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Connecting June 30, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 30th day of June 2020,

What can I do to help save Stars and Stripes newspaper?

In response to this question posed in Monday's Connecting, as Congress eyes severe budget cuts proposed by the Pentagon, several of you responded with what may be the obvious solution: Contact your Senators and House members.

"It is outrageous that funding for Stars & Stripes is to be withheld," wrote colleague **Ray Newton**. "Where is Congress? The military? I will write my protest to Congressional Representatives and Senators – today."

Connecting hopes, as well, to receive your thoughts on the advice you would give, as a retiree, to those still working who are within five years of retirement.

Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) makes a point that I would strongly second: “Although this is probably useless advice for those who are about to retire, I would encourage others who are not nearing retirement to take advantage of 401K to the maximum. For those staffers on the cusp, make sure to transfer your 401k assets to IRAs. Remember, if you withdraw your 401savings and receive a check in your name, federal taxes are due on the that whole amount.”

Share your own thoughts with Connecting today – they’ll benefit someone, for certain.

Most of the Associated Press staff worldwide has been working from home during the coronavirus pandemic – and from an email sent to AP staff Monday by **Jessica Bruce**, AP’s director of Human Resources, that will not change anytime soon.

In her email, which we bring you as our lead item, she said, “Please rest assured that a required return to the office is far down the line. **Today, we make a commitment to our staff worldwide that AP will not mandate a broadscale return to regular work from the office this year.** It is our intention this will allow us all to make plans in an uncertain time.”

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

COVID-19 Update: Timing of the Return to Our Offices

Jessica Bruce – senior vice president, Human Resources and Corporate Communications, in an email Monday to AP global staff:

Dear Colleagues,

There’s no question the coronavirus pandemic has created great uncertainty for us all. The virus upended our work and our personal lives, and we are all grappling with how to handle this dramatic change while keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe and healthy.

As we adjust to circumstances that change often, many of you have shared thoughtful questions and concerns about how and when AP will reopen its offices. I want to be as transparent as possible about AP’s

plans and hopefully ease the anxiety we all are experiencing amid the pandemic.

To start, your safety is paramount. It is what is guiding the work of the Return to Office team as we research best practices and think about how AP will go about reopening its physical locations.

Please rest assured that a required return to the office is far down the line. **Today, we make a commitment to our staff worldwide that AP will not mandate a broadscale return to regular work from the office this year.** It is our intention this will allow us all to make plans in an uncertain time.



To be sure, we will return to working from the office in time. Until then, some of us are now or will be in jobs or assigned to projects that are essential to AP's business and require us to be present in an office, either full time or occasionally.

There will be some locations that do reopen before the end of the year and in those locations employees who wish to work from the office may do so. But to be clear, except for specific jobs or assignments, we will not require a broadscale return to working in any AP office this year.

Because there are so many unknowns and variables that are out of AP's control — and varying circumstances at each of our roughly 250 locations — we are unable to provide a date or time when any one office may reopen for regular, daily use. There are some offices around the world that want to reopen soon, and we are working with them to determine when and how to do this safely.

When an office does reopen, we will first allow people who want to return to do so. At a later point in time we will encourage people to return. Only eventually will we require people to return, and this final step will take place no sooner than January 2021.

Further, as we reopen our offices, AP is committed to accommodating the schedules and work locations of anyone with childcare, schooling, family care, transportation or health issues related to the virus that may affect their ability to return during this pandemic.

AP's Return to Office team continues to develop the policies, procedures and other guidance necessary for the eventual reopening of all of our offices globally. We expect

this to be finalized in the coming weeks and will share it with all staff at that time.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about returning to work, please contact your HR representative.

Please stay safe and remember to take care of yourself. Take advantage of the free Employee Assistance Program, paid time off and resources available on InsideAP.

Reflections on Stars and Stripes, from a WWII Correspondent



Staff Sergeant Herb Mitgang, driving this Jeep, when he was a Stars and Stripes correspondent and managing editor.

