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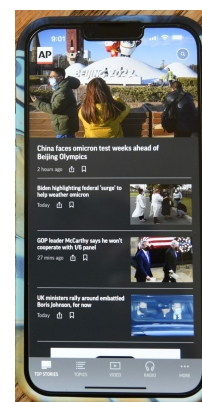
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Connecting

March 30, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this March 30, 2022,

Great news came Tuesday morning with word that **Amir Aman Kiyaro**, the freelance journalist accredited to the AP in Ethiopia, was ordered by a judge to be released on bail after more than 120 days.

He remains in custody, Executive Editor **Julie Pace** said in a note to staff, “but we expect his release soon. The threat of charges remains, so we continue to call for Ethiopian authorities to end their unfounded investigation.”

Click [here](#) for the latest story. As of Connecting presstime this morning, he remained in custody.

What hours of the day do you do your best work? That was a question posed in Tuesday’s Connecting and here is the first response from a longtime AP sports writer who knows a thing or two about odd hours:

Hal Bock - *I do my best writing early in the day. Start about 10 or so. Finish by 1. There are exceptions. When I was asked to write the text for The Associated Press Pictorial History of Baseball, we faced an almost impossible deadline that required full days of research and writing. started each day at about 8 a.m. when my wife left for her psychology job and continued nonstop until she came home at 5p.m. Lunch was an apple or a pear, something I could eat at the keyboard. I did the 30,000-word text in six days. And on the seventh day, I rested.*

I look forward to your response. Meantime, have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

More on the death of Frankfurt's Hubert Kessler



Pictures from Hubert Kessler's farewell party January 31, 2010:
TOP PHOTO, from left:
 Christopher Boehmer, Helmut Emelius, Hubert Kessler, Stefan Ferner, Birgit Schiebel, Frank Aull, Paul Bean, Klaus Distelkamp. **AT RIGHT**: Hubert (center) with former Chief Editor Peter Gehrig and HR manager Erika Arend.



Erika Arend – HR manager, AP-

Frankfurt: Hubert worked from 1974 through 2011 in the Frankfurt bureau, starting out as a chief of communications until 2004 when he became a tech manager. He retired Jan. 31, 2011.

Hubert died Oct. 6, 2021, in Croatia where he had a holiday home and is survived by his wife, Ruzica Kessler. He had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer two years ago.

What Vietnam service meant to their lives

(Tuesday was National Vietnam War Veterans Day - and Connecting invited colleagues who served in the war to share thoughts on what that service meant to their lives.)

Jerry Harkavy - Although I didn't realize it at the time, my year as an Army officer in Vietnam in 1967-68 would shape the trajectory of my entire life.

I had taken ROTC in college and entered active duty at a time when our involvement in the war was reaching its peak. I was an information officer assigned to the 173d Airborne Brigade and later to the Americal Division. The 173d, in the Central Highlands, saw a lot of combat. As a result, we had plenty of coverage from newspaper, TV, and of course wire service reporters and photographers. There were many nights when we would shoot the breeze with them in our press tent until the late hours.

One of the reporters was Bob Stokes, who had been with AP in its Boston and Providence, R.I., bureaus and was working in Vietnam for Newsweek and Overseas Weekly. When we talked about my plans for when I would complete my tour in a few months and return home, