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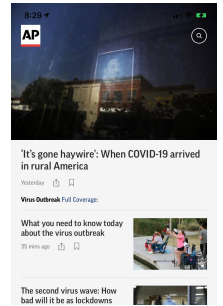
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Connecting May 11, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 11th day of May 2020,

We're saddened to report the news of the deaths of two of our Connecting colleagues.

George L. Zucker, longtime Philadelphia bureau chief during a 34-year AP career, died last Thursday in a retirement community near Philadelphia where he had been in the Covid-19 hall for 10 days. He was 87.

Ron Harrist served the AP for 41 years as a reporter and editor in Mississippi, covering Elvis Presley, black separatists, white supremacists and college football legends. He died early Saturday at his home. He was 77.

If you would like to share memories of working with George or Ron, please send them along.

Our Monday Profile focuses on **Joyce Rosenberg** , who specializes in covering small businesses in the AP's Business News department and is in her 42nd year with The Associated Press.

Joyce has been a licensed psychoanalyst for the past 23 years – and she tells her story in today's issue.



AP GROUND GAME : After a month of coronavirus shutdowns, the U.S. jobs report for April announced a record-high unemployment rate and the highest since the Great Depression. AP Federal Reserve reporter Chris Rugaber and economics editor Fred Monyak discuss how 11 years of gains were wiped out in a month by the pandemic and what the road to recovery looks like.

Listen [here](#) .

Here's to a great week ahead. Stay safe, stay healthy, keep optimistic.

Paul

Connecting profile

Joyce Rosenberg



Joyce and her current cats. Sebastian is asleep and Lizzie is getting scratched -- Siamese nirvana.

I wasn't supposed to be working for the AP at this point in my life. Friday, May 1 was the day I planned to end my journalism career and move on to the next phase, freelance writing and editing, expanding my psychoanalytic practice, going back to school.

But during the first week of March, as I headed to the office to continue reporting stories about how small businesses were being affected by the early wave of the coronavirus in the U.S., it occurred to me that I didn't want to walk away from what was increasingly an important story. When I got in, I called Business Editor Brad Foss if I could stay another few months; I had weeks earlier sent him an email to let him know I was resigning.

"Stay as long as you like," he told me.

Pragmatism soon followed emotion. I realized that the freelance work I was exploring was going to disappear, and that this was no time to walk away from

a secure paycheck. And so I don't have a departure date in mind, but I am certain it won't be in 2020. It's possible that on Jan. 29, 2021, I might be completing 43 years at AP.

What are you doing these days?

Several days a week I have an early morning session with a patient, nowadays by phone but normally in my office a 15-minute walk away. After a session ends, instead of taking the subway down to 200 Liberty Street, I walk over to my dining table where two laptops are set up, and I start doing some of the most painful work I've ever done, interviewing business owners whose companies have been devastated by the coronavirus outbreak. If I don't write the story myself, I'm contributing to stories written by colleagues on our economics team.

The work is hard and I'm tired at the end of long days and weeks. It reminds me of how I felt during the financial crisis of 2008, and after the 9/11 terror attacks, when I was the stock market editor (and writing small business on the side). But there is the comfort and satisfaction of doing important work.

If the coronavirus outbreak had never happened, over the past two months I would have been writing about online lending for small businesses, counterfeiting and taxes as I headed toward my now-postponed departure from AP. I'm not sure these stories will be published, but if they are, it won't be anytime soon.



Interviewing then Small Business Administrator Maria Contreras Sweet (left) during a Small Business Week event in Boca Raton, Florida, in 2015.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

It was 1977 and I was about to be laid off from NBC Radio. I made an appointment with Charlie Monzella, then the AP's Deputy Broadcast Editor. I took the test and Charlie added me to the Broadcast Department's list of per diem writers, although we were called variables. (Variable?? I have never understood where that came from. Makes me feel like a weather report.) I worked only two shifts during the summer, but after Labor Day I began working five days most weeks.

My first few months were amazing and thrilling but also anxiety provoking. I was also a per-diem writer at WINS Radio, one of the all-news stations in New York, and I remember working 10 days in a row in one stretch, and another time working doubles three days in a row, racing from one job to another. The anxiety came from the fact these were my first writing jobs and while I was doing well, I was devastated by any mistakes I made. But apparently I was the only one upset about them; on Jan. 29, 1978, I went on staff at the AP.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

I spent 3½ years in Broadcast, at first writing three- and five-minute newscasts, and after the first year or so I became a supervisor on the overnight shift. I edited news, sports and features. I also entered law school, going to classes at night and then coming to work.

