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**Connecting - November 06, 2019**

1 message

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Wed, Nov 6, 2019 at 8:41 AM

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# Connecting

November 06, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019,

The 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall will be marked this Saturday, five days after half a million people gathered in East Berlin in a mass protest.

Connecting welcomes the memories of those involved in AP's coverage - and former AP photographer **John Gaps** kicks off the memory parade with his account of getting a call while covering high school football in Iowa to get on a plane and head for Berlin. I look forward to hearing from you.

The AP is documenting stories of those who were there and the events leading up to it. Click [here](#) to view.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Personal reflections at the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall









## AP Photos by John Gaps

**John Gaps** ([Email](#)) - In Cedar Falls, Iowa, I was covering the class 2A State Championship football game in a very loud, small domed stadium when Tom Stathis called from NYPhotos. Tom made the trains run on time in the photo world. No cell phones, a land line. Ring-ring.

"John," he said, almost under his breath. "The Berlin Wall is coming down tonight. Get to Berlin. I don't care where you go or what you do, but get in there and swing away," or something to that effect. Or maybe it was Vin Alabiso battling a cold. Memories fade.

In those days, you kept the brown paper, ripped off the printer in the bureau, as your only guide when you arrived at a foreign assignment. It had the address of the Berlin AP bureau, the name of the hotel I was booked into, a few phone numbers with too many digits, and that was about it.

It was a happy and delightful 10 days in Berlin, where the weather was chilly but the sun would come out most afternoons. Snow regularly fell overnight. The town was rocking and nobody seemed to think there was a downside.

A couple of years later, ducking behind a rock wall as a Soviet made MIG, piloted by a hung-over Serb fighter pilot huffed a couple of rockets at me (I took those things very personally)... me and the Croatians fighting for a key crossroads in the hills above Gospic, I had no idea that one thing would have lead to another.

I remember a few things keenly still:

- After a half-hour of West Berliners bashing a hole in a seam in the thick cement wall, a fresh-faced East Berliner border guard appeared. He smiled and said, "Marlboros bitte?"
- Everyone was hoarding pieces of the wall. In my employ was a 20-something medical student from Tehran who spoke German. On the second day I purchased a hammer at the local hardware store and instructed him to gather and break off bite sized pieces for me that were strewn all about the ground next to the wall. He placed them in a box in the trunk of the rental car.

- When dropping the car off at Tegel Airport ahead of my return to Iowa, I found about 40-lbs. of rocks in the box. A small fraction made the trip home.

- On the second night of freedom to roam about for the East Berliners, a heavy, but silent snowfall turned the main shopping street, the "Koo-Dam," into a cake with white icing. Footprints of the newly free East Berliners led to a nearby adult bookstore/video emporium called, "Sexy World." The line to get in wrapped twice around the block. Berlin ist Frei!

- I was always drawn to dramatic photos. A silhouette of the man with the Soviet-looking hammer taking out 39-years of frustration on the wall. But my favorite picture was taken at a newly opened section. It showed a child on one side of the yawning opening-the face of innocence. On opposite side was a portly guard (East German, I think) portraying a priceless air of benevolence. Rob Kozloff of Chicago made that image. Nice job.

I'll leave space for the others to fill in with their memories. It was my favorite assignment in 17 years with The Associated Press. I am forever grateful that I picked up that phone in Cedar Falls that loud evening.

## **Honoring Kathryn Johnson: Fiercely persistent, always fearless**





**Kathryn Johnson on the sun porch of her Virginia Highlands home in Atlanta, GA. Aug. 1, 2016. AP Photo/Valerie Komor**

**Valerie Komor** ([Email](#)) - To the chanting of penitential psalms by Fr. Christos Mars of Annunciation Cathedral, Kathryn Johnson, who died Oct. 23, was buried at Atlanta's Greenwood Cemetery on All Hallows' Eve, attended by friends and family. She lies next to her father, mother and brother in the historic Greek Orthodox

section of the cemetery, just steps from the chapel of Saint Barbara where mourners came to pray as a light drizzle fell on the hills and graves.

The previous evening, Kathryn's family and many colleagues and admirers gathered at the H. M. Patterson Funeral Home to greet one another. Present was her niece, Rebecca Winters, from Tampa, Florida, her cousin Alex Kliros of Atlanta, her longtime Atlanta neighbor Dot Matthews, staff from Agnes Scott College, Kathryn's alma mater, Emily Kean Berg, former CNN colleague of Kathryn, Jennifer Owens, a writer and former AP stringer, and Mary Denton Lewis, the daughter of Rear Admiral Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr. one of the POWs released from Vietnam in 1973 whom Kathryn covered in a series of stories that shed light on the years-long effort of the prisoners' wives to free their husbands.

