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Connecting

May 27, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 27th day of May 2021,

One of the most-respected journalists in The Associated Press, **Lisa Marie Pane**, has announced her plans to retire after 26 years with the AP and we bring you the thoughts of our colleague on her decision and her career in today's Connecting.

Lisa, a national reporter based in Boise, Idaho, will retire effective June 4 and begin a new chapter with her two photography websites:
<https://www.lmpanephotography.com> and <https://www.treasurevalleyportraits.com>

Brian Carovillano, AP vice president and managing editor, told Connecting: "Lisa and I have been colleagues, partners and friends for nearly my entire time at the AP. She has been at my side at some of the most challenging and rewarding moments, and she has always represented, to me and all her colleagues, the absolute highest standard of journalism and leadership. It's a loss for AP, but I'm excited for her and her next adventures. I speak for all my colleagues in the newsroom in wishing her a wonderful retirement."

In announcing her retirement in a note to staff, AP news editor/national beats **Josh Hoffner** said her “contributions to the AP are so vast that one email won’t do them justice. At every step of the way, Lisa has been a consummate professional, all-around amazing colleague and friend and a truly outstanding journalist.” And he shared this telling story about Lisa:

“Knowing that every story needs a good kicker, I want to wrap up this note with an anecdote that perfectly encapsulates Lisa’s tenure at AP. As a young reporter in her first AP job, Lisa was assigned the Connecticut and Indiana congressional delegations at the 1992 Democratic National Convention in New York City. The only phone line that would work in her room at the Helmsley Hotel was in the bathroom. So she cranked out the PMs story from a stool next to the toilet, while her roommate on the story – Lolita Baldor, then a reporter at the Bridgeport Post – listened to the clickety-clack on Lisa’s first-gen AP laptop deep into the night. She got the story out and later went on to hire Lita to the AP – one of the many careers launched by Lisa.



“It was that type of perseverance to tell the story for the AP and collaboration with colleagues that exemplify her terrific career.”

Which leads Ye Olde Connecting Editor to ask you – can you top Lisa’s story of filing from a bathroom? What is the most unusual place from which you’ve filed a story or photo? Send along your contributions. And a photo.

Today’s issue also brings you even more press coverage and colleague thoughts on the AP firing of Emily Wilder for violating social media guidelines.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP helped raise me, showed me a bigger world, taught me something new every day



Lisa Marie Pane ([Email](#)) - I won't bury the lede: After decades in journalism, I'm hanging up my keyboard. My last day with The Associated Press will be June 4.

It's impossible to capture the 26 years I spent at AP – nearly half of my life. In many ways, AP helped raise me. It showed me a bigger world. It taught me at least one thing every single day. Not many people in this world get a chance to turn a passion of storytelling into a career. And now I have the distinct fortune of turning another passion – headshot and portrait photography – into a second career.

I've spent the bulk of my life in journalism in one form or another, starting with a weekly newspaper I launched with Linda Knorr back in the 1970s. I would rush home each afternoon to watch the Watergate hearings on TV and then Linda and I would type up a synopsis of what we thought it all meant, include a few ads for things like stray kittens we had found, and even had a page devoted to Wikipedia-like entry on one country or another. We went door-to-door around the neighborhood, selling it for a nickel. God bless the poor souls who took pity on us and actually bought one! This brief foray as publisher, editor and reporter fell by the wayside when school resumed that fall. But the seed was planted.

A few years later, when I was in high school, I thought I would end up being a teacher. But I hate speaking in front of groups and that whole idea freaked me out. As is typical of how decisions are made when we're kids, I had the option to pick a class that would get me out of school early on Wednesdays: journalism. So that's what I chose and soon discovered the joys of talking with people, interviewing them and then being able to convey what they said by writing it up for our high school newspaper; no

public speaking in front of groups required! I had found my chosen career and ended up studying journalism at Northeastern University in Boston where I spent all of my co-op/internships at The Boston Globe.

When I graduated, I got hired by the Brattleboro Reformer in Vermont where we all did a little bit of everything: reporting, writing, editing, our own photography (which meant developing and printing our own photos), and even the occasional paste-up. It was a “multi-platform” journalism job before that term was even coined. My next stop was at my hometown newspaper, The Hartford Courant, and eventually, my drive to cover politics inspired me to apply in 1991 to The Associated Press, where its longtime Capitol correspondent had left and I had the chance to cover one of the most interesting administrations: Republican-turned-independent Gov. Lowell Weicker. What a time it was!



