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Connecting - October 04, 2019

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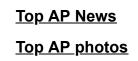
Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 4th day of October 2019,

Today's issue brings you more of your great stories of your days as a newspaper carrier. If you haven't yet responded, work on your story over the weekend and send it along to me.

Colleague **John Strachan** shares a story of frustration dealing with a newspaper circulation department but brings up a bigger point that I am hoping you might respond to.

John subscribes to four daily newspapers, noting that he takes "comfort in the fact that I am trying - in a very small way -to help preserve a free press at a time when this nation needs it more than ever."

As a home delivery subscriber to three newspapers of my own - The New York Times, USA Today and The Kansas City Star - I feel very much the same way when I tell my friends, many of whom do not subscribe to any newspaper, that I am supporting strong journalism - and as an aside, my AP pension (since they are all AP members)! Usual reaction: The Look, but that's OK by me.

Got some thoughts along those lines? Send them along.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

AP adds 5 reporting teams to expand political coverage

By Lauren Easton

News leaders announced on Wednesday the creation of five reporting teams to strengthen AP's political coverage leading up to the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

The teams will focus on specific coverage areas: the electorate, election security, candidate vetting, misinformation and voter access.

Here is the staff memo from Managing Editor Brian Carovillano, Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie and Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace:

As we continue to ramp up coverage ahead of the 2020 U.S. presidential election, we want to tell you about five teams we are creating to support and expand the work

of our core politics team.

We expect all of these teams will work closely with and also help drive the unfolding impeachment story, and its impact on the campaigns, the electorate, and America's global influence.

On both of those stories, AP's strength - and our differentiator - is our ability to combine deep beat expertise, data, and our global footprint to tell the story of this moment in time in politics. In creating these teams, our goal is to create groups that can work together, but also focus deeply on several issues where we must break news.

There has perhaps never been a more critical time for AP's well-established brand in elections coverage. At a time where media distrust is high, AP is critically needed explain the country not only what is happening, but what it means.

All of these teams are at various stages of development, but we wanted to share their individual reporting assignments and the leaders for each group.

Politics team: The day-to-day campaign coverage will continue to be overseen by U.S. Political Editor Steven Sloan, working in collaboration with Washington Deputy Bureau Chief Michael Tackett. Regional politics editor Kathleen Hennessey will be a key contact for state-driven reporting.

The electorate: AP VoteCast data gives us a way to understand the shifting priorities, needs and attitudes of the American public like never before. Reporters from the business vertical, the U.S., the data team and enterprise team will work together to create a series of visually-driven and data-driven stories that capture how that affects the 2020 election. Kathleen Hennessey, Michael Tackett and Deputy Managing Editor for Operations David Scott will lead these efforts.

Election security: How secure America's voting systems are, and what influences may attempt to disrupt them, will continue to be a major area of emphasis. Led by Washington news editor Ken Guggenheim and collaborating with international investigations editor Ron Nixon, a group of reporters from the state government team, the technology team and the Washington bureau will work together to break news on how ready the U.S. is for 2020.

Candidate vetting: Our new Washington investigative editor, Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak, arrived this week and will take over the candidate vetting operation. This team will continue to work hand-in-hand with the politics team.

Misinformation: Experts warn that misinformation may play an even greater role in the 2020 election than it did in 2016, with increases to both the volume and sophistication of so-called "fake news" appearing in voters' social media feeds. From how candidates are battling and using misinformation on a local level to a deep look at the groups most likely to be targeted by it to the rising industry supporting it, we are putting together a team of reporters to focus exclusively on this phenomenon. Fact Check editor Karen Mahabir will lead this group.

Voter access: How Americans vote, and the methods used to block or create obstacles for some at the polls, will also get a special focus. State government editor Tom Verdin will lead this effort, working with our state reporters and the race and ethnicity team.

These teams have a challenging year ahead of them, and we are confident they are up to the task. But covering the election is not solely on their shoulders. One of AP's assets is our reach. What you observe from your corner of the world matters. A conversation at dinner, at church, at a school meeting or on public transit could be the observation we need to launch a line of reporting. All of these leaders are open to hearing those observations - and it's part of their charge to do so.

