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Connecting

May 25, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 25th day of May 2021,

The firing of a news associate in the AP's Phoenix bureau with two weeks of AP experience continued to create reverberations Monday in the journalism industry.

News leaders of the AP said in a note distributed to staff that the AP will launch a review of its social media policies after questions were raised about last week's firing of **Emily Wilder**, one of its journalists who had expressed pro-Palestinian views.

AP Executive Editor **Sally Buzbee**, the AP's top editor who leaves AP at the end of this month to become executive editor of The Washington Post, was not one of the editors who signed the staff note. **David Folkenflik** of NPR tweeted that Buzbee told NPR she had no role in dismissing Wilder and had said: "By the time the situation came up, I had accepted The Post job and thus handed over day-to-day operations at AP, so I was not involved in the decision at all."

That announcement came hours after more than 100 AP journalists signed a letter expressing concern about how Wilder (at right) was treated. The journalists want more clarity in what can be said on forums like Twitter and Facebook and faith the company would protect them from pressure campaigns. In a memo to staff members on Monday, the AP's news leaders asked for volunteers to suggest changes to social media guidelines, with the idea of a committee bringing forth recommendations by September.



As to Wilder's specific case, they said, "Sharing more information about Emily Wilder's dismissal is difficult, because we do not publicly discuss personnel matters. We have that policy to protect the privacy of our staff, now and in the future. We can assure you that much of the coverage and commentary does not accurately portray a difficult decision that we did not make lightly."

Today's Connecting brings you full coverage of the issue, and includes comments from Connecting colleagues. If you have thoughts to share on this case or AP's social media policies or experiences of your own, send them along. Click [here](#) for the AP Social Media Guidelines, this particular version shown as revised in May 2013.

BLENDING THE OLD WITH THE NEW: Today's issue brings you first word that the AP is pairing with high-profile, digital artists to create a new NFT series based on AP's iconic photojournalism in celebration of its 175th anniversary. The series, called, "AP ARTiFACTS: The AP 175 Collection" will feature a digital artist's creative rendering of 10 iconic AP images.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP says it is reviewing social media policies after firing

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press said Monday that it is launching a review of its social media policies after questions were raised about last week's firing of one of its journalists who had expressed pro-Palestinian views.

That announcement came hours after more than 100 AP journalists signed a letter expressing concern about how former news associate Emily Wilder was treated. The journalists want more clarity in what can be said on forums like Twitter and Facebook and faith the company would protect them from pressure campaigns.

In a memo to staff members on Monday, the AP's news leaders asked for volunteers to suggest changes to social media guidelines, with the idea of a committee bringing forth recommendations by September.

"One of the issues brought forward in recent days is the belief that restrictions on social media prevent you from being your true self, and that this disproportionately harms journalists of color, LGBTQ journalists and others who often feel attacked online," the memo said. "We need to dive into this issue."

Wilder, a 22-year-old who had worked a little over two weeks covering news in the Western U.S. from Phoenix, was fired after the AP said she violated social media rules. The rules compel staff members not to express opinions on controversial issues for fear of damaging the AP's reputation for objectivity and jeopardize its many reporters around the world.

During that time, a young Republicans' group from Stanford University raised concerns about Wilder's advocacy as a student there. Wilder, who was not told what she had done specifically to violate standards, said her firing was "precipitated by an onslaught of harassment against me."

The AP journalists who wrote to protest her firing demanded more clarity about the decision and said they were concerned the decision would embolden others who would launch smear campaigns against reporters, and have already made many reluctant to engage in social media.

The news leaders said sharing more information was difficult: the company does not publicly discuss personnel issues to protect the privacy of staff.

"We can assure you that much of the coverage and commentary does not accurately portray a difficult decision we did not make lightly," the memo said. It did not make clear what information was reported inaccurately.

The incident illustrates how it can be difficult for a news organization, particularly a traditionalist like The Associated Press, to handle the free-wheeling nature of social media.

"I want to live in a world where people who are employed know what the rules are and what the boundaries are and they are extraordinarily clear," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, communications professor and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

That's particularly important at the AP, which is a bedrock for objectivity and fairness in the news business, she said. The agency, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary, does not traffic in opinion.

