



Connecting

March 06, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning.

We lead with sad news of the death of former Associated Press Radio anchor and correspondent **Wendell Goler** at age 70.

"Wendell was an anchor at AP Radio in the '80s and our television and radio White House correspondent during Bill Clinton's first term," recalled **Brad Kalbfeld**, former managing editor of AP Broadcast. "He was a fine writer and a really smart reporter. He came to us from local TV and was recruited from us by Fox when its news channel launched in 1996."

AP friends were told Goler died Tuesday night in the Dominican Republic where he spent the winter. He reportedly felt ill and had someone drive him 45 minutes to a hospital. He died of renal failure after being put on dialysis, those friends were told.

At Fox News Goler worked his way up to senior White House foreign affairs correspondent. He retired in 2014.

"Wendell was a gifted correspondent, a wonderful colleague and a Fox News original whose reporting was respected on both sides of the aisle," said **Suzanne Scott**, CEO of Fox News Media. "We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Marge and his entire family."

He had two daughters.

Kalbfeld described Goler as "funny, passionate, and always skeptical. This is a painful loss for the broadcast family."

Don't leave today's issue without reading The New Yorker article "A photographer's parents wave farewell" in today's Final Word at the bottom. It is a touching photo essay of life, time and growing up.

Connecting Editor **Paul Stevens** returns next week. That is if Linda is able to wake him from what appeared to be a relaxing nap on a Florida beach. Send stories, photos, ideas and other contributions to him at paulstevens46@gmail.com.



My personal thanks to everyone who contributed content over the past three days. You help keep the AP family connected.

Enjoy the day. And the weekend!

-Mark Mittelstadt

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Former AP Radio Correspondent Wendell Goler dies at 70 (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) - Wendell Goler, a longtime White House correspondent for Fox News Channel who reported on government since the presidency

of Ronald Reagan, has died at age 70.

He died this week of apparent kidney failure, said a former Fox colleague, Brit Hume.

Goler was a Fox News original, joining the network at its inception in 1996 and working his way up to senior White House foreign affairs correspondent. He retired in 2014. He worked for The Associated Press and Washington-area television stations before joining Fox.

He was a panelist for Republican presidential debates in South Carolina and New Hampshire in 2007, and interviewed Hillary Clinton when she was secretary of state, and former First Lady Laura Bush.

"Wendell was a gifted correspondent, a wonderful colleague and a Fox News original whose reporting was respected on both sides of the aisle," said Suzanne Scott, CEO of Fox News Media. "We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Marge and his entire family."

Goler jokingly referred to himself as a "dinosaur" upon his retirement but said he was glad to work during a golden era in broadcasting.

Hume called Goler a valued friend who "did consistently solid and balanced work and his reports were always well-crafted, clear and easy to follow."

Other coverage:

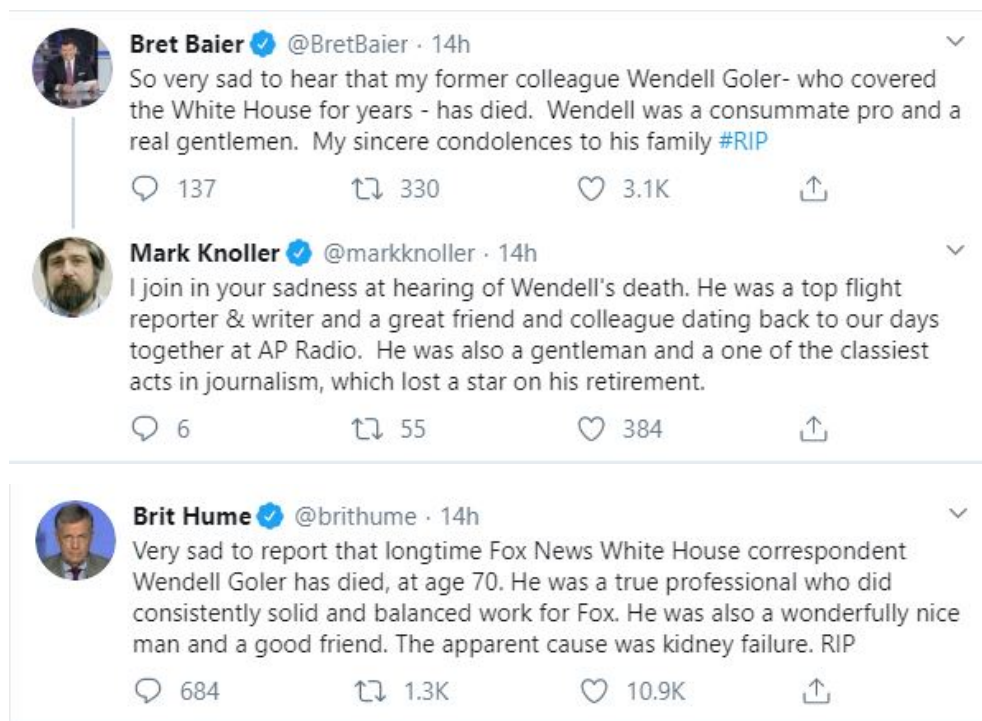
Fox News: [Wendell Goler, longtime Fox News White House correspondent, dead at 70](#)