In September 1981 I transferred to the City Desk, or the NYC bureau if you prefer, where I was the night supervisor. It was one of the best jobs I had at the AP. I was on the desk for the Brink's robbery, the parking violations bureau scandal during which the Queens borough president committed suicide (dying during a shift when the AP phone system shut down and we had one working phone), many midnight strike deadlines for city labor unions and then there was the night when Big Paul Castellano got whacked.

While on the City Desk I finished law school, having decided not to practice. Now what? I realized that I was fascinated by investing, and some of my best grades in law school has been in Corporations and Securities Regulation. So in December 1986 I transferred to Business News where I became a retailing and mergers reporter and also wrote about the markets and the economy. In the mid 1990s I became a sort of super-supervisor, running the daily report, and in 1997 an assistant business editor. Overall, for 15 years I ran stock market coverage, edited enterprise, handled HR issues, directed breaking stories including the Enron scandal, and, like many AP managers, did whatever needed to be done. In 1999 I started writing Small Talk, AP's weekly small business column, and in 2012 took that on full-time as the AP decided to market a small business product.

What was the biggest story or stories you covered?

Without a doubt, the stock market collapses and crises – 1987, 1994, 2001, 2008. That is the work I am most proud of. And as a small business writer, the Great Recession and the coronavirus outbreak.

My most significant moment at the AP was on Sept. 17, 2001, the day the stock market reopened after 9/11. I went to work in jeans, which I never used to do, had my breakfast, lunch and dinner with me. When the market opened, I just wrote the story myself, writing one or two grafs, quickly editing myself and filing. I couldn't keep up with the Dow because it was falling so fast – as fast as in the '87 crash. I don't know how many leads I wrote and filed, but at some point Darrell Christian, then the Business Editor, came up behind me and said,

“It’s looking really good.” I realized later I needed to hear something from him to reassure me that I was on the right track – or help me find the right track. I will forever be grateful to Darrell for doing what a manager should do in that moment.

You might wonder, why was this more transcendent than 1987? Why was it more frightening than what happened during the two worst weeks of the 2008 collapse? Because at that point, living in New York, knowing that there were thousands of people lying dead downtown, at the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania, none of us knew what was ahead, even later that day or tomorrow.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

There were so many people, editors, producers, executives, colleagues, younger staffers who I mentored, who have taught me through the years. I can’t point to anyone as having had the most significant role in my career. Still, Sam Boyle, my bureau chief for four years on the City Desk, was always teaching me, encouraging me, criticizing me, telling me when I did well and letting me know when I had disappointed him. So did Jim Hood, when he was Broadcast Editor.

But my parents, who grew up listening to the wireless during the war in Europe, always had the radio on, and when all-news radio arrived in New York in the mid-1960s, that had a huge impact on me. They taught me that what happens now matters. My father’s insistence on excellence also helped me set my very high standards. I’ve told Lou Boccardi that he and my father were very much alike, in demeanor and the demands they made on the people they were responsible for.

And, like many people who worked at the AP from the 1950s to 2000, I have to say that Marty Sutphin was a great influence on me. Not because he was my husband and I loved him. But his very fair, considerate, humane approach to everyone was a reminder to me, sometimes a hot-head, that there was another way to be, even under stress. Marty and I were together for about 10 years and were married for 6½. It’s very comforting to me and my stepchildren that 20 years after he died, AP staffers still tell me about how much he meant to them, too.



Joyce and her husband Marty Sutphin on their wedding day

Would you do it all over again – or what would you change?

Maybe I would have tried to stop myself from being overidentified with business news and writing full time as I do now. An odd thing to say, perhaps, given the success and appreciation from others I've had over the years and that I'm very grateful for. But I'm not sure that it was the best career strategy

given the changes in the AP in recent years. And my heart is in breaking news, always has been; I miss it.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

If we're talking pure pleasure, I'd have to say reading, knitting, cooking, drinking good wine, swimming, watching baseball and PBS. I didn't learn to swim for real until I was in my late 50s, and I count that as one of my greatest achievements. When my Y finally opens again, I want to take some refresher lessons. Can't wait.