"AP is in the business of fact-based journalism," the news leaders said in the memo. "It is who we are. We have these values to ensure we maintain our position as an unbiased source of information and to protect our journalists."

The AP's culture and social media has never been a comfortable mix. The AP sells its news coverage to newspapers, digital and broadcast customers, and tells its

journalists not to tweet out breaking news until after it is shared on the AP wire, which makes them a step slower than competitors quick to tweet.

The AP's social media rules say journalists who share opinionated material from others must make clear that the views are not their own. Denouncing fellow news users or newsmakers online "can reflect badly on AP and may one day harm a colleague's ability to get important information from a source," the rules state.

The company even urges its journalists to "steer clear of trash-talking sports teams, athletes and celebrities."

The letter signed by the AP journalists makes clear that the incident has caused some deep wounds.

"The lack of communication ... gives us no confidence that any one of us couldn't be next, sacrificed without explanation," they said. "It has left our colleagues — particularly emerging journalists — wondering how we treat our own, what culture we embrace and what values we truly espouse as a company."

The AP's memo was signed by 10 news leaders, not including executive editor Sally Buzbee, who begins next month as executive editor at The Washington Post. The AP said Buzbee was not involved in the Wilder case since she handed over day-to-day responsibilities to others when accepting the Post job.

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

AP ARTiFACTS: The AP 175 Collection

AP launches new NFT series based on its photojournalism



Screenshot from AP ARTiFACT 1: Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima

The Associated Press is pairing with high-profile, digital artists to create a new NFT series based on AP's iconic photojournalism in celebration of the coop's 175th anniversary.

The series, called, "AP ARTiFACTS: The AP 175 Collection" will feature a digital artist's creative rendering of 10 iconic AP images. The NFTs will blend original art with AP facts, hence the play on words. The NFTs will be rich with music, audio and video as well as the reimagined underlying images.

AP ARTiFACTS: The AP 175 Collection kicks off this week with Joe Rosenthal's Iwo Jima masterpiece. For this NFT, AP partnered with digital artist Marko Stanojevic and violinist/composer Nick Kennerly to create a new work of art based on the Rosenthal image. The initial Iwo Jima NFT can be viewed here and was created to tell the story of the merciless, 4 days battle to claim Iwo Jima's high-ground, Mount Suribachi. Included in the NFT are digital versions of the original negative, Rosenthal describing the impact of his photo, authentic clips, audio and other digitized artifacts.

All 10 AP ARTiFACTS will be auctioned on the OpenSea NFT marketplace and was produced with AP's technical blockchain partner Everipedia. AP's initial NFT sold in early March for 100.888 Ether, a popular crypto currency. If converted to US-dollars today, the NFT's value equals \$264,000. It was the first NFT by any media company and helps fund AP journalism.

AP made blockchain history last year by publishing 2020 race calls on the Ethereum blockchain. These race calls are now a permanent and immutable part of the

blockchain and cannot be erased or altered.

“There’s no doubt the blockchain is still a new, hard to grasp tech innovation,” says Dwayne Desaulniers, AP’s Blockchain director. “The bottom line is once published on chain, AP news cannot be erased or altered and the world can see it was published by AP. That’s why our NFTs are popular – everyone can see with absolute certainty that these works of art came from AP and AP alone.”

The blockchain also allows for a greatly improved business model for content creators. With an NFT, it is automatic that any future resale by the owner will see a 10% portion of those sales automatically routed to AP. “It’s an incredible, new world for content creators. They can finally be paid not only for the initial sale of their work, but every time the work is resold. It changes quite a bit in the licensing world,” says Desaulniers.

A conversation about social media

From AP news leaders to AP staff, Monday, May 24, 2021:

This past weekend, having heard from journalists across the News Department, we wrote to say we were committed to expanding the conversation taking place about AP’s approach to social media.

Today, we want to share some details about how we plan to do so.

This is a conversation that will take place internally, among our diverse and inclusive community of journalists. While the senior leadership team in News wants to hear your concerns and your ideas, we also want to make sure we provide a forum for every AP journalist who is interested to listen to their colleagues, take part in the discussion and learn from each other.

