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Connecting

July 18, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this July 18, 2023,

[Monday's Axios](#) poses an intriguing question of its readers in "Friendships that have no age" that I, in turn, am asking you:

Intergenerational bonds come with a slew of perks — but they're not that common. By the numbers: Some 37% of Americans say they have a friend who is at least 15 years younger or older than they are, according to AARP.

But intergenerational friendships are more common among older generations — Gen X (41%) and boomers (39%) — than millennials (32%).

Why it matters: Those who have older friends say those pals inspire them, give them a new perspective and act as role models.

Older folks with younger buds say those friends boost their energy, make them feel valued and keep them up on trends.

So what about you? Share your experiences especially as they relate to the news industry and how your friendship impacted your life.

I also loved “Leader of the Band” – shares our colleague [Susan Clark](#), on mention of the Dan Fogelberg song in my remembrance of my dad in Monday’s edition: “And living here without my parents from the time I had been 27 years old, I always cried when I heard the song and the words - 'My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man, I’m just a living legacy to the leader of the band.' It always reminded me of my dad Alec Myers who was born in 1908 in a small village called Yatra, near Novogrodek, an area that is now Belarus. He was sent to South Africa to make a life and he did.”

OUR CONDOLENCES TO BOBBIE SERIL on the death of her sister Pearl Ellen Pell (nee Seril), who died Monday after a courageous battle with cancer over the past year. Bobbie and Pearl were business partners in the family real estate business for 35 years – a perfect partner, Bobbie said, “a worrier and a warrior.” Bobbie joined her sister in the business in 1984 after working for The Associated Press – first as a temporary secretary in Boston in 1977, then as Managing Editor Burl Osborne's assistant in New York, then with Vice President Jim Mangan in Newspaper Membership. Services will be Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Riverside Memorial Chapel, 180 West 76th Street, NYC. The service will be streamed on the [Riverside website](#). Bobbie’s email is - spqr985@aol.com

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest. And thank you for wonderful comments I received from my remembrance of my dad in Monday’s issue on the 10th anniversary of his death.

Paul

An AP photo long-remembered



When a memorial hearing was held last Friday in Fort Dodge, Iowa, for the late Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady, an Associated Press photo of Cady caddying for a Fort Dodge attorney came to the forefront.

According [to a story](#) by Kelby Wingert in The Messenger:

Cady, who made his home with his family in Fort Dodge for nearly 40 years, died in November 2019. His leadership and service on the bench were honored and memorialized by the Webster County Bar Association with a memorial hearing and the unveiling of a commissioned portrait to hang in the Webster County Courthouse. Cady's widow, children and grandchildren filled the front row of the gallery of the large courtroom for the event.

Longtime friend and colleague Dave Sergeant, a Fort Dodge attorney, first met Cady in 1978 and shared memories of getting to know Cady while on the golf course over the years. In fact, when Sergeant competed in the U.S. Senior Open in Toledo, Ohio, in 2003, Cady volunteered to serve as his caddy on the links.

"I didn't play particularly well, but that was OK because I had Mark by my side and he was a great motivator," Sergeant said. "And when the media got on to a supreme court justice caddying for a lawyer, they took off with it."

Sergeant recalled an Associated Press photo that ran in the national news media that showed Cady giving Sergeant some advice on lining up his shot on the green and headlines like "Supreme Help" and "Court Caddy."

"My wife said 'When you look at all this, Mark actually ended up with more press than you did,'" Sergeant said. Laughter, an uncommon sound in a courtroom, filled the air.

That photo, Sergeant said, hung on the walls in each of their offices for many, many years.

Thomas D. Howie: The Major of Saint-Lô



Maj. Thomas D. Howie's body at St. Croix Cathedral (National Archives)

MARC LANCASTER
World War II on Deadline

The story of Maj. Thomas D. Howie moved readers before they even knew his name.

On July 18, 1944, correspondents accompanying the 29th Infantry Division into Saint-Lô led their stories with a vivid illustration of the cost of battle. Wrote Hal Boyle of the Associated Press:

An ambulance in the first American column to roll into St. Lo tonight carried in state through the battered streets the body of a Virginia major killed in battle after winning dominant heights enabling other troops to breach this German stronghold.



This gallant gesture was made on personal orders of the commanding general of the major's division, as a tribute to the dead officer. The general felt the major's sacrifice had won deathless honor for his division, for his men, and for himself.

Boyle's fourth paragraph notes that the major's name cannot be released until his family is notified, then continues to describe the scene. Quoted at length is Capt. Thomas D. Neal, who had been assigned to bring the officer's body into Saint-Lô by Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt.

"The general wanted him to be among the first to enter the city," Neal said. "He died trying to win it, because if it hadn't been for his bravery and military ability we wouldn't have gotten in so quickly. It is a tribute to him and to his determination. The men feel good about it and it means a lot to them, particularly to the men of his own unit. He was a very popular officer and the men liked him a lot."