My friends would kill me if I didn't also mention caring for my cats. I have long been the crazy cat lady in my office ... and also the one people have turned to when they need advice about their felines.

But as far as activity, being a psychoanalyst is amazing. I don't feel that it's work, even when I am struggling to understand or help a patient. I began my training in 1995; something that I still can't name was missing from my work in journalism, as dedicated and passionate as I am about it, and so I needed to pursue this second profession. I trained at a psychoanalytic institute in New York and have been in practice for 23 years. I teach analytic students and I write and edit for several psychoanalytic journals.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

It's hard to pick one. Eight or so trips to London, three to Ireland, one to France. But also two trips to Cayuga Lake in New York's Finger Lakes; getting up at 6:30 a.m. in the summer and walking along the lake for two hours. There was also the trip Marty and I took to California in 1993, the summer before we were married. We saw the Grand Canyon, Big Sur, San Francisco. And, Dodger Stadium and the next night, we sat out on our balcony in Santa Barbara, listening to Vin Scully call a Dodgers-Giants game. I still say it was one of the best nights of my life.



My grandchildren are, left to right, Erin and Will LaRossa and Steven and Katie Rose Sutphin. People who knew their grandfather will see some resemblance. This was Steven's graduation from UDelaware last year.

Names of your family members and what they do?

My stepchildren, Kathleen, Marty Ann and Michael Sutphin. They are all in northern New Jersey. Kathleen is a special education teacher, Marty Ann is working on building a charity and Mike is the controller at a mid-sized manufacturing business. I have four grandchildren: Erin and Will LaRossa and Steven and Katie Rose Sutphin. Erin is working in public relations, Steven is in grad school to be a physician's assistant and Will and Katie are in the home stretch of college. I know I am prejudiced, but they are all amazing, bright, lovely people.

Joyce Rosenberg's email - psyjourn313@gmail.com

George Zucker, AP bureau chief in Philadelphia for two decades, dies at 87



George Zucker surrounded by family

George L. Zucker, whose 34-year career with The Associated Press included 20 years as Philadelphia chief of bureau, died last Thursday (May 7) at the Shannondell retirement community in Audubon, Pa. He was 87.

His wife Judi said he spent the last 10 days on the Covid-19 hall but died peacefully. “He was treated for lung cancer for four years,” she said, “so I’d be inclined to say he died with Covid-19 not of Covid-19.”

The family will conduct a private grave side service on Friday, May 15, and is asking anyone who would like to make a contribution in George’s memory to donate to the Ardmore Food Pantry, 36 Ardmore Avenue, Ardmore, PA 19003.

On his retirement in 1998 as Pennsylvania’s AP news chief, Zucker credited former Philadelphia *Inquirer* publisher Walter Annenberg with giving him the

idea that maybe it was time to step down.

Annenberg, the late billionaire philanthropist, publisher of the *Daily Racing Form* and *TV Guide* and onetime ambassador to the Court of St. James, had written Zucker a personal note: “Last Sunday, I saw an item on my AP printer about your winning a bet with 17-1 odds on ‘Vicki’s Prince’ and you were induced to bet on him because the horse winked at you. My old friend, Damon Runyon, would have loved this item.”

Zucker showed the prized note around the AP newsroom in Philadelphia, proud that an icon of American journalism would link something he wrote in a weekly column to Damon Runyon.

“So who’s Damon Runyon?” a young reporter asked.

In his four-decades career, including 34 years with the AP, Zucker covered some of the nation’s top stories, among them the 1965 Palm Sunday tornadoes in Indiana which killed 142 people; the 1968 assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles, and subsequent murder trial of Sirhan Sirhan; and the 1972 shooting of Alabama Gov. George Wallace in Maryland. His transfer to Philadelphia in 1977 missed the second Johnstown Flood by four months, but was in time for Three Mile Island and MOVE.



Zucker, a New Jersey native and a Korean War-era veteran, attended the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla., but left short of a degree in English to join the U.S. Air Force. He edited Air Force newspapers in Texas, Alaska and Georgia and was a radio reporter in Savannah, Ga., and Indianapolis, Ind., before joining UPI in 1961. He moved to the AP bureau in Indianapolis three years later and his promotion to the Los Angeles bureau followed in 1966 in time to cover Ronald Reagan’s first campaign for California governor.