The first goal of these conversations is to consider our social media guidelines, which have served us and our mission well for many years. What still works? How might they better serve AP’s journalism and our journalists, without undermining our core mission and our fundamental values?

One of the issues brought forward in recent days is the belief that restrictions on social media prevent you from being your true self, and that this disproportionately harms journalists of color, LGBTQ journalists and others who often feel attacked online. We need to dive into this issue.

Another request we’ve gotten is for more clarity about what can and can’t be said online. One suggestion is to provide examples that help illustrate our social media guidelines. We like that idea, and are eager for more.

Also, we want our social media policy to do more than establish guidelines aimed at ensuring our journalists fairly, credibly and safely carry out the challenging – and sometimes dangerous – work of reporting the news. It can reiterate AP’s commitment to supporting our journalists when they are attacked, targeted or abused online.

That leads us to the second goal of these conversations. We expect they may yield recommendations on how we might update our social media guidelines and how we apply them in our daily work. As we all know, AP's approach to social media has always been subject to review and revision, as the internet is a constantly evolving space.

So, what comes next?

1. Please keep your sharing your ideas. Talk among teammates, with your supervisors and with us. Your regional, vertical and format managers will be reaching out, if they have not already, to have these talks. Each member of the senior team has had conversations in the past few days with staff around the world, and we're at your disposal.
2. We will convene more formal group conversations among AP's journalists to discuss this subject together in a collaborative, deliberate way. We do our best work when we are collaborating with each other. These group conversations will begin next week; watch for details on how to take part in the days ahead.
3. Third, we will organize a process to collect your ideas. A committee made up of staff from across News will review those ideas and bring the best of them forward by Sept. 1, 2021. Any potential changes to the social media policy would be part of our next round of contract negotiations with the U.S. News Media Guild.

If you are interested in serving on that team, please let us know here. We hope the team will be made up of journalists from around the world who can bring to the table the wide range of experiences of our newsroom.

Finally, we want to reiterate the message from this past weekend.

Sharing more information about Emily Wilder's dismissal is difficult, because we do not publicly discuss personnel matters. We have that policy to protect the privacy of our staff, now and in the future. We can assure you that much of the coverage and commentary does not accurately portray a difficult decision that we did not make lightly.

We believe the AP staff are excellent stewards of our News Values and Principles and do outstanding work every day while following our social media policy. We emphatically do NOT believe there is a widespread problem of opinion and bias being expressed online by News staff.

We are committed to our values. AP is in the business of fact-based journalism. It is who we are. We have these values to ensure we maintain our position as an unbiased source of information and to protect our journalists, and have heard from all corners of the AP in the past week unwavering support for those principles.

We also strongly believe our values can co-exist – and indeed, they can thrive – with the world as it is today. When you see hypocrisy, unfairness or untruth, we should shoot, produce and write journalism that illuminates those issues. AP has a platform

that reaches billions of people and our journalism is the most powerful tool we have to tell those stories.

We're looking forward to hearing much more from you all in the days ahead.

Best,

David, Brian, Noreen, Ian, Sarah, Julie, Amanda, Michael, David and Derl

100-Plus AP Staffers 'Strongly Disapprove' of Emily Wilder Firing, Call for Updates to Social Media Policies

By Lindsey Ellefson
The Wrap

Over 100 Associated Press employees signed a letter to management Monday saying they "strongly disapprove" of how Emily Wilder's firing was handled and calling for updated social media policies.

"As employees of The Associated Press, at all levels and across the globe, we strongly believe in our organization's stated commitment to fairness and advancing the power of facts. Journalists demand transparency from the subjects of our reporting and seek to hold the powerful accountable," began the letter, signed at press time by 111 staffers.

It went on, "That's why we strongly disapprove of the way the AP has handled the firing of Emily Wilder and its dayslong silence internally. We demand more clarity from the company about why Wilder was fired. It remains unclear — to Wilder herself as well as staff at large — how she violated the social media policy while employed by the AP."