Retelling an oft-told story in which Kathryn hopped into bed between her father and mother with her pencil and copy in hand, Mary acknowledged that Kathryn "went to great lengths to allow her father to approve her articles before publishing them, including late night visits at hotels wherever Mom and Dad were staying."

That was Kathryn. Never as delicate as she appeared. Fiercely persistent. Always fearless.

We miss you, Katy.

## Connecting mailbox

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - David Bauder's piece on college newspapers (in Tuesday's Connecting) took me back to my days at NYU.

In our senior year, Ken Brief (later an editor at Long Island Newsday and in Connecticut) and I were co-editors in chief of Square Journal, a three-times a week paper. Sigma Delta Chi was holding its convention in NYC and we were invited. We decided it would be a great idea if the delegates found a copy of our paper on their doorstep (no USA Today then) in the morning. So we attended the banquet in hired tuxes and covered Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's keynote speech. Then we hopped on the subway - the best dressed customers at midnight - and headed for our print shop in Brooklyn. We wrote the story, handed the copy to a Linotype operator, proofread it and put the paper to bed at about 4a.m. and on its way to the midtown Manhattan hotel.

It was my last college all-nighter. And one last note. David Bauder worked on Ken Brief's staff in Connecticut before coming to The AP.



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## ***A bit of vanishing Americana***





**Ed Williams** ([Email](#)) - A bit of vanishing Americana at the Georgiana, Alabama, exit of Interstate 65.

Brings back lots of memories of my early reporting days. I remember when I worked on the state desk at The Montgomery Advertiser, often I would be on the road and needed to dictate a breaking story. I had to find a pay phone, and sometimes that was a challenge.

I preferred phone booths because they were quieter.

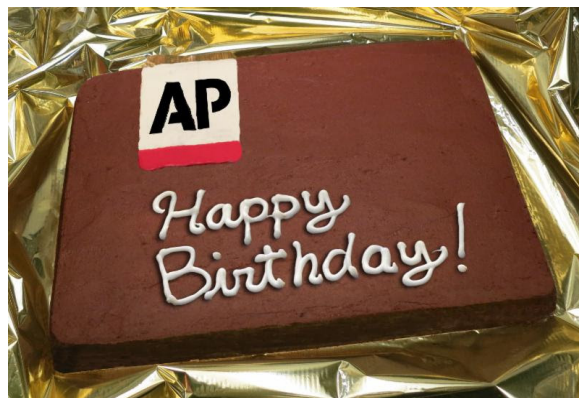
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## ***Newspapers in art***



**Steve Anderson** ([Email](#)) - Here's one by the German painter Albert Weisgerber, whose work was part of the transition or 'bridge' between impressionism and early expressionism. He was one of the founders of the secessionist artists' group in Munich just before the WWI. Unfortunately, he was killed in the war at the age of 37.

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Gene Baker - [bean@ctel.net](mailto:bean@ctel.net)

## Stories of interest

### ***News organizations resist Trump's pressure to release whistleblower's name*** (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

President Trump and his allies say there's a gaping hole in the middle of the biggest news story in years: the name of the federal whistleblower who sparked the impeachment inquiry that now threatens Trump's presidency.

They've called on news organizations to reveal the name of the CIA officer who first raised concerns about Trump's phone call with the president of Ukraine. Yet despite apparent knowledge of the individual's identity among people in Washington, his name hasn't been widely reported.

One online publication, Real Clear Investigations, offered a lengthy, if unconfirmed, account about the whistleblower's identity last week. But its reporting was largely ignored. Outside of a few conservative news sources such as RedState.com and Breitbart and personalities such as Rush Limbaugh, the story didn't get much traction.

How come?

The answer appears to lie in several factors: concerns that revealing the name could jeopardize the whistleblower's safety; legal questions about whether the whistleblower's identity is protected by federal law; and potential adverse public reaction to such a disclosure. There's also a question about whether the person identified in news accounts and bandied about the Internet so far actually is the whistleblower.

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

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## ***A library wanted a New York Times subscription. Officials refused, citing Trump and 'fake news.'*** (Washington Post)

**By Antonia Noori Farzan**

The librarians of Citrus County, Fla., had what seemed like a modest wish: A digital subscription to the New York Times. For about \$2,700 annually, they reasoned, they could offer their roughly 70,000 patrons an easy way to research and catch up on the news.

But when their request came before the Citrus County commission last month, local officials literally laughed out loud. One commissioner, Scott Carnahan, declared the paper to be "fake news."

"I agree with President Trump," he said. "I will not be voting for this. I don't want the New York Times in this county."

