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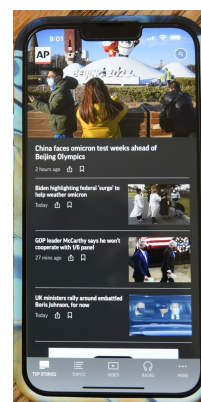
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Connecting

Nov. 3, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Nov. 3, 2022,

Our Connecting colleague **Scott McCartney** and his late wife **Karen Blumenthal** were among 11 North Texas journalists honored recently in Dallas with the lifetime excellence award, the Legends of North Texas Journalism, from the Press Club of Dallas.

Scott is a former AP national reporter who retired from the Wall Street Journal as a correspondent and columnist. His acclaimed weekly column "The Middle Seat" about airlines and travel ran for two decades in the Journal. Karen was also a WSJ veteran – 25 years, after 5 years at The Dallas Morning News - who turned to writing nonfiction books for young adults. She died in 2020 at the age of 61.

Our colleague **John Lumpkin** planned to be at the Oct. 13 event but tested positive for COVID and was unable to attend. He later gathered information and crafted it into a nicely written story on the special evening.

After publishing the latest listing Wednesday of Connecting's 80s and 90s Clubs, this essay by Gloria Steinem in this month's Vanity Fair – shared on Facebook by colleague [Tim Harmon](#) – hit home:

“When I am asked how I “still” keep going—and I’m asked that a lot at my age—I say it’s because action is infinitely interesting. You might be someone who knows the law and can help navigate legislatively. You might be a health care worker who can provide care and support, regardless of what the law says, or you might be really good at social media and spreading information and friendship. It’s rare that any one of us can solve a big problem, but collectively, we can do anything.”

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Legends of North Texas: **Scott McCartney, Karen Blumenthal**



THE WAY THEY WERE: This photo accompanied a WSJ story by Karen written in July 2019 - [Life Can Get Weird When You're Married to The Middle Seat](#) - a year before her death. The caption: Traveling with WSJ columnist Scott McCartney can sometimes be trying for his wife, Karen Blumenthal. But the two of them, here at Dallas Love Field, often find new ideas to write about on their trips. Photo: JUSTIN CLEMONS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

[John Lumpkin](#) - “It was a night to celebrate journalism - which seems ever more important these days.” So began an email from [Scott McCartney](#), former AP national reporter and retired Wall Street Journal correspondent and columnist, about the induction of him and his late wife [Karen Blumenthal](#) into the [Legends of North Texas Journalism by the Press Club of Dallas](#).

Scott was offering a fill-in because I had tested positive for COVID on day of the Oct. 13 ceremony and could not attend. In all, 11 journalists with Dallas-Fort Worth backgrounds were honored in the Class of 2022.

As a former inductee, I served on the selection committee. I batted four-for-four on my nominations - Karen, Scott and two CBS "legends" in their own right, Verne Lundquist and Bob Schieffer. Karen passed away in 2020 – she was an amazing combination of journalist, author of a dozen non-fiction books, journalism educator and civic force in advocacy of Dallas public libraries.

"Every honoree had great stories of reporting adventures and memorable moments with Texas legends," Scott said. "And everyone expressed appreciation for the Press Club's efforts to promote journalism excellence."

In his acceptance speech. Scott said, "I had a 40-year career in Dallas and, except for a brief internship at The Dallas Morning News, I only worked for New York organizations. That has to be some kind of rarity."

About that experience, "I thought Texas was a reporter's theme park - an endless number of stories, and endless fascination with the rest of the world with what was going on in Texas." Scott also used Dallas as a base to cover hurricanes, wildfires, oil spills, riots, presidential campaigns and conventions elsewhere.



Scott McCartney (left) and Dallas sportscaster Verne Lundquist, who were among 11 honored at the event. Lundquist, nationally known through his broadcast work at CBS (as well as ABC and TNT), was a longtime friend of former Texas AP sports editor Denne Freeman. When Scott introduced himself to Verne and mentioned Denne, Verne exclaimed, yes, “The Wire God.”