The firing, which has put the AP and its social media policies in the public eye since Thursday night, could also affect "morale" and the organization's "credibility, according to the letter. The employees called for updates on the social media policy management has said Wilder violated. Wilder went on the record over the weekend saying she still doesn't know which posts of hers violated the company's policy. The staff letter notes the AP caused her "unnecessary harm." (An AP rep took issue with the letter's assertion that the organization publicly named Wilder and noted the company "did not" actually do that. Instead, an internal note was posted on Twitter.)

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for full statement, which follows:

As employees of The Associated Press, at all levels and across the globe, we strongly believe in our organization's stated commitment to fairness and advancing the power

of facts. Journalists demand transparency from the subjects of our reporting and seek to hold the powerful accountable.

That's why we strongly disapprove of the way the AP has handled the firing of Emily Wilder and its dayslong silence internally. We demand more clarity from the company about why Wilder was fired. It remains unclear — to Wilder herself as well as staff at large — how she violated the social media policy while employed by the AP.

We are also concerned about the ramifications of this decision for newsroom morale and AP's credibility.

Wilder was a young journalist, unnecessarily harmed by the AP's handling and announcement of its firing of her. We need to know that the AP would stand behind and provide resources to journalists who are the subject of smear campaigns and online harassment. As journalists who cover contentious subjects, we are often the target of people unhappy with scrutiny. What happens when they orchestrate a smear campaign targeting another one of us? Interest groups are celebrating their victory and turning their sights on more AP journalists. They have routinely made journalists' identities subject to attack. Once we decide to play this game on the terms of those acting in bad faith, we can't win.

This episode has caused the public to question the credibility of our reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which does a great disservice to our courageous journalists in Gaza — who have already greatly suffered this month — and in Israel. The amount of recrimination the AP has been subjected to online and in the news media also damages our reputation with our sources and audience on all subjects. The lack of clarity on the violations of the social media policy has made AP journalists afraid to engage on social media — often critical to our jobs — in any capacity.

While firings are rarely transparent, AP chose to name Wilder publicly. The lack of communication since then about Wilder's firing and the circumstances surrounding it gives us no confidence that any one of us couldn't be next, sacrificed without explanation. It has left our colleagues — particularly emerging journalists — wondering how we treat our own, what culture we embrace and what values we truly espouse as a company.

We ask that you reckon with this openly and support your staff by providing the following:

Clarity about the disciplinary process used for Wilder, including which social media posts warranted termination and why.

A forum to discuss what AP deems best social media practices for its journalists. It's important that the AP and its employees can articulate where the lines are drawn. A clear commitment to and playbook for supporting staff targeted by harassment campaigns.

The formation of a diverse committee to update the AP's social media policy to support evidence-based, nuanced social posting.

We hope the institution that we serve with bravery and tenacity every day will join us in charting a more equitable future.

Emily Wilder's tweet on her firing

I started at The Associated Press as a news associate, a junior-level position, on May 3 following 10 months of reporting for The Arizona Republic. In Arizona, I covered breaking news, criminal justice and Black Lives Matter protests. I built a respected reputation in the newsroom and in the communities I covered, and I was proud to land a job at the AP.

Last Monday, the Stanford College Republicans launched a smear campaign against me, attempting to "expose" my already-public history of activism for Palestinian human rights at Stanford University. I was transparent with my editors, and they reassured me I would not face punishment for my previous activism. I was told my editors were only hoping to support me as I received an onslaught of sexist, antisemitic, racist and violent comments and messages.

Less than 48 hours later, the AP fired me. The reason given was my supposed violations of the AP's social media policy sometime between my first day and Wednesday. In that interim, powerful conservatives like Senator Tom Cotton, Ben Shapiro and Robert Spencer repeatedly lambasted me online. When I asked my managers which exact tweets were in violation of policy or how, they refused to tell me. In the end, rather than take whatever misstep I made as a teaching opportunity — as is the point of the news associate program — it appears they took it as an opportunity to make me a scapegoat.

This is heartbreaking as a young journalist so hungry to learn from the fearless investigative reporting of AP journalists — and do that reporting myself. It's terrifying as a young woman who was hung out to dry when I needed support from my institution most. And it's enraging as a Jewish person — who grew up in a Jewish community, attended Orthodox schooling and devoted my college years to studying Palestine and Israel — that I could be defamed as antisemitic and thrown under the bus in the process.

