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Connecting -- May 23, 2018

1 message

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Wed, May 23, 2018 at 9:07 AM

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Connecting

May 23, 2018

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Colleagues,

As the Memorial Day weekend approaches, I thought Connecting would be a good vehicle for you to share with your colleagues a memory of someone now departed who was instrumental in your career.

It could be a colleague, a boss, a relative - that's your call.

Send along and I will publish them through the rest of the week.

In regard to the upcoming holiday, Connecting colleague **Tricia English**, whose husband Army Capt. **Shawn English** was killed in action in Iraq in 2006, shares this friendly PSA:



We lead today's issue with a story on AP Washington reporter **Ellen Knickmeyer** being grabbed by the shoulders and shoved out of an EPA building by a security guard Tuesday while she was trying to cover a meeting. Knickmeyer said she was not hurt.

"The Environmental Protection Agency's selective barring of news organizations, including the AP, from covering today's meeting is alarming and a direct threat to the public's right to know about what is happening inside their government," said AP Executive Editor **Sally Buzbee**.

The incident begs the question - has something similar happened to you in the course of your news coverage and if so, how about sharing the story with your colleagues.

Have a good day!

Paul

EPA blocks some media from summit, then reverses course

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - A reporter for The Associated Press was grabbed by the shoulders and shoved out of an Environmental Protection Agency building by a security guard Tuesday for trying to cover a meeting on water contaminants in which some reporters were welcomed and others were not.



Ellen Knickmeyer

An aide to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt later called to apologize to AP reporter Ellen Knickmeyer and said the incident is being looked into. Knickmeyer, who said she was not hurt, was later let into the meeting when the EPA reversed course and opened it to all reporters.

Representatives from CNN and E&E News, which covers energy and environment issues, were also initially barred from the meeting.

Even for an administration with a contentious relationship with the press and a president who has put the phrase "fake news" into the lexicon, Tuesday's events were unusual.

Pruitt had convened what he called a national summit on dangerous chemicals that have been found in some water systems. Some 200 people attended, including representatives of states, tribes and the chemical industry and environmentalists.

Pruitt's remarks at the meeting were listed on his public schedule and described as being open to the press on a federal daybook of events.

Knickmeyer said she called Monday about the event and was told by EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox that it was invitation-only and there was no room for her. She said she showed up anyway, and was told by a security guard that she couldn't enter. She said she asked to speak to a representative from the press office, was refused and told to get out. Photos of the event showed several empty seats.

After security told her that "we can make you get out," Knickmeyer said she took out her phone to record what was happening. Some of the security guards reached for it, and a woman grabbed her shoulders from behind and pushed her about five feet out the door.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright, Mike Holmes, Doug Pizac, Mark Mittelstadt.

Connecting mailbox

'They're just data, electronic dust'

Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - Thanks, Paul, for reminding me to finally catch up with "Kodachrome." A wonderful film on multiple levels and an inspiration to this occasional analog guy. My favorite Ben Ryder line? "People are taking more pictures now than ever before. Billions of 'em. But there's no slides, no prints. They're just data, electronic dust." Yet there was a "happy ending" as the credits rolled: "Shot on 35mm Kodak film."

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Here's the movie trailer for Shock and Awe

Joseph Galloway ([Email](#)) - Here is the official movie trailer for SHOCK AND AWE which will reach theaters mid-July. A pure journalism film by Rob Reiner about myself and three Knight Ridder colleagues in the year 2002 when we were busy challenging the lies the Administration was telling to drag us to war in Iraq. Actor Tommy Lee Jones plays the Galloway character.

We were the four Bad Boys of Knight Ridder DC: Bureau chief John Walcott, reporters Jonathan Landay and Warren Strobel and myself. The movie is based on our work in 2002-2003 chasing down and debunking some of the Administration claims that were being used to drag us to war in Iraq. We had a number of day-long sessions with director Rob Reiner and screenwriter Joey Hartstone as the screenplay was being fleshed out. We were all on the set in New Orleans where they recreated the Knight Ridder newsroom and, among other things, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for the filming. Exteriors were filmed in DC.



On the night before filming was to begin Rob Reiner got a call from Alex Baldwin's agent. Baldwin was supposed to play Walcott in the film. "Alex is dropping out," Reiner was told. Almost immediately Reiner declared that HE would play Walcott -- and did a better job than Baldwin would have done.

[Click here](#) for a link to the trailer.

