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Connecting - November 01, 2019

1 message

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Fri, Nov 1, 2019 at 8:54 AM

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Connecting

November 01, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 1st day of November 2019,

There were moments of wonder and of joy in our pilgrimage to the Holy Land that ended early this week - and there were also moments of reflection.





I share these two photos of Linda and me in such a mode - she in the mountainous area Wadi Qelt - valley of the shadow of death, or the Judean wilderness (where we saw goat herders and their flocks) and me (red shirt with water bottle in his pocket) at the Wailing Wall in The Old City of Jerusalem where I offered up prayers for family and friends...and for you. Being 6-foot-4 allowed me to place my prayer requests a bit higher than most.

If you look closely at the photo of Wadi Qelt, you will see in the valley the Monastery of St. George, first constructed in AD 500 and inhabited today by Greek Orthodox monks. The valley parallels the old Roman road to Jericho, the backdrop for the parable of the Good Samaritan.

See The Final Word for a few more shots - and then enough, already...

Hope you have a great weekend!

Paul

AP's 'Tips for New Foreign Correspondents' -while quaint today - were handy back in the '80s

Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - I was going through my papers and found this four-page set of "Tips for New Foreign Correspondents," issued in the early 80's to staffers being posted overseas by the foreign desk. (Now, of course, nothing is foreign.)

I thought others might find them quaint and nostalgic, although at the time they often proved handy. The ITT-RCA credit card was vital while traveling on assignment, for example. The short-wave radio wasn't all that useful for work purposes but occasionally I could tune into Red Sox games on a wavering signal from Armed Forces Radio.

TIPS FOR NEW FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

1. When you get to a well-trodden area, don't let your predecessor go without giving you his source book with numbers. (some staffers take an overly proprietary attitude toward their sources and don't like to share them; assure him you will protect his identity when necessary but get those numbers.).
2. If you are sent to a relatively uncharted area, or if you have no predecessor, start building a contact book fast. Friendly/non-competitive journalists, local newspaper people, friendly embassies and foreign businessmen are the best places to start.
3. When travelling, don't go without:

NY and other key telex and telephone numbers.
ITT-RCA credit card
Portable typewriter and lots of paper
short-wave radio *
tape recorder-camera
"Lomofil" or similar, including a compact
first aid kit.

If you haven't got government press credentials, an official looking police pass or other card with your picture can be intimidating.

4. Before going overseas, have a cable clerk teach you how to punch your own tape. Relying on a non-English speaking telex operator in a backwater hotel or PTT office can be disastrous, and they often welcome the opportunity of not having to punch strange copy. You'll find the delays are often less if you punch it yourself, and the cleaner the copy, the quicker it can be handled in New York or other filing destination.
5. If you're filing from a remote place, where you probably can't be reached for a call-back, tie up as many loose ends as possible in an editor's note or accompanying message. Put yourself in a NY editor's shoes as to what questions might be raised by the story.

* When out in the field, a radio is probably going to be your only link to the outside world and the key to your professional survival. Foreign correspondents live in fear of missing a big one in their own back yard because they're out of touch. The reporter out interviewing the witch doctor for a feature is doing his job, unless there's been a coup back in the capital that he hadn't heard about. The BBC World Service is often the only way to know.

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6. In free moments, try to get visas for areas you may have to visit in the future, without waiting until the last moment. The embassy in question will usually ask when you plan to visit and will not accept a general answer that you want it protectively. So be specific, trying to get the longest period as possible on the visa. If you don't use it, c'est la view, you get it renewed later. Sometimes, obtaining a visa to a rarely visited country can take months. Set the groundwork early.