Lee Mitgang ([Email](#)) - News that the Trump administration apparently deems the Stars and Stripes unworthy of federal funding would have infuriated my late father, Herbert Mitgang, who would have been 100 this year. During World War II, he was Staff Sergeant Mitgang, an Army correspondent and managing editor of editions in North Africa and Sicily. Among his fellow 20-something correspondents who together learned their craft in battle and makeshift newsrooms: Sgt. Bill Mauldin, inventor of the beloved Willy and Joe cartoons who went on to a Pulitzer Prize career; Sgt. Jack

Foisie, one of the great foreign correspondents for the LA Times; and a certain Sgt. Stanley M. Swinton, who spent 42 years as a foreign correspondent and top news executive at the AP.

Not long after my father suffered a debilitating stroke at age 80, he used his one remaining useful hand to write a war memoir, *Newsmen in Khaki: Tales of a World War II Soldier Correspondent* (Taylor Trade Publishing, 2004). It included a message from General Dwight Eisenhower that my father printed in the very first issue of the Algiers edition of *Stars and Stripes* -- a message that Mr. Trump and his defense secretary might find instructive as they set their budget priorities:

"I welcome the publication of *Stars and Stripes*," Ike wrote. "We are a long way from home. Only people who have experienced the isolation inherent in extended military operations can fully appreciate the value to the soldier of news from home and friends and the need for widespread coverage of our own activities. The newspaper staff will render inestimable value to our armed forces in North Africa and to the cause for which we fight."

Eisenhower's only request, my father wrote, was "that he get a copy of the paper first thing in the morning so he could read it with his breakfast coffee."

Morale benefit alone worth its paltry Pentagon budget line

Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - I was an avid reader of, and occasional contributor to, *Stars & Stripes* while serving as a Navy journalist during two tours in Vietnam. The newspaper was a welcome respite from our duties, bringing news of both the military and "back in the world." The morale benefit alone is worth its paltry Pentagon budget line. To me, it's a travesty that the administration would think so little of the troops to even suggest cutting the newspaper's funding.

End of hot metal typesetting – thanks for the memories

Roger Wallace ([Email](#)) - The article in Monday's *The Final Word* (on the last day of hot metal typesetting at the New York Times) was quite an article. I hired on in 1967 as an automatic operator in Denver. Rulon Pusey was Traffic Bureau Chief. I was in training as a copyboy toward operator. To prove my ability as a Teletype Setter Operator, we took my tape down to the Denver Post composing room to run on the Linotype machine to prove line justification and errors.

The composing rooms were very loud. Just as loud or louder than an AP newsroom in the days of the Model 15s and 20s banging away.

Do you remember those days of half deaf newsmen from that terrible noise level 78 DB or higher?

Thanks for the memories.

(Roger Wallace worked as an automatic operator (AUTOP) from 1967 to 1976, came back as a technician in 1986 to 2009. He worked in Denver, Helena and Albuquerque as an AUTOP, and in Denver, Richmond and Phoenix as a technician. "I consider a technician the same as a blacksmith," he said. "The blacksmiths kept everything running in the days of the horseless carriage. Some of the nicest people in the world work for The AP.")

Wanted: More of your phone stories



1



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Lines Of Communication

1 NO, THIS IS NOT THE... -- St. Louis newsman Tom Cohen (left) gets the full treatment from Nancy Friedman, the "telephone doctor." Mrs. Friedman travels around the country giving seminars on good telephone manners for businesspeople.

2 CALLING IN -- Albuquerque newswoman Ruth Ann Ragland dictates copy from a memorial service for noted balloonist Ben Abruzzo and five others killed in an airplane crash.

3 TWO-FISTED PHONER -- Jackson news editor Ron Harrist had his hands full one day with a story about a reunion of Iwo Jima veterans. On one phone is the New York general desk with a question about the story, and on the other is the man who organized the reunion, who just happened to call.

4 THE TRIALS OF HERCULES -- After lugging thousands of pounds of equipment up to the roof of the International Building, some New York communications staffers were relieved when at least part of their labors were completed. Giving a cheer (from left to right) are: Bill Whelan, Tom O'Neill, Roy Ramos (in center of dish), Louis Procida, and Matt Garvin, technical service manager in charge of the installation.

