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Connecting - February 06, 2020

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 6th day of February 2020,

The story in Wednesday's Connecting on **Jodie DeJonge** going to work for an Oregon newspaper she once served as AP Seattle bureau chief prompted two of you to share similar stories.

Thank you, **Dan Day** and **Jim Spehar**. Now it's your turn to share your own experience.

As AP's regional vice president for the Central Region for the last six years of my career, I got to serve - along with the Des Moines chief of bureau - the Iowa newspaper where I started my writing career as a part-time sports clerk and writer, and where my father was editor for a half century. Dad (Walter B. Stevens) had moved to editor emeritus status at The Messenger of Fort Dodge when I made my first official AP visit in the early 2004. (I recall all were kind and had no complaints on their AP service.) It was a strange feeling to visit, as an AP representative, the paper where I started out.



Ye Olde Editor and Ye Olde Connecting Editor

Years after I retired from the AP in 2009, I took up the Spotlight column that dad produced for 25 years or more. I'm into my fourth year of writing profiles of Fort Dodge people (and sometimes landmarks) past and present that are published on the first Sunday of each month. What a kick to still see my byline in the same newspaper where I got my very first one nearly 60 years ago.

So yes, Yogi, for me and The Messenger, it's déjà vu all over again. How about you?

Have a great day!

Paul

Returning to work for a member you once served for AP



Dan Day (right) in the Bee newsroom with Editor Mark Vasche (center) and Dave Lyghtle. Photo taken around 2010, when Dan was online director and Dave was managing editor.

Dan Day (Email) - As AP's San Francisco bureau chief in the 1990s, one of my favorite stops was The Modesto Bee. Editor Sanders Lamont was always a gracious host. Managing Editor Mark Vasche, who would move up to editor, was also gracious - and a master of mischief. He particularly liked to "mis" the "chief" of bureau.

On most visits, Mark would have me sit in on the daily news meeting. He and his editors seemed to take delight in finding the most obscure complaints about the report they could find and forcing me to react in front of the Bee team. It was good-natured ribbing, and I always made sure I lost whatever argument there was and promised to do better.

Fast forward to 2005, and I got sacked from a PR job right after the New Year's holiday. The first call I placed to look for work was to Mark Vasche, who it turned out needed a managing editor. On Jan. 31, I was back at the Bee, this time running the daily news meetings myself.

Mark and I and our wives became good friends during our six San Francisco years and even better friends in our seven Modesto years. Mark offering me that job was one of the turning points in my life, and I am forever grateful to him and all my Bee colleagues. Talk about your member contributions!

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Jim Spehar (Email) - Like many AP colleagues, I began my news career working for members. In my case, it was KOY and KPHO in Phoenix back when radio stations had real commitments to news. When we moved to Denver (without jobs after chucking it all for a "hippie" tour of Europe until we ran out of money), I was offered a couple of opportunities at member radio stations KOA and KHOW but wanted something to try something different in journalism.

That wish was fulfilled when Dorman Cordell hired me to be Broadcast Editor in the Denver bureau, to be joined in a few months by Jim Hood, who I'd worked with earlier at KPHO. Later one of the stations I'd turned down came calling. I accepted KOA's offer to anchor the morning AM news block with the promise they'd also offer some television news opportunities, which they did. Moved on as a producer to another member station in Denver, KMGH TV, then decided to seek my fortune as a rock concert promoter.

Several months later, broke and chastened, I gratefully jumped at Mike Short's offer of a broadcast writer position back in the Denver bureau. That led to 10 rewarding years working for Roy Steinfort as a Broadcast Executive for Colorado and Wyoming (adding New Mexico and Utah at times during that stint.)

I left the AP in 1988 to buy, along with some AP colleagues and one of my brothers, a couple of member radio stations in my hometown. Managed to exit that adventure and sell those stations six years later and began 20-plus years of personal elective politics and state and regional public policy work. Along the way I began writing columns, initially just to see if I could relearn how to write for real people rather than for politicians and policy wonks. For almost 10 years now it's been with the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, an AP member.

A journeyman's career, most often with an AP connection. In what may be a unique twist, my son Tony is working as a video news editor at KOAT-TV in Albuquerque, his fifth stop at an AP member station since graduating from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University, also my alma mater.

How could you forget the goat man?