7. Among the hardest realities to accept for a foreign correspondent in the boondocks:

a. there are few stories on which the fate of the world rests, and NY is handling hundreds a day. For your own peace of mind, keep that in mind when you think NY is more apathetic about your piece than you think it should be. NEVERTHELESS, MOVE IT TO NY AS IF IT WERE THE WORLD'S BEST STORY.

b. No matter how much trouble you had in getting the story and filing it, what counts is the end result and how it looks when it arrives. Callous as it appears, NY cannot be constantly concerned about the hardships or the means of getting a story. You know that already from working on the desk. Consequently, avoid the temptation of unnecessarily inserting yourself and your troubles into the story unless such is integral to the theme or adds some scintillating color. Save it for the LOG. (Naturally, there are exceptions, like Goldsmith's experience with Bokassa.)

8. Other tips:

AVOID WORM VISION - While the specific incident is often valuable as a peg for a situationer, don't fall into the trap of thinking the incident is the whole story. In a war or crisis situation, you might find yourself covering one battle or a blow-up, returning to home base and discovering all hell broke loose elsewhere while you were away. Frustrating as it is, you might find your 12-hour trip is only worth a couple of paragraphs in the big-picture story. (You can write a sidebar later.)

REMEMBER YOUR AUDIENCE - The longer you're overseas, the more tempted you may become to write for a select audience of government officials, who read the wire, or local experts. Resist.

The syndrome goes something like this: The longer you're in a place, the more complicated the situation appears; you're in touch with diplomats and experts who attach great significance to every nuance in the local newspaper or speech from some deputy minister; meanwhile, the local government press officer is telling you how important it is that the world see the "good things" his country is trying to do; others keep telling you how perceptive the last "Le Monde" article was; you're not getting much feedback from NY, but you are hearing from locals who may be reading the AP wire.

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Result; you start, unconsciously maybe, writing for your sources. Your takes get longer; the story gets more convoluted with lots of "on the other hands;" you ignore the background because you think it might be too simplistic; you stop using easily identifiable handles, like guerrilla, because you believe it doesn't tell the whole story. In short, you forget that your audience is outside the country you are covering. The Kansas City or Bangkok milkman target does not mean you have to write "down" to your audience, but it does mean you have to explain what's going on to an outsider who might likely ask "Why should I read this story?"

REMEMBER THE CONTEXT - When somebody says something, identify the circumstances in which he said it; to The AP by phone, at a press conference for foreign reporters, in an interview with the local newspaper, etc. Don't be timid about attaching a degree of significance to the item based on the context. For example, Yasser Arafat often comes across as a moderate soft-liner when he's talking to westerners, but as a hardline militant when he's addressing his own people. The importance of his speech should be noted on that basis, preferably attributed to some analyst other than yourself.

SOURCING - An age-old problem, and probably most violated overseas in remote areas. The arguments most often given for not identifying a source by name is that (1) you will burn your bridges with the source (2) that you will burn the source, period. That is understandable, and it is more important to get the information than to identify the source. But reporters often get lazy and presume no one wants to be identified, so they never both even asking a name, much less announcing that they will use it. Be as specific as you possibly can, and if the source does not want to be identified, say so with an explanation of why. "Observers" and "reliable sources" just isn't good enough.

Laziness or conscious failure to source can lead a reporter down a path to damnation: attributing information for speculation to "long-time observers," when it really is coming from you alone; and finally, damndest of all, THE FABRICATED QUOTE. (Beware, a sharp editor can spot this - your copy starts to look too good, the quotes are too perfect.

The longer you're in a place, the more you will know what's going on, perhaps more than the so-called experts. So, you say to yourself: "Why can't I make this judgement, since I know it better than anyone else?" All that might be true, but get someone else to confirm it anyway. We're not in the business of writing editorials, and, anyway, the observer might just have something valuable to say.

ACCURACY - If you're a good writer but a bad journalist, you can write a plausible story that could easily get by the desk. Let's face it, the staffer in the field is the real gatekeeper of accuracy.

If the story fits together, the lead is back^{up} with quotes and the figures all add up, then the desk in NY has to assume the story is accurate. That puts a tremendous burden on you, because The AP's reputation is first and foremost one of a reliable news service.

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If you can't plug a hole with a known fact, but the story is too good to sit on, send it and let NY know in an accompanying message or explanatory graf that the information is not known.

