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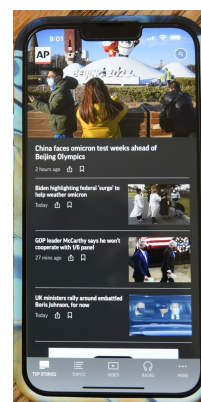
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Connecting

Oct. 28, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 28, 2022,

The importance of the role that The Associated Press plays in U.S. elections cannot be overstated.

So with the mid-term elections coming up Nov. 8, it was not surprising to see on the AP wires Thursday a story that explains how the AP counts the vote on election night.

And maybe, it'll prompt you to share one of your favorite memories from election night.

We lead with that story in today's issue.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

EXPLAINER: How the AP counts the vote on election night



FILE - Cornelius Whiting fills out his ballot at an early voting location in Alexandria, Va., on Sept. 26, 2022. The U.S. does not have a singular entity that tells the nation who is won an election right away. Every state has its own process for counting votes, and news organizations play a key role. The Associated Press is the only news organization in the world that does all of the nation's vote-counting math on election night. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

By MEG KINNARD and ALMAZ ABEDJE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. doesn't have a government agency that tells the nation who's won an election right away. Every state has its own process for counting votes, and news organizations play a key role.

The Associated Press is the only news organization that does all of the math, down to the county level, gathering voting information and passing it along to member news organizations and customers. Stephen Ohlemacher, AP Election Decision Editor, calls elections "the single largest act of journalism that happens every two years."

But it's not a one-night affair.

Here's how it works:

PREP, PREP AND MORE PREP

For years, AP has employed a full-time elections research team that works year-round to ensure that other AP entities involved in race calling — the vote count team, decision desk and newsroom — know as much as possible about what to expect once Election Day arrives.

That includes details that vary state to state on things like when and how people can vote, how those votes are counted and any changes since the last election.

Since different states count ballots at different times, it might take longer to declare a winner in some places. There are also varying rules on when recounts or runoffs might be necessary.

All of this means that we won't know who won every race on election night.

A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING

With political reporters based in key states around the country — and reporters on the ground in all 50 states — AP has an unparalleled footprint for election-related coverage in text, photos, video and live video. From the places they know the best, AP reporters are sending in what they're seeing at the polls and reporting any issues that arise.

Besides its own journalists, the AP has about 4,000 stringers — temporary freelancers — who, through years of trusted relationships with county clerks and other local officials, gather vote totals at the local level and feed them to AP's vote entry centers.

Hundreds of vote entry clerks answer those calls, take down the tallies and enter the results into AP's election database. Since many states and counties display their election night results on websites, some clerks monitor those sites and enter results into the database, too.

ACCURACY MATTERS MOST

All the numbers are checked multiple times for accuracy.

Vote entry clerks ask questions to verify the information they're getting, like whether there are problems in the stringer's county, and challenge the details if something seems off.

Automated checks also spot any issues with the data, like inconsistencies with a county's previous voting history or other data. For example, if more votes are reported as being cast than there are registered voters in a county, an alert will pop up on the clerk's screen and summon a supervisor.

AP's team of full-time election research and quality control analysts monitor and examine the results for anomalies, using sophisticated statistical tools and AP's own research to ensure accuracy.

In 2020, AP was 99.9% accurate in calling U.S. races, and 100% accurate in the presidential and congressional races for each state.

WHO MAKES THE CALLS — AND HOW?

On election night itself, race callers in each state are equipped with detailed information from AP's election research team, including demographics, the number of absentee ballots, and political issues that may affect the outcome of races they must call.

According to Ohlemacher, about 60 people will be involved in declaring winners in more than 7,000 races across the country in this year's general election, with some specifically focusing on types of races, like Congress, gubernatorial and legislative contests.

The senior editors of AP's decision team, based in Washington, provide the final approval on races for president, governor, U.S. Senate and key races for U.S. House, and consult with race callers around the country on other statewide races.

The AP will only declare a winner when it's possible to say with 100% certainty who won a given race. There is no projection or speculation, only data-based determinations showing when it's deemed impossible for trailing candidates to overtake a leading candidate.

