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## Connecting July 10, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020,

A new Connecting series asks: How long have you been with your partner? Or how long had you been if she or he is gone? An AP tie to your meeting her or him?

First responses are in - and I hope over the weekend you will share your own story.

Have a safe weekend, stay healthy.

Paul

# VIRUS DIARY: In Saudi Arabia, a photographer finds new focus



"Sugar", a lovebird, stands over an empty cup of tea in front of the laptop of Associated Press photographer Amr Nabil displaying images in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, July 7, 2020. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

By AMR NABIL

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — I moved to Saudi Arabia from Egypt last year, eager to photograph a national awakening that was once unimaginable in a country so beholden to ultraconservative mores.

Permission to have fun had been suddenly granted. It jolted this nation of 34 million — almost half of whom are under 30 years old — into a nation of budding movie theaters, concerts and raves, a place where women could dine alongside men, drive without fear of arrest, travel without permission and enter stadiums.

As a photographer, I was for the first time welcomed to document far-flung parts of the country. A cultural festival in the mountains of Abha. Newly discovered diving spots in the Red Sea.

Then, just as quickly the country had opened up, it closed off.

Read more [here](#).

## *New Connecting series*

# Facing challenges of life, career with a special partner

**Charlie Monzella ( [Email](#) )** - When I joined the AP in Huntington, West Virginia, in 1953, the bureau occupied a tiny spot off the newsroom of The Herald-Dispatch. A year later, the newspaper hired Terry Price, a recent graduate of West Virginia University, as Woman's Page Editor. I had to walk past her desk to get to the AP office.



At first, I smiled at her. Then, we began dating. With the odd hours that we both worked, we soon realized that the only way we could spend much time together was to get married. We did in 1956.

My AP career took us to Charleston, WV, and then to New York City. Our family grew with three sons. When Terry died on November 30, 2007, we had been married 51 years and six days.

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**Tom Coyne ( [Email](#) )** - While attending the University of South Carolina, I worked for The Associated Press a couple of times a week compiling the high school football and basketball top 10 polls and accompanying story, writing a weekly feature on high school athletes and compiling high school scores.



My wife and I met at the student newspaper. On our first date, we went to a college baseball game. During the game, I told her my friends had climbed a crane on campus being used to build an eight-story building. They had tied some socks on the crane to let people know they had been there. I told her I was disappointed because I had worked for the AP that night and had missed out on the adventure. Susan said, "Why don't we do it now?"

So we did. But first, we stopped by my dorm room to grab a ripped-up T-shirt to hang from the crane. The hardest part turned out



getting to the crane. We had to climb a 10-foot high fence and make our way through the construction site in total darkness (no cell phones with flashlights in 1982) and there were some deep holes. Once we got to the crane, there were ladders inside so it was easy to make it to the top.

We've been married 35 years now and have not climbed any more cranes. Although seeing one still makes us smile. The T-shirt we tied to the crane was from the University of Notre Dame. I covered the Fighting Irish from 2000-20016 until I was laid off, and Susan has worked at the university for the past six years.

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**Hal Bock ( [Email](#) )** - We were both freshman journalism students at NYU when I discovered Fran. She was in the front row of Communication Arts, the freshman survey course for J-students. I had never seen anyone as beautiful as she was then and is now. Love at first sight. You bet.

I kept my distance for awhile but when she showed up at the student newspaper, that was a turning point. The year was 1957. We started dating, soon became engaged and married in 1961. That's a 63-year relationship.

I had been in the AP waiting room (two summer replacement stints) by 1963 when a permanent opening developed. I was offered the job but hesitated. We had a baby and were not really settled. Did I want the irregular hours, working nights, working weekends? I was not sure. But Fran knew that I had always wanted this opportunity and she would not let me turn my back on it. She encouraged me to take the job and 40 years later, I retired after a rewarding career. By then, the baby was a Washington attorney.



Fran turned from journalism to psychology and I have often said in this business, it's important to be married to a mental health professional. Not just any mental health professional but the one in the front row of that Communication Arts class.

