

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting September 01, 2020

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



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 1st day of September 2020,

Our colleague **Peg Coughlin** ([Email](#)), an AP election coordinator, notes that in just 10 Tuesdays, on Nov. 3, AP will tabulate and report on thousands of U.S. elections from president to state Legislature. She is looking for Connecting members' help with the operation.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has essentially closed AP Elections' physical vote entry centers,” Peg said, “We're seeking

operators to work remotely, inputting into our tabulation and reporting system votes from county stringers and websites nationwide. This is a paid opportunity, including paid training that will be the last week of October. We're looking for critical thinkers with an eye/ear for accuracy, a sense of urgency and good communication skills. You also need a Windows 10 or MAC computer."



If you're interested, contact AP Elections Coordinator **Peg Coughlin** for more details at - pcoughlin@ap.org

More of your stories on the pets you love, and love you back, are featured in today's issue. They're more important than ever before for many of us in this pandemic era which has now entered its seventh month.

And, in our lead story, a challenge is issued by **Norm Abelson** to those of his colleagues who fess up to being a two-finger typist. (Ye Olde Connecting Editor spotted Snoopy atop his doghouse and could not resist illustrating Norm's story with the cartoon.) Hope you will share your own experiences.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Two fingers after all these years

**DEAR 2020, FIRST OF ALL,
I WOULD LIKE TO LET YOU
KNOW I'M TYPING THIS
WITH MY MIDDLE FINGER.**



**FUNNY THOUGHTS
AND JOKES**

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - Although I surely wouldn't compare myself to him in any other way, the late, great Pete Hamill and I had one thing in common: lifelong two-finger typists. I'm sure that makes me an anomaly; I just don't

know how much of an anomaly. I wonder how many of my Connecting colleagues share that quirk.

As a Navy reservist, as well as an AP writer, back in the 1950s, I had to pass a typing test in order to become an administrative petty officer. In those pre-computer days, there was batch of others who were of the two-finger ilk, so I made no attempt to put my other digits to use at The AP when hammering away on my Remington standard.

But now I was faced with the Navy test. I had become friendly with the guy who ran the reserve center, and who was to administer the all-fingers test, and so I came up with a plan. I asked him if he would be willing to turn his back for five minutes while I typed. I told him it would make me less nervous. Surprisingly, he agreed. Quickly putting my two index fingers to work, I passed the test, and got my chevron.

In all the years that followed, whatever the job, I always kept and used a standard typewriter in my office. I guess it was a kind of security blanket. Eventually, I moved to a computer, but I still mercilessly bang away at the sensitive keyboard. Two fingers at a time.

AP byline of the late Joseph White carried on Coach John Thompson's death

The byline of the late AP Sports Writer **Joseph White** was carried on the [AP wire story](#) Monday about the death of Georgetown University's John Thompson, who became the first Black coach to lead a team to the NCAA men's basketball championship.

Patrick Ewing starred as the Hoyas won the 1984 championship over Houston.

At the bottom of the wire story: Joseph White, a former AP sports writer in Washington who died in 2019, prepared this obituary. AP Sports Writer Howard Fendrich contributed.

White had prepared the Thompson obituary years ago, AP's global sports editor **Michael Giarrusso** told Connecting, and since Thompson had been retired so long, "we didn't have to do that much updating to the career achievements."

During his AP career, White (at right) won AP Sports Writer of the Year honors in 2005 while based in Washington, where he covered the NFL's Redskins and broke news such as the hiring of Jim Zorn as the team's head coach. His beats also included the NBA's Wizards, other professional and college teams. White also was a member of AP's Olympics coverage. He was 54 when he died in August 2019. Click [here](#) for a wire story on his death.



"Joseph was a great person and a joy to work with," Giarrusso said. "He left way too soon. It gave me goosebumps to see his byline on the wire again. Like John Thompson, Joseph made his living in sports, but his life was much broader than just the games. As you know, he retired early and started a very successful second career as a small business owner. He got a lot of joy out of that, and his AP colleagues missed him, but we were all happy that he found something rewarding to do post-journalism."

(With thanks to Mark Thompson for spotting story.)

Your pets and the pandemic



Lelieu Browne (Email) - “There is a cat sitting in my van,” Tim, Malcolm’s brother casually mentioned it while he carried out the luggage, ready to leave.

