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Connecting - November 26, 2019

1 message

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Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 8:58 AM

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Connecting

November 26, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 26th day of November 2019,

Please join me in extending condolences to our colleague **Harry Cabluck** on the death of his wife **Ellen**, who died Nov. 19 at the age of 74.

Harry, one of our very finest who worked for the AP for 40 years as a photographer in Texas, shares poignant memories of Ellen in a story for today's issue. Harry's email is - harry.cabluck@gmail.com

We lead today's issue with news that the AP, in collaboration with Report for America, will bolster its 50-state presence with the addition of 14 statehouse reporters. Report for America, an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, will help fund the 18-month positions and recruit the journalists, who will begin reporting in June 2020.

"The program means that grant funding will be coming into AP's core reporting in the states," said **Noreen Gillespie**, AP's deputy managing editor for U.S. news. "And it will help ensure citizens have access to critical information, and that we maintain our watchdog role. It's one more way to build on one of the most important beats we cover. And stay tuned - we're hoping there is more to come!"

Gillespie noted that the AP had two Report for America corps members this year - **Chris Ehrmann** in Hartford and **Ryan Tarinelli** in Albany.

Thanksgiving arrives in two days - and borrowing on a theme from our friends at Poynter, Connecting would like to hear from you on what you are thankful for in the media this year. What are your journalistic blessings? Look forward to hearing from you.

Paul

AP to add 14 statehouse reporters in collaboration with Report for America



FILE - This Tuesday, April 18, 2017, file photo shows The Associated Press logo displayed at the company's headquarters, in New York. The AP is adding 14 local politics reporters for 18-month jobs through a collaboration with Report for America, a group dedicated to local reporting, the company announced Monday, Nov. 25, 2019. (AP Photo/Jenny Kane, File)

AP News Release

The Associated Press, through an unprecedented collaboration with Report for America, will bolster its 50-state presence with the addition of 14 statehouse reporters, providing local newsrooms with essential accountability journalism and state government coverage.

Report for America, an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, will help fund the 18-month positions and recruit the journalists, who will begin reporting in June 2020.

The addition of 14 reporters underscores AP's wide-ranging efforts to address the local news crisis head-on, infusing significant resources at a time when many local newsrooms are forced to make tough decisions about coverage priorities, and when

critical decisions - from gerrymandering to gun regulations - are made at the state level.

The reporters will be located in: Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina and Utah. A data journalist will support their efforts and work to bring policy journalism to all 50 states.

"An investment in AP at the statehouse is an investment in the health of an entire state news ecosystem," said Noreen Gillespie, deputy managing editor for U.S. news. "We are pleased to be working with Report for America to ensure citizens have better and more access to information about their government at work, from budgets and policy issues to holding elected officials accountable."

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the AP wire story.

The AP and Report for America are creating 14 new statehouse jobs



Top left: Salem, Oregon (AP Photo/Don Ryan); Right: Salt Lake City, Utah (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer); Bottom middle: Columbus, Ohio (AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato); Bottom left: Indianapolis, Indiana. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

By KRISTEN HARE

Poynter

Five years ago, Pew Research published an alarming report - statehouse coverage from newspapers was shrinking. From 2003 to 2014, it declined by 35%.

Pew hasn't updated that research yet, but a July report offered more alarming, if not surprising, numbers - employment at newspapers plummeted 47% between 2008 and 2018.

On Monday, the Associated Press and Report For America put out a number of their own.

The two organizations will work together to create 14 new reporting positions to cover state government.

That number is small, yes, but it's a start.

The collaboration will bring more coverage to Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina and Utah. The positions, mostly funded by the AP and RFA, will last for 18 months and begin next June. The AP will make the coverage from the new positions available for free to other media in those states.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lou Boccardi.

Harry Cabluck remembers the love of his life

Harry Cabluck ([Email](#)) - In her working days, Ellen Cabluck sorted through lace, satin and silk as a bridal gown buyer. She turned those skills into a passion for quilt making and fabric art.

Ellen died Nov. 19 of complications from a routine heart procedure in Austin, Texas. She was 74.

