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# Connecting

July 08, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this May 8, 2021,

Our colleague **Tara Bradley-Steck** posed a question in Wednesday's Connecting, as part of her work at Duquesne University, on ways that the public's trust in journalism can be restored. We heard from three of you with thoughtful responses and they lead today's issue. Give it some thought and share your own ideas with Tara and your colleagues.

**Thank you from Senator Klobuchar:** Our colleague **Chris Connell** ([Email](#)) shares this note from U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., that he received Wednesday after forwarding to her the May 13 Connecting with **Gene Herrick's** reminiscence of her father, Jim Klobuchar. Jim worked with Gene as a newsman in the AP's Minneapolis bureau from 1953-61 before a long career as a columnist with the Minneapolis newspapers. Jim died May 12 at the age of 93.

*Subject: Responding to your message*

*Dear Christopher:*

*Thank you for sharing such kind words about my dad. He lived an amazing life.*

*Through his more than 8400 columns, my dad told stories of the "heroes among us,"—ordinary people doing extraordinary things. He is now laid to rest among so many heroes at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.*



*Even to the end, he was still singing songs, sharing his love of words and the world with those around him, and telling incredible stories to all who visited. He loved Minnesota. He loved journalism. He loved sports and adventure. And we loved him.*

*Your condolences and memories mean a lot to me.*

*Sincerely,*

*Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator*

All credit to Gene and Connecting, Chris added, for the wonderful remembrance.

**Blogger's Blues:** Here's hoping that when you read Mike Doan's profile in Wednesday's edition, you clicked on the song he created and performed a while back, called Blogger's Blues. In what had to be ESP, colleague **Lyle Price** sent along a note to me just as I was preparing this reminder to view the video. Lyle wrote, "It will make anyone's day if they hit the blue-colored bar to get "more" on the article by Mike Doan in the July 7 edition of Connecting. Mike is definitely ready for prime time in the humorous music business."

Click [here](#) to view the video.

**In search of sea life:** Speaking of videos, and breaking my promise not to over-travelogue our recent trip to Maui, our son **Jon Stevens** ([Email](#)) is quite adept at snorkeling and operating his GoPro HERO9 Black underwater camera at the same time.



During our snorkeling trips off the Maui coast, Jon shot many videos including this one – click [here](#). Ye Olde Editor and Linda (photo at right) did our best in our maiden snorkeling run but got an assist from time to time from their son to keep up with the underwater creatures. Linda likened my snorkeling style to that of the turtle, but that's being generous.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Suggestions to Restore the Public's Trust in Journalism

**John Gaps** ([Email](#)) - An interesting question posed by Tara.

I suggest that each media outlet compose an online video that shows the step-by-step process of how a story is imagined, assigned, reported, photographed, vetted, line edited, copy edited and put into the paper or on the air. They could also make sure that all of the people shown in the video can reply to comments in kind.

Also, show how a news meeting is held. The hierarchy, conversation with the editor, etc. The videos should have the feel of maybe the "West Wing" television show... upbeat, challenging and full of problem solving.

That gets us into the water with the public and begins an ongoing an organic process with their readers/viewers/listeners. I don't think the public can fully appreciate how urgent the process can become before news is presented for public consumption.

I offer this as a starting point for bigger thinkers to transact.

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**Ed McCullough** ([Email](#)) -

**Do**

Tell people what happened to someone or something of their interest; in ways - print, audio, visual, digital - that are accessible and, if possible, multimedia and two-way. Clearly identify editorial opinion and "ring fence" that from news. Be fair. Cover all (not just "both") sides of a story. Attribute more and avoid non-attribution of quotes, statements and/or information presented as factual. Promptly and prominently correct errors. Focus on real news, for example, illegal immigration and not whether the vice president visits the border. Communicate as equals rather than from on high. Avoid hubris such as "we tell truth to power."

## Don't

Tell people what they ought to think, and certainly not in news stories. Don't present news through filters: the U.S. view, or liberal, conservative, racial, whatever. Don't tell news audiences something is happening that they can see with their own eyes is entirely different. Riots and peaceful demonstrations are not the same regardless of supposed intent.

AP's standard used to be: We want to be first, but first we want to be right. More of that approach might help restore public trust in journalism.

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**Cliff Schiappa (Email)** - Re: Tara Bradley-Steck's call for ideas to help restore the public's trust in journalism (and it's so cool the President of Duquesne sees this as a priority): As simple as it sounds, I think we in journalism, whether practicing or retired, need to be more transparent in how the sausage is made.