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**Larry Margasak** ([Email](#)) - A favorite restaurant opened outdoor seating just in time for my wife, Rochelle, and I to celebrate our 49th on June 6. They had us provide our contact information for any future contact tracing. If your question about AP connections means employment with AP, you may have too narrow a focus. Every AP spouse and partner has put up with assignments interfering with major personal events, time with children and time with parents. For 48 years in my case. My wife's lobster was cold and they initially brought someone else's meals, but we were so happy to be out we didn't care.

## The show goes on for South Orange music teacher, students



Back row, from left, are Joseph Williams of Maplewood, Jordan Lipetz of Maplewood, teacher Marty Steinberg, Arun Bhattacharyya of New York and Matthew DeFranceschi of West Orange; and front row, from left, are Phoebe Eccles of South Orange, Natalie Simpson of West Orange and Grace Lee of Haworth.

### Essex Daily News

SOUTH ORANGE, NJ — The coronavirus didn't stop cellist Marty Steinberg and students from his South Orange teaching studio from performing at their annual recital.

Because of the pandemic, the eight players and audience members wore masks and maintained social distance for the Fourth of July performance at the outdoor amphitheater at Marshall Elementary School, steps from Steinberg's house.

At first, Steinberg was planning a Zoom recital, but he decided to hold the event outside to be able to accompany the students in their solo pieces. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons had been held via FaceTime since March, but as the weather improved, individual lessons resumed outside, with participants wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart.

Read more [here](#) . Marty Steinberg is a Connecting colleague.

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# Connecting mailbox

## *Stories of your favorite restaurants*



**Robin Adorna** ([Email](#)) - I doubt anyone who has lived or now lives in Union, New Jersey, has not had the experience of their first bite of the best hotdog ever. Galloping Hill Inn, better known as Peterson's, located at Five Points. A warm summer night's dinner, whether sitting in the parking lot waiting for my Dad to bring those dogs back to the car, or as takeout, sitting on the front stoop (are they still called that) waiting for those still hot, hotdogs. Of course, one cannot forget what made it the best hotdog, the snap of that first bite, or the crunch of the roll wrapped around the dog with your favorite toppings. A Union landmark for over 100 years.

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## *Out of the hospital, COVID free*

**Joe Galloway** ([Email](#)) - Just released this Thursday afternoon from two days and nights in hospital (in Concord, North Carolina). First 24 hours on the COVID FLOOR of

hospital waiting for test results. Pure Hell. No MDs. No meds. No service. Wretched food served stone cold since delivery folks just rolled it off the elevator and boogied on down. Finally got to a higher normal floor and got treatment for mild pneumonia and some testing for a flutter on the EKG. Nothing like getting home after a scare like that.

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## *AP Logo sighting*



**Chris Carola ( [Email](#) )** - I went for a bike ride with my brother Don at the Saratoga Battlefield in upstate New York earlier this week and noticed the seat covers in his pickup truck. As near as I can deduce from this company's website, the AP appears to stand for Antler Patriotic, one of its seat cover designs.

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## *Connecting sky shot – Vermont*





**Lelieu Browne** ([Email](#)) - A view from our summer home in Vermont with double rainbow shining on the farm in front.

## AP: After lobbying, Catholic Church won \$1.4B in virus aid

By REESE DUNKLIN and MICHAEL REZENDES

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Roman Catholic Church used a special and unprecedented exemption from federal rules to amass at least \$1.4 billion in taxpayer-backed coronavirus aid, with many millions going to dioceses that have paid huge settlements or sought bankruptcy protection because of clergy sexual abuse cover-ups.

The church's haul may have reached -- or even exceeded -- \$3.5 billion, making a global religious institution with more than a billion followers among the biggest winners in the U.S. government's pandemic relief efforts, an Associated Press analysis of federal data released this week found.

