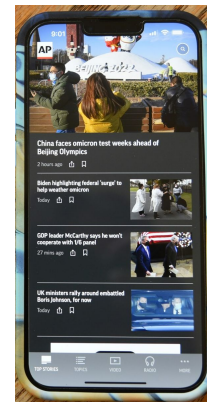


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Connecting

Oct. 11, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Oct. 11, 2022,

Bobby Calvan's journey out of the closet has taken decades – and at the age of 57, the Associated Press reporter is still sharing the truth about his sexuality.

Calvan wrote about that journey in a story for the AP wire that moved early this week – and we lead with his first-person account in today's Connecting. Calvan started his fulltime AP career in Tallahassee in 2019, after two stints as a temporary statehouse/politics reporter in Helena in 2016 and 2017. He has been in the New York City bureau since July 2021 as a general assignment reporter.

Today's issue continues two themes of late – what life was like working in the Los Angeles bureau when it was located in the Herald-Examiner annex and a thoughtful piece on what happens when you're at a disaster scene and look to buy photos from a private citizen.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A personal reckoning, and the truth comes out of the closet



Bobby Calvin poses in front of a painting of the view from his childhood home in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022, in New York. His journey out of the closet has taken decades. Now 57, he is still sharing his truth about his sexuality. The journey hasn't ended; indeed, it's just beginning as he now lives his life as the man he believes he was meant to be. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson)

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press Writer

I crouched onto the damp grass and picked at the weeds sprouting around my dad's headstone. I struggled for the words — and the courage — to tell him what I couldn't in his living years. I had flown thousands of miles to Sacramento to visit my dead father and reveal the secret I have held close for most of my 57 years.

In life, my father wasn't the type of man who had heart-to-heart talks with his children. And I'm not the type to confide his deepest-held emotions with family, not even with my closest siblings. I held my deepest torments tight inside me.

I stammered as I spoke to his grave. It took a half hour before I could utter a complete sentence as I continued pulling weeds and rearranging the flowers I brought him. "Daddy, I gotta tell you something. I wanted to tell you this for a long time."

In a halting and hushed voice, in case the breeze carried my secret to eavesdropping ears, I broke the news to my father, dead 24 years:

“Dad, I’m gay.”

Read more [here](#).

More on AP life in the Herald-Examiner annex

[Rick Green](#) - The Herald-Examiner annex was a dump, but romantic in a way. The AP logo was rendered in black and white floor tiles on the way in. The place had a big city feel, with editions of metro papers littered about and the City News Service wire spitting out copy.

I grew up in Los Angeles (North Hollywood), but had no reason to venture downtown until Bureau Chief Ben Brown hired me as a vacation relief news clerk 40 years ago. He warned me not to expect too much.

Assistant Bureau Chief Pat Arnold told me the main prerequisite was “being ambulatory.” The early shift started at 5 a.m., but not to worry, Pat said, “You’ll get off early enough to go to the beach.”

Katie Keevil and Robert Jablon were also news clerks and showed me the ropes, changing ribbons and rolls on a couple dozen printers, doing some wire fixtures, driving to the Los Angeles Times to pick up carbon copies and occasionally getting the chance to cover something.

Ken Peters, Carolyn Skorneck, John Antczak, Rachel Ambrose, Dick Benke, Paul Simon, Leanne Italie and Rita Beamish were among those on staff.

Sometimes I’d get a jolt of static electricity when tearing copy from a printer. I asked wire filer Tom Harrigan if he ever got a shock from a wire machine. He said “When Kennedy was shot.”

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[Peggy Walsh](#) - John Rogers did a terrific job of describing the AP LA Hill Street office. I'd forgotten some of the "challenges." The Ritz it was not! I also enjoyed seeing Reed Saxon's picture of Carolyn Skorneck, who we lost five years ago way too young. A great group of people doing what AP staffers do - get the job done no matter what.

‘Can we license your disaster photos, please?’

[Doug Pizac](#) - Ethically, morally and financially the headline "Journalists want to know: Can we use your disaster photos, please?" should read "Journalists want to know: Can we LICENSE your disaster photos, please?"

