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Connecting - August 12, 2019

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Connecting

August 12, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 12th day of August 2019,

Our Monday Profile focuses on **Andrew Katell** - who tells how his 14-year career with the AP led to two more careers.

And he has an interesting technique to share with job seekers. Read on and enjoy.

Cincinnati Correspondent **Dan Sewell** ([Email](#)) was part of the AP coverage team for the Dayton shooting rampage that killed nine and injured 37 - and when he got back home after a long day, he was welcomed by a number of hateful emails and Tweets.

"I've been around long enough to know some people don't think that journalists might be so stressed and fatigued that they really don't feel like being criticized or attacked," he said. "I usually answer 'I'm always interested in constructive feedback' and let them ponder whether they were constructive, and then always try to ignore the personal attacks. But to the guy who called me a 'Fake News Moron' and 'Idiot,' hey, I finished in the top 10% of my class at Edgewood High School!"

Finally, we mourn the loss of **Joseph White**, former AP sports writer in Washington who died Saturday at the age of 56. If you have a favorite memory of him, please send it along to share with your colleagues.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile

Andrew Katell



Stephanie and me during my first retirement trip, to Israel, in April 2019 at Jerusalem's Old City.

By ANDREW KATELL

It was 39 years ago but I still remember vividly, and often recount to job seekers in any field, how I landed my first full-time job - and it was at The AP.

What I did then, and what I learned at the AP during a 14-year career, contributed to two more careers until my retirement in February of this year.

While in high school in a suburb of Albany, NY, I set my goal, based on several points of inspiration. During our nightly family dinners, my mom used to entertain my dad, twin brother, sister and me by going through the local newspaper and pointing out all the grammatical mistakes, misused words, typos, etc. Another factor was that in those pre-Internet days, one of the windows on the world was shortwave radio, so tuning in to international broadcasts, including those from the USSR, became a pastime. Then, like so many others in my generation, news coverage of the space program and Watergate influenced me. Coupled with a few years of middle- and high school Russian language study and an idealistic desire to help the peoples of the world get along better, I set my goal: become a foreign correspondent based in Moscow. I enrolled at Syracuse University, with a double major of broadcast journalism and Russian language.

After spending a junior year semester in Leningrad, I did some research and found out that an alum, Gordon Joseloff, was working as CBS News correspondent in Moscow. I decided to write to Gordon for advice. To my surprise, he wrote back -- a long letter that I still have, the bottom line of which was to join a wire service, pay dues domestically, then make my way abroad. Gordon himself had worked at UPI before CBS News.

I only had one little problem in approaching the wire services: No experience. What could I do? I decided to prove to prospective employers that I could do the job, working as a foreign correspondent in Moscow. My idea was to pretend that I already had the job. I imagined myself already sitting in Moscow. What would I be doing? In those days, I imagined it to be reading the Soviet press and using the material for AP stories, primarily for an American audience.

To start, I went to the Syracuse University library, got a copy of Pravda where the text of an arms control speech by then-Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev was published, translated the whole thing from Russian into English, and wrote a news story about it, as though I were already working for the AP in Moscow. Next, I sent a photocopy of the Pravda article, my translation and my article to the head of AP Broadcast in New York, Jim Hood. Jim then passed it on to the resident Russian expert, Tom Kent. They were impressed enough to invite me to New York to take the job entry tests. Much to my amazement, as soon as I arrived home, my parents said someone from the AP had called and wanted me to contact them. I did, and they offered me a "vacation relief" position at AP Broadcast. My technique worked!

I tell job seekers, regardless of their desired field, that if they have no relevant experience, do what I did: Go beyond the cover letter and resume and pretend you already have the job. Prove you can do it. For me, this technique launched an AP career. After the vacation relief assignment, I was offered a permanent position as newsman at AP Broadcast, where I spent several years paying dues on the overnight shift. During that period, a colleague on the overnight, Warren Levinson, threw a Halloween party with his roommates on New York's Upper West Side. It was at that party where I met the woman I later married. So, in a way, I have the AP to thank for my 36-year marriage to Stephanie Low.



1991 photo taken on Red Square, Moscow, at a reporters' scrum with then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Andrew Katell in the sunglasses.