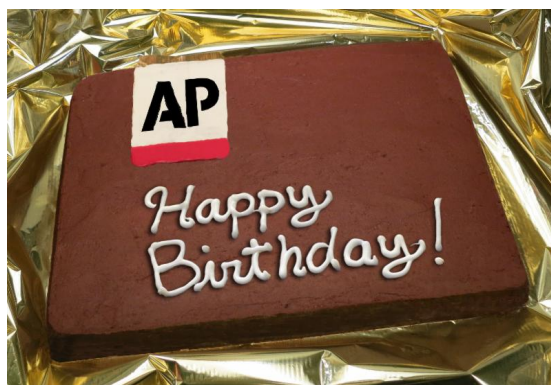
Houses of worship and faith-based organizations that promote religious beliefs aren't usually eligible for money from the U.S. Small Business Administration. But as the economy plummeted and jobless rates soared, Congress let faith groups and other

nonprofits tap into the Paycheck Protection Program, a \$659 billion fund created to keep main street open and Americans employed.

By aggressively promoting the payroll program and marshaling resources to help affiliates navigate its shifting rules, Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools and other ministries have so far received approval for at least 3,500 forgivable loans, AP found.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Chuck Lewis - [chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com)

Nancy Nussbaum - [nnussbaum@ap.org](mailto:nnussbaum@ap.org)

*On Saturday to...*

Kelly Kissel - [kkissel@theadvocate.com](mailto:kkissel@theadvocate.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Larry Paladino - [rto173rd@wowway.com](mailto:rto173rd@wowway.com)

## Stories of interest

***Fears over US media independence as Trump-appointed chief fires editors*** (BBC News)

The new chief of the US federal media agency, a Trump-appointee, has sacked three senior officials, raising fears that networks will be politicised.

Michael Pack, a conservative filmmaker and former associate of ex-White House adviser Steve Bannon, has also begun to install Trump loyalists at the agency.

The firings have been criticised by liberals and some conservatives.

Mr Pack has defended his actions as transitional steps that any new leader of an organisation would take.

The US Agency for Global Media (USAGM) is a taxpayer funded body that oversees global broadcasters including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia and Middle East Broadcasting.

The USAGM is tasked with broadcasting independent news to a global audience of more than 280 million people. It was created in 1942 to combat Nazi propaganda.

Read more [here](#) .

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## ***Cumulus Closing Down Westwood One News Service*** (RadioInk)

In a letter sent out Thursday evening, Cumulus notified all Westwood One News affiliates its service would be shutting down August 30, due to extraordinary circumstances. Here's the full letter:

"Due to the extraordinary circumstances in the current marketplace, Westwood One News will be ceasing operations effective on Sunday, August 30, 2020, following the 11:30pm ET newscast. Please accept this letter as official notification of the cancellation of this service.

"As you can imagine, this was an extraordinarily difficult decision not only given the strength and quality of our award-winning news product, but also the depth and experience of the impeccable Westwood One News team," said Suzanne Grimes, President, Westwood One.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Rachel Ambrose.

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## ***NBC News sets goal of a workforce that is half minority***

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News leader Cesar Conde, in one of his first public acts in the job, has committed to building a workforce at the news organizations he supervises where at least half of the employees are minorities.

The staff is currently nearly 27% minority, including 8% each of Black, Latino and Asian workers. Conde set no deadline for achieving his “50 Percent Initiative.”

He also wants women to comprise half the employees at NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC, and he’s already nearly there.

The plan, first reported by the Los Angeles Times, makes Conde a leader in the current movement to diversify the news business. That conversation has spread throughout the industry since George Floyd’s killing at the hands of Minneapolis police in May.

Read more [here](#) .

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## ***Network: Shepard Smith joins CNBC for weeknight news program***

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Shepard Smith, who abruptly quit Fox News Channel last October amid the ascendancy of opinionated programming, will bring a nightly newscast to CNBC this fall.

CNBC announced Wednesday that Smith will anchor a one-hour weeknight newscast at 7 p.m. Eastern, the time slot he held for many years at Fox before being shifted to the afternoon.

His show is expected to start in September.

“I know I found a great home for my newscast,” Smith said in a news release. He was not made available for an interview on Wednesday.

Read more [here](#) .