In 1969, Zucker was named AP chief of bureau in Honolulu, responsible for the mid-Pacific, where his stories included the Nixon Midway Island Summit announcing the first U.S. troop withdrawals from South Vietnam, and the joyous Pearl Harbor landfall of the Apollo 11 moonwalkers. Later that year, he went to Bikini Atoll to report on the cleanup of man’s first nuclear wasteland.

Zucker later headed AP bureaus in Baltimore, Nashville and Des Moines. A new daily newspaper brought Zucker to Philadelphia in 1977. His predecessor there resigned to be editor of the *Philadelphia Journal*, a brash morning tabloid begun by a Canadian publisher. To battle the newcomer, the afternoon *Bulletin* added a morning edition and for the next five years, Philadelphia had five daily papers in a lively newspaper war that would winnow the field to two.

Zucker ran AP news operations in Pennsylvania for 20 years until his retirement in 1998 as AP's senior bureau chief. He was a regular contributor to the online magazine, *New Partisan*, in New York until its demise in 2007.

Zucker and his wife Judi were married 61 years. They have three children, five grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Click [here](#) for a link to his obituary.

AP reporter and editor Ron Harrist dies in Mississippi



In this April 26, 2014 file photo, Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of the murdered Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers, receives the 2014 Mississippi Associated Press Broadcasters Pioneers of Television award from retired Jackson, Miss., bureau Associated Press news editor Ron Harrist in Jackson, Miss. AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis, File)

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

Ron Harrist, who covered Elvis Presley, black separatists, white supremacists and college football legends during his 41 years as a reporter and editor in Mississippi for The Associated Press, died of complications from leukemia at his home in Brandon early Saturday, his son Andy Harrist said. He was 77.

Born in Tampa, Florida, Harrist moved with his family to Brandon, Mississippi when he was a child. He attended Mississippi College and began teaching junior high school after earning an education degree. But a night job working for The Clarion-Ledger and Jackson Daily News prompted him to change his career. He joined the AP in 1968, covering a state still struggling to adapt to the reality of equal citizenship for African Americans.

Longtime Mississippi newsman Bill Minor remembered that he and Harrist, both white men, went together to cover the protracted boycott of white-owned businesses by blacks in the southwest Mississippi town of Port Gibson. It eventually resulted in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case ruling that states can't stop peaceful boycotts.

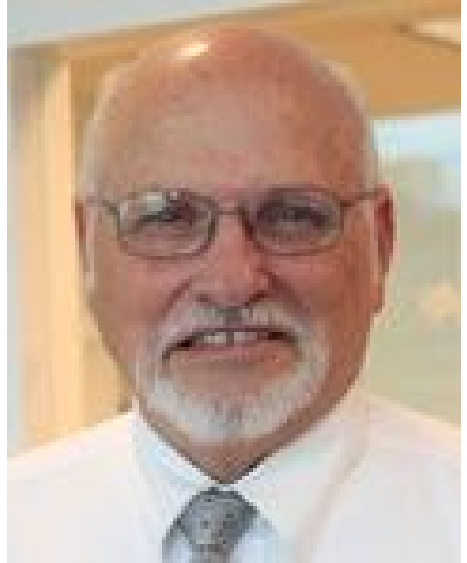
"When we headed toward a church on the edge of town where black boycotters were supposed to gather later, a highway patrolman pulled up beside by the car and said something like 'Don't let sunset catch y'all in town,'" Minor remembered in 2009.

Harrist interviewed members of the black separatist Republic of New Afrika at their headquarters before a police raid sparked a shootout with the group, accompanied Gov. Bill Waller Sr. and his wife to meet Elvis during a Jackson benefit concert in 1975, and covered the 1994 trial of Byron De La Beckwith when he was found guilty of murdering civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963.

He was promoted to state editor in the 1970s and to news editor in 1999. The AP's customers admired him for the comprehensive news report he oversaw

and his willingness to aid the news cooperative's members.

"He knew every public official in every office in every town and county, and they would talk with him because he had earned their trust for fairness and accuracy," said Charlie Mitchell, longtime editor of The Vicksburg Post and later assistant dean of the journalism school at the University of Mississippi.



Harrist's talent for logistics proved to be critical in the 2005 aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when simply keeping reporters in the field was a challenge.