The next step was to build "line bureau" experience. I was offered Honolulu or Charleston, WV, and let my then-girlfriend Stephanie decide. Charleston it was (a little closer to her family and friends than Hawaii). After Charleston, we moved back to New York, where I took an editing role on the World Desk, interspersed with reporting from the United Nations. Finally, eight years in, with sufficient experience built and now married, Moscow beckoned. I landed there during the Gorbachev perestroika and glasnost period, and found it to be like a kid in a candy store for a journalist - everywhere I looked, there was a story, in every possible field. There weren't enough hours in the day to cover what I wanted. As with any AP job, many stories are obviously must-cover, regardless whether they with fulfilled my idealistic intent or were of personal interest. But between the Communist Party Central

Committee meetings, plane crashes, earthquakes and the like, I was able to squeeze in some of my personal passions, the space program, Jewish life and jazz.

I learned so much during my AP career about the value of curiosity, the way to think before writing, the economy of words, efficiency, use of active voice, correct word usage and targeting to an audience. These skills served me well in my two subsequent careers, public relations and corporate communications. One thing that gets me in trouble, though, is the skepticism and double-checking of information that the AP instilled in me. My wife does not particularly appreciate when I apply that mindset to advice she's giving me.

After the AP, I spent 10 years at the Fleishman-Hillard PR agency, even using my Russian skills when I started a Russia-related PR practice. Next was transition to an in-house corporate communications role at GE, where for 10 years I helped tell the story of the fledgling wind and solar power business, among other topics. I completed my career at Entergy Corp., where I worked on public affairs issues for the company's northern US nuclear power fleet. If you think your job is difficult, try defending nuclear power!

It was with great joy and memories that in February of 2019, I retired. I am doing a bunch of fun things - long distance road bicycling, swimming, going to jazz concerts and collecting recordings, visiting friends in Russia - as well as pursuing serious endeavors. The most significant of these, and the one perhaps of most direct relevance to my journalism colleagues, is helping to combat fake news. Since the 2016 election, I decided to do something to help our country and the world. I felt naturally well equipped to tackle fake news, given my journalism and PR backgrounds, and my passion for wanting to make a positive contribution.



Photo taken earlier this year in a public library in Westchester County, NY, where Andrew Katell leads a workshop on fake news for the public.

For several months, I've been leading or co-leading League of Women Voters workshops at public libraries in Westchester County, NY, where I live, educating the public on how to become better news consumers - how to identify fake news and how to help fight against it. I am exploring similar work, targeting high school and college students, with three other non-profit organizations. I am committed, even in retirement, to informing the public about fact-checking tools, how to use their judgment to weed out fake news and perhaps how to interest young people in the news, which they may already receive but may not think of as news.

My AP career served as a great anchor, a seed from which many fruits sprouted. I wish that to be true for others, for decades and generations to come.

Andy Katell's email is - andrew.katell@verizon.net

Joseph White, former AP sports writer, dies at 56

STAUNTON, Va. (AP) - Joseph White, known for finding unique ways to write about sports and other topics during an award-winning career at The Associated Press, has died at age 56.

White died Saturday, according to Jonathan Hines of the Coffman Funeral Home in Staunton, Virginia, where White was enjoying a second career as the owner of a grocery store and restaurant. Hines said the cause of death is unclear.

White's brother, Allan Moye, said his brother was found unresponsive on the floor of his home by roommates.

White had recently cut short a hike of the Appalachian Trail after breaking his wrist.

He won Sports Writer of the Year honors in 2005 at the AP while based in Washington, where he covered the NFL's Redskins and broke news such as the hiring of Jim Zorn as the team's head coach. His beats also included the NBA's Wizards, other professional and college teams. White also was a member of AP's Olympics coverage.



Before going to Washington, White worked for the AP in London.

He took a sabbatical from the company in 2015 and moved to Staunton, in the Shenandoah Valley. White bought Cranberry's Grocery & Eatery, a natural foods store and cafe, and used events such as scavenger hunts and trivia nights to ingrain himself and the business in the community. He did not return to journalism.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell.



(Photo: Griffin Moores/The News Leader)

Links to stories on Joseph White in Staunton (Virginia) News Leader:

[Cranberry's Joseph White dies at 56](#)

[Joseph White remembered as unique individual by D.C. media colleagues](#)

Connecting mailbox

Dateline-Saigon at the Coolidge Corner theater on August 20



Tom Herman ([Email](#)) - The Dateline-Saigon screening at the storied Coolidge Corner in Boston on August 20 is really turning into something special! Harvard's Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Fredrik Logevall, the preeminent Vietnam scholar of our time, will join me onstage for the post-screening discussion, which will be moderated by WBUR's Chris Lydon, host of the nationally syndicated Radio Open Source.

