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Connecting

November 05, 2021

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Colleagues,

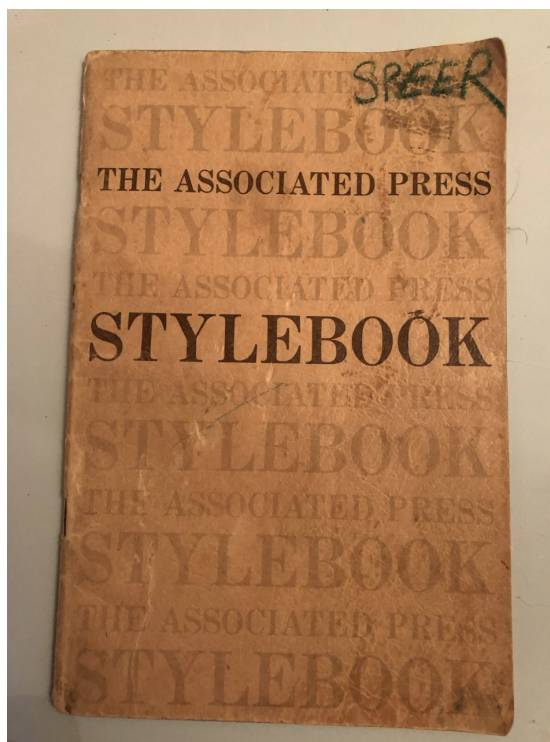
Good Friday morning on this Nov. 5, 2021,

The AP Stylebook has been a theme of the past couple issues, and our colleague **David Speer (Email)** wrote to share an image of his favorite Stylebook - one he got in college and that he kept on his desk "wherever I was for just about all of my career."

"This is the revised edition from 1970," he said, "with my name on the front in big letters so it wouldn't get 'mislaid' on someone else's desk in a busy newsroom. As you can see, it's in crayon for some unknown reason."

"On the inside front cover, I stuck an 'Ernie Pyle, Journalist' stamp at some point because, well, because it was Ernie Pyle. On the fourth page is a note from (General Manager) Wes Gallagher printed in the book stating that "more than a quarter of a million copies" of the Stylebook had been distributed at that point.

As I said above, this little book has been a touchstone of my career through three



newspapers, four AP postings, magazines and back to my beloved university.

Colleague **Ray Newton** ([Email](#)) has also saved old Stylebooks.

“I yet have my revised edition-1970 AP Stylebook—all 52 pages of it,” he wrote. “I also have my Broadcast News Stylebook (when I was working for CBS). And many more afterward. They are prized in my library of journalism books.

“When I was chair and dean of journalism-mass comm at NAU (Northern Arizona University), we had the practice of classes and weekly tests about the content of the AP Stylebook in our editing classes. Students had to pass those tests to pass the course. Sometimes, it didn’t take long for some students to decide another curriculum might be more prudent.”

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Hard lessons, realities learned in campaigning for school board



Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - I was handing out Halloween candy and campaign literature to small goblins and their parents last week at a “trunk or treat” festival on Ruidoso’s main street when a small frowning woman in a

rumpled jacket and slacks accosted me.

“I just have one question for you,” she said. “Are you for or against CRT?”

She didn’t wait for an answer.

“We gotta keep that s**t out of our schools,” she said, “and I can tell you won’t. You’re s**t.” And she stalked off.



I asked the small group of schoolteachers who were helping me feed the candy train if they’d heard the exchange. They had but kept shoveling Snickers bites into the passing plastic pumpkin buckets. “She’s nothing,” one of them told me. “Shake it off.”

But the woman wasn’t “nothing.”

Crude, angry and almost certainly clueless as to exactly what CRT is and why it should be unfit for classroom consumption, she was the face and voice of the electoral majority last Tuesday that rejected my bid for a seat on the Ruidoso (N.M.) school board.

Mine wasn’t the only candidacy on Nov. 2 that foundered on the righteous anger of conservatives over critical race theory, a large body of scholarship and commentary on the origins of racism and its ongoing effects on societies, legal systems and economies.

Republican strategists used that anger in combination with even greater parental fury over school mask mandates to flip Virginia’s governorship from blue to red and disrupt school board election campaigns from coast to coast.

In a normal pre-Covid year I should have been a shoo-in for a school board seat here. Although I’m a registered Democrat in a heavily Republican county, school board elections in New Mexico are non-partisan. I have lots of relevant professional experience, a long local track record of visible hands-on volunteer service, and a child in the school system.