REMEMBER HISTORY - Nothing is really new, to paraphrase a cliché. A little knowledge of the past is invaluable for perspective and color. Carry a local history or guide books with you and you can give a dimension that news stories all too often lack.

DON'T BE FOOLHARDY - There is sometimes a fine line between being honest and being stupid or offensive. No one is asking you to jeopardize yourself or your sources by being so forthright that someone gets in serious trouble. You just have to read the situation of the moment. Tactical compromises are often necessary in the name of strategy. The AP isn't going to ask that a valuable news operation or a staffer be jeopardized in the name of non-essential forthrightness.

OLD NEWS vs. NEW EVENT - One of the most frustrating experiences for an overseas correspondent is to get a call-back from NY on information you already had last week or last month. Sometimes, the desk here just forgot about it and the opposition got good play with it today. But often it is a case of old news becoming fresh again because a new event has run smack up against it. For example, the Kremlin may have been saying for months that it wants to rekindle the SALT talks. But yesterday, the U.S. President has announced he won't negotiate arms limitations any more. Today, the Soviets reiterate their old stand. Now. THAT'S NEWS! This is an extreme example but it happens in varying degrees often. Be responsive to such possibilities.

DO YOUR OWN CUTTING - Don't write a story 1,500 words when you know only 750 will make it. You can't cry in anguish about the edited version if you do send a longer piece. If you feel there is extra information that Cables-APW ought to know about, send it along in an accompanying message.

Memories of Battle of Midway stirred by Best of States winner

Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - Caleb Jones' exclusive coverage of the discovery of Japanese warships sunk during the Battle of Midway (AP Best of States, Tuesday's Connecting) stirred a lot of memories for me. First off, I grew up four blocks from Chicago's Midway Airport, which was named for the World War II battle. I didn't know too much about it, though, until I became AP's Pensacola correspondent in 1984. Pensacola, of course, is home to the Navy's first air station and the National Naval Aviation Museum. I soon learned that Midway was naval aviation's most celebrated battle and the turning point of the war in the Pacific.



During my time in Pensacola I got a chance to relive and report on the history of that battle through interviews with Midway veterans who worked at or visited the museum. That included American and Japanese airmen as well as surviving crew members of the USS Yorktown, the only American carrier sunk during the battle. One veteran who stands out was Jack Bohner, a crew member aboard a Navy PBX-5A Catalina seaplane. It rescued the only surviving member of a U.S. torpedo plane squadron, Ensign George Gay, after the battle. The torpedo planes had failed to do any damage to the Japanese fleet, but they drew enemy fighters down to a low altitude. That allowed high-flying American dive bombers to attack almost unmolested and sink the two Japanese aircraft carriers recently found on the sea bottom. Bohner recalled that his pilot, who had never before made an open sea landing, took a vote among the crew as to whether they should try the risky rescue. The vote went in Gay's favor. He'd had a front-seat view of the battle and provided Navy brass with vital information about what happened.

The key to victory had been the Navy's ability to break the Japanese code. That enabled the Americans to determine the Japanese fleet intended to capture Midway, a U.S. outpost in the Pacific, and when the attack was planned to take place. That information enabled the Navy to ambush the Japanese before they got to Midway. In

2002, I covered a 60th anniversary celebration of the code-breakers' achievement at the Navy's cryptography school, also in Pensacola.

The most interesting of the Midway stories, though, was about an SBD Dauntless dive bomber recovered in 1990 from the bottom of Lake Michigan off the shore of my hometown and not too many miles from Midway Airport. A student pilot had crashed the plane 47 years earlier while attempting to land on one of two Chicago-based aircraft carriers used for training during World War II. Once recovered, it was shipped to the Pensacola museum for restoration. Restorers realized they might have something special when they found the words "Midway Madness" painted on the cowling. Navy historians used the plane's markings and patches over multiple bullet holes to confirm the Dauntless had participated in the Battle of Midway. It was, in fact, the only surviving aircraft from the battle then known to exist and the most historic World War II aircraft in the museum's collection. It had been based on Midway Island and flown by a Marine Corps crew, a pilot and gunner. It was among several Midway-based warplanes that attempted to attack the Japanese fleet. Like the torpedo planes, they inflicted no damage but helped distract enemy fighter to give the carrier-based dive bombers a clear shot at the Japanese warships.

Midway Madness was badly shot up but managed to make it back to the island. It then found its way to Chicago for training duty. Both Midway crew members survived but later met untimely deaths. A friend of the pilot's sister spotted an AP picture of the recovered plane in a Tennessee newspaper and told her about it. The sister contacted the museum and I interviewed her over the phone. She told me her brother, Daniel Iverson, later was assigned as an instructor pilot in Vero Beach, Florida, where he died in a mid-air collision in 1944. An Illinois computer buff helped the museum find family members of the gunner, Wallace Reid. His mother told the museum's historian he later became a Marine infantry officer and was killed during the Korean War.

The museum, though, was able to find the student pilot who crashed the Dauntless and reunite him with the plane. It also put me in touch with another pilot, Mark Twain Whittier, who had flown the plane earlier in the war. Together they had sunk a Japanese light cruiser about three months before the Battle of Midway. That only added to the plane's historic significance. Whittier told me over the phone from his home in Carmel, California, that he and several other pilots had taken off from the USS Lexington and spotted a group of Japanese ships still in their harbor. "It was like dropping a pickle in a barrel," he said.

Now I am looking forward to seeing how much of this history has made it into a new movie about the Battle of Midway that opens in theaters in about a week. A previous "Midway" movie was filmed partly in Pensacola where a new USS Lexington (successor to Whittier's ship, which itself was sunk in another battle) filled in for Japanese as well as American carriers. I understand that the new movie uses ship models as no World War II carriers remain in operation. The new Lexington, which itself had a distinguished record in World War II, now is a floating museum in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Connecting mailbox

Kathryn Johnson's family appreciates that she is remembered even at 93

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - Many people contacted me about Kathryn Johnson after I wrote a short tribute for Connecting last week.

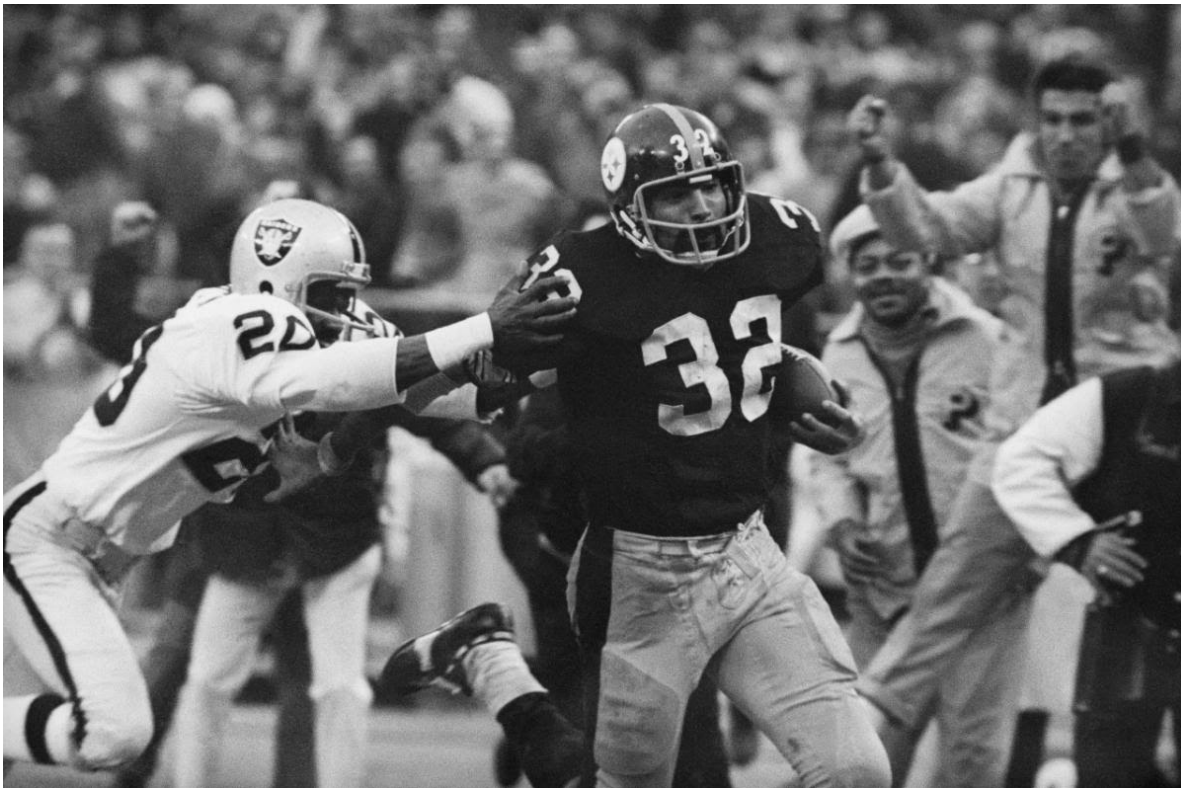
At a gathering Wednesday I was able to pass along everyone's admiration for Kathryn's career and the way she guided others.