"When the votes come in and they meet our expectations, it makes it much easier to declare a winner," Ohlemacher said. "When the votes come in and contradict what our expectations are, that's when we slam on the brakes. We don't call a winner until there is no path for the trailing candidate to catch the leader."

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Follow AP's coverage of the elections – click [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Forget tonight's World Series lineup – he has his own

Paul Albright - With baseball's 2022 World Series looming, I suddenly realized I could field my own lineup of medical specialists who are in action on a regular basis – sometimes too frequently.

Leading off would be the primary care physician followed by the urologist and then the dermatologist. Hitting clean-up would be my cardiologist and then the dentist and periodontist. The next slot would alternate between the retina specialist and the optometrist. The podiatrist is at No. 8 with the gastroenterologist at the bottom of the order.

The pharmacist is a vital team member who responds regularly and effectively to any demand. Finally, the heart surgeon is on the inactive roster but remains available if the situation requires someone to step up to the plate at a crucial time.

With that team, there's still time to "Play Ball."

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Bill Hilliard and The Oregonian

Kathleen McCarthy - Re Bruce Handler's memories of Bill Hilliard at The Oregonian:

Bill Hilliard gave me my start at The Oregonian, first as a "copy kid" and later as a summer news intern.

He took a chance on a hopelessly green and geeky college kid and was unfailingly helpful and kind.

I owe him a great debt.

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Do federal courts read Connecting???

Mark Mittelstadt – Fewer than two months after Connecting's fine collection of stories about jury duty, two summons appeared at the Mittelstadt household. Mary's notice from the U.S. District Court in Tucson is for one week starting next week; mine, also from federal court, was for Nov. 28, which I thought would be good as most judges and lawyers prefer not to start cases right after Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, my service then would disrupt three-day-a-week physical therapy following my rotator cuff surgery and a critical follow-up meeting with the surgeon. I got postponed to March.

The notices, arriving a week apart, were the first we received from any court since moving to Arizona nearly seven years ago. It all seemed coincidental with the contributions to the newsletter. Do the federal courts read our e-mail?

More memories of your dream car

Richard Drew - My first car was a 1964 Ford Falcon, same color as the photo, when I started my photo career "ambulance chasing" that led to a summer "copy boy" job at the San Gabriel Valley Daily Tribune in Southern California. I outfitted it with a Muntz 4-track music cartridge player, and eventually a police/fire scanner.

My copy boy internship was followed by a full time job at the Tribune. Later I was hired by the Pasadena Independent Star-News. This was in the days before beepers, two-way radios and mobile phones. Somehow the Star-News negotiated with local police departments to put out a 10-21 alert (call your office) on whatever suburban burg I was in so I could get messages. In February 1970 I was hired as AP staff photographer for the San Francisco Bureau and persuaded them to get beepers, too.

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[Carl P. Leubsdorf](#) - Reading the recent reminiscences by APers whose first cars were the ill-fated Corvairs, I couldn't resist adding my experience with one. Mine was a present from my parents for my collegiate academic performance. I really wanted a Corvette but decided not to push my good fortune. After all, the brand-new rear-engine Corvair seemed like the next best thing to a Corvette, especially the shiny red one I got shortly before I set off for my first job with the AP in New Orleans.

It actually served me well, and, five years later, I was still driving the little thing, despite having acquired a wife and four stepchildren and moved from New Orleans to Washington, with a brief intermediate stop on the NY General Desk. Then, I was assigned to cover the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, which was holding hearings on the auto safety issues raised by Ralph Nader in "Unsafe At Any Speed."

His prime example turned out to be the Corvair. For several days, I sat there while the committee was shown films of horrifying accidents involving Corvairs, in which the point was made that its rear-end construction -- and resulting lack of anything more than a usually empty trunk in front -- made it a death trap in the event of an accident. I was not the only person in the room who shuddered at what we were shown. One member of the committee, a freshman Democrat from Louisville, Ky., named Charley Farnsley -- who sported string ties and displayed a folksy manner -- was so enamored of the Corvair he had bought about 10 of them. He spent about \$25,000 (about 10 times its cost) personalizing one of them up with wood paneling, wire tires and other visual accoutrements. One day, he brought it in to show his colleagues. It was dark green and snazzy -- but still a Corvair.