"His calm demeanor and leadership helped our Mississippi coverage dominate all the national competition, and he somehow always knew how to get gasoline and supplies when no one else could figure it out," Michael Giarrusso, then state news director for the South and now AP's global sports editor, wrote at the time of Harrist's 2009 retirement.

Those who worked for and alongside him remember his warm demeanor and how his mentoring boosted the careers of people who worked for the AP in Jackson.

"The thing I will always remember about him is all the folks who came through the office and went on to bigger and better things," said longtime AP newsman Jack Elliott Jr.

Andy Harrist said people always wanted to hear about his father's work, but he will remember him also as a gentle dad and doting grandfather.

"There was a lot more to my dad than how good a writer my dad was," Andy Harrist said. "He drove a tractor all day on Saturday, he was a woodworker, he hunted a lot. Once he retired, he never missed a ball game. He hardly missed a practice."

Harrist was inducted into the Mississippi Press Association Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Mississippi AP Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2009. In addition to

Andy Harrist, he is survived by his wife Hendra and son Al.

Click [here](#) for a link to his obituary and information on graveside services to be held Tuesday. Condolences to the family can be mailed to - 474 Hwy 468, Brandon, MS 39042. (Shared by Sally Hale, Adam Yeomans)

Your memories of Ron Harrist

Joe Bonney ([Email](#)) – AP-Jackson used to have a wonderful old wall map of Mississippi's 82 counties and their cities and towns, plus scores of rural hamlets that Rand McNally never heard of. Ron Harrist didn't need that map. He knew every corner of the state he covered throughout his 41 years with the AP. If there was news at Hot Coffee or Soso or Midnight, Ron knew where to find it, who to call -- and how to get them to talk.

Ron was a newsman's newsman – fast, accurate, resourceful and unflappable, with an informed perspective gained only by decades on the beat. His telephone skills were legendary. He had contacts everywhere, and the uncanny ability to establish quick rapport with an officious county clerk or gruff deputy sheriff who wouldn't give another reporter the time of day. When chasing a fast-developing story, Ron would somehow juggle simultaneous phone interviews, alternating between receivers nestled to each ear.

One of Ron's defining traits was his equanimity. Nothing rattled him. Once he and I were on a story together and found ourselves spread-eagled against a car, being frisked at gunpoint by a young man whose trigger finger we didn't trust. I shot a worried glance at Ron. Except for an arched eyebrow, his expression was as calm as if he were back in the office doing the weekly college basketball roundup.

Ron was uncommonly patient and generous with advice to those of us who passed through Jackson as rookies. His mentoring skills probably owed much to his earlier years as a junior-high science teacher. His telephone prowess was no mystery. When people answered Ron's calls, they heard his soft baritone and respectful manner and sensed that this was an honest, decent man they could trust to treat them fairly. They were right.

Robert Naylor ([Email](#)) - When I went to work for The Associated Press in 1987, I was handed over to Ron Harrist for him to train me. When I returned to Jackson from Washington as administrative correspondent and then bureau chief, he was my news editor. He could not have been more supportive. We worked side-by-side and traveled the state together, comparing food stains on our neckties to document our excursions. He once joked that he and I together made a really good journalist. Ron was a steady, thoughtful, comforting presence. He was one of the best journalists and one of the best men I've ever known. He was my mentor, my confidant, my colleague, and my friend. Rest well.

More memories of VE Day – 75 years later



Joe Galloway ([Email](#)) - I was born three weeks before Pearl Harbor. Did not meet my Dad (at left) until the end of 1945 when he finally got to come home. He and five of his brothers wore the uniform in WWII plus four of my Mom's brothers. My Mom and I lived between her mother's home and Dad's mother's home 27 miles apart in East Texas. We rode the Continental Trailways bus from one to the other about every six or eight weeks, trying not to wear out our welcome. Other wives and kids were doing much the same thing. It was a time of ration coupons and ration books. One pair of shoes per person per year. My Mom gave up her coupon so a growing boy could have two pair per year; she stuffed her pair with newspapers against the holes in the soles.

When VE Day came Dad's mother, Elizabeth Reid Galloway, and her neighbor ladies in Franklin TX threw a huge block party for everyone. Half a dozen big black iron washpots sat over open fires filled with bubbling Irish stew. A dozen small boys, me included, were assigned to sit on top of hand crank ice cream makers, holding down the ice and salt as it was made. That may have been the first time I ever tasted ice cream.

