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Connecting

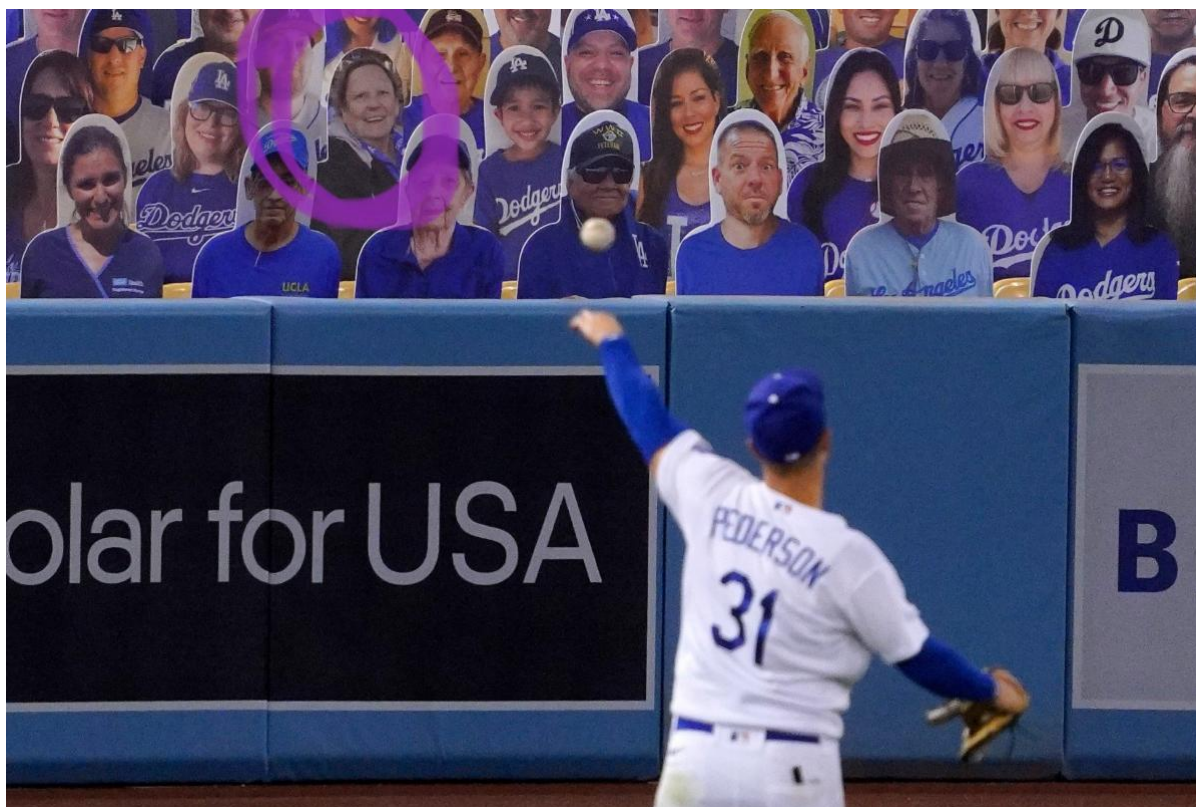
October 29, 2020

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The cutout of Sue Manning (circled) at Dodger Stadium. Photo by Mark J. Terrill of AP/Los Angeles.

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 29th day of October 2020,

"The huge headline in the LA Times World Series section today was "Blue Heaven," and that's where I'm sure Sue was watching from."

Our colleague **Linda Deutsch** referred to her former Los Angeles bureau colleague **Sue Manning**, who died in 2016 and whose cutout at Dodger Stadium this baseball season witnessed the Dodgers' pennant run from left field.

The cutouts of Dodgers fans – created at this and other ball parks because covid precautions did not allow for spectators - raised \$1.9 million for boys and girls charities. AP/LA raised more than enough to buy a cutout for Sue and add a donation to the AP employees assistance fund.

One of Sue's closest friends, retired newsman **Jeff Wilson**, brings the story to Connecting colleagues in today's edition.