Her family was so thrilled to hear that even at 93 when she died so many people remembered her.

Friends and family asked that I extend their thanks for the thoughts and tributes.

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Candy bar named Immaculate Confection stirs memories of AP photo of 'Immaculate Reception'



FILE - In this Dec. 23, 1972, file photo, Franco Harris (32) of the Pittsburgh Steelers eludes a tackle by Jimmy Warren of the Oakland Raiders on a 42-yard run to score the winning touchdown in the American Conference playoff game in Pittsburgh. The Minnesota Vikings' last-second playoff win over the New Orleans Saints brought back memories of another desperation playoff touchdown, the Immaculate Reception. (AP Photo/Harry Cabluck, File)

Hal Buell ([Email](#)) - A new candy bar, made of milk chocolate and caramel, turned up in Pittsburgh recently. Not big news. However, the candy bar is called, Immaculate Confection, and its wrapper featuring 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers' iconic running back Franco Harris, revives memories of the Immaculate Reception.

Immaculate Reception? What's that? Ask AP photographer Harry Cabluck, now retired, but back then the go-to AP photographer in Pittsburgh. He will tell you that Immaculate Reception is the name of the greatest play in football history, a miraculous catch by Harris in the final seconds of a 1972 NFL playoff game between the Steelers and the Oakland Raiders.

Cabluck&Camera were there that day, December 23, when the Immaculate Reception, its name traceable to word play on Roman Catholic doctrine known as Immaculate Conception, became a memorable moment in NFL history.

The picture? It's Harry's shot of Pittsburgh Steeler Harris shaking off an Oakland Raiders defender moments after Harris made a spectacular catch of a Terry Bradshaw pass gone bad.

The Steelers trailed 7-6 and it was 4th-and-10 in what could be the final play of the game. Bradshaw's pass bounced off the shoulder of Oakland defender Juan Tatum as he collided with the intended Steelers receiver John Fuqua. Harris, as one broadcaster shouted, came from nowhere and snatched the errant ball just inches before it hit the turf. Harris ran 42 yards for a touchdown and a Steelers 13-7 win in the final seconds of the game.

Sports writers labeled the play Immaculate Reception and just last year voted it the greatest play in NFL history.

"That 1972 football story and that picture has legs," comments Cabluck. Wirephoto carried a single shot and followed later with a picture series." The photo won wide use as did the follow-up photo sequence. Controversy over the play rumbled in football circles for months and started a year-long rivalry between the two clubs.

Life of the photo didn't end there. A colorized version appeared on a Wheaties breakfast food box, it was used on a Christmas card and a Christmas ornament. The stadium where Harris made the catch is gone but one of two life-size statues that recreate Franco making the save stands in the precise place where it actually took place.

