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Connecting

August 03, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Aug. 3, 2021,

We lead today's issue with the news that Twitter has signed deals with The Associated Press and Reuters to help elevate accurate information on its platform.

Twitter said Monday that the program will expand its existing work to help explain why things are trending on the site, show information and news from trusted resources and debunk misinformation.

First response is in on our call for your thoughts on news people taking part in demonstrations or protests in light of NPR's recent policy change (see Monday's issue). Our colleague and longtime newspaperman **Craig Klugman** ([Email](#)) - "Of course the staff at any newsroom that values fairness and the appearance of it should be forbidden to take part in protests or demonstrations."

Hope you share your thoughts.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP, Reuters to help Twitter elevate more credible info



FILE - The login/sign up screen for a Twitter account is seen on a laptop computer Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Orlando, Fla. (AP Photo/John Raoux)

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter has signed a deal with The Associated Press and Reuters to help elevate accurate information on its platform. Twitter said Monday that the program will expand its existing work to help explain why certain subjects are trending on the site, to show information and news from trusted resources and to debunk misinformation.

Twitter said the news agencies will help ensure that credible information is available in real time around key conversations as they come up. That will be especially important where “facts are in dispute” or when the company’s own curation team doesn’t have the necessary expertise or access to enough reputable reporting on the subject, Twitter said.

The news agencies will also be tasked with helping provide context on topics garnering widespread interest, including those that could potentially lead to misleading information, Twitter said.

“Rather than waiting until something goes viral, Twitter will contextualize developing discourse at pace with or in anticipation of the public conversation,” Twitter said.

"This work is core to our mission," Tom Januszewski, the AP's vice president of global business development, said in a statement. "AP has a long history of working closely with Twitter, along with other platforms, to expand the reach of factual journalism."

Hazel Baker, head of user-generated content newsgathering at Reuters, said "trust, accuracy and impartiality are at the heart of what Reuters does every day."

Financial terms of the partnerships were not disclosed. The AP and Reuters are also fact-checking partners with Facebook.

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

Connecting mailbox

Community Thrives -- First Amendment Foundation

Jim Baltzelle ([Email](#)) - The First Amendment Foundation is working to expand its internship program with the help of Gannett's "A Community Thrives" grant program. If any AP alums would like to help the Florida nonprofit (I am board chair) along toward its goal, [here](#) is a link, which will be good through Aug. 13. Though the initial \$3,000 goal has been met (thank you), even more engagement could lead to meaningful grant awards.

As you know, FAF has been helping journalists and citizens gain access to public records and public meetings for decades. In Florida, known for its relative openness, there are nearly 1,200 exemptions to Government-in-the-Sunshine laws, with legislation to add more in the works.

Thank you for anything you can do to promote goodwill.

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A new educator seeking your advice

Tom Coyne ([Email](#)) - I'm teaching Fundamentals in Journalism at the University of Notre Dame for the first time this fall. I'm putting together my syllabus and wanted to see if any of the Connecting readers who are teaching or have taught basic journalism classes have any suggestions for in-class or out-of-class writing assignments or any other suggestions for teaching such a class. If so, please email me at tom4coyne@gmail.com

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High praise for Peter Arnett's Afghanistan series



Cheryl Arvidson ([Email](#)) - I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how outstanding I thought the Peter Arnett reports on Afghanistan were (see the three-part series in last Monday, Wednesday, Friday editions). His stories were just gripping and so interesting, and I really appreciate having a chance to see his insights given the current news events.

Just the news, please

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - I've been noticing an increasing journalistic trend away from the old news story lede. It seems to be more about the atmospherics than the facts.

I'm not sure my concern doesn't merely reflect an old scribbler's misty memories of when I began my AP years back in the Middle Ages (1951). Then the first graf of a breaking news story was almost always some version of the (outdated?) Five W's. Even if readers didn't go any further, they would have some idea of which man had bitten which dog. Not always the case these days, with buried ledes, and where even the headlines don't always reflect a story's news.