A GOOD LUCK CHARM?

Speaking of the Dodgers' World Series victory, **Kristine Beardsley**, goddaughter to Linda and me and an FBI agent in Los Angeles, shared this:

Moved to Chicago in Jan 2015. Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup. In 2016, Chicago Cubs break a 71-year curse and win the World Series.

In May 2018, I move to Washington DC. The Capitals win the Stanley Cup (first time ever). The next year in 2019 the Nats win the World Series, and Mystics are WNBA champions.

In August 2020, I move to LA. Any guesses what happened next?? Go Lakers! Go Dodgers!

Got a failing sports franchise in your city? Call Kris!

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In a lead story today, our colleague **Valerie Komor** reminds us of the origins of The Associated Press. Know your history!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Winning a pennant for Sue



Photo above of Sue in 2017 at Griffith Park Observatory with her beloved Los Angeles in the background. By Rachel Ambrose. Photo at right of Sue and Vin Scully, by Reed Saxon.

Jeff Wilson (Email) - The late Sue Manning loved many things: the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Los Angeles Lakers, garage sales, critters, Diet Coke and bacon.

She gushed about Kobe Bryant.

But it was Dodger Blue that ran through her veins. She lit up with a big smile when she heard, "It's time for Dodger baseball," uttered before each game by Dodgers announcer Vin Scully. A huge thrill for her was meeting Scully shortly before her death.



On opening day each year, Los Angeles bureau den mother Sue organized a Los Angeles bureau hot dog feast, dispatching staffers to Costco for ballpark dogs, buns, mustard, relish, catsup and potato chips.

Dressed in her blue Dodgers blouse, Sue brought Cracker Jack caramel popcorn and peanuts, then waited eagerly on the office balcony for the stadium Air Force flyby,

which soared over the AP offices after the nearby Elysian Park sortie.

On her way to work before dawn, Sue's Glendale-to-downtown route took her through Elysian Park. She said it was easier. But it was long suspected it was her chance to see Dodger Stadium, an elixir before the drama of another news day.

AP staffers pooled money to get Sue a fan cardboard cutout, which was placed in the left field stands. It wasn't clear if a foul ball smacked that Sue cutout, but she would have gotten a thrill out of it if it did.

Sue would have stewed over the two World Series cheating scandals that robbed the Dodgers of a championship several years ago. But the world championship in 2020 would have erased those events.

How the Mexican-American war gave birth to a news-gathering institution



(EDITOR'S NOTE: Recent issues of Connecting have dealt with the end of AP news delivery by Pony Express and the move to telegraphic delivery. Valerie Komor, AP's director of Corporate Archives, wrote this story in 2015 for [Zocalo Public Square.](#))

By **VALERIE S. KOMOR**

When Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States during 1831 and 1832, he was struck by the fact that the young republic had no overpowering metropolis, that “the intelligence and the power of the people are disseminated through all the parts of this vast country.” While New York City was the hotbed of innovative newspapering, much of that innovation was in the service of disseminating the news to the broadest possible audience. The New York Sun, established by Benjamin Day in 1833, led the field in innovation. Eager to sell papers during a severe banking crisis, Day priced the Sun at one penny and outsold his rivals. He hired reporters rather than relying on his readers for news, as had been the common practice. But it was the far-sighted business plan of his successor, Moses Yale Beach, which would truly revolutionize the distribution of news.