Neal and a handful of other men found the major's covered body in the field where medics were still working to treat American and German wounded who had been brought back a few hundred yards from the front. They lifted his body "reverently" onto a litter, covered him with a raincoat and blanket, placed him on a jeep, and drove slowly up a dirt road toward the column assembling for entry into Saint-Lô. There, they transferred him to an ambulance.

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Chris Tomlinson](#)

[Bill Welch](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Alyssa Adams](#)

Stories of interest

COMMENTARY: My newspaper died (Daily Montanan)

By JIM HIGHTOWER

My newspaper died.

Well, technically it still appears. But it has no life, no news, and barely a pulse. It's a mere semblance of a real paper, one of the hundreds of local journalism zombies staggering along in cities and towns that had long relied on them.

Each one has a bare number of subscribers keeping it going, mostly longtime readers like me clinging to a memory of what used to be and a flickering hope that, surely, the thing won't get worse. Then it does.

Our papers are getting worse at a time we desperately need them to get better. Why? Because they are no longer mediums of journalism, civic purpose or local identity.

Rather, they've been reduced to little more than profit siphons, steadily piping local money to a handful of distant, high-finance syndicates that have bought out our hometown journals. My daily, the Austin American-Statesman, was swallowed up in 2019 by the nationwide Gannett chain, becoming one of more than 1,000 local papers Gannett presently mass produces under its corporate banner, "the USA Today Network."

But even that reference is a deception. The publication doesn't confide to readers that it's actually a product of SoftBank Group, a multibillion-dollar Japanese financial consortium that owns and controls Gannett.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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Making Census data accessible for reporters with varying data literacy (RJI)

By Ellie Lin

Ellie Lin is a 2023 RJI Student Innovation Fellow partnered with the Sacramento Bee in Sacramento, California. The RJI Student Fellows will be sharing their work this summer through Innovation in Focus.

When people think of Census Bureau data, they often think of the decennial census: the 10-year survey that measures population conducted during “every year that ends in 0.”

The Census Bureau collects data much more frequently than every 10 years. They have over 130 surveys and programs they conduct each year. That amount of data can be incredibly useful for a newsroom to understand their community, but it can also be daunting if you’ve never worked with census data before.

This summer, I’m partnered with the Sacramento Bee as their dedicated data visuals reporter. We are focusing primarily on reproducibility, or the ability for another reporter to use and navigate data. The goal with reproducibility is that anyone, regardless of their data literacy level, could access and understand processes — and potentially recreate them.

My first project this summer was a data-driven story on how the Sacramento area has changed since 2020. We used the Census’ vintage 2022 population estimates by county to write the story.

Here’s how we did it:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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A North Korean defector captivated U.S. media. Some question her story. (Washington Post)

By Will Sommer

Megyn Kelly introduced a guest on a February episode of her podcast with an unusual caveat: “People have been coming for” Yeonmi Park, she said, by accusing the North Korean defector turned American conservative activist of telling false stories about her home country.

The host acknowledged some shifting aspects of Park's accounts — but “whatever!” she concluded. Kelly assured listeners that she had fact-checked Park's story, and “as incredible as they were, her descriptions of North Korea checked out.” Later, she urged Park to run for office.

Sixteen years after fleeing the brutal regime, Park has become a multiplatform star in America, appearing on “The Joe Rogan Experience” and other popular podcasts, amassing a YouTube following of more than 1 million subscribers and selling more than 100,000 copies of “In Order to Live,” her 2015 memoir about the cruelties and deprivations of life under the communist dictatorship.

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

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RALPH NADER: What's the matter with the 'liberal press?' (Albany Herald)

By Ralph Nader

David Ignatius, a long-time Washington Post columnist on military intelligence topics, probably never dreamed his newspaper would fill over three full pages serializing his latest work of thrilling fiction, “The Tao of Deception.” On June 28, the “Breaking news and latest headlines” in the A section of the paper featured the first installment. Part II appeared on June 30.

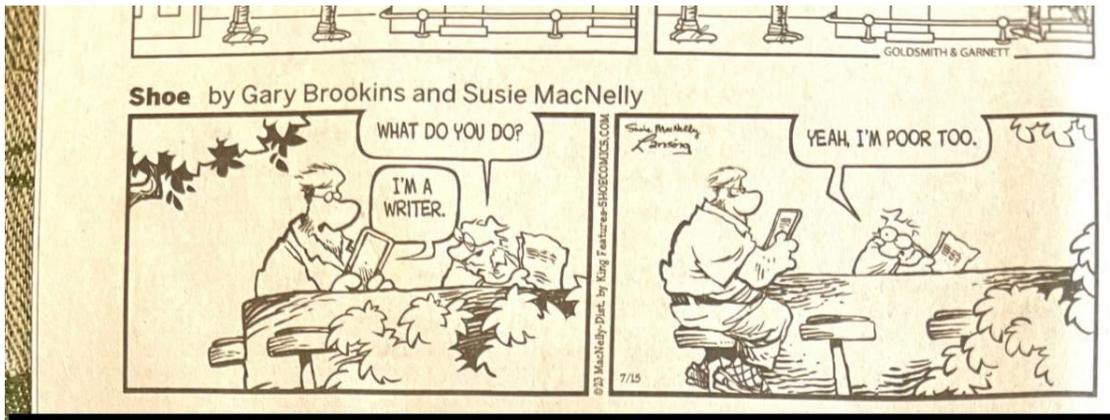
What's occurring at the Washington Post, the New York Times and big regional daily newspapers is a flight toward stupefying their material in a desperate plunge to retain readers — print and online. Maybe surveys show a tsunami of aliteracy from the rising iPhone generations.