When we lived in New York, I was board president of the corporation that owned our cooperative apartment development, a 23-acre 1,300-unit complex with three 20-story towers, health club and Olympic-size pool. Its operating budget at the time was \$14 million.

Little did I know when I declared for the school board race in September that none of that would matter at all. The CRT pot was already simmering on social media.

Some parents had noticed that new social studies standards being drafted by the state Public Education Department seemed to include CRT themes. A few said they were sure from anecdotes circulating on Facebook that it was already being taught in Ruidoso. There was rising fear that students were being indoctrinated with liberal

ideas about social justice. White students were being made to feel guilty. Black students were being taught to think of themselves as victims.

The two moderate board members and the district superintendent insisted that state law puts curriculum development entirely in PED hands. They also denied CRT was being taught in Ruidoso. But the protesters didn't buy it, and growing pressure forced the topic onto the board's October meeting agenda.

At the meeting, the moderate board members stood their ground. CRT posed no real threat to Ruidoso school children and in any event curricula are determined by the state. But I was starting to doubt as a candidate that I could afford to dismiss the issue and stick to my platform of teacher retention, fighting enrollment decline, creating stronger programs to support low-income families and other business-as-usual topics.

Then two things happened which removed all doubt that this would not be a business-as-usual election. Lincoln County Republicans endorsed my opponent. Then they circulated an email to members, denouncing me in harsh partisan terms as a "known progressive" who would follow any mandate or curriculum imposed by the liberal state bureaucracy in Santa Fe.

They had an ideal standard bearer in my opponent, Vicki Lynn Porter. She's a retired accountant for a grocery wholesaler who moved here last year from Iowa to care for her ailing mother. She drew wider conservative attention when she joined an anti-mask protest in September.

But her biggest right-wing calling card is that she offers herself as a "constitutional coach," certified by the Patriot Academy, which teaches a view of American history developed by pseudo-historian and evangelist David Barton. Our newest school board member presents videos at a local community center by a Barton acolyte named Rick Green, then leads discussions in which participants match language in the Constitution with biblical passages.

"I want our kids to know the truth about our country," she said in both of the radio interviews where we were interviewed together.

I put up a position paper on my campaign Facebook page that promised to leverage the board's limited policy-making authority on curriculum and classroom teaching to demand clarity from PED on its goals for the new social studies standards and hold a local forum so concerned parents could inform themselves on CRT.

I also promised that if parents remained troubled, the board could enlist help from our legislative delegation, like minded boards in other districts, and the state school boards association in pushing back against any PED overreaching.

Finally, I dug up a strong existing policy in the board's neglected policy manual sets out rules for teaching controversial topics in a non-political, even-handed way. I argued that the board does have authority to intervene if parents complain their children are being indoctrinated or abused.

But the anti-CRT frenzy was too far gone for this sort of moderate, due process approach to get any traction with conservative agitators, who were too busy on social

media decrying PED tyranny and urging each other to vote for Ms. Porter. I could count on Democrats and a large majority of teachers, but it wasn't enough.

I lost the election 426 to 383. The 809-vote total was 11 percent of the school district's registered voters. So nearly nine voters out of ten didn't think filling a school board seat was nearly as important as we did.

And more than half of those who did consider it important believed electing someone qualified to help run the \$20 million operation that teaches, shelters, transports, and feeds 1,900 children mattered less than sending a message to the tyrannical state that they resent being told how to protect their health and think about their country's history.

Helping a medical transplant team 'snatch organs'

Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - You've asked for accounts of unusual AP story assignments, so I thought I might share the time I helped a medical transplant team "snatch organs" from a brain-dead teen-aged girl.

Your Connecting readers may be interested that the key figure in this story is Dr. Thomas Starzl, who was the nephew of former AP General Manager Frank Starzel. Dr. Starzl is also the doctor who performed kidney transplant surgery on the late AP executive Burl Osborne.

