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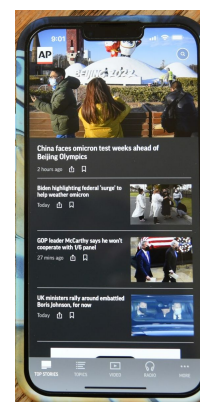
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Connecting

Oct. 18, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Oct. 18, 2022,

*When I get older losing my hair
Many years from now
Will you still be sending me a Valentine
Birthday greetings bottle of wine*

*If I'd been out till quarter to three
Would you lock the door
Will you still need me, will you still feed me
When I'm sixty-four*

"When I'm 64," The Beatles, 1967

Well, maybe no (significant) hair loss or Valentine or bottle of wine were involved in the reunion of two Connecting colleagues when they turned 64 and met atop Reunion

Tower in downtown Dallas. But their meeting fulfilled a promise made to one another back in 1986.

Mark Lambert and **Amanda Barnett**, who both worked for Dallas public radio station KERA at the time and later worked together as broadcast staffers at The Associated Press, pledged then that if they ever lost track of each other over the years, they would meet up atop the 561-foot tower when they turned 64 years old.

At the time of their pledge, Lambert said, “We had just done a remake/revision of the Beatles’ “When I’m 64” for a pledge drive song on KERA 90.1 and we realized we were both born in 1958 – she in April, me in October. This was before the internet and email, and we didn’t know where our careers would lead us.”

Timing was such that Mark was just 16 days shy of 64 when they met up at the tower on Oct. 6. Amanda had turned 64 on April 28. And Mark’s date is Oct. 22 - this Saturday. But what’s 16 days matter after all that time had passed?

Lambert tells the delightful story as our lead in today’s Connecting.

Today, [Amanda](#) lives in the Atlanta area and is a contract science writer for NASA’s Solar System Exploration website. She is also a licensed professional counselor, and writes part-time for the Telehealth Certification Institute. [Mark](#) is program-news-operations manager for 88.1 indie & KNTU.com and an adjunct instructor of media arts at North Texas University in Denton.

REUNION RECIPES: Our colleague **Doug Pizac** figures that with the AP reunions happening around the country, organizers might be armed with good recipes to serve – that is, if the venue is not a restaurant. He shares a favorite in today’s issue and encourages you to do the same with your own favorite recipe.

CORRECTION: In Monday’s story on Chris Clark honored by his alma mater, Connecting incorrectly said he had served as news editor in Denver and Kansas City. His news editorships were in Salt Lake City and Kansas City.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A couple of ‘old’ Texas AP Network and AP Radio staffers got together to fulfill an agreement made in the 1980s



Amanda Barnett and Mark Lambert at Reunion Tower, Oct. 6, 2022

Mark Lambert - Amanda Barnett joined Dallas public radio station KERA 90.1 in Dec. 1984 as news director after several years working in Florida public radio. I was production director at 90.1 and we immediately developed a friendship.

On Aug. 2, 1985, DFW International Airport had its first airline disaster when Delta Airlines Flight 191 -- a Lockheed L-1011 TriStar -- crashed on approach which the NTSB determined was because of a microburst during a thunderstorm. The aircraft slammed to the ground more than one mile short of the runway, struck a car on a highway bordering the airport, collided with two water tanks on the outer edge of the airport, and disintegrated. The crash killed 137 people and injured 26 others.

KERA had a very small news staff and the crash occurred on a Friday shortly after 6 p.m. when our Morning Edition anchor had just departed on a vacation and the only folks at the station that evening were talk show host Karen Denard (on-air 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.) a jazz host who would follow her at 8 p.m., News Director Amanda Barnett, Production Director Mark Lambert, a stringer Brian Shields (who also worked part time for KRLD), and Station Manager Susan Harmon. Shields checked in with KRLD who cleared him of working for them, so he then started working with us at KERA. I believe our Dallas reporter Tom Olson and Fort Worth reporter Jan Nunley were called and dispatched to hospitals to cover stories of any survivors.

Shields and I both left the station headed for the airport. Brian being a regular news person knew the airport's stated procedure was for reporters to assemble at the airport PIO's office and then they would be transported to any crash site. I wasn't aware of that protocol so I drove off in an unmarked station vehicle and was in the queue where traffic had backed up to from the airport on Texas Highway 114 at Texas Stadium (it was at the old stadium in Irving, Texas, where the Dallas Cowboys played). An unmarked police car (with flashing lights in the front grille) came zipping along on the left shoulder, so I pulled in behind it and drove the remaining 8-9 miles to the

airport. I got to the scene and was able to interview (on tape) an eyewitness – I then traipsed over on foot to a nearby hotel to find a phone to feed the audio back to KERA. This was the dawning of the new telephone age and I got to a phone, but I couldn't unscrew the mouthpiece to use my alligator clips on the leads! I just put my cassette recorder's speaker against the mouthpiece to send the audio.