Now comes another play on words, this time in the form of a candy bar named Immaculate Confection. Its wrapper is imprinted with a cartoon like rendition of Harris in the catch instant, his No. 32 jersey prominently displayed.

Cabluck isn't saying whether he has tasted the candy.

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Larry Bird - and a religious experience

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - Twenty-eight years ago this week, Magic Johnson announced that "because of the HIV virus that I have attained, I will have to retire from the Lakers."

That event also led me to my first and only "fake newsman" ploy.

And to a religious experience.

I love basketball. As a lifelong Celtics fan, I hated the Lakers. But this stunning news rocked the world, not just sports, and I wanted to be close to it.

So I called the Lakers PR guy, congenial John Black, and asked for a press pass for U.S. News & World Report--that well-known sports journal. It was for the next game, when of all teams, the Celtics were coming to town. John wondered why a weekly news magazine wanted a credential but I told him I'd sit anywhere.

I had no intention of writing a word about the game. But I wanted to meet Larry Bird, my favorite player ever.

The day of the game I got to the Fabulous Forum (where the Lakers played before Staples Center) three hours before tipoff. It was me, janitors, radio engineers and a few security folks.

Then, from one corner of the court, walked Magic. From the other walked Larry. Both were in warmups., though neither would play that day--Bird was injured. They gave each other a brief hug at mid-court and stood talking quietly. I scrunched my way down to court level and stood near the sideline.

Then they each dribbled to their own basket and started shooting.

There I was, a few feet away from two of the best to ever play, watching them shoot jumpers and set shots. Then I noticed something. Each was listening for the sound of the net at the other end of the court. If they heard a "swish," it seemed each would bear down more on his next shot.

That was my religious experience.

After the game the press pack stormed the Lakers' locker room to get their stories about Magic. I ambled to the Celtics locker room. There were only a couple of beat writers from the Boston papers there. I waited till they asked their questions of Larry and moved on to other players.

Bird was a BIG 6'9. I was 6'3 and almost had to crane my neck to talk to him. He had his 1,000-yard hillbilly stare going as I introduced myself--the look he used during most interviews. Then as I started telling him about playing on a national

championship small college team from Kansas and that he was my favorite player ever, he started looking at me. He even grunted a few comments.

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Then I stuck out my handy-dandy Reporter's Notebook and asked him to sign it. He did.

(That was another violation of journalism best practices--you're not supposed to ask for autographs from those you cover. But then I wasn't covering him, right?)

Until now.

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AP announces 2 photo leadership appointments



Allison Kaufman (left) and Kim Johnson Flodin

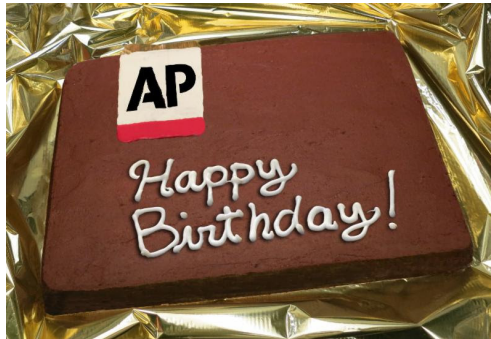
NEW YORK (AP) - The Associated Press is announcing two appointments designed to strengthen its global entertainment photo coverage and its photo report in the Midwest and Texas.

Allison Kaufman, director of operations and production for Invision, the AP's wholly owned entertainment photo agency, is joining the AP's photo team as assistant

director of photography for entertainment. Kim Johnson Flodin, who has been the Central region's interim photo editor since July, will become the region's deputy news director/photos and newsgathering in a 14-state territory that stretches from the Upper Midwest to Texas.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Lumpkin - jolumpk3@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Peter Leabo - peter.leabo@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Forrest Gossett - forrest.gossett@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Mary Norris's Thoughts on Pesky Possessives

(The New Yorker)