We married in 1964 when she was manager of the bridal salon at Neiman-Marcus in Fort Worth. Afterward, she worked as a buyer for three different Fort Worth bridal retailers. In Pittsburgh, she was sought and hired by Kaufman's, working in bridal and later promoted to assistant buyer in couture. She retired in 1979 from a Dallas fabric store.

Ellen enjoyed bicycling until the late 1970's, and bass fishing, until the last few years. She made her first catch before we were married. It was a palm-sized Bluegill.

To pull in the Bluegill, she had to capture a Mayfly and attach it to a hook on a fly rod. She flipped the Mayfly to the surface at Eagle Mountain Lake. A quick take from the Bluegill, and Ellen was hooked on fishing.

But before she was permitted to cast again, she was required to clean that first fish ... which she did without pause.

During the 19 days she spent in ICU, we had time to consider the inevitable. Her wishes and arrangements remain private. When we agreed on the location where her ashes will be scattered, she delivered the largest smile imaginable.

Her heart kept beating for six hours after all the life-giving apparatus was removed. Music by the Dixie Chicks played at her bedside during those hours.

We enjoyed more than 55 years together. She said she had no regrets.

Connecting mailbox

Saddened by news of death of Binaya Guruacharya

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - It was sad to read Arthur Max's report on the death of Binaya Guruacharya, after several years of Parkinson's. He was an outstanding AP

stringer, reporting on Nepali affairs through tumultuous times of Maoist guerrilla action, political upheavals, and many other events in addition to mountain climbing successes and tragedies.

I hired Binay, as he was known for short (sometimes called Binny), for AP in 1960 on one of my many trips from New Delhi to Kathmandu. I was acting on instructions from the then Delhi bureau chief, Wally Sims, who visited Nepal once in 1959 and then turned it over to me. Up to then, we had used an Indian journalist in Kathmandu, M. M. Gupta, as our stringer. But he was unreliable and often sought to deceive us on his work. Wally and I decided it was time to get a Nepali stringer.

At the time, the best English-language little news sheet in Kathmandu was The Motherland, edited by Manendra Raj Shrestha. I would call him, contrary to the quote from The Himalayan, "the pioneer of journalism in the English medium," with Binay learning from and coming after him.

Shrestha had excellent contacts all over town, from the royal palace -- where he played a role in getting me an interview with the king -- to the numerous little opposition political parties and the governing Nepali National Congress, headed by Prime Minister Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala. I asked Shrestha to be our stringer, but he said that might interfere with his editorial position. He recommended his best young reporter, whom I had also gotten to know, Gurucharya.

Binay worked out well. He thrived in the prominence that being the AP stringer gave him. By the last reporting trip I made to Kathmandu, many years later, he had become a prosperous businessman with wide contacts from both reporting and trade.

Seeing the byline of Binaj Gurubacharya on AP stories from Nepal in recent years, I sent last October 13 a snail-mail letter to that name, addressed to him simply as "Associated Press correspondent, Kathmandu" because lacking any better contact. In it, I asked about Binay, assuming that Binaj was his son. I have not received a reply.

If anyone has an email or snail-mail address for Binaj, I would appreciate getting it so I can send condolences on the death of his father.

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'I knew Binaya, always professional, cheerful and welcoming'



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Thanks to Arthur Max for his obituary of longtime Kathmandu correspondent Binaya Guruacharya. Visiting Nepal many times for coverage and for trekking I knew Binaya, always professional, cheerful and welcoming. Once while on vacation I asked him if I could meet the famed Boris Lisanevich, a ballet dancer and Russian emigre who more or less invented Nepal tourism after the royal family managed to restrict the power of the Ranas, hereditary prime ministers, who had kept the mountain kingdom mostly closed to outsiders. A Life Magazine profile of Boris noted he was jailed in Nepal for some minor infraction, but ordered released because there was no one else who could handle catering for a major state dinner. Binaya arranged lunch with Boris at the last restaurant Lisanevich operated, much reduced from his famed Yak and Yeti watering hole. I made this undated photo of Binaya and Boris probably in the early 1980s.