GOP fundraiser subpoenas AP over hacked emails, setting up legal showdown



The Associated Press has received the subpoena from GOP fundraiser Elliott Broidy and is planning to resist it. | Alex J. Berliner/ABIImages via AP

By BEN SCHRECKINGER

A top Republican fundraiser has subpoenaed the Associated Press for information about the source of hacked emails that formed the basis of recent reports about him, people familiar with the matter tell POLITICO.

The AP has received the subpoena from Elliott Broidy - the subject of several recent articles about his efforts to lobby President Donald Trump and the U.S. government to adopt a hard-line stance against the Persian Gulf state of Qatar - and is planning to resist it, according to the outlet's director of media relations, Lauren Easton.

The impasse sets up a potential legal standoff over press protections at a time when political battles are increasingly being waged via leaks of hacked data. A copy of the subpoena obtained by POLITICO demands the AP turn over all its information about its sources, including their names, along with information about how the AP obtained the hacked emails.

While several outlets - including the Wall Street Journal and the Hollywood Reporter - have published articles based on Broidy's stolen emails, the businessman is singling out the AP for a subpoena because of the lengths the outlet has gone to conceal the identity of its sources, according to a person familiar with Broidy's thinking.

While other outlets have provided Broidy with the original PDF documents they received containing Broidy's emails, the AP appears to have only provided Broidy with scans of printouts of the emails, according to the person. Original PDF documents contain metadata that can be helpful for forensic analysis when attempting to trace the source of a hack, while scans of printouts lack such metadata.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

AP photographer documents lava meeting sea in sizzling show



AP Photos/Jae C. Hong



By JAE C. HONG

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) - The glowing lava was extinguished as it met the water with the hiss of a million steam irons. An otherworldly cloud flourished from the fizzle, rapidly expanding outward and upward, morphing into different shapes. It smelled like burnt matches from the sulfur dioxide.

After a stomach-churning 90-minute boat ride in rough waters Sunday, we had arrived where the tongue of molten rock from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano took its steamy last breaths of fire into crashing waves.

Passengers were warned they could get injured on the choppy seas and were offered refunds if they had second thoughts. I was on the boat as a working photographer for The Associated Press, so I popped two pills to prevent sea sickness and wrapped my two cameras in plastic.

The boat lurched and swayed and the constant spit of surf made it feel I was drinking salt water.

It was raining at the start of the ride, but the skies turned blue as we motored toward the drier side of the island. Even with the clearing skies, our destination did not

come into view until we closed in.

I've covered many wildfires in the West where plumes rise for thousands of feet and the sun appears pink through the smoke. They make for dramatic images and remarkable sunsets, but I had never seen anything like this.

Read more [here](#). EDITOR'S NOTE: Associated Press photographer Jae C. Hong has spent much of the past few weeks in Pahoia, Hawaii, documenting the explosive eruption of the Kilauea volcano. He recounts a rough and awe-inspiring trip on a bobbing boat to make images of the sizzling sea. Associated Press writer Brian Melley in Los Angeles assisted in writing this story while Hong is in the lava zone.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Bob Egelko - beigelko@sfchronicle.com

Chris Leonard - leonard.christopher@gmail.com

Dave Tomlin - dave.tomlin74@gmail.com

Jack Walker - jcwalker41@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



John Biemer - johnbiemer@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

The Hard Truth at Newspapers Across America: Hedge Funds Are in Charge (Bloomberg)

By GERRY SMITH

A group of journalists protesting outside the offices of a New York City hedge fund recently shined a light on a little-known fact about the state of the local American newspaper: Behind the scenes, financial firms often hold all the cards.

Investors like Alden Global Capital LLC and Fortress Investment Group LLC have acquired ownership stakes in newspapers that have struggled to adapt in an online world, from the Denver Post to the Providence Journal. Funds have brought their cost-cutting know-how to help restructure several newspaper chains in heavy debt after the 2008 financial crisis.

But the evolving ownership picture has sparked fresh questions over whether investment firms can really help save local newspapers by making them profitable again -- or if they'll starve them to the point that they collapse instead. The journalists who traveled from cities like Denver and St. Paul earlier this month to join the protests outside Alden Global's offices are convinced it's the latter. Some analysts agree.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Mark Mittelstadt.

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Many major newsrooms, champions of transparency in other cases, remain tight-lipped about their newsroom diversity (Nieman)

By SHAN WANG

When it comes to shining a light on their own hiring practices, many major newsrooms seem to be less forthcoming about the demographics of their staff, Joan Shorenstein Fellow Farai Chideya found in her new report on the state of diversity in American newsrooms, with a focus on the political press corps.