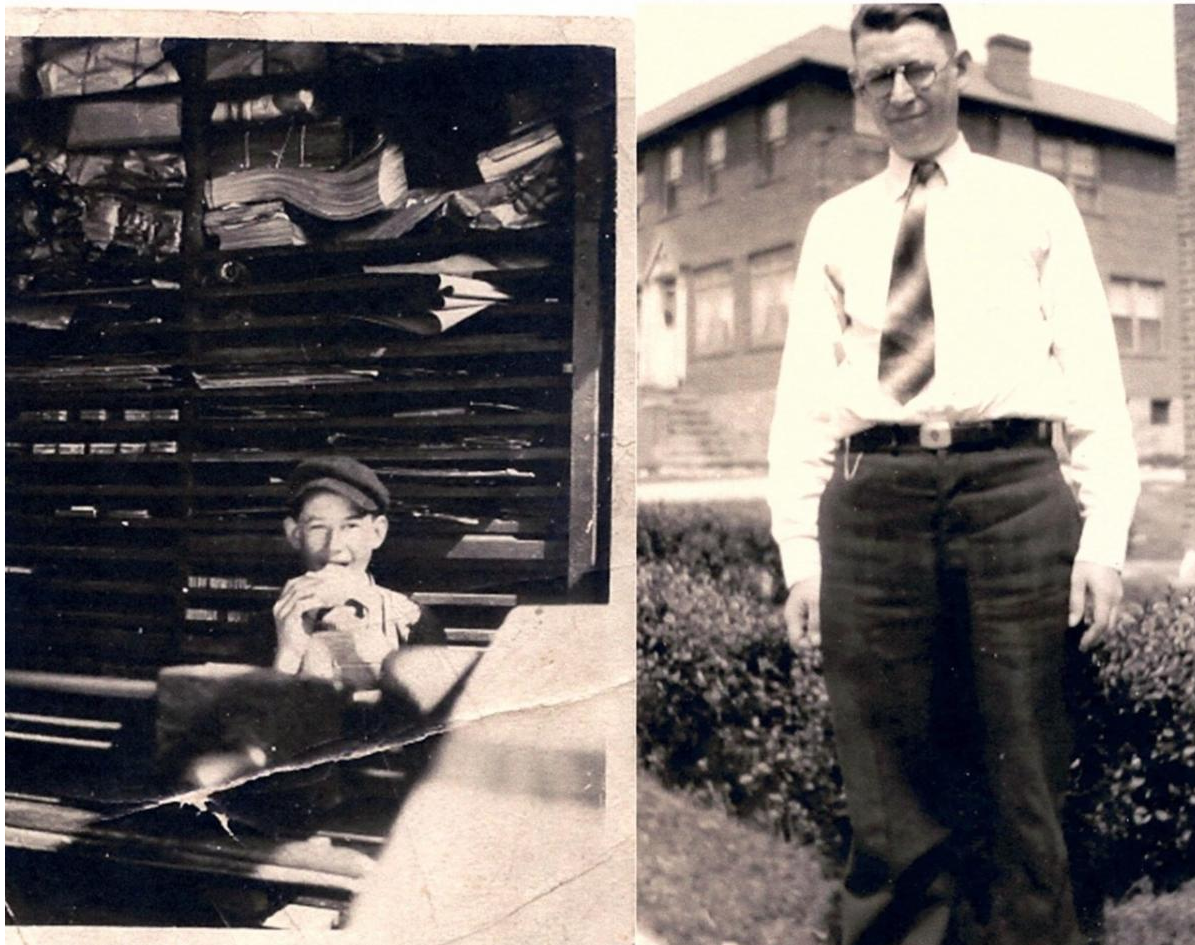
Before Samuel Morse received his first patent for the electro-magnetic telegraph in 1840, news traveled as quickly as the swiftest horse, boat, or carrier pigeon. Foreign news, printed in foreign newspapers, was collected by agents in rowboats who met ships at Halifax, Boston, and New York. Regional news, which might include election results, presidential messages, or official pronouncements, traveled in a variety of ingenious ways. In 1843, the printers of the Sun waited aboard a steamboat for the text of the governor’s New Year’s message. When it arrived by rail from Albany at Piermont in Rockland County, the printers set up type on the boat as they headed down river to New York City. The next day, the Sun proclaimed: “By the Sun’s Exclusive Express. From Albany Through by Horse and Sleigh in 10 Hours and ½.”

