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Connecting - December 17, 2019

1 message

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Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
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Tue, Dec 17, 2019 at 8:51 AM

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Connecting

December 17, 2019

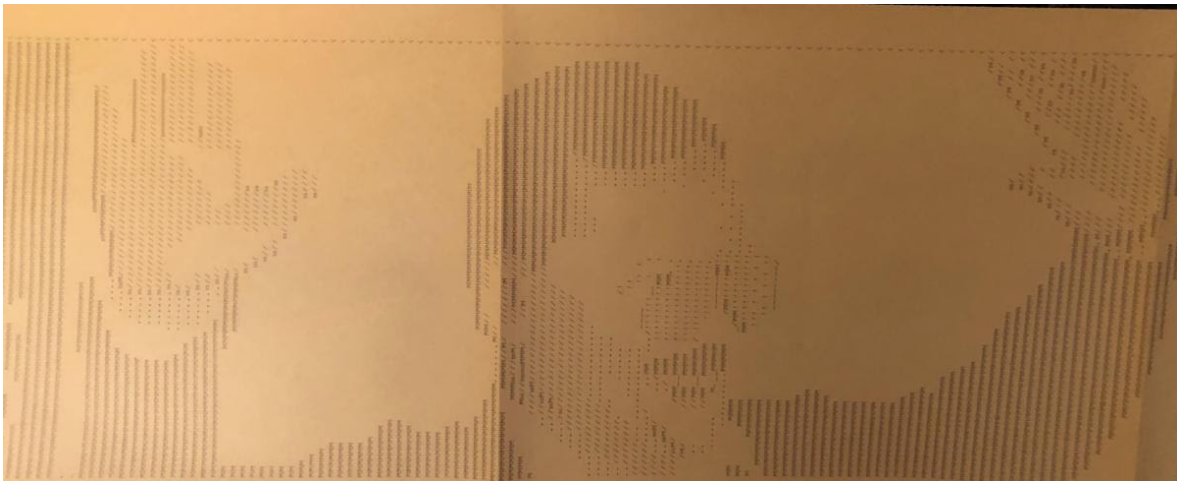
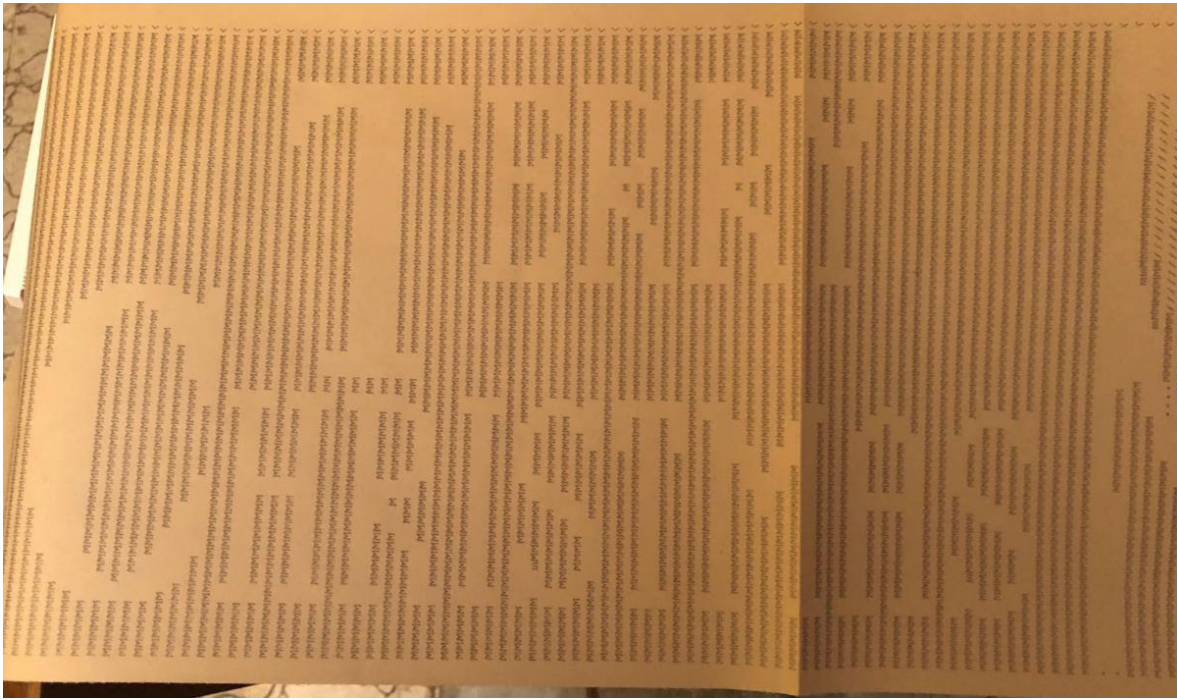
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Terry Christmas!



Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 17th day of December 2019,

When colleague **Kelly Kissel** ([Email](#)) was hanging some photos "to cover up some nasty wallpaper in the home cubicle I've set up in my parents' house," he came up with this jewel that he shares with Connecting.

"There amid my photos of presidents was a rolled-up banner sent to the wire on the first Christmas Eve after our colleague Terry Anderson returned to us," he said. "Judging from the filename, PADEB19, it would have been stored by the late, dear, Don Beman, our state editor in Pennsylvania. It was too long to shoot in one shot and the panoramic version didn't do it justice, so here it is in three frames." (See above)

Terry ([Email](#)) was chief Middle East correspondent for the AP when he was abducted in Beirut by a group of Hezbollah Shiite Muslims and held for six years and nine months before he was released on Dec. 4, 1991. Today, he is a Connecting colleague.

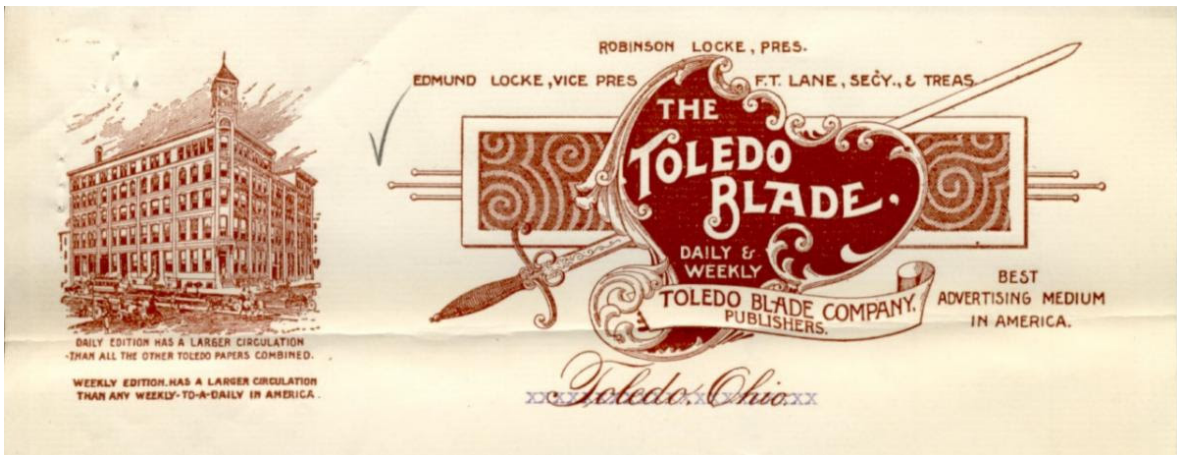
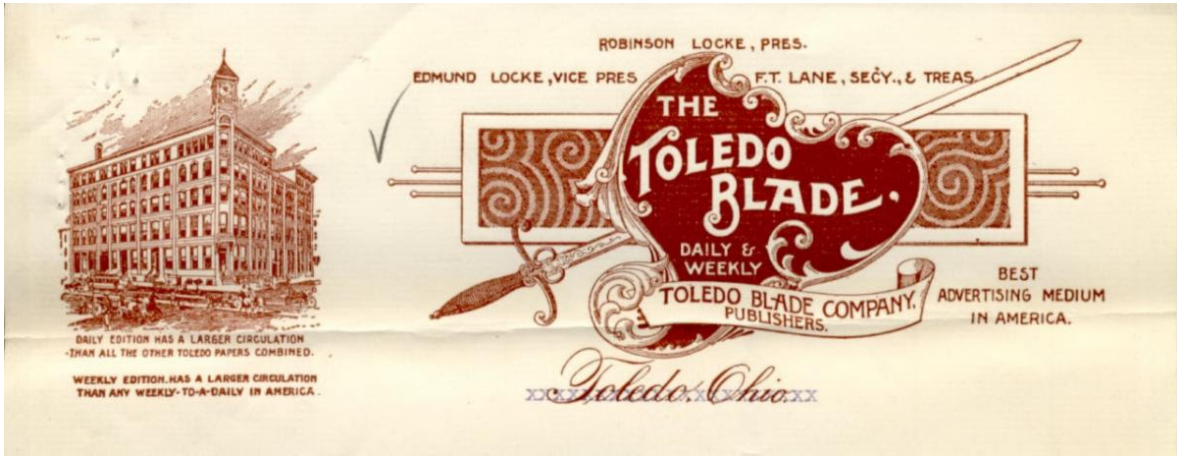
Today's issue brings you responses to Connecting's call for how many newspapers you have visited that were named in **Jules Loh's** holiday ode to newspapers - published in last Friday's and yesterday's Connecting issues. If you would like to share the number you visited, check with those issues and drop me a note.