(Photo from Gadsden Public Library taken in unknown Alabama town)

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Always enjoy chatting with Lee Peacock, managing editor of The Evergreen Courant . Lee has an inquisitive newspaperman's mind (like me) and enjoys exploring the dirt roads and byways in south Alabama. Lee asked me recently if I remembered the day the goat man came through town.

I guess that it had been announced that the goat man would be passing through Evergreen, Alabama. I attended Evergreen City School in the 1960s and our teacher allowed us to go outside and line up against the chain-link fence to watch the goat man pass by on Highway 31. We waved and he waved back.

I have vivid memories of that day, although I cannot remember what grade I was in or the teacher. I am thinking maybe it was fourth grade in Mrs. Bobbie Huggins' class. That would have been 1962 or 1963.

Yep Lee Peacock, I remember the day the goat man came through town! (Click [here](#) for story link.)

TV news ready to shift gears after impeachment saga ends



Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, followed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., left, and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., leaves the Senate chamber after presiding over the impeachment trial and today's acquittal of President Donald Trump, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - The Senate's vote to acquit President Donald Trump not only ended the impeachment saga Wednesday, it shut off the source of hours of programming for television news networks.

The vote, shown live on ABC, CBS, NBC and the cable news networks, came after one final twist in the announcement of Utah Sen. Mitt Romney's decision to convict Trump, making him the only senator to stray from party-line voting.

"Today - the final act," NBC's Lester Holt said to open his network's coverage.

"Today - no more mysteries," said ABC's George Stephanopoulos.

News anchors sat by silently to let the roll calls on two articles of impeachment play out. The Senate's decision to restrict the number of cameras to show its proceedings proved a real hindrance when it came time to vote, however. Viewers had only an overhead shot of the Senate floor and could not see individual senators proclaim "guilty" or "not guilty." Instead, they heard disembodied voices.

Cable news viewers were able to see Romney less than two hours earlier as he took to the Senate floor to announce he would vote to convict Trump on abuse of power, but acquit him on obstruction of justice.

Read more [here](#). (AP television writer David Bauder is a Connecting colleague.)

Perfect tool for reporting election results

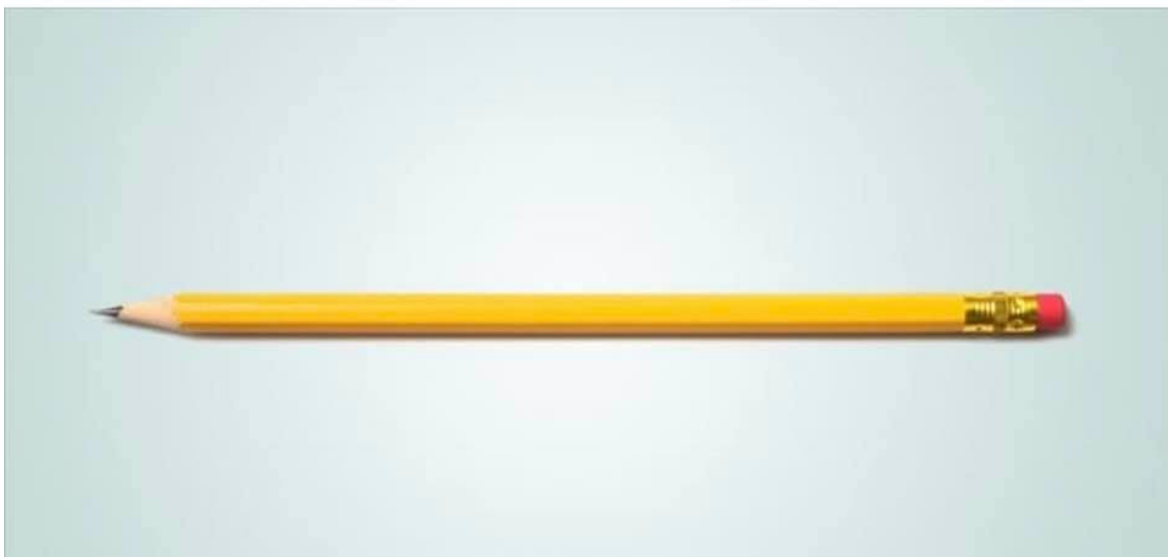


The Onion

4 mins •

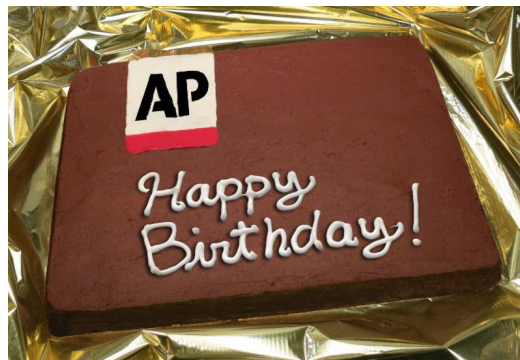


"As of this morning, we have commissioned the design and manufacture of a cutting-edge tabulation device that will be able to legibly report vote totals on a sheet of paper 99% of the time."



Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Art Loomis - artloomis37@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Jeb Bladine - jbladine@newsregister.com

Jodie DeJonge - jdejonge@outlook.com

Stories of interest

Eating Goldfish, Writing History-How Women in Journalism Are Making News Happen (Glamour)



By Jenny Singer

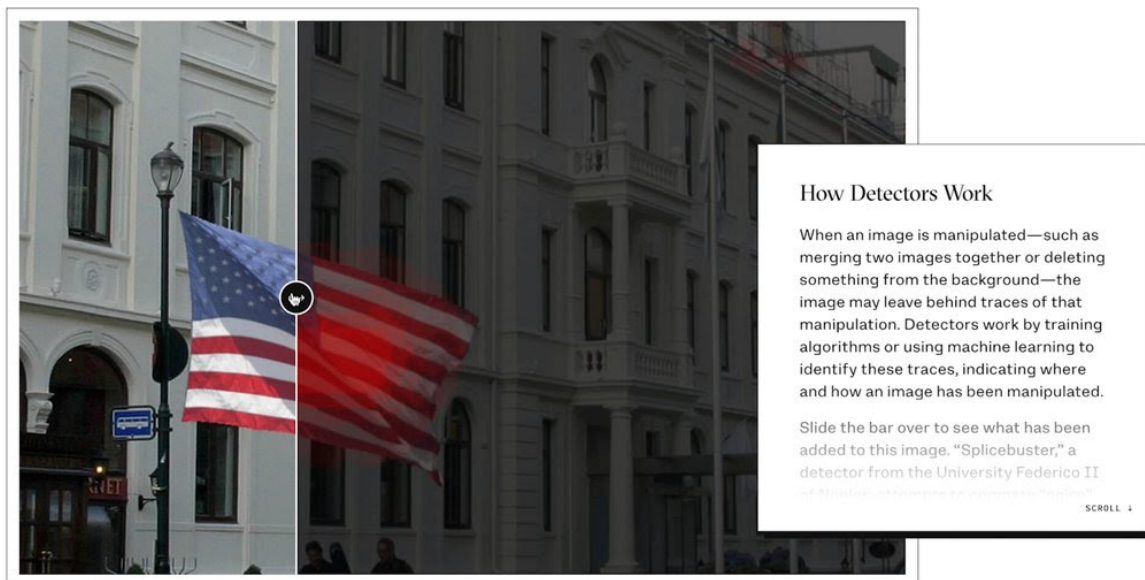
Keeping up with the news has never felt harder. There's a crowded and contentious election, a historic impeachment trial, serious threats of war, fast-spreading misinformation about a lethal virus, and even wild shake ups in the 1,500 year old British monarchy.

So imagine what it's like to be responsible for gathering and reporting the news. We spoke to seven women in journalism who are covering the impeachment, the election, or both, about how they're handling their workload during one of the craziest months in American history. They answered our questions as they chased presidential candidate hopefuls through Iowa, sprinted through the tunnels under Capitol Hill, and ran literal marathons. Their responses testified to sleepless nights, the value of fair and accurate reporting, and the near-universal experience of mom guilt.

Read more [here](#).

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Tool to Help Journalists Spot Doctored Images Is Unveiled by Jigsaw (New York Times)



Jigsaw's tool, called Assembler, is designed to verify images that may have been manipulated. Credit...Dr. Luisa Verdoliva

By Davey Alba

A doctored, phony image of President Barack Obama shaking hands with President Hassan Rouhani of Iran. A real photograph of a Muslim girl at a desk doing her homework with Donald J. Trump looming in the background on television.

It is not always easy to tell the difference between real and fake photographs. But the pressure to get it right has never been more urgent as the amount of false political content online continues to rise.

On Tuesday, Jigsaw, a company that develops cutting-edge tech and is owned by Google's parent, unveiled a free tool that researchers said could help journalists spot doctored photographs - even ones created with the help of artificial intelligence.