I am one victim to the asymmetrical enforcement of rules around objectivity and social media that has censored so many journalists — particularly Palestinian journalists and other journalists of color — before me. The compassion that drove my activism is part of what led me to be a reporter committed to just, critical, fact-based coverage of under-told stories. Now, after being fired after less than three weeks at my job, I have to ask what kind of message this sends to young people who are hoping to channel righteous indignation or passion for justice into impactful storytelling. What future does it promise to aspiring reporters that an institution like The Associated Press would sacrifice those with the least power to the cruel trolling of a group of anonymous bullies? What does it mean for this industry that even sharing the painful experiences of Palestinians or interrogating the language we use to describe them can be seen as irredeemably "biased?"

While the last few days have been overwhelming, I will not be intimidated into silence. I will be back soon.

Your thoughts on Emily Wilder firing

Ed McCullough (Email) - Re Ms. Wilder's tweet on Sunday that "'objectivity' feels fickle when the basic terms we use to report news implicitly take a claim. using 'israel' but never 'palestine,' or 'war' but not 'siege and occupation' are political choices — yet media make those exact choices all the time without being flagged as biased."

And then going on to tweet that "Because I have an opinion about an issue that is deeply political and personal doesn't mean that I am incapable of fact-based, contextual and fair journalism," she said.

Doesn't the tweet about words purportedly being political choices undermine or invalidate the claim that she - or any reporter? - is capable of ... fact-based, contextual and fair journalism"?

The slope is slippery and hard - yet not impossible - for news editors to police and news readers to parse. Much depends on which words are used in which context. There's nothing wrong per se with Israel, Palestine, war, siege, occupation, etc. AP uses them all rather than routinely or always one but not the other in reference to on-the-ground scenarios that shift daily.

What's wrong in this situation are journalists (I prefer "reporters") who feel the need to tell others - publicly and unsolicited - their personal opinions about news events they cover, or might cover - or definitely are covered by the news media they work for.

Newspapers separate and clearly label commentary (at least they're supposed to) as distinct from news. AP doesn't editorialize and closely vets even "news analyses"; or used to, anyway.

Speaking of words, what exactly is a "news associate"?

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Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - The Associated Press made the correct call in terminating the employment of a new staffer in the Phoenix bureau for her social media posts despite her being told and, according to her, trained on the company's very important social media policy.

Operating in all parts of the world and in many different political environments, AP has a strong interest in protecting its staff, contractors and news reports by projecting the appearance of impartiality. The news cooperative continually has scored at the center of graphics showing political leanings of all the major news organizations, newspapers, news sites, broadcast and cable networks. That lack of bias is what as AP journalists we sold to potential members, clients and customers. That score is hard-fought and well-deserved.

As an AP employee you learn early on that personal political beliefs take a back seat to being fair, honest, impartial. That included not outwardly exhibiting leanings towards candidates or parties, or controversial issues. That's a tough lesson for young journalists to learn as they enter the commercial world of global journalism having previously been protected in their social and academic cocoons of iPhones and college classrooms.

Contrary to what some have suggested as they argue in recent days that it was unfair to dismiss Emily Wilder, AP's social media policy seems pretty clear and straight forward. It is somewhat disappointing for members of the News Media Guild in their "open letter" to the company, and the world, to suggest otherwise. Perhaps they are not aware of what the Guild itself negotiated.

It also is disappointing to see how the former staffer, who presumably was on probation and thus at-will, handled her departure.

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Greg Nokes (Email) - AP should be ashamed that it couldn't support a young journalist against a rabid assault from the right, especially when AP wouldn't even say what she did wrong while in its employ. We all have opinions. Issue becomes when they bleed into our reporting. Do the right thing: Hire her back, that is if Wilder even wants to work for AP after this.

This reflects very poorly on the news service where I proudly worked for 25 years.

Connecting mailbox

A thank you to Valerie Komor

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) - Valerie Komor, director of Corporate Archives, remains one of my personal AP behind-the-scenes heroes.