Click [here](#) for a link to the event for tickets and more information.

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***John Gaps starts photo agency called
USAPhotolowa***



John Gaps (Email) - Thank you for running my update post-AP. Since then I have started a photo agency called USAPhotolowa. You can find it on Facebook. I haven't received any photojournalism work as of yet, but that hasn't stopped me from starting to cover the Iowa Democratic Caucus race. In my time as a fine art gallery owner/operator and regular on the art show circuit, I was always looking for ways to enhance my photography without using post-production manipulation. (PhotoShop tools, etc.)

Last Thursday, I was photographing Joe Biden, speaking on The Des Moines Register Soapbox stage at the Iowa State Fair. I reached into my backpack and produced a small plastic mirror in an effort to bring the listening crowd into the same shot as the former Vice President. Perhaps this is a step into NeoPhotoJournalism©. We'll see.

Anyway, I'd like to hear what others think. I simply held the mirror out in front of me for a few short bursts.

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High school classmates, AP colleagues meet up in Cincinnati



Jon Gambrell (right), AP's news director for the Gulf region and Iran, stopped by the Cincinnati AP office last Thursday while on leave back home in Ohio. Cincinnati correspondent Dan Sewell, an early mentor of Gambrell, and Jon are both from Edgewood High School in a rural area northwest of Cincinnati, as is former longtime AP foreign correspondent Paul Alexander. The three EHS grads have a combined 80 years of AP experience.

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Jack Howey - a great AP member

Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) - Very sad to learn of Jack Howey's death. He was an excellent newspaperman, a great AP member and a gentleman. With Jack and Mary Lou, you knew AP - and the rest of Indiana - would be well covered if anything happened at or near Peru. As someone pointed out, he would have been a success anywhere but chose to stay and promote journalism in Indiana.

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More of your mug collections



Sean Thompson ([Email](#)) - Here is a photo of the coffee mugs that have survived (or are new) moves from 50 Rock and [450 West 33rd St.](#) My favorite one is at home.

Threw some away since I stored pens in them and they were beyond saving. Favorite one is at home. Just a white cup with a large red classic AP on it. Two are the same style just different colors but I've always liked the taller, bigger cups.

And...



Jim Bagby (Email) - Here's part of our collection, from about 60 years of travel - primarily with the Barbershop Harmony Society, as a spectator, competitor and judge, to all 50 states and various other countries. But I'm particularly proud of the bottom row on this rack that hangs in our Kansas City kitchen.

It may not look as if all are AP-related, but the one on left was made by the late Mary Rutter, longtime Missouri-Kansas editor at the old AP bureau in the Star Building. She gave it to me when she retired, sometime in the early '70s.

As our mugs outgrew this rack, then a tall glass case in the dining room and another shelf downstairs, wife Joann asked more than once, "Why didn't we collect spoons?"

Best of Week

AP investigative team reveals how Michigan-based group quietly helped abusive priests



The current headquarters of Opus Bono Sacerdotii in Dryden, Mich., shown June 5, 2019. An AP investigation revealed that for nearly two decades, the small nonprofit organization, operating out of a series of unmarked buildings in rural Michigan, has provided money, shelter, transport, legal help and other support to priests accused of sexual abuse. (AP PHOTO / PAUL SANCYA)

It was a piece of investigative journalism that yielded stunning revelations about the role of a small nonprofit in Michigan that has been quietly providing money, shelter and legal help to hundreds of Catholic priests accused of sexual abuse. Investigative reporters Martha Mendoza, Garance Burke and Juliet Linderman dug into the nonprofit after noticing an angry thread on Reddit that made reference to an organization providing protection to abusive priests.

The reporters launched an aggressive effort to unravel the story behind the organization, called Opus Bono Sacerdotii. They scoured Catholic archives, went to the halls of St. John's Seminary in Detroit, conducted dozens of interviews with experts, lawyers, clergy members and former employees, and reviewed hundreds of pages of documents obtained through Freedom of Information requests. One of the people they interviewed was Mary Rose Maher, a former employee of the group and daughter of an Opus Bono co-founder, who wrote a letter to state authorities exposing the group's alleged financial practices.

