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# Connecting - January 09, 2020

1 message

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# Connecting

January 09, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020,

How many of our Connecting colleagues can say they have visited all seven continents - Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, North America, South America, and Antarctica. On business, for pleasure or both?

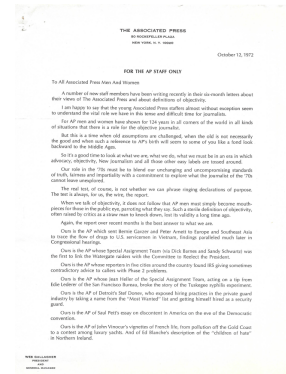
Associated Press journalists are a well-traveled lot, I realize, but to this person who's been to just three (North America, Europe and Asia), that is quite an accomplishment.

Our colleague **Kia Breaux**, AP regional director based in Kansas City, visited her seventh continent last month and I asked her if she could chronicle her trips for her Connecting colleagues. I have known Kia since then-ACoB **Peg Coughlin** and I hired her into the AP's Kansas City bureau in 1997. There are few people I know who are more goal-oriented, determined and dedicated to family and journalism... and to seeing the world.

If you have your own seven-continent story to share, please send it along.

### Here's the full Wes Gallagher letter

The 1972 letter from then-President and General Manager **Wes Gallagher** to AP's worldwide staff - shared in Wednesday's issue of Connecting - was missing one of the six pages as published. We bring you the letter in its entirety in today's issue. Apologies for the error; I think you will enjoy reading it.



Gallagher letter

Click on the letter image at right to read.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Her love of adventure, travel leads Kia Breaux to all seven continents



**Kia Breaux atop a cliff along Paradise Harbor on the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula Dec. 6, 2019.**

## **By Kia Breaux**

It was a Saturday like no other. I had just disembarked my cruise ship into an inflatable boat on the frigid waters surrounding the Antarctic peninsula when two humpback whales came up for air within 10 feet of our vessel.

I held my breath and stayed as still as I could while quietly snapping photos. Our boat continued cruising the icy waters in search of more wildlife and unique views of glaciers and icebergs.

Not long after the whale sighting, there was another nerve-wracking event. Our boat's driver lost her balance and careened backward toward the water. Two passengers reacted quickly and pulled her to safety.

All of this happened before 11 a.m. It was enough excitement for me that day - enough for the decade in fact -- as this is how I ended 2019 by completing my goal of visiting all seven continents.

I've always loved adventure. My earliest memories of traveling outside my home state of Missouri are with my grandmother who sang in gospel choirs that performed throughout the United States.

My first venture outside of the country was a day trip to Canada with my grandparents during a vacation in Michigan. I'll always remember the thrill of planting my feet on foreign soil for the first time.



**A view of icebergs and glaciers Dec. 6, 2019, in Orne Harbour on the northwest side of the Arctowski Peninsula near the Errera Channel. (Photo by Kia Breaux)**

It wasn't until a study abroad trip to Mexico my sophomore year in college that I truly caught the travel bug. I spent a semester living with host families, immersing myself in Mexican culture and traditions while taking classes in Cuernavaca and Guadalajara.

This experience framed how culture and traditions shape not only who we are as individuals but how we interact with others. From there I hungered to learn more about life in other parts of the world.

In 2003, I vacationed in Paris for two weeks. The following year, I went on a People to People Ambassadors trip to Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa with a group of journalists studying the South African media 10 years after the fall of apartheid.

In 2011, I explored Asia with college friends with tours in Shanghai and Beijing and later in Bangkok. I returned to Europe the following year with a trip to Barcelona, Spain.

A cultural and vocational exchange program through the Rotary Foundation took me to Rio Grande do Sul in southern Brazil for a month in 2013. There, I toured Brazilian newsrooms and interviewed journalists about challenges they face doing their jobs.

It was right before I went to Brazil that I realized how close I was to traveling to all seven continents. I wrote it as a goal on my vision board.

Antarctica always seemed like a long shot. It was so far away. Weather conditions can be harsh, not to mention the expense of getting there. While scrolling Facebook

two years ago, I came across a post from a high school softball teammate about her plans to go to Antarctica.