Brian, Noreen and Julie

Click here for a link to this story.

More of your memories of delivering a newspaper

Glenn Adams (Email) - I started delivering the Woodbury (N.J.) Daily Times in my hometown when I was 9 (yikes, that's nearly 60 years ago). I was paid \$2 per week as a fill-in for a high school kid who had gone out for the cross country team. Walking through the press room as the papers were being printed jazzed me up for life. I eventually got the route to myself, and that led to a side job sweeping out a shoemaker's shop along my route for 25 cents a day. On Nov. 22, 1963, I stood on the main streets of town selling Times "extras" printed after news of President Kennedy's death broke.

Soon I doubled up and took a Philadelphia Evening Bulletin route as well. My afternoons were busy. A big payoff there was selling enough new subscriptions to get me a free trip to the New York World's Fair (can't remember whether it was 1964 or '65). Around this time I wrote my first published story, for the Times. It was my

take on how the Philadelphia Phillies managed to lose the pennant after leading the National League all season: The loss of long-ball hitter Frank Thomas during his thumb-breaking slide into 2nd base. When I retired in 2013, I tracked down Thomas and sent him a letter thanking him for inspiring me to become a writer. He wrote back, recalling his infamous slide in great detail. Neither the Times nor Bulletin are around anymore, but I still have Frank's letter. (BTW, to clarify, Frank Thomas is the "Original" who played in the '50s and '60s, not the "Big Hurt" of the White Sox who played later.

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Richard Carelli (Email) - I started my paper route while in elementary school, where I was a bad student with behavioral problems. Most of my teachers dreaded seeing me in class, but one said my reading comprehension and writing ability were exceptional. Away from school, I loved baseball, and my first job allowed me to devour the Yonkers Herald Statesman's sports pages. It dawned on me that sportswriters presumably got paid to watch games, and got in free. At age 11, I decided to become a sportswriter. My writing interest later shifted from sports to law, but I never lost my love of baseball. Go, Twins.

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Nixon Awaiting Victory Tonight

Richard Nixon's strategists claim that he will have 700 votes, 33 more than he needs, when the GOP convention votes tonight. Gov. Rockefeller insists that 'I'll be nominated on the 5th ballot' after 3rd ballot break. Page 3.



FUNNY LINE. Richard M. Nixon and his wife, Pat, share a laugh yesterday at a reception in the Hilton Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach on discovering that their daughters, Tricia,

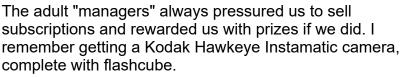
arm extended, and Julie, and Julie's fiance, David Eisenhower, had joined the receiving line for greeting delegates and friends as a joke. (Stories, other photos on Pages 3-11.)

COPYRIGHT 1938, NEWSDAY, INC., LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, VOL. 28, NO. 283

Jerry Cipriano (Email) - This is my first journalism award. I got it in the 1960s, when I was delivering Newsday on Long Island.

At the time, Newsday was published six days a week, Monday through Saturday, in black and white, and competed for customers with the Long Island Press.

The newsstand price was 30 cents a week. The carriers paid Newsday 22 cents and pocketed eight. The average tip was a dime. I had 30 customers and made about five dollars a week -- 35 or 40 in today's dollars. Not bad.







My next job in journalism came in 1973, when I was hired as a copy boy by The Associated Press and put my newspaper delivery skills to use. The job included delivering the New York City papers to the various AP departments at 50 Rock. I don't recall ever receiving a tip.

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Steve Graham (Email) - I was a summer relief carrier for the Los Angeles Times in 1952.

I was in the Times' distribution office early in the morning of July 21, busily fold papers and tying them by sticking them into an automatic tying machine when the magnitude 7.3 Kern County earthquake struck at 4:52 a.m.

We all rushed outside to watch the swaying power poles and streetlights. (Not the brightest move, but I was 13 at the time.)

When the shaking stopped, we went back inside, loaded up our bicycles and took off on our route.