Photographer Paul Sancya told the story through a powerful set of images gathered over weeks, while his Detroit colleague, video journalist Mike Householder, chased down court records and made important introductions while putting together his own compelling piece.

Even before they published, the team had impact: One of the organization's co-founders, Rev. Eduard Perrone, was removed from ministry over an allegation that he sexually abused a minor, a month after AP began inquiring. The story gathered growing interest as it was translated and published in predominantly Catholic countries around the world, prompting long Twitter conversations among pundits and priests. Competing Detroit dailies both ran the story on Page 1, and it appeared in dozens of newspapers around the U.S. In its first day the story got more than 270,000 pageviews on APNews.com.

For a story that revealed a startling but little-known group in the shadows of the church's sexual abuse scandals, Mendoza, Linderman, Burke, Householder and Sancya win AP's Best of the Week.

Best of States

AP mobilizes cross-formats response to deadly mass shootings in Texas and Ohio



An El Paso police officer talks to a Walmart employee following a mass shooting at a shopping mall in El Paso, Texas, on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019. Twenty-two people were killed, dozens injured and one person was in custody after a man armed with an assault rifle went on a shooting rampage at the mall. (AP PHOTO / RUDY GUTIERREZ)

AP's U.S. staff has a lot of practice in responding to mass shootings. But two major events in 24 hours tested even the most experienced staff.

They rose to the challenge.

Soon after noon Central time on Saturday, Aug. 3, reports began to surface about an active shooter at an El Paso, Texas, mall.

While it would be several hours before details of the story would become clear, the quick reaction of AP staff around the country and beyond - in the office, at home and even on vacation - ensured the AP was fast, accurate and leading the way on what would become one of the biggest stories of the year.

Initial reports remained sketchy, and a local news station reported without attribution about a half-hour after the initial reports, that 18 people were shot inside a Walmart - a shocking number, but one that would prove well under the final casualty count, which by Monday would rise to 22 dead and two dozen injured.

While Dallas staffer Diana Heidgerd and Oklahoma City's Ken Miller worked to confirm details on the phone and colleagues elsewhere scoured the internet for citizen content (UGC), El Paso staffer Cedar Attanasio rushed to the scene, where he went live with Bambuser to provide the AP's first live video, and then sent text feeds with updates from law enforcement.

Initial police briefings were vague and frustrating. Washington law enforcement reporter Mike Balsamo, on vacation in Orlando, Florida, was among those who were working their sources, along with Washington colleague Eric Tucker. Their efforts resulted in a AP NewsAlert moving soon after 5 p.m., reporting that at least 15 were dead and naming the suspect. For hours, other news organizations relied on that number as the most trustworthy being reported.

By the time that alert moved, AP managers throughout the country had already been working for hours to get additional staff to the scene. Among those joining Attanasio in El Paso by that evening and into the next morning were video journalists John Mone of Houston and Mike Householder of Detroit, Las Vegas photographer John Locher and text staffers Astrid Galvan from Phoenix and Morgan Lee from Sante Fe, New Mexico.

Among the standout coverage was an early cross-format interview by Lee the night of the shooting with a woman who told the heartbreaking story of her sister who died while shielding her 2-month-old son. It was a story that other news organizations were still matching three days later.

That story got more than 80,000 pageviews, and the first day's mainbar upward of 640,000 pageviews - just a small part of the terrific cross-format play for the

continuing coverage.

As the Texas team was just catching its breath, reports of another massacre emerged, this time in Ohio. U.S. overnight staffer Mallika Sen in New York pivoted from the El Paso developments, alerting deputy East editor Peter Morgan to reports of a shooting in Dayton. While Morgan mobilized staff to head in from Cincinnati and Columbus and video staff in London began to take in feeds of police activity, Sen worked phones and monitored multiple sources to confirm details.

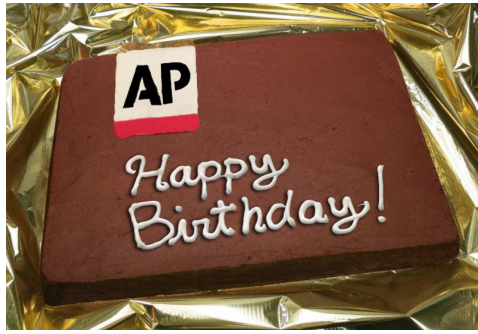
An initial alert that a hospital was treating 16 shooting victims was followed four minutes later by the alert that a shooter killed nine people, including his own sister, in a matter of seconds before police shot him dead. AP's alert beat numerous news outlets by nearly 20 minutes.