Thanks to **Francesca Pitaro** of AP Corporate Archives for sharing old letterheads of a few of those newspapers. They are works of art!

Have a great day!

Paul

Letterheads of a few of those newspapers



(Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Ode to newspapers - which ones have you visited?

Bob Daugherty (Email) - I re-read Jules Loh's ode to newspapers. It is gem. I was actually looking for the Logansport, Indiana. On the very first day the State Photo Center opened, an editor yelled "where the hell is the Pharos Tribune?" I confidently replied, "Why Logansport, Indiana, of course."

-0-

Mike Holmes (Email) - What a great idea. I can claim eight poetic newspapers:

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nonpareil, Waco Tribune-Herald, Texarkana Gazette, Kearney Daily Hub, San Antonio Light, Port LaVaca Wave, Toledo Blade, Peoria Journal Star.

-0-

Ken Fields (Email) - The Daily Journal of Kankakee, The Journal Star, Peoria, The Astorian of Astoria, The Portland Oregonian, West Plains Daily Quill, The Nugget of Nome, Kansas City Star, Star of Muncie, Indiana, Bloomington Pantograph, The Elkhart Truth, Rock Island Argus. (I remember the dogs under the workbenches at the Nome Nugget.)

-0-

Dale Leach (Email) - The Forum of Fargo, The Courier-Journal, Waco Tribune-Herald, Texarkana Gazette, San Antonio Light, The Hereford Brand, Times-Picayune, The Enid Eagle, Toledo Blade, The Oregonian.

-0-

Paul Stevens (Email) - The Forum of Fargo, Beloit Call, Elkhart Truth, The Courier-Journal, Garden City Telegram, Muncie Star, Larned Tiller & Toiler, Kansas City Star, Wichita Eagle-Beacon, States Item and Times-Picayune, West Plains Daily Quill. (Of all the newspapers in Jules Loh's list, the Tiller & Toiler of Larned, Kansas, is my favorite -in part because I signed it into membership in 1985.)

Connecting mailbox

88 to you all!

Rick Cooper ([Email](#)) - Just an additional note on telegrapher code:

88 - Hugs (or Love) and kisses.

And let's not forget the "Phillips Code" developed by Walter Phillips of the AP in the late 19th century which gave us abbreviations such as SCOTUS and Potus.

-0-

This WWII vet was my publisher

Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - This vet (Bill Ebersole) was my publisher when I was a reporter at the Gainesville Sun in Florida when it was owned by The New York Times Co. Ebersole was the Sun's publisher from 1971 to 1985.