Prior to the internet and social media where a lot of people now believe everything can be used for free, asking for free usage was rare. Unfortunately, asking for free photos is now the norm along with using imagery without permission under the excuse of Fair Use which has only a few specific allowances. This is why more and more celebrities who lift pictures from photographers' Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts keep getting sued for copyright infringement, and losing.

It is a practical guarantee that if seeking permission was reversed -- asking AP, Reuters, Getty, Gannett, New York Times, Washington Post, the networks, etc. to use their content for free -- the default answer would be no way without limited usage terms and licensing payments except under special circumstances such as use by Connecting. Therefore, for media companies to request freebies appears to be highly hypocritical and downright cheap on their part.

This brings up the old question "Why pay for something when you can get it for free." The answer is simple -- because it is wrong and disrespectful of the people who own the content the media wants.

I'm proud to say that in my 30+ years with AP, I never sought asking either pro photographers or citizens for free images to save a dime. To do so would be insulting in my opinion. With the birth of the internet and more image sources, AP even created a release/usage form many years ago for photographers to use when seeking content. I kept several in my camera bag at all times. We had to fax the form to either AP-NY or the State Photo Center when such pictures were acquired for legal protections. And they were used not just for disaster photos.

For example, in 1995 I covered the Clintons vacationing in Jackson Hole, WY, with Doug Mills. He stayed within the tight pool and I was the roamer which gave me much greater freedom to move around.

On the first Sunday the presidential family went to a log cabin church in Grand Teton National Park. As the roamer, I mixed in with the general public and sat in one of the pews outside the church watching the service through the windows. At the end of the service, I positioned myself at the entrance where I photographed the Clintons with a 20mm lens chatting with the public as the general public did likewise. Everything was going great until some photographers I knew with UPI, NYT, etc. spotted me and cried foul that I was up so close while they were 50-75 feet away.

For the next Sunday service, the White House press people put a tail on me so I couldn't get close even though I did nothing wrong by out-thinking everyone the week before; so I shot from the parking lot at a different angle. When it was all over and the Clintons, WH people and secret service had left, I noticed a family come out of the church with a baby in a Christening gown. I approached them and was told the baby was christened inside and that the Clintons took part as witnesses. Grandpa shot pictures of the ceremony so I went into licensing mode and asked if AP could have a photo. At first, they were apprehensive until I made it clear I didn't want the photo for free, but would pay \$100 for it on one condition -- that the money started the child's

college fund and handed them a C-note. Bingo. They handed me the roll of film which I took to the hotel, processed it, edited the take and transmitted a nice image before returning the film to the family at their motel. Naturally, I not only got the release but a signed receipt for the money so I could get reimbursed by AP.

The next day the photo made all the play across the nation. And naturally, the White House personnel was livid that I got a picture nobody else had; and the other media were not pleased either because they got skunked.

Yes, it cost money, but it was well worth it. Unlike asking for freebies nowadays where the pictures go everywhere by multiple outlets, my deal with the family was that for the \$100 they would not share it with any other media until they returned home which would be long after the picture's useful life as a news picture. And such is the power of a licensing deal with monetary payment to back it up.

AP earns 3 Bayeux awards for Ukraine coverage



AP video journalist Mstyslav Chernov, center left, and photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, center right, accept awards at the Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award ceremony in Bayeux, France, Oct. 8, 2022. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

By Lauren Easton

Stunning visual coverage of the war in Ukraine has earned The Associated Press three first prize trophies at the 29th Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award for war correspondents.

Photographer Evgeniy Maloletka won the Photo trophy for his haunting image of a pregnant woman being carried on a stretcher from a shelled maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine.

Photographer Vadim Ghirda won the Public's Choice Award photo trophy for his poignant picture of children looking out the window of a train in Kyiv. Ghirda also was recognized with third prize in the photo trophy category

Video journalist Mstyslav Chernov won the Video Image trophy for his coverage of the siege of Mariupol. Chernov also earned second prize in the television trophy category.

