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Connecting - February 11, 2020

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 11th day of February 2020,

Monday's excellent pieces by **Richard Drew** - a self-profile of his (as of this Sunday) 50-year AP career - and by **Patrick Casey** - relating first hand from Beijing how the coronavirus is affecting lives - left little room for many of your submissions, so we are catching up in today's Connecting with a host of interesting stories in our Mailbox.

First, one tidbit left over from yesterday. During his still-continuing career as an AP photographer based in New York, Richard has worked for four AP photo directors: **Hal Buell**, who hired him, and then **Vin Alabiso**, **Santiago Lyon** and **J. David Ake**.

One more bit of news related to Richard's profile. I post each day's Connecting on my Facebook and LinkedIn pages, and on both Monday, I included Richard's "The Falling Man" photo from 9/11. Facebook censors hid the photo, with a black box where it would appear and the wording, "This photo may show violent or graphic content". Click on the black box and it allows you to view the photo. Richard noted, "It's a quiet photo. No blood, not violence, no dead bodies. Nobody on fire or getting shot. Go figure."

Before the Iowa caucuses are too far in the rearview mirror, with the New Hampshire primary unfolding today, we lead with a story from the AP on what it was not able to declare a winner of Iowa's Democratic caucus.

We also bring you a story today on Defense Department plans to cut some of the funding to Stars & Stripes. Many of you have close ties and fond memories of the publication, first produced during the Civil War by Union soldiers. I would welcome your thoughts and your memories.

Have a great day!

Paul

AP Explains: Why isn't there a winner of Iowa's Dem caucuses



In this Feb. 4, 2020 photo, a pedestrian walks past a sign for the Iowa Caucuses on a downtown skywalk, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

By The Associated Press

On the eve of the New Hampshire primary, how can it be there is still no winner of last week's Iowa caucuses?

Final results of the Democratic caucus were released late Sunday, after the Iowa Democratic Party made a series of corrections to a tally initially delayed by several days. That's not the end of the count, however, as Sen. Bernie Sanders and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg exercised their right Monday to ask the state party to take another look at its reporting of the results.

Amid those delays in getting the data and after observing irregularities in the results once they did arrive, The Associated Press decided it cannot declare a winner in the first contest to decide the Democratic Party's nominee to challenge President Donald Trump in November.

For the AP to decide not to declare a result a week after balloting ended is highly unusual. Here are some answers to questions about the decision, the context in which it was made and what comes next:

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

Defense Department proposes cutting funding to Stars and Stripes

By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business

New York (CNN Business) - The publisher of Stars and Stripes, the military's editorially independent newspaper which covers issues relevant to members of the armed forces, said he was notified on Monday that the Department of Defense intends to eliminate some of the publication's funding starting in 2021.

"Consequently, I have just begun to evaluate the impact to operations," publisher Max Lederer said in a statement. "The loss of funding to support the Stripes mission around the world will definitely reduce the ability of the Stripes staff to gather, produce, and deliver the content needed and desired by the military community."



Lederer added, "The men and women who sacrifice every day for the safety of our nation deserve the objective and balanced unique content produced by Stars and Stripes."

Stars and Stripes was first produced during the Civil War by Union soldiers. It was later revived during the first World War and has printed regularly since World War II. Stars and Stripes said it distributed more than 7 million copies of its US Weekly edition in 2019 and served an online audience of 18.8 million unique visitors.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

My greatest regret

Michael Doan ([Email](#)) - Monday's profile by Richard Drew reminded me of the time in 1970 when he heard my car radio in San Francisco blaring out rock n roll music. "You should interview the Grateful Dead!" he said. So I did.

It was an odd Q and A session, conducted at the group's San Rafael hangout. Bob Weir was exceptionally kind. Jerry Garcia was exceptionally nasty. They must have been feuding.

Then, suddenly I was transferred to Washington. I forgot about the story and wrote nothing. It is my biggest regret ever. (No, I didn't save my notes.)

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Casey's description like nothing I've read

Bob Seavey ([Email](#)) - Pat Casey's description of daily life in Beijing under the coronavirus threat was fascinating and illuminating. I had no idea. I've read the news stories but nothing like that.