Fox's Shep Smith reacts with surprise to 2014 retirement announcement:



White House Correspondent Wendell Goler Retiring Today After 28 Years - Shepard Smith Reporting

From Twitter:



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AP photographers honored with awards

From World Press Photo award nominations to winners of Pictures of the Year International, AP photojournalists worldwide are garnering well-deserved recognition.

Four AP photographers have been nominated for six [World Press Photo Awards](#), including Photo of the Year. Rodrigo Abd was named the winner of the [Scripps Howard Award For Visual Journalism](#).

AP photographers earned 15 awards in the 77th annual [Pictures of the Year International competition](#) and another 11 honors in the [National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism Awards](#).

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Paul Byrne named AP deputy news director in Latin America

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Paul Byrne, a seasoned broadcast journalist at The Associated Press who has directed reporting on civil unrest, economic instability and other major stories in Latin America, is taking on an expanded regional role.

Based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Byrne

will lead video coverage as the AP's Deputy News Director for Newsgathering for Latin America and the Caribbean. Byrne will focus primarily on video. He will direct a recently expanded team of field staff and producers in driving forward the news agency's visual journalism and aim to enhance speed across the AP news report from Latin America.



Paul Byrne (AP Photo/Leo La Valle)

Read more [here](#).

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USA Today Sports columnist Christine Brennan wins 2020 AP Sports Editors' Red Smith Award (USA Today)

For more than two decades, Christine Brennan's byline has graced USA TODAY's print pages and website as a sports columnist - breaking monumental stories, giving a voice to the voiceless and commenting on the intersection of sports and society. Now, she will join a list of journalism's greatest sports writers. Brennan was awarded the 2020 Associated Press Sports Editors' Red Smith Award, presented annually to an individual who has made "major contributions to sports journalism," on Wednesday.

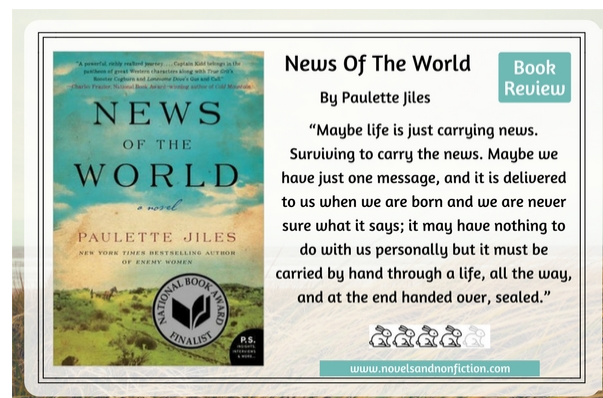
Read more [here](#).

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Connecting mailbox

More newspapers in art

Chris Sullivan ([Email](#)) _ The excellent novel 'News of the World,' by Paulette Jiles, is about a character in 1870s Texas who goes from one isolated frontier town to another and holds evening readings of news stories that he selects from newspapers he gets from big cities on the East coast and even as far away as London; the character is based on a real-life news 'aggregator' of this kind. At one point, he stops in a newsagent's shop in Dallas and notes this sign on the wall:



"THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE. Refuge of all the arts against the ravages of time. ARMORY OF FEARLESS TRUTH AGAINST ALL WHISPERING RUMOR. INCESSANT TRUMPETER OF TRADE. From this place words may fly abroad NOT TO PERISH ON WAVES OF SOUND, NOT TO VARY WITH THE WRITER'S HAND, BUT FIXED IN TIME, HAVING BEEN VERIFIED IN PROOF. Friend, you stand on sacred ground. THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE."