I rushed out and there she was, smack in the middle of an empty van, calm and dignified. I opened my two arms and she slowly walked towards me and snuggled against my bosom. I excitedly carried her in to show to Malcolm.

Malcolm violently shook his head. “No more pets. You know very well how we had suffered when Nif Naf (our beloved Japanese spaniel) died. I don’t want to go through it again.”



I sheepishly let that lovely cat down and opened the door for her. She was small, mixed tiger and some other breed. Her big turquoise eyes would melt you and her soft fluffy fur would entice you to bury your face in it. I never had cats in my life and she immediately seduced me. Besides I really wanted a pet, a priority to cheer Malcolm during his illness and also some anchor for me to hold on.

We were in Vermont that summer 2010. Like every summer, we loved to sit on the front porch in the afternoon to enjoy the scenery and to watch birds eating on the bird feeders.

The afternoon, a day after the encounter, we were on the porch and within a few minutes the cat showed up, rubbing her face against my legs, relaxing between both of us for a long period. Malcolm ignored her or pretended so.

Each afternoon after, she promptly appeared as soon as we settled down on our porch. For four days, she never missed her appointment.

“If tomorrow she comes, I have to have her,” I said determinedly.

She might belong to Ruth Dwyers (our neighbor across our house. She was former State legislator, former governor candidate and now simple farmer and animal lover.)

We went over the next afternoon with Bondine in my arms. Ruth recognized her immediately. “Yes, she is my favorite. Her name is Sidekic and she is two years old and already neutered and worm vaccinated.” My heart sank. “If you want you can have her but I am not so sure how she would adapt the city life. She is an outdoor cat.”

Malcolm named her Blondine because he recently heard a song called Blondine and he liked the name.

Blondine is now 13 and still feisty. I owe her my sanity, my mental health. She is there at the door when I come home. She is my confident.

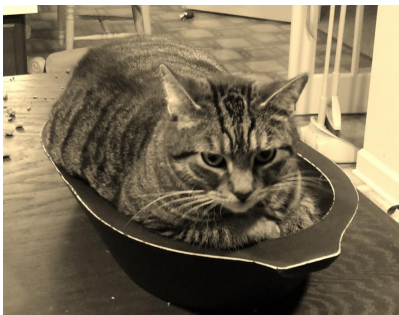
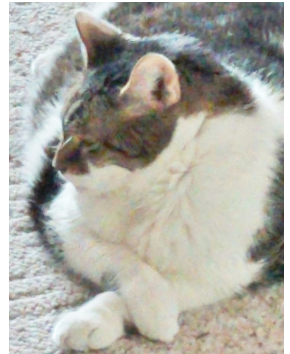


Joe Galloway (Email) - Here I am with Jacques the Wonder Dawg, our 15-pound miniature poodle who thinks he is a Great Dane. Jacques is a medical service dog, trained for PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury, and accompanies Doc Gracie, my nurse-practitioner and PhD wife, on all her medical calls. He also guards the street and front walk and all routes to our front porch from his perch on the back of the sofa. (Photo Credit: By Steve Northup)

-0-

Gene Herrick (Email) - Cats are like politicians – they are characters with many presentable faces, always act innocent, and change as often as the weather.

My mate of many years, Kitty Hylton, and I have had cats as pets. Now we have three, and all with completely different personalities. There is Walter “Wally,” who was very seriously abused as a kitten, when Kitty adopted him. “Wally” shrinks around, and hides most of the time.



Then there is “Baron Rudy von Soodle Toot, called “Toot”. We found him as an almost newborn, running under our idle lawn mower. Kitty worked hard to save his abandoned body.

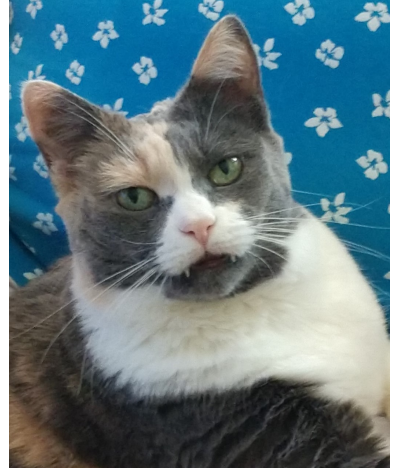
Then there is Miss Maggie May Clover, of the Patrick County Clovers (Animal rescue mission). She too had a hard life, having giving birth very early in her life, and then abandoned. However, Maggie Mae is not a wimp. No sir, she is the leader of the pack. She is devious and clever. Maggie loves the other

cats and often licks their faces. However, after they become submissive, she bites them on the ear! She is always alert, and makes us feel accepted and loved. However, when we think lovingly, and reach out to pet her, she will sometimes swat us with her paws, or try and bite us. Love is a many faceted way of life.