She had done all the research and found a reputable expedition company and itinerary that would allow us to fly over the rough waters of the Drake Passage and do the entire trip in eight days. I booked my trip as her roommate almost immediately. But I still hadn't gone to Australia.

Enter my ever-supportive fiancé, Rod Richardson, who booked a romantic getaway to Sydney six months before I was scheduled to leave for Antarctica.

Unfortunately, my friend had a family emergency that prevented her from going to Antarctica. I considered cancelling but, in the end, I decided to go solo because this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The travel was daunting: four flights from Kansas City to King George Island, which is part of the South Shetland Islands. The weather in Antarctica was manageable. I went in December which was during the Antarctic summer. Temperatures during the day averaged in the upper 30s to low 40s - about what I'm used to during a Missouri winter.

We made two landings by inflatable boats each day, getting up close and personal with penguins, seals, exotic birds and, of course, the whales! Other than the two frightening moments I mentioned earlier my Antarctic expedition was a fabulous success.

I feel an immense sense of accomplishment. A very small percentage of the world's population has completed the feat of visiting all seven continents.

One disappointing thing for me is that my grandmother, who sparked my passion for travel, is not here for me to share the details of my trip to Antarctica. She died six weeks before I left.



**Kia Breaux and fiancé Rod Richardson May 19, 2019, at Leogate Estate Winery in the Hunter Valley wine region in New South Wales north of Sydney, Australia.**





**Kia Breaux (far right) poses with her sorority sisters at the Great Wall of China in October 2011.**

So what is my favorite continent? I don't think I have one. My favorite trips have been those when I've spent significant time getting to know the locals and their culture. There are no indigenous human inhabitants in Antarctica so the encounter with the humpback whales will have to do!

(For a gallery of some of Kia's best Antarctica pictures, click [here](#).)

**Kia Breaux's email is -**

[kiabreaux@gmail.com](mailto:kiabreaux@gmail.com)

## Connecting mailbox

### *'Trauma' of talking about ourselves long gone - and rightly so*

**Lou Boccardi (Email)** - Noting the recent lighthearted comments suggesting that we were a mystery to some people, I don't have a "What's AP" story to share. But the comments bring back to mind the one-time serious aversion AP had to seeing its own name on its own wires beyond the ubiquitous parenthetical (AP) in datelines. Old-timers will remember having to take to the top a decision about whether to include us by name in a wire story. It was a posture understandable in its roots but not suited to the environment we could see emerging even decades ago. AP's justified pride in itself and its high ideals endured (and surely still do) but we needed to open up. And we did. So, while it's still possible to find people who confuse us with the old (now shuttered) supermarket chain, the "trauma" of talking about ourselves is long gone. And rightly so. The change in thinking was part of lots of changes we had to make- in our finances, our technology (CRTs anybody?), content, recruiting, offices, and more, all of which the execs and staff managed without losing sight of the right answer to "What's AP?".

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### *Norm Abelson for President*

**Adolphe Bernotas (Email)** - If I had waited just one day to mail my absentee ballot in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary, I might have considered writing in Norm Abelson for POTUS!