"The dangerous, difficult and challenging assignment of covering conflict is vital to society's understanding of the world," said J. David Ake, AP assistant managing editor for photography. "We are gratified that the work of our visual journalists covering the war in Ukraine was honored this weekend at the Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award for war correspondents. They join an elite and talented group of past recipients."

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting photo gallery

Sky shot – Plymouth, Vermont



[Steve Hendren](#) - Sunday evening near Plymouth, Vermont - our home, a converted barn, from July until the leaves fall.

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Water shot – San Francisco Bay



[Al Cross](#) - Taken during a dinner cruise during the recent National Newspaper Association convention - that's the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco Bay.

Survey: 2023 AP Connecting Regional Reunion in Texas?

[Diana Heidgerd](#) - Last year's AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area was so much fun that those of us who organized the event (Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and me/in Dallas) have been chatting about maybe doing another gathering -- during spring 2023 – now that the pandemic has eased.

About 75 people attended the September 2021 reunion, amid COVID-19 restrictions, and probably a couple dozen more inquired but were unable to attend. The event -- mainly in the Arlington, Texas, area -- included group happy hours & dinners, plus the chance to attend a Texas Rangers baseball game. Most of the reunion weekend was pay-your-own way.

How about 2023? Some people have said DFW would be great, easy for travel by vehicle or via local airports. A couple of other folks have suggested perhaps Kansas City or Denver?

***If you are interested in possibly attending another DFW-area reunion, likely the weekend of May 19-21, 2023, please fill out the following brief survey (below) and email to: heidgerd@flash.net Please respond by Friday. Any additional comments would be welcome.

_ YES: I'm interested in another AP Connecting reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, likely next May.

_ NO: I'm not interested in a DFW-area reunion but would prefer another location – such as Kansas City? Denver? I might be willing to volunteer to help with either of those sites.

_ DELAY: Wait until 2024 for another Connecting Reunion in a city to be decided later.

Thanks! Your responses could help determine whether to hold another Connecting Reunion next year in the DFW area, or perhaps hand off to other out-of-state AP folks for possible similar gatherings in Kansas City or Denver.

Feel free to forward this to anyone with ties to AP who might be interested.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER
**AP's on-the-ground investigation in
Ukraine uncovers Russia's torture sites —
and survivors**



The signs of torture were everywhere. But AP's team had no idea exactly what they would find when a relative of video journalist Vasilisa Stepanenko recommended a visit to a monastery in recently liberated Iziom, Ukraine.

There, Stepanenko and colleagues — Paris-based investigative correspondent Lori Hinnant and Ukraine photographer Evgeniy Maloletka — found a former Ukrainian soldier in hiding after being tortured three times by occupying Russian forces. His disturbing tale supplied the narrative for an exclusive investigation that uncovered 10 torture sites — including one in a kindergarten.

The journalists spoke to 15 survivors of Russian torture in the Kharkiv region and two families whose loved ones had disappeared, and confirmed eight men — all but one civilians — were killed under torture in Russian custody. At a mass grave site in the Iziom woods, at least 30 of more than 440 bodies bore visible evidence of torture and some of the exhumed had bound wrists.

The reporting revealed arbitrary, widespread, routine torture of civilians and soldiers alike in Iziom, which served as a hub for Russian soldiers for nearly seven months. Ukraine recaptured the city in mid-September.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Distinctive Somalia coverage explores crises of climate migration and disability, drought-driven famine



AP Photo/Jerome Delay

Early this year, as it became clear that the effects of prolonged drought in Somalia could go from bad to catastrophic, East Africa correspondent Cara Anna and the AP's Africa leadership team spent months trying to arrange a trip.

Reporting from war-torn Somalia is difficult — terrorist groups operate in much of the country. But Anna convinced the World Food Program to host the AP, arguing that AP's reach would help readers worldwide understand the multiple crises affecting Somalia.