Here, along with a postscript, I've concocted a couple of - perhaps exaggerated - examples:

WINTER'S FIRST SNOWFALL SLOWS COMMUTERS

Accident Causes Back-up

Light snow falling on the crumpled body of a gleaming red Mustang. A Walmart tractor-trailer, loaded with canned peas, folded into an ominous vee. A ribbon of

smoke rising above the scene. Honking horns echoing from vehicles backed up miles on the highway.

That was the scene today on Maine's Interstate 95 just outside Portland where an icy patch caused the big rig to smash into the car carrying a young couple and their infant daughter. The parents and the baby were reported by State Police Sgt. Ed Manners to have "miraculously escaped" serious injuries, as did the truck driver.

TROUBLING DAY FOR KRANKVILLE WOMAN

By Sadie Saddle
Daily Bugle City Reporter

Greta Groine awoke to the nervous twittering of birds high in the stately elm towering above her Victorian-style home in Krankville, this quiet central Illinois community once visited by President Herbert Hoover. As she told the Bugle, Ms. Groine was enjoying an early morning breakfast of kale-tofu muffins and almond milk, when she sensed something was amiss in the friendly town of 1,327 souls. Was it, she wondered, the swirls of smoke she spotted? Perhaps it was the sound of multiple sirens wailing in the distance. Did the noisy birds know something?

Maybe they did, as a wind-swept wildfire today burned over many acres of woodland on the edge of Krankville, endangering the Forest Avenue neighborhood as it raced unabated toward the center of town. Mayor Freddie Freek has warned all residents to be prepared to evacuate, if necessary, to emergency shelters at schools in nearby Smallton.

(P.S. – A 90-year-old former reporter, long known as a curmudgeon, complained today on the newsletter Connecting, that current news story ledes "ain't what they used to be." One colleague responded: "Neither are you, Norm!")

Newspapers in Art



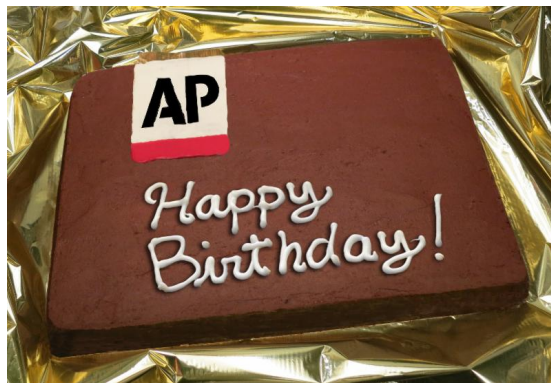
Paul Albright (Email) - A broadside news sheet occupies the foreground of this scene of an aristocratic English woman at her writing desk, quill pen in hand. Broadside, usually printed on only one side of the sheet, were significant in the 18th Century. They provided an important medium for news, announcements, publicity, and propaganda on both sides during the American war for independence.

The portrait shows Caroline Howe whose three brothers – George, William, and Richard Howe – were military and naval leaders of British forces during conflicts with the French and the American colonists. Caroline Howe was an inexhaustible correspondent in the promotion and defense of her brothers. She is featured in the recently published “The Howe Dynasty: The Untold Story of a Military Family and the

Women Behind Britain's Wars in America" (by Julie Flavell). The 1812-1813 painting by Henry Howard shows Caroline Howe in her 90s. She died in 1814.

Also seen in the painting are chess pieces, reflecting the times when Caroline Howe played chess and discussed colonial matters with Benjamin Franklin during his diplomatic mission in Great Britain before the revolution.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Ben Curtis – bcurtis@ap.org

Jim Hood – jimhood44@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Belarus sends reporter to prison over deleted chat messages (AP)



This handout undated photo provided by Belarusian Human Rights Center "Viasna", shows Belarusian journalist Siarhei Hardziyevich sitting in a court room in Minsk, Belarus. A court in Belarus has convicted Siarhei Hardziyevich of insulting the president in messages in a deleted chat group and sentenced him to 1 1/2 years in prison, the Belarusian Association of Journalists says. (Human Rights Center Viasna via AP)

By YURAS KARMANAU

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A court in Belarus convicted a journalist of insulting the president in messages in a deleted chat group and sentenced him to 1 1/2 years in prison, the Belarusian Association of Journalists said Monday.

