing instructor myself for 20 years, I look at the complaint and see a model of clear writing that offers important lessons for aspiring writers. Here are a few:

The whistle-blower gets right to the point.

We know right away what his purpose is and why we should care. He wastes no time on background or pleasantries before stating that he is writing to report "an 'urgent' concern." And then he immediately states it:

"In the course of my official duties, I have received information from multiple U.S. Government officials that the President of the United States is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election."

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

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How a conservative columnist helped push a flawed Ukraine narrative (Washington Post)



John Solomon, former executive editor of the Washington Times, in his office in 2008. (Gerald Martineau/The Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Back in March, the Hill newspaper published a series of stories and interviews that seemed, at the time, to be mainly of interest to foreign-policy wonks.

John Solomon, the paper's executive vice president, interviewed Ukraine's then-top prosecutor, Yuri Lutsenko, who alleged a startling conspiracy: that law enforcement officials within his country had leaked damaging information in 2016 against Paul Manafort, President Trump's former campaign chairman, to help Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Lutsenko also floated suggestions that Marie Yovanovitch, who was then the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, was cooperating with the scheme to help Clinton and undermine Trump's campaign. The ambassador, Lutsenko alleged, was "interfering in his ability to prosecute corruption cases" and had even given him a list of defendants that he would not be allowed to prosecute, Solomon wrote.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad. Solomon worked for 20 years at The Associated Press.

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A tribute to my journalism mentors (Washington Times)

By **CAL THOMAS**

They are all gone now; the men (and one woman) who were major influences in my early journalism career. The last two died within weeks of each other. They were Jack Perkins and Sander Vanocur, both veterans of NBC News where I started as a copyboy.

My list of mentors is long. They were famous then, but most likely unknown to younger people today. Their signed pictures hang on my office wall, reminders of what real journalism looked like. They include David Brinkley, Ray Scherer (who covered the White House beginning with the Truman administration), anchor Frank McGee, State Department correspondent Elie Abel, Herb Kaplow, Martin Agronsky, who cut his journalistic teeth at the old Palestine Post, Pentagon correspondent Peter Hackes and Nancy Dickerson, another female pioneer in TV journalism, as was Cokie Roberts, who passed away last week.

I was in charge of filing many of their NBC scripts. I studied those scripts and learned how they constructed sentences, created a broadcast narrative style from wire copy meant for newspapers, and avoided cliches and dependent clauses. Those journalists took this brash kid under their wings.

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

The Final Word

D.C. could finally get revenge for the Washington Senators leaving town. Here's how. (Washington Post)

By **Frederic J. Frommer**

Frederic J. Frommer is the author of "You Gotta Have Heart," a history of Washington baseball, and leader of the sports business practice at the Dewey Square Group, a public affairs firm in Washington.

The Major League Baseball playoffs start Tuesday. The Washington Nationals haven't traditionally provided much fodder for October optimism, but this year, there is good reason for hopeful Nats fans to dream of a grudge match for the ages: a World Series pitting the Nationals against the old Washington Senators - now known as the Minnesota Twins.

That team left town after the 1960 season and, as old-time Senators fans still remember with bitterness, quickly turned the corner in Minnesota, leaving a lousy replacement expansion team to continue Washington's losing tradition. There are several steps before the postseason field is winnowed to the American and National league champions, beginning with Tuesday night's wild-card game for the Nats. But if it came to pass, a Nats World Series win over the Twins would help exact revenge on Washington's original baseball team, which owns the city's sole World Series title, from nearly a century ago.

"That would be, as my father would have said, 'Hell froze over and a month of Sundays hit the calendar,'" said TV host and Nats season-ticket holder Maury Povich, quoting the legendary Washington Post sportswriter Shirley Povich's description of Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series.

Read more [here](#). Story author Fred Frommer is a Connecting colleague.

Today in History - September 30, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 30, the 273rd day of 2019. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 30, 1777, the Continental Congress - forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces - moved to York, Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1399, England's King Richard II was deposed by Parliament; he was succeeded by his cousin, Henry of Bolingbroke, who was crowned as King Henry IV.