By MARY NORRIS

October 22nd, at 2:50 p.m., @APStylebook tweeted a series of guidelines about how to punctuate possessives of nouns that end in "S": "For possessives of plural nouns ending in s, add only an apostrophe: the churches' needs, the girls' toys, the horses' food, the ships' wake, states' rights, the VIPs' entrance." Then it dropped a bombshell: "We are considering changing to use 's when making a name that ends in S possessive: Mavis Staples's album, Martha Reeves's concert." People were invited to weigh in, and Twitter was possessed with the possessive-or at least with the "S" following the apostrophe to form the possessive of a noun ending in a sibilant. If I were the gym teacher who blows her whistle to halt the dodgeball game in John Waters' "Hairspray," I'd blow till I blew my brains out.

The Associated Press Stylebook is the go-to guide for U.S. publications that don't have their own stylebooks—"the journalist's bible." Generally, its decisions tend toward loosening rather than straitening the rules. For instance, the A.P. accepts the singular "they/their" (classic example: "Everyone took their seat") and resists the serial (or Oxford) comma. In September, the organization caused a ruckus when it recommended getting rid of the hyphen in "first-quarter touchdown." (The hyphen was restored in time for football season.) Its pronouncement on the apostrophe and "S" drew twenty-eight hundred responses (at this writing), ranging from bafflement and consternation to scorn and reason (from both sides). According to a limited, unscientific survey (I read till my eyes glazed over), those who reject the proposed new rule edge out those who support it, 83-82.

Read more here. Shared by John Brewer.

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Oklahoma news anchor diagnosed with breast cancer after streaming first-ever mammogram on Facebook Live (Fox News)



© KFOR via Fox News

By MADELINE FARBER

In October 2018, Ali Meyer, a reporter with Oklahoma's News 4 (KFOR), chose to live-stream her mammogram "because I thought it might remind some women to schedule theirs," she wrote in an essay posted to the news station's website.

When the day of her appointment arrived, "I had no concerns," Meyer, 41, wrote. "No lumps; no family history; no reason at all to think that my baseline mammogram would turn my world upside down."

But to her shock and dismay, Meyer's mammogram results were abnormal.

Local radiologist Dr. Richard Falk, with the University of Oklahoma's Breast Health Network, found cancerous calcifications in the reporter's right breast, she said. More specifically, she was told she had non-invasive ductal breast cancer.

"I will never forget that day. I will never forget telling my husband, my girls," she wrote.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

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Trump tweets doctored image of himself giving medal to 'American hero' dog wounded in al-Baghdadi raid (USA Today)



By WILLIAM CUMMINGS

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump on Wednesday shared an altered image on Twitter of himself giving what is being interpreted as a canine version of the Medal of Honor to the military dog that suffered minor wounds in the raid that killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

"AMERICAN HERO!" read the all-caps tweet accompanying the photo.

The Belgian Malinois joined in the U.S. special operations raid on the Islamic State leader's compound near the Syria-Turkey border. Al-Baghdadi's death was made public on Sunday when Trump delivered a televised address from the White House.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, lauded the canine's "tremendous service" and said it was "still in theater." He declined to share the animal's gender or name for security reasons.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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NBC News digital staffers opt to unionize, citing questions about sexual misconduct procedures (Washington Post)

By Eli Rosenberg

Journalists at NBC News's digital division have formed a union, the latest in a wave of organizing that has swept through media companies across the country in recent years.

Three-quarters of the staff - which includes reporters, editors, designers, video journalists and social media staff at news sites run by the company - have signed on to the effort, according to a statement released Wednesday by the NewsGuild of New York, the union that will represent the employees.

Calling itself the NBC News Guild, the union said the reasons behind the push included concerns about the company's treatment of women and people of color and the way it handled recent incidents of sexual misconduct.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word

Signs and the wall...More from our Holy Land pilgrimage





Today in History - November 1, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2019. There are 60 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 1, 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

On this date:

In 1604, William Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" was first presented at Whitehall Palace in London.

In 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1945, Ebony, a magazine geared toward black readers, was first published.

In 1950, two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to force their way into Blair House in Washington, D.C., in a failed attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman. (One of the pair was killed, along with a White House police officer.)