About Karen, Scott said, “From the time she gave me my first assignment at the college newspaper in 1978, we did everything together. We edited each other’s stories when we could. We edited each other’s books. We managed the Wall Street Journal Dallas bureau together.

“So, to receive this honor together is a fitting, emotional exclamation mark on our careers.”

Connecting readers might appreciate one anecdote from Scott’s remarks, recalling “pressure to leave Dallas and go to the mothership in New York.” It seems the AP managing editor and the ME of the Journal at the time had a lunch to “conspire to move Karen and me to New York.

“We refused. For better or worse, we loved Dallas.”

My memories of Scott and Karen are myriad. He and Kristin Gazlay teamed as news editor and assistant bureau chief in Dallas after I moved there in 1982 - a young, incredibly talented duo. For that reason, the “team” didn’t last that long. He became among the first of AP’s regional writers and she headed to Arkansas as Little Rock AP bureau chief.

I’m not sure Karen forgave me for inviting Scott to a “business meeting” one day at a public golf course because he lost their wedding ring - my guess, when he tried to take it off beforehand and missed the pouch in his golf bag. Perhaps one of the few rookie mistakes he ever made.

Even so, Karen didn’t mention that decades later when she accepted the offer to help establish a business journalism sequence at the Schieffer School of Journalism, where I went as director after retiring from AP. She took the lead on a foundation course in capstone reporting - a mesmerizing experience that the editor of our partners at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram said was one of the most meaningful developments in his career.



Fast forward to the Press Club of Dallas Legends’ event and other AP connections:

Verne Lundquist - NCAA Final Four basketball and Masters golf institution - was a Dallas sports news anchor in the early days of Dallas Cowboys’ rise. Along the sidelines was another institution, Texas AP sports editor Denne Freeman. Scott emailed that he and Verne got together at the October 13 event, with Verne’s memory of Denne as “The Wire God.”

Bob Schieffer - who often attributed his early success to the AP bureau in Saigon embracing him when he showed up in a war zone as a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and had no compass on where to proceed. Schieffer’s acceptance was via video, which Scott reported was “as always, just priceless...the crowd loved it. His humor and his humility really showed through.”

I received another report of the Legends inductions from Betty Osborne, who attended in memory of another deceased Press Club legend, husband Burl, publisher of The Dallas Morning News, chair of Associated Press and AP correspondent, bureau chief and managing editor.

“I was very moved by Scott’s acceptance speech on behalf of himself and Karen...Bob Schieffer’s remarks warmed my heart.”

She said she believed Schieffer was trying to embrace the same message in the newly published biography of Osborne - Burl: Journalism Giant and Medical Trailbrazer - “we need good journalism and good journalism can still be done.”

It turns out that Schieffer and Burl were born in the same year, Betty noted. “They sure made ‘em good in 1937.”

Saved by AP mandate against political involvement of its staff

[Henry Bradsher](#) - The latest admonition for AP staff to avoid any involvement in politics, any implication of political views, reminds me of my home leave from India in the summer of 1962.

An uncle had decided to seek election as a U.S. senator for Louisiana. He was a WWII veteran, a colonel retired from the Army with political views far to the right of mine. He thought he had a commitment from a right-wing Texas oilman for money to help his campaign. After returning to Delhi, however, I heard that the money never came through and his poorly funded campaign virtually collapsed.

While I was vacationing in Baton Rouge, he asked me to make some political speeches for him, to help him round up supporters.

My own progressive views would not have fit with the kind of speeches he wanted. But rather than explain this to him, perhaps risking an awkward confrontation, I was able simply to tell him – thank goodness! – that AP forbade any political involvement of its staff.

Randy Schmid was the consummate AP guy

[Rita Beamish](#) - I am a bit late to the game here (currently wrapping up a three-month stint living in Paris, fulfilling a longtime dream), but wanted to thank you for the coverage of Randy Schmid’s passing and to Will Lester for a wonderful obit. I think of Randy as the consummate AP guy – always there with smart, readable copy, an all-around dependable, unflappable colleague and a very nice person with a delightful sense of whimsy. I enjoyed working with him in DC very much and I’m sad to hear of his passing. And please convey my congrats to Nora Raum on her poll-worker gig. That’s a really great idea – something I’ve thought about for years but never actually stepped up. Good for Nora!

