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## Connecting - October 21, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

October 21, 2019

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## *Good Monday morning!*

A reminder to please forward to me ([pcoughlin@ap.org](mailto:pcoughlin@ap.org)) your Connecting submissions while Paul and Linda are on their Holy Land pilgrimage the rest of this week into midweek next week.

As Paul noted, I was his assistant bureau chief in Kansas City, from 1995-2000, after moving to the bureau in 1990 from AP's Bismarck, N.D., bureau. I started with AP in 1988 in the statehouse in Pierre, S.D. I've been an AP election coordinator since 2000, where I coordinate the collection and dissemination of election night vote tallies for AP in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana and Missouri.

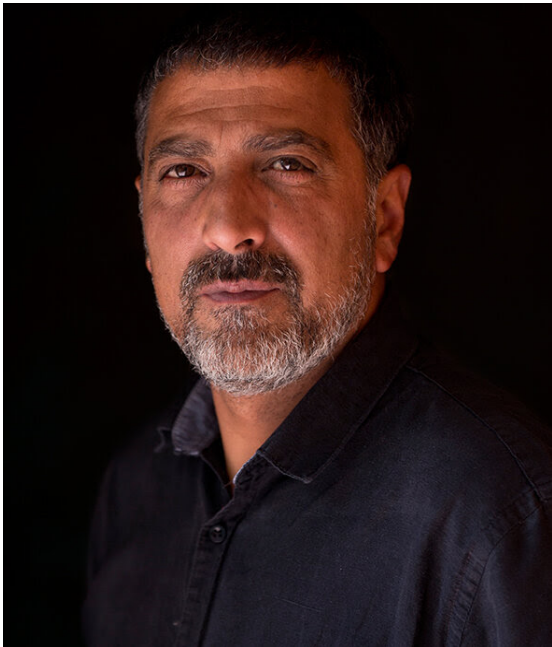
# Dar Yasin wins international photo award



Kashmir-based photographer Dar Yasin has won the inaugural Yannis Behrakis International Photojournalism Award from Athens Photo World for a compelling collection of photographs chronicling the ongoing conflict in Kashmir. Yasin will be honored during the Athens Photo World festival in May, where his award-winning photography will be on display. Yasin's winning images can be seen on the [AP Images blog](#).

## *About Dar Yasin*

Dar Yasin has covered extensively the Indian Kashmir conflict, South Asia earthquake and its aftermath, and the historical opening of a bus route between divided Kashmir. On assignment in Afghanistan, he has covered the Afghan War, Afghan refugees and daily life of war-torn Afghans. He also has covered Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar. His works have appeared in almost all major newspapers and news magazines around the globe.



Dar has won dozens of international and national photo awards. He was part of The Associated Press team that won the Hal Boyle Award for the Rohingya Exodus in the Overseas Press Club and a Robert F. Kennedy Award in the International Print category. In 2017, he received the National Press Photographers Association Humanitarian Award, which is presented to an individual for playing a key role in the saving of lives or in rescue situations.

## **AP preseason basketball polls to be released**

The preseason AP Top 25 polls for men's and women's college basketball, the longest-running polls of their kind, will be released the weeks of Oct. 21 and 28.

The men's preseason poll will be revealed on Monday, Oct. 21, while the men's all-America team - a tradition dating back to 1948 - will be released the next day, on Tuesday, Oct. 23. The women's preseason poll will come out Wednesday, Oct. 30, with the women's all-America team to be unveiled on Thursday, Oct. 31.

The AP has released a men's preseason poll every year since 1962 and a women's poll since 1977, which also was the first AP women's basketball poll. The first AP men's basketball poll was on Jan. 20, 1949, and since then one has been released every week of every regular season.

## **Connecting profile**

***Clarke Canfield***



I cut my teeth as a journalist at a small daily paper in rural Arkansas that sold for 15 cents a copy and paid me \$3.81 an hour. I had no idea what I was doing when I was hired a few months after graduating college in 1980. Soon, though, I was a reporter, photographer, the business editor, the farm page editor and a man about town.

Through my journalism career, I have been fortunate enough to work as a reporter and editor at several daily papers, three magazines, a dot-com startup (as the director of content) during the dot-com boom (and bust) of 2000-2001, and finally The Associated Press. I worked in the Portland, Maine, bureau of the AP for 13 years until my departure at the end of 2013, when I was seeking a change and was hired as the communications director at a 6,000-student community college in South Portland.