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Reminded of evening watching Caps with Walter Mears

Bill McCloskey ([Email](#)) - Reading about my former boss Walter Mears' way of explaining political events at AP meetings (in Monday's Connecting) reminded me of an evening at what is now Capital One Arena in Washington where Walter and I ended up in a box watching the Washington Capitals hockey team. Although my wife Nancy and I are now 20-year season ticket holders for the Caps, I was a newbie at the time and was still learning to follow the game. Somehow, I knew that

Walter played collegiate hockey, so I took the seat next to him. I'm sure I was a total pain as I badgered him to explain the inexplicable, like "icing." He was a learned tutor on that topic as well.

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An obituary to remember

Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) -An obituary in The Kansas City Star caught my eye the other day and I thought it deserved a share with my Connecting colleagues. I did not know Tom Hansen (though I wish I had), but I am told by my friend Ann Brill, dean of the Kansas University journalism school, that he was a KU journalism grad who loved writing and was a business executive for many years.

The obituary begins:

On Sunday, November 17th, Tom Hansen won his fight with cancer. Since this is an obituary, that may sound odd. But it's true. He won because cancer has no one crying for it. No one laughing at its stories. No one who cares enough to drop off lasagna. To help do laundry. Or to plan a celebration honoring its life. If cancer had caller ID, no one would answer. Why? Cancer tried to extinguish Tom's light, yet it did just the opposite, it made it even brighter. Take that Cancer.



Tom won because he not only showed us how to live, he made us feel alive. And brought us together. Because of Tom, people are inspired to care more. About their health. The healthcare system. And most importantly, about each other. Because Tom was all about people.

Read more [here](#).

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Norm Abelson's story one of those 'wish I'd written that' pieces

Jim Spehar ([Email](#)) - Fifty years after earning a B.S. in journalism, pushing 17 years as a columnist, post AP, radio and television experiences, I'm still learning how to be a writer. Norm Abelson's contributions provide a textbook, especially his latest "Memories From a Funeral." (see Monday's Connecting)

Another of what I call "wish I'd written that" (or could write like that) pieces.

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In spirit of the holidays

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - A true story: A young man was given a scrumptious fruit cake, laced with you know what. It is his most favorite treat from his father, and his Significant Other - especially at Christmas.

It was a gift he was somewhat reluctant to share with anyone. Being unselfish, he felt a little guilty about not wanting to share, especially with his wife. He was given various places he might hide it.

"Oh, I know the perfect place where she won't find it. I'll just put it in the broom closet!"

Raised from the dead: The Bigfork Eagle lives!

(Editor's Note: The Bigfork, Montana, Eagle resumed publication on Oct. 30. What's the big deal with the rebirth of a small-town weekly newspaper? Marc Wilson tells you the back story.)

By Marc Wilson ([Email](#))

The most difficult - and rewarding -- job I ever had was editor/publisher/janitor of the Bigfork Eagle, a small weekly newspaper in rural northwest Montana. My wife and I ran and co-owned the Eagle for 14 years before selling it in 1997 so I could devote fulltime to building TownNews, which we'd started in the back shop of the Eagle in 1989.

Lee Enterprises bought the Eagle from us before selling it to Hagadone Newspapers in the early 2000s. Hagadone also owns the Daily Interlake in Kalispell, 17 miles from Bigfork. Bigfork is an unincorporated community of some 10,000 residents in the summer and about half that in the winter. The town - some call it a village - sits on the shores of Flathead Lake near the confluence of the Swan and Flathead rivers. The snow-capped Swan Mountains rise over the town to the east. Bigfork is used by many as a gateway to Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Gourmet restaurants serve a clientele that lives or camps on the edge of wilderness. Visitors are reminded that grizzly bears are first on the food chain in Montana. No joke.

Read more [here](#).