But when Amanda answered the phone at KERA, she was a bit flabbergasted that I was calling in before the "news" guy (stringer Brian Shields) had checked in. I really didn't care, but simply said, "Do you want my eyewitness tape or not?" Well, of course she wanted it.

NPR's Weekend All Things Considered wanted a piece for their Saturday show the next day and Amanda helped me craft a piece that I voiced with my tape and that of the other reporters -- my first national broadcast story and it was the lead story. Before the crash, Amanda had no idea that I had a news background. I was a journalism major in college before stopping for a year to figure things out about life after becoming disillusioned while working as a newspaper photographer for a year (I had been a photog for high school yearbook and newspaper). My initial "job" as an intern at 90.1 before Amanda came along had been as the board operator (the person who runs the audio console to get the stuff on the air) for the national All Things Considered feed from NPR and writing/announcing a newscast at the transition from the first to the second feed of the show.

Before Amanda left KERA, we made some kind of promise that if we lost track of each other over the years, we'd meet up when we were 64 atop Reunion Tower in downtown Dallas. We had just done a remake/revision of the Beatles' "When I'm 64" for a pledge drive song on KERA 90.1 and we realized we were both born in 1958 – she in April, me in October. This was before the internet and email, and we didn't know where our careers would lead us.



KERA staffers in 1986: Dallas reporter Tom Olsen, Morning Edition local anchor Marla Crockett, Amanda Barnett, Fort Worth reporter Jan Nunley.



Mark Lambert in 1987 as a DJ in studios atop Reunion Tower

In 1986, Amanda joined The Associated Press ranks as a broadcaster at the Texas AP Network (TAPN). The AP had set up a network that competed with the Texas State Network (TSN) run out of KRLD in Dallas. Several future AP Radio Network Broadcast

News Center staffers came through this office. TAPN offered a palate structured after the national network, but on a lesser scale – not 24/7, but seven days a week top of the hour newscasts from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., two daily audio feeds, some sportscasts and weather product. During that time, I started working as a weekend DJ at KQZY (they deemphasized the Q to make it “KOZY, 105.3 FM, Lite, Relaxing Favorites.”)



At the scene of crash of Delta Flight 1141 - the only time Amanda and Mark had covered the same story. She was with AP; he was with KERA 90.1.

In 1988, DFW International Airport had its second fatal plane crash. It was August 31 on a sunny morning when Delta Airlines Flight 1141 crashed during takeoff – 14 people died and 76 were injured of the 108 people on board – NTSB cited improper extensions of flaps and slats. Since I’d covered the 1985 plane crash, KERA dispatched me to cover this crash, too. Once I was at the airport, Amanda was there as well and it was the only time we have ever covered the same story together – she for AP Radio and me for local KERA 90.1.

In 1991, Amanda was the supervisor at TAPN and I was working as a field reporter for one of the last “full service” FM stations in Dallas (I went to work for them in 1989). My station was KMGC, Magic 102.9, playing Lite Rock and Lite Jazz with morning and afternoon drive newscasts with me as the sole field reporter. It was then that Amanda recruited me to apply for an opening at TAPN and Wally Hindes at the BNC in Washington picked my stuff out from all the rest to hire me as the new TAPN staffer.

Being the new member in October 1991, I was supposed to be the “go” guy when any regional story occurred, but I was still learning all the AP stuff (mostly the old DOS command crap in the computers) when the Luby’s Cafeteria shooting occurred in Killeen, Texas, and the next ranking member, Mark Woolsey, was sent to Killeen.

When the Guadalajara explosions occurred in April 1992, I was the guy who went south for 3 days to cover a story in a country that I don't speak the language. It was interesting and there's a whole 'nother avenue of stories about that.