# Today in History - July 10, 2020



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 10, the 192nd day of 2020. There are 174 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the Luftwaffe started attacking southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

### On this date:

In 1908, William Jennings Bryan was nominated for president by the Democratic national convention in Denver.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles (veh-SY') to the Senate and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.)

In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T. Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was overturned on a technicality.)

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. John Paul Getty III, the teenage grandson of the oil tycoon, was abducted in Rome by kidnappers who cut off his ear when his family was slow to meet their ransom demands; Getty was released in December 1973 for nearly \$3 million.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 1992, a New York jury found Pan Am guilty of willful misconduct and responsible for allowing a terrorist bomb to destroy Flight 103 in 1988, killing 270 people, opening the way for civil lawsuits.

In 1999, the United States women's soccer team won the World Cup, beating China 5-4 on penalty kicks after 120 minutes of scoreless play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

In 2002, The House approved, 310-113, a measure to allow airline pilots to carry guns in the cockpit to defend their planes against terrorists (President George W. Bush later signed the measure into law).

In 2004, President George W. Bush said in his weekly radio address that legalizing gay marriage would redefine the most fundamental institution of civilization, and that a constitutional amendment was needed to protect traditional marriage.

In 2005, a search-and-rescue team found the body of a missing U.S. commando in eastern Afghanistan, bringing an end to the desperate search for the last member of an ill-fated, four-man special forces unit that had disappeared the previous month.

In 2018, a daring rescue mission in Thailand was completed successfully, as the last four of the 12 boys who were trapped in a flooded cave for more than two weeks were brought to safety along with their soccer coach; the other eight had been brought out in the two preceding days.

Ten years ago: Robotic submarines removed a leaking cap from a gushing oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, sending crude flowing freely into the sea until BP installed a new seal that stopped the oil days later. Australia's Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde headed a class of seven inductees into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Grammy-winning country singer Carrie Underwood married NHL player Mike Fisher at a resort in Greensboro, Georgia.

Five years ago: Katherine Archuleta, the embattled head of the government's Office of Personnel Management, abruptly stepped down, bowing to mounting pressure following the unprecedented breach of private information her agency was entrusted to protect. To the cheers of thousands, South Carolina pulled the Confederate flag from its place of honor at the Statehouse after more than 50 years. Actor Omar Sharif, 83, died in Cairo. Actor Roger Rees, 71, died in New York. Opera singer Jon Vickers, 88, died in Ontario, Canada.

One year ago: Britain's ambassador to the United States, Kim Darroch, resigned following the leak of diplomatic cables that reflected his unflattering opinions about the Trump administration. Fans packed New York City's Canyon of Heroes for a parade honoring the U.S. women's national soccer team, winner of the women's World Cup. Former New York Yankees pitcher Jim Bouton, who exposed the off-field carousing of former teammates including Mickey Mantle in his tell-all book "Ball Four," died at his Massachusetts home at the age of 80. The independent Atlantic League became the

first American professional baseball league to let a computer call balls and strikes at its All-Star Game in York, Pa.

Today's Birthdays: Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 93. Actor William Smithers is 93. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 81. Singer Mavis Staples is 81. Actor Mills Watson is 80. Actor Robert Pine is 79. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 77. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 75. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 73. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 71. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 69. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 66. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 62. Actress Fiona Shaw is 62. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 60. Bluegrass singer-musician Tim Surrent (Balsam Range) is 57. Actor Alec Mapa is 55. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 55. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 55. Actor Gale Harold is 51. Country singer Gary LeVox (Ieh-VOH') (Rascal Flatts) is 50. Actor Aaron D. Spears is 49. Actress Sofia Vergara is 48. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 46. Actor Adrian Grenier (grehn-YAY') is 44. Actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (CHOO'-ih-tehl E'HJ'-ee-oh-for) is 43. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 43. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 40. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 40. Rock musician John Spiker is 39. Actress Heather Hemmens is 36. Actress Emily Skeggs (TV: "When We Rise") is 30. Rapper/singer Angel Haze is 29. Pop singer Perrie Edwards (Little Mix) is 27.

## 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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