"I'm up to my ears in Corvairs," the genial former Louisville mayor moaned. I said nothing but, as soon as I had some free time, turned in the Corvair for a new Dodge station wagon, more suitable for a family of my size. I doubt I got much on the trade-in. (Farnsley's Corvair, however, survived and eventually ended up in the hands of a North Carolina collector named Jeff Barrett who spent years restoring it, according to a 2002 Chicago Tribune story.)

The Corvair was not my first car. My first was a 1951 Plymouth which I got cheap through an uncle who had insured it while I was in college. Its color was a hideous light green, but it survived two Ithaca, NY, winters, and I never had any trouble locating it in a garage or parking lot.

-0-



April 1968 in front of my apartment in Highland Park, a northeast Los Angeles neighborhood. I hadn't changed my license plates yet.

Bruce Lowitt - In April 1967, after buying and discarding two used cars (a 1958 Triumph TR2 and a 1963 English Ford Consul, both of which gave me much grief), I was in the second year of my first newspaper job, at the Port Chester (N.Y.) Daily item. I decided to splurge and, for \$2,050, I bought a brand-new Austin Healey Sprite.

A month later The AP hired me for the Los Angeles buro. I piled everything I could fit into my new car, drove to my parents' home in Brooklyn to stay for a night and say goodbye. The last thing my father said: "Don't pick up any hitchhikers."

I drove cross country in four days, playing tag with long-haul truckers in New Mexico and Arizona, passing them uphill and watching them fly by me downhill.

After three years in California, mostly in L.A. and the 1969 political session working under Bill Boyarsky in Sacramento before switching to the sports desk, I was promoted in May 1970 to NY Sports.

I drove back to New York in three days, the final thousand miles or so from St. Louis nonstop except for pit stops. Within two days of arriving in the Big Apple, I realized there was no place to put the car without hunting for a space and dealing with alternate-side-of-the-street parking. So, I sold my beloved Sprite and learned how to ride a motorcycle. Parking between cars was a breeze.

P.S.: I married Arlene in 1976 and the following year, when she told me she was pregnant and didn't want to be a widow before she became a mother, I sold the

Honda CB500 and we bought a Ford Granada. Feh!

Connecting series:
Your favorite shots of autumn

In Vermont



By [Lelieu Browne](#)

In Virginia



[Chris Connell](#) - Spectacular this fall in Alexandria, Va. Best in memory.

In Missouri



James Forbes - One of my drone views of the Big River valley after the fog started to lift on this cold morning. I run the drone from my back deck.

We're on a ridge that looks east over the valley in Cedar Hill, Mo. It's quite the scenic overlook.

I'm thrilled to have my drone back. It wouldn't come back to me (probably pilot error) and was lost in the woods for a whole year.

A neighbor recently found it. I cleaned it, sprayed lots of WD-40 on the wings to get rid of the rust, and it started flying again. I could do a testimonial for the company.

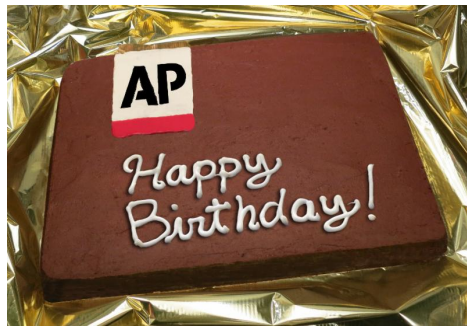


In Maryland



[Jim Rowley](#) - I offer this shot of the Potomac River near Seneca, Md., west of DC. This was taken from the C&O Canal towpath where we love to hike. Across the river is Trump National Golf Club. Fortunately, the Secret Service backed off a plan to close that stretch of water to pleasure craft while Trump occupied the White House.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Andy Dalton](#)

[Ken Klein](#)

On Saturday to...

[Warren Lerude](#)

On Sunday to...