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Spending thousands to watch this 'crazy game'



George and his daughter Sapna at Super Bowl

George Varghese ([Email](#)) - Coming from India, being a sports enthusiast, I watched football for the first time. Called football; but played with hands mostly, a pile of huge men, then another, and then another. Everyone claps and cheers. What

a crazy game. Didn't understand a thing. Now 50 years later, I was willing to spend thousands of dollars to watch our home team Chiefs winning Super Bowl. What a thrilling transformation! Go Chiefs!

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Return to old haunts

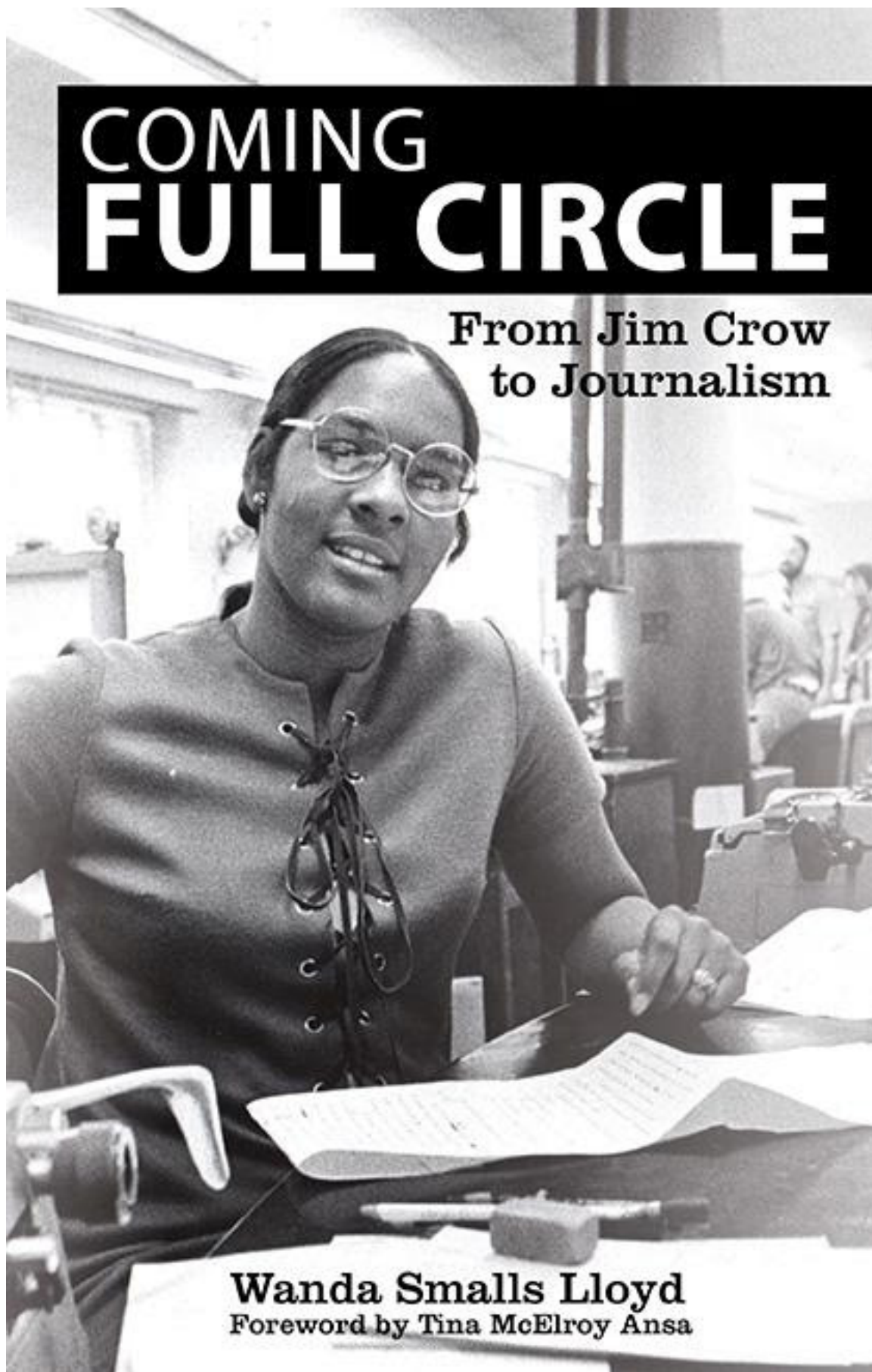




Susanne Schafer (Email) - My husband Charles Bierbauer and I returned recently to visit Hofdi House in Reykjavik, Iceland, where we covered the 1986 summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Charles was with CNN at the time. During the final hours of the summit, I was part of the White House pool representing AP. We waited hours outside Hofdi until the two leaders emerged, still arguing over potential nuclear arms reductions. It was cold during our recent visit but we got to see other great sights as well.

