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Connecting

May 05, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 5th day of May 2021,

A day late, dollar short, they say – I failed to greet you yesterday (May 4) with: “May the 4th be with you”, in honor of Star Wars Day. Thanks to colleague **Andy Acton** for outpointing. I guess there’s always: “May the 5th be with you,” in honor of your favorite Scotch? Nah.

We lead today’s issue with a profile of Kansas City-based AP photographer **Orlin Wagner**, who has retired after a 23-year AP career and after 30 more years as a photographer. He has had a fine career – and I am proud to have hired him into the AP. A dedicated photojournalist and a fine man.

“He’s had so many experiences with colleagues and events that it’s all a blur,” said **Kim Johnson Flodin**, AP deputy news director, Newsgathering and Photos in Chicago in announcing his retirement to

staff. “Over the years he’s held court at KU, souped film for members and shared advice to newbies. I was among them. I can’t imagine hearing the monk-like chant ‘Rock Chalk Jay Hawk,’ without thinking of Orlin. Luckily he intends to pass on his experience to a new generation of photojournalists.”



As noted in the Connecting story by colleague **Cliff Schiappa** (at right in photo above), one of Orlin’s retirement activities will be to start a YouTube channel to help teach young people in underserved communities how to be photographers.

In my latest Spotlight for my hometown Messenger newspaper in Fort Dodge, Iowa, I profiled famed Twin Cities conductor and composer **Dale Warland**, who was born in a farm home in tiny Badger, Iowa, and began singing in his church choir at 5 years of age. He’s best known for the group he formed, Dale Warland Singers, who performed for 32 years at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and at venues around the world. Warland is 89 now and has no plans to retire.



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

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Orlin Wagner retires

Brownie to Sony -- Recording life since age of 5



Above: Orlin Wagner gets too close to the action during a college basketball game. Photo/Ed Zurga. At right: portrait of Orlin by John Sleezer/Kansas City Star



Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Longtime AP Kansas City staff photographer Orlin Wagner hung up his company cameras on April 30, 2021, after more than 23 years at the cooperative and a total of 53 years as a photographer.

He doesn't recall anything special about his first day at AP, but he does remember the feeling of his first two days off. "I'd been freelancing for so long, I'd never had two days off in a row. With freelancing, you're always looking."

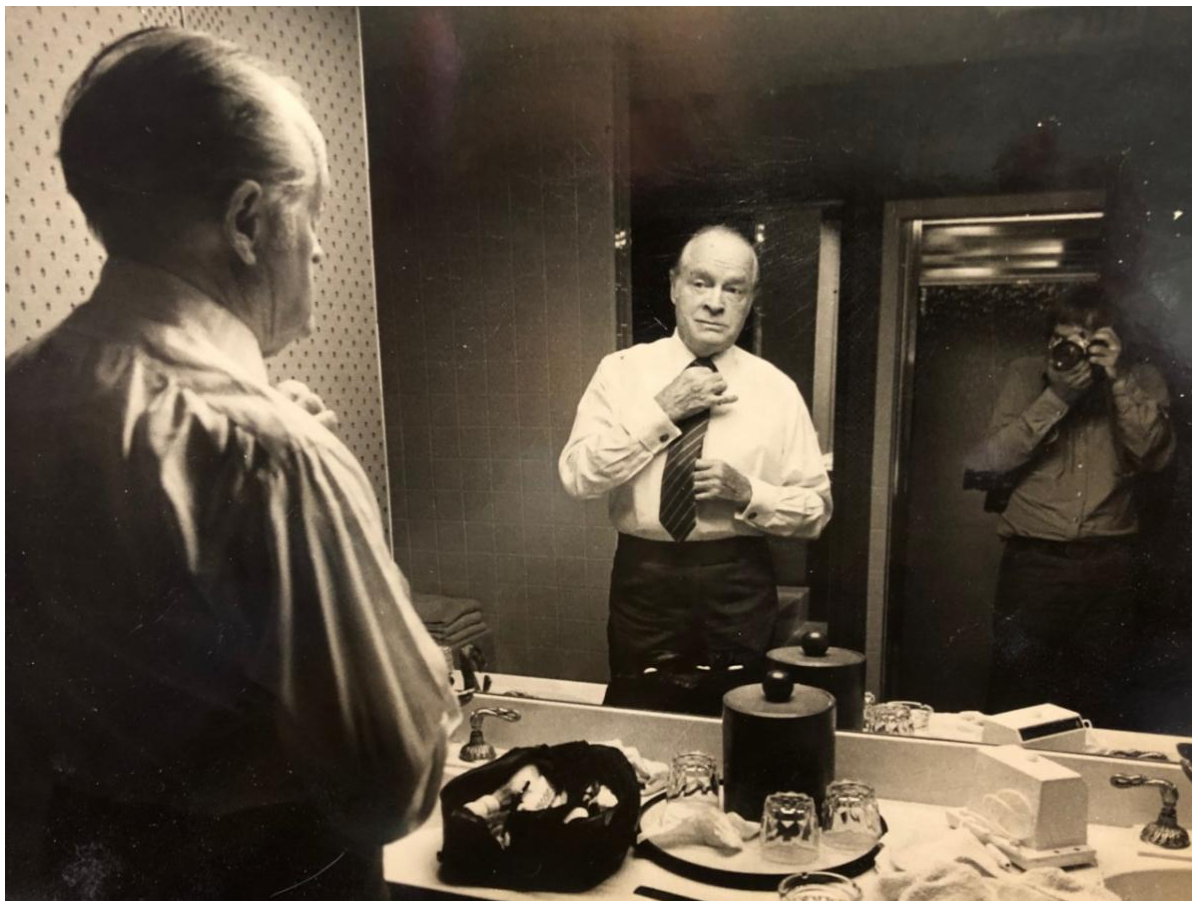
Wagner was born at Fort Riley, Kan., on the same day his dad drew Officer of the Day duty only to be quickly dispatched to the hospital. He grew up in Wichita, and was on the high school newspaper, yearbook, and the golf team winning first place in regional competition.

