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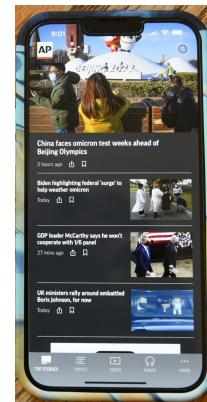
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Connecting

March 29, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 29, 2022,

On this National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Connecting offers a salute to those colleagues who served their country in the Vietnam War. If you are one of them, and would like to offer thoughts on how the experience changed your life, please send along your story. We thank you for your service.

So when do you do your best work – whether it be writing or some other activity?

[The latest Axios column](#) poses that question, noting:

COVID didn't just upend where we work, but when we work.

Why it matters: That frees night owls from the cages of 9-to-5 societal rhythms.

What's happening: Research shows roughly half of people are night owls, dictated by genetics, not choice. Not having to go into the office allows them to work — and often

sleep — later.

A staggering 76% of global companies are allowing hybrid work, meaning most employees can work from anywhere, at any time, on their own terms.

The 9–to-5 workday is fading, with more people hopping on their computers at breakfast time and past happy hour, a Microsoft Work Trends report found.

Share with Connecting your own experiences. Are your work habits covid-prompted? Or did they hold true long before the virus?

We lead with an AP story on Ethiopia being urged to uphold its international commitments to the freedoms of expression and the press by releasing journalists it has imprisoned. Two from Congress have joined press freedom advocates in calling for the immediate release of journalist **Amir Aman Kiyaro**, a video journalist accredited to The Associated Press, who has been held for four months without charges.

Kiyaro's continued detention is due to be reviewed in court today, when the state must formally charge him or release him, according to the judge in the case.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Ethiopia urged to uphold press freedom and release reporter

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Ethiopia is being urged to uphold its international commitments to the freedoms of expression and the press by releasing journalists it has imprisoned.

Two lawmakers in the U.S. Congress — Reps. Adam Schiff of California and Mary Gay Scanlon of Pennsylvania — have joined press freedom advocates in calling for the immediate release of journalist Amir Aman Kiyaro, who has been held for four months without charges.

Kiyaro's continued detention is due to be reviewed in court Tuesday, when the state must formally charge him or release him, according to the judge in the case.



Ethiopia, which has adopted the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as a member of the African Union, should be obliged to release Kiyaro and other journalists, according to Schiff and Scanlon.

Kiyaro, 30, a video journalist accredited to The Associated Press, was detained Nov. 28 in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, under the country's war-related state of emergency powers. The state of emergency was lifted in February as the government cited changing conditions in the deadly conflict between Ethiopian forces and those of the northern Tigray region. The Ethiopian government last week declared a "humanitarian truce" in the war-ravaged Tigray region.

Ethiopian state media, citing federal police, have said Kiyaro is accused of "serving the purposes" of what they called a terrorist group by interviewing its officials. Local journalist Thomas Engida was arrested at the same time and faces similar charges.

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

Memories of AP-Frankfurt communications chief Hubert Kessler



The Frankfurt Communications staff presented Steve Graham in 2002 with a miniature German hunting horn for his retirement. Hubert Kessler is third from left. Birgit Schiebel is on the far right.

[Steve Graham](#) – upon learning Monday that Hubert Kessler, AP communications chief based in Frankfurt, died some time in 2020:

Hubert Kessler was not only a good friend and colleague, but a great asset of the AP.

I met Hubert in 1985 when I went to London for a spell to oversee European communications.

Not only was Hubert a key to dealing with the miracles of modern technology, he also dealt with the problems of maintaining AP communications in a country divided by a wall.

As the wall was falling in 1989, Hubert and I schlepped mobile phones (in Germany, they call them "Handys") and other prohibited equipment into East Berlin amidst the political chaos.

Then, we put together a basic internet report for German Service providers.

On my last official trip to Germany, Hubert and staff even threw a mini retirement party for me and the Frankfurt communications staff presented me with a miniature German hunting horn.

After we both retired, we kept in touch and I made several trips to Germany to see friends and always stopped to see Hubert where he lived in Bad Brückenau.

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LASERFAX IN PRAGUE: Frankfurt Photo Editor Max Simon (standing) demonstrates the new Laserfax to executives of CTK, the Czechoslovak news agency. Simon and Frankfurt technician Hubert Kessler (far left) made the trip to Prague to show off the new European version of Laserphoto. Shown sitting near the blackboard, next to Simon, is Jiri Pravda, CTK's photo chief.



Photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Tom Fenton - I was saddened to hear about the loss of Hubert Kessler and stunned it took us so long to learn of his passing. When I got to Frankfurt, then the control

bureau for Germany and Eastern Europe not to mention Dow Jones, Herr Kessler was the No. 2 on the technical/communications side. (We worked together for four years but the Germans then were very formal, and I wouldn't have dreamed of calling him Hubert.)

I mean no disrespect to other AP communications people, but some were not that far removed from the blacksmith era. They could pull apart a Model 15 teleprinter blindfolded, maybe while it was still printing, fix it and quickly move to the next task. Herr Kessler was different. He had developed an interest in all things digital, taught himself programming and knew how to write code before e-mail became common. Sure, he could fix a Model 15, but he had a keen interest in the new technology and could hang with New York's best when they came to town to discuss 9600 baud circuits, packet switching, digital protocols in whatever tech speak they were into.

Remember this was in the days of the Tandy Radio Shack's T-100s and foam cup modems that hopefully fit over the various sizes of Euro handsets. I recall vividly one day when Herr Kessler came up smiling, holding two feet of fanfold printout. He obviously wanted to show me what he had done and clearly was quite proud of himself. I said, "Ahh, das ist fantastisch, Herr Kessler. Aber ... was ist das?" Near as I could tell he had presented me with two pages of code he had written enabling two disparate pieces of equipment to form some kind of electronic relationship. I could have been looking at the chemical composition of pot brownies for all I knew. It wasn't long before New York found out what they had in Kessler and began tapping him for far-flung communication duties. I am sure he excelled at them. I would love to know where his career took him after I lost touch.

Connecting mailbox

More on newspaper subscriptions

[Keith Robinson](#) - I have been reading with much interest the "heck of a way to run a railroad" items about the Gannett-owned Columbus Dispatch drastically reducing its two-year subscription rate from about \$143 to \$22.

Last fall I bought a six-month online subscription to the Dispatch for \$1 (that's \$1 for the entire six months) during college football season so I could follow the Buckeyes. (I became an Ohio State fan when I lived in Columbus at a time when I worked in the AP bureau there.)

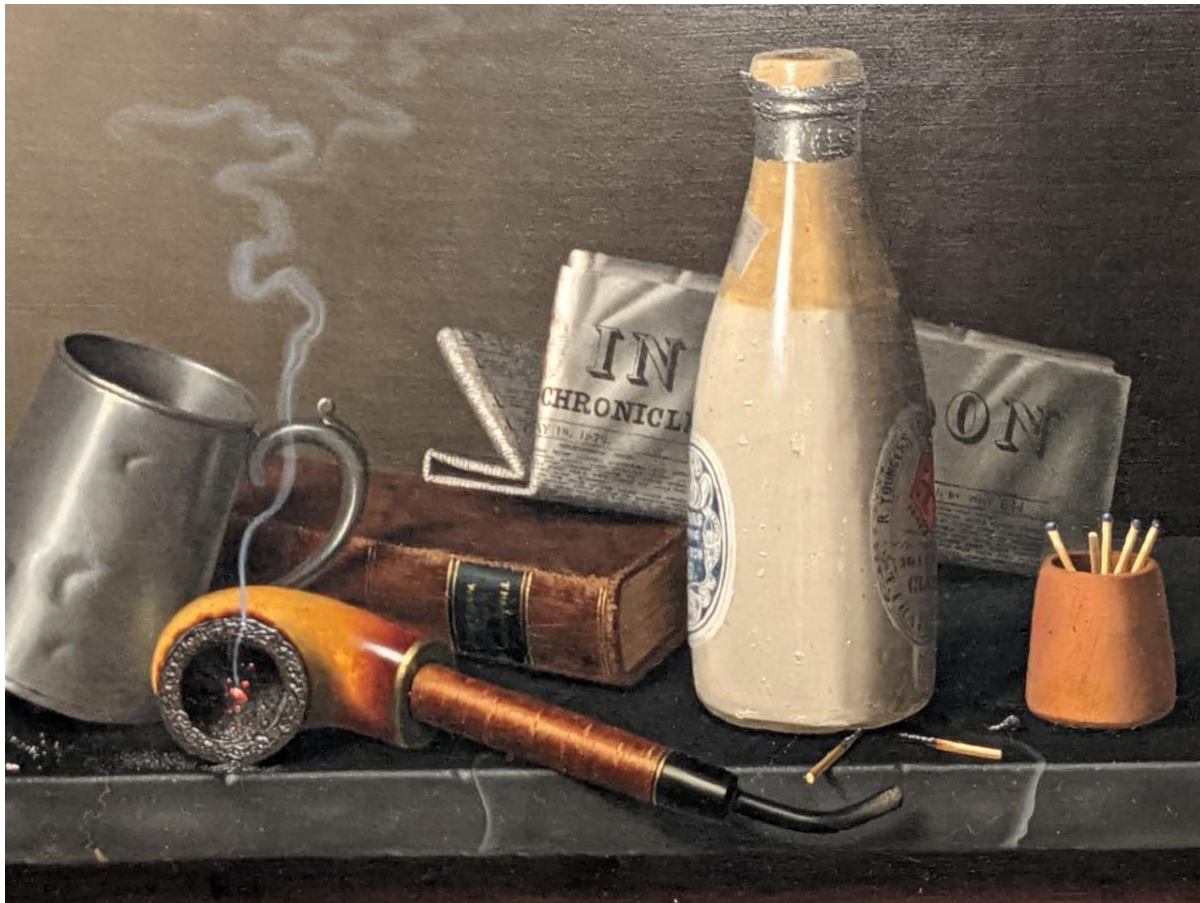
A few days ago, I received an alert from the Dispatch that my subscription had expired and that I could renew it for another six months at \$1.