This is just a public thank you to Valerie for what I'm sure was her very hard work on "AP through Time: A Photographic History," a keepsake to mark AP's 175th anniversary. Details were in Monday's Connecting.

I've actually told Valerie, face to face, that I believe she's one of the most important people working for AP.

She's once again proved me right.

Good job, Valerie, on helping AP celebrate 175 years!

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Ron Vample returns to AP

Derl McCrudden, AP deputy managing editor for digital and visual journalism, in BNC staff note:

I am delighted to announce that Ron Vample has been appointed to the new role of executive producer, digital audio and radio, based in Washington, DC. Ron will also oversee the broadcast text team, and starts on Tuesday, June 1. Initially he'll be working remotely, like the rest of us, but from his current home in Charleston, SC.

Ron is well known by many at the AP having spent 20 years working in radio and broadcast text, with several of those years spent in Washington, as well as in bureaus in Columbus, Detroit, and Atlanta.

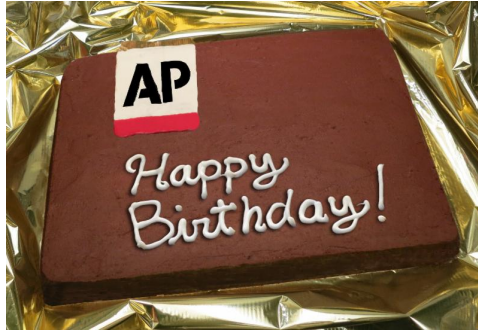
Ron is a natural and talented leader. Since he left the AP his career has focused on marketing, communications and brand strategy. He has deep experience of change management, workflow design and content development – ideal skills as AP pivots towards a digital future.

As we seek new opportunities in the digital space, Ron is driven by storytelling and customer need. There is a lot of talent across our teams, and Ron's arrival means we can better harness the AP's footprint in our output, and he will be a terrific advocate and ambassador across the organization for the work you all do.

Ron will spend his first week or two getting up to speed and talking one-on-one with people across the AP, and of course with the team.

I want to thank everyone for the hard work and dedication you show every week. Please join me in welcoming Ron as his work gets underway.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Joe Edwards - ejmichael@bellsouth.net

Welcome to Connecting



Mavis Amundson - mavisja@seanet.com

Stories of interest

Should you trust media bias charts? (Poynter)

By: Jake Sheridan

Impartial journalism is an impossible ideal. That is, at least, according to Julie Mastrine.

“Unbiased news doesn’t exist. Everyone has a bias: everyday people and journalists. And that’s OK,” Mastrine said. But it’s not OK for news organizations to hide those biases, she said.

“We can be manipulated into (a biased outlet’s) point of view and not able to evaluate it critically and objectively and understand where it’s coming from,” said Mastrine,

marketing director for AllSides, a media literacy company focused on “freeing people from filter bubbles.”

That’s why she created a media bias chart.

As readers hurl claims of hidden bias towards outlets on all parts of the political spectrum, bias charts have emerged as a tool to reveal pernicious partiality.

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

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Gaza-based journalists in Hamas chat blocked from WhatsApp (AP)

By FARES AKRAM and AYA BATRAWY

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A few hours after the latest cease-fire took effect in the Gaza Strip, a number of Palestinian journalists in the coastal enclave found they were blocked from accessing WhatsApp messenger — a crucial tool used to communicate with sources, editors and the world beyond the blockaded strip.

The Associated Press reached out to 17 journalists in Gaza who confirmed their Whatsapp accounts had been blocked since Friday. By midday Monday, only four journalists — working for Al Jazeera — confirmed their accounts had been restored.

The incident marks the latest puzzling move concerning WhatsApp’s owner Facebook Inc. that’s left Palestinian users or their allies bewildered as to why they’ve been targeted by the company, or if indeed they’d been singled out for censorship at all.

Twelve of the 17 journalists contacted by the AP said they had been part of a WhatsApp group that disseminates information related to Hamas military operations. Hamas, which rules over the Gaza Strip, is viewed as a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States, where WhatsApp owner Facebook is headquartered.

Read more [here](#).