Lessons learned for newspapers - and solutions

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - Margaret Sullivan's piece on the future of local newspapers large and small is depressing but right on target. What it misses, based on 50 years working for employee-owned, chain and my own newspapers and now providing a syndicated feature designed to help newspapers rebuild their relevance in homes nationwide, are lessons learned (or in many cases lessons that should have been learned) and solutions. A few examples:

*Publishers need to be honest with readers about the cost of publishing and distributing newspapers, and adjust prices accordingly without hidden costs and humongous (and undisclosed prior to billing) rate increases. Example from my recent bill: a never publicly announced 42.5% rate increase from one 13-week billing cycle to the next; which followed by just a few cycles a \$2.50 per cycle charge for having a bill sent vs. automatic withdrawal (where, one must assume, the rate hike would have been withheld with no choice by the consumer, since there is a \$5 deduction for refunds issued for ANY reason); a notice that subscriptions include the extra cost for a 6x/year glossy magazine and the Thanksgiving paper--with no indication of what the charge for either is). And publishers wonder why renewals keep falling? What about disclosing the increases, phasing them in, allowing opt-out for the Thanksgiving or magazine inclusion and a positive message: When there is direct monetary added value during the same period immediately followed by a rate increase, SAY SO. The volume and value of coupons carried in the newspaper in question have increased sharply since the last rate hike, and that value can be qualified. Most important, the coupons are for items widely used by normal readers, not just a tiny percentage.

*Publishers need to quit sleeping with the enemy by either contracting with or not more vigorously counteracting outright theft of their intellectual property by commercial websites. The current furor over Google's use for other purposes of identifiable medical records provided by the sprawling Ascension hospital, clinic and doctor network--with no notice to patients or doctors. Publishers have a powerful weapon here--my conversations with Joe and Jane SixPack in the Post office, grocery, drug store, etc. is that this scares them to death. Rather than pushing for on-line editions using established commercial networks (featuring a few crumbs from the table and massive privacy risks for readers), publishers need to develop their own online network that doesn't track users, buying and selling them like cattle and stealing their personal information in ways that would make North Korea, China, Russia and Iran blush in shame.

*Publishers need to learn how to better consolidate operations--and moving layout and copy editing for local page design to a central location isn't one of them. A copy editor in Texas won't know that a four-fatality wreck couldn't have happened at the intersection of X and Y streets because the streets run parallel; a local editor would catch that in a second. Credibility has very real financial value.

*Newspaper-based shows and events that attract crowds meet the modern need for people who no longer know their neighbors have another reason to gather, and many are willing to pay if the mix is right. That draws advertisers who can see that newspapers still have marketing power, adds value for the consumer and income for the publisher.

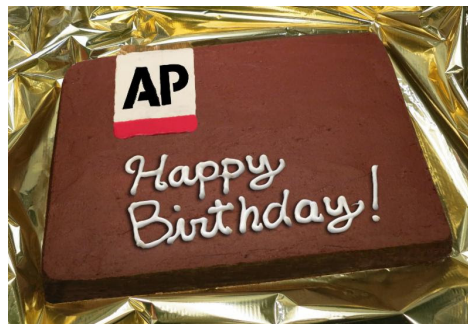
*Remember Warren Buffet's annual meeting comment that people read newspapers as much or more for the ads as they do for the news. Remind people that when you read a newspaper ad, nobody else knows--which means reading a newspaper ad won't fill your email and snail mail boxes with junk, make your landline and cell phone ring constantly with robo-calls and continue bugging you long after you've found what you wanted, bought it, and won't need another for 20 years. (OK, 2 years given planned obsolescence, but that's still 23 months of "Sleep in Heavenly peace.")

*Set realistic profit targets for newspapers that are sustainable. We're in a market bubble right now, which WILL burst sooner or later. Anyone who doesn't believe it should read Will Rogers' classic radio address at an event where he appeared with President Herbert Hoover to raise money for emergency food for the unemployed. It was called "Corn Bread, Beans and Limousines." It describes the economic basis for the Great Depression in very Joe Sixpack language (even though we were in the midst of Prohibition). If the explanation sounds awfully familiar, read the commentaries and predictions of any Wall Street bear in the pages of Barrons, Fortune, the Wall Street Journal or online at Bloomberg, Reuters or AP. It would work wonders in ending the vicious cycles of mergers, acquisition, buyouts, massive financing, debt payment shortfalls, spiraling cost-cutting and content degradation causing plummeting content creating...