My earliest memories are of frightened women looking out the windows for the telegraph boy, and praying they would not see him coming. Never forgot that.

Best of the Week

AP exclusive reveals ex-Green Beret Beret's failed Venezuelan coup plot



AP Photo/Matias Delacroix

In a gripping tale that reads like the plot of a Hollywood film, AP revealed the failed plot to oust Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro by a ragtag group of 300 volunteers led by a former Green Beret.

The exclusive investigation by Latin America correspondent Josh Goodman focused on the exploits of Jordan Goudreau, an American ex-Green Beret who set his sights on Venezuela after working security at a concert in support of opposition leader Juan Guaidó on the Venezuelan-Colombian border, organized by British billionaire Richard Branson.

Goudreau then joined forces with Venezuelan exiles in an audacious plan to oust Maduro, who is opposed by the Trump administration. The plan called for

a group of 300 men to invade Venezuela from Colombia, raid military bases and ignite a popular rebellion that would end in Maduro's arrest.

They never stood a chance.

The plot ended after one of the coup plotters was caught crossing the border. The co-leader of the effort, a retired major general in Venezuela's army, is now in jail in the U.S. on drug charges. Authorities in the U.S. and Colombia are asking questions about Goudreau's involvement and the 300 volunteer combatants have been abandoned in the middle of the pandemic.

Read more [here](#) .

Best of the States

Sourcing, records yield scoop: Texas AG helped donor fight Colorado lockout



A pair of horseback riders make their way toward Beckwith Pass near Crested Butte, Gunnison County, Colo., Oct. 6, 2019. Records reviewed

by the AP show that an exclusive group of Texans stood to benefit when the state's attorney general, Ken Paxton, urged the small Colorado county to reverse a public health order banning Texans from their property in Colorado during the coronavirus outbreak. CHRISTIAN MURDOCK / THE (COLORADO SPRINGS) GAZETTE VIA AP

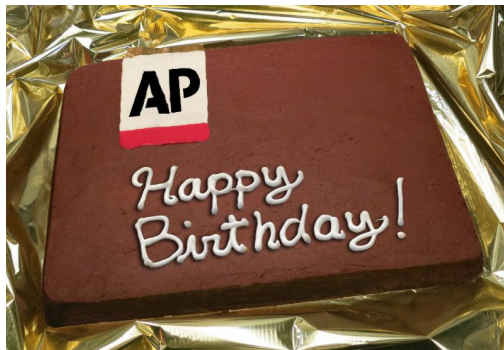
While other news organizations in Texas reported a press release from the state attorney general as is, AP reporters Paul J. Weber and Jake Bleiberg dug deeper and delivered a scoop showing that Ken Paxton's pressure on health officials in Colorado benefited donors who bankrolled his political campaigns.

What turned into an exclusive started as a curiosity: Why was the top law enforcement official in Texas picking a fight with a remote county two states away in the middle of a pandemic?

On April 9, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced he'd sent a letter leaning on Gunnison County, Colorado, to end an order expelling non-residents as a way to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. AP's Weber, based in Austin, immediately wondered whether Paxton had donors there. Along with Dallas-based law enforcement reporter Bleiberg, the pair started combing campaign finance and property records.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Hal Bock - hbock@optonline.net

Welcome to Connecting



Rosemarie Mileto - rmileto@ap.org

Stories of interest

We can't afford to let local news die (The Hill)

BY JON SCHLEUSS

In late March, meat-processing giant Smithfield Foods announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 at its plant in Sioux Falls. In a few weeks, more than 1,000 cases were tied to the plant. This news story started as a local one before Smithfield (and meat processing plants everywhere) were known as hot spots for spreading the coronavirus.

We only know about the story because of dedicated reporters at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and Minneapolis Star Tribune. They investigated the cases and learned that Smithfield ignored employee concerns about health and safety, instead offering workers cash to continue working in dangerous conditions. Without local reporting, the story might never have come to light.

As COVID-19 wreaks havoc on the finances of newsrooms that were already struggling to stay afloat, some have argued that they are beyond saving and should be allowed to drown. It doesn't have to be this way. It will take vision and focused effort, but we can protect local news and the critical role it plays in communities across the nation.