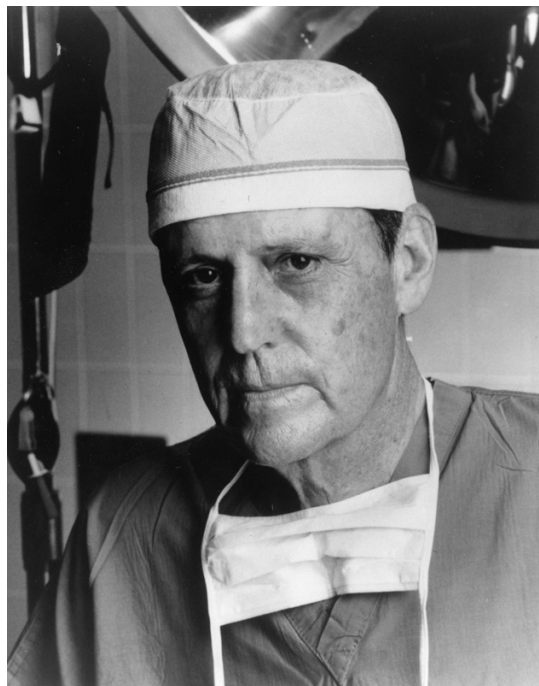
Starzl performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful liver transplant in 1967.

Despite his connections to the AP (and the media; his father published a weekly newspaper in LeMars Iowa), Starzl refused almost all media interview requests.

I wrote a series of articles about Starzl's transplant program at the University of Colorado Medical Center when I was a reporter at the Rocky Mountain News. I interviewed patients and other doctors, but Starzl declined my requests to meet.

I was told later, Starzl liked my stories in the Rocky, and that led to him agreeing to meet with me after I joined the AP.

I was working in the Chicago bureau in 1978 when a teen-aged girl from Illinois had to be taken to Denver for a possible liver transplant. At the time, Starzl was the only



doctor in the world performing liver transplants.

I wrote him and asked if I could meet with him to talk about this new teen-age patient, and his program in general.

I got a letter back from Starzl, and he said he'd be "happy to meet with you."

I called Burl (he was managing editor at the time) and told him about Starzl's letter.

Burl said, "Get on the next plane to Denver."

When I showed up at 9 a.m. for my scheduled appointment, Starzl had forgotten I was coming. But he was gracious and led me on a tour of his department, and introduced me to several of his patients. He left me alone to visit with the patients.

At about 10:30 a.m., the intercom blared: "Marc Wilson please report to Dr. Starzl's office." I was quite certain that I was going to be evicted from the hospital for some reason.

But when I got to his office, Starzl said, "We're flying to Grand Junction to snatch organs. Would you like to go?"

Four of us flew to Grand Junction – Starzl, Dr. Charles Halgrimson and a medical aide, Paul (I've forgotten his last name).

We went to St. Mary's Hospital where we learned that a 16-year-old girl (Candy L.) had been sitting on the hood of her boyfriend's car when he backed up. She fell off, landed on her head and was declared brain dead upon arrival at the hospital.

"How are you around blood?" Starzl asked me.

"OK, I guess."

"Then scrub up. I'm going to need your help. We're short-handed. This should help your story."

I was stunned.

After double- and triple-checking that he wanted me to scrub up, I did so.

As we entered the operating room, Candy was laid out on the operating table.

She looked alive.

When I first saw her she looked 100 percent alive, but I was told only the respirator was keeping her organs alive and functioning well.

Paul squeezed her thumb. It went white, then quickly returned to red when he released pressure.

"Great!" he said, "she still has excellent circulation."

“Can you handle the lights?” Starzl asked me.

I realized he wanted me to point the lights on Candy’s organs.

I paused then nodded.

Starzl and Halgrimson harvested Candy’s two kidneys, her liver and her pancreas. As he cut, Halgrimson chatted about the recently released movie, Coma.

“Please don’t tell anyone that I’m working on pancreas transplants,” Starzl told me. “If word gets out I’ll have thousands of diabetics knocking at my door.”

We were finished in less than two hours.

“OK,” Halgrimson said to me, “We’re done. Turn off the ventilator.”

I was speechless, but shook my head. So, the aide, Paul, came over and shut off the ventilator. That time was listed as Candy’s time of death.

When we cleaned up after the surgery, Starzl picked up a stack of surgical hats.

“These are the best surgical hats made,” he said. “They (Colorado General) won’t order them for me.”

He opened my leather briefcase and slid the entire stack of hats inside. I was startled, but went along with the theft.

Each of the four of us carried a small cooler on the plane back to Denver. I don’t know what organ I carried.

We got back to Colorado General about 11 p.m.

Starzl asked me to help him bring a patient from the transplant ward to the operating room in the basement of Colorado General. As I remember, one orderly helped us move a patient on to a gurney and push it down the hallway to the elevator and down to the surgery unit.