Then came Feb. 28, 1993, and I was anchoring Sunday newscasts at TAPN when at the end of my shift I saw WFAA Channel 8 (DFW ABC affiliate) airing footage of some kind of shootout east of Waco in which one could see federal agents being shot and killed. This was the start of the federal government's 51-day standoff with the Branch Davidians. Since I had been anchoring, Mark Woolsey was initially sent to Waco to begin coverage; I was sent to replace him there on Tuesday, March 2. AP Radio national correspondent Bob Moon flew in from his home base of Los Angeles and we began 24/7 coverage of the standoff: splitting the coverage in 12-hour shifts while sharing a hotel room. It was an awesome learning experience for me to pick up a few tricks from Bob – simple things that would be way too hard for me to explain in short, simple text, but I love what Bob Moon gave to me!

After two weeks of coverage, I let the bosses know that I had a previously scheduled arthroscopic surgery for a double ACL tear in my right knee and needed to go back to Dallas. So, AP Radio had Tony Winton dispatched from Miami to get an RV and park with all the TV trucks near the Branch Davidian compound and Moon and I went back to our homes. I had been back at TAPN in Dallas for a week (putting my leg up on a chair to continue healing) when Amanda called me shortly after 6 a.m. on April 19 to grab my gear and drive back to Waco since Attorney General Janet Reno had signed off on allowing the FBI to use tanks to insert tear gas into the Branch Davidians compound. I got to Waco around 9:30 a.m. and did live shots on the network at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 p.m. Then shortly after our radio network live shots, ABC's Jim Ryan, CBS' Mike Rogers, and I were standing at our usual places some 1.5 to 2 miles away from the compound looking through our binoculars when we saw smoke start to billow up from the Branch Davidians' home. We all called our respective networks (with me also being the wire guy) and put out the word that there was fire engulfing the Branch Davidians.

Later that year, AP Radio began putting together its short-lived All News Radio (ANR) product to give small to medium market radio stations an opportunity to have an all-news product with lots of opportunities for local drop-ins of news and commercials. I was one of the two folks from TAPN that said yes to moving to DC to be part of the new project. I was due to start work in DC around February 1, 1994, when the Northridge earthquake hit LA on January 17 and I was dispatched from Dallas to go cover it before arriving in DC. I was a bit shocked at this since AP Radio had two national news correspondents (Bob Moon and Brian Bland) based in LA along with a few entertainment reporters. When I got to LA and went to the bureau, I asked Bob what the hell was up. I did not feel qualified to replace Bob as the "guy" doing the story. Bob explained that he had refused to go back to DC to be part of the ANR thing and AP management was punishing him by making him show up at the bureau and write wire copy for 8 hours a day. He said, "I don't mind. I'm still employed, and I'll leave when I find something better that I want to go do." Gotta tell you, it was unsettling the last day I was there (4-5 days, that's kinda blurry) and getting ready to check out of the hotel which was a couple blocks from the bureau. I was sitting on the toilet in my hotel room when some big ass aftershock (5.2 I learned later) hit and I'm thinking "What the hell do I do?" I'm from Texas and we at least know when there's a chance of tornadoes, with earthquakes there's no warning, it just hits.

[While I had been an employed photographer earlier, I was without a camera a few times. Amanda told me/instructed me that I would want photos after the fact, so I bought those old throwaway Kodak cameras with regular and panoramic capabilities in Waco and LA – glad I followed her directions!]

When the AP bosses decided to shut down TAPN, Amanda stayed at my house in Falls Church, Virginia, for a couple months when she was transferred to the BNC. Then she took the news director job at KEWS-FM 94.9 – the nation’s first FM all-news station in Dallas-Fort Worth. She hired me as her Fort Worth bureau chief and I headed back to Texas. The station was owned by Mel Karmazin’s Infinity Broadcasting... which merged with CBS and put all of us at KEWS out of a job because the new company owned three more stations in DFW than was allowed by the FCC and we were one of the outcasts.

Amanda went off to CNN Radio and then CNN.com, and I went off to finish my college bachelor’s degree while working part time as a “hired gun” newscaster for Metro Networks and then back full time as a producer at TXCN (Texas Cable News), a soon to fail 24/7 statewide cable news product.

I joined the University of North Texas staff as the first ever full-time program director for a 100,000 watt college radio station in February 2000. I have helped elevate the station to a more robust semi-professional station and gotten a number of students employed in higher-than-expected positions.

On Oct. 6, after some 30+ years of our promised agreement, Amanda and I made our appearance at Reunion Tower in downtown Dallas. The space where I used to broadcast as a KQZY DJ is gone, but I did share with onsite personnel the story of that old station – including the time I kicked in one of the glass doors when I got locked out on the observation deck away from the studio.