His first camera was a Brownie Starmite when he was five years old. "I got it because my dad had a Rolleiflex and he probably didn't want me messing with his expensive camera. I would shoot 12 pics, get on my bike o the drugstore and get a free roll of film in exchange.... The heroin of my youth."

One of his first paying photo gigs was when he was 15 and his mom drove him to a wedding where he used a borrowed camera to cover the event. He made a good photo that was "blind-ass luck" and all the brides maids hired him to shoot their weddings, making enough money to buy his own camera.

Foregoing a golf scholarship to a nearby community college, Wagner attended the University of Kansas. During summer break after his sophomore year he landed a job at Cessna Aircraft as a photographer making air-to-air images of the new planes. 18 months later he returned to KU to finish classes and graduate in 1979.

For 28 years he freelanced mainly for The Kansas City Star & Times and AP before being brought onto AP's staff in 1997.



Orlin is seen in the mirror photographing Bob Hope in his dressing room.

"I shot a lot of sports," he says in an understated manner. His back-of-the-napkin count is roughly 800 KU basketball games, 2,300 Royals baseball games and hundreds of other K-State, Chiefs and MU games. Major assignments included the Greenwood tornado, Hurricane Katrina, Kentucky Derby, Baseball spring training, Pope's visit to St. Louis, and the Oklahoma City bombing.

Asked who had major influences on his career, Wagner immediately mentions Kansas City Chief of Bureau Paul Stevens. "He hired me, and I quickly learned he's a helluva leader." Though not enrolled in the Journalism School at KU, Wagner took the photo courses there and learned much from photo professor Gary Mason. As a freelancer, he was very impressed with photo editor Susan Waters at The Kansas City Times, "She was sharp as a tack!" And Kansas City AP News Editor Kent Zimmerman always had his pulse on Kansas and Missouri. "Kent directed me to Oklahoma City bombing accomplice Terry Nichols' home before the FBI showed up!"

His retirement calendar is quickly filling up. An avid canoeist, Wagner will be making many trips to the Rio Grande, a favorite place of his for decades. "This time I can go when the river levels are perfect instead of when I have a week's vacation!" He's also starting a YouTube channel to help teach young people in underserved communities how to be photographers. His bucket list trip is with wife Karen to Japan and Australia and also spending more time with his stepdaughter Amelia in Colorado.

They will continue living in Lawrence, Kansas.

His email address is orlinwagner@gmail.com

Touched by tribute to Blair Godbout

Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - I was very touched by the photo tribute to Blair Godbout (see Tuesday's Connecting). It was wonderful to see him in the context of his family life and the music I knew he enjoyed so very much. So many happy memories in those photos. We talked for hours every day for several years during the time I was the point person at the State Photo Center for the West Wire regional news, enterprise and photo report. Blair was the photo editor dedicated to the project initiated and edited by Larry Ryckman in Denver.