The protagonist next goes to the Dallas Weekly Courier office "to sit with their Morse operator and take news from the AP wire. The fee was reasonable. The wire from Arkansas and points east was still operating. The Comanche and Kiowa had learned to cut the wire and then repair it with horsehair so that it would not transmit but no one could tell where it had been cut. They well knew Army orders came over the telegraph wires."

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Did AP get the lead right on Super Tuesday?

Marc Humbert ([Email](mailto:marc.a.humbert@gmail.com)) marc.a.humbert@gmail.com _ I was amazed by the AP's overnite lede cited in (Wednesday's) Connecting. While Bernie Sanders did take California, the obvious story of the night was Biden's amazing showing all across the South -- even taking Texas! I could argue, and do, that Sanders underperformed in California.

That's the view from this old hack.

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Disagrees with AP style on calling this coronavirus COVID-19

Al Cross ([Email](#)) _ I disagree with the AP Stylebook's recent style tip that the disease caused by the newly identified coronavirus should be rendered COVID-19.

At Kentucky Health News and The Rural Blog, we are rendering it covid-19 because:

- The letters stand for "coronavirus disease 2019," with no proper nouns and more than just the initial letters.
- Making it all caps adds to the scare mentality caused by "shouting capitals," which the NYT generally limits to four (NATO but Unicef). Unhappily, I see that the Times is going with COVID.

My assistant agreed with my bullet points but argued, "The virus is being referred to as COVID-19 almost everywhere, and I think consistency is important." I replied, "A principal aim of consistency is keeping readers from being distracted; I'm not sure all-caps vs. lower case is that much of a distraction, especially if we use 'coronavirus' on first reference, as everyone seems to be doing."

For a few days, we rendered it Covid, until I concluded that there was no justifiable reason for an initial cap.

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A day in the life of an AAP journo (pre-extinction) (The Sydney Morning Herald)

By Greg Truman

This week's devastating news of the impending closure of Australian Associated Press sent me off into the archives for a few memories. A long-time journalist at the newswire agency, I worked on just about every desk at AAP, but it was this diary entry from the late 1980s - detailing a typical 24 hours - that struck me.



Greg Truman

Wake in same clothes I wore yesterday. Go to car. Get more clothes. Find one clean shirt. Celebrate. Coffee, wish I still smoked. Check papers. See story I wrote yesterday while on editing shift on inside back page. See someone else's name on story. Go to work. Eat terrible, terrible egg and bacon and cheese. (Note to self: go easy on the cheese). Drink coffee. Make calls. Ask Bill [Allen, sports editor] to keep it down.

Send witty, suggestive messages on state-of-the-art Baudrunner/Coyote computer system to the wrong person. Try to write preview. Stop for two hours to sub rolling copy dictated live from reporters worried they'd missed doorstops because they are filing thousands of words of live copy. Write three stories for broadcast desk (present tense, active voice). Sub stuff. Move overnight international copy that should have gone five hours ago. [Veteran reporter] Howard Northey had something on.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty

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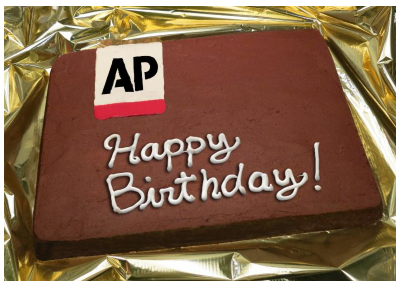
The big winner of Super Tuesday was TV (The Poynter Report)

It was just before midnight Tuesday - as I wore out my remote surfing from one news network to another - when it hit me. Complain all you want about the state of TV news, but man do they know how to do election coverage. Whether you want voting results, fancy big boards with maps, smart commentary, hot takes, hindsight criticism or insightful predictions, TV news has figured out how to make election coverage entertaining television. The coverage of Super Tuesday was must-see TV. If you're a news junkie, you could even go as far as to call it outright fun.

Read email take [here](#).