I started on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1977, and left for the AP Cleveland bureau in June 1985, when the Ohio COB was Jake Booher. (My city editor at the Sun was Clifton Cormier, a Louisiana-born Marine Corps vet who rose from the enlisted ranks in the 1930s to retire as a captain in the 1950s, and then study journalism at Florida. He retired from the Sun in the 1980s and would write a book about his WWII experiences in the Pacific. He passed away well into his 90s.)

Vet, 95, to return to Iwo Jima 75 years later



By Danielle Ivanov, Gainesville Sun

Bill Ebersole, 95, has earned the right to spend his days lounging at home in blue pajamas with his wife, Anna, watching the news, asking her to double check his crossword puzzle spelling and reliving his memories after serving as a U.S. Air Force pilot in Iwo Jima during World War II.

The University of Florida graduate and Arcadia, Florida, native, will return to Iwo Jima in March for the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

Ebersole, who received four Distinguished Flying Crosses for his service, is the last surviving member of the 462nd Squadron of the 506th Fighter Group.

"I got into it, and I really liked it," he said. "I wasn't afraid to go into flying. I was really comfortable with it."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Using Google Alerts

Paul Shane (Email) - I enjoy seeing my photos taken on days long past republished from files with my byline. How do I know? I use Google Alerts to get email whenever my name appears anywhere on the Internet.

-Go to [google.com/alerts](https://www.google.com/alerts) in your browser.

-Enter a search term for the topic you want to track. I put in my name, but you can put in anything, maybe a hobby or something else of interest.

-Choose Show Options to narrow the alert to a specific source, language, and/or region. ...

-Select Create Alert.

My most recent was a story about Heisman winner Steve Owens with a picture layout in Tulsa World. I would never have seen it without the alert.

Best of the States

AP Exclusive: Iowa felons list bars a police department from voting; omits a drug dealer



Photo/Bryon Houlgrave, Des Moines Register

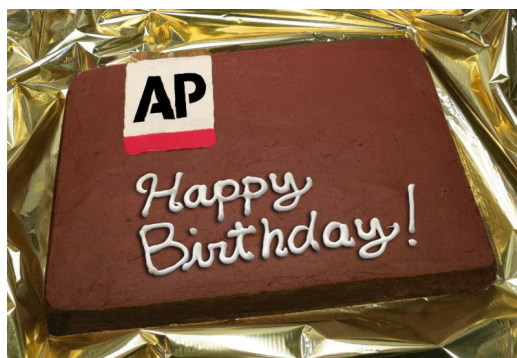
When a trusted source obtained a state of Iowa database of 103,000 convicted felons barred from voting, Iowa City correspondent Ryan J. Foley analyzed the information and found it was riddled with errors, including laughable mistakes - such as the Des Moines Police Department being banned from voting.

Foley has written extensively about problems tracking ineligible felons in Iowa, one of the last states where they face a lifetime voting ban. But it had been five years since he'd gotten a copy of the database itself. Foley decided to first look for outliers - names that seemed wrong, birth dates that were off, entries that were missing and other irregularities. In addition to the police department, he soon found other jaw-dropping mistakes on the list, including the "State of Iowa," the Lederman Bail Bonds Company, the Kindercare Day Care Center and the estate of a long-dead man whose name was misspelled.

Foley was able to look up the court cases listed on those entries to track down the actual felons who should have been added to the banned list in each case. Next, Foley went through a sample of more than 700 entries on the list and found that about 4% shouldn't have been there at all - they were misdemeanor convictions that should not have triggered the loss of voting rights. He contacted court officials, who acknowledged mistakes and are taking steps to correct them.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susanne Shaw - sshaw@ku.edu

Stories of interest

Vox Media to cut hundreds of freelance jobs ahead of changes in California gig economy laws (CNBC)

By Ari Levy and Alex Sherman

Hundreds of freelance writers at Vox Media, primarily those covering sports for the SB Nation site, will lose their jobs in the coming months as the company prepares for a California law to go into effect that will force companies to reclassify contractors in the state as employees.