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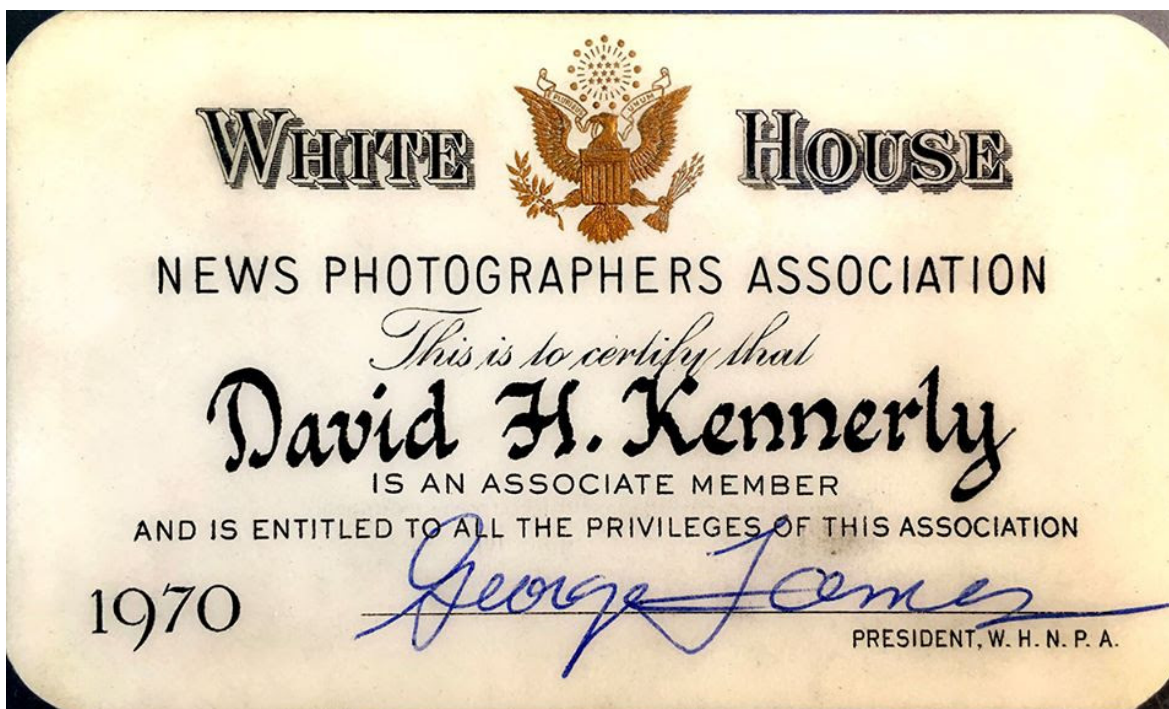
## ***'More of Les, less of Wes'***

**Russ Kaurloto (Email)** - When I read John Lumpkin's piece on Wes Gallagher, it reminded me of a story of the late Les Gesche, former TBC (Traffic Bureau Chief) who retired in San Diego as a field engineer. Les enjoyed sharing what happened the first time he met General Manager Wes Gallagher at a business function. Wes asked Les, what do you think we need more of at The AP? Les responded with, "What we need is more of Les and less of Wes." Wes turned and looked at everyone in the room and said, who the hell is this guy?

Apparently, after that exchange, Les and Wes became and stayed good friends throughout the remainder of their careers. For those who knew Les, he was quick witted and a real character but never let that fool you - he was one the sharpest guys I ever met.

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## ***Celebrating 50 years as member of White House News Photographers Association***



**David Kennerly (Email)** - Celebrating my 50th year as a member of the White House News Photographers Association - not many of us still active (or even kicking) from that early period, but I'm still plugging away! My card was signed by my colleague, the late, great, George Tames of The New York Times, one of the world's classic photogs. My employer then was United Press International.

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***AP Sighting - Allston, Mass.***



