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Connecting April 7, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 7th day of April 2020,

The death – and life’s story – of **Nick Jesdanun** – the first AP journalist to die from COVID-19 – was chronicled Monday night by Anderson Cooper of CNN.

Nick’s cousin **Risa Harms** was interviewed by Cooper about the death last Thursday of the 29-year AP veteran, who served as AP’s deputy technology editor in New York and was a veteran of 83 full marathons.

Click [here](#) to view.



Who’s your go-to source for COVID-19 news?

Our colleague **John Brewer** ([Email](#)) notes that like many other papers, The New York Times and The Washington Post are providing pandemic coronavirus coverage to online readers for free.

“For me,” he writes, “both newspapers have become go-to sources (along with our local paper, the Peninsula Daily News, and the excellent spot coverage

from AP).

“I especially enjoy the Times' emailed daily roundups, which are also free. (On Sunday the NYT Weekend Review had links (most of them virus-related and thereby on the other side of its paywall) to NYT crosswords, an interview with crazy comedian Larry David, suggestions for date nights and other diversions, plus rundowns on all facets of the pandemic (including prominent people who have died because of it). (I headed the NYT Syndicate/News Service for 10 years after 19 years with AP.)

“What are other Connecting readers finding useful as go-to sources during this "stay home" time, and why? Meanwhile, stay well and safe and pray for the "war" to end soon!”

You're welcome to share your thoughts.



AP GROUND GAME: Iran was hit especially hard among Middle Eastern countries by the coronavirus. But now, the rest of the region is seeing a spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases. Jon Gambrell, AP's news director for the Persian Gulf and Iran, explains why that is so.

Listen [here](#) .

Be safe and healthy and stay optimistic – and here's to a good day ahead!

Paul

Coronavirus mailbox

Rural pastor celebrates Mass 'with his parishioners'



Father Nathan Haverland, pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish, Marysville, and St. Malachy Parish in Beattie, celebrates Mass with photos of his parishioners in the pews — an idea he got from a story about a priest in Italy that he saw on social media. PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER NATHAN HAVERLAND

**By Marc and Julie Anderson
The Leaven**

MARYSVILLE, Kan. — Mass cancellations. Suspensions of public gatherings. “Stay at home” orders. How does a Catholic priest make himself available to his congregation? And how can he unite the parish family despite social distancing guidelines?

While many parish priests are turning to streaming Masses on a daily or weekly basis, Father Nathan Haverland, pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Marysville and St. Malachy in nearby Beattie, took it one step further.

He discovered a way to celebrate Mass and still “see his parishioners” in the pews.

The answer?

He asked parishioners to send him a digital photo of their families. He then printed the pictures, one per piece of paper. Then, he taped them to the pews in St. Gregory Church.

That way, he could still see the pews “full of people,” united in prayer. Mass is then aired on television and streamed on the parish’s Facebook page.

Read more [here](#).

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Social distancing in Tokyo



Kazuo Abiko ([Email](#)) - Here's a photo of our cats, Tonto (left) and Momo, taking a nap, keeping a social distance.

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A birthday cake – for a birthday self-isolated at home



Meg Thomas-Reile ([Email](#)) - Just thought I'd share a photo of the birthday cake that I treated myself to as I – and nearly everyone else – continue to work from home and self-isolate in Chicago. Mayor Lori Lightfoot's no-nonsense campaign to get Chicagoans to obey social distancing has inspired a lot of very funny memes, including her own social media and TV campaign. So, I thought I'd join in on the fun and support a local business at the same time. It doesn't hurt that their baked goods are some of the city's best.

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Isolation camping



Ken Fields ([Email](#)) - Here's an idea for breaking up cabin fever. My son Ryan put up a tent in his garage for granddaughter Ellie (three years old) to camp in overnight.

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Mindfulness



Jack Ronald ([Email](#)) - During this period of stay-at-home stress and uncertainty, the experts are telling us to focus on "mindfulness." To me, that translates into increasing awareness of the natural world. This tufted titmouse, one of my favorite little birds, stopped by for a visit Saturday afternoon. I thought you would enjoy the image. Take care. Stay safe. Cherish one another. And, just to be on the safe side, go wash your hands again.

License plates for foreign journalists in Soviet Union served a purpose

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - Bob Daugherty's report of Massachusetts license plates marked for news photographers brings to mind peculiar Soviet and American license systems that began in the 1960s, when I was AP bureau chief in Moscow.