Editors can read incoming letters/emails/feedback to know which of their readers mistrust what's being produced. Take a proactive role to engage those doubters by inviting them to the newsroom (if such a place exists anymore) to sit in decision-making meetings, watch over the shoulder of editors, go out on stories with photographers, etc., so they can experience the challenges faced by journalists every day. Ask them to critique the product after witnessing the gathering of facts that resulted in those stories, video, stills, etc.

Journalism educators can invite "doubters" to sit in on classes that are teaching journalism basics, encouraging them to ask questions of the teachers and students, while also receiving questions from that group as well. Perhaps Duquesne could create such a framework to be emulated elsewhere.

Retirees can engage folks in conversation about the industry for which they have great passion, explaining how carefully we still take in news accounts, always with a discerning eye, and inquire how those folks interpret and comprehend those same stories.

Journalists shouldn't assume they are always right, and extending an invitation to have a conversation is certainly more productive than putting up a defensive shield.

And offer at least a cup of coffee, if not a free lunch, to those who take part. Nothing like breaking bread with someone to help break down barriers.



# DOJ charges Capitol riot suspect with attacking AP photographer

By Marshall Cohen and Devan Cole, CNN

Washington (CNN) - The Justice Department has charged a Pennsylvania man who allegedly attacked an Associated Press photographer and used a stun gun while assaulting police officers during the Capitol insurrection on January 6.



Alan Byerly, who is one of many Capitol riot defendants arrested recently in connection with attacks on journalists or media equipment, is accused of several federal crimes, including assault on a federal officer, obstructing law enforcement and the assault against the photographer. He hasn't yet entered a plea.

The gang assault against the AP photographer was captured on video. It shows the photographer, John Minchillo, surrounded by pro-Trump rioters who repeatedly shove him and throw him over a ledge. Prosecutors allege that Byerly used both hands to grab at the photographer's face, neck and chest. A Good Samaritan in the crowd later tries to escort the photographer to safety.

Minchillo is part of a group of AP photographers who won a Pulitzer Prize in June for breaking-news photography.

Read more [here](#).

## AP reporter stuns Biden State Department spokesperson during press briefing

By Lindsay Kornick | Fox News

An Associated Press reporter challenged the State Department spokesperson over statements that the Biden administration has honored international agreements that were negotiated under the previous administration.

During Tuesday's State Department press briefing, spokesperson Ned Price highlighted President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and the possibility of continuing negotiations with the Taliban despite their military offensive in taking back control in parts of the country.

Associated Press reporter Matt Lee pressed Price about the administration's excuse that they were beholden to the Trump administration's agreement with the Taliban as a possible reason for U.S. troop withdrawal.

"This administration inherited plenty from the previous administration that it absolutely reversed. Are you saying that you're not confident in your negotiating skills that you could have renegotiated with—that you couldn't have renegotiated a deal with the Taliban and that the—and are you saying that the president, in fact, didn't want to take troops out, didn't want to withdraw?" Lee asked

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carl Robinson.

## *Connecting series:* **My first car**

**Dennis Ferraro (Email)** - My first car purchase was a 1962 6 volt VW Beetle back around 1973 for a rock bottom price of \$25. A great deal because it had some condition issues. No glass, no running boards, missing front left fender, and two holes in the roof over the left rear passenger side of the car.

The titled owner purchased the car from a police auction with the intention of restoration but had thoughts about the project. (Stock photo of the model at right; certainly not the real thing.)



I took up the baton mainly because I had a friend at the time with a '61 Bug with a floorboard that had rotted out and was destined for the junk yard.

Before that occurred, we removed the fender and pulled the glass from his and installed them in mine except for the windshield which we shattered but a quick trip to the junk yard took care of that. I filled in the holes with body putty, replaced the plugs, points and rebuilt the carburetor. Turned to ignition and similar to Woody Allen's Bug in the movie Sleeper, started without hesitation.

Next came a trip to Earl Scheib for a, don't stand in the way, \$99.99 paint job. Which was my single most expensive investment.

Finally, an order to JC Whitney Co. for a headliner and running boards.

I had that Bug for about three years until a car coming in the opposite direction on a local street suddenly made a left turn.

No one was hurt from the impact but my Bug's front end was bent and the car was totaled.

The other driver's insurance company settled with me and I re-invested my windfall profit in a '69 Bug.

# Connecting mailbox

## *Gene strikes again*



**Robert Meyers (Email)** - Found the Rosa Parks booking photo by Gene Herrick displayed in the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, England. Actual color as



displayed coded as green for progress in interracial relationships. Credited to AP and the national PA agency (Press Association) which has long had a syndication contract with the AP.