The verdict in the case against Siarhei Hardziyevich, 50, comes as part of a massive crackdown that Belarusian authorities have unleashed on independent media and human rights activists.

Hardziyevich on Monday was found guilty of insulting the president and slandering police officers, according to the association. The court sentenced him to a prison term and a \$1,600 fine.

The charges against the journalist from Drahichyn, a city 300 kilometers (185 miles) southwest of Belarus' capital of Minsk, were brought over messages in a chat group on the messaging app Viber which was deleted last year.

Hardziyevich, who worked for a popular regional news outlet, The First Region, has maintained his innocence. His defense team demanded the charges be dropped due to a lack of evidence and because the crime was impossible to establish.

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

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Hughes: A vanishing voice



By Dick Hughes
Guest Writer
McMinnville, Ore., News-Register

Linfield University graduate Dick Hughes worked for the News-Register from 1976 to 1981, then moved to the Statesman Journal in Salem. He went on to spend many years as the newspaper's editorial page editor. Now a freelance journalist, he has written more than 5,000 columns and editorials for newspapers in Oregon, Washington, California and elsewhere. He currently writes the weekly Capitol Chatter column at Oregon CapitalInsider.com. He can be reached at TheHughesisms@gmail.com

Dear reader, you are fortunate.

You can read editorials in the News-Register that make you smile.

You can read editorials in the News-Register that make you scowl.

You can read editorials in the News-Register that challenge your thinking — and others that validate your views.

Regardless of whether you agree, disagree or are uncertain, you are presented with thoughtful, nuanced viewpoints that you can discuss with your neighbors and civic

leaders. And that opportunity has disappeared in too many communities.

Editorials are the institutional voice of a newspaper, reflecting the composite view of the editorial page staff, not the staff as a whole. They respect the wall between reporting news and writing opinion.

Editorials are a cornerstone of any democracy. They hold the powerful accountable, promote civic engagement and stand up for people whose voices are ignored. In short, editorials both lead and listen.

Yet more and more newspapers in Oregon, and around the country, have abdicated that role — whether to save newsprint costs, reduce staffing costs, avoid writing anything that might alienate potential readers, or all of the above.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Tim Marsh.

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Opinion: Britney Spears shines light on conservatorship abuse (Cincinnati.com)

By Dan Sewell
Opinion contributor

Why isn't Britney free?

It's a puzzler. She's been a pop star most of her 39 years, capable of headlining major concert tours, doing a Las Vegas residency, making new music and releasing new albums, and generating tens of millions in revenue.

Spears had a very public meltdown as her pop star status and tabloid glare proved overwhelming. But instead of less-restrictive alternatives, her father got her put into a conservatorship, and for the past 13 years, she hasn't had financial freedom or ability to make some highly personal life choices because she is in a conservatorship. She says she was even forced to have a birth control device implanted.

A zealous "FreeBritney" movement has helped put a spotlight on her situation and on the nature of conservatorships, also called guardianships.

Read more [here](#).

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How Hearst is conquering Connecticut with the latest in a growing roster of statewide networks (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Hearst announced in June it was pooling the resources of its eight Connecticut daily newspapers and another 14 weeklies and websites to launch a new statewide digital site, CTInsider.com.

The venture draws on a total news staff of 160, with just a small group dedicated to assembling the report.

It's the culmination of a Hearst initiative dating back 15 years that has gradually assembled properties to build a statewide presence in most of Connecticut's largest cities except Hartford.

At a time where it takes some looking to find positive trends in the newspaper industry, this is one. Bigger chains and strong individual papers from Florida to Ohio to Charleston to Arkansas have decided in the last few years to leverage the news and business potential of going statewide.

At Hearst Connecticut, newly assigned executives have been put in place to do the groundwork and now the execution of the statewide plan. Mike DeLuca, who had been directing advertising for all Hearst papers, came onboard as president and publisher of the group in May 2019. Wendy Metcalfe — a recruit whose career had been at Canadian papers, including a stint editing the Toronto Sun — joined as group vice president of content and editor-in-chief that November.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.