[Cheryl Arvidson](#)

[Richard Chady](#)

Stories of interest

Musk in control of Twitter but where will he go from here? (AP)

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, TOM KRISHER and MATT O'BRIEN

Elon Musk has taken control of Twitter after a protracted legal battle and months of uncertainty. The question now is what the billionaire Tesla CEO will actually do with the social media platform.

Musk ousted three top Twitter executives on Thursday, according to two people familiar with the deal who said he was in charge. Such a shakeup was widely expected, but Musk has otherwise made contradictory statements about his vision for the company — and shared few concrete plans for how he will run it.

The people wouldn't say if all the paperwork for the deal, originally valued at \$44 billion, had been signed or if the deal had closed. A Delaware judge had ordered that the deal be finalized by Friday.

Read more [here](#).

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Hall of Fame photojournalist loses job at Columbia Daily Tribune in last round of Gannett layoffs (Gateway Journalism Review)



Brian Kratzer, a University of Missouri journalism professor, holds up t-shirt “Free Don Shrubshell” at the Hall of Fame presentation. (Photo courtesy of J.B. Forbes)

By Terry Ganey

Donald Edward Shrubshell never married. Perhaps the constant squawking of police scanners in his car and home had something to do with it.

For all of his working life until just recently, Shrubshell was a newspaper photographer. In August he reached the pinnacle of his career, learning he would be inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame.

Just days later, in a bitter ironic twist, he was told during a video call that he was being laid off from his job as the lone, fulltime news photographer at the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Describing the conversation he had with a Des Moines-based Gannett human resources person, Shrubshell said he was told, “This isn’t anything that you’ve done wrong. This just all has to do with, you know, the financial situation.”

It was not a total surprise. In early August, Gannett reported second quarter results showing a loss of \$54 million. Layoffs were coming at USA Today and at 200 of Gannett's regional daily newspapers that included the Tribune.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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Garland Formally Bars Justice Dept. From Seizing Reporters' Records (New York Times)

By Charlie Savage

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Wednesday formally banned the use of subpoenas, warrants or court orders to seize reporters' communications records or demand their notes or testimony in an effort to uncover confidential sources in leak investigations, in what amounts to a major policy shift.

The rules institutionalize — and in places expand — a temporary policy that Attorney General Merrick B. Garland put in place in July 2021, after the revelation that the Justice Department, under Attorney General William P. Barr, had secretly pursued email records of reporters at The New York Times, The Washington Post and CNN.

"These regulations recognize the crucial role that a free and independent press plays in our democracy," Mr. Garland said in a statement. "Because freedom of the press requires that members of the news media have the freedom to investigate and report the news, the new regulations are intended to provide enhanced protection to members of the news media from certain law enforcement tools and actions that might unreasonably impair news gathering."

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

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New Justice Department policy marks 'historic shift' in press protection (Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press)

By REPORTERS COMMITTEE

Today, the U.S. Department of Justice announced changes to its news media guidelines that, for the first time, expressly prohibit members of the Department from using subpoenas or other investigative tools against journalists who possess and publish classified information obtained in newsgathering, with only narrow exceptions. Bruce D. Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said this is a "watershed moment."

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using subpoenas or other investigative tools against journalists who possess and publish classified information obtained in newsgathering, with only narrow exceptions.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press worked with a coalition of news media representatives to meet with DOJ officials to advocate for strengthening the protections. The guidelines also bar efforts to seize records from, or of, journalists engaged in newsgathering more broadly, but the new limits on national security leak investigations are particularly notable.

“This is a watershed moment,” said Bruce D. Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. “The new policy marks a historic shift in protecting the rights of news organizations reporting on stories of critical public importance.

“For the last several years we have worked with newsrooms to push for meaningful reform and are grateful to the Justice Department officials who saw this new rule over the finish line.”

Read more [here](#).

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New York Post Says Rogue Employee Was Behind Vulgar and Racist Posts (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

The New York Post said on Thursday that a rogue employee had been behind a series of vulgar and racist tweets and headlines on its website earlier in the day.