In the Atlanta offices/South Desk, taken around 2008 when desk was launched: from left: Noreen Gillespie, Lisa Pane, Michael Giarrusso and Brian Carovillano.

I’m a bit of a restless soul and grew bored with the whole politics thing but didn’t know what else I might want to do at AP. So in 1996, it was off to Reuters, another wire service, and covering equities on Wall Street. But man, was I a fish out of water covering business! I soon found my way back to Connecticut, this time on the other side of the fence, as the director of press and policy for the Connecticut attorney general. It was a great experience but dang, I missed journalism. And I thought for sure I’d messed up any chance to get back into it, let alone with the AP.

In the spirit of nothing ventured, nothing gained, I reached out to AP and before I knew it, ED Bell and Karen Testa Wong were traveling to Hartford to interview me for the night supervisor job in Boston. I jumped at the chance and it was back to AP in 2000. I never looked back. It’s been quite a ride: night supe in Boston, correspondent in Providence, R.I., news editor in Boston, desk supe at HQ, deputy South editor, South editor, national reporter covering guns, and, more recently, working with a team to oversee our coronavirus coverage.

It has been a true blessing to have worked for the AP for 26 years. I couldn’t have been more lucky to have worked side by side with some amazing colleagues who give their heart and soul to covering the news, doing so quickly, thoroughly and factually.

Journalists get a lot of flak and grief these days. But I can attest to 99.9 percent of them trying their darndest to get the facts right and to inform. And one reason I'm especially proud of having worked for AP is because facts without opinion or a slant has been our mission for 175 years. Is the AP perfect? No. No entity involving humans is. But I can assure you they always strive to do the very best.



At 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte: from left, Joe Danborn, Jonathan Drew, Lisa Pane, Michelle Williams, and at the laptop, Mike Stewart.

There are so many stories that stick out to me that I've been honored to have been a part of: Hurricane Katrina (and countless other hurricanes and other natural disasters afterward), the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, clergy sex abuse in Boston, the Rhode Island nightclub fire, the New England Patriots' first Super Bowl win, the Red Sox' first World Series win in more than 80 years (yes, even this Yankees fan found that to be a fun story!), the Gulf Oil Spill, the Mark Sanford saga, the Trayvon Martin case, and spending weeks in Alaska with our investigative team as we looked into VP candidate Sarah Palin's time as governor. A chance to work at the Olympics (Winter Games in Torino, Italy); the opportunity to talk with, interview or shout questions that were ignored at presidents, U.S. Senators, would-be presidents, governors and other various public officials.

When I returned to reporting in 2016, I had the great fortune to be assigned a truly unique American beat: guns. I took pride in anti-gun folks thinking I was pro-gun, and pro-gun folks thinking I was anti-gun; the truth was somewhere in between but I appreciated being with a news organization that didn't want me to take sides.

Perhaps my greatest joy, however, has been the small role I had the chance to play in hiring and promoting journalists into the AP. I've loved seeing people thrive, grow and tell compelling stories.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shoutout to a few of my AP colleagues: Brian Carovillano, Noreen Gillespie Connolly and Josh Hoffner. There are tons more who should be tagged but those are just a few who made the ride incredibly special.

Thank you to everyone who made the journey a thrill!

Lisa Marie Pane's email – lisamariepane@gmail.com

More coverage of the AP's firing of Emily Wilder

Associated Press tells staff it made mistakes in firing of Emily Wilder

By Jeremy Barr
The Washington Post

Senior managers at the Associated Press admitted fault on Wednesday in the firing last week of a 22-year-old junior staffer, Emily Wilder, who was being targeted by right-wing commentators over her political activism in college.

Wilder was fired last Wednesday for violating the news organization's social media policy. Company managers felt that her tweets showed a bias toward the Palestinian

people in their conflict with the Israeli government and Israeli settlers — though Wilder says her editors never told her which of her tweets were problematic.

