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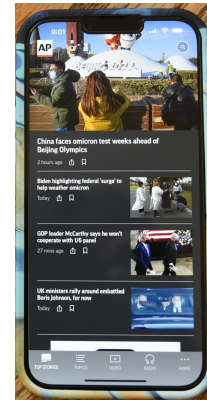
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Connecting

Oct. 7, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 7, 2022,

Connecting received its first response to our call for your stories on asking people for permission to use their personal photos in the AP news report. Thanks to **Robert Meyers** whose story stems from the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting that left 32 dead.

I look forward to your own story.

Ever work in the AP's bureau when located in the annex across the street from the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner?

Lots of change has happened there since the newspaper closed and the AP moved to a new bureau location. Our colleague **Michele Stueven** once worked for the AP in the HerEx Annex in the 1980s, and now, writing for LA Weekly, she tells about big changes of late in use of the building.

Got your own story of working in AP-LA in the annex? Please send it along.

MORE ON PAARL SYNAGOGUE: Susan Clark shares this following her story in Thursday's Connecting on the Paarl Synagogue: "I am shocked and makes me very happy to hear. However, it is very much alive. They have 16 families, 34 single members and 8 country members. They have incorporated the country towns. They all do a lot to keep the synagogue open for services every Friday evening for the sabbath service.

CONNECTING AUTHORS: The time nears for Connecting's annual presentation of books authored by its colleagues in the past 12 months. This gives you the reader a head start on holiday book buying, for one. So if you have written a book that was published in the past year, send me the following: 300 to 400-word synopsis of the book, jpg image of the book cover and jpg closeup image of you the author.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Getting images from 2007 Virginia Tech shooting

[Robert Meyers](#) - I remember vividly many conversations and emails regarding asking people for permission to use their personal photos in the AP news report.

One case particularly stands out. As AP State Photo Center helped cover the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, the first photos came from the local newspaper in Blacksburg, VA, as AP photographer Steve Helber drove from Richmond. Later, in the online version of the newspapers and local television, we saw postings of one of the victims, a very lively drum major in full uniform in the stadium during a football game.

I was tasked with getting permission for this and other images of the victims. I started combing through the directories and contact lists for phone numbers and I got one for the student who had posted the image of his friend and colleague. He didn't answer the number I had, but someone who did said he was out but would be back. I finally did get through and ask permission in the most sympathetic and tactful way I could.

Through sobs he answered in the affirmative. I then had to get an email address to send and receive a written permission which, although burdensome at such a moment, was fulfilled. A few hours later I got a call from New York asking me to follow up and get permission for AP to sell this image to non-subscribers. That was to me a harder ask. I followed up that request via email with a request that the response go directly to the NY sales team member cc'd on the request. Not sure how that ended.

LA Herald-Examiner: from a newspaper to college campus



L.A. Herald Examiner building (Courtesy ASU)



The newly restored L.A. Herald Examiner lobby (Michele Stueven)



Carolyn Skorneck, night supervisor at the Los Angeles bureau of The Associated Press, fields questions during a two-hour power outage, Jan. 16, 1986, in downtown Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon) (Courtesy, AP Corporate Archives)

Michele Stueven - Before there was L.A. Live, the Staples Center or Chick Hearn Court, 11th Street in downtown Los Angeles was just a desolate onramp to the freeway. At the corner of Hill Street in a forgotten part of town, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner still had an imposing presence.

The AP was right across the street and shared some of its space to store massive rolls of paper with its member, The Herald. Working at the AP as a photo editor before the digital age, I spent many nights running across the street picking up photos to transmit across the country. Both buildings still stand. One has risen out of the ashes and the other is a ghost of itself, for lease. Condos have been built between the two, my little passageway erased from Hill Street, but so many memories live on...

Writing for LA Weekly, I wrote a story about the restored L.A. Herald Examiner building. It's now the new campus of ASU's Walter Cronkite Media Studies journalism school.

Click [here](#) to read the story.

Spotlight on: AP's Cuba bureau



Members of AP's Havana bureau. (AP Photo/Eliana Ponte)

AP CONNECTIONS

News Director for Cuba and the Caribbean Cristiana Mesquita Cruz, based in Havana, shares insight into what it's like working in the Havana bureau.