"This is a bittersweet note of thanks to our California independent contractors," John Ness, executive director of SB Nation, wrote in a post on Monday. "In 2020, we will move California's team blogs from our established system with hundreds of contractors to a new one run by a team of new SB Nation employees."

In a separate memo seen by CNBC, Ness said that California contractors can apply for a full-time or part-time position in California. Contractors who wish to continue contributing can do so but "need to understand they will not be paid for future

contributions," he said. "We know this may be a difficult decision, so we're giving everyone affected 30 days to decide what works for them," Ness added.

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

-0-

Small-town Alaskan newspaper seeks new owner. Price: \$0 (Guardian)



By MATTHEW CANTOR

An Alaska newspaper publisher is ready to hand his operation to a new owner at an unbeatable price: \$0.

Larry Persily, a longtime journalist who runs the Skagway News in the state's panhandle, is willing to give away the small-town paper to a multi-talented professional who can ensure it a bright future.

Persily bought the Skagway News in April, after a friend, who founded it in 1978, talked him into it, he said. Under the previous owners, it had been struggling financially as staff came and went. Persily hoped to reverse its fortunes, but that

was more difficult and costly than he had expected. Then came a turning point: the editor quit after a year.

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

-0-

Could Facebook post have spurred Chattooga County commissioner's wife to dump soda on reporter? (Chattanooga Times Free Press)

By **PATRICK FILBIN**

The Chattooga County (Georgia) Commission budget hearing Friday morning started quietly, with residents and members of the media sitting around a boardroom table.

Jason Winters, the sole commissioner in Chattooga County, sat at the head of the table and checked his watch, according to a video posted by Casie Bryant, a reporter for the online news site AllOnGeorgia.

Winters took a sip from a paper cup and held a smile for 30 seconds.

Commissioner Winters held up a copy of the Summerville News and asked if anyone in the room needed it. Then Winters' eyes widened as he watched his wife Abbey, off camera, pour an entire soda on Bryant's head.

"There you go," Abbey Winters was heard saying. "I'm sick of it."

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

-0-

Netflix sends journalists on pricey trips, raising questions and angering rivals (Washington Post)

By Steven Zeitchik

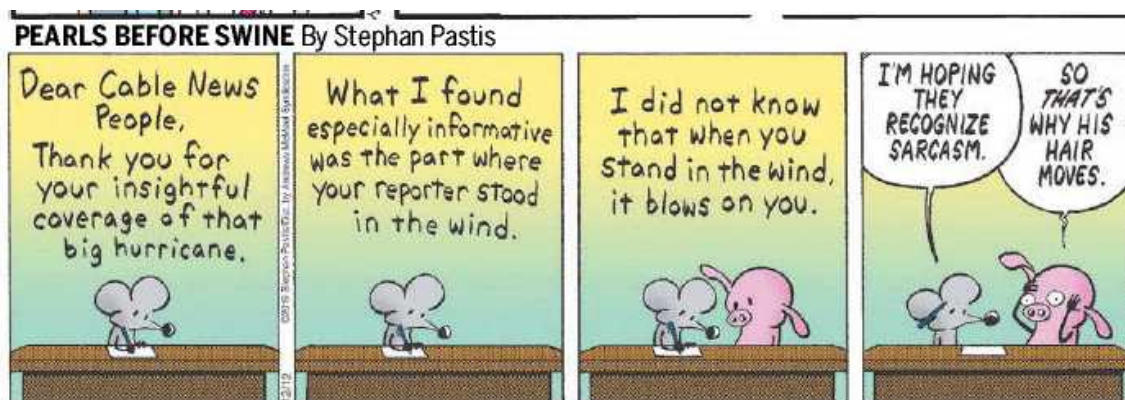
When the Critics' Choice Awards, an annual Hollywood ceremony reflecting the taste of hundreds of critics, announced its nominees last Sunday, one company rose above the others.

Netflix received 61 film and television nominations, nearly double the amount of its nearest competitor. The streaming giant also had the movie with the most nominations, Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman," and nearly half of the film best-actor field.