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Pioneering black newspaperwoman tells her remarkable story



Cynthia Denham ([Email](#)) - shares news of a new book:

Coming Full Circle: From Jim Crow to Journalism is the memoir of an African American woman who grew up privileged and educated in the segregated culture of the American South before and during the twentieth-century civil rights movement. Despite laws that restricted her housing, education, voting rights, and virtually every other aspect of life, Wanda Smalls Lloyd grew up to become one of the nation's highest-ranking newspaper journalists, and among the first African American women to be the top editor of a major newspaper.

Read more [here](#).

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In praise of CNHI

Al Cross ([Email](#)) - At a stressful time in the news business, the folks at Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. still produce journalism worth reading and honoring:

[Storytelling thrives in brave new world of community journalism](#)

I think the fact that Bill Ketter, nearing 80, is still overseeing CNHI news operations has something to do with this.

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On the passing of Roger Kahn

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Sports writing is a specialized form of journalism and at its best can be a lyrical journey into hits, runs and errors, punts and passes and the other nuts and bolts of the games that entertain millions of fans. That was the approach of Roger Kahn, who died last week at the age of 92.

Kahn was something of an essayist in the press box, a writer who took his readers beyond the basics. He grew up a Brooklyn Dodgers fan and after attending New York University found himself writing about the team of his childhood for the New York Herald Tribune.

His 1972 book "The Boys of Summer" is considered one of the finest pieces of baseball writing ever. It examines the age-old relationship of a father and son and how baseball bonds them just as it does for the players he covered. Kahn also examined how this team aged and how the players, once strong young men who somehow seemed invincible, were really no different than the fans who once worshipped them. It is a moving account of how life catches up with us all, even great athletes and solidified Kahn's status as one of the best baseball writers of his time.

Kahn wrote 20 books and scores of magazine articles and served for a time as sports editor of Newsweek. He also lectured at a number of colleges but is best remembered for his examination of baseball and the men who play it for a living.

Planning for disaster

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - The messed-up Iowa Democratic caucuses reminded me of what the old Boston pols used to say about people involved in such utterly incompetent planning:

"They couldn't organize a two-car funeral."

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On hugging

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Last Friday's piece on hugging reminded me of my time in NY Sports when each morning the late Marv Schneider and I would exchange not only hugs but high fives to start the day.

Nobody else hugged, but we did. I dearly wish I could hug Marv today.

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Utah brothel story

Cliff Schiappa (Email) - I passed along to my sister Karen the story from last week's Connecting about the Utah brothel and the interview notes that could not be transcribed because they were written in shorthand. I remember watching her study shorthand in high school, writing what looked like pure gibberish in her steno pad at the kitchen table in preparation for a test. The type of shorthand she was studying was called Gregg, so I thought she may have a comment about the Utah story. Upon graduation from high school she worked as a secretary for Grumman Aerospace in nearby Bethpage, NY, and now, many years later, she is a newly retired HR employee from the City of Charlottesville, VA. Here is her comment:

Yes, I studied Gregg. Used it when working for Grumman. The personal PC eliminated the need, in the office setting anyway, for shorthand. However, based on the date of the notes, 1951, and if the reporter was older at the time of the writing, it could have been Pittman. Pittman - less likely they will find a translator. Gregg - better chance but not much. I used it to take notes in class but now folks have their own shorthand with typing or they use a recorder.

You know how everyone's handwriting is different. Some are easy to read and others a challenge. It is the same with shorthand. Also I remember reporters would use shorthand during interviews or when writing an article. Many would incorporate their own shorthand or write sloppily so no one could steal their material.

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Newspapers in Art (and Cartoons)



Paul Albright (Email) - This ominous cartoon was published by "The New Yorker" magazine in 1940 before the U.S. had entered World War II. (Source: The 1942 New Yorker Album, published by Random House in 1941.)