As the telegraph expanded up and down the East Coast in the spring of 1846, Beach saw an opportunity to hasten the arrival of the latest news of the ongoing war with Mexico by combining the pony express, the U.S. mail coach, and the telegraph. The dispatches originated in the Mexican port of Veracruz, crossed the Gulf of Mexico by boat, and landed at Mobile, Alabama, where Beach employed an express rider to beat the mail to Montgomery. There, the news rejoined the mail for the journey to Richmond, the closest telegraph head, and was put on the wire. Beach did not pay his riders unless they gained a 24-hour edge over the mail. His greatest innovation was offering an equal share in the venture to other New York City dailies, his newspaper rivals. Four papers accepted: The Courier and Enquirer, The Journal of Commerce, The Express, and The Herald. With the Sun, they were soon referred to as “the associated press of this city.”

Thus was born the Associated Press, a uniquely American institution, at once a business and a public trust...

Read more [here](#).

Dit Dit Dit, Dah Dah Dah, Dit Dit Dit



My dad Walter (Eddie) Herrick (two pix combo) , left eating sandwich as a 16-year-old telegrapher with the railroad in Pittsburgh, PA. (about 1915). At right is Dad holding me about 1927.

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - If you are old enough, were a Boy Scout, a ship's captain, were in railroad communications, or in newspaper communications, you will recognize Dit Dit Dit, Dah Dah Dah, Dit Dit Dit as the call for help in the world of telegraphy.

Following up on Paul Albright's story in Connecting yesterday, I would like to personalize that era with a story about my father, Walter (Eddie) Herrick, who was born in 1999, and started out in Columbus, Ohio. Albright's story was about the beginning of the historic communications tool – the telegraph.

Dad started out as a telegrapher when he was 16 while working for the railroad in Pittsburg, Pa.



He returned to Columbus and went to work for The Associated Press as a telegrapher, and then Traffic Department Representative (Later call Traffic Bureau Chief). He later was transferred to Cleveland as TDR, where he also did some telegraphy, especially when he “Covered a few Cleveland Indians baseball games played elsewhere. He used the “Bug” to send, but listened to the senders abbreviated play-by-play Morse code signals. Maybe like receiving an “S,” which represented a strike, and “B” for ball, etc. Dad would then broadcast something like this: “Joe Blow swung hard, but missed the ball for a strike.” This abbreviated Morse Code sending, and Dad’s making a full a sentence out of one alphabetic letter was amazing at the time. They would do a whole game that way.

The internet describes the new and popular key called the “Bug.”

“A popular side-to-side key is the semi-automatic key or *bug*, sometimes known as a Vibroplex key, after the company that first manufactured them. The original *bugs* were fully mechanical, based on a kind of simple clockwork mechanism, and required no electronic keyer. When the paddle is pressed to the left it makes a continuous contact suitable for sending dashes (or *dahs*, as most operators call them). When the paddle is pressed to the right, it kicks a horizontal pendulum which then rocks against the contact points, sending a series of short pulses (*dits*) at a speed which is controlled by the position of the pendulum’s weight. A skilled operator can achieve sending speeds in excess of 40 words per minute with a ‘*bug*.’”

I had a little experience with telegraphy while working in Cleveland in 1946. One night, working in our office at the Cleveland Plain Dealer, I headed across the City Room, passing through the paper’s telegraph office, and whistling up a storm. An old time telegrapher (The paper still used telegraph to receive some of its stories), politely admonished me for whistling there because the two sounds – telegraph signal and whistling, blended and made it very difficult for them to decipher the signals.

(30)

Election memories from Alabama, Florida

Kendal Weaver ([Email](#)) - One of the worst things that can happen to an AP staff is to call a big election — and then have to rescind the call. That happened to me, Montgomery political reporter Phillip Rawls and AP nationally when we called the Alabama governor’s race in November 2002.

With the go-ahead from Atlanta Chief of Bureau Gary Clark and the election team in Washington (where former Montgomery AP staffer David Pace was the vote tabulation overseer), we called the governor’s race for the Democratic incumbent, Don Siegelman, when 100 percent of the precincts reported and showed him ahead of Republican challenger Bob Riley by about 3,100 votes out of some 1.3 million cast. The last county to report, Baldwin County, put Siegelman over the top narrowly. Shortly after AP made the call, however, Baldwin County changed its vote totals,

dropping Siegelman's count and putting Riley in front statewide, also by about 3,100 votes. Both candidates were declaring victory. AP had to do something.