Cristiana Mesquita Cruz spoke about why working in Havana is exciting and touched on what it was like recently covering Hurricane Ian.

"You can't cover Cuba without living in Cuba. It is the day-to-day life in the socialist country that gives you the measure of what is going on and tells us what stories need to be covered," Mesquita said. "The long lines to buy food and fill up the tank of the car, the scarcity of some basic products like milk and toilet paper, and the power outages, are all part of the Cuban experience and understanding."

Living and working in Cuba while covering Hurricane Ian in September reinforced Mesquita's point.

"The office building has a generator, but does it have enough fuel to run the generator? We went down personally to look at it and make sure – but the generator is very old, what if it fails? It did fail. So, we looked to book a room at a hotel with a better generator. Our cars are old – Cuba does not allow the importation of vehicles – so we tried to secure a rental."

Mesquita added:

"You cover the hurricane, then get back to a home without water and electricity and see the food that you have been painstakingly stocking in your freezer has gone bad.

There's no electricity anywhere in Havana – protests have erupted. The Government has cut the internet and cell phones.”

Amid these challenges, the team had to get creative to get their coverage of the hurricane out.

"Call the desk, wake up the editor, and dictate the story – just like in the old days. Cuba forces us to constantly adapt to different situations and that helps with the understanding of the country and keeps us on our toes," Mesquita said.

Recently the Havana bureau covered two big stories that received a lot of attention: The explosion of a luxury hotel in the center of Havana and the explosion of oil tanks in the city of Matanzas.

“We responded very quickly to both events. We overcame the restrictions imposed by the Cuban government on the use of LiveUs by either sending small clips of video via WhatsApp or by sending video via Bambuser,” Mesquita said.

When asked what was something Mesquita would want everyone to know about working in this region, she said:

“Cuba is a small country with only 11 million inhabitants, but its history and symbolic importance cannot be understated. The country has had an outsized role in U.S. politics and debate as a longtime focus of the Cold War and source of enormous migration to the U.S., which has influenced U.S. elections. The last three popes traveled to the island. And of course, Hollywood actors like Robert de Niro and music legends like Madonna have dropped by to see the sunset from Havana's Malecón boulevard.”

Mesquita added:

"The death of former President Fidel Castro was a huge story for all the media on the planet, as was the visit of former U.S. President Barack Obama after six decades of hostility between the two countries. And it's precisely this crossing of political swords between the United States and Cuba – and the peculiarities of Cuba's socialist system – that are major sources of news, including the impact of the sanctions against the island from its Northern neighbor. Those hostilities are what led Cuba's government to shut down The Associated Press Havana Bureau in 1969.”

In 1998 the Havana bureau was permitted to reopen.

Connecting mailbox

Recommending books on press relationship with Congress

[John Carland](#) - Thought I would suggest a few books for you and your colleagues, all by an old friend, Don Ritchie, formerly head of Senate history shop. Apparently, there has always been writing/scholarship on presidential press relations but relatively little on

the press's relationship with Congress. Over several decades Don's done a lot to make that less so. Most recent is the Drew Pearson book. Reporting from Washington takes the general story of Congressional-press relations to the late 1930s and then Press Gallery picks it up to take it to early 21st century, and, if memory serves, includes practically an entire chapter on AP reporters.

The Columnist: Leaks, Lies, and Libel in Drew Pearson's Washington

Reporting from Washington: The History of the Washington Press Corps

Press Gallery: Congress And The Washington Correspondents

American Journalists

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More from Singing Adolphe

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - My friend and union confrere Paul Reilly's critical review of my singing in Connecting also recalls how decades ago we stayed in cheap hotels three to a room to save the Guild money needed to persuade AP to give its staff decent wages, benefits and working conditions and to open the company to women and minorities. The union's history at AP is worth repeating. Thanks Paul.