Recipes that would be nice for reunion gatherings

[Doug Pizac](#) - I would like to start a new thread/feature on sharing favorite recipes that would be nice for reunion get-togethers. Mine is grilled bacon wrapped artichoke hearts whose simple ingredients come from Costco. Make sure the artichokes are marinated in oil, not water, if you get them somewhere else.

Cut the pound package of bacon in half resulting in double the number of half-slices and count how many slices you have to work with; usually 30. Open the jar of artichokes and drain in a sieve. Then count the number of half and quarter cut pieces there are. You’ll have more than the number of bacon slices.

Wrap the half slices of hearts with bacon to start and spear them with a toothpick, placing them on a tray lined with aluminum foil for easy cleanup afterwards. When you get to the quarter slices, pair the smallest ones together so you have the same number of singles and doubles that equal the number of bacon slices you have left. Then wrap each of them and spear with a toothpick so you have no bacon or hearts left over.

You can either broil in your oven or grill them on your BBQ. I find grilling them on medium gas heat the best. Oven broiling needs to be done on the second highest rack or lower and will cause a mess to clean up with the splattering.



Spread the wraps on the grill with an inch or so between them and cook for about 15 minutes. Check the bottom doneness and add five minutes if need be. Then use tongs to flip them over for another 15 minutes or so until they are evenly cooked on both sides. Too high of heat will burn/char the bacon.

Take the wraps off the grill and put them in a bowl. Depending on the evenness of your grill, you may need to leave a few cooking for a few minutes longer. Serve hot, letting your guests pick them up by the toothpick and slide the wrap off into their mouths.

The oil marinade blends the heart and bacon flavors nicely. And if you have any leftovers, throw them in the fridge and reheat in the microwave later.

Enjoy.

More memories of HerEx Annex

Andrew Selsky - A recollection of the old AP bureau at 1111 S. Hill Street, the Herald Examiner annex in LA, where I was a temp in 1984.

One day I got in the elevator to go to the bureau, and there was George Takei (actor, Star Trek, for non-Trekkies). Despite having the training and ability to drive the Starship Enterprise, even at warp speed, Helmsman Sulu seemed befuddled by the elevator controls as he looked at them, unsure which button to push. I leaned over and pushed the button for our floor. There weren't that many – the building had only around three floors. I was grinning at this unusual circumstance, and George said, "Judging by your smile, you're a Star Trek fan."

I said that indeed I was. We chatted for a bit after we exited the elevator. George said he was in the building to look for old issues of the Herald Examiner about the

incarceration of Japanese Americans, which included George as a boy, in internment camps during World War II.

Connecting sky shot – Lexington, Kentucky



Tom Eblen - Early morning sun casts long shadows at Manchester Farm near Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Kentucky. Keeneland's fall racing meet is now under way.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Doug Daniel](#)

[Elissa Free](#)

[Martin Kruming](#)

Stories of interest

'This is my whole life': Lesley Stahl on '60 Minutes,' longevity and her problem being called 'tough' (USA TODAY)

Patrick Ryan

NEW YORK – Lesley Stahl doesn't back down.

The unflappable TV journalist has been with CBS for 50 years – 31 of those as a correspondent for venerable newsmagazine "60 Minutes." In that time, she has become known for her remarkable poise and dogged pursuit of the truth, refusing to throw softball questions to contentious interview subjects such as former President Donald Trump, who memorably cut short their 2020 sit-down.

"A lot of heads of state have walked out on me," says Stahl, 80, sitting at her desk on a recent rainy morning after a workout. "I'm not saying I'm proud of it, but it does signify that I'm not afraid to ask a question that a head of state isn't going to like. I see that as my role – and I see their role as being accountable for their actions, whether they're a dictator or the head of a democracy."

Half a century into her CBS career, Stahl remains as vigorous and relevant as ever. For the 55th season of "60 Minutes" (Sundays, 7 EDT/PDT), she traveled to Taiwan to

report on how people are responding to the country's heightened threat from China. After stopping home in New York for a day to repack her suitcase, she flew to Tehran to interview Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Read more [here](#).

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Opinion America should spend billions to revive local news (Washington Post)

By Perry Bacon Jr.
Columnist

My vision for addressing the huge decline in local journalism involves hiring 87,000 new journalists for about 1,300 news organizations with more than \$10 billion in funding. Such a massive investment in local news isn't going to happen next week and probably not next year, either.

But it is also not a pipe dream. There is a growing recognition that the collapse of local news and information is a crisis undermining the United States' politics and communities. Ten billion isn't much money for the United States to spend on something the nation defines as a crisis. Millions of dollars are already being pumped into reviving local journalism, although right now that's largely limited to a few major cities such as Chicago and Philadelphia.