“This one is a kidney transplant,” Starzl said. He was upset that the patient who could use Cindy’s liver couldn’t – or wouldn’t – travel from Wyoming to Denver in time for a transplant.

Cindy’s liver went to waste.

Starzl and a small team of nurses completed the first kidney transplant at about 5 a.m.

I told Starzl I was exhausted and had to leave. He said he was going to do a second kidney transplant.

I returned to the hospital at about 11 a.m., and found Starzl sitting on the steps of the hospital eating an orange.

“Are you going to get any rest?” I asked him, knowing he’d been up at least 26 hours.

“No, I have to go to Boulder today to be an expert witness in a trial,” he answered.












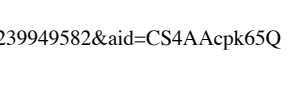
“Then I have another surgery scheduled for tonight.”

We stayed in contact over the years.

He died at age 90 on March 4, 2017, in Pittsburgh.

I can still picture him sitting on the steps eating an orange like he was an ordinary human being.

Use of out-of-context photos

	<h3>Teen killed in</h3>		<h3>Man accused boy</h3>
	<p>November 3, 2021, 2:35pm Cl</p>		<p>October 25, 2021, 6:16pm Cl</p>
	<p>A teenage boy was killed and then a tree and caught</p>		<h3>Man injured</h3>
	<h3>Camas police</h3>		<p>October 21, 2021, 3:15pm Cl</p>
	<p>November 2, 2021, 1:31pm Cl</p>		<h3>Man arrested</h3>
	<p>Several people police beat in Oregon. Read story ></p>		<p>October 21, 2021, 2:28pm Cl</p>
	<h3>Vancouver po</h3>		<p>A Vancouver woman wa</p>
	<p>October 31, 2021, 12:15pm Cl</p>		<h3>Man arrested</h3>
	<h3>Man accused</h3>		<p>October 19, 2021, 3:04pm Cl</p>
	<p>October 29, 2021, 6:40pm Cl</p>		<h3>Man hurt in</h3>
	<p>A man accused in a robbery at the Vancouver Police De</p>		<h3>Man hurt in</h3>
	<h3>Fire officials</h3>		<p>October 16, 2021, 7:14am Cl</p>
	<p>October 27, 2021, 4:33pm Cl</p>		<p>A man was shot in the le</p>
	<p>Fire officials say a woman was killed. When she rushed to the</p>		

Ten generic iStock.com photos are used over and over again on nearly a daily basis on a paper’s website during the past three weeks to illustrate unrelated news stories.

Doug Pizac (Email) – In Thursday's Connecting was a NiemanLab story about Adobe and several news organizations (papers and wire service) "working on a new tool that could identify a photo's origin -- and combat misinformation." It used a photo on Twitter as "not the first time an out-of-context photo has been repurposed to fit a political narrative and given how cheap and effective the misinformation tactic can be...." It goes on about news consumers being able to see the relevant information of a photo without having to do reverse image searches.

But there is another side to this that needs serious consideration too that may be more damning than political narratives.

While this ability gives the reader a method to verify an image's truthfulness and can do the same for media companies licensing photos, where is the conversation about mainstream and legitimate news sources that intentionally use out-of-context photos anyway as cheap alternatives to producing or using original work? What about the responsibility to present truthfulness as an overall package instead of just within the story itself?

I've never come across a mainstream editor who would even consider inserting a non-context quote or facts into a story just to spice it up, yet more and more mainstream publications and especially TV stations have no problem in using out-of-context imagery to illustrate a story -- especially on their websites.

For example, several years ago I saw a story about a woman being attacked by a grizzly in California which ran on a mainstream media's website with a stock picture of a black bear in Georgia -- wrong species in another state. Another was a story elsewhere about a military-type drone bombing a target in the Middle East and the photo was of a DJI hobby drone people use to shoot real estate aerials, weddings and recreational outings. The most common uses I see is the same royalty-free stock photos of lit emergency lights atop a police car for a news story over and over again; sometimes on a daily basis.

The bigger problem I see is while there is concern about misleading photos -- and there should be -- there doesn't seem to be a problem in using photos as commodities where they are continuously recycled for the purpose of adding eye candy to legitimate news stories.

And I see this tending to grow as more and more staffs are reduced to save money. Over the past many years all of us have seen newspapers skeletonized. Papers that used to have six to a dozen staff photographers now have one or two; some none. Without fresh original visual art the use of generic stock photography naturally goes up because it is so much cheaper (versus political narrative).