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## *More on that Yogi shot*

**Gerry Price** ([Email](#)) - Regarding the Yogi Berra photo, a larger version exists online with Elston Howard and a palm tree in the background, indicating that it was shot at spring training. As to the shooter, I don't know, but it most likely was a Yankee publicity shot.

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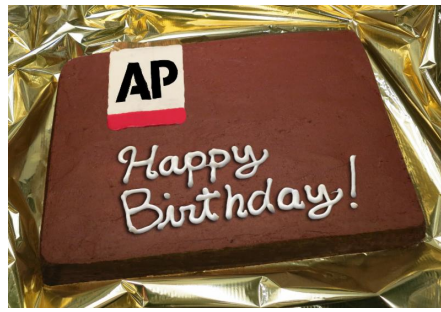
## *Just a baby...*



Our colleague Nick Ut took this photo of a baby owl at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





Norm Clarke - [normclarke@me.com](mailto:normclarke@me.com)

Ron Kampeas - [ronkampeas@msn.com](mailto:ronkampeas@msn.com)

Carol Robinson - [vacarolr@msn.com](mailto:vacarolr@msn.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***'So, So Angry': Reporters Who Survived the Capitol Riot Are Still Struggling*** (Vice News)

By Cameron Joseph

John Bresnahan spent January 6 watching a pro-Trump insurrection ransack the building he's worked in for decades.

The congressional reporting veteran was in the House gallery when a colleague texted him that the Capitol's exterior security fence had been overrun. As soon as he stepped into the hallway, he heard the roar of the crowd as they warred with police officers trying to protect the Capitol's perimeter.

He then saw MAGA-clad assailants try to smash open the east doors of the Capitol into the Rotunda before officers with M-16 rifles screamed at him to clear the area. Bresnahan moved to a perch on the floor above Statuary Hall, watching for an hour as rioters flooded through an entrance door they had broken open. At one point, he ran downstairs to help an officer back to his feet who'd been knocked down in a scuffle with rioters. He said he only felt personally threatened once during the insurrection—when rioters briefly cut off his exit route.

It was unlike anything Bresnahan had seen in his nearly three decades on the Hill. But what stunned him most came hours later, once the rioters were dispersed.

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

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## ***Opinion: The DOJ is putting a needed roadblock on the treacherous path toward autocracy*** (Washington Post)

Opinion by Laurence H. Tribe, Stuart M. Gerson and Dennis Aftergut

*Laurence H. Tribe is Carl M. Loeb University Professor and Professor of Constitutional Law Emeritus at Harvard Law School. Stuart M. Gerson served as assistant attorney general under President George H.W. Bush and as acting attorney general in the early months of President Bill Clinton's administration. Dennis Aftergut is a former federal prosecutor, currently of counsel at the Renne Public Law Group in San Francisco.*

The Justice Department has begun arresting those who assaulted journalists during the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol — a series of actions whose importance to our democracy is hard to overstate.

Newspeople are front-line defenders of our republic, much as the Capitol Police and other law enforcement officials were on Jan. 6. While all who attacked the Capitol six months ago should be held accountable, prioritizing prosecution of individuals who assault the press or police is paramount. Without the work of both, our security and democracy are at existential risk.

The authors of our Constitution, having declared independence from an imperial king who supposedly could do no wrong, knew in their bones the primacy of a free press. As Thomas Jefferson wrote from Paris in a 1786 letter, “Our liberty depends on freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Len Iwanski.

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## ***Judge jails editor over reporter's use of recorder in court*** (AP)

By BRYAN ANDERSON

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina Superior Court judge put a small-town newspaper editor behind bars last month after one of his reporters used an audio recorder for note-taking purposes at a murder trial — a punishment the paper and media rights groups consider excessive.

Judge Stephan Futrell sentenced Gavin Stone, the news editor of the Richmond County Daily Journal, to five days in jail before having the editor hauled off to jail. Stone was released the next day but still faces the possibility of more time in lockup.

Brian Bloom, the paper's publisher, acknowledged that his reporter shouldn't have had the recorder in court because it was not allowed but criticized the judge's move to imprison an editor for a minor infraction committed by a colleague.

“The penalty does not fit the crime,” he said. “Let’s put this in perspective: You stop a murder trial not once, but twice, because a guy had a tape recorder sitting next to him on a bench at a courtroom. Let’s put our priorities in place here.”

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

# The Final Word



No words are needed, when viewing the names of those who died on the USS Arizona on Dec. 7, 1941.