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Connecting Wishes A Happy Birthday



Saturday

Myron Belkind - myron.belkind@verizon.net

Michael Giarrusso - mgiarrusso@ap.org

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Sunday

Heidi Nolte Brown - hbrown@ap.org

Stories of interest

What's wrong with the New York Times? Don't ask its new media critic (Los Angeles Times)

The New York Times just debuted its new media critic, Ben Smith, with the headline "Why the Success of the Times May Be Bad News for Journalism" and I for one am very worried. Not for journalism, for the New York Times. It's certainly a provocative headline -- Ben Smith, most recently editor of the news site BuzzFeed, has just joined the staff of the New York Times and his first column is a criticism of news new employer?!? How counterintuitive! How courageous? Even "Morning Joe" was impressed enough to ask if Smith had managed to get fired on his very first day.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen

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No politics till the 7th date? How journalists try to stay impartial (The New York Times)

In an effort to shed more light on how the paper works, The Times is running a series of short posts explaining some of its journalistic practices. Read more of the series [here](#).

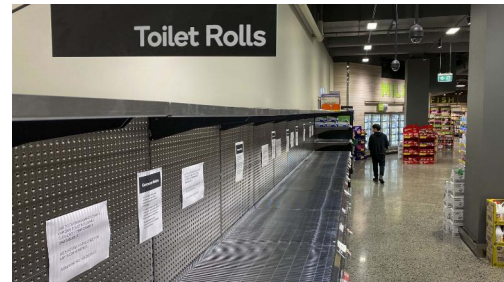
Ever since a young publisher named Adolph S. Ochs bought The New York Times in 1896, its mission has been "to give the news impartially, without fear or favor, regardless of party, sect, or interests involved." Independence remains the bedrock of our journalism. But what does it mean in practice? As journalists, we work hard to set aside our personal views and approach every assignment with an open mind. Bill Keller, a former executive editor of The Times, used to say that one of the most important things for reporters to do is to report against their own preconceptions, to actively seek out perspectives that might be contrary to their own.

Read more [here](#).

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Australian newspaper prints blank pages to help tackle toilet paper shortage (CNN)

An Australian newspaper has printed an extra eight pages to be used as toilet paper after coronavirus fears prompted customers to bulk buy supplies, leaving some supermarket shelves bare. In a bid to tackle the shortage, The NT News provided a practical -- if unconventional -- solution. Australians living in the Northern Territories would have noticed on Thursday that eight pages in the paper had been left bare, except for watermarks and a cut-out guide edition. "Run out of loo paper? The NT News cares," the newspaper read. "That's why we've printed an eight-page special liftout inside, complete with handy cut lines, for you to use in an emergency."



Store shelves emptied of toilet paper.

Read more [here](#).

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Tennessean posts online montage of tornado devastation (Tennessean)

At 12:55 a.m. Tuesday, a storm rolling through the Nashville area produced a tornado that left destruction in its path. By 3 a.m., the Nashville Fire Department reported over 40 reports of collapsed buildings. Across the Midstate, two dozen were killed in the severe weather with most of the fatalities coming from Putnam County. At 5:10 a.m., NWS Nashville tweeted "Nashville....your severe threat is over." The storms

had passed through the area, yet the true extent of the damage would become apparent after the sun rose. [Here is a look at what happened in each of the hardest hit areas.](#)

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The Final Word



A photographer's parents wave farewell (The New Yorker)

Deanna Dikeman's parents sold her childhood home, in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1990, when they were in their early seventies. They moved to a bright-red ranch house in the same town, which they filled with all their old furniture. Dikeman, a photographer then in her thirties, spent many visits documenting the idyll of their retirement. Her father, once a traffic manager at a grain-processing corporation, tended to tomato plants in the backyard. Her mother fried chicken and baked rhubarb pie, storing fresh vegetables in the freezer to last them through the cold. Every Memorial Day, they stuffed the trunk of their blue Buick with flowers and drove to the local cemetery to decorate graves. At the end of their daughter's visits, like countless other mothers and fathers in the suburbs, Dikeman's parents would stand outside the house to send her off while she got in her car and drove away. One day in 1991, she thought to photograph them in this pose, moved by a mounting awareness that the peaceful years would not last forever.

Read story and see her compelling photos [here](#).

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Today In History - March 6, 2020



Today is Friday, March 6, the 66th day of 2020. There are 300 days left in the year.

On March 6, 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full-scale American raid on Berlin during World War II.

On this date:

In 1475, Italian artist and poet Michelangelo was born in Caprese (kah-PRAY'-say) in the Republic of Florence.