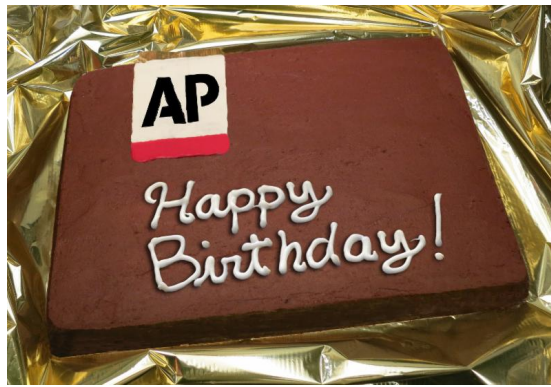


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Mary Lederhandler

Using phones on the job was the theme of this page of an AP World from 1985 (that includes photos of a few Connecting colleagues. Got your own phone photo and story to share? Send it along. Thanks to AP Corporate Archives for sharing.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

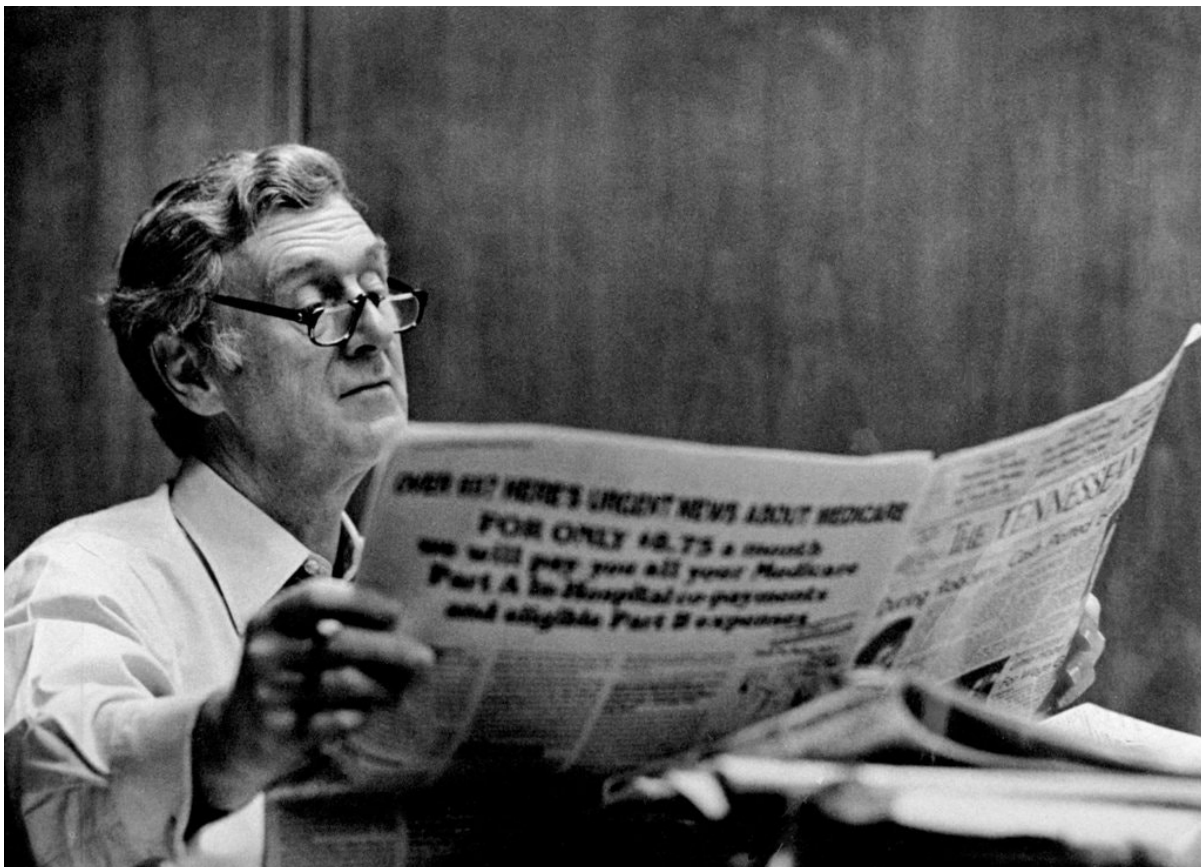
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Stories of interest