Amazing.

Problem is that when the subscription expires in September it will cost \$9.99 a month to renew. After having a full year of unlimited access to the Dispatch for only \$2 I probably will feel sticker shock at renewal time. Will I renew for the "outrageous" amount of \$9.99 a month?

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Newspapers in Art – from Madrid



[Kevin Walsh](#) - "Materials for a Leisure Hour." William Michael Harnett, New York, 1879. Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, Spain.

"Harnett specialized in painting still-life arrangements in which consumed objects or a dated newspaper hint at the fleetingness of life."

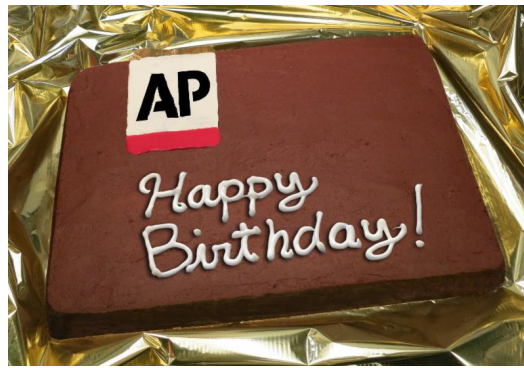
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Quite the price to pay...

[Brian Bland](#) - Here's the headline from both the on-line and regular newspaper version of the Santa Monica Daily Press for March 26, after the church was robbed of about \$150,000 worth of audio/visual gear. The thieves also tried, but failed, to break into the cabinet that holds the chalice, etc.

CRIMINALS RISK JAIL AND POSSIBLE DAMNATION WITH ST. MONICA BREAK-IN

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Helen Mitternacht](#)

[Nick Ut](#)

Stories of interest

Journalism should take a cue from entertainment — diversity grows audiences (Poynter)

By: Paul Cheung

If you doubt that diversity is the key to journalism's future, spend some time streaming. Diverse characters and storylines are powering the entertainment industry. Journalism should follow suit — or risk irrelevance.

In 1978, the American Society of News Editors, mostly made up of newspaper companies, pledged the percentage of minorities in newsrooms would match that of the population by the year 2000. By 2019, people of color represented 21.9% of newspaper and digital news site staff and 25.9% of television news, while the population of people of color in the U.S had reached 38.7%. More than half of those under 16, meanwhile, identified as a racial or ethnic minority.

During the same time period, newspaper advertising revenue more than tripled to a peak of \$49.4 billion in 2005, then plunged to an estimated \$9.6 billion in 2020. Furthermore, trust in mainstream news sank to all-time low.

Sure, we can blame journalism's woes on the internet and omnivorous tech giants, but let's also acknowledge that 44 years after ASNE's pledge, the news industry's failure to diversify has left it out of step with the country it covers, and with the people whose trust and support we need the most to survive. If we take lessons from industries that have embraced diversity, challenge traditional practices that marginalize underrepresented communities, and recognize that staff diversity is essential to good business, we can create journalism that's relevant to the communities we cover, resonates with a new generation and paves a sustainable path into the future.

Read more [here](#).

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Nobel Peace Prize-winner's paper closes amid Russia pressure (AP)

By The Associated Press

Russia's leading independent newspaper suspended operations Monday after pressure from Russian authorities, a move that comes less than six months after its editor won the Nobel Peace Prize for his paper's courageous reporting under difficult circumstances.