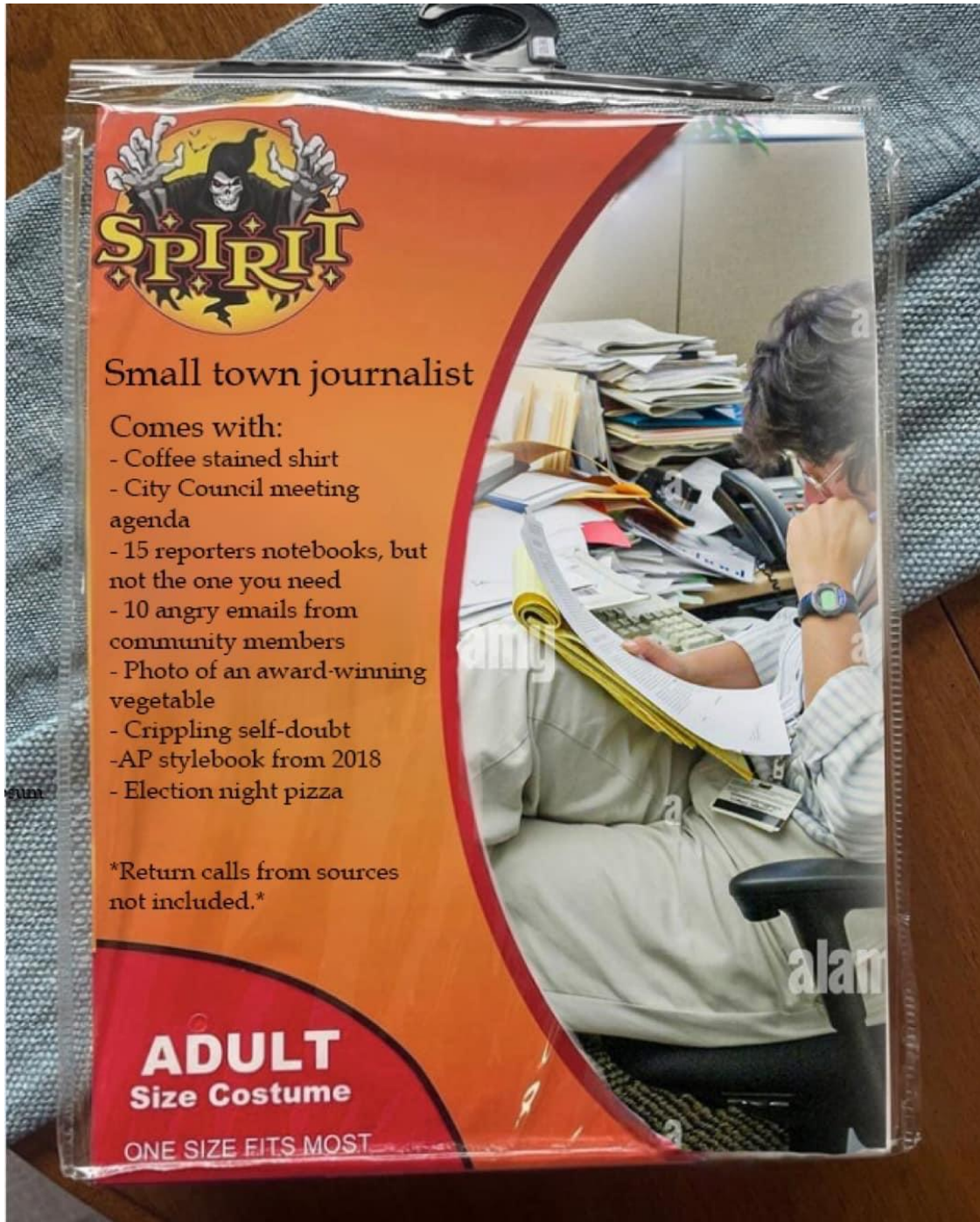
The posts on Twitter included a reference to Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York, falsely attributing statements about her to Representative Lee Zeldin, her opponent in the coming election, as well as posts about Mayor Eric Adams of New York and President Biden’s son, Hunter Biden.