So while the development of this new technology may help solidify the visual integrity of an image, it still won't do a bit of good toward the growing trend of photos being used in out-of-context ways when it comes to economic priorities and/or the associated lowering of professional, ethical and moral standards.

Rappelling to assist veterans



Photo courtesy of Homes 4 Families

By **ALLISON GATLIN**
Antelope Valley Press
Palmdale, California

A former Army paratrooper, Dennis Anderson has plenty of experience with being suspended from towering heights, jumping from perfectly good airplanes some 125 times over the years.

That experience, however, did not entirely prepare him for his latest adventure, rappelling 25 stories down the side of the Hilton Universal hotel, on Saturday, part of a fundraising effort in support of the Homes 4 Vets project under development in Palmdale.

“In a spooky sort of way, it looks much more dangerous than it is,” he said, Tuesday.

Anderson’s trek down the side of the hotel was one of 40 made that day, Stacey Chiang of Homes 4 Families/Homes 4 Vets said.

The event, the fourth time the organization has held it, raised a record \$125,000 and counting for the project, she said.

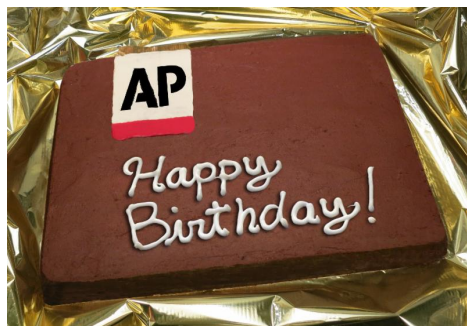
Read more [here](#). Dennis Anderson is a Connecting colleague and a former AP newsman.

Connecting reunion in the Big Easy



Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - Greetings from New Orleans where retired Louisiana photographer Bill Haber and former photo editor Robert Meyers shared a great lunch in an iconic restaurant Thursday.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Darrell Condon – darrellcondon@gmail.com

Bobby Ross - bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Amy Sancetta – james4ellie@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Gene Baker – bean@ctel.net

Stories of interest

Don't read the comments? For news sites, it might be worth the effort. (Poynter)

By: Elizabeth Djinis

At their worst, the comment sections of media sites are a hellscape representing everything that's wrong with the internet. There's a reason "Don't read the comments" has become memorialized in the public consciousness as a widely-shared meme.

But what happens when that online dictum translates to actual, offline behavior? Multiple newsrooms in the last few years have reduced their online commenting abilities or gotten rid of them altogether. The Philadelphia Inquirer opted to remove comments from most stories in February 2021. NJ.com eliminated comments a year earlier. Many of the biggest legacy media publications, including National Public Radio, Reuters and CNN, haven't allowed most comments for years.

At the same time, some newspapers temporarily turned off comments only to turn them back on. Larger newspapers like The New York Times have actually invested in

online commenting, even allowing readers and staffers to spotlight top picks.

Is the death of online newspaper comments greatly exaggerated? It largely depends on their function. If the goal is for online comments to serve as the primary form of discourse around an article, rather than social media or even external discussion, it's probably unrealistic. But if the aim is mission-based, that of a newspaper providing a service to their readers, a way for readers to engage with content that at least gives them the appearance of being heard, then online newspaper comments may still have a long future yet.

Read more [here](#).

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US to cover costs for journalists under legal pressure

(France24)

Washington (AFP) – The United States will devote funding to help journalists overseas survive frivolous lawsuits meant to silence them, USAID chief Samantha Power announced Thursday.

In a wide-ranging speech, the US Agency for International Development administrator also promised to increase sharply how much American aid is channelled to local groups, vowing to make such assistance more inclusive and effective.

Power, herself a former reporter, said that President Joe Biden's administration was setting up a "global defamation defense fund" for journalists as part of his democracy promotion agenda.

"We will offer the coverage to survive defamation claims or deter autocrats and oligarchs from trying to sue them out of business in the first place," she said at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

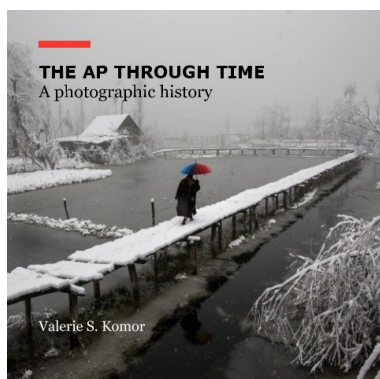
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [Here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

Today in History - Nov. 5, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 5, the 309th day of 2021. There are 56 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 5, 2017, a gunman armed with an assault rifle opened fire in a small South Texas church, killing more than two dozen people; the shooter, Devin Patrick Kelley, was later found dead in a vehicle after he was shot and chased by two men who heard the gunfire. (An autopsy revealed that he died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.)