Since then, the AP — a huge international news organization whose internal dramas rarely go public — has been dealing with dissent from employees who feel it abandoned Wilder in the face of an online mob. On Monday, more than 100 AP staffers signed an open letter expressing frustration with how the company handled the termination and demanding “more clarity” about why Wilder was fired.

The Associated Press has not apologized or acknowledged mistakes in its public statements, beyond saying in response to the open letter that the company “looks forward to continuing the conversation with staff about AP’s social media policy.”

But managers took a much more apologetic tack in a town hall with employees on Wednesday, an audio recording of which was shared with The Washington Post.

Several executives expressed regret at how the company handled the situation in the meeting, though managing editor Brian Carovillano called them “mistakes of process, and not of outcome.” He said it was still “the right decision” to fire Wilder.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Myron Belkind.

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Opinion: How the AP wronged Emily Wilder (Washington Post)

Opinion by Erik Wemple
Media critic

On May 18, the Associated Press reported on the arrest of an arson suspect over a Los Angeles wildfire: “The man detained Sunday near the fire zone was being treated for smoke inhalation, said Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Ralph Terrazas. He did not identify the suspect or offer details about the investigation.” At the foot of this classic AP story is a line that reads, “AP journalist Emily Wilder contributed to this report from Phoenix.”

Two days later, AP management dismissed Wilder from her job as a news associate at the AP. Had she botched her contribution to the arson-arrest story? Or had she botched her contribution to a May 7 report about an Idaho school shooting?

Nothing like that, as the media world now knows. The 22-year-old Wilder received her dismissal notice following a successful attempt by conservatives to promote outrage over her activist work while attending Stanford University, where she served as a leader of Students for Justice in Palestine. The episode points to two emerging facts of life in contemporary mainstream media — one, that editors at large news organizations quake when right-wing actors target their colleagues; and two, publishers’ concerns over ethical appearances and perceptions are reaching irrationality.

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

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With Controversial Firing, the Associated Press Is Thrust Into the Social Media Maelstrom

By JOE POMPEO

Vanity Fair

For Washington Post employees, one of the pluses of Sally Buzbee's appointment as executive editor, in addition to her heavyweight journalism bona fides, was that she would be coming from a place that was practically devoid of controversy. The Associated Press, where Buzbee has been executive editor since 2017, is kind of like the good-natured Puritan of news organizations—buttoned up, undramatic, allergic to stories like the one you are reading. And so it's ironic that, on the eve of Buzbee's June 1 start date at the Post, the AP became engulfed in an epic controversy.

Depending on whom you ask, the AP's firing last week of a 22-year-old, Phoenix-based news associate was either a ham-fisted enforcement of social media policy or a rash acquiescence to a conservative mob, which aimed its pitchforks at Emily Wilder over her college-era pro-Palestinian activism. The AP has not publicly specified the exact offenses that led to Wilder getting the boot after less than a month on the job, but speculation has focused on a May 16 tweet in which she called attention to the media's "choices" in the language it uses when covering the Middle East conflict. "I am one victim to the asymmetrical enforcement of rules around objectivity and social media," Wilder wrote in a lengthy statement about her termination. As the controversy was snowballing on Sunday, an AP spokeswoman told us Wilder "was dismissed for violations of AP's social media policies during her time at AP."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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Emily Wilder's Firing Is No Surprise: AP Has Always Been Right-Wing

By Jon Schwarz

The Intercept

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS has received an enormous amount of criticism, including from its own staffers, for firing Emily Wilder, 22, after hiring her as a news associate just 17 days before. According to AP, Wilder was let go for "violations of AP's social media policy." AP's action was clearly in response to a right-wing pressure campaign targeting Wilder for her activism in college supporting Palestinian rights.

Though appalling, however, none of this should be a surprise. AP has been notably conservative since its founding in 1846, with a long history of bowing to the demands of the powerful — with its many talented journalists often forced to fight its management to get the news out. While other wire services such as United Press

International and Reuters have not always covered themselves in glory, AP's history demonstrates significantly more bias.

AP has long been one of the most important news organizations in the world. A nonprofit cooperative with over 1,000 member papers, it produces 2,000 stories per day, with its reporting often the main or only coverage of many stories. According to AP itself, over half the world's population regularly sees its work. Mahatma Gandhi once joked, "When I get to the Hereafter and stand at the Golden Gate, the first person I shall meet will be a correspondent of the Associated Press."