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Chicago Tribune editor: 'What comes next for our newsroom is uncertain' (Feder)

By ROBERT FEDER

From the top down, employees of the Chicago Tribune are bracing for an ominous future under new owners.

Alden Global Capital, the New York-based hedge fund known for severe cost-cutting at newspapers across the country, is expected to close Tuesday on its purchase of Chicago-based Tribune Publishing. Shareholders approved the transaction Friday.

“What comes next for Chicago Tribune and for our newsroom is uncertain,” Colin McMahon, editor-in-chief of the Chicago Tribune and chief content officer of Tribune Publishing, told staffers in an internal email.

“I expect to get some direction next week when our new owners officially take over. Until then, take a breath, practice your craft, control what you can,” he wrote.

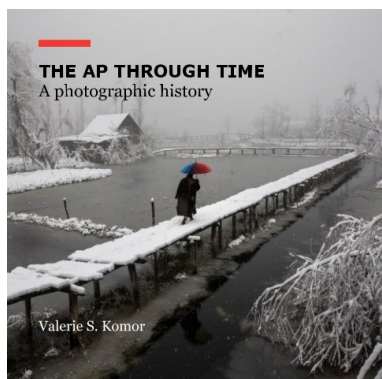
Since Alden acquired a 32 percent share of Tribune Publishing in November 2019, staffing in Tribune city and suburban newsrooms has fallen 32 percent.

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



A special section celebrating AP's 175th

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP store for 175th merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase. You can view and order items by clicking [here](#). More items are planned to be added later.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

To celebrate AP's 175th anniversary, the Corporate Archives has organized "AP at 175: Conversations with History," a series of three webinars.

Upcoming are:

The only perfect method: Kent Cooper and the birth of AP Wirephoto: Prof. Gene Allen in conversation with Creative Services Special Projects Manager Chuck Zoeller.

When: Thursday, June 03, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/99279521949>

Gene Allen is a Professor in the School of Journalism at Ryerson University (Toronto) and a faculty member in the Ryerson-York Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture. He had an extensive and varied career as a television news and documentary producer – including a position as director of research for the CBC/Radio-Canada television series Canada: A People's History -- and as an editor and reporter for The Globe and Mail before joining Ryerson's Journalism faculty in 2001. Gene is the author of Making National News: A History of Canadian Press, which was a finalist for the Canada Prize for the Humanities in 2015. He recently completed a biography of Kent Cooper, the general manager and executive director of Associated Press from 1925 to 1951.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/99279521949>

Meeting ID: 992 7952 1949

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AP correspondents bring home the world: Their history in their own words: Prof. Giovanna Dell'Orto in conversation with Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards John Daniszewski.

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Giovanna Dell'Orto, Ph.D., is a former newswoman with The Associated Press (in Minneapolis, Rome, Phoenix and Atlanta). Now Associate Professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota, she teaches and researches the interplay of news production, news content and international affairs. She is the author or senior editor of six books on this topic, including an oral history of AP foreign correspondence from the Second World War to the 2010s, published by Cambridge University Press in 2015. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Meeting ID: 942 0998 6199

Today in History - May 25, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 25, the 145th day of 2021. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black man, died when a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for about 9 1/2 minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn't breathe; Floyd's death, captured on video by a bystander, would lead to worldwide protests, some of which turned violent, and a reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

On this date:

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention began at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.

In 1935, Babe Ruth hit his last three career home runs [-] Nos. 712, 713 and 714 [-] for the Boston Braves in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. (The Pirates won, 11-7.)

In 1946, Transjordan (now Jordan) became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, Abdullah I.

In 1959, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *State Athletic Commission v. Dorsey*, struck down a Louisiana law prohibiting interracial boxing matches. (The case had been brought by Joseph Dorsey Jr., a Black professional boxer.)

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy told Congress: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, ordered the Virginia county to reopen its public schools, which officials had closed in an attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* desegregation ruling.

In 1965, Muhammad Ali knocked out Sonny Liston in the first round of their world heavyweight title rematch in Lewiston, Maine. (Ali's victory generated controversy over whether he'd truly connected when he sent Liston crashing to the canvas with a right to the head, or whether it was a "phantom punch," implying that the fight had been fixed.)