Standard Soviet licenses in Moscow had black numbers on white plates. But beginning about 1965, the Soviets switched all foreign journalist cars to white numbers on black, with the first number indicating the journalists' nationality. Americans were 4. The obvious point was to enable the police and KGB to keep better track of us. We knew that we were already being monitored in various ways, including audio bugs in our offices and apartments and maybe concealed fisheye cameras, regular debriefings of our Soviet employees (who had to have been officially authorized), and interviewing people we'd interviewed.

In the 1970s, when foreign journalists were talking to dissidents, the special licenses pinpointed cars whose tires were slashed and windshields smashed (but none bombed, as mine was Christmas night 1967). Within a year or so after those new Soviet licenses were required, the FBI began requiring special licenses for foreign diplomats in the States.

Although I don't remember knowing, probably for Soviet journalists, too, since many of them were officers of the KGB or military intelligence. (The official biography of the man who became head of the Russian foreign intelligence service in the early 1990s said that, after being trained as a KGB officer, his first assignment about 1970 had been as a correspondent in India for Novosti. Novosti was created in 1961 as a supposedly Soviet news and feature service supplementing TASS, the official news – plus espionage – agency, to provide more cover jobs abroad.) The District of Columbia license plates assigned to diplomats and probably Soviet journalists had two-letter designations for their countries plus numbers. The letters were coded in a way that did not make the country identifiable to ordinary observers. For plates of Soviets, the FBI chose FC. This stood for "F..king Commie."

Connecting mailbox

Remembering Dan Hamrick

Dick Seaton ([Email](#)) - This is Dick Seaton, brother of Dave and Edward. Although I am a lawyer and they have both spent their careers in publishing, I may have known Dan the best. This is because he covered the Kansas statehouse for the AP while I was in the Attorney General's office. So my wife and I became friends with Dan and Judy. Mark and Craig were very young at that time--in the 1960's. Dan was highly intelligent, and also very gentle. What I admired most about him was his uncanny ability to capture the essence of a story in a one sentence lead. Nobody in my experience has done it so well. Of course, he was later the editor of our father's paper in Coffeyville, where we all grew up. So the Seatons have many reasons to miss Dan.

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Former AP Vietnam photographer Steve Stibbens hospitalized; send a note

Steve Stibbens – a former Marine - wrote and shot photos for Leatherneck Magazine, Stars&Stripes and then AP during a long tour covering the Vietnam War. He has been hospitalized in Dallas for a heart condition, according to his daughter Nancy. He's improving – “it seems my ornery dad is trying to pull out his tubes, as he's ready to come home!” she said – but is on a respirator and will remain hospitalized for a while longer. If you would like to drop a note of encouragement, you can do so by emailing Nancy at nstibbens@gmail.com or via postal mail at 2005 Bay Oaks Dr., Arlington TX 76012.



After his Vietnam work with the AP, Nancy said, her dad returned stateside and worked for the Dallas Times-Herald, then LTV, where he regularly covered the Paris Air Show. After a 2-year stint at a San Diego paper, he worked in advertising at TracyLocke. He then worked for Sam Wyly at UCC, then took up investor relations at Hogan Systems. He ran a commercial photography studio for a number of years, and retired from the position of Director of Worldwide Photography at Texas Instruments. In 2002, he published the book “Knights Over the Delta.”

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Remember ‘Not the New York Times’?

"All the views
Not Fit to Print"

Not The New York Times

Strike Parody
Wrestler: Mostly grown
up, but still immature.
Saturday: see Details, page 21.

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It costs beyond 15,000 mile delivery zone.
Rights on other weeks.

MARATHON RUNNERS BLAMED BY CITY FOR BRIDGE DESTRUCTION

Sponsors Blamed for Mishap But Refuse to Accept Any Responsibility

By JOSEPH TOASTER
Building Department officials today blamed a "simple excess of weight" for the tragic collapse of portions of the Queensboro Bridge during the Ringgold Marathon on Sunday afternoon.

"Too many people who weighed too much" was the blunt but concise wording of the 164-page report submitted today to Mayor Koch and Governor Carey.

Meanwhile, a stream of baroque inquiries as to why the field of runners was allowed to grow so dangerously large was directed at Fred Lebow, president of the New York Road Runners Club, which supervised the disastrous race.

"To blame it on this whole weight-conscious society, not on me," said Mr. Lebow in an interview Sunday. "Every guy and his brother and sister think he can look like a model by buying a sweatshirt and sneakers."