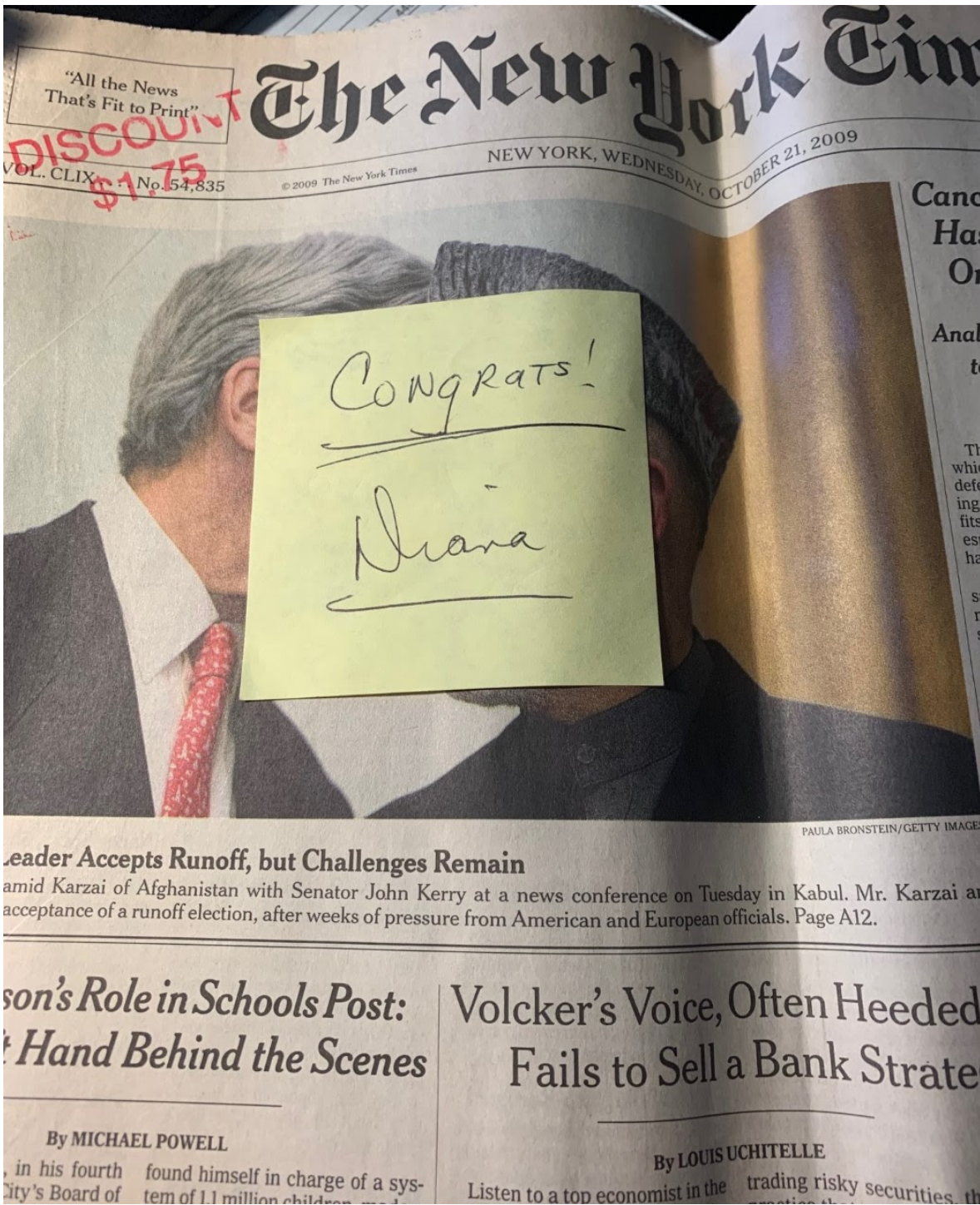


**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - While driving along Cambridge Street in Allston, Mass., we passed this building. We have no idea what it refers to and couldn't stop to

research it. If anyone knows about it, that would be nice.

## **On landing stories in The New York Times**

***Opening the Times, there's Mike Graczyk on Page One***



**Diana Heidgerd (Email)** - Former Houston AP's Mike Graczyk still comes to mind when I read Texas prison stories and recall his tremendous, difficult and humble decades of covering executions.

The Jan. 8 Connecting included how Mike was featured on Page 1 of The New York Times on Oct. 21, 2009. He provided a photo of the front page of a copy he had received by mail. From a friend...



I never expected to be buying a New York Times that afternoon, from a seller outside Madison Square Garden, and finding my longtime AP buddy featured.

I was living in Dallas (still here) and had been invited to AP headquarters for an afternoon and evening event. Hubby Paul came along.

We stayed at a hotel within walking distance of that sort of stair-step-like AP building. By late afternoon we were heading back to our hotel on what was a beautiful, sunny fall day.

I had only been to New York a few times. This time I truly felt comfortable strolling the streets.

A good day. I could find my way around New York City!

Paul and I were hand-in-hand late that afternoon outside Madison Square Garden when I thought ... "When in New York ... buy the Times!"

So I did, as a keepsake of that trip.

I immediately opened to the front page, to see if anything AP made it (force of habit to this day, even though I retired in October) and there was the Mike Graczyk feature!