That's why it's crucial to understand AP's perspective. It's arguably baked into its DNA: AP was created by Moses Yale Beach, the publisher of the New York Sun, who arranged for five New York newspapers including the Sun to share the cost of covering the Mexican-American War. In retrospect, the war was a straight-up theft of Mexican territory, including all of California, by the U.S. It was justified by shameless deceit by President James K. Polk, as both Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant accurately said. Yet it was covered by AP as the fulfillment of America's manifest destiny, reflecting Beach's fervent belief that the U.S. should seize as much territory as possible. Beach even traveled to Mexico as an agent of the U.S. government, using a false British passport, in an attempt to undermine the Mexican war effort. This would not be seen today as a stellar example of media objectivity.

Read more [here](#).

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Explanation needed on why Emily Wilder fired

Denis Gray (Email) - I firmly believe that AP staffers should not voice their personal opinions on political and other controversial issues on social media. These inevitably raise alarms and doubts about the company's most cherished goal of presenting fact-based, unbiased news. Not voicing such opinions also shields AP individuals and the company from attacks by the crazies of the extreme right and the Robespierres at the other end of the spectrum. However, I would side with the more than 100 AP staffers who have asked for clarification about why Emily Wilder was fired. Although we have but scant information, something does not seem right and needs explanation. And while news leaders try to formulate more precise rules about what AP staffers can and can't say on public forums, they might also look into the state of transparency within the company. Wilder's case is not unique. Under the last regime, a significant number of excellent staffers were fired with most of us just guessing why and wondering – like some at the AP reportedly now do – "Who is next? Maybe me." For a company that presses governments and assorted institutions to be transparent and truthful, I hope AP management can come up with a policy which both protects the individual while explaining more meaningfully its actions to staffers, and if necessary, outsiders.

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In the old days of AP...

Gene Herrick (Email) - In the old days of AP, any staff person who showed any kind of bias, political, sports or what have you, would have been fired immediately. We were required, and we knew it, no expressing one's feelings about anything. Straight news; straight photos.

No one knew how I voted, not even my family.

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Let's wait for more information before judging

Ed McCullough (Email) - Re "For the AP and other news managers, the most urgent issue in Wilder's dismissal is that a reporter was targeted by a disinformation campaign—in this case, by people who took issue with Wilder's documented pro-Palestinian views—and rather than recognizing it as such, the organization essentially caved to it": Until more information is provided by Janine Zacharia - and AP - that statement is little more than a post hoc fallacy: Since Y happened after X, X somehow caused Y. Perhaps but not necessarily true.

Re "But it was far more heartbreaking to watch my incredibly talented former student be fired only 17 days into her tenure at a news organization she was so very proud to join": AP used to require several years' reporting experience before a hire. Something indeed has happened at AP and other news media other than targeted disinformation campaigns.

Re "Why are they so beholden to conservative Twitter?": Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc.

An umpire being applauded?



Umpire Joe West, second from right, is applauded by his crew after watching a video tribute to West who will break the record for most games as a major league umpire with No. 5,376 when he works the Cardinals-White Sox interleague baseball game Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Chicago. His crew from left, Nic Lentz, Bruce Dreckman, West, and Dan Bellino. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

Around the world with the AP



Camera operator Muhammad Farooq covers an anti-Israel protest in Karachi, Pakistan, May 19, 2021. Protesters marched the streets while carrying the flag of Palestine. (Photo courtesy of Riaz Sohail)

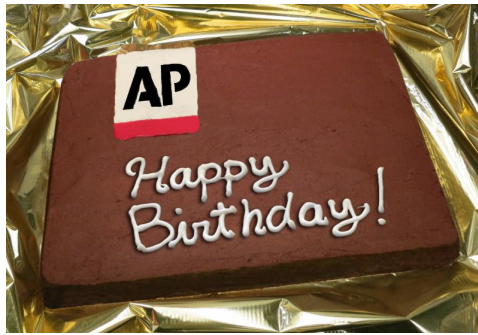


Photographer Mariam Zuhaib, center, captures a protest against Israel and the United States in Kabul, Afghanistan, May 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)



Sales operations administrator Patricia Casillo poses for a photo to celebrate her 25-year anniversary, April 1, 2021. (Photo courtesy of Patricia Casillo)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Ruth Gersh - rgersh@ap.org

Stories of interest

Alden puts its stamp on Tribune with new debt and leadership (AP)

By TALI ARBEL

Hedge fund Alden Global Capital closed its deal for Tribune on Monday. It wasted little time installing new leadership and saddling the newspaper chain with \$278 million in debt it took on for the acquisition, according to regulatory filings.