As part of her research, Chideya reached out to 15 news organizations asking for race and gender breakdowns, specifically of newsrooms' 2016 political reporting teams. She only heard back from four of them with the data she'd requested: USA Today, The New York Times, NPR, and The Washington Post. BuzzFeed, which has disclosed its diversity numbers in previous years, didn't provide data to Chideya. NBC instead provided diversity numbers for its parent company, Comcast. The Wall Street Journal and CBS declined to provide data.

Read more [here](#).

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Missouri Press Association announces 2018 Hall of Fame inductees

Four newspapermen, including two former Missouri Press Association presidents, will be inducted in September into the Association's Newspaper Hall of Fame.

The induction reception and banquet are scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, during MPA's 152nd Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Sheraton Westport Chalet in St. Louis. This will be the 28th group to be inducted into the Newspaper Hall of Fame, which was established by MPA in 1991.

This year's inductees are the late Wendell Redden, former sports editor for The Joplin Globe; Kent Ford, former editor for Missouri Press Association and former newspaper publisher; Joe May, former publisher of the Mexico Ledger and former MPA president; and Jim Robertson, former managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune and former MPA president.

Hall of Fame inductees or their families receive Pinnacle Awards in honor of the inductees' service to the Missouri newspaper industry and their communities. Inductees' plaques will join the permanent display of inductees in the MPA office in Columbia and in the student lounge in Lee Hills Hall at the Missouri School of Journalism.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 23, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2018. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1618, the Defenestration of Prague took place as Bohemian Protestants angry over what they saw as a threat to their religious freedom threw two Catholic imperial regents and their secretary out an upper-story palace window; the men survived the incident, which helped trigger the Thirty Years' War.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action which helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1977, Moluccan extremists seized a train and a primary school in the Netherlands; the hostage drama ended June 11 as Dutch marines stormed the train, resulting in the deaths of six out of nine hijackers and two hostages, while the school siege ended peacefully.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

In 1993, a jury in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, acquitted Rodney Peairs of manslaughter in the shooting death of Yoshi Hattori, a Japanese exchange student he'd mistaken for an intruder. (Peairs was later found liable in a civil suit brought by Hattori's parents.)

Ten years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly apologized after citing the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy as a reason to remain in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination despite increasingly long odds. Televangelist John Hagee (HAY'-gee) parted ways with John McCain following a storm over his endorsement of the Republican presidential candidate. (McCain rejected Hagee's endorsement a day earlier after an audio recording from the late 1990s surfaced in which the preacher suggested that God had sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the Promised Land.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a speech to the National Defense University, defended America's controversial drone attacks as legal, effective and a necessary linchpin in an evolving U.S. counterterrorism policy, but acknowledged the targeted strikes were no "cure-all" and said he was haunted by the civilians who were unintentionally killed. The Boy Scouts of America threw open its ranks to gay Scouts but not to gay Scout leaders. LeBron James was a unanimous pick for the All-NBA team and Kobe Bryant earned his record-tying 11th first-team selection.

One year ago: President Donald Trump made a personal appeal for peace between Israel and the Palestinians as he closed a four-day swing through the Middle East. Roger Moore, the suavely insouciant star of seven James Bond films, died in Switzerland at age 89. NFL owners meeting in Chicago cut the overtime period from 15 to 10 minutes during the regular season, but also gave players plenty of leeway to celebrate after a touchdown.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 93. Actress Barbara Barrie is 87. Actress Joan Collins is 85. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 82. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 74. Actress Lauren Chapin is 73. Country singer Misty Morgan is 73. Country singer Judy Rodman is 67. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 67. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 64. Singer Luka Bloom is 63. Baseball manager Buck Showalter is 62. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 60. Actress Lea DeLaria is 60. Country singer Shelly West is 60. Author Mitch Albom ("Tuesdays with Morrie") is 60. Actor Linden Ashby is 58.

Actress-model Karen Duffy is 57. Actress Melissa McBride is 53. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 51. Actress Laurel Holloman is 50. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 48. Singer Lorenzo is 46. Country singer Brian McComas is 46. Actor John Pollono is 46. Singer Maxwell is 45. Singer Jewel is 44. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 44. Actor LaMonica Garrett is 43. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 38. Actor Lane Garrison is 38. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 37. Actor Adam Wylie is 34. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 32. Golfer Morgan Pressel is 30. Actor Alberto Frezza (TV: "Station 19") is 29. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 27.

Thought for Today: "We do not usually look for allies when we love. Indeed, we often look on those who love with us as rivals and trespassers. But we always look for allies when we hate." - Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).

Got a story or photos to share?

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:

- **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?

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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