Where would the \$10 billion and all those reporters go? There are five principles for local news that can and should be implemented as widely and quickly as possible: news outlets in communities across the country; more outlets with a well-defined, transparent point of view; coverage that is free for everyone; a lot of in-depth reporting available in multiple formats; and news organizations that are nonprofits.

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

Today in History – Oct. 18, 2022



Today is Tuesday, Oct. 18, the 291st day of 2022. There are 74 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 18, 1867, the United States took formal possession of Alaska from Russia.

On this date:

In 1648, Boston shoemakers were authorized to form a guild to protect their interests; it's the first American labor organization on record.

In 1892, the first long-distance telephone line between New York and Chicago was officially opened (it could only handle one call at a time).

In 1898, the American flag was raised in Puerto Rico shortly before Spain formally relinquished control of the island to the U-S.

In 1954, Texas Instruments unveiled the Regency TR-1, the first commercially produced transistor radio.

In 1962, James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins were honored with the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

In 1968, the U.S. Olympic Committee suspended Tommie Smith and John Carlos for giving a "Black power" salute as a protest during a victory ceremony in Mexico City.

In 1969, the federal government banned artificial sweeteners known as cyclamates (SY'-kluh-maytz) because of evidence they caused cancer in laboratory rats.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, overriding President Richard Nixon's veto.

In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages and killing three of the four hijackers.

In 1984, actor Jon-Erik Hexum, 26, was taken off life support six days after shooting himself in the head with a pistol loaded with a blank cartridge on the set of his TV show "Cover Up."

In 2001, CBS News announced that an employee in anchorman Dan Rather's office had tested positive for skin anthrax. Four disciples of Osama bin Laden were sentenced in New York to life without parole for their roles in the deadly 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

In 2010, four men snared in an FBI sting were convicted of plotting to blow up New York City synagogues and shoot down military planes with the help of a paid informant who'd convinced them he was a terror operative. (James Cromitie, David

Williams, Onta Williams and Laguerre Payen were each sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York ruled that a federal law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman was unconstitutional. (The following June, the Supreme Court would use that case to strike down provisions keeping legally-married same-sex couples from receiving federal benefits that were otherwise available to married couples.)

Five years ago: President Donald Trump rejected claims that he had been disrespectful to the grieving family of a slain U.S. soldier in a phone call to the family. Instead of accepting awards at the CMT Artists of the Year show in Nashville, singer Jason Aldean and other stars honored the victims of the mass shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas.

One year ago: Colin Powell, a trailblazing soldier and diplomat who was the first Black person to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and also the first to serve as secretary of state, died at 84 of COVID-19 complications. Jury selection got underway in the trial of three white men charged with fatally shooting a Black man, Ahmaud Arbery, as he was running in their Georgia neighborhood. (All three would be convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.) Attorneys said the families of those killed, wounded and scarred in the 2018 Florida high school massacre had reached a \$25 million settlement with the Broward County school district.

Today's Birthdays: College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is 83. Singer-musician Russ Giguere is 79. Actor Joe Morton is 75. Actor Pam Dawber is 72. Author Terry McMillan is 71. Writer-producer Chuck Lorre is 70. Gospel singer Vickie Winans is 69. Director-screenwriter David Twohy (TOO'-ee) is 67. International Tennis Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova is 66. Actor Jon Lindstrom is 65. International Hall of Fame boxer Thomas Hearns is 64. Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme is 62. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis is 61. Actor Vincent Spano is 60. Rock musician Tim Cross is 56. Singer Nonchalant is 55. Former tennis player Michael Stich (shteek) is 54. Actor Joy Bryant is 48. Rock musician Peter Svensson (The Cardigans) is 48. Actor Wesley Jonathan is 44. R&B singer-actor Ne-Yo is 43. Country singer Josh Gracin is 42. Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey Vonn is 38. Jazz singer-musician Esperanza Spalding is 38. Actor-model Freida Pinto is 38. Actor Zac Efron is 35. Actor Joy Lauren is 33. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star Brittney Griner is 32. TV personality Bristol Palin is 32. Actor Tyler Posey is 31. Actor Toby Regbo is 31.

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

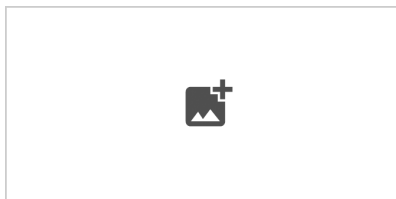
a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

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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