Mike Harris (Email) - My brother Rich (two years my junior) and I shared a Wisconsin State Journal route for a while when we were in our early teens. We lived in what was then a pretty rural area of Madison, WI, so the route was not the easiest to negotiate, particularly on wintry days. When we could ride our bikes, it wasn't bad. We divided up the papers and went in opposite directions to deliver them. But the days we had to load the papers on a sled to pull it through the snow, we worked together. And, on the worst days, our dad would force himself out of bed and drive us on our route. The worst day I recall was a Sunday - heavy papers - in a blizzard. The papers were delivered to us before the snow began - around 5:30 a.m. We loaded up the sled and slogged through knee-deep snow, taking nearly two hours for the entire route. When we arrived home, thoroughly soaked and freezing, dad surprised us. He had built a fire and made hot chocolate to warm us up. It suddenly turned from a terrible morning to a really good one. We finally gave up the route during the second year when it became very difficult to collect the weekly subscriptions fee - particularly at the bigger, more expensive homes.

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Joe McGowan (Email) - I started delivering the Rock Springs (WY) Rocket while in grade school. The circulation manager let me merge two routes, so I had a lot of papers to deliver. The circulation manager told me the first paper I would deliver went just around the corner from the newspaper building. He told me to always go up the back stairs to the second floor to deliver the papers and to collect on Saturdays. So the first Saturday, I climbed the stairs, knocked on the door, and a sweet lady answered, invited me in, and brought me a glass of milk and some cookies. While she was counting out the money, I noticed several attractive young ladies in rather flimsy clothing walking around. I was too young to know what it was all about. Later, I asked the circulation manager and he told me what a House of Prostitution was all about, and that I had dealt with the madam! The front door of the place was directly across the street from the Union Pacific railroad depot!

On part of my double route, I used my bicycle. One morning (well before daylight) I biked across a customer's yard when all of a sudden, I was on the ground. Turned out the people had installed a clothes line and I biked into it, with the wire lines hitting me on the neck and chest!!

Soon, I was hired as office boy, but I kept the paper routes. So, I worked very early in the morning and again after school.

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Bob O'Meara (Email) - One of the hazards of being a paperboy was the occasional attack dog. In the mid 1930s I was a carrier of the Wisconsin State Journal in Monroe, Wis. One day I was delivering a paper to a downtown shop where a Dobermann Pinscher was standing just outside the door. As I approached, I pulled a newspaper out of my bag. The dog rushed at me and bit me just below the knee. I started bleeding. The owner of the Dobermann was in the shop and saw what happened. He came out and took me across the street to the office of a physician, Dr. Creasy, who happened to be our family doctor. The doctor cleaned up the wound and bandaged it. I presume the man paid the doctor. I completed my route and never saw the man or dog again.

Connecting mailbox

An invitation to come visit the Pizacs in their new Vancouver digs

Doug Pizac (Email) - I would like to share our new digs and lives with our former AP colleagues and friends. Betty and I have relocated from Salt Lake City to Vancouver, WA where we built our ultimate destination home that has habitat protected Salmon Creek and wetlands right behind us that is home to bald eagles, egrets, migrating flocks of ducks, geese, swans, etc., plus beaver, otters, turtles, etc. I plan on eventually getting a canoe for exploring and doing nature photography. In the meantime, I'm teaching mass communication classes part-time at Washington State University-Vancouver with the title of professor.

We moved into our new house on Friday the 13th last month, sold our Utah home on Saturday, and closed on it on Monday. Right after signing the docs a rainbow appeared over our new home, pictured. Then this last Monday we woke to a spectacular sunrise panoramic of Salmon Creek with Mt. Hood in the background made from our rear deck. And Tuesday morning we woke to another fantastic sunrise of the wetlands covered in fog with waterfowl in the creek. Sunsets are nice too.

Life is good.

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On newspapers and their delivery costs

John Strachan (Email) - As a subscriber to four daily newspapers, I certainly don't begrudge any of them the occasional rate hike. I take comfort in the fact that I am trying - in a very small way -to help preserve a free press at a time when this nation needs it more than ever.