In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I believe it is peace for our time."

In 1939, the first college football game to be televised was shown on experimental station W2XBS in New York as Fordham University defeated Waynesburg College, 34-7.

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

In 1952, the motion picture "This Is Cinerama," which introduced the triple-camera, triple-projector Cinerama widescreen process, premiered at the Broadway Theatre in New York.

In 1954, the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, was commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

In 1955, actor James Dean, 24, was killed in a two-car collision near Cholame, California.

In 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day; Meredith's presence sparked rioting that claimed two lives.

In 1972, Roberto Clemente hit a double against Jon Matlack of the New York Mets during Pittsburgh's 5-0 victory at Three Rivers Stadium; the hit was the 3,000th and last for the Pirates star.

In 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev retired President Andrei A. Gromyko from the Politburo and fired other old-guard leaders in a Kremlin shake-up.

In 2001, under threat of U.S. military strikes, Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban rulers said explicitly for the first time that Osama bin Laden was still in the country and that they knew where his hideout was located.

Ten years ago: A powerful earthquake rocked western Indonesia, killing 1,115 people. A Soyuz spacecraft carrying Canadian circus tycoon Guy Laliberte and two crew mates lifted off from Kazakhstan, headed for the International Space Station.

Five years ago: Under withering criticism from Congress, Secret Service Director Julia Pierson admitted failures in her agency's critical mission of protecting the president but repeatedly sidestepped key questions about how a knife-carrying intruder penetrated ring after ring of security before finally being tackled deep inside the White House. U.S. and Afghan officials signed a long-delayed security pact to keep nearly 10,000 American forces in Afghanistan beyond the planned final withdrawal of U.S. and international combat forces at the end of the year. The first case of Ebola diagnosed in the U.S. was confirmed in a patient who had recently traveled from Liberia to Dallas. Jerry Brown signed the nation's first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery and convenience stores.

One year ago: U.S. and Canadian officials announced an agreement for Canada to take part in a revamped North American free trade deal with the U.S. and Mexico; the new agreement would be called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA. As part of a new one-week investigation, FBI agents interviewed Deborah Ramirez, one of the three women who had accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. With more than 800 already confirmed dead from an earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, rescuers struggled to reach additional victims in several large coastal towns.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Angie Dickinson is 88. Singer Cissy Houston is 86. Singer Johnny Mathis is 84. Actor Len Cariou is 80. Singer Marilyn McCoo is 76. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is 74. Pop singer Sylvia Peterson (The

Chiffons) is 73. Actor Vondie Curtis-Hall is 69. Actress Victoria Tennant is 69. Actor John Finn is 67. Rock musician John Lombardo is 67. Singer Deborah Allen is 66. Actor Calvin Levels is 65. Actor Barry Williams is 65. Singer Patrice Rushen is 65. Actress Fran Drescher is 62. Country singer Marty Stuart is 61. Actress Debrah Farentino is 60. Rock musician Bill Rieflin (R.E.M.) is 59. Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., is 59. Actress Crystal Bernard is 58. Actor Eric Stoltz is 58. Rapper-producer Marley Marl is 57. Country singer Eddie Montgomery (Montgomery-Gentry) is 56. Rock singer Trey Anastasio is 55. Actress Monica Bellucci is 55. Rock musician Robby Takac (Goo Goo Dolls) is 55. Actress Lisa Thornhill is 53. Actress Andrea Roth is 52. Actress Amy Landecker is 50. Actor Silas Weir Mitchell is 50. Actor Tony Hale is 49. Actress Jenna Elfman is 48. Actor Ashley Hamilton is 45. Actress Marion Cotillard is 44. Actor Christopher Jackson is 44. Actor Stark Sands is 41. Actor Mike Damus is 40. Actress Toni Trucks is 39. Tennis player Martina Hingis is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Moceanu is 38. Actress Lacey Chabert is 37. Actor Kieran Culkin is 37. Singer-rapper T-Pain is 35.

Thought for Today: "The idea is to die young as late as possible." - Ashley Montagu, Anglo-American anthropologist (1905-1999).

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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