Don't Cancel That Newspaper Subscription (New York Times)



The Tennessean publisher John Seigenthaler reads over the day's paper on May 13, 1982 in his office. Credit: Bill Welch/The Tennessean, via USA Today Network

By Margaret Renkl
Contributing Opinion Writer

NASHVILLE — In 1954, a man called the city desk of The Tennessean, Nashville's daily morning newspaper, to say he planned to take his own life by jumping from the Shelby Avenue Bridge. If the paper wanted the story, he said, they should send a reporter.

At the scene, a young journalist named John Seigenthaler spent 40 minutes talking with the man, who was sitting astride a gas pipe that ran beneath the bridge's railing. When the man turned to look at the water below, Mr. Seigenthaler, one leg anchored in the bridge's grillwork, reached down, grabbed him by the collar and held on till nearby police officers could haul him to safety. Today the historic bridge, which spans the Cumberland River, is known as the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge in honor of the journalist who risked his life to save another's — and got a front-page byline in the process.

Mr. Seigenthaler was a journalist with The Tennessean for 43 years. As the paper's editor, he led its principled coverage of civil rights in spite of vocal white opposition. Nashville was the first major city in the South to desegregate public facilities, and The Tennessean's fierce support of civil rights is often credited with contributing to the city's relatively peaceful integration. "If it wasn't for the newspaper, Nashville could've been a nasty, awful place," said the former Tennessean columnist Dwight Lewis.

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

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Newsonomics: The next 48 hours could determine the fate of two of America's largest newspaper chains (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

The next 48 hours may decide the fate of two of America's largest newspaper chains that collectively serve almost a fifth of all American local newspaper readers.

And what happens in those hours could prompt a wave of other moves across the rest of the industry.

The dates June 30 and July 1 have called out from the calendar for a while now. On Tuesday, Tribune Publishing will reach the end of two "standstill" periods. Tribune's

two major shareholders — Alden Global Capital, with 33 percent of the company's shares, and Los Angeles Times owner Patrick Soon-Shiong, with 25 percent — had promised not to actively buy or sell any shares until June 30.

When that restriction ends, you can expect Tribune's uneasy status quo to come to an end quickly. After a chaotic decade, the chain had been briefly semi-stable after Michael Ferro's departure from management. But then Alden bought up those shares in November, and since then Tribune has given Alden two board seats, imposed Alden-style cuts, and created Alden-style management chaos.

Then, on Wednesday, final bids for McClatchy's 30 newspapers are due, as the country's second-largest chain prepares to wind toward some exit from bankruptcy.

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

-0-

Marty Baron Made The Post Great Again. Now, the News Is Changing. (New York Times)

By Ben Smith

Almost anyone who works in the Washington Post newsroom can look inside its publishing system, Methode, to see what stories are coming. And at the height of the furor over Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court in 2018, some who did saw a shocking article awaiting publication.

In the article, Bob Woodward, the Post legend who protected the identity of his Watergate source, Deep Throat, for 30 years, was going to unmask one of his own confidential sources. He was, in particular, going to disclose that Judge Kavanaugh had been an anonymous source in his 1999 book "Shadow: Five Presidents and the Legacy of Watergate."

Mr. Woodward was planning to expose Mr. Kavanaugh because the judge had publicly denied — in a huffy letter in 1999 to The Post — an account about Kenneth Starr's investigation of President Bill Clinton that he had himself, confidentially, provided to Mr. Woodward for his book. (Mr. Kavanaugh served as a lawyer on Mr. Starr's team.)

The article, described by two Post journalists who read it, would have been explosive, arriving as the nominee battled a decades-old sexual assault allegation and was fighting to prove his integrity.