I was so thrilled for him that I couldn't help telling the seller and others around me buying the newspaper that ... "I know that guy, he's my friend!" One person even said ... "You know somebody from Associated Press ... Wow!"

I grabbed an extra copy to mail to Mike and also called him. He was aware the story was pending but not sure when it would run. I included a congratulatory note.

So that memorable time for me was more remarkable for Mike, a non-AP story in the New York Times about a veteran AP guy who deserved such credit for his amazing work. And the newspaper was on sale!

That October 2009 trip also made a difference in my personal traveling life.

It gave me the courage to feel that I could safely navigate, on foot, in NYC. After that, I started doing annual girls' trips to New York City, with former AP gals Sylvia Wingfield and Amanda Barnett, and including time for fun with some of the AP staff there.

That happy habit continues. New York City here we come ... again ... in late February for our annual girls' outing. Here's a look at the beginning of last year's outing, upon arrival at LaGuardia.

(Selfie by Amanda Barnett at start of February 2019 girls' trip to NYC, with Diana Heidgerd & Sylvia Wingfield)

Meanwhile, thanks again to Mike Graczyk for sharing his New York Times front-page experience.



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## ***Waste of time?...well not so much***

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - It was always a kick to get a byline in the New York Times because that was the paper that the bosses at 50 Rock read - or at least that's what most of us believed.

In the late 1990s I came up with an idea for a feature takeout that I ran past the powers that be in NY Sports. The Baja 1000 - an off-road race run annually on the Mexican peninsula - was going to run its original route from Ensenada to La Paz for the first time in 25 years. I convinced the bosses to let me do the event, which happened to fall on one of my rare weekends without a NASCAR, IndyCar or sports car race.

I checked in with the office shortly after arriving in Ensenada and was met with less than an enthusiastic response. "Why are you there?" The day supervisor asked. "Who cares about that race?"

One of the bosses than got on the phone and said, "This is a waste of time and money. I don't know how you got permission to do it."



With that pat on the back and burst of enthusiasm from on high, I went off to cover the event. It meant riding in chase vehicles that sped down Mexico 1 - a two-lane highway frequented by huge semis and cars driving far above the posted speed limit to stay ahead of the competitors, who were crisscrossing the peninsula. Only the moon and the headlights illuminated the narrow road during the long night. We would meet the competitors at check points along the way, doing interviews and watching the pit stops. It also meant staying awake for about 36 hours.

I wrote my story at 5 a.m. in a speeding motor home as the winners neared the finish line. And, after winners' interviews, I filed the story from a hotel in La Paz with much difficulty due to horrible phone lines. Again, there was little enthusiasm in NY Sports when the story arrived. But I was assured it would get on the wire - eventually.

After getting some sleep, I began my trek home. When I got to San Diego, I checked in with the office. I was told to hold on, one of the bosses wanted to talk with me. I waited with some trepidation until the voice at the other end said, "Hey, congratulations!. Your story was in the Sunday Times. In fact, it was a whole page with byline. Nice going."

I was proud of the play but, actually, more relieved that the "unnecessary" trip had paid off. Now I wish I had saved a copy of the story.

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## ***Oh, THAT James Hood***

**Jim Hood (Email)** - James Hood made the front page of the New York Times with some regularity over the last few decades but it was usually the James Hood who defied Gov. George Wallace and integrated the University of Alabama and was a leading civil rights figure in the South.

That James Hood - with whom I crossed paths several times but, sadly, never met - was talking about great and important issues. When I made the Times, I was talking about furniture.

In a 2007 "Your Money" article by Mickey Meese, I was quoted thusly: "Shopping for furniture is treacherous," James Hood, editor of ConsumerAffairs.com, wrote in an e-mail message. "The only 100 percent sure way to get what you pay for is to buy the items you want off the floor, load them into your truck or van and take them home with you."

I remember the story starting on the front page and jumping to the business section but I may be wrong about that. What I'm not wrong about is the reaction from Havertys, a large and respectable East Coast furniture retailer.

Havertys wrote a blistering response to the Times story, basically placing me somewhere between a bedbug and a dust mite. As always, I appreciated the compliment but, since we have bought most of our furniture from Havertys, I was a little worried about walking into the store the next time we needed a liquor cabinet. I ordered online instead and the transaction, including delivery, came off without a hitch.