Maggie May wants things her way. She uses her nose to move the cat food dishes around to put in order, and then licks the floor to clean up the mess. Also, she is like a persnickety mother. She goes to the three deep litter boxes, and when she finds her brothers have not covered their mess, she covers it for them.

Kinda like human life.

-0-





Guy Palmiotto (Email) – I'm photographed with our family's latest rescue, Desiree'. She has been a part of our family for about 18 months and has been a joy for us. Friendly, smart, playful, and very responsive to our constant

attention. In this photo she is handling her COVID-19 mask duties without fuss. And during this pandemic, a source of fuzz therapy. And she gets along well with our other two cats, Taylor and Carly.

Connecting mailbox

Saddened by death of Bill Neikirk

Greg Nokes ([Email](#)) - So sorry about the death of Bill Neikirk (see Monday's Connecting). He broke me in on AP's economic beat back in the 70s. I'll never forget that boyish grin and aw shucks demeanor. He appeared at our AP Treasury Department offices always in good cheer. He was a skilled and accomplished reporter who explained such complexities as the impact on the economy of changes in the nation's money supply in a way people could understand. I had been in touch with him and his family in recent years and knew he was in distress. Very sad that he's no longer with us.

-0-

Grammar police

Rick Cooper ([Email](#)) - In view of David Briscoe's e-mail concerning the above, I offer you the following:



GRAMMAR
POLICE

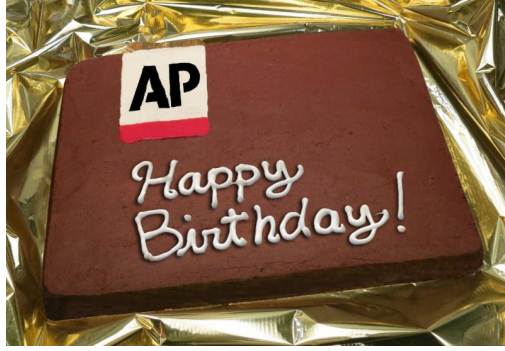
TO SERVE
AND
CORRECT

It's now September – and autumn nears



Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - When you have room for an autumnal picture. At a farmer's market in Alexandria, Virginia.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Bill Chevalier - billc164@comcast.net

John Hanna – jdhanna@ap.org

Don Ryan - dryan.nmg@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Journalist Quits Kenosha Paper in Protest of Its Jacob Blake Rally Coverage (New York Times)

By Marc Tracy

A journalist resigned on Saturday from his job at The Kenosha News after objecting to the headline of an article that chronicled a rally in support of Jacob Blake, a Black man who was shot seven times in the back by a white Kenosha police officer.

The journalist, Daniel J. Thompson, a digital editor who said he was the only full-time Black staff member at the paper, which covers southeastern Wisconsin, said the headline did not accurately sum up the article and gave a false impression of the rally itself, which he attended. The rally for Mr. Blake, who was left paralyzed by the shooting on Aug. 23, included calls for unity from his father, Jacob Blake Sr., and Wisconsin's lieutenant governor, Mandela Barnes, the article said.

The headline, which appeared on the Kenosha News website on Saturday, highlighted a remark from one rally participant: “Kenosha speaker: ‘If you kill one of us, it’s time for us to kill one of yours.’” The online version of the article included a 59-second video showing the person who spoke those words, a Black man who was not identified by name.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cliff Schiappa, Scott Charton, Richard Chady.

-0-

A Final Episode for the TV Listings (New York Times)

By Sarah Bahr

After 81 years, this weekend will be the series finale for the daily television listings in the print editions of The New York Times.

The majority of subscribers won’t even notice the removal of the TV grid and accompanying What’s on TV column after this weekend’s papers: For years now, The Times has published the grid only in its New York City edition, and not the national one. But like any cancellation, the change is sure to leave some readers disappointed.