Interviewing Korean War Medal of Honor recipient

[Chris Carola](#) - I was interested to see Bill Kaczor’s item in Monday’s Connecting regarding dreaming about our AP work. In his case, a dream about interviewing the ghosts of military aviators, likely triggered by seeing a TV commercial for a new film,

“Devotion,” which tells the story of Ensign Jesse L. Brown, the Navy’s first Black aviator, and his fellow fighter pilot, Capt. Thomas Hudner.

Like Bill, I had the opportunity to interview Hudner, Brown’s wingman on the day he was shot down during a mission over Korea in December 1950. Hudner crash-landed his fighter near Brown’s downed aircraft. Hudner’s unsuccessful effort to rescue his fatally injured comrade earned him the Medal of Honor.

In the summer of 2013, a WWII researcher from New York who specializes in missing-in-action cases in the Pacific informed me that Hudner was going back to Korea in an effort to retrieve Brown’s remains, which were believed to still be in the plane’s wreckage. Soon after I interviewed Hudner on the phone from his Massachusetts home, I learned that Jean H. Lee, then AP’s Korea correspondent, was doing a story on Hudner’s impending trip. My quotes from Hudner were included in her story.

Severe weather prevented Hudner’s party, accompanied by North Korean soldiers, from reaching the crash site. He died on Nov. 13, 2017. He was 93.

“Devotion” is being released Nov. 23.

Blue Angels





Bill Kaczor - I took this series of pictures of the Blue Angels flying past the lighthouse at Pensacola Naval Air Station during a practice show Wednesday. I shot the pictures from Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island across Pensacola Bay from the air station. The base, including the National Naval Aviation Museum and Blue Angels twice-weekly practice shows have been closed to the public since a Saudi air force trainee fatally shot three U.S. servicemen in December 2019. Local sheriff's deputies raced onto the base and killed the shooter. For the first time since the terrorist attack the public will be allowed back on the base for the Blue Angels annual homecoming shows Nov. 11-12.

Another newspaper acquisition?



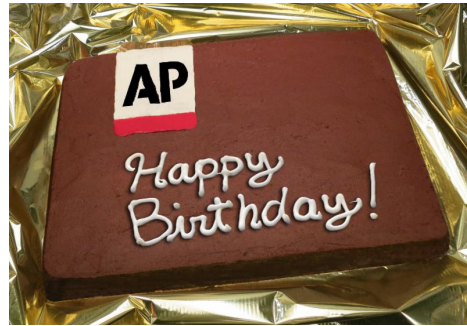
Shared by [Neal Ulevich](#)

AP Stylebook - November 2022

Midterm elections are fast approaching. To help with your coverage, we have a new AP Stylebook Online Topical Guide. Check out some highlights below.

Click [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mark Terrill](#)

Stories of interest

News alone is no longer the driver of New York Times subscription growth (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

The New York Times continues its steady digital subscription growth, executives said Wednesday, reporting financial results for the third quarter. Digital subscriptions were up a net of 180,000, the same as the increase last quarter. Including print, the Times now has 9.3 million subscribers.

The company also continues to deliver an operating profit margin of just under 10% – \$51 million on revenues of \$548 million.

But the growth is no longer primarily in subscriptions to news alone. Rather, the Times is heavily pushing what it calls internally “the bundle.” That is an all-access product that also includes Games and Cooking verticals, audio, the Wirecutter product information site and now The Athletic, which the Times purchased for \$550 million in January.

CEO Meredith Kopit Levien said that the bundle costs roughly 50% more than a news-only digital subscription. Beginning this quarter, she added, the company plans to increase the price of single-product subs to news or other products, hoping to “compel people to take the bundle.”

Read more [here](#).

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George Brett wants frickin’ baseball box scores back in the newspaper (610 Sports)

(670 The Score) Hall of Famer and Royals legend George Brett doesn't follow baseball all that closely outside of the Kansas City area these days, in large part because he finds it difficult to do so.