I say this as I look over a recent invoice from the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle and reflect that my bimonthly subscription rate to this paper alone is now just pennies short of having doubled in a little over three years.

I can live with yet another rate hike. What catches my eye is a \$6.78 line item that reads: "Change in Del. Service, Rate or Length." When I call customer service to ask what this means, the rep tells me that's what the company is charging to recoup its costs to update their files, databases and other records when the subscription rate changes for any reason.

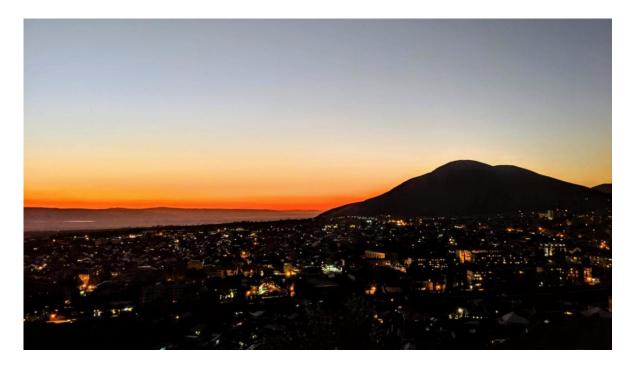
Before I can even conjure up a response less trite than "adding insult to injury," the rep says he's voiding the extra charge, telling me what I know already - that it's "totally unfair" to have subscribers subsidizing their own rate increase.

I mean if you're raising rates to cover increased costs, then raise the rates enough to cover the cost of raising the rates.

For my part, I've reconsidered increasing my subscription from weekends-only to seven days a week to avoid triggering the dreaded "Change in Del. Service, Rate or Length."

-0-

Connecting sky shot - Azerbaijan



Kevin Walsh (Email) - Taken in Sheki, Azerbaijan

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Peggy Walsh - walshnyt@gmail.com

On Saturday to ...

Gary Nyhus - coach24@gmail.com

On Sunday to ...

Marcia Budd - tantabudd@aol.com

Gary Graham - garygraham74@gmail.com Adriana Wiersma - awiersma7@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Heidi Brown - Hbrown@ap.org

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey Albert Habhab Gene Herrick Elaine Light Sam Montello Robert O'Meara Seymour Topping Sal Veder Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson Paul Albright Peter Arnett

Malcolm Barr

Lou Boccardi

Hal Bock

William Roy Bolch Jr.

Ben Brown

Charles Bruce

Hal Buell

Sibby Christensen

Shirley Christian

Mike Cochran

Eldon Cort

Don Dashiell

Bob Daugherty

Otto Doelling

Phil Dopoulos

John Eagan

Claude Erbsen

Mike Feinsilber

Steve Graham

George Hanna

Chick Harrity

Kathryn Johnson

Lee Jones

Doug Kienitz

Dean Lee

Warren Lerude

Carl Leubsdorf

Art Loomis

Dave Mazzarella

Joe McGowan

Walter Mears

Yvette Mercourt

Reid Miller

Charlie Monzella

Greg Nokes

Joe Somma

Arlon Southall

Marty Thompson

Ron Thompson

Kernan Turner

Hank Waters

Paul Webster

Jeff Williams

Joe Yeninas

Arnold Zeitlin

George Zucker

Stories of interest

Mass Layoffs, Chaos At 'Sports Illustrated' Spark Journalists' Rebellion (NPR)

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

The revered 65-year-old Sports Illustrated magazine is in a state of bedlam.

In meetings Thursday afternoon, managers told staff members that about half the newsroom would be laid off, according to two people present at the meetings.