In 1977, the first "Star Wars" film (later retitled "Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope") was released by 20th Century Fox.

In 1979, 273 people died when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed just after takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Six-year-old Etan Patz (AY'-tahn payts) disappeared while on his way to a school bus stop in lower Manhattan. (In April 2017, former store clerk Pedro Hernandez, convicted of killing Etan, was sentenced to at least 25 years in prison.)

In 1992, Jay Leno made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," succeeding Johnny Carson.

In 2008, NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander arrived on the Red Planet to begin searching for evidence of water; the spacecraft confirmed the presence of water ice at its landing site.

In 2018, Harvey Weinstein was charged in New York with rape and another sex felony in the first prosecution to result from the wave of allegations against him; the once-powerful movie producer turned himself in to face the charges and was released on \$1 million bail after a court appearance. (Weinstein was convicted of rape and sexual assault; he is serving a 23-year prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: A judge in Salt Lake City sentenced street preacher Brian David Mitchell to life in prison for kidnapping and raping Elizabeth Smart, who was 14 at the time of her abduction in 2002. A judge in Tucson, Arizona, ruled that Jared Lee Loughner, the man accused of wounding U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killing six in a shooting rampage, was mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama wrapped up his historic visit to Vietnam before heading to Japan, the site of a two-day summit of wealthy nations. It was announced that about a dozen states were suing the Obama administration over its directive to U.S. public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms that matched their gender identity. (A federal judge put the directive on hold after the suit was filed; the Trump administration lifted the Obama guidelines in February 2017.) Actor Johnny Depp's wife, Amber Heard, filed for divorce in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences after 15 months of marriage.

One year ago: President Donald Trump threatened to pull the Republican National Convention from North Carolina if the state's Democratic governor would not agree to allow a full-capacity gathering. (Charlotte would host a scaled-back portion of events; prime-time speeches were delivered from Washington and elsewhere to a largely virtual audience.) Trump made Memorial Day visits to Arlington National Cemetery and Baltimore's Fort McHenry; Democrat Joe Biden chose Memorial Day to make his first public appearance in two months; he placed a wreath at a park near his Delaware home. Americans observed Memorial Day with small processions and online tributes

that also remembered those lost to the coronavirus. A white woman, Amy Cooper, called 911 to claim she was being threatened by “an African American man,” Christian Cooper, who had confronted her for walking her dog without a leash in New York’s Central Park. (After a video of the confrontation was widely circulated, Amy Cooper lost her job with investment firm Franklin Templeton and was charged with filing a false police report; the charge was dismissed after she completed a counseling program.)

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Ann Robinson is 92. Former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 87. Country singer-songwriter Tom T. Hall is 85. Actor Sir Ian McKellen is 82. Country singer Jessi Colter is 78. Actor-singer Leslie Uggams is 78. Movie director and Muppeteer Frank Oz is 77. Actor Karen Valentine is 74. Actor Jacki Weaver is 74. Rock singer Klaus Meine (The Scorpions) is 73. Actor Patti D’Arbanville is 70. Playwright Eve Ensler is 68. Musician Cindy Cashdollar is 66. Actor Connie Sellecca is 66. Rock singer-musician Paul Weller is 63. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., is 61. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 58. Actor Matt Borlenghi is 54. Actor Joseph Reitman is 53. Rock musician Glen Drover is 52. Actor Anne Heche (haych) is 52. Actors Lindsay and Sidney Greenbush (TV: “Little House on the Prairie”) are 51. Actor-comedian Jamie Kennedy is 51. Actor Octavia Spencer is 51. Actor Justin Henry is 50. Rapper Daz Dillinger is 48. Actor Molly Sims is 48. Actor Erinn Hayes is 45. Actor Cillian Murphy is 45. Actor Ethan Suplee (soo-PLÉE’) is 45. Rock musician Todd Whitener is 43. Actor Corbin Allred is 42. Actor-singer Lauren Frost is 36. Actor Ebonee (cq) Noel is 31. Musician Guy Lawrence (Disclosure) is 30. Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman is 27.

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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