Stories of interest

With Kobe Bryant, journalists are paying for their sins of the past (Poynter)

By KELLY McBRIDE

A new round of Kobe Bryant glorification is due with the announcement of his memorial service Feb. 24 in Los Angeles. Those eulogies will join the thousands of tributes and obituaries and retrospectives written about Bryant since his tragic death in a helicopter crash.

Most of these tributes note Bryant's complicated legacy. They mention the four airballs in a crucial game. There's a chapter about Bryant driving all-around nice guy Shaquille O'Neal off the Lakers because Bryant needed to be the star. Yet journalists continue to struggle with the questions of where and when to mention the biggest complication of them all: a 2003 felony rape charge.

CBS's Gayle King was the latest female journalist to experience internet blowback when she asked WNBA star and Bryant friend Lisa Leslie where the criminal case fits in Bryant's legacy.

"I think the media should be more respectful at this time," Leslie said. "It's like, if you've had questions about it, you've had many years to ask him about it."

Leslie makes a great point. The agony that the sports journalism world is experiencing right now over how to write Bryant's obituary is a self-inflicted wound. It's their own fault. The sports journalism world was complicit, along with the rest of the star athlete industrial complex, in letting that episode fade into obscurity.

Read more [here](#).

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Meet the Unlikely Hero Saving California's Oldest Weekly Paper (New York Times)



Carl Butz, the new owner of The Mountain Messenger, in the paper's office in Downieville, Calif. Photo: Jenna Schoenefeld for The New York Times

By Tim Arango

DOWNIEVILLE, Calif. - The night before his first deadline, Carl Butz, California's newest newspaper owner, was digging into a bowl of beef stew at the Two Rivers Café, the only restaurant open in town.

"Tomorrow I have to fill the paper," he said with only mild anxiety. "The question is, will it be a four-page paper or a six-page paper?"

At 71, Mr. Butz is trim, with wire-rimmed glasses and a close-cropped silver beard, and he dresses in flannel shirts and cargo pants. Since his retirement and his wife's death in 2017, he considered traveling - to England or Latvia, or riding the Trans-Siberian Railway. But here he was, a freshly minted newspaper proprietor, having stepped in at the beginning of the year to save The Mountain Messenger, California's oldest weekly newspaper, from extinction.

The Messenger was founded in 1853. Its most famous scribe was Mark Twain, who once wrote a few stories - with a hangover, the legend goes - while hiding out here from the law.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber, Sibby Christensen, Dennis Conrad, Peggy Walsh, Mike Holmes, Hank Ackerman.

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Sanity phase in newspaper shooting case delayed to June

By BRIAN WITTE

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - The second phase of a trial to determine whether a man who has pleaded guilty to killing five people at a Maryland newspaper is not criminally responsible due to his mental health will be delayed until June, a judge ruled Monday.

Judge Laura Ripken set jury selection begin June 2 during a hearing in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court in Annapolis, Maryland. She set aside June 8-23 for the sanity phase of Jarrod Ramos' trial. It's the latest delay after repeated postponements in the case relating to the June 2018 shooting at the Capital Gazette's office.

Attorneys for Ramos say the delay is needed, because William Davis, one of his three lawyers, cannot continue with the case due to medical issues. They say a new attorney has agreed to take his place, but more time is needed for the lawyer to prepare.

The sanity phase of the trial had been scheduled for March.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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John Solomon, Who Helped Spread Conspiracy Theories About Ukraine, Launching a Site Devoted to 'Facts' (MEDIA-ite)

By Matthew Kassel

John Solomon, the controversial conservative journalist whose newspaper columns in The Hill helped spread conspiracy theories cited in the anonymous whistleblower complaint that led to President Donald Trump's impeachment, is launching a new media venture, Just the News. It is scheduled to go live in about two weeks, he told Mediaite in a phone interview.

"We're going to cover Washington for the people outside of it," Solomon said, adding that the site will publish "original news reporting" on politics, governance, national security and the economy, among other things. "People just want facts," he told Mediaite. "They feel like too often when they read a story somebody is trying to lead them to a conclusion or they're injecting opinion or conjecture."