After my start at the Courier-News in Blytheville and a one-year stint at Boston University to get a master's degree in journalism, I worked for the now-defunct Nashville Banner for about five years. I worked hard and played hard during those

years, but always had my sights on Maine, where my family had a summer cottage and where my sibling had moved.

In 1987, I went to work for the Portland Press Herald, the daily in Maine's largest city. During my first go-around there, I focused on marine issues, like commercial fishing, lobsters, island life and ocean science. After seven years, I left in 1994 to become the editor of a national gourmet food newspaper. A year later, I was hired by another publishing company in Portland to be the editor of two national magazines, one about commercial fishing and the other about the seafood industry.

But I didn't really enjoy managing the staff (we had offices in Portland, New Orleans and Seattle) and missed the daily reporting. Back to the Press Herald I went, this time as a business reporter.

One of my business beats was high-tech, which meant this newfangled thing known as the internet. I had friends in San Francisco and Seattle who had been lured away from newspaper by internet companies promising them high salaries and stock options, and I asked myself "What about me? Why doesn't a dot-com call me and offer me stock options?"

One day the call did come. So I went to work for as the "director of content" for a dot-com startup involved in the seafood industry that had \$43 million in venture capital behind it. If it was good enough for GE Capital (the largest investor), it was good enough for me. But the exhilaration turned to gloom when it became apparent the company wouldn't make it (and the company would never go public). I left after exactly 52 weeks and went to the Portland bureau of the AP. Two weeks after I left, the dot-com went under.

From early 2001 to late 2013, I worked at the AP alongside some of the best journalists I've ever known, writing a lot about lobster, border security (Maine has long border with Canada) after 9/11, politics, and the idiosyncrasies that make Maine Maine. While at the AP, after the Red Sox finally won the World Series in 2004, I wrote a book about the New York Yankees called "Those Damned Yankees." The book is for Yankee-haters, focusing on the failures, foibles and fallacies of the Yankee franchise. George Steinbrenner even wrote a letter to my father (who was a frat brother of George's in college) about the book. The letter is now framed in my home office.

Looking for change, I took a job in 2013 at Southern Maine Community college as the communications director. Writing and photography make up the bulk of my work; my least favorite part of the job is media relations. I continue to write free-lance articles for a couple of Maine-based magazines.

When I'm not working, I like to stay busy bicycling, playing tennis, hiking, cooking, boating and reading, among other things of course. My wife, Amy, is the managing editor for three weekly papers that are now owned by the parent company of the Press Herald. Our son, Eli, is a senior at the University of Southern Maine with the aim of becoming a sports writer. He works about three nights a week in the sports department of the Press Herald while going to school during the day

So many people have had an impact on me in journalism, I can't name them all here. But a few worth mentioning are the late Hank Haines, the owner/publisher of the Courier News who dared to hire me even though I didn't know what I was doing. There was Joe Worley, the ME of the Nashville Banner, and Lou Ureneck, the editor of the Press

Herald. And the top-notch staff in Maine, including David Sharp, Jerry Harkavy and Glenn Adams.

I wouldn't change a thing I've done. I'm lucky in that I was able to mix things up, get to work with great people through the years and maintain friendships. Clarke

Canfield

[\(Email\)](#)

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Cool comment about Grimmy award appreciated***

**Mark Rosati** [\(Email\)](#) - Thanks for the item in today's Connecting on the obituary award winners. In the 'small world' department: Maureen O'Donnell of the Sun-Times is my wife, and well-known to many former AP staff in WX, CX and New England. And the designer of the 'Grimmy' award is our child, Mason Rosati, a recent graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, who designed it for the Society of Professional Obituary Writers (SPOW) in 2017. So I very much appreciate your comments about the cool design.

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### ***Compliments to AP, Calvin Woodward***

**Robert Egelko** [\(Email\)](#) - Compliments to the AP and Calvin Woodward for his latest piece on Trump and Syria ("Trump portrays Mideast as a bloody sandbox, maligns Kurds" Oct. 18) Unpretentious, thoughtful and refreshingly willing to state facts and logical conclusions that contradict the powers-that-be without ascribing them to "critics" or "opponents" of the administration. Like noting that the region the president described as "a lot of sand" was actually "the fertile breadbasket of Syria." That his "dismissive words" reflected a "world view that typecasts foreign cultures or countries as alien ones." And that the Kurds, in the president's view, "were great fighters - angels, almost - until they were not so great." I'm not qualified to judge the accuracy of these conflicting narratives, but the writing and editing of the article made for an informative and credible piece of journalism.