The employee also used The Post’s internal publishing system to republish an editorial about Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and change the byline to Ben Shapiro, the conservative commentator. The headline was changed to say: “We must assassinate AOC for America.”

In a statement, the news organization said: “The New York Post’s investigation indicates that the unauthorized conduct was committed by an employee, and the employee has been terminated. This morning, we immediately removed the vile and reprehensible content from our website and social media accounts.”

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

The Final Word



Spotted on Twitter by Ed Williams.

Today in History – Oct. 28, 2022



Today is Friday, Oct. 28, the 301st day of 2022. There are 64 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 28, 1922, fascism came to Italy as Benito Mussolini took control of the government.

On this date:

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1726, the original edition of "Gulliver's Travels," a satirical novel by Jonathan Swift, was first published in London.

In 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

In 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

In 1914, medical researcher Jonas Salk, who developed the first successful polio vaccine, was born in New York.

In 1919, Congress enacted the Volstead Act, which provided for enforcement of Prohibition, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

In 2001, the families of people killed in the September 11 terrorist attack gathered in New York for a memorial service filled with prayer and song.

In 2013, Penn State said it would pay \$59.7 million to 26 young men over claims of child sexual abuse at the hands of former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

In 2016, the FBI dropped what amounted to a political bomb on the Clinton campaign when it announced it was investigating whether emails on a device belonging to disgraced ex-congressman Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of one of Clinton's closest aides, Huma Abedin, might contain classified information.

Ten years ago: Airlines canceled more than 7,000 flights in advance of Hurricane Sandy, transit systems in New York, Philadelphia and Washington were shut down, and forecasters warned the New York area could see an 11-foot wall of water. President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney altered their campaign travel plans because of the approaching superstorm. The San Francisco Giants won their second World Series title in three years, beating the Detroit Tigers 4-3 in 10 innings to complete a four-game sweep.

Five years ago: During a visit to South Korea, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned that the threat of nuclear missile attacks by North Korea was accelerating; he accused the North of illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear programs. Houston Astros first baseman Yuli Gurriel was suspended for the first five games of the 2018 season for making a racist gesture toward Dodgers pitcher Yu Darvish after hitting a home run in Game 3 of the World Series off of Darvish, who was born in Japan.

One year ago: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said his company was rebranding itself as Meta, an effort to encompass its virtual-reality vision for the future. (The social network itself would still be called Facebook.) Rapper Fetty Wap was arrested at New York's Citi Field, where a hip-hop music festival was taking place; he would be charged with participating in a conspiracy to smuggle large amounts of cocaine and other drugs into the New York area. (The rapper pleaded guilty to a conspiracy drug charge that carried a mandatory five-year prison sentence.) Joel Quenneville resigned as coach of the Florida Panthers, two days after the second-winningest coach in NHL history was among those implicated for not swiftly responding to allegations by a Chicago Blackhawks player of being sexually assaulted by another coach during the 2010 Stanley Cup playoffs.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 95. Actor Joan Plowright is 93. Actor Jane Alexander is 83. Actor Dennis Franz is 78. Actor Telma Hopkins is 74. Caitlyn Jenner is 73. Actor Annie Potts is 70. Songwriter/producer Desmond Child is 69. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 67. The former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahhd), is 66. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 65. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 64. Actor Mark Derwin is 62. Actor Daphne Zuniga (ZOO'-nih-guh) is 60. Actor Lauren Holly is 59. Talk show host-comedian-actor Sheryl Underwood is 59. Actor Jami Gertz is 57. Actor Chris Bauer is 56. Actor-comedian Andy Richter is 56. Actor Julia Roberts is 55. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 54. Actor Jeremy Davies is 53. Singer Ben Harper is 53. Country singer Brad Paisley is 50. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 48. Actor Gwendoline Christie is 44. Singer Justin Guarini (TV: "American Idol") is 44. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 43. Actor

Charlie Semine is 42. Actor Matt Smith is 40. Actor Finn Wittrock is 38. Actor Troian Bellisario is 37. Singer/rapper Frank Ocean is 35. Actor Lexi Ainsworth (TV: "General Hospital") is 30. Actor Nolan Gould is 24.

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.**

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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