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

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## ***Opinion: Sean Hannity and Fox News have normalized media corruption*** (Washington Post)

**By Erik Wemple**

**Media critic**

Fox News host Sean Hannity commonly rails against certain former Justice Department officials and the media. Their work, after all, threatens to expose his activities.

Court documents released in June, for instance, showed how Hannity exchanged text messages with Paul Manafort, the former campaign chairman for presidential candidate Donald Trump. "I pray that God give you grace and peace in this difficult moment," wrote Hannity in one of his messages to the beleaguered Manafort, who was later sentenced to 7½ years in prison under charges brought by former special counsel Robert S. Mueller III. "If you ever just want to talk, grab dinner, vent, strategize -- whatever, I am here. I know this is very hard. Stand tall and strong." Had a member of the mainstream media offered such support to a Democratic figure, well, we know Hannity would have treated such a transgression as a tremendous scandal.

More material surfaced over the weekend, via the results of a FOIA campaign by BuzzFeed and, later, CNN. The documents are reports known as "302s" that stem from interviews by Mueller's investigators. The Mueller imperative, as authorized in a May 2017 Justice Department order, was to check into possible "links and/or coordination" between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia. Accordingly, Mueller's folks interrogated a number of individuals with knowledge of the campaign's activities.

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

## **Today in History - November 6, 2019**



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 6, the 310th day of 2019. There are 55 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 6, 1984, President Ronald Reagan won re-election by a landslide over former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic challenger.

**On this date:**

In 1814, Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone, was born in Dinant, Belgium.

In 1860, former Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln of the Republican Party was elected President of the United States as he defeated John Breckinridge, John Bell and Stephen Douglas.

In 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term of office.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower won re-election, defeating Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson.

In 1977, 39 people were killed when the Kelly Barnes Dam in Georgia burst, sending a wall of water through Toccoa Falls College.

In 1986, former Navy radioman John A. Walker Jr., the admitted head of a family spy ring, was sentenced in Baltimore to life imprisonment. (Walker died in prison in 2014 at age 77.)

In 1990, about one-fifth of the Universal Studios backlot in southern California was destroyed in an arson fire.

In 1995, funeral services were held in Jerusalem for assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In 1997, former President George H.W. Bush opened his presidential library at Texas A&M University; among the guests of honor was President Clinton, the man who'd sent him into retirement.

In 2001, billionaire Republican Michael Bloomberg won New York City's mayoral race, defeating Democrat Mark Green.

In 2012, President Barack Obama was elected to a second term of office, defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

In 2016, FBI Director James Comey abruptly announced that Democrat Hillary Clinton should not face criminal charges related to newly discovered emails from her tenure at the State Department.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a \$24 billion economic stimulus bill, hours after the government reported that the unemployment rate had hit 10.2 percent in Oct. 2009 for the second time since World War II.

Five years ago: The march toward same-sex marriage across the U.S. hit a roadblock when a federal appeals court upheld laws against the practice in four states: Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. (A divided U.S. Supreme Court overturned the laws in June 2015.) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reassured Jordan's King Abdullah that he would not yield to increasing demands by some members of his center-right coalition to allow Jews to pray at a Muslim-run holy site in Jerusalem.



One year ago: Democrats seized the House majority in the midterm elections, but Republicans gained ground in the Senate and preserved key governorships, beating back a "blue wave" that never fully materialized. In Texas, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz staved off a tough challenge from Democrat Beto O'Rourke. Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was defeated by state education chief Tony Evers.

Today's Birthdays: Actress June Squibb is 90. Country singer Stonewall Jackson is 87. Singer P.J. Proby is 81. Actress Sally Field is 73. Singer Rory Block is 70. Jazz musician Arturo Sandoval is 70. TV host Catherine Crier is 65. News correspondent and former California first lady Maria Shriver is 64. Actress Lori Singer is 62. Actor Lance Kerwin is 59. Rock musician Paul Brindley (The Sundays) is 56. Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan is 55. Rock singer Corey Glover is 55. Actor Brad Grunberg is 55. Actor Peter DeLuise is 53. Actress Kelly Rutherford is 51. Actor Ethan Hawke is 49. Chef/TV judge Marcus Samuelsson is 49. Actress Thandie Newton is 47. Model-actress Rebecca Romijn (roh-MAYN') is 47. Actress Zoe McLellan is 45. Actress Nicole Dubuc is 41. Actress Taryn Manning is 41. Retired NBA star Lamar Odom is 40. Actress Patina Miller is 35. Actress Katie Leclerc (LEH'-klehr) is 33. Singer-songwriter Ben Rector is 33. Singer-songwriter Robert Ellis is 31. Actress Emma Stone is 31. Actress Mercedes Kastner is 30.

**Thought for Today: "The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn." [-] Alvin Toffler, American writer-futurist (1928- ).**

## 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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