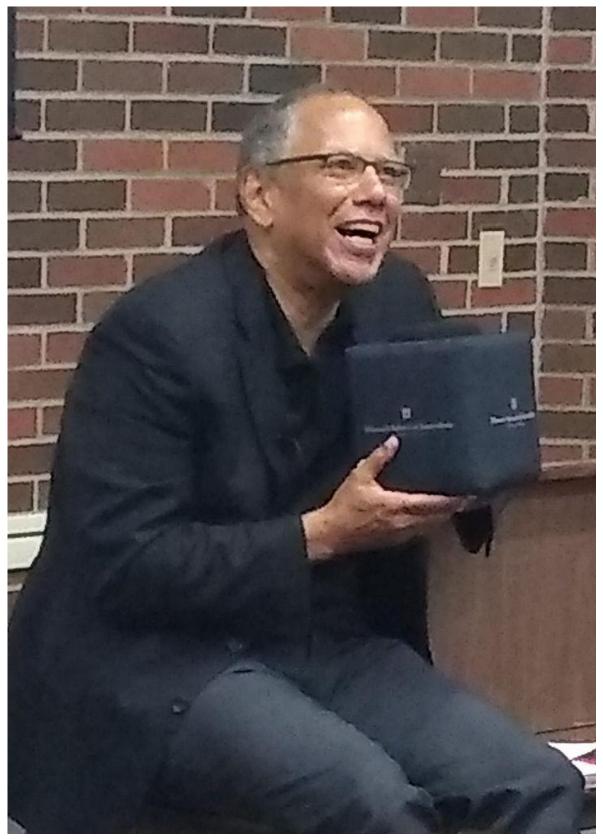
NPR obtained a petition signed by approximately three-quarters of Sports Illustrated's journalists asking its new owners not to deliver control of the publication to a digital publisher named TheMaven network.

"TheMaven wants to replace top journalists in the industry with a network of Maven freelancers and bloggers, while reducing or eliminating departments that have ensured that the stories we publish and produce meet the highest standards," the petition reads. "These plans significantly undermine our journalistic integrity, damage the reputation of this long-standing brand and negatively [affect] the economic stability of the publication."

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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New York Times editor promotes 'pure reporting' (Columbia Missourian)



Dean Baquet, New York Times editor and Missouri Honor Medalist, speaks about modern journalism Wednesday in Fisher Auditorium.

BY MARIA BENEVENTO

New York Times executive editor Dean Baquet urged an audience at MU not to ignore the value of "the people whose job it is to find stuff out."

Baquet, a 2019 Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service recipient, led a master class Wednesday titled "Why Reporting Matters in an Age of Opinion and Snark."

He spent the vast majority of his presentation answering audience questions about issues including his paper's handling of information about a whistleblower, the future of local newspapers, strategies for managing criticism, diversity in the media and the changing career pipeline for young journalists.

During brief remarks before he answered audience questions for more than an hour, Baquet said his "pet project" recently has been to promote the "value of pure reporting."

He described pure reporting as going out in the world with an unanswered question, "puzzling it through and then struggling toward as honest an answer as possible."

Read more here. Shared by Scott Charton.

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CJC Alum Turns Dream into Financial Reality

By Lauren (Joos) Keys, B.S. Journalism 2012

As a borderline perfectionist, I was thrilled to set a lofty goal and accomplish it this year when I visited all 61 US National Parks in seven months. As an experienced story-teller, I felt my soul spark to life as we uncovered nuance in the visitor centers by day and took in a different sunset every night. As a budding entrepreneur, I decided to finally launch a blog to share not only our experiences in the parks but also how we got to the point in our lives where such a trip was even possible.

The trip was remarkable, make no mistake, but I understand that sleeping in a van and generally being outside isn't everyone's cup of tea. For them and everyone else, the real story I want to share is how to make any dream a reality.

The Final Word

The Surprising Origins of the Phrase 'You Guys' (Time)



Engraving of Guy Fawkes and other Gunpowder plot conspirators, from OLD AND NEW LONDON (Vol. 1) by Walter Thornbury, 1897. Time Life Pictures/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Image

BY ALLAN METCALF

You guys, what's going on? How come we routinely say "guys" or "you guys" when talking to a group of two or more?