Rawls saved the day by quickly making calls to Baldwin County, finding out the local vote officials said they had made a mistake initially — and dictating a bulletin lede that said there was no winner as both candidates were declaring victory while Baldwin County was trying to figure out and explain what happened. [Here's](#) the eventual writethru Phil wrote.

While the computerized tally reflected the switch from “called” back to no winner, the print version was handled with Phil's updated bulletin material and no elimination or corrective (as best I recall). In the end, Riley was certified the winner.

Two years earlier, my other memorable election was the one many AP staffers have noted: the 2000 Florida Recount. I arrived between stints by Dan Sewell and James Martinez as an editor in Tallahassee working with Brent Kallestad, his staff and several AP writers, photographers and broadcasters brought in for the long haul. The two-shift and more workdays were among the most exhausting that I experienced in my 40-year AP career. In fact, so exhausting that I fell ill after barely a week and had to go back to Montgomery to see a doctor.

When I returned to the office, Birmingham Correspondent Jay Reeves told me his Florida Recount experience was a lot different: He was flown to a Gulf Coast county to cover a vote retabulation and had time to walk the beach, enjoy the surf, a cold drink, seafood, a night's rest — and then told the next day to go back to Birmingham because the Florida county's vote recalculation had been postponed. Instead of exhaustion, he might have gotten a bit of a tan.

The next year I got a call from Mike Silverman, who informed me I was part of the AP team that was picked as a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. When I hung up, I quickly called Jay Reeves and told him that I had been part of the AP team honored as a finalist for the Pulitzer.

Jay replied: “I was, too.”

Connecting mailbox

Felt lucky to have met Horst Faas

Wendy Davis Beard ([Email](#)) - Thank you for sharing the great piece on Horst Faas by José Manuel Serrano Esparza in the Leica Barneck Berek Blog. I mistakenly thought I was familiar with most of his great images, but this post reveals there are probably many more amazing images on his contact sheets than I've ever seen.

I consider myself lucky to have met this remarkable photojournalist on several occasions, first in the AP photo library of 50 Rock where his long term friend and sometime manager Joan Carney who had also assisted Eddie Adams- ruled the roost. I would see him several times in passing once I moved to the editor's desk on the fourth floor and then more regularly over the course of the LA Olympics when we both worked for the International Olympic photo pool (known as loop). At some point my good friend and AP Olympic Photo coverage manager extraordinaire, Brian Horton, told me what an interesting man Horst was outside of work and how he collected art on his travels all over the world. So I extended him an invitation to tea in London with my husband (an artist) and I in London in an apartment overlooking the Thames. He entered pushing his bicycle still wearing his bicycle helmet and casual clothes the afternoon before the massive record breaking demonstration against the Iraq war, which seemed to prompt a candid conversation about the editorial pressures sometimes brought to bear on wartime editors.

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Five Star Final

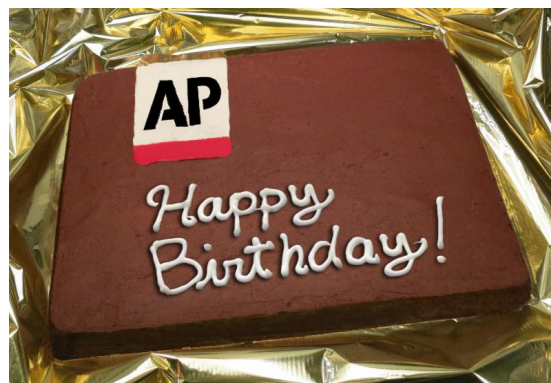
Larry Margasak ([Email](#)) - I recently watched Five Star Final, a 1931 film about a newspaper that was willing to ruin reputations to increase circulation. Edward G. Robinson, the managing editor who eventually felt guilty about what the paper was doing, had this exchange with the publisher.

Publisher: "It seems to me that editors put themselves on a pedestal over their readers."

Robinson (managing editor): "If I sat on a cigar box, I'd be above our readers."