The accolades weren't surprising given the praise drawn by some of Netflix's recent releases. But it came with an asterisk: The Post has learned that Netflix had flown journalists from the voting body, which includes some 400 critics from outlets around the country, to Los Angeles and New York on pricey trips. The streamer's critics say that marks a potential breach of both awards etiquette and journalism ethics.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey.

The Final Word



(Shared by Adolphe Bernotas)

Today in History - December 17, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2019. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1992, President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (sah-LEE'-nuhs deh gohr-TAHR'-ee) signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in separate ceremonies. (After President Donald Trump demanded a new deal, the three countries signed a replacement agreement in 2018; it awaits approval by lawmakers.)

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" because only two movements had been completed, was first performed publicly in Vienna 37 years after the composer's death.

In 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

In 1938, German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann discovered nuclear fission by splitting the nuclei of uranium into lighter elements.

In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In 1969, the U.S. Air Force closed its Project "Blue Book" by concluding there was no evidence of extraterrestrial spaceships behind thousands of UFO sightings. An estimated 50 million TV viewers watched singer Tiny Tim marry his fiancée, Miss Vicky, on NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif. to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (She was paroled in Aug. 2009.)

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1994, North Korea shot down a U.S. Army helicopter which had strayed north of the demilitarized zone. The co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, was killed; the pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, was captured and held for nearly two weeks.

In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush named Stanford professor Condoleezza Rice his national security adviser and Alberto Gonzales to the White House counsel's job, the same day Bush was named Time magazine's Person of the Year.'

In 2007, Iran received its first nuclear fuel from Russia, paving the way for the startup of its reactor.

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

Ten years ago: Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place on the next-to-last day of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry, 26, died a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck in Charlotte, North Carolina. Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Jones, 90, died in Malibu, California.

Five years ago: The United States and Cuba restored diplomatic relations, sweeping away one of the last vestiges of the Cold War. Sony Pictures canceled the Dec. 25 release of "The Interview," a black comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after hackers threatened terrorist attacks and the largest multiplex chains in North America pulled the film. Veteran broadcast journalist Richard C. Hottelet, 97, the last of the original "Murrow's Boys," died in Wilton, Connecticut.

One year ago: Actress and director Penny Marshall, who starred in the sitcom "Laverne & Shirley" before directing film comedies such as "Big" and "A League of Their Own," died in her Los Angeles home at the age of 75 due to complications from diabetes. CBS announced that former CEO Les Moonves would not receive his \$120 million severance package after the board of directors found he had violated company policy and was uncooperative with an investigation of sexual misconduct allegations. A report from the Senate intelligence committee found that Russia's political disinformation campaign on U.S. social media was more far-reaching than originally thought, with troll farms working to discourage black voters and "blur the lines between reality and fiction" to help elect Donald Trump. Google announced that it would build a new office complex in New York City, in the tech industry's latest major expansion beyond the Seattle-San Francisco corridor.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 89. Pope Francis is 83. Singer-actor Tommy Steele is 83. Actor Bernard Hill is 75. Actor Ernie Hudson is 74. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 74. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 73. Actress Marilyn Hassett is 72. Actor Wes Studi is 72. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 71. Actor Joel Brooks is 70. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson Vaughn (The Emotions) is 68. Actor Bill Pullman is 66. Actor Barry Livingston is 66. Country singer Sharon White is 66. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 63. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 61. Pop singer Sarah Dallin (Bananarama) is 58. Country musician Tim Chewning is 57. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 53. Country musician Duane Propes is 53. Actress Laurie Holden is 50. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 49. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 49. Actress Claire Forlani is 48. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 46. Actress Sarah Paulson is 45. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 45. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 45. Actress Milla Jovovich (YO'-vuh-vich) is 44. Singer Bree Sharp is 44. Singer-songwriter Ben Goldwasser (MGMT) is 37. Rock singer Mikky Ekko is 36. Actress Shannon Woodward is 35. Actress Emma Bell is 33. Actress Vanessa Zima is 33. Rock musician Taylor York (Paramore) is 30. Actor Graham Rogers is 29. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 25.

**Thought for Today: "A life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things." [-]
"Poor Richard's Almanack."**

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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