Whenever we speak or write, we are automatically voting just by choosing which words to use. Every sentence of this entire column, for example, casts votes for the words I'm using. This explains why most of the ingenious new words invented by authors like Gelett Burgess (A Classic Dictionary of Words You Have Always Needed, 1914), Faith Popcorn (Dictionary of the Future, 2001) or Lizzie Skurnick (That Should Be a Word, 2015) never take hold. People enjoy the ingenuity and humor but don't often adopt the proposed words as part of their everyday vocabulary. Unless they are actually put to use, words don't become part of our language.

A notable, even astonishing, example of a new word gaining success by popular vote-with or without anyone consciously wishing for it-is "guys."

Read more here.

Today in History - October 4, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2019. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Oct. 4, 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. In a federal court in Boston, a laughing Richard Reid pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight with explosives in his shoes (the British citizen was later sentenced to life in prison).

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1861, during the Civil War, the United States Navy authorized construction of the first ironclad ship, the USS Monitor.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1951, the MGM movie musical "An American in Paris," starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron, had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1989, Triple Crown-winning racehorse Secretariat, suffering a hoof ailment, was humanely destroyed at age 19.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

In 2003, a Palestinian woman blew herself up inside a restaurant in Haifa, Israel, killing 21 bystanders.

In 2004, the SpaceShipOne rocket plane broke through Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space for the second time in five days, capturing the \$10 million Ansari X prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists. Pioneering astronaut Gordon Cooper died in Ventura, California, at age 77.

In 2017, President Donald Trump visited hospital bedsides and a police base in Las Vegas in the aftermath of the shooting rampage three nights earlier that left 58 people dead.

Ten years ago: Greek Socialists trounced the governing conservatives in a landslide election. Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa, 74, died in Buenos Aires.

Five years ago: North Korea's presumptive No. 2 leader, Hwang Pyong So, and other members of Pyongyang's inner circle met with South Korean officials in the rivals' highest level face-to-face talks in five years. Former Haitian "president for life" Jean-Claude Duvalier, 63, died in Port-au-Prince. Paul Revere, 76, the organist and leader of the Raiders rock band, died in Garden Vallley, Idaho.

One year ago: The Senate Judiciary Committee said it had received an FBI report on sexual misconduct allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh; leading GOP lawmakers said there was nothing new in the report, while Democrats complained that the investigation omitted interviews with some potential witnesses and accused the White House of limiting the scope of the probe. President Donald Trump told a Minnesota rally that Republican voters would be motivated by what he called the "rage-fueled resistance" by Democrats to the Kavanaugh nomination. Former rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was sentenced in Los Angeles to 28 years in prison for running down and killing a Compton businessman with a pickup truck.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 90. Actress Felicia Farr is 87. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 85. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 78. Author Anne Rice is 78. Actress Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 78. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 75. Actor Clifton Davis is 74. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 73. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 73. Actress Susan Sarandon is 73. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 71. Playwright Lee Blessing is 70. Actor Armand Assante is 70. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 69. Actor Christoph Waltz is 63. Actor Bill Fagerbakke is 62. Music producer Russell Simmons is 62. Actress Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 62. Actress-singer Wendy Makkena is 61. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 60. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 59. Actor David W. Harper is 58. Singer Jon Secada is 58. TV personality John Melendez is 54. Actor-comedian Jerry Minor is 52. Actor Liev Schreiber is 52. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 50. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 49. Singerguitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 46. Actress Alicia Silverstone is 43. Actress Dana Davis is 41. Rock musician Robbie Bennett (The War on Drugs) is 41. Actor Phillip Glasser is 41. Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 41. Actor Brandon Barash is 40. Actress Rachael Leigh Cook is 40. Actor Tim Peper is 39. Actor Jimmy Workman is 39. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (3lw) is 32. Actor Michael Charles Roman is 32. Actress Melissa Benoist is 31. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 31. Actress Dakota Johnson is 30. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 30. Actress Leigh-Anne Pinnock (Little Mix) is 28. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 23.

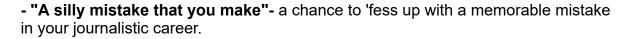
Thought for Today: "Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock." - Ben Hecht, American screenwriter (1894-1964).

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.



- **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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