In 1952, the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb, code-named "Ivy Mike," at Enewetak (en-ih-WEE'-tahk) Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1968, the Motion Picture Association of America unveiled its new voluntary film rating system: G for general, M for mature (later changed to GP, then PG), R for restricted and X (later changed to NC-17) for adults only.

In 1973, following the "Saturday Night Massacre," Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork appointed Leon Jaworski to be the new Watergate special prosecutor, succeeding Archibald Cox.

In 1989, East Germany reopened its border with Czechoslovakia, prompting tens of thousands of refugees to flee to the West.

In 1991, Clarence Thomas took his place as the newest justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1995, Bosnia peace talks opened in Dayton, Ohio, with the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia present.

In 2003, Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean stirred controversy within his party by telling the Des Moines (duh-MOYN') Register he wanted to be "the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks." (The former Vermont governor explained that he intended to encourage the return of Southern voters who had abandoned the Democrats for decades but were disaffected with the Republicans.)

Ten years ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai's challenger, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, withdrew from an upcoming runoff election, effectively handing Karzai a victory. Lender CIT Group filed one of the biggest Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings in U.S. corporate history. (CIT Group emerged from bankruptcy protection the following month.) Meb Keflezighi (keh-FLEZ'-gee) became the first U.S. man in 27 years to win the New York City Marathon, in a time of 2:09:15; Ethiopian runner Derartu Tulu won the women's title in 2:28:52.

Five years ago: The national average price of gasoline fell to \$2.995, according to AAA, marking the first time in four years that gas was cheaper than \$3 a gallon. The United Nations' expert panel on climate science, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, finished a report on global warming that the agency said offered "conclusive evidence" that humans were altering Earth's climate system. Bayern won the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic by a nose, surviving a stewards' inquiry prompted by multiple horses bumping near the start.

One year ago: Robert Bowers pleaded not guilty to federal charges in the shooting that left 11 people dead at a Pittsburgh synagogue; funerals for the victims of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in American history continued for a third day. Edmund Zagorski became the first man executed in Tennessee's electric chair since 2007; his last words were "Let's rock," before he was executed for shooting two men and slitting their throats during a drug deal. Thousands of Google employees around the world briefly walked off the job to protest what they said was the company's mishandling of sexual misconduct allegations against executives.

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player is 84. Country singer Bill Anderson is 82. Actress Barbara Bosson is 80. Actor Robert Foxworth is 78. Magazine publisher Larry Flynt is 77. Country singer-humorist Kinky Friedman is 75.

Actress Jeannie Berlin is 70. Music producer David Foster is 70. Actress Belita Moreno is 70. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ronald Khalis Bell (Kool and the Gang) is 68. Country singer-songwriter-producer Keith Stegall is 65. Country singer Lyle Lovett is 62. Actress Rachel Ticotin is 61. Rock musician Eddie MacDonald (Smalltown Glory, The Alarm) is 60. Apple CEO Tim Cook is 59. Actress Helene Udy is 58. Pop singer-musician Mags Furuholmen (a-ha) 57. Rock singer Anthony Kiedis (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 57. Rock musician Rick Allen (Def Leppard) is 56. Country singer "Big Kenny" Alphin (Big and Rich) is 56. Singer Sophie B. Hawkins is 55. Rapper Willie D (Geto Boys) is 53. Country musician Dale Wallace (Emerson Drive) is 50. Actress Toni Collette is 47. Rock musician Andrew Gonzales is 47. Actress-talk show host Jenny McCarthy is 47. Actor David Berman is 46. Actress Aishwarya Rai (ash-WAHR'-ee-ah reye) is 46. Rock singer Bo Bice is 44. Actor Matt Jones is 38. Actress Natalia Tena is 35. Actor Penn Badgley is 33. Actor Max Burkholder is 22. Actor-musician Alex Wolff is 22.

Thought for Today: "People who bite the hand that feeds them usually lick the boot that kicks them." [-] Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).

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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