It remains unclear, however, why all of these people were allowed on a single bridge. Mr. Lebow has persistently asserted that it was not the number of people that caused the disaster but the fact that each person weighed too much.

"I've never seen so many fat people in my life," said Mr. Lebow. "You will remember that 5,000 runners in the field held graduate degrees. You sit around at a college for all those years, drinking beer and eating fruit pies, and you end up looking like a pig."

The terrifying incident took place almost exactly an hour after the start of the 26-mile, 35-yard endurance test, which began on Staten Island and proceeded through parts of Brooklyn and Queens before reaching the bridge. As the head of the 10,000-strong pack reached the Manhattan end of the



Bridge in Manhattan after mishap.

bridge, its massive, girders momentarily trembled, then suddenly gave way as the screaming health-conscious tried to escape for safety.

Building Department officials are still hard pressed to explain how and why the bridge buckled under the weight. Estimating the average runner's weight at 150 pounds, the field carried the same weight as only 1,000 automobiles, a number which the

Queensboro bridge frequently accommodates. A Highway Department spokesman explained that the "up-down" factor was responsible for explaining this.

"Cars don't go clip-clop, clip-clop, up-down, the way people do. Cars just go vrrrooooo...vrrrooooo. If 1,000 cars were going clip-clop from one wheel to another, like one of those hefty babes in Afta, you'd see a lot more than the bridge collapse," said the source. The investigation will continue.

Administration Announces Plans To Offer Public Shares in GSAs

By ANTHONY J. PAROLE
WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—President Jimmy Carter today announced the United States Government will sell the General Services Administration, in a 10-million share public securities offering, to investors.

It is the only United States Government agency, he noted, that has a profit now that management thought it would be unprofitable.

Pope Dies Yet Again; Reign Is Briefest Ever Cardinals Return From Airport

By R.W. PAPPLE, Jr.
Special to Not The New York Times

ROME, Oct. 11—Pope John Paul I, 36th Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, died this afternoon while administering the Pope's benediction to thousands who had gathered in St. Peter's Square for his investiture. He served as pope for 33 minutes, the briefest reign in the history of the church.

The cause of the Pope's death was not immediately clear. The 41-year-old Pontiff, formerly Archbishop of Liverpool and the first non-Italian to ascend the throne of St. Peter, collapsed in mid-sentence and toppled forward into a battery of microphones, as he blessed the faithful who filled the square below.

His last words, which were also his first as spiritual head of the world's 48 million Roman Catholics, were heard by millions who watched the ancient sign of the Cross, the Pope intoned, "In nomine patri" and seemed to falter. He regained his speech momentarily, but only long enough to pronounce the next two words of the sacrament, "et filii" in a choking voice. Then he emitted a high-pitched squeal which many mistook as coming from the boy's choir and fell forward.

Pope John Paul John Paul's death followed by two weeks that of his predecessor, Pope Paul I, who reigned for only 33 days. The latest papal death produced renewed controversy, confusion and speculation inside the church about choosing a successor for John Paul John Paul and the circumstances of his demise.

Highly placed Vatican sources predicted that many of the 112 members of the College of Cardinals would decline to remain in Rome for the selection of a new pope. Rather than return to their spartan quarters deep in basilica, many cardinals were said to favor choosing John Paul John Paul's successor in a conference call.

The Italian newspapers immediately stated on the latest papal demise as evidence of a conspiracy. Several possibilities were advanced, with the most serious consideration going to the "single heart attack theory" to account for all the deaths.

Meanwhile, from every corner of the globe, came expressions of deep mourning for the little Liverpoolian who had taken his name from three beloved mentors who headed the church before him. "John Paul John Paul's reign will be remembered for its bright promise and the good humor of this gentle and generous soul," commented Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York in an interview with Barbara Walters several minutes after the Pope had been pronounced dead.

Only hours earlier the popular Pontiff had told his closest aides that he wanted to be called Jay-Pee Two, as a symbol of the informality and bold change that he hoped would mark his reign.



Pope John Paul John Paul I

FALL SEASON THROWN INTO CONFUSION BY STUDIO 54 BLAZE

ISRAELI REACTION MUTED

Chris Connell (Email) - New Yorkers remember the long newspaper strikes of our youth (not to mention Mike Quill and the transit workers' strikes, or the garbage strike). The newspaper strikes, when every one of New York's then-dozen papers disappeared from newsstands, go back farther to Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia's famously reading the comics over the radio for kids during a 1945 strike. One of the high points during these news blackouts was the efflorescence of writing genius that produced Not the New York Times in 1978.