Blair was extremely meticulous about the arrangements and handling of the photos from staffers, freelance photographers and members. The members would be sending in their images without anything designated that it was for a specific story or package so it took a lot of coordination to make sure these images moved with the right story slug and transmission reference numbers, particularly the advance enterprise package for the weekend which tended to roll in in scattershot timing but had to be saved and transmitted as a package. Blair spent his days tracking down the art, getting it transmitted to State Photo and coordinating movement. I got to know him slowly in minutes-a-day sidebars and always admired his keen intelligence, positive attitude and California cool.



He told me about visiting his mother at her ranch on the Russian River, weekends listening to live music and days in the beautiful places of southern California. Often he had a story about walking his dog, a German Shepherd, in the foothills near his Pasadena home. I had talked to him on the phone for years before I got to meet him on a visit to the L.A. Bureau when I was on assignment for one of the Academy Award shows. He looked like his voice sounded, a warm rugged baritone. We discovered that a reporter who transferred from the Coloradan in Fort Collins where Blair worked in the photo department to the Sturgis (Mich.) Journal where I worked to be closer to her father. I remember her talking about the great sendoff she got from her

colleagues at the Coloradan as we had a small party to welcome her to Sturgis, a smaller daily in the Gannett group.

Blair was born only one year before me. I feel young enough that it is sad to lose someone so young that had so much life and love yet to live. He will be missed.

Crop emerging on this Iowa farm



Tom Tierney ([Email](#)) - The crop emerges - at sunset looking west from Badger - about 15 miles southeast of our acreage.

Stories of interest

Yamiche Alcindor Is Named Host of 'Washington Week' on PBS (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

Last month, when Yamiche Alcindor learned she would become the next moderator of the PBS current-affairs show "Washington Week," she immediately felt the emotion of the moment.

"I basically instantly cried," Ms. Alcindor recalled, "thinking about Gwen."

"Washington Week," a calm redoubt in the shouty battleground of political television, is most closely associated with its longtime moderator Gwen Ifill, the pioneering journalist who broke barriers as a Black woman in the Washington press corps.

Before her death in 2016, Ms. Ifill also became a mentor to Ms. Alcindor, the White House correspondent at "PBS NewsHour." Starting with the episode on Friday, Ms. Alcindor, 34, will take Ms. Ifill's old chair at the helm of "Washington Week." She succeeds Robert Costa, a reporter for The Washington Post who took over in 2017 and left the show this year.

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

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Timothy M. Kelly, who led Pulitzer-winning work at Herald-Leader, other newspapers, dies at 73.

By BILL ESTEP

Timothy M. Kelly, an Ashland native who oversaw Pulitzer Prize-winning work at several newspapers, including the Lexington Herald-Leader, and was honored for his commitment to diversity and public-service journalism, died Monday.

Kelly, 73, had been diagnosed with cancer.

"He was a really terrific, committed newspaper guy," said Alan Stein, who lined up investors in the late 1990s to build a baseball stadium in Lexington and bring in the Lexington Legends. "He was committed to excellence."

Kelly was hired at the Herald-Leader in 1989 as managing editor after working at newspapers across the country.

The Herald-Leader had improved significantly during the 1980s under the leadership of editor John Carroll, winning its first Pulitzer Prize in 1986 for an investigation of payoffs in the University of Kentucky men's basketball program.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Andy Lippman.

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German far-right crime rises; police arrest alleged neo-Nazi (AP)

By FRANK JORDANS and DAVID RISING

BERLIN (AP) — Berlin police arrested a 53-year-old German man on suspicion of sending dozens of threatening letters to politicians, lawyers and journalists that were signed with the acronym of a neo-Nazi group, as officials warned Tuesday of a disturbing rise in far-right extremism across Germany.

Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said far-right crimes rose 5.65% in 2020, accounting for more than half of all “politically motivated” crimes.

“This shows again that right-wing extremism is the biggest threat for our country,” Seehofer told reporters Tuesday.

In carrying out Monday’s arrest in Berlin, police seized an unencrypted hard drive with data that might help with an ongoing probe, said Holger Muench, the head of Germany’s Federal Criminal Police Office.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Fifty new outlets, 250 journalists: Canadian startup unveils plan to revive local news (Guardian)

By Leyland Cecco

Local journalism has shed jobs faster than the coal industry, leaving swaths of North America as news deserts with little or no regular coverage.