The Ohio staff - including Dan Sewell, Kantele Franko and Julie Carr Smyth, who jumped in on her birthday - raced to Dayton. Cincinnati photographer John Minchillo scored a jarring frame of shoes piled behind police tape at the shooting scene before he and other media were moved farther away. That image and his compelling visuals from multiple vigils ran on front pages and in large displays inside The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

Minchillo, later joined by video journalists Angie Wang of Cincinnati and Robert Bumsted of New York, ensured that AP beat other agencies on numerous live shots, and East news director Sara Gillesby secured exclusive UGC from the scene. Bumsted shot an incredibly compelling interview with a man who watched his father die in his arms. Many of the same supporting cast already working the El Paso story from afar stepped in on Ohio as well, including Washington reporter Michael Biesecker's work on a shooter profile, Balsamo, who continued working sources from the Orlando theme park, and White House reporter Jonathan Lemire, who wrote a piece about President Donald Trump's absence from public view on Sunday morning.

For its quick, nimble response, precise reporting and robust, cross-format content on two highly competitive breaking stories, the U.S. staff is recognized with this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Jim Clarke - jclarke@ap.org

Brad Martin - bmartinap@hotmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Jerry Green - jergreen@prodigy.net

Stories of interest

The death of a local newspaper rocks America to its core (New York Post)

By Salena Zito

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - When the press stops rolling at The Vindicator this month, a lingering question will once again taunt the residents of the Mahoning Valley: How much collapse can one region take?

The family-owned newspaper announced in June - just days after celebrating its 150th anniversary - that it is permanently ceasing production on Aug. 31. The paper, which started in 1869 just months after Ulysses S. Grant was sworn into office, has been run by the descendants of William F. Maag ever since he purchased the paper midway through Grover Cleveland's first term.

The closure will cost 144 employees and 250 carriers their jobs and comes just weeks after the GM Lordstown plant down the road turned out the lights, leading to thousands of job losses.

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

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'Ask about Austin': Help bring detained journalist home from Syria for his birthday (The News & Observer)



Marc and Debra Tice, the parents of Austin Tice, who is missing in Syria,

speak during a press conference in Beirut, Lebanon, on Dec. 4, 2018. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

BY DEBRA AND MARC TICE

Thirty-eight years ago today (August 11), after nine months of waiting, we finally had the great delight of meeting our firstborn, Austin Bennett Tice.

Today, we wish we could remind him of how glad we are he was born, how blessed we are to be his parents, how we truly believe the world is a better place for having him in it.

But we can't do that. Austin is detained in Syria. We are not allowed any contact with him.

Today is his 2,554th day of detention.

Austin went to Syria in 2012. As a freelance journalist, he was there to cover the escalating conflict and raise awareness of the horrible consequences of urban warfare, especially for children.

His 31st birthday was the last time we were able to share the joy of this special date with him - singing the "birthday song" over the internet, reminiscing about the past year and sharing dreams for the year ahead.

Three days later, on Aug. 14, 2012, Austin was detained at a checkpoint near Damascus.

He has been held in secret and in silence for almost seven years.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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The Gannett/GateHouse deal is even more depressing than I imagined (Medium)

By Aron Pilhofer

God bless Ken Doctor for having the patience to dig through all this Wall Street posturing and monetary machismo to pull together such clear-eyed analyses of the Gannett/GateHouse merger (acquisition, really, as it turns out).

Few people are better sourced than Ken is on these kinds of stories - and frankly, few journalists understand this as well as he does. Ken Doctor's coverage of this saga (and the business of the news industry in general) is required reading to anyone who cares about the future of local news.

Ken's latest on the Gannett/GateHouse merger, I'm sorry to say, may be his most depressing dispatch on the sorry state of the news business yet. If you have not read it, you might just want to queue up a some happy place Twitter feeds as a palate cleanser to get you through it.