Alden, which owns the MediaNews Group newspaper chain and is the second-largest newspaper company by circulation, has a reputation as a ruthless cost-cutter in pursuit of profits. Shifting debt to Tribune's books raises concerns that the publisher would make cost cuts that hurt coverage in the company's communities. Tribune's papers include the Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun and Hartford Courant. Tribune reporters tweeted Wednesday that the company was offering voluntary buyouts.

The union that represents Tribune journalists had warned that Alden would use borrowed money to pay for Tribune, a tactic that would limit its ability to invest in its papers, it said. While Alden had said in December that it could "fully finance the transaction with cash on hand" and "will not require third party debt or equity," a filing in April noted that Alden had a right to finance up to \$375 million with debt.

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

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Karine Jean-Pierre takes her turn at the White House podium. (New York Times)



White House deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre speaks during a press briefing at the White House on Wednesday. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By Katie Rogers

Karine Jean-Pierre, the principal deputy press secretary for the White House, held a televised briefing for the first time on Wednesday, a baptism-by-fire moment that came shortly after a mass shooting and a request from President Biden that U.S. intelligence officials delve deeper into the origins of the coronavirus.

In her first outing, Ms. Jean-Pierre was immediately pushed for specifics about why Mr. Biden had ordered a 90-day review of the latest analysis on the virus, including whether it emerged from human contact with an infected animal or from a laboratory accident.

She offered none.

“Right now we’re just going to focus on the president’s announcement on the 90-day investigation,” Ms. Jean-Pierre said when asked what would happen if Chinese officials refused to cooperate with investigations.

Read more [here](#).

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A proven prognosticator foretells the future (Boomer Cafe)

Baby boomer Lee Abrams is credited with inventing the “Album Oriented Rock” format in the 1970s that revitalized hundreds of radio stations for decades. Well now,

he's back at it, giving BoomerCafé permission to publish his "Media Predictions for 2026." From his home in Chicago, Lee says that information is the new rock 'n roll.

Eleven predictions for media five years from now (some obvious and some arguable, of course), as the new Wild West gets wilder, fueled by the ongoing technology explosion:

NEWSPAPERS.... Four or five will prevail as national brands while local papers will be supported by contributions, grants, and possibly government funding. Smaller markets may survive as scaled back, free, and highly condensed editions. But not medium and larger markets, not without public funds or decimated output.

FM RADIO.... Demographics will continue to skew older. A handful of under-50-demographic powerhouses will prevail as will extremely localized stations in smaller markets. Generic radio will be omnipresent with some marginal successes but generally in clear decline.

STREAMING MUSIC.... Will clearly become the dominant norm among younger demographics favoring personal choice and with no historical allegiance to FM, and will explode 50+ once the high-circulation services provide new takes on FM Radio's "natural" 50+ audience that provide more character and curation than the jukebox effect provides, while utilizing the new listening technologies.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

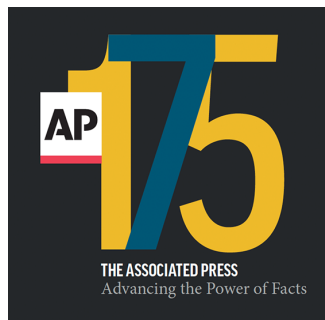
The Final Word

Pluggers by Rick McKee



Pluggers subscribe to newspapers.

Shared by Len Iwanski



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. Site currently closed for technical reasons but URL will be posted here when it reopens. More items are planned to be added later.

AP at 175 video

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

Oops!

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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 26, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 27, the 147th day of 2021. There are 218 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 27, 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France with a loss of some 2,000 lives, three days after the Bismarck sank the HMS Hood with the loss of more than 1,400 lives. Amid rising world tensions, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed an "unlimited national emergency" during a radio address from the White House.