When All the Zingers Were Fit to Print

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AP sighting - Wes Gallagher

Time and Tide

75 years ago

In 1945, county resident Odell Williamson was piloting an Associated Press reporter, name of Wes Gallagher, for a bird's-eye view of the Allied race to Berlin. Here in Brunswick County, landscaping was being done on the courthouse grounds by the Southport Woman's Club, R.C. St. George, Mrs. Eva Ruark, James Ferger and Henry Mitchell.

The editor was still on leave of absence with the U.S. Navy; and even the picture show titles for that week highlighted what was going on — "I Love a Soldier," "Mr. Winkle Goes to War" and "Something for the Boys" being the fare.

67 years ago

and Antony Galota and wife

oil paint-

Peter Mattiace ([Email](#)) - Spotted in the weekly State Port Pilot of Southport, N.C., on March 27. (That Gallagher guy he was piloting went on to become the head of The Associated Press.)

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These assignments as rare as I think?

Bob Greene ([Email](#)) - During my 36 years with The AP, I worked in a correspondence (Portland, Maine), a line bureau (Milwaukee), a hub (Kansas City), Washington and New York. Is that as rare as I think it is?

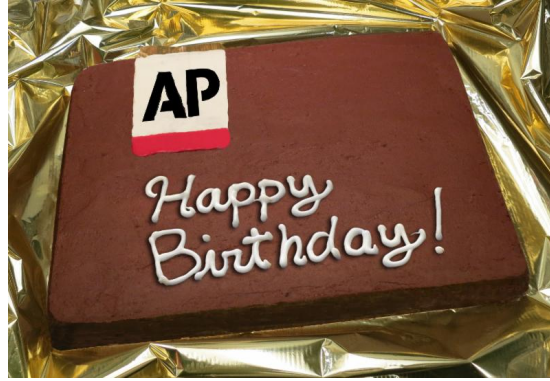
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Those boxes once carried the news



Jim Reindl ([Email](#)) - I went for a walk Sunday and passed the Chicago Tribune's Freedom Center production plant, spotting this field of disused Hoy newspaper boxes. The Tribune announced last year it was shutting its Spanish language paper.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Brian Burnes - bpburnesiii@gmail.com

Juliet Williams - jawilliams@ap.org

Stories of interest

Fundraisers to help laid-off and furloughed journalists are springing up across the U.S.

(Poynter)

By Catherine Sweeney

After many of the country's most prominent newspaper companies implemented furloughs, journalists sprung to action to help their colleagues.

Citing hits to advertising revenue because of COVID-19, Gannett, Lee Enterprises and others announced they would subject most of their employees to some form of a pay cut. For many reporters, it meant forced unpaid time off in the form of furloughs. At many news organizations, those furloughs mean a 20% drop in take-home pay.

Although the news came out just a week ago for most of these companies, journalists across the country have established relief programs to help their peers pay rent, cover groceries and keep their lights on.

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

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Hollywood Reporter Editor Matt Belloni Steps Down Amid Debate Over Editorial

Independence (The Wrap)

By Rosemary Rossi and Sharon Waxman

Hollywood Reporter Editorial Director Matt Belloni announced Monday he is abruptly stepping down after 14 years at the publication in the wake of recent clashes with the company's leadership over editorial issues.

Asif Satchu and Modi Wiczyk, co-CEOs of Billboard-Hollywood Reporter Media Group parent company Valence Media have recently butted heads with Belloni and others in an escalating dispute about newsroom practices, two individuals with knowledge of the situation told The Wrap.

According to one insider, Satchu and Wiczyk have pushed the editorial staffs at its publications to not run stories, to spike unfavorable stories about friends and to overpromote Valence-owned businesses like Dick Clark Productions. Belloni opposed these moves, according to this individual. An individual close to Valence denied that any stories were spiked.

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

The Final Word

Catch this week's supermoon, biggest and brightest of year



FILE - In this Nov. 14, 2016 file photo, evergreen trees are silhouetted on the mountain top as a supermoon rises over over the Dark Sky Community of Summit Sky Ranch in Silverthorne, Colo., Monday, Nov. 14, 2016. A supermoon will rise in the sky Tuesday evening, April 7, 2020, looking to be the biggest and brightest of the year. Not only will the moon be closer to Earth than usual, it will also be a full moon. (AP Photo/Jack Dempsey, File)

By MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A supermoon rises in the sky this week, looking to be the biggest and brightest of the year.