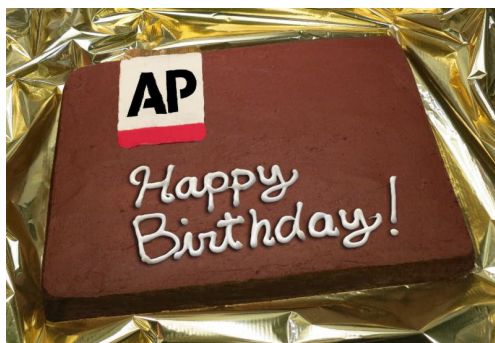
The University of Alabama James Hood died in 2013 at the age of 70. As for yet another Jim Hood, this one the former Attorney General of Mississippi, he made the Times frequently last year as he ran unsuccessfully for governor. I've never met him either.

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## ***You WILL provide matcher***

**Hal Spencer** ([Email](#)) - I laughed at Mike Graczyk's comments about NYT matchers (in Wednesday's Connecting). There are three certainties in life. The third is you WILL provide a matcher.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

**Kevin Walsh - [walshtraveling@gmail.com](mailto:walshtraveling@gmail.com)**

# Stories of interest

## ***10 Journalism Brands Where You Find Real Facts Rather Than Alternative Facts*** (Forbes)

By **PAUL GLADER**

Where do we most often find real truth, real facts in a new era of Internet hoaxes, fake news stories and new political administrations that tout their own "alternative facts"?

Many citizens appear confused and worried. News stories from the BBC and the New York Times and Money magazine are reporting (with proof) that dystopian novels such as 1984 by George Orwell and Brave New World by Aldous Huxley are seeing a noticeable boost in sales. After Meryl Streep's anti-Trump and pro-journalism speech at the Golden Globe awards in January, donations picked up to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Subscriptions to the New York Times and other newspapers have picked up dramatically since Donald Trump was elected president according to the Columbia Journalism Review and other sources.

Read more [here](#).

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## **The Final Word**

**John Wylie** ([Email](#)) - Anyone who could even skim Tuesday's issue, let alone devour while savoring every word, cannot possibly believe that the newspaper has no future. Sometimes I think we're our own worst enemies - you have so many examples of why local newspapers matter. Both the family-written and self-written obituaries tell fascinating stories of people I never met but wish I had. Your piece on the harpist for hospice and final days hospital patients was moving beyond words, with a rich texture that no medium besides finely tuned prose can match. I hope you'll take the best pieces and reprint them in a bright, shiny brochure hand-delivered to the home of every hedge-fund mogul who owns newspapers. You'll need the colorful glitz because they actually believe that anything that takes longer

than 30 seconds to read isn't worth the effort. Too bad they don't understand that for the 30-60-90 minutes to read a newspaper (120 minimum if you get the print weekend Wall Street Journal; 240 if you get the New York Times) you are transported not to one different world but dozens, don't meet just one remarkable person but scores, and are drawn into one idea you've never considered before but hundreds.

We keep our syndicated feature For the Kid in You going after a quarter century - long after most NIE programs, which it was designed to serve, have folded to preach this message to some of our worst enemies - ourselves. One new subscriber at a time, we're persuading publishers that it can be an added feature at very low cost specifically designed to draw entire families together around the newspaper for conversation and research rather than video games, smartphones, TV, etc. Those who catch our enthusiasm start talking up newspapers rather than defending them as a second choice for consumer and advertisers' time and money. It works.