*Work on reader-owned cooperatives and other innovating ownership systems in which readers, advertisers, community organizations and other key "stakeholders" (hate the word but need the concept) have a literal financial stake in both the quality of coverage and the financial success of the enterprise.

*And just the opposite of the corporate bigwig in his corner glass-walled skyscraper office who in the famous New Yorker cartoon told the new office cat, "Never, ever think outside the box," owners need to "Always think outside the box." Despite many efforts, ink on paper is still superior for many purposes--not the least of which is you don't need a wi fi hot spot, working electricity, light beyond a candle, or a fancy and expensive machine to read it--and you can take it to the necessary room. And when you do, your reading choices will be between you and your newspaper, book or magazine.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bennett England - bengland913@gmail.com

Pierce Lehmbeck - lehmbeckj@bellsouth.net

Bill McCloskey - bmcclos325@aol.com

Stories of interest

***Michael Bloomberg, Presidential Candidate,
Just Killed the Bloomberg News Agency*** (Rolling
Stone)

By MATT TAIBBI

Bloomberg News suffered a major disruption over the weekend. The episode predicts the future of the news business, and the death of the news business.

After billionaire and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg formally entered the race for the Democratic presidential nomination Sunday, Bloomberg agency Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait circulated a memo to editorial and research staff. In it, Micklethwait told staff it would not "investigate" either his owner and boss, or any of his boss's Democratic opponents:

We will continue our tradition of not investigating Mike (and his family and foundation) and we will extend the same policy to his rivals in the Democratic primaries. We cannot treat Mike's democratic competitors differently from him.

If Mike Bloomberg had any respect for the news business he would encourage his editorial staff to kick him in the balls at every opportunity. Either that, or he would sell his media business. Or not run for president.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

And...

Mike Bloomberg just stabbed the journalistic heart of his news organization (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist

Months ago, when former New York City mayor Mike Bloomberg said he wouldn't run for president, a palpable feeling of relief flooded the global newsrooms that bear his name.

"The sound of 2,700 exhaling," as the quip had it.

Now - with the 77-year-old billionaire's decision to get in the Democratic race after all - that relief is over, replaced by a collective gasp.

The situation is worse than many anticipated.

Initial decisions about how to handle 2020 coverage are stunning ones. They put Bloomberg's many talented journalists, especially those in Washington and New York, in a compromised position.

The policy, as detailed over the weekend in a memo from top editor John Micklethwait: Journalists will not dig into Bloomberg himself (or his charitable endeavors, business practices, family, etc.) or into his Democratic rivals. They will cover developments in the campaign on a more superficial level.

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

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For some rural US TV viewers, local news is anything but



In this Nov. 21, 2019 photo, Shannon Booth, vice president and general manager for Gray Television who oversees company-owned Nebraska stations in Lincoln, Hastings and North Platte, poses for a photo in front of the KOLN television station's satellite dishes in Lincoln, Neb. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

By GRANT SCHULTE

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - When Dianne Johnson channel-surfs for news in her rural western Nebraska home, all she sees are stories about Colorado crime and car crashes from a Denver television station more than 200 miles away.

It's frustrating for the 61-year-old rancher, who wants to know the latest developments in Nebraska politics and sports. When floods devastated huge swaths of Nebraska this year, Johnson struggled to keep tabs on what was happening.

"If we actually had local news, we would watch it," she said. "But all we get is Colorado drug busts and stories about who got murdered in Denver. It has nothing to do with us."

Johnson is among an estimated 870,000 households nationwide that receive at least one distant network affiliate's feed from their satellite TV service providers because they don't live close enough to get conventional over-the-air signals. With no local TV news stations and a dwindling number of newspapers, many rural Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to track local elections or government decisions that affect their lives.

"It's your connection to what's going on in your community," said Jim Timm, president and executive director of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association.

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

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Missouri news anchor accidentally emails entire company to call off work, entire company responds (Fox2Now)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - WDAF's Nick Vasos wasn't feeling well and attempted to email the bosses to let them know he needed to take Friday off, but what ended up happening has people everywhere laughing.

Instead of simply emailing the bosses, Vasos emailed the entire company - nearly 200 TV stations - and the entire company responded. Now he has thousands of people praying for him.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

The Final Word

Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis



Shared by Len Iwanski

Today in History - November 26, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2019. There are 35 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 26, 2000, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore in the state's presidential balloting by a 537-vote margin.