And why is that? Because MLB box scores often don't appear in the newspaper, and that fact really riles him up.

"I don't really follow anything outside of Kansas City," Brett said on the Parkins & Spiegel Show as he took a detour of the subject matter while discussing the White Sox's hiring of Royals bench coach Pedro Grifol as their new manager. "It all started when, god, USA Today and the local paper, they don't even put in box scores anymore. You notice that? I used to love to get up in the morning, and there's not many guys I follow in baseball on other teams, but now in order for me to do that, I've got to go to MLB.com, pull up box scores and I've got to start clicking all these frickin' buttons. Just give me a frickin' newspaper with all the information I need. It's not that frickin' hard, is it? Jesus Christ, it just drives me crazy. And they wonder why baseball is losing its popularity? I think that might be one of the reasons."

Given how early most newspaper deadlines are these days, Brett is unlikely to get his wish on a regular basis – but it won't stop him from sharing his opinion.

"Throw a box score in there once in a while for crying out loud," Brett said.

You can listen to Brett's full interview with the Parkins & Spiegel Show below. It starts around the 17-minute mark. Brett discussed Grifol at length as the latter prepares to take over as the White Sox's dugout boss.

Read more [here](#).

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CBS, Moonves must pay \$30.5 million for insider trading (AP)

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN** and **STEFANIE DAZIO**

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS and its former president, Leslie Moonves, will pay \$30.5 million as part of an agreement with the New York attorney general's office, which says the network's executives conspired with a Los Angeles police captain to conceal sexual assault allegations against Moonves.

Under the deal announced Wednesday by Attorney General Letitia James, the broadcast giant is required to pay \$22 million to shareholders and another \$6 million for sexual harassment and assault programs. Moonves will have to pay \$2.5 million, all of which will benefit stockholders who the attorney general said were initially kept in the dark about the allegations.

At least one of those executives — one of the few privy to an internal investigation — sold millions of dollars of stock before the allegations against Moonves became public, which the attorney general's office said amounted to insider trading.

Read more [here](#).

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Journalism legislation faces a make-or-break session

(Poynter)

By: Greg Burns

This article was originally published on Northwestern University's Medill Local News Initiative website and is republished here with permission.

The clock is ticking on the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

With the midterm elections coming up on Nov. 8, the lame-duck session could be the last realistic chance for Congress to pass this bipartisan effort to make Google and Facebook pay for local news content on their platforms.

U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., a lead sponsor of the measure, believes the legislation is likely to win approval in a matter of weeks, he said in an interview. "The lame-duck session is the perfect time to pass this bill," he said. "I suspect we will do a Judiciary Committee markup soon and I think there is strong bipartisan support. There is no reason we can't pass it in this session."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Mark Twain and the Spider

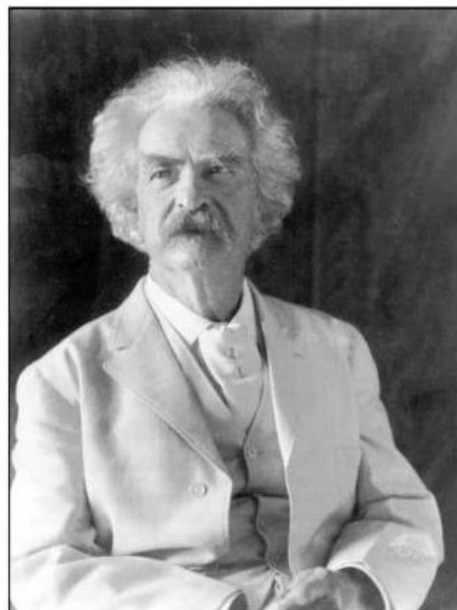
One day during his tenure as the editor of a small Missouri newspaper, Mark Twain received a letter from a reader who had found a spider in his paper. He wondered whether this portended good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."



*Keep the spiders from your
store's door. Call us!*

**The Clarke
County
Democrat
251-275-3375**



Shared by Ed Williams

Today in History – Nov. 3, 2022



Today is Thursday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2022. There are 58 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1986, the Iran-Contra affair came to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

On this date:

In 1839, the first Opium War between China and Britain broke out.