Gilbert Cruz, The Times’s Culture editor, said the time had come because of the increasing number of digital on-demand options. “We are firmly in the streaming age,” he said, “and the TV grid no longer reflects the way people consume television.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey.

-0-

‘Strike’? ‘Boycott’? When athletes stopped playing, the arguments over wording began. (Washington Post)

By Ben Strauss

The front page of the New York Times sports section Thursday commemorated a historic day in athletics, when three NBA playoff games, along with games in Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer and the WNBA, were postponed after athletes refused to play in protest of the police shooting of Jacob Blake, an unarmed Black man, in Kenosha, Wis.

The image was simple: an empty court in the NBA bubble in Florida. The headline was one word: “BOYCOTT.” And the backlash, after the Times tweeted an image of the page Wednesday night, came quickly.

“You need to change it to STRIKE,” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) wrote on Twitter.

Ocasio-Cortez spread her frustration around the media, responding to a tweet by The Washington Post that also called the action a “boycott,” though the story itself used “strike.”

“NBA players are courageously on strike (withholding labor), NOT boycotting (withholding their \$/purchase),” she wrote. “The diff is important bc it shows their power as *workers*.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey.

-0-

Appeals court temporarily halts protections for journalists, legal observers in Portland (ABC)

By **LUKE BARR**

A three-judge panel on Thursday temporarily halted protections for journalists and legal observers covering the unrest in Portland, Oregon.

Last week, federal Judge Michael Simon ruled that journalists and legal observers were exempt from federal officers' physical force, arrest or other treatment if the officers "reasonably know" that a person is a journalist or legal observer.

But in a 2-1 decision, the judges on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, agreed with the government that Judge Simon's initial ruling was too broad.

"Given the order's breadth and lack of clarity, particularly in its non-exclusive indicia of who qualifies as "Journalists" and "Legal Observers," appellants have also demonstrated that, in the absence of a stay, the order will cause irreparable harm to law enforcement efforts and personnel," two of the three judges wrote. "This means that journalists could be subjected to the same physical force as that of the individuals participating."

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

-0-

China Detains Australian TV Anchor With Government-Run Station (Bloomberg)

By Ruth Pollard and Jason Scott

Chinese authorities have detained an Australian television anchor working with a government-run station as relations worsen between the nations over trade and security concerns.

Australia's government was informed on Aug. 14 that Cheng Lei had been detained in China, Foreign Minister Marise Payne said Monday night. Cheng has been a journalist and television anchor working for the Chinese government's English news channel, CGTN. Her profile page on the broadcaster's website has been removed, along with videos from her previous stories.

Cheng has not been charged, according to an ABC report, but is being held under "residential surveillance at a designated location." That can involve being detained for up to six months without access to a lawyer or other assistance, the ABC said.

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

-0-

Gannett sells Pine Bluff Commercial to Arkansas newspaper

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (AP) — Gannett Media Corp. sold the Pine Bluff Commercial publication to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and its parent company, WEHCO Newspapers Inc. of Little Rock.

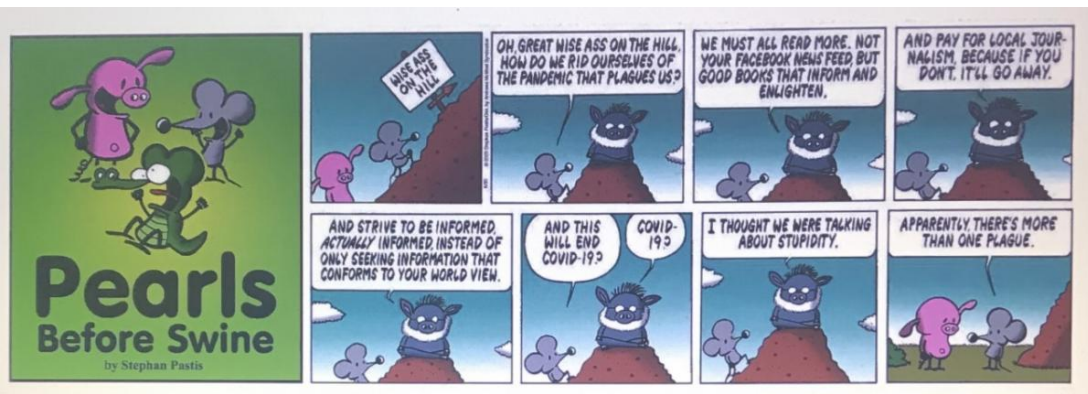
The Commercial ceased publication Monday under Gannett's ownership and will resume Tuesday as part of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette newspaper, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported.