On this date:

In 1789, Americans observed a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to mark the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1842, the founders of the University of Notre Dame arrived at the school's present-day site near South Bend, Indiana.

In 1883, former slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Mich.

In 1941, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull delivered a note to Japan's ambassador to the United States, Kichisaburo Nomura (kee-chee-sah-boor-oh noh-moo-rah), setting forth U.S. demands for "lasting and extensive peace throughout the Pacific area." The same day, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

In 1942, the Warner Bros. motion picture "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

In 1943, during World War II, the HMT Rohna, a British transport ship carrying American soldiers, was hit by a German missile off Algeria; 1,138 men were killed.

In 1950, China entered the Korean War, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the U.S. and South Korea.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she'd accidentally caused part of the 18-1/2-minute gap in a key Watergate tape.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Senator John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 2007, Vice President Dick Cheney experienced an irregular heartbeat and was taken to George Washington University Hospital for evaluation.

In 2008, teams of heavily armed gunmen, allegedly from Pakistan, stormed luxury hotels, a popular tourist attraction and a crowded train station in Mumbai, India, leaving at least 166 people dead in a rampage lasting some 60 hours. A Missouri mother on trial in a landmark cyberbullying case was convicted by a federal jury in Los Angeles of three minor offenses for her role in a mean-spirited Internet hoax that apparently drove a 13-year-old girl, Megan Meier, to suicide. (However, Lori Drew's convictions were later thrown out.)

In 2010, Connecticut beat Howard 86-25 to win its 82nd straight game, setting an NCAA women's basketball record for consecutive victories.

Ten years ago: An investigation ordered by Ireland's government found that Roman Catholic Church leaders in Dublin had spent decades sheltering child-abusing priests from the law and that most fellow clerics had turned a blind eye. John Jones, a 26-year-old medical student stuck upside-down in a cave in Utah for more than a day, died despite the efforts of dozens of rescuers to extract him.

Five years ago: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had a heart stent implanted, reviving talk about how long the 81-year-old liberal jurist would be staying

on the court.

One year ago: A NASA spacecraft designed to drill down into Mars' interior landed on the planet; it was the first successful landing on Mars in six years. General Motors announced that it would cut as many as 14,000 workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure, abandoning many of its car models, as part of a major restructuring. Scientists and bioethics experts reacted with alarm to a claim from a Chinese researcher that he had helped make the world's first genetically edited babies. Ukraine's government imposed martial law in parts of the country to fight what its president called "growing aggression" from Moscow. Italian filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci died in Rome at the age of 77. Stephen Hillenburg, who used his loves of drawing and marine biology to create the undersea world of "SpongeBob SquarePants," died of Lou Gehrig's disease at the age of 57.

Today's Birthdays: Impressionist Rich Little is 81. Singer Tina Turner is 80. Singer Jean Terrell is 75. Pop musician John McVie is 74. Actress Marianne Muellerleile is 71. Actor Scott Jacoby is 63. Actress Jamie Rose is 60. Country singer Linda Davis is 57. Actor Scott Adsit is 54. Blues singer-musician Bernard Allison is 54. Country singer-musician Steve Grisaffe is 54. Actress Kristin Bauer is 53. Actor Peter Facinelli is 46. Actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge is 45. DJ/record label executive DJ Khaled (KAL'-ehd) is 44. Actress Maia (MY'-ah) Campbell is 43. Country singer Joe Nichols is 43. Contemporary Christian musicians Anthony and Randy Armstrong (Red) are 41. Actress Jessica Bowman is 39. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield is 38. Actress Jessica Camacho is 37. Country singer-musician Mike Gossin (Gloriana Rock) is 35. Rock musician Ben Wysocki (The Fray) is 35. Singer Lil Fizz is 34. MLB All-Star Matt Carpenter is 34. Singer Aubrey Collins is 32. Actress-singer-TV personality Rita Ora is 29.

Thought for Today: "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough."
[-] Oprah Winfrey.

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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