Also Boris Karloff is one of the reporters. Talks just like Frankenstein.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Warren Lerude – wlerude@unr.edu

Stories of interest

Trailblazers of Light



The Denver Post, first female staff photojournalists: Olivia Fall Edwards, 1969; Jodi Cobb, 1974; Lynn Alweis, 1977; Susan Biddle, 1983.



Anja Niedringhaus at an exhibition of her work in Berlin in 2011. Photograph: Markus Schreiber/AP

This timeline is a record of the earliest working women in photojournalism and highlights some of the poignant moments. It lists the first female photojournalists at large metro newspapers and wire services, directors of photography and a few early photo agency photojournalists. Also included are photographs and quotes by these women that help to illuminate their experiences in the field. This record aims to teach new photographers about the pioneers who paved the way. It is not intended to be a comprehensive description of the work of these photojournalists, but rather a starting point for further research.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cliff Schiappa.

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The Media's Hunter Biden Conundrum (New York Times)

By ROSS DOUTHAT

The 2020 presidential contest has been surrounded by dramatic events, by plague, protest and economic collapse, but as a campaign it's been remarkably devoid of twists and turns. The polling has been mostly stable, the challenger has run the virtual equivalent of a front-porch campaign and mostly suppressed his own pugilistic instincts, and the incumbent has been unsurprisingly himself.

Which makes it fitting, maybe, that the most interesting controversy of the campaign's final week is a news media meta argument about how a story should be covered. That

story is based on the claims of Tony Bobulinski, a former business associate of Hunter Biden and James Biden, respectively Joe Biden's son and brother, and on a trove of emails and text messages of uncertain provenance. There are new details about the son and brother's attempts to cut deals in China based on their family brand, but the key allegation is that Joe Biden himself was pulled into his son's Chinese negotiations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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In defense of the newspaper endorsement (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

OVER THE WEEKEND, the Union Leader, a newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire, endorsed Joe Biden for president. "We have found Mr. Biden to be a caring, compassionate and professional public servant," an editorial in the paper read; President Trump, by contrast, "is not always 100 percent wrong, but he is 100 percent wrong for America." There's nothing remarkable in these words, but there was something remarkable about the source: the editorial line of the Union Leader has long skewed highly conservative. (Hunter S. Thompson once called it "America's worst newspaper.") National outlets covered the endorsement as a story in its own right, and it drove stunned chatter on Twitter. CNN's Jake Tapper posted a gif of hell freezing over. USA Today's Susan Page asked when the Union Leader last endorsed a Democrat for president. Joe McQuaid, its former publisher, said it may have happened in 1912.

The endorsement seemed to be taken as a sign of the times—one more unprecedented rebuke of Trump and his flailing campaign. In late September, the editorial board of the Chicago Tribune—which, like the Union Leader, supported the Libertarian candidate, Gary Johnson, in 2016—endorsed Biden; over the weekend, so did the Topeka Capital-Journal, in Kansas, which plumped for Trump in 2016. (It has changed owners since then.) Last week, USA Today, which has never before endorsed a presidential candidate, broke that tradition to support Biden; in another first, El Nuevo Día, a leading newspaper in Puerto Rico, endorsed Biden's plan for the territory. With the pandemic looming over the election, Scientific American said that it "felt compelled" to endorse Biden, having never before backed a presidential candidate, and the New England Journal of Medicine, a world-leading medical publication, effectively did likewise, urging its readers to kick out America's "current political leaders." The Lancet, a British medical journal that I profiled recently for CJR, made a similar call back in May. And liberal-leaning publications that you'd expect to back Biden have done so with added urgency. Trump, the editors of The Atlantic wrote last week, "is a clear and continuing danger" and "it does not seem likely that our country would be able to emerge whole from four more years of his misrule."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Arrest made in 2008 kidnapping of journalists in Afghanistan (AP)

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

NEW YORK (AP) — An Afghan man has been brought to the United States to face charges in the 2008 gunpoint kidnapping of a journalist for The New York Times, an Afghan journalist and a driver in Afghanistan, federal authorities announced Wednesday.