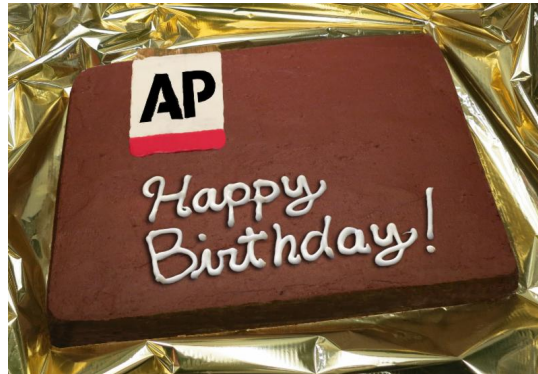
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Connecting sky shot – Kansas City



[Diane Smith](#) - A scene from GloWild, a nighttime event at the Kansas City Zoo. GloWild is a lantern festival featuring massive handmade steel and silk works of art depicting zoo animals, local landmarks, botanicals, and Asian cultural creations.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

[Susanna Loof](#)

[Harry Moskos](#)

[Bud Weydert](#)

On Sunday to...

[Kim Gamel](#)

[Sue Price Johnson](#)

Stories of interest

How a Las Vegas newsroom set out to solve a colleague's killing (Washington Post)

By Sarah Ellison

It was after midnight when Las Vegas Review-Journal executive editor Glenn Cook hit send on a short email to the staff.

“I’m beyond devastated to be sending you this message,” he wrote. Veteran investigative reporter Jeff German had been found dead outside his home hours earlier, on the morning of Sept. 3, Cook told his employees, adding: “It appears he was stabbed to death.”

It was a terrible way to break the news to them. Cook would have preferred to tell them all personally — “I just remember wanting to throw up,” he recalled later — but the Review-Journal was minutes away from publishing its first news story about their colleague’s killing. And his email would serve as a tacit marching order for their workweek ahead: Even while they were mourning a friend’s death, these journalists would need to investigate it.

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

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Major Newspaper Company Will Stop Endorsing National and Statewide Candidates (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

Publications owned by the hedge fund Alden Global Capital, the second-largest newspaper publisher in the country, will no longer endorse major political candidates in their opinion pages.

In an editorial that is scheduled to run in papers as early as Friday, the company’s publications will tell readers that they will stop endorsing candidates in presidential, Senate and gubernatorial elections.

A copy of the editorial was obtained by The New York Times. Alden confirmed its contents and timing.

“Unfortunately, as the public discourse has become increasingly acrimonious, common ground has become a no man’s land between the clashing forces of the culture wars,” according to a copy of the planned editorial.

Read more [here](#).

AND...

“Every four years we shoot ourselves in the foot”: Should news outlets still endorse political candidates? (Nieman Labs)

By **GREGORY P. PERREULT** and **VOLHA KANANOVICH**

Endorsements for politicians have a long history in U.S. newspapers, which until the 20th century were usually explicitly aligned with one political party or faction. Traditionally, endorsements have fallen under the purview of a newspaper's owner or its editorial board. Journalists may know the decision of which candidate to endorse is distinct from the newsroom's reporting, but many readers don't separate the two.

As we recently found, in a study published in *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, many journalists themselves have come to see editorial endorsements as a liability. In 2020, we interviewed 64 political journalists with affiliations ranging from digital-only news outlets to national magazines to local and national newspapers. Most of the journalists we interviewed didn't question their newsrooms' ability to uphold the metaphorical wall between the editorial and reporting sides, with one reporter referring to it as "a pretty strict firewall."

However, they also felt the need to explain to readers the divide between an endorsement from a newspaper's editorial board and the newspaper's other journalists. Some reporters told us that sources had asked them why they'd endorsed the other candidate. The journalists would find themselves clarifying that they hadn't endorsed anyone — their editorial board had. As one journalist put it: "Nobody knows the distinction between the editorial board and the reporters, and that's our fault for not telling them. Every four years we shoot ourselves in the foot." Another noted: "Political parties like to bash some news organizations, leading to viewers believing a news organization is biased." Endorsements, he added, "can exacerbate those preconceived notions."

Read more [here](#).