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

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To Save Election Day, Start by Getting Rid of Election Night? (New Yorker)

By Eric Lach

Election Days are as old as America, but Election Nights are a product of twentieth-century mass media. And, over decades, television news outlets have trained the American Election Night viewer to expect a certain dramatic arc. Tune in at 6 p.m. (at least on the East Coast), when everything is uncertain, and go to bed at 11 p.m., having watched uncertainty resolve into certainty, with the winners separated from the losers. It's not so different from the Super Bowl or the Grammys. (I recommend watching NBC's Election Night coverage from 1948 on YouTube. The televised press releases, the correspondent on the scene, the panel of analysts—it's all very familiar.)

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Peg Coughlin.

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How the Editor of a Small East Texas Newspaper Won a Pulitzer Prize (Texas Monthly)

By MICHAEL HARDY

Jeff Gerritt's first job out of college was as a reporter at the Oshkosh Northwestern, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In 1988, for a story he was writing, he spent two weeks hanging out at a medium-security prison in the area. Each

day, from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., the warden gave Gerritt free run of the prison, allowing him to interview anyone he wanted.

America's war on drugs was at its height, and Gerritt was shocked by the number of prisoners he met who had been locked up for minor drug offenses. "That experience really got me interested in mass incarceration—the senseless way this country was locking up all these people, destroying all these lives," he says. "It was really just ripping the African American community apart." Gerritt's own family was affected—his brother-in-law had been arrested for selling drugs.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Paul Albright.

Today in History - May 11, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 11, the 132nd day of 2020. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 11, 1502, Christopher Columbus left Cadiz, Spain, on his fourth and final trip to the Western Hemisphere.

On this date:

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which was held by the Japanese; the Americans took the island 19 days later.

In 1947, the B.F. Goodrich Company of Akron, Ohio, announced the development of a tubeless tire.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman formally dedicated the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington state.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1981, legendary reggae artist Bob Marley died in a Miami hospital at age 36.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1998, India set off three underground atomic blasts, its first nuclear tests in 24 years. A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

In 2006, lawmakers demanded answers after a USA Today report that the National Security Agency was secretly collecting records of millions of ordinary Americans' phone calls; President George W. Bush sought to assure Americans their civil liberties were being "fiercely protected."

Ten years ago: Conservative leader David Cameron, at age 43, became Britain's youngest prime minister in almost 200 years after Gordon Brown stepped down and ended 13 years of Labour government.

Five years ago: Joyce Hardin Garrard, the Alabama woman convicted of running her 9-year-old granddaughter, Savannah Hardin, to death as punishment for lying about candy, was sentenced by a judge in Gadsden to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The NFL came down hard on its biggest star and its championship team, suspending Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady for the first four games of the season, fining the New England Patriots \$1 million and taking away two draft picks as punishment for deflating footballs used in the AFC title game.

One year ago: Gay rights activists organizing on social media held an unauthorized march down eight blocks of one of the main streets in Cuba's capital before being stopped by police. Election officials in South Africa announced that the ruling African National Congress had achieved its weakest victory in national elections in a quarter-century, with 57.5% of the vote.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Mort Sahl is 93. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is 87. Jazz keyboardist Carla Bley is 84. Rock singer Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 79. Actress Pam Ferris is 72. Former White House chief of staff John F. Kelly is 70. Actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ahg-DAHSH'-loo) is 68. Actress Frances Fisher is 68. Sports columnist Mike Lupica is 68. Actor Boyd Gaines is 67. Country musician Mark Herndon (formerly with Alabama) is 65. Actress Martha Quinn is 61. Country singer-musician Tim Raybon (The Raybon Brothers) is 57. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 56. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 52. Country musician Keith West (Heartland) is 52. Actor Nicky Katt is 50. Actor Coby Bell is 45. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'-tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 42. Actor Austin O'Brien is 39. Actor-singer Jonathan Jackson is 38. Rapper Ace Hood is 32. Latin singer Prince Royce is 31. Actress Annabelle Attanasio (TV: "Bull") is 27. Musician Howard Lawrence (Disclosure) is 26.

Thought for Today: "Life is 10 percent what you make it, and 90 percent how you take it." [-] Irving Berlin, American songwriter (born this date in 1888, died 1989).

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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