On this date:

In 1861, Chief Justice Roger Taney, sitting as a federal circuit court judge in Baltimore, ruled that President Abraham Lincoln lacked the authority to suspend the writ of habeas corpus (Lincoln disregarded the ruling).

In 1896, 255 people were killed when a tornado struck St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1933, the Chicago World's Fair, celebrating "A Century of Progress," officially opened. Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, unanimously struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act, a key component of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislative program.

In 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, California, was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicles began crossing the next day).

In 1942, Doris "Dorie" Miller, a cook aboard the USS West Virginia, became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross for displaying "extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety" during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1964, independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, died.

In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. O'Brien*, upheld the conviction of David O'Brien for destroying his draft card outside a Boston courthouse, ruling that the act was not protected by freedom of speech.

In 1993, five people were killed in a bombing at the Uffizi museum of art in Florence, Italy; some three dozen paintings were ruined or damaged.

In 1994, Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia to the emotional cheers of thousands after spending two decades in exile.

In 1998, Michael Fortier (FOR'-tee-ur), the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing case, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after apologizing for not warning anyone about the deadly plot. (Fortier was freed in January 2006.)

In 2018, LeBron James reached his eighth straight NBA Finals as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Boston Celtics 87-79 in Game 7 of the semifinals.

Ten years ago: Astronauts Mike Fincke and Gregory Chamitoff made history as the final spacewalkers of NASA's 30-year shuttle program, completing construction of the International Space Station with the smooth addition of an extension pole. President Barack Obama, visiting Poland, honored the memories of those slain in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against Nazis. Gil Scott-Heron, 62, widely considered one of the godfathers of rap music, died in New York. Actor Jeff Conaway died at a hospital in Encino, California; he was 60.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama became the first American chief executive to visit Hiroshima, the city where the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb during World War II, declaring it a fitting place to summon people everywhere to embrace the vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

One year ago: Protests over the death of George Floyd in police custody rocked Minneapolis for a second night, with some people looting stores and setting fires. Protests spread to additional cities; hundreds of people blocked a Los Angeles freeway

and shattered windows of California Highway Patrol cruisers. The U.S. surged past a milestone in the coronavirus pandemic, with the confirmed death toll topping 100,000. For the first time, House lawmakers voted by proxy, a move aimed at avoiding the risks of travel to Washington during the pandemic. Boeing said it would cut more than 12,000 U.S. jobs through layoffs and buyouts as it dealt with a downturn in travel caused by the pandemic; at the same time, the company said it was resuming production of the 737 Max jetliner. Playwright and AIDS activist Larry Kramer died of pneumonia at 84.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is 98. Author John Barth is 91. Actor Lee Meriwether is 86. Musician Ramsey Lewis is 86. Actor Louis Gossett Jr. is 85. R&B singer Raymond Sanders (The Persuasions) is 82. Actor Bruce Weitz is 78. Former Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) is 77. Singer Bruce Cockburn (KOH'-burn) is 76. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster is 74. Singer-actor Dee Dee Bridgewater is 71. Actor Richard Schiff is 66. Singer Siouxsie Sioux (The Creatures, Siouxsie and the Banshees) is 64. Rock singer-musician Neil Finn (The Finn Brothers) is 63. Actor Peri Gilpin is 60. Actor Cathy Silvers is 60. Comedian Adam Carolla is 57. Actor Todd Bridges is 56. Rock musician Sean Kinney (Alice In Chains) is 55. Actor Dondre Whitfield is 52. Actor Paul Bettany is 50. Rock singer-musician Brian Desveaux (Nine Days) is 50. Country singer Jace Everett is 49. Actor Jack McBrayer is 48. Rapper Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 46. Rapper Jadakiss is 46. TV chef Jamie Oliver is 46. Alt-country singer-songwriter Shane Nicholson is 45. Actor Ben Feldman is 41. Actor Michael Steger is 41. Actor Darin Brooks is 37. Actor-singer Chris Colfer is 31. Actor Ethan Dampf is 27. Actor Desiree Ross (TV: "Greenleaf") 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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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