At the same time, Anna and Climate team editors brainstormed possible subjects for an ongoing series looking at people who are forced to relocate, displaced by climate change. Somalia's drought, exacerbated by climate change and insecurity, has forced major migration, both internally and across borders.

By the time the United Nations warned in August that a famine may soon be declared, AP had received a grant from the Pulitzer Center to fund the trip for two all-formats packages: one on climate migration, the other focused on the drought and the growing humanitarian crisis.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

Totenberg tests tenet of journalism with source friendships (AP)



FILE - NPR's Nina Totenberg, left, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg appear during a question and answer session as part of the Museum of the City of New York's David Berg Distinguished Speakers Series in New York on Dec. 15, 2018. Totenberg is the author of "Dinners with Ruth" a new memoir that celebrates her relationship with Ginsburg. (AP Photo/Rebecca Gibian, File)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — In the last months of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life, one of the few people who knew how seriously ill the Supreme Court justice had become was her friend, National Public Radio reporter Nina Totenberg.

She kept that news largely to herself.

The legendary Supreme Court reporter, with a new memoir "Dinners with Ruth" that celebrates that relationship, has thrust herself into a debate over a basic tenet of journalism and recalled the long history of how Washington leaders and their chroniclers co-exist.

In short, journalists need to be friendly with sources to get information. But if friendly turns to friendship, are those who depend on a news organization no longer being served?

Totenberg's revelations of weekly dinners with Ginsburg and how she worried about her health before the justice died on Sept. 18, 2020, led Politico's Michael Schaffer to wonder what may have happened if the reporter had sounded a public alarm. He suggested public pressure may have prevented the Senate from quickly approving Ginsburg's successor, Amy Coney Barrett.

Read more [here](#).

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News on Statehouses, With a Twist: Covering All 50 at Once (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

As he has observed lawmaking across the country, says Reid Wilson, a longtime Beltway journalist, he has sensed a journalistic opportunity: covering the biggest trends at statehouses across the country.

“What happens in Sacramento or Albany or Austin today happens in 25 states next year and then federally after that,” Mr. Wilson said.

This week, the brainchild of his idea, Pluribus News, started publishing — the latest news start-up directing a gaze toward state capitols.

As local newspapers have shuttered or cut back their staffing, coverage of state governments has declined. A Pew Research Center study in April found that the number of reporters covering statehouses full time had dropped in the past eight years to 850 from 904, though there are more reporters covering the beat part time.

Read more [here](#).

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CNN ‘deeply regrets’ distress caused by report on Thailand nursery killings (Guardian)

CNN has said it deeply regrets any distress caused by its report on the nursery killings in north-east Thailand, after its footage of the building’s blood-stained floor sparked a police investigation and a debate over how the media should cover such tragedies.

The US network’s report, which has since been pulled, was condemned by the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand and the Thai Journalists Association, while police launched an inquiry over allegations the crew entered the crime scene without authorisation.

Deputy national police chief Surachate Hakparn said on Sunday night that officers found the crew had not intended to trespass, though the journalists were fined for working while on a tourist visa.

In a video posted on Monday, Anna Coren, an Australian reporter, and Daniel Hodge, a British cameraman, apologised to the families of victims, and to the people of Thailand.

Read more [here](#).

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Louisiana man gets 8 years in newspaper carrier attack (AP)

LEESVILLE, La. (AP) — A Louisiana man convicted for his role in an attack on a newspaper carrier has been sentenced to eight years behind bars, the maximum sentence allowed.

Jurors unanimously found Douglas Paul James, 33, of DeRidder, guilty in August of beating Woodie Blanks, 67, after he had just delivered a newspaper to the doorstep of James' grandfather in Rosepine.

The Dec. 17, 2021, attack left Blanks partially blind.

James was sentenced on Wednesday to eight years in prison with one year suspended, The American Press reported. The judge also ordered him to serve three years of probation and pay a \$2,000 fine once his prison term has ended.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Oct. 11, 2022



Today is Tuesday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2022. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 11, 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks in Reykjavik, Iceland, concerning arms control and human rights.