Jigsaw, known as Google Ideas when it was founded, said it was testing the tool, called Assembler, with more than a dozen news and fact-checking organizations around the world. They include Animal Politico in Mexico, Rappler in the Philippines and Agence France-Presse. It does not plan to offer the tool to the public.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

-0-

Local Accountability Journalism Still Has a Huge Impact (ProPublica)

By Charles Ornstein

Judging from the conversation in Washington - "You're a liar! No, you're a liar" - it's reasonable to conclude that many there no longer listen to the facts and it's rare for journalists' stories to make a difference.

That may be true in our nation's capital, but our experience with our Local Reporting Network and with ProPublica Illinois shows that state leaders across the country are still listening and things can change.

Consider Connecticut. Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, a reporter for the Connecticut Mirror and a member of the Local Reporting Network last year, scrupulously documented how state and local officials have used political power and exclusionary zoning to block affordable housing in affluent towns, deepening a racial and economic divide in a state with some of the most segregated neighborhoods in America.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Craig Armstrong.

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Facebook, YouTube: Firm must stop scraping faces from sites

By MATT O'BRIEN

Facebook joined YouTube, Twitter and payment service Venmo on Wednesday in demanding that a facial recognition company stop harvesting user images to identify the people in them, which the startup does as part of its work with police.

Facebook said it has demanded New York-based Clearview AI stop accessing or using information from its flagship site and Instagram.

"Scraping people's information violates our policies," a company spokesman said.

Clearview has drawn scrutiny following investigative reports in January by the New York Times and BuzzFeed detailing its work with law enforcement agencies and its practice of scraping social media and other internet platforms for images.

Venmo on Wednesday said it is sending Clearview a cease-and-desist letter.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Feb. 6, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2020. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 2003, edging closer to war, President George W. Bush declared "the game is over" for Saddam Hussein and urged skeptical allies to join in disarming Iraq.

On this date:

In 1756, America's third vice president, Aaron Burr, was born in Newark, N.J.

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Fort Henry in Tennessee fell to Union forces.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1995, the space shuttle Discovery flew to within 37 feet of the Russian space station Mir in the first rendezvous of its kind in two decades.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2005, The New England Patriots won their third NFL championship in four years, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX (39) by a score of 24-21.

In 2008, the Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal [-] not torture as critics argued [-] and had saved American lives. The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

In 2014, Jay Leno said goodbye to NBC's "The Tonight Show" for the second time, making way for Jimmy Fallon to take over as host.

Ten years ago: Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, delivering the keynote address at the first national convention of the tea party coalition in Nashville, declared, "America is ready for another revolution." American missionary Robert Park headed home after North Korea released him from six weeks' detention for crossing its border on Christmas Day to protest religious suppression in the totalitarian regime. Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith led a class of seven new members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: A message purportedly from the Islamic State group said an American hostage, 26-year-old aid worker Kayla Mueller (MYOO'-lur), had been killed in a Jordanian airstrike in Syria. Jordan dismissed the claim as "criminal propaganda." (Her death was later confirmed by U.S. officials.) President Barack Obama warned against American "overreach" as he outlined a new national security blueprint for his last two years in office; Obama said the threat of terrorism against the homeland had "diminished, but still persists" and vowed to degrade extremist groups using counterterrorism operations and global coalitions, not large-scale, American-led ground wars.

One year ago: The Italian fashion designer Gucci apologized for marketing a black wool sweater with an oversize collar bearing what looked like giant red lips; critics said the garment resembled blackface. A California woman went public with a sexual assault accusation against Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax; the state's governor, Ralph Northam, was already battling to hang on to his office amid an uproar over a racist photo in his 1984 medical school yearbook.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Mamie Van Doren is 89. Actor Mike Farrell is 81. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 80. Singer Fabian is 77. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 77. Actor Michael Tucker is 75. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 71. Actor Jon Walmsley is 64. Actress Kathy Najimy is 63. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 63. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 63. Actor Barry Miller is 62. Actress Megan Gallagher is 60. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 58. Country singer Richie McDonald is 58. Singer Rick Astley is 54. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 51. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 47.

Actor Josh Stewart is 43. Actor Ben Lawson is 40. Actor Brandon Hammond is 36. Actress Crystal Reed (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 35. Actress Alice Greczyn (GREH'-chihn) is 34. Actress Anna Diop is 32. Rhythm and blues singer/actress Tinashe is 27.

Thought for Today: "Life is just one grand sweet song, so start the music." [-] President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004).

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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