The article was nearly ready when the executive editor, Martin Baron, stepped in. Mr. Baron urged Mr. Woodward not to breach his arrangement with Mr. Kavanaugh and to protect his old source's anonymity, three Post employees said. (The three, as well as

other Post journalists who spoke to me, insisted on anonymity because The Post prefers that its employees not talk to the media.)

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Dennis Conrad, Arnold Zeitlin, Bill McCloskey.

Today in History - June 30, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 30, the 182nd day of 2020. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1971, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that the government could not prevent The New York Times or The Washington Post from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

On this date:

In 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

In 1918, labor activist and socialist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in Cleveland, charged under the Espionage Act of 1917 for a speech he'd made two weeks earlier denouncing U.S. involvement in World War I. (Debs was sentenced to prison and disenfranchised for life.)

In 1934, Adolf Hitler launched his "blood purge" of political and military rivals in Germany in what came to be known as "The Night of the Long Knives."

In 1958, the U.S. Senate passed the Alaska statehood bill by a vote of 64-20.

In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1971, a Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead of asphyxiation inside their capsule after it had returned to Earth.

In 1982, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution expired, having failed to receive the required number of ratifications for its adoption, despite having its seven-year deadline extended by three years.

In 1986, the Supreme Court, in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, ruled 5-4 that states could outlaw homosexual acts between consenting adults (however, the nation's highest court effectively reversed this decision in 2003 in *Lawrence v. Texas*).

In 1994, the U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the national championship and banned her for life for her role in the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

In 1997, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time over Government House in Hong Kong as Britain prepared to hand the colony back to China at midnight after ruling it for 156 years.

In 2009, American soldier Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan, and was later confirmed to have been captured by insurgents. (Bergdahl was released on May 31, 2014 in exchange for five Taliban detainees.)

In 2013, 19 elite firefighters known as members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots were killed battling a wildfire northwest of Phoenix after a change in wind direction pushed the flames back toward their position.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama talked about the economy at a town hall in Racine, Wisconsin, saying, "We got it moving again," and that he intended to get "our debt and our deficits under control," but warned he wouldn't slash spending at the expense of the economic rebound. Benigno Aquino III was sworn in as the Philippines' 15th president.

Five years ago: a tough-talking New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie launched his 2016 campaign for president with a promise to tell voters the truth "whether you like it or not, or whether it makes you cringe every once in a while or not." An Indonesian Air Force transport plane crashed, killing more than 120 people on board and 22 on the ground. Actress Jennifer Garner and actor Ben Affleck announced plans to end their 10-year marriage.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, and agreed to revive talks on the North's nuclear program. (A working-level meeting in Sweden in October would break down over what the North Koreans described as the Americans' "old stance and attitude.") A small plane crashed at a suburban Dallas airport, killing all 10 people on board; the plane had struggled to gain altitude before veering to the left and crashing into a hangar. At the start of the NBA's free agency period, Kevin Durant announced that he was leaving the Golden State Warriors after three seasons and signing with the Brooklyn Nets.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lea Massari is 87. Actress Nancy Dussault (doo-SOH') is 84. Songwriter Tony Hatch is 81. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 76. Actor Leonard Whiting is 70. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 69. Actor David Garrison is 68. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 67. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 64. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 61. Actress Deirdre Lovejoy is 58. Actor Rupert Graves is 57. Former boxer Mike Tyson is 54. Actor Peter Outerbridge is 54. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 51. Actor-comedian Tony Rock (TV: "Living Biblically") is 51. Actor Brian Bloom is 50. Actor Brian Vincent is 50. Actress Monica Potter is 49. Actress Molly Parker is 48. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 41. Actor Tom Burke is 39. Actress Lizzy Caplan is 38. Actress Susannah Flood is 38. Rock musician James Adam Shelley (American Authors) is 37. Country singer Cole Swindell is 37. Rhythm and blues singer Fantasia is 36. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 35. Actor Sean Marquette (TV: "The Goldbergs") is 32.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.



- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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