To adjust to digital-age readers, the New York Times has replaced much of its content with gigantic photographs, graphics and other visuals, not just in its regular sections on style/arts, sports and food, but also in the daily news departments as well as the Sunday Business and Opinion sections.

The influential New York Times Editorial Page — once featuring some 15 or more editorials a week — is now down to three editorials a week. Moreover, this space is now largely taken up by a handful of regular opinion columnists, many predictably redundant and tired. Imagine a historic newspaper intentionally diminishing its editorial advice to this country. There is no precedent.

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

The Final Word



Shared by Charles Monzella

Today in History - July 18, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 18, the 199th day of 2023. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick (chap-uh-KWIH'-dihk) Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; Kennedy's car later went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

On this date:

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union troops spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of Black soldiers, charged Confederate-held Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. The Confederates were able to repel the Northerners, who

suffered heavy losses; the 54th's commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was among those who were killed.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

In 1925, Adolf Hitler published the first volume of his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf (My Struggle)."

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

In 1964, nearly a week of rioting erupted in New York's Harlem neighborhood following the fatal police shooting of a Black teenager, James Powell, two days earlier.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

In 2005, an unrepentant Eric Rudolph was sentenced in Birmingham, Alabama, to life in prison for an abortion clinic bombing that killed an off-duty police officer and maimed a nurse.

In 2020, Canadian officials said the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team would not be able to play its home games in Toronto during the shortened 2020 season because it wasn't safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States. (The Blue Jays would play "home" games in the ballpark of their minor league affiliate in Buffalo, N.Y.)

Ten years ago: Once the very symbol of American industrial might, Detroit became the biggest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, its finances ravaged and its neighborhoods hollowed out by a long, slow decline in population and auto manufacturing. Romanian investigators found the remains of paint, canvas and nails in the oven of a woman whose son was charged with stealing seven paintings by Picasso, Monet and Matisse from a Dutch gallery in October 2012. Three Romanian men would later plead guilty to the thefts.

Five years ago: The 12 Thai youth soccer teammates and their coach who were trapped in a flooded cave for more than two weeks were released from the hospital. FBI Director Christopher Wray said Russia was continuing to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to sow discord in the United States. European regulators fined Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company's Android operating system to install Google's search and browser apps.

California's Supreme Court decided that a measure to divide the state into three parts would not appear on the November ballot. California's Highway 1 near Big Sur reopened, 14 months after it was blocked by a massive landslide.

One year ago: The Texas Department of Public Safety announced an internal review into the actions of state police who had dozens of troopers and agents on the scene during a slow and chaotic response to the Uvalde elementary school massacre that left 21 dead. The review came after the release of a damning report by the Texas House revealed wide failures by all levels of law enforcement. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said he planned to retire by the end of President Joe Biden's term in January 2025. Fauci, 81, was appointed director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984 and advised seven presidents, leading research in HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, Ebola, Zika and the coronavirus. Pop artist Claes Oldenburg, who turned the mundane into the monumental through his outsized sculptures of a baseball bat, a clothespin and other objects, died at age 93.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 94. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 88. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 85. Musician Brian Auger is 84. Singer Dion DiMucci is 84. Actor James Brolin is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 83. Singer Martha Reeves is 82. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 74. Business mogul Richard Branson is 73. Actor Margo Martindale is 72. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 69. Actor Audrey Landers is 67. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 66. Actor Anne-Marie Johnson is 63. Actor Elizabeth McGovern is 62. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 61. Rock musician Jack Irons is 61. Broadcaster Wendy Williams is 59. Actor Vin Diesel is 56. Actor Grant Bowler is 55. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 52. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 51. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 51. Actor Eddie Matos is 51. Singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 48. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 48. Actor Elsa Pataky ("The Fast and the Furious" films) is 47. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (formerly with Eve 6) is 45. Movie director Jared Hess is 44. Actor Jason Weaver is 44. Actor Kristen Bell is 43. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 42. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 41. Actor Priyanka Chopra is 41. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 40. Actor Chace Crawford is 38. Actor James Norton is 38. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 37. Actor Travis Milne is 37.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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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