Or, I'll do it for you.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

Was E-mail a Mistake? (The New Yorker)

By Cal Newport

The walls of the Central Intelligence Agency's original headquarters, in Langley, Virginia, contain more than thirty miles of four-inch steel tubing. The tubes were installed in the early nineteen-sixties, as part of an elaborate, vacuum-powered intra-office mail system. Messages, sealed in fibreglass containers, rocketed at thirty feet a second among approximately a hundred and fifty stations spread over eight floors. Senders specified each capsule's destination by manipulating brass rings at its base; electro-mechanical widgets in the tubes read those settings and routed each capsule toward its destination. At its peak, the system delivered seventy-five hundred messages each day.

According to oral histories maintained by the C.I.A., employees were saddened when, in the late nineteen-eighties, during an expansion of the headquarters, this steampunk mail system was shut down. Some of them reminisced about the comforting thunk, thunk of the capsules arriving at a station; others worried that internal office communication would become unacceptably slow, or that runners

would wear themselves out delivering messages on foot. The agency's archives contain a photograph of a pin that reads "Save the Tubes."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - August 12, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2019. There are 141 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 12, 2017, a car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The attacker, James Alex Fields, was sentenced to life in prison on 29 federal hate crime charges, and life plus 419 years on state charges.) President Donald Trump condemned what he called an "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides;" Democrats and some Republicans called on him to specifically denounce white supremacy. Two Virginia state policemen were killed in a helicopter crash while monitoring the Charlottesville protests.

On this date:

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1939, the MGM movie musical "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, three days before opening in Hollywood.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also sent up cosmonaut Pavel Popovich; both men landed safely Aug. 15.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.

In 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

In 1992, after 14 months of negotiations, the United States, Mexico and Canada announced in Washington that they had concluded the North American Free Trade Agreement. Avant-garde composer John Cage died in New York at age 79.

In 2000, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and its 118-man crew were lost during naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

In 2004, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey announced his resignation and acknowledged that he'd had an extramarital affair with another man.

In 2013, James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted in a string of 11 killings and

dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. (Bulger was sentenced to life; he was fatally beaten at a West Virginia prison in 2018, hours after being transferred from a facility in Florida.)

Ten years ago: Ehsanul Islam Sadequee, a 23-year-old Georgia man, was convicted of aiding terrorist groups by sending videotapes of U.S. landmarks overseas and plotting to support "violent jihad" after a federal jury in Atlanta rejected his arguments that it was empty talk. (Sadequee was sentenced to 17 years in prison.)
Guitar virtuoso Les Paul died in White Plains, New York, at 94.

Five years ago: Lauren Bacall, 89, the slinky, sultry-voiced actress who created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" and "The Big Sleep" and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages, died in New York. Steve Ballmer officially became the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers; the sale closed after a California court confirmed the authority of Shelly Sterling, on behalf of the Sterling Family Trust, to sell the franchise. (Her husband, Donald Sterling, had unsuccessfully fought the sale of the team he owned since 1981 in court.)

One year ago: Fewer than two dozen white nationalists showed up for a rally near the White House, where thousands of counterdemonstrators had gathered to send a message that racism is unwelcome. A year after the violence at a rally of white supremacists and other extremists in Charlottesville, Virginia, the mother of Heather Heyer, the woman killed while protesting against that rally, visited the site of the attack and said the country's racial wounds had not healed. Brooks Koepka wins the PGA Championship in St. Louis; Tiger Woods finished second after a final-round score of 64. A NASA spacecraft, the Parker Solar Probe, lifted off on a mission intended to bring it within 3.8 million miles of the surface of the sun. (The craft made its first close approach, to within 15 million miles, just two and a-half months after liftoff.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Hamilton is 80. Actress Dana Ivey is 78. Actress Jennifer Warren is 78. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 70. Actor Jim Beaver is 69. Singer Kid Creole is 69. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 65. Actor Sam J. Jones is 65. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 63. Country singer Danny Shirley is 63. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 58. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 56. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 54. Actor Brent Sexton is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 48. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 48. Actress Yvette Nicole Brown is 48. Actress Rebecca Gayheart is 48. Actor Casey Affleck is 44. Rock musician Bill Uechi is 44. Actress Maggie Lawson is 39. Actress Dominique Swain is 39. Actress Leah Pipes is 31. Actor Lakeith Stanfield is 28. NBA All-Star Khristian Middleton is 28. Actress Cara Delevingne is 27. Actress Imani Hakim is 26.

Thought for Today: "The secret to life is meaningless unless you discover it yourself." - From "Of Human Bondage" by W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965).

Connecting calendar



August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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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