On this date:

In 1605, the "Gunpowder Plot" failed as Guy Fawkes was seized before he could blow up the English Parliament.

In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony defied the law by attempting to cast a vote for President Ulysses S. Grant. (Anthony was convicted by a judge and fined \$100, but she never paid the penalty.)

In 1912, Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected president, defeating Progressive Party candidate Theodore Roosevelt, incumbent Republican William Howard Taft and Socialist Eugene V. Debs.

In 1935, Parker Brothers began marketing the board game "Monopoly."

In 1968, Republican Richard M. Nixon won the presidency, defeating Democratic Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and American Independent candidate George C. Wallace.

In 1989, death claimed pianist Vladimir Horowitz in New York at age 86 and singer-songwriter Barry Sadler in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, at age 49.

In 1992, Malice Green, a Black motorist, died after he was struck in the head 14 times with a flashlight by a Detroit police officer, Larry Nevers, outside a suspected crack house. (Nevers and his partner, Walter Budzyn, were found guilty of second-degree

murder, but the convictions were overturned; they were later convicted of involuntary manslaughter.)

In 1994, former President Ronald Reagan disclosed he had Alzheimer's disease.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed a bill outlawing the procedure known by its critics as "partial-birth abortion"; less than an hour later, a federal judge in Nebraska issued a temporary restraining order against the ban. (In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.)

In 2006, Saddam Hussein was convicted and sentenced by the Iraqi High Tribunal to hang for crimes against humanity.

In 2007, Hollywood writers began a three-month strike, forcing late-night talk shows to immediately start airing reruns.

In 2009, a shooting rampage at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas left 13 people dead; Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death. (No execution date has been set.)

Ten years ago: Former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, accused of molesting eight boys, was arrested and released on \$100,000 bail after being arraigned on 40 criminal counts. (Sandusky was later convicted and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison for the sexual abuse of 10 boys over a 15-year period.)

Five years ago: Republican Donald Trump vowed to press into Democratic strongholds over the campaign's final days as Hillary Clinton looked to an army of A-list celebrities and politicians to defend her narrowing path to the presidency. Arrogate overhauled pacesetter California Chrome in the final 100 yards in an upset half-length victory in the \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic.

One year ago: With Democrat Joe Biden inching closer to victory, President Donald Trump lashed out in a statement from the White House briefing room, insisting that Democrats were trying to "steal the election" with "illegal votes"; there had in fact been no evidence that votes cast illegally were being counted, and no evidence of widespread fraud. ABC, CBS and NBC all cut away from Trump's remarks, with network anchors saying they needed to correct falsehoods being disseminated by the president. Biden appealed for calm as the vote count continued, telling reporters, "The process is working." Facebook banned a large group called "Stop the Steal" that supporters of Trump were using to organize protests against the presidential vote count; some members had called for violence.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harris Yulin is 84. Actor Chris Robinson is 83. Actor Elke Sommer is 81. Singer Art Garfunkel is 80. Singer Peter Noone is 74. TV personality Kris Jenner is 66. Actor Nestor Serrano is 66. Actor-comedian Mo Gaffney is 63. Actor Robert Patrick is 63. Singer Bryan Adams is 62. Actor Tilda Swinton is 61. Actor Michael Gaston is 59. Actor Tatum O'Neal is 58. Actor Andrea McArdle is 58. Rock singer Angelo Moore (Fishbone) is 56. Actor Judy Reyes is 54. Actor Seth Gilliam is 53. Rock musician Mark Hunter (James) is 53. Actor Sam Rockwell is 53. Actor Corin Nemec is 50. Rock musician Jonny Greenwood (Radiohead) is 50. Country singer-musician Ryan Adams is 47. Actor Sam Page is 46. Actor Sebastian Arcelus is 45. Actor

Luke Hemsworth is 41. Actor Annet Mahendru (MAH'-hehn-droo) is 36. Rock musician Kevin Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 34. Actor Landon Gimenez is 18.

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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