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Latinos Continue To Be Underrepresented In The Media Business (Forbes)

Brad Adgate, Contributor

A recent report from the Government Accounting Office (GAO) found Latinos continue to be underrepresented in the media business. Although Latinos now account for nearly 19% of the U.S. population, up from 15% in 2010, the GAO study found Latinos represent only 12% of the media workforce compared to 18% of the total workplace. Furthermore, Latinos account for an even lower 4% of media management positions. (Media workers include employment in television, film, news, etc. and includes such positions as actors, camera operators and journalists, etc.)

While the Latino population continues to increase at a higher rate than the overall U.S. population, GAO noted little progress of Latinos employed in the media industry. Hispanic employment growth in the media workplace has been negligible, increasing from 11% in 2010 to 12% in 2019. (Latinos in the total workforce grew from 15% to

18%.) The GAO findings were announced by Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) at the National Press Club. In his remarks Castro noted of his childhood in Texas, “The faces and the places that I saw on screen back then, and really since then, hardly ever matched the reality around me on the West Side of San Antonio.”

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

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***“IT’S JUST CURIOSITY”*: MEET THE REPORTER BEHIND THE HERSCHEL WALKER BOMBHELLS** (Vanity Fair)

The Daily Beast’s Roger Sollenberger, a former English teacher and relative newcomer to journalism, has been racking up scoops this cycle on the Georgia Republican Senate candidate—from Walker’s secret children to the allegation that he paid for a woman’s abortion.

BY CHARLOTTE KLEIN

Roger Sollenberger got his first scoop about Herschel Walker by accident. “Just googling, really,” the Daily Beast reporter told me. It was June and he was searching for his next story. “I didn’t know that I was looking for a kid. I was just following some other track,” he said, when he stumbled upon some “dusty old sites” that would lead him to his sources (and eventually, the discovery of a son Walker hadn’t publicly acknowledged). “I don’t know exactly if you could reverse engineer that,” said Sollenberger. “It’s just curiosity.” And Walker, in Sollenberger’s opinion, “is one of the most fascinating figures in American public life in the 40 years that I’ve been alive.”

I caught Sollenberger on Thursday morning just after he wrapped up an MSNBC hit. It’s been “a pretty crazy week,” acknowledged the Austin-based investigative reporter, a relative newcomer to journalism who has broken several Walker stories in the past few months—none bigger than Monday’s bombshell. Walker, the former football star turned Georgia GOP Senate candidate, had “urged” a woman he impregnated to get an abortion in 2009 and sent her money as reimbursement for the procedure, Sollenberger reported, claims that the woman supported with a receipt from the clinic, a picture of a signed \$700 check from Walker, and a “get well” card with what appears to be Walker’s signature. (Walker, who is staunchly against abortion rights, and supports a proposed federal ban, has categorically denied the allegation and threatened legal action.)

Read more [here](#).

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‘I refuse to comply,’ says Russian journalist, days after escaping house arrest (Washington Post)

By Jennifer Hassan and Robyn Dixon

In her first remarks since fleeing pretrial house arrest earlier this week, Russian journalist Marina Ovsyannikova said she considers herself “completely innocent” and issued a call for Russian President Vladimir Putin to be isolated from society and put on trial.

“Since our state refuses to comply with its own laws, I refuse to comply with the measure of restraint imposed on me in the form of house arrest, and I release myself from it as of September 30, 2022,” Ovsyannikova posted to Telegram from an undisclosed location Wednesday.

“Respected employees of the Federal Penitentiary Service, put such a bracelet on Putin,” she said in a video, referring to the electronic tracking device she has been forced to wear on her ankle by Russian officials. “It is he who must be isolated from society not me, and he should be tried for the genocide of the people of Ukraine and for the fact that he destroys the male population of Russia en masse.”

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Oct. 7, 2022



Today is Friday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2022. There are 85 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 7, 1991, University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of making sexually inappropriate comments when she worked for him; Thomas denied Hill's allegations and would go on to win Senate confirmation.

On this date:

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress convened in New York to draw up colonial grievances against England.

In 1916, in the most lopsided victory in college football history, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University 222-0 in Atlanta.

In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.

In 1982, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical "Cats" opened on Broadway. (The show closed Sept. 10, 2000, after a record 7,485 performances.)

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) in the Mediterranean. (The hijackers shot and killed Leon Klinghoffer, a Jewish-American tourist in a wheelchair, and pushed him overboard, before surrendering on Oct. 9.)