Not only will the moon be closer to Earth than usual, it will also be a full moon. Scientists call this cosmic combo a supermoon. The moon will be 221,855 miles (357,042 kilometers) away at its fullest Tuesday night, making it appear larger and more brilliant.

NASA is encouraging everyone to look skyward, whether it's outside or through a living room window.

Scientist Noah Petro of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland said the important thing is to stay safe while moon-gazing during the pandemic.

Read more [here](#) .

Today in History - April 7, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 7, the 98th day of 2020. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 7, 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1798, the Mississippi Territory was created by an act of Congress, with Natchez as the capital.

In 1915, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as "Lady Day," was born in Philadelphia.

In 1927, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

In 1947, auto pioneer Henry Ford died in Dearborn, Michigan, at age 83.

In 1953, the U.N. General Assembly ratified Dag Hammarskjöld (dahg HAWM'-ahr-shoold) of Sweden as the new secretary-general, succeeding Trygve Lie (TRIHG'-vuh lee) of Norway.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, "You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly." (This became known as the "domino theory," although Eisenhower did not use that term.)

In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1964, IBM introduced its System/360, the company's first line of compatible mainframe computers that gave customers the option of upgrading from lower-cost models to more powerful ones.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1983, space shuttle astronauts Story Musgrave and Don Peterson went on the first U.S. spacewalk in almost a decade as they worked in the open cargo bay of Challenger for nearly four hours.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In 2006, a British judge ruled that author Dan Brown did not steal ideas for "The Da Vinci Code" from a nonfiction work.

Ten years ago: North Korea said it had convicted and sentenced an American man to eight years in a labor prison for entering the country illegally and unspecified hostile acts. (Aijalon Mahli Gomes was freed in August 2010 after former U.S. President Jimmy Carter secured his release.) Opponents seized Kyrgyzstan's government headquarters after clashes between protesters and security forces that had left dozens of people dead. Space shuttle Discovery docked at the International Space Station, its astronauts overcoming a rare antenna breakdown that had knocked out radar tracking.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, speaking at Howard University Medical School, announced commitments from Google, Microsoft and others to help the nation's health system prepare for a warmer, more erratic climate. Republican Sen. Rand Paul launched his 2016 presidential campaign in his home state of Kentucky (he suspended his campaign in February 2016). Michael Thomas Slager, a white South Carolina police officer, was charged with murder in the shooting death of black motorist Walter Lamer Scott after law enforcement officials saw a cellphone video taken by a bystander. (Slager pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges and was sentenced to 20 years in prison; prosecutors agreed to drop state murder charges that remained after a jury couldn't agree whether he had committed a crime.) The University of Connecticut's women's basketball team beat Notre Dame 63-53 for its 10th NCAA championship. Stan Freberg, 88, the spirited comic genius who was hailed as the father of the funny commercial, died in Santa Monica, California.

One year ago: Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen resigned amid President Donald Trump's frustration and bitterness over the number of Central American families crossing the southern border; Trump tweeted that U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan would take over as acting head of Homeland Security. White House chief of staff Mick

Mulvaney, on “Fox News Sunday,” declared that Democrats would “never” see President Donald Trump’s tax returns. Baylor won the NCAA women’s basketball championship game, 82-81 over Notre Dame, after Chloe Jackson drove for a tiebreaking layup with 3.9 seconds left.

Today’s Birthdays: Media commentator Hodding Carter III is 85. Country singer Bobby Bare is 85. Rhythm-and-blues singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 83. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 82. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 81. Actress Roberta Shore is 77. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 73. Singer John Oates is 72. Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is 71. Singer Janis Ian is 69. Country musician John Dittrich is 69. Actor Jackie Chan is 66. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett is 66. Actor Russell Crowe is 56. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 56. Actor Bill Bellamy is 55. Rock musician Dave “Yorkie” Palmer (Space) is 55. Rock musician Charlie Hall (The War on Drugs) is 46. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 45. Actress Heather Burns is 45. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 45. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 44. Retired baseball infielder Adrian Beltre is 41. Actress Sian Clifford is 38. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 35. Christian rock singer Tauren Wells is 34. Actor Ed Speleers is 32. Actor Conner Rayburn is 21.

Thought for Today: “Money is in some respects life’s fire: it is a very excellent servant, but a terrible master.” – P.T. Barnum, American showman (born 1810, died this date in 1891).

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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