In 1908, Republican William Howard Taft was elected president, outpolling Democrat William Jennings Bryan.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In 1970, Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1976, the horror movie "Carrie," adapted from the Stephen King novel and starring Sissy Spacek, was released by United Artists.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President George H.W. Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a Black carjacker.

In 1997, the Supreme Court let stand California's groundbreaking Proposition 209, which banned race and gender preference in hiring and school admissions.

In 2014, 13 years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, a new 1,776-foot skyscraper at the World Trade Center site opened for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation.

In 2020, Democrat Joe Biden won the presidency in an election that saw more than 103 million Americans vote early, many by mail, amid a coronavirus pandemic that upended a campaign marked by fear and rancor, waged against a backdrop of protests over racial injustice. As vote counting continued in battleground states, Biden's victory would not be known for more than three days; Republican President Donald Trump would refuse to concede, falsely claiming that he was a victim of widespread voter fraud. Kamala Harris made history as the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to become vice president. Democrats clinched two more years of controlling the House but saw their majority shrink. Republicans emerged with a two-seat Senate majority that would be erased by Democratic wins in two runoffs in Georgia in January.

Ten years ago: The lights went back on in lower Manhattan to the relief of residents who'd been plunged into darkness for nearly five days by Superstorm Sandy, but there was deepening resentment in the city's outer boroughs and suburbs over a continued lack of power and maddening gas shortages. New York's newly relocated NBA team, the former New Jersey Nets, hosted the first regular-season game by a major sports team in Brooklyn since the Dodgers left in 1957; the Brooklyn Nets beat the Toronto Raptors 107-100.

Five years ago: Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and triggered a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded, was spared a prison sentence by a military judge in North Carolina; President Donald Trump blasted the decision as a "complete and total disgrace." Netflix said it was cutting all ties with Kevin Spacey after a series of allegations of sexual harassment and assault, and that it would not be a part of any further production of "House of Cards" that included him. A massive report from scientists inside and outside the government concluded that the evidence of global warming was stronger than ever. Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky suffered five broken ribs in an attack by a longtime next-door neighbor as Paul did yard work at his home. (Rene Boucher pleaded guilty to assaulting a member of Congress and was sentenced to 30 days in prison.)

One year ago: After serving more than seven years in an Indonesian prison for killing her mother at a luxury resort on the island of Bali, Heather Mack of Chicago was indicted on murder conspiracy charges in the United States and taken into federal custody on her arrival at O'Hare International Airport. Police in western Australia used a battering ram to enter a locked house and rescue a 4-year-old girl, Cleo Smith, who'd been abducted from a camping tent more than two weeks earlier; the suspect in the kidnapping was arrested nearby. (Terence Kelly pleaded guilty to the abduction.) A government advisory committee recommended that all U.S. adults younger than 60

be vaccinated against hepatitis B. The Federal Reserve announced a plan to gradually reduce bond purchases, a first step in withdrawing emergency aid for the economy during the coronavirus pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lois Smith is 92. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 89. Actor Shadoe Stevens is 76. Singer Lulu is 74. "Vogue" editor-in-chief Anna Wintour is 73. Comedian-actor Roseanne Barr is 70. Actor Kate Capshaw is 69. Comedian Dennis Miller is 69. Actor Kathy Kinney is 69. Singer Adam Ant is 68. Sports commentator and former quarterback Phil Simms is 67. Director-screenwriter Gary Ross is 66. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 65. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 50. Actor Francois Battiste (TV: "Ten Days in the Valley") is 46. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 40. Actor Julie Berman is 39. Actor Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 36. Alternative rock singer/songwriter Courtney Barnett is 35. TV personality and model Kendall Jenner (TV: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians") is 27.

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.



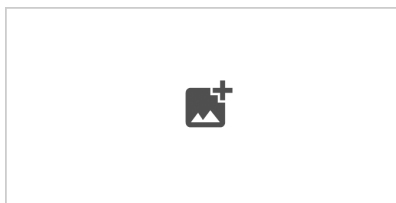
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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