Celebrating AP's 175th

175th anniversary Polo shirts



AP is offering a variety of 175th anniversary merchandise, but one item that isn't available and that many staffers like is a Polo shirt. Adam Yeomans, AP's regional director for the South, has taken care of that. He recently ordered Polos for AP staffers in the South, a few members and retirees, other AP fans. Now you have the opportunity to order one of these limited-edition shirts emblazoned with the AP's 175th anniversary logo. The cost is \$30 per shirt, including shipping. Adult sizes are S, M, L, XL and XXL. The Navy Blue shirts are a 50/50 blend and tend to run a little large. If you'd like to order one, please

email Adam Yeomans at adamyemans@yahoo.com with your name, phone number, home address, and the size(s) and quantity by July 30. Adam says he will collect payment once the shirts are ready for shipping. He's trying to cover his cost; if there's anything left, he says he will donate it to the AP Employee Relief Fund.

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.

Click [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 - Aug. 3, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2021. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 3, 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

On this date:

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League.

In 1966, comedian Lenny Bruce, whose raunchy brand of satire and dark humor landed him in trouble with the law, was found dead in his Los Angeles home; he was 40.

In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1993, the Senate voted 96-to-three to confirm Supreme Court nominee Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

In 2004, the Statue of Liberty pedestal in New York City reopened to the public for the first time since the 9/11 attacks.

In 2005, fourteen Marines from a Reserve unit in Ohio were killed in a roadside bombing in Iraq.

In 2014, Israel withdrew most of its ground troops from the Gaza Strip in an apparent winding down of a nearly monthlong operation against Hamas that had left more than 1,800 Palestinians and more than 60 Israelis dead.

In 2018, Las Vegas police said they were closing their investigation into the Oct. 1 shooting that left 58 people dead at a country music festival without a definitive answer for why Stephen Paddock unleashed gunfire from a hotel suite onto the concert crowd.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, leaving 22 people dead; prosecutors said Patrick Crusius targeted Mexicans in hopes of scaring Latinos into leaving the U.S., and that he had outlined the plot in a screed published online shortly before the attack. (A man who was wounded in the shooting died in April 2020 after months in the hospital, raising the death toll to 23. Crusius has pleaded not guilty to state murder charges; he also faces federal hate crime and gun charges.)

Ten years ago: Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak denied all charges against him as he went on trial for alleged corruption and complicity in the deaths of protesters who'd helped drive him from power. (Mubarak and his security chief were sentenced to life in prison for failing to prevent the killing of hundreds of protesters; they were cleared by a higher court, but Mubarak was later sentenced to three years for corruption.) The Muscular Dystrophy Association announced that Jerry Lewis was no longer its national chairman and would not be appearing on the Labor Day telethon. Former NFL star and actor Bubba Smith died at age 66.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama cut short the sentences of 214 federal inmates, including 67 life sentences, in what the White House called the largest batch of commutations on a single day in more than a century. An Emirates Boeing 777

crash-landed in Dubai and caught fire; all 300 people on board survived, but one firefighter was killed.

One year ago: The St. Louis Cardinals became the second team sidelined by the coronavirus since the shortened baseball season began July 23; seven Cardinals players and six staff members tested positive, causing the team's four-game series at Detroit to be postponed. (The Miami Marlins would resume play the following day after missing a week of games.) A Norwegian cruise ship line halted all trips after a coronavirus outbreak on one ship infected more than 40 people on board, most of them crew members; the cruise line had been one of the first companies to resume sailing during the pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 96. Singer Tony Bennett is 95. Actor Martin Sheen is 81. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 81. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 80. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 80. Movie director John Landis is 71. Actor JoMarie Payton is 71. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 70. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 70. Actor Philip Casnoff is 67. Actor John C. McGinley is 62. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 60. Actor Lisa Ann Walter is 60. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 58. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 58. Actor Isaiah Washington is 58. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 55. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 51. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 50. Actor Brigid Brannagh is 49. Actor Michael Ealy is 48. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 45. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 44. Actor Evangeline (ee-VAN'-gel-eeen) Lilly is 42. Actor Mamie Gummer is 38. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ryan Lochte is 37. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 37. Actor Jon Foster is 37. Actor Georgina Haig is 36. Actor Tanya Fischer is 36. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzle (OneRepublic) is 36. Rapper Shelley FKA DRAM is 33.

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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