The charges against Haji Najibullah, 42, were in a six-count indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court.

He briefly appeared at a hearing conducted electronically because of the coronavirus, where a U.S. magistrate judge ordered him detained after his court-appointed lawyer, Mark Gombiner, declined to seek bail. Gombiner did not respond to a message seeking comment.

A prosecutor said Najibullah was brought from Ukraine to the United States on Tuesday to face charges including hostage taking, conspiracy and kidnapping. Authorities did not say where or when he was first arrested, but in a release they thanked Ukrainian authorities for help in his arrest and transfer. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

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

Today in History - October 29, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 29, the 303rd day of 2020. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday" descended upon the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid panic selling and thousands of investors were wiped out as America's "Great Depression" began.

On this date:

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1940, a blindfolded Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number [-] 158 [-] from a glass bowl in America's first peacetime military draft.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1967, Expo 67 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, closed after six months.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1994, gunman Francisco Martin Duran fired more than two dozen shots from a semiautomatic rifle at the White House. (Duran was later convicted of trying to assassinate President Bill Clinton and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.)

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2004, four days before Election Day in the U.S., Osama bin Laden, in a videotaped statement, directly admitted for the first time that he'd ordered the September 11 attacks and told Americans "the best way to avoid another Manhattan" was to stop threatening Muslims' security.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy slammed ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath were blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

In 2017, all but 10 members of the Houston Texans took a knee during the national anthem, reacting to a remark from team owner Bob McNair to other NFL owners that “we can’t have the inmates running the prison.”

In 2018, a new-generation Boeing jet operated by the Indonesian budget airline Lion Air crashed in the Java Sea minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board; it was the first of two deadly crashes involving the 737 Max, causing the plane to be grounded around the world as Boeing worked on software changes to a flight-control system.

Ten years ago: Authorities on three continents said they had thwarted multiple terrorist attacks aimed at the United States, seizing two explosive packages addressed to Chicago-area synagogues and packed aboard cargo jets from Yemen.

Five years ago: Paul Ryan was elected the 54th speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Owen Labrie, a graduate of the exclusive St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire, was sentenced to a year in jail for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old freshman girl as part of a competition among upperclassmen to rack up sexual conquests. Florida executed Jerry Correll nearly three decades after he was convicted of fatally stabbing his ex-wife, young daughter and two in-laws. China said it would allow all married couples to have two children, signaling the end after 35 years to its drastic and unpopular “one-child” policy. American Simone Biles won her third straight world gymnastics title at the competition in Glasgow, Scotland.

One year ago: Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, an Army officer serving with President Donald Trump’s National Security Council, defied White House orders and testified to impeachment investigators that he had twice raised concerns over the administration’s push to have Ukraine investigate Democrats and Joe Biden. (Following the Senate’s acquittal vote, Vindman was reassigned from the NSC; his twin brother, an NSC lawyer, was pushed out with him.) Masked gunmen opened fire at Iraqi protesters in the Shiite holy city of Karbala; security officials said 18 people were killed and hundreds wounded. The NCAA took a major step toward letting college athletes cash in on their fame, voting to permit them to “benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness.”

Today’s Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 83. Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 82. Country singer Lee Clayton is 78. Rock musician Denny Laine is 76. Singer Melba Moore is 75. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 73. Actor Kate Jackson is 72. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 64. Actor Dan Castellana (TV: “The Simpsons”) is 63. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson (“Ziggy”) is 63. Actor Finola Hughes is 61. Singer Randy Jackson is 59. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 55. Actor Joely Fisher is 53. Rapper Paris is 53. Actor Rufus Sewell is 53. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-KOOCH’) is 52. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 51. Actor Winona Ryder is 49. Actor Tracee Ellis Ross is 48. Actor Gabrielle Union is 48. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 47. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 47. Actor Milena Govich is 44. Actor Jon Abrahams is 43. Actor Brendan Fehr is 43. Actor Ben Foster is 40. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 36. Actor Janet Montgomery is 35. Actor India Eisley 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.**



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