On this date:

In 1614, the New Netherland Co. was formed by a group of merchants from Amsterdam and Hoorn to set up fur trading in North America.

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1884, American first lady Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students segregated in a purely "Oriental" school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra (shih-RAH'), Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. The government of Panama was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1984, Challenger astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space as she and fellow Mission Specialist David C. Leestma spent 3 1/2 hours outside the shuttle.

In 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching."

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter was named the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it had finished pumping out the New Orleans metropolitan area, which was flooded by Hurricane Katrina six weeks earlier and then was swamped again by Hurricane Rita.

In 2006, the charge of treason was used for the first time in the U.S. war on terrorism, filed against Adam Yehiye Gadahn (ah-DAHM' YEH'-heh-yuh guh-DAHN'), also known as "Azzam the American," who'd appeared in propaganda videos for al-Qaida. (Gadahn was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan in Jan. 2015.)

In 2014, customs and health officials began taking the temperatures of passengers arriving at New York's Kennedy International Airport from three West African countries in a stepped-up screening effort meant to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus.

In 2020, the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 to win the NBA finals in six games; LeBron James scored 28 points as the NBA wrapped up a season that sent players to a "bubble" at Walt Disney World in Florida for three months because of the pandemic.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden and Republican opponent Paul Ryan squared off in their only debate of the 2012 campaign; the two repeatedly interrupted each other as they sparred over topics including the economy, taxes and Medicare.

Five years ago: The Boy Scouts of America announced that it would admit girls into the Cub Scouts starting in 2018 and establish a new program for older girls based on the Boy Scout curriculum, allowing them to aspire to the Eagle Scout rank. Strong winds fueled wildfires burning through California wine country; the confirmed death toll climbed to 23 as authorities ordered new evacuations. An American woman, Caitlan Coleman, her Canadian husband Joshua Boyle, and their children were freed, five years after they were seized by a terrorist network in the mountains of Afghanistan; officials said the couple and their three children - who'd been born in captivity - were rescued in a dramatic raid orchestrated by the U.S. and Pakistani governments.

One year ago: Jon Gruden resigned as coach of the Las Vegas Raiders following reports about messages he wrote years earlier that used offensive terms to refer to Blacks, gays and women. U.S.-based economist David Card won the Nobel Prize in economics for pioneering research demonstrating that an increase in the minimum wage doesn't hinder hiring, and immigrants don't lower pay for native-born workers. Benson Kipruto and Diana Kipyogei completed a Kenyan sweep in the Boston Marathon, which took place after a 30-month absence; the race was moved from its traditional spring date for the first time in its 125-year history because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is 95. Actor Amitabh Bachchan is 80. Country singer Gene Watson is 79. Singer Daryl Hall (Hall and Oates) is 76. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is 72. Actor-director Catlin Adams is 72. Country singer Paulette Carlson is 71. Original MTV VJ Mark Goodman is 70. Actor David Morse is 69. Actor Stephen Spinella is 66. Actor-writer-comedian Dawn French is 65. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Steve Young is 61. Actor Joan Cusack is 60. Rock musician Scott Johnson (Gin Blossoms) is 60. Comedy writer and TV host Michael J. Nelson is 58. Actor Sean Patrick Flanery is 57. Actor Lennie James is 57. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Chris Spielman is 57. Country singer-songwriter Todd Snider is 56. Actor-comedian Artie Lange is 55. Actor Jane Krakowski is 54. Actor Andrea Navedo is 53. Actor Constance Zimmer is 52. Rapper MC Lyte is 52. Bluegrass musician Leigh Gibson (The Gibson Brothers) is 51. Figure skater Kyoko Ina is 50. Actor Darien Sills-Evans is 48. Actor/writer Nat Faxon is 47. Actor Emily Deschanel is 46. Actor Matt Bomer is 45. Actor Trevor Donovan is 44. Actor Robert Christopher Riley is 42. Actor Michelle Trachtenberg is 37. Actor Lucy Griffiths is 36. Golfer Michelle Wie is 33. Rapper Cardi B is 30.

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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