The paper, Novaya Gazeta, said it will remain closed for the duration of what the newspaper referred to in quotations as "the special operation" in Ukraine, the term that Russian authorities insist media must use.

The newspaper was the last major independent media outlet critical of President Vladimir Putin's government after others either shut their doors or had their websites blocked since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24.

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

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Camera Crew Robbed of \$35,000 in Gear at Gunpoint in San Francisco (PetaPixel)

JARON SCHNEIDER

A Canadian film crew was robbed at gunpoint in broad daylight at San Francisco's Twin Peaks parking lot on Friday. A group of attackers took their cameras and footage and, in a video, one can be seen pistol-whipping a victim.

According to NBC Bay Area News, police are investigating the incident which took place Friday evening. The encounter was captured on video and posted on Instagram and Twitter. One account that shared the video claims the crew of three Canadian filmmakers lost \$35,000 worth of camera equipment and all of their footage as a result of the robbery.

At the beginning of the video, one of the robbers can be seen brandishing a handgun and pistol-whipping one of the victims in the back of the head as his accomplices quickly take the equipment out of the back of the crew's SUV and load it into their car.

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

Today in History - March 29, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 29, the 88th day of 2022. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 29, 2004, President George W. Bush welcomed seven former Soviet-bloc nations (Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia) into NATO during a White House ceremony.

On this date:

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln ordered plans for a relief expedition to sail to South Carolina's Fort Sumter, which was still in the hands of Union forces despite repeated demands by the Confederacy that it be turned over.

In 1867, Britain's Parliament passed, and Queen Victoria signed, the British North America Act creating the Dominion of Canada, which came into being the following July.

In 1943, World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began, limiting consumers to store purchases of an average of about two pounds a week for beef, pork, lamb and mutton using a coupon system.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. (They were executed in June 1953.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the 1968 My Lai (mee ly) massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were commuted when the California state Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in 1972.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1974, eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on federal charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The charges were later dismissed.)

In 1984, under cover of early morning darkness, the Baltimore Colts football team left its home city of three decades and moved to Indianapolis.

In 2002, Israeli troops stormed Yasser Arafat's headquarters complex in the West Bank in a raid that was launched in response to anti-Israeli attacks that had killed 30 people in three days.

In 2010, two female suicide bombers blew themselves up in twin attacks on Moscow subway stations jam-packed with rush-hour passengers, killing at least 40 people and wounding more than 100.

In 2020, country singer Joe Diffie, who had a string of hits in the 1990s, died at 61 from what a spokesman said were complications from COVID-19.

Ten years ago: A divided House approved, 228-191, a \$3.6 trillion Republican budget recasting Medicare and imposing sweeping cuts in domestic programs.

Five years ago: Britain filed for divorce from the European Union as Prime Minister Theresa May sent a six-page letter to EU Council President Donald Tusk. Two former aides to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie were sentenced to prison for creating a colossal traffic jam at the George Washington Bridge for political revenge, a scandal that sank Christie's White House hopes.

One year ago: The former Minneapolis police officer charged with killing George Floyd went on trial with prosecutors showing the jury video of Derek Chauvin pressing his knee on the Black man's neck for several minutes as onlookers yelled at him repeatedly to get off and Floyd gasped that he couldn't breathe. (Chauvin would be convicted of murder and manslaughter and sentenced to 22 1/2 years in prison.)

Salvage teams dislodged a huge container ship that had blocked the Suez Canal for six days. The Biden administration extended a federal moratorium on evictions of tenants who'd fallen behind on rent during the coronavirus pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Guest is 86. Former British Prime Minister Sir John Major is 79. Comedian Eric Idle is 79. Composer Vangelis is 79. Basketball Hall of Famer Walt Frazier is 77. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 75. Actor Bud Cort is 74. Actor Brendan Gleeson is 67. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Earl Campbell is 67. Actor Marina Sirtis is 67. Actor Christopher Lambert is 65. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 63. Comedian-actor Amy Sedaris is 61. Model Elle Macpherson is 59. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., is 58. Actor Annabella Sciorra (shee-OR'-uh) is 58. Movie director Michel Hazanavicius (mee-SHEHL' ah-zah-nah-VEE'-see-oos) is 55. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 55. Actor Lucy Lawless is 54. Country singer Brady Seals is 53. Actor Sam Hazeldine is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jennifer Capriati is 46. Actor Chris D'Elia is 42. R&B singer PJ Morton is 41. Actor Megan Hilty is 41. Pop singer Kelly Sweet is 34.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



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:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

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