## Stories of interest

### ***Editor Mike Fannin named president***

# *of The Kansas City Star*

(The Kansas City Star)

## **By Steve Vockrodt**

Mike Fannin, editor and vice president of The Kansas City Star, was named president of the news organization on Friday, as it begins its 140th year in Kansas City.

Fannin will lead The Star's overall operations while continuing to oversee a newsroom that has been a Pulitzer Prize finalist the last two years.

"Mike Fannin is among the most talented editors in America today, and he leads one of the country's greatest newsrooms," said Craig Forman, president and CEO of McClatchy, which owns The Star. "I'm delighted that he's now able to expand his influence both at The Star and also with the community that he loves."

Fannin, 53, was named editor of The Star in 2008, having previously served as managing editor and sports editor. He joined The Star in 1997 after working as an assistant sports editor at The Dallas Morning News. Fannin, a Kentucky native who attended the University of Texas, started his journalism career at the San Antonio Light, which closed in 1993.

"It's the honor of a lifetime to be able to lead a company that I've loved for more than two decades," Fannin said. "Kansas City has a special relationship with The Star, and we will continue to serve our community and look for new ways to build on that relationship."

As editor, Fannin oversaw numerous award-winning stories, including the 2017 investigative series, "Why So Secret, Kansas?" The series, which examined extreme secrecy in Kansas government, led to changes in state laws and was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, the most prestigious honor in journalism.

The prize was awarded to the New Yorker and The New York Times for uncovering stories of sexual abuse and impropriety that helped prompt the #MeToo movement.



"I'm thrilled we have a great local leader like Mike to step in and take this expanded role," said Gary Wortel, publisher of the Sacramento Bee and the head of West operations for McClatchy. "We're lucky to have someone with his experience and journalism track record ready to lead The Star."

In Fannin's tenure, The Star has won many national, regional and local journalism awards, including the Robert F. Kennedy Award, First Amendment prizes from Scripps Howard, Associated Press Managing Editors and the Society of Professional Journalists, as well as numerous honors from Investigative Reporters and Editors. The Star has also won multiple Gold Cups for best coverage in the state from the Missouri Press Association.

Stories published during that time frame have resulted in new laws or policies to fix loopholes exposed by The Star, ousted politicians for violating their pledge to serve the public's interest and caught businesses taking shortcuts and putting customers in harm's way.

An investigation of the meat industry found that mechanically tenderized beef exposed Americans to a higher risk of E. coli poisoning. Reporting on sexual harassment in Missouri's Capitol led to the resignation of the House speaker. And an investigation following a death on the Verruckt water slide highlighted problems with design and safety features of the 17-story slide, which later closed.

Fannin also oversees five other newsrooms as a regional editor for McClatchy. Those titles include the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Wichita Eagle and Lexington Herald-Leader.

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## ***Fake videos could be the next big problem in the 2020 elections*** (CNBC)

**By Grace Shao**

Fake news was a big problem for the 2016 election. "Deepfake" videos could be an even bigger problem in 2020.

Deepfake technology can be used to create videos that seem to show politicians saying things they never said, or doing things they never have done. The technology first gained widespread attention in April 2018, when comedian Jordan Peele created a video that pretended to show former President Barack Obama insulting President Donald Trump in a speech.

The technology is a problem not only because the videos are fake and easy to make, but also because like "fake news" articles on social media, they are likely to be shared.



"Deepfakes can be made by anyone with a computer, internet access, and interest in influencing an election," said John Villasenor, a professor at UCLA focusing on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. He explained that "they are a powerful new tool for those who might want to (use) misinformation to influence an election."

[\(Read more here\)](#)

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## ***When the student newspaper is the only daily paper in town*** (New York Times)

**By Dan Levin**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Municipal committee meetings - the tedious minutiae of Ann Arbor's local governance - do not tend to draw a crowd. On a recent afternoon, Katherina Sourine was among only a few in attendance.