## Celebrating AP's 175th

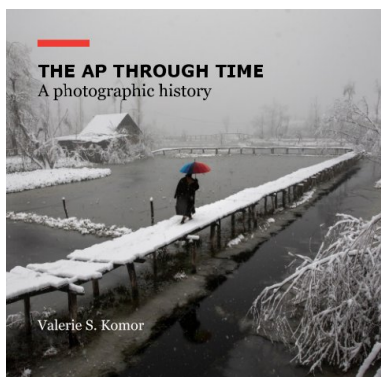


## AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos. The site can be reached by clicking [here](#).

## 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 at 175 video

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

# Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



# Today in History - July 8, 2021



By The Associated Press



Today is Thursday, July 8, the 189th day of 2021. There are 176 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 8, 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.)

**On this date:**

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

In 1853, an expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.

In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In 1911, cowgirl "Two-Gun Nan" Aspinwall became the first woman to make a solo trip by horse across the United States, arriving in New York 10 months after departing San Francisco.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1972, the Nixon administration announced a deal to sell \$750 million in grain to the Soviet Union. (However, the Soviets were also engaged in secretly buying subsidized American grain, resulting in what critics dubbed "The Great Grain Robbery.")

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford announced he would seek a second term of office.

In 1989, Carlos Saul Menem was inaugurated as president of Argentina in the country's first transfer of power from one democratically elected civilian leader to another in six decades.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

In 2000, Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 7-6 (3) for her first Grand Slam title, becoming the first Black female champion at Wimbledon since Althea Gibson in 1957-58.

In 2010, violent protests erupted in Oakland, California, after a Los Angeles jury convicted a white former transit officer, Johannes Mehserle (yoh-HAH'-nes MEZ'-ur-lee), of involuntary manslaughter (instead of murder) in the videotaped fatal shooting of a Black man, Oscar Grant.

In 2019, billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein was charged with sexually abusing dozens of underage girls; the newly unsealed federal indictment came more than a decade after he secretly cut a deal with federal prosecutors to dispose of nearly identical



allegations. (Epstein was found unresponsive in his jail cell a month later; the medical examiner ruled his death a suicide.)

Ten years ago: Former first lady Betty Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93. Atlantis thundered into orbit on a cargo run that would close out the three-decade U.S. space shuttle program. Ohio State vacated its wins from the 2010 football season, including its share of the Big Ten championship and a victory over Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl, as it responded to the NCAA's investigation of a memorabilia-for-cash scandal.

Five years ago: On the first day of a two-day summit in Warsaw, NATO leaders geared up for a long-term standoff with Russia, ordering multinational troops to Poland and the three Baltic states as Moscow moved forward with its own plans to station two new divisions along its western borders. Ten states (Nebraska, Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming) sued the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights. (Nebraska, which led the effort, later asked to drop the lawsuit after the Trump administration ended the protection.)

One year ago: Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms signed an executive order requiring masks to be worn in Georgia's largest city, setting up a confrontation with Republican Gov. Brian Kemp. President Donald Trump threatened to hold back federal money if school districts did not bring their students back in the fall. The head of the Tulsa City-County Health Department in Oklahoma said a Trump campaign rally in June had "likely contributed" to a dramatic surge in new coronavirus cases there. Brooks Brothers filed for bankruptcy protection; the 200-year-old company became the latest major clothing retailer to be toppled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Steve Lawrence is 86. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 77. Rock musician Jaimoe Johanson is 76. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 74. Actor Kim Darby is 74. Actor Jonelle Allen is 73. Children's performer Raffi is 73. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 72. Actor Anjelica Huston is 70. Writer Anna Quindlen is 69. Actor Kevin Bacon is 63. Actor Robert Knepper is 62. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 60. Country singer Toby Keith is 60. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 59. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 59. Actor Rocky Carroll is 58. Actor Corey Parker is 56. Actor Lee Tergesen is 56. Actor Michael B. Silver is 54. Actor Billy Crudup is 53. Actor Michael Weatherly is 53. Singer Beck is 51. Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is 48. Actor Kathleen Robertson is 48. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 46. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEE'-loh vehn-tih-MEEL'-yuh) is 44. Singer Ben Jelen (YEL'-in) is 42. Actor Lance Gross is 40. Actor Sophia Bush is 39. Rock musician Jamie Cook (Arctic Monkeys) is 36. Actor Jake McDorman is 35. Actor Maya Hawke is 23. Actor Jaden Smith is 23.

## 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  
**paulstevens46@gmail.com**