In 1834, the city of York in Upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell as Mexican forces led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna stormed the fortress after a 13-day siege; the battle claimed the lives of all the Texan defenders, nearly 200 strong, including William Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett.

In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, ruled 7-2 that Scott, a slave, was not an American citizen and therefore could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

In 1933, a national bank holiday declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed at calming panicked depositors went into effect. Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, wounded in an attempt on Roosevelt's life the previous month, died at a Miami hospital at age 59.

In 1935, retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., died in Washington two days before his 94th birthday.

In 1964, heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay officially changed his name to Muhammad Ali.

In 1970, a bomb being built inside a Greenwich Village townhouse by the radical Weathermen accidentally went off, destroying the house and killing three group members.

In 1973, Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck, 80, died in Danby, Vt.

In 1981, Walter Cronkite signed off for the last time as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 2002, Independent Counsel Robert Ray issued his final report in which he wrote that former President Bill Clinton could have been indicted and probably would have been convicted in the scandal involving former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In 2008, a Palestinian killed eight students at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem before he was slain; Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip praised the operation in a statement, and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate.

Ten years ago: Voters in Iceland resoundingly rejected a \$5.3 billion plan to repay Britain and the Netherlands for debts spawned by the collapse of an Icelandic bank. The Louisville Cardinals gave Freedom Hall a memorable send-off by upsetting No. 1 Syracuse 78-68.

Five years ago: During a town hall at South Carolina's Benedict College, President Barack Obama said racial discrimination from police in Ferguson, Missouri, was "oppressive and abusive" as he called for criminal justice reform as part of the modern struggle for civil rights. NASA's Dawn spacecraft slipped into orbit around Ceres, the largest celestial body in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, for the first exploration of a dwarf planet. The NCAA suspended Syracuse University basketball coach Jim Boeheim (BAY'-hym) for nine conference games and outlined a decade-long series of violations by the school that included academic misconduct, improper benefits, and drug-policy failures.

One year ago: In a nationally televised interview (on "CBS This Morning,") R&B singer R. Kelly whispered, cried and ranted while pleading with viewers to believe that he had never had sex with anyone under 17, and had never held anyone against her will; Kelly would end the day in jail after telling a judge that he could not pay \$161,000 in back child support that he owed to the mother of his children. The Democratic National Committee said it would not pick Fox News to televise one of the upcoming debates for the 2020 Democratic presidential contenders; party chairman Tom Perez said the network was not in a position to host a fair and neutral debate.

Today's Birthdays: Former FBI and CIA director William Webster is 96. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is 94. Dancer-actress Carmen de Lavallade is 89. Former Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova is 83. Former Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., is 81. Actress-writer Joanna Miles is 80. Actor Ben Murphy is 78. Opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is 76. Singer Mary Wilson (The Supremes) is 76. Rock musician Hugh Grundy (The Zombies) is 75. Rock singer-musician David Gilmour (Pink Floyd) is 74. Actress Anna Maria Horsford is 73. Actor-director Rob Reiner is 73. Singer Kiki Dee is 73. TV consumer reporter John Stossel is 73. Composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz is 72. Rock singer-musician Phil Alvin (The Blasters) is 67. Sports correspondent Armen Keteyian is 67. Actor Tom Arnold is 61. Actor D.L. Hughley is 57. Country songwriter Skip Ewing is 56. Actor Shuler Hensley is 53. Actress Connie Britton is 53. Actress Moira Kelly is 52. Actress Amy Pietz is 51. Rock musician Chris Broderick (Megadeth) is 50. Basketball Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal is 48. Country singer Trent Willmon is 47. Country musician Shan Farmer (formerly w/Ricochet) is 46. Rapper Beanie Sigel is 46. Rapper Bubba Sparxxx is 43. Actor Shawn Evans is

40. Rock musician Chris Tomson (Vampire Weekend) is 36. MLB pitcher Jake Arrieta is 34. Actor Eli Marienthal is 34. Actor Jimmy Galeota is 34. Rapper/producer Tyler, the Creator is 29. Actor Dillon Freasier is 24. Actress Savannah Stehlin is 24. Actress Millicent Simmonds (Film: "Wonderstruck") is 17.

Thought for Today: "Don't be 'consistent,' but be simply true." [-] Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., U.S. Supreme Court justice (1841-1935).

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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
paulstevens46@gmail.com