Democrat-Gazette Publisher Walter Hussman Jr. said the Commercial will be published in a digital replica format seven days a week as part of the Democrat-Gazette. The digital replica is identical to the print edition but delivered on an iPad or other computer device.

“What we're doing here today is really unique in American newspaper publishing,” Hussman said at an announcement event Monday. “What we have done so far with the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and also the El Dorado News-Times, is we have switched to this seven-day-a-week digital replica of the paper and we deliver a paper on Sundays.”

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

The Final Word



Today in History - September 1, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 1, the 245th day of 2020. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 1, 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was Sept. 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

On this date:

In 1894, the Great Hinckley Fire destroyed Hinckley, Minnesota, and five other communities, killing more than 400 people.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

In 1941, the first municipally owned parking building in the United States opened in Welch, W. Va.

In 1942, U.S. District Court Judge Martin I. Welsh, ruling from Sacramento, Calif., on a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Fred Korematsu, upheld the wartime detention of Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese nationals.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik (RAY'-kyuh-vik), Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of Game 21. An arson fire at the Blue Bird Cafe in Montreal, Canada, claimed 37 lives.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off Newfoundland.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued a "desperate SOS" as his city descended into anarchy amid the flooding left by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2009, Vermont's law allowing same-sex marriage went into effect.

In 2018, at a nearly three-hour memorial service for the late Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain in Washington, McCain's daughter and two former presidents led a public rebuke of President Donald Trump's divisive politics and called for a return to civility among the nation's leaders.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama convened a new round of ambitious Mideast peace talks at the White House as he hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the first face-to-face negotiations in nearly two years. A man upset with the Discovery Channel's programming took two employees and a security officer hostage at the network's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland; police shot and killed the gunman, James Jae Lee, and all three hostages escaped safely.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama stared down a melting glacier in Alaska in a dramatic use of his presidential pulpit to sound the alarm on climate change. Invoking “God’s authority,” Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis denied marriage licenses to gay couples again in direct defiance of the federal courts, and vowed not to resign, even under the pressure of steep fines or jail. Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz, a police officer for Fox Lake, Illinois, was found shot to death after reporting he was pursuing a group of men; authorities eventually concluded that Gliniewicz’s death was a suicide. Actor Dean Jones, 84, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Hurricane Dorian struck the northern Bahamas as a catastrophic Category 5 storm with record 185 mph winds that ripped off roofs and overturned cars. South Carolina’s governor ordered a mandatory evacuation of the entire coast of the state amid the threat from Dorian. The United States and China put into effect their latest tariff increases on each other’s goods; the 15% U.S. taxes applied to about \$112 billion of Chinese imports. Actor and comedian Kevin Hart suffered a serious back injury when the vintage muscle car in which he was riding went out of control on a Southern California highway, careening down an embankment and into a tree. Thousands of people who were gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the traditional Sunday noon appearance by the pope were left waiting for several minutes; Francis explained that he had been stuck in an elevator. Justin Verlander pitched his third career no-hitter, striking out 14 to lead the Houston Astros past the Toronto Blue Jays, 2-0.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor George Maharis is 92. Conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY’-jee oh-ZAH’-wah) is 85. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 82. Comedian-actor Lily Tomlin is 81. Actor Don Stroud is 77. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 76. Singer Archie Bell is 76. Singer Barry Gibb is 74. Rock musician Greg Errico is 72. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 70. Singer Gloria Estefan is 63. Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers is 59. Jazz musician Boney James is 59. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 57. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 56. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is 54. Rap DJ Spigg Nice (Lost Boyz) is 50. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 49. Actor Maury Sterling is 49. Rock singer JD Fortune is 47. Actor Scott Speedman is 45. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol Annies) is 44. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 39. Actor Zoe Lister-Jones is 38. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 36. Actor Aisling (ASH’-ling) Loftus is 30.

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