In 1989, Hungary's Communist Party renounced Marxism in favor of democratic socialism during a party congress in Budapest.

In 1992, trade representatives of the United States, Canada and Mexico initialed the North American Free Trade Agreement during a ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, in the presence of President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In 1996, Fox News Channel made its debut.

In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was beaten and left tied to a wooden fencepost outside of Laramie, Wyoming; he died five days later. (Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney are serving life sentences for Shepard's murder.)

In 2001, the war in Afghanistan started as the United States and Britain launched air attacks against military targets and Osama bin Laden's training camps in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

In 2003, California voters recalled Gov. Gray Davis and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger their new governor.

In 2020, President Donald Trump returned to the Oval Office for the first time since he was diagnosed with COVID-19; he credited an experimental drug treatment with helping his recovery. Debating from behind plexiglass shields, Vice President Mike Pence and Democrat Kamala Harris zeroed in on Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with Harris labeling it "the greatest failure of any presidential administration" while Pence defended the overall response.

Ten years ago: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez won re-election for the third time. (Chavez died in March 2013 at age 58 after a two-year battle with cancer; he was succeeded by Vice President Nicolas Maduro.)

Five years ago: Country music star Jason Aldean, who had been on stage at an outdoor concert in Las Vegas less than a week earlier when a gunman opened fire on the crowd, paid tribute to the victims and to the late Tom Petty by opening "Saturday Night Live" with Petty's song, "I Won't Back Down." Protesters rallied across Russia in a challenge to President Vladimir Putin on his 65th birthday; heeding calls from

opposition leader Alexei Navalny to pressure authorities into letting him enter the presidential race.

One year ago: Abortions quickly resumed in at least six Texas clinics after a federal judge halted the most restrictive abortion law in the nation. (A federal appeals court would allow the law to go back into effect the following day.) The Senate dodged a U.S. debt disaster, voting to extend the government's borrowing authority into December and temporarily avert an unprecedented federal default. (The House would approve the extension days later.) Google said it would crack down on digital ads promoting false claims about climate change, in hopes of limiting revenue for climate change deniers and stopping the spread of misinformation.

Today's Birthdays: Author Thomas Keneally is 87. Comedian and talk-show host Joy Behar is 80. Former National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.) is 79. Rock musician Kevin Godley (10cc) is 77. Actor Jill Larson is 75. Country singer Kieran Kane is 73. Singer John Mellencamp is 71. Rock musician Ricky Phillips is 71. Russian President Vladimir Putin is 70. Actor Mary Badham (Film: "To Kill a Mockingbird") is 70. Rock musician Tico Torres (Bon Jovi) is 69. Actor Christopher Norris is 67. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is 67. Gospel singer Michael W. Smith is 65. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Jayne Torvill is 65. Actor Dylan Baker is 64. Actor Judy Landers is 64. Recording executive and TV personality Simon Cowell is 63. Actor Paula Newsome is 61. Country singer Dale Watson is 60. Pop singer Ann Curless (Expose) is 59. R&B singer Toni Braxton is 55. Rock singer-musician Thom Yorke (Radiohead) is 54. Rock musician-dancer Leeroy Thornhill is 53. Actor Nicole Ari Parker is 52. Actor Allison Munn is 48. Rock singer-musician Damian Kulash (KOO'-lahsh) is 47. Singer Taylor Hicks is 46. Actor Omar Miller is 44. Neo-soul singer Nathaniel Rateliff (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 44. Actor Shawn Ashmore is 43. Actor Jake McLaughlin is 40. Electronic musician Flying Lotus (AKA Steve Ellison) is 39. MLB player Evan Longoria is 37. Actor Holland Roden is 36. Actor Amber Stevens is 36. MLB outfielder Mookie Betts is 30. Actor Lulu Wilson is 17.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself.

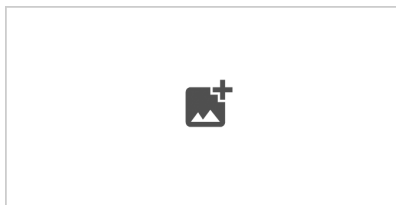


Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

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

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