And while I'm at it, how many print journalists are telling advertisers in any newspaper that their investment was paying off. After our fire, I needed to replace everything a handicapped person needs to move around on daily errands, go to concerts or museums, fly, etc. We did NOT want to go online, because every time we do for anything we are bombarded for months after simply browsing with hundreds of unwanted emails, pop-ups, and mini-TV commercials online. All too often the product described and the one received doesn't work right-sometimes evident soon enough it can be returned (less shipping, handling, etc.); sometimes not. Through small (1x4 to 2x5) ads in the Tulsa World we discovered a decades-old family-owned store that sold nothing but everything we needed--and provided service when needed (wheelchairs, rollers, walkers with seats and even canes do need service no matter how beautifully made they are--if nothing else, new tires and non-slip tips just like cars for the wear and tear where "the rubber meets the road"). We went in to buy one thing, but with an experienced staff actually found something else worked better--and were even able to test whether it would fold easily to fit in my quite compact SUV (the first didn't; the second--which was actually more comfortable--did like a charm). We also found a replacement dress cane for use outside routine errands when being seen in public which gets oohs and aahs from friends (handicapped and regular distance runners alike) for its quality, beauty and workmanship. Cost? One-third of something not nearly as good but the best we could find in catalogs. We told the owner how we'd found him and he smiled and said, "That's the only advertising I do. It works like magic." I asked if he'd told friends in specialty business that and he said no, but after toting up the bill for the insurance company for our purchases he assured me he would start doing so.

Long way of saying you are doing a huge service to our profession. I sense a real backlash coming to online intrusion into our individual privacy--and newspapers need to exploit that.

Please keep up the good fight. The service to our profession is immeasurable - and you're obviously having fun.

# Today in History - January 9, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2020. There are 357 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 9, 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing on the shores of Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines as the Battle of Luzon got underway, resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

## **On this date:**

In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire.

In 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, California.



In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended after eight months with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

In 1951, the United Nations headquarters in New York officially opened.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat of Communist imperialism.

In 1959, the Western series "Rawhide" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1987, the White House released a January 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

In 2001, Linda Chavez withdrew her bid to be President-elect George W. Bush's Secretary of Labor because of controversy over an immigrant in the U.S. illegally who'd once lived with her.

In 2006, confirmation hearings opened in Washington for Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito. "The Phantom of the Opera" leapt past "Cats" to become the longest-running show in Broadway history (a record that still stands).

In 2009, the Illinois House voted 114-1 to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich), who defiantly insisted again that he had committed no crime. (The Illinois Senate unanimously voted to remove Blagojevich from office 20 days later.)

Ten years ago: In a video broadcast posthumously, the Jordanian doctor who'd killed seven CIA employees in a suicide attack in Afghanistan on Dec. 30, 2009, called on all jihadists to attack U.S. targets to avenge the death of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud (BEH'-tuh-luh mah-SOOD'). Peyton Manning became the first player to win The Associated Press' NFL Most Valuable Player award four times.

Five years ago: French security forces shot and killed two al-Qaida-linked brothers suspected of carrying the rampage at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo that had claimed 12 lives, the same day a gunman killed four people at a Paris kosher grocery store before being killed by police. Samuel Goldwyn Jr., 88, a champion of

the independent film movement and son of one of the founders of Hollywood, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: President Donald Trump walked out of his negotiating meeting with congressional leaders as efforts to end the 19-day partial government shutdown fell into deeper disarray over his demand for billions of dollars to build a border wall. Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and his wife, MacKenzie, announced that they were divorcing, ending a 25-year marriage.

Today's Birthdays: Actress K. Callan is 84. Folk singer Joan Baez is 79. Rockabilly singer Roy Head is 79. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 76. Actor John Doman is 75. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 70. Singer Crystal Gayle is 69. Actor J.K. Simmons is 65. Actress Imelda Staunton is 64. Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberta Menchu is 61. Rock musician Eric Erlandson is 57. Actress Joely Richardson is 55. Rock musician Carl Bell (Fuel) is 53. Actor David Costabile is 53. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 53. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 53. Actress-director Joey Lauren Adams is 52. Comedian/actor Deon Cole is 49. Actress Angela Bettis is 47. Actor Omari Hardwick is 46. Roots singer-songwriter Hayes Carll is 44. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 42. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, is 38. Pop-rock musician Drew Brown (OneRepublic) is 36. Rock-soul singer Paolo Nutini is 33. Actress Nina Dobrev is 31. Actor Basil Eidenbenz is 27. Actress Kerris Dorsey is 22. Actor Tyree Brown is 16.

**Thought for Today: "Love me when I least deserve it, because that's when I really need it." [-] Swedish proverb.**

## 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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