If that sounds rich coming from Solomon, who left The Hill in October, he has no compunction about it. His stories for The Hill alleged, among other things, that Joe Biden conspired to dethrone a Ukrainian prosecutor in order to protect his son from being investigated and that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election. They were published as opinion pieces and have been contested by impeachment witnesses, but he stands by them.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - February 11, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2020. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 11, 1979, followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (hoh-MAY'-nee) seized power in Iran.

On this date:

In 1531, the Church of England grudgingly accepted King Henry VIII as its supreme head.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln bade farewell to his adopted hometown of Springfield, Ill., as he headed to Washington for his inauguration.

In 1937, a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation.

In 1968, New York City's fourth and current Madison Square Garden, located on Manhattan's West Side at the site of what used to be the Pennsylvania Station building, opened with a "Salute to the USO" hosted by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. (The same evening, the New York Rangers played their final game at the third Garden, tying the Detroit Red Wings 3-3.)

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

In 1990, South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

In 2008, the Pentagon charged Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (HAH'-leed shayk moh-HAH'-med) and five other detainees at Guantanamo Bay with murder and war crimes in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks.

In 2011, Egypt exploded with joy after pro-democracy protesters brought down President Hosni Mubarak, whose resignation ended three decades of authoritarian rule.

In 2012, pop singer Whitney Houston, 48, was found dead in a hotel room bathtub in Beverly Hills, California.

In 2013, with a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope had done in more than half a millennium: announced his resignation. The bombshell came during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. (The 85-year-old pontiff was succeeded by Pope Francis.)

In 2009, All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about steroids in baseball. (He was sentenced to a year's probation.) Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., who first went to Congress in 1955, became the longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ten years ago: Former President Bill Clinton had two stents inserted in one of his heart arteries after being hospitalized in New York with chest pains. Iranian security forces unleashed a crushing sweep against opposition protesters as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) used the 31st anniversary of the Islamic revolution to defy the West. British fashion designer Alexander McQueen, 40, was found dead in his London home.

Five years ago: Vowing that Islamic State forces were "going to lose," President Barack Obama urged Congress to authorize military action while ruling out large-scale U.S. ground combat operations reminiscent of Iraq and Afghanistan. Little League International stripped Jackie Robinson West of the national title after an investigation revealed it had falsified boundaries to field ineligible players; Mountain Ridge Little League was awarded the title. Longtime CBS News correspondent Bob Simon, 73, was killed in a car crash in New York. Hall of Fame basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian, 84, died in Las Vegas.

One year ago: Congressional negotiators reached agreement to prevent a government shutdown and finance construction of new barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border. Freshman Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota apologized for tweets suggesting that members of Congress support Israel because they are being paid to do so; the tweets had brought bipartisan criticism. Robert Bowers, charged with gunning down 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue, pleaded not guilty to hate crimes and dozens of other counts. Denver schoolteachers went on strike for the first time in 25 years after failed negotiations with the school district over base pay; schools remained open with administrators and substitute teachers in classrooms. As baseball's Oakland Athletics began spring training workouts, first-round draft pick

Kyler Murray announced that he would pursue a career in the NFL rather than in baseball; Murray had won college football's Heisman Trophy at Oklahoma.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Conrad Janis is 92. Gospel singer Jimmy Carter is 88. Fashion designer Mary Quant is 86. Actress Tina Louise is 82. Bandleader Sergio Mendes is 79. Actor Philip Anglim is 68. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is 67. Actress Catherine Hickland is 64. Rock musician David Uosikkinen (aw-SIK'-ken-ihn) (The Hooters) is 64. Actress Carey Lowell is 59. Singer Sheryl Crow is 58. Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is 56. Actress Jennifer Aniston is 51. Actor Damian Lewis is 49. Actress Marisa Petraro is 48. Singer D'Angelo is 46. Actor Brice Beckham is 44. Rock M-C/vocalist Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park) is 43. Singer-actress Brandy is 41. Country musician Jon Jones (The Eli Young Band) is 40. Actor Matthew Lawrence is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelly Rowland is 39. Actress Natalie Dormer is 38. Singer Aubrey O'Day is 36. Actress Q'orianka (kohr-ee-AHN'-kuh) Kilcher is 30. Actor Taylor Lautner is 28.

Thought for Today: "We had better live as we think, otherwise we shall end up by thinking as we have lived." [-] Paul Bourget, French author (1852-1935).

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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