But Ms. Sourine, a University of Michigan senior, was there because she had to be. As one of four city and government reporters for Ann Arbor's sole daily newspaper, she had biked through a steady rain between classes to take notes on the city's plans for developing a new park.

"If we weren't covering it, no one would know what's going on," said Ms. Sourine, 21, who also plays rugby and is taking a full schedule of classes this semester. "It's really hard to take time out of my day, especially when breaking news hits. But a lot of people rely on us to stay informed, not only students, but the people of Ann Arbor."

For more than a decade, The Michigan Daily, the university's student newspaper, has been the only daily paper in town. After The Ann Arbor News shuttered its daily print edition in 2009 - and eventually its website, too - a staff of about 300 student journalists has worked hard to provide incisive coverage about the city's police, power brokers and policymakers, all while keeping up with school.

Student journalists across the country have stepped in to help fill a void after more than 2,000 newspapers have closed or merged, leaving more than 1,300 communities without any local news coverage. And several young reporters have broken consequential stories that have prodded powerful institutions into changing policies.

[\(Read more here\)](#)

Submitted by Sibby Christensen [\(Email\)](#)

# Connecting photo

## *Sunset on Maui*



**Marty Thompson ([Email](#))** - Here's the sun setting Friday, Oct. 18, from the beach on Napili Bay on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Janet and I have been coming to Napili Bay at least once a year for 14 years. Janet took this photo.

## Today in History - October 21, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, Oct. 21, the 294th day of 2019. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 21, 1892, schoolchildren across the U.S. observed Columbus Day (according to the Gregorian date) by reciting, for the first time, the original version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy for The Youth's Companion.

On this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1917, members of the 1st Division of the U.S. Army training in Luneville (luhn-nay-VEEL'), France, became the first Americans to see action on the front lines of World War I.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

In 1967, the Israeli destroyer INS Eilat (ay-LAH'T') was sunk by Egyptian missile boats near Port Said (sah-EED'); 47 Israeli crew members were lost. Tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters began two days of demonstrations in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1976, Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize for literature, the first American honored since John Steinbeck in 1962.

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White - who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate - was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 1996, President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military survived its first Supreme Court test.

In 2001, Washington, D.C., postal worker Thomas L. Morris Jr. died of inhalation anthrax as officials began testing thousands of postal employees.

Ten years ago: Northwest Airlines Flight 188, an Airbus A320, flew past the Minneapolis airport by more than 100 miles before turning around and landing safely; the pilots later said they'd been distracted while talking about their schedules. Authorities found the body of missing Florida 7-year-old Somer Thompson in a Georgia landfill (Jarred Harrell later pleaded guilty to kidnapping, rape and murder, and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole). Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jack Nelson of the Los Angeles Times died in Bethesda, Maryland, at 80. The Philadelphia Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-4 in Game 5 of the National League Championship Series to win their second straight NL pennant.

Five years ago: North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington. The San Francisco Giants defeated the Kansas City Royals 7-1 in the first game of the World Series. One year ago: A growing caravan of Honduran migrants continued through southern Mexico toward the United States, after getting past Mexican agents who briefly blocked them at the Guatemalan border. One of Taiwan's fastest passenger trains derailed on a curve along a popular weekend route, killing 18 people and injuring nearly 200 others. Bluegrass and country star Ricky Skaggs, singer Dottie West and fiddler Johnny Gimble were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joyce Randolph is 95. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 79. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 78. Singer Elvin Bishop is 77. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 77. Actor Everett McGill is 74. Musician Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn) (Chicago) is 73. Actor Dick Christie is 71. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 70. Actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 70. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 66. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke

is 64. Singer Julian Cope is 62. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 62. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 60. Actress Melora Walters is 59. Rock musician Che (chay) Colovita Lemon is 49. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 48. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 46. Actor Jeremy Miller is 43. Country singer Matthew Ramsey (Old Dominion) is 42. Actor Will Estes is 41. Actor Michael McMillian is 41. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH'-ee-uhn) West is 39. Actor Matt Dallas is 37. Actress Charlotte Sullivan is 36. Actor Aaron Tveit (tuh-VAYT') is 36. Actor Glenn Powell is 31. Country singer Kane Brown is 26.

Thought for Today: "Silence is sometimes the severest criticism." - Charles Buxton, English writer (1823-1871).

## 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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