But the grim prospects for an industry in decline didn’t deter the Canadian tech entrepreneur Andrew Wilkinson, who in 2019 hired a reporter and launched a daily newsletter in his home town, Victoria.

Emailed to subscribers early each morning, Capital Daily gave residents news highlights from around the city. Wilkinson bought advertising on Facebook and Google and subscribers started pouring in.

A year later, the venture had more than 40,000 readers, and within two years, the Capital Daily has transformed from morning digest of the city’s news into an enterprising outlet publishing long-form investigative features.

Now, building on the newsletter’s success, a startup media group has unveiled ambitious plans to replicate the model across the country.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sonya Zalubowski.

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How can we restore trust in the media? (insidesources.com)

By CARRIE SHEFFIELD

Americans' trust in the national news media is low and getting worse.

Mainstream journalism has lost the respect of much of the public, though soul-searching and changes by the industry could reverse this trend.

A new study by Media Insight Project funded by The Associated Press and the University of Chicago found bedrock journalism values are respected less by much of the general public than other competing moral values. For example, the study reported that "people who put more emphasis on authority and loyalty tend to be more skeptical about fundamental journalism principles."

A mere 11% of Americans fully support all five of the journalism values tested. The study advises journalists to rethink how they frame their content to better resonate with broader audiences.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - May 5, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 5, the 125th day of 2021. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

On this date:

In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.

In 1818, political philosopher Karl Marx, co-author of "The Communist Manifesto" and author of "Das Kapital," was born in Prussia.

In 1891, New York's Carnegie Hall (then named "Music Hall") had its official opening night, featuring Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky as a guest conductor.

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1978, Ben & Jerry's ice cream had its beginnings as Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield opened an ice cream parlor at a converted gas station in Burlington, Vermont.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland on his 66th day without food.

In 1987, the congressional Iran-Contra hearings opened with former Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord (SEE'-kohrd) the lead-off witness.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

In 2009, Texas health officials confirmed the first death of a U.S. resident with swine flu.

Ten years ago: Solemnly honoring victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, President Barack Obama hugged survivors at ground zero in New York and declared that the killing of Osama bin Laden was an American message to the world: "When we say we will never forget, we mean what we say." Pakistan's army broke its silence over the U.S. commando raid that killed bin Laden, acknowledging its "shortcomings" in finding him but threatening to review cooperation with Washington if there was another violation of Pakistani sovereignty. Director, playwright and screenwriter Arthur Laurents ("West Side Story") died in New York at age 93.

Five years ago: Former Los Angeles trash collector Lonnie Franklin Jr. was convicted of 10 counts of murder in the "Grim Sleeper" serial killings that targeted poor, young Black women over two decades. President Barack Obama commuted the prison sentences of 58 federal convicts, part of a broader push to ease punishments for nonviolent drug offenders. Londoners cast votes in an election that gave the city its first Muslim mayor, Labour lawmaker Sadiq Khan, who succeeded outgoing Conservative Boris Johnson.

One year ago: President Donald Trump visited a Honeywell mask factory in Arizona, but ignored guidelines to wear a mask. Tyson Foods said it would resume limited operation of its huge pork processing plant in Waterloo, Iowa, with enhanced safety measures, more than two weeks after closing the facility because of a coronavirus outbreak among workers. Even though Joe Biden had no remaining opponents, a judge ruled that New York's Democratic presidential primary would have to take place on June 23 because canceling it would be unconstitutional. Michigan communities saw record turnout for local elections, with votes cast largely by mail. Facebook said it had removed several accounts and pages linked to QAnon, taking action for the first time against the far-right conspiracy theory circulated among Trump supporters.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Pat Carroll is 94. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 83. Actor Michael Murphy is 83. Actor Lance Henriksen is 81. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 78. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 77. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 76. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 73. Actor Melinda Culea is 66. Actor Lisa Eilbacher is 64. Actor Richard E. Grant is 64. Former broadcast journalist John Miller is 63. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 62. NBC newsman Brian Williams is 62. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 55. TV personality Kyan Douglas (KY'-ihn) is 51. Actor Tina Yothers is 48. R&B singer Raheem DeVaughn is 46. Actor Santiago Cabrera is 43. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 42. Singer Craig David is 40. Actor Danielle Fishel is 40. Actor Henry Cavill is 38. Actor Clark Duke is 36. Soul singer Adele is 33. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 33. R&B singer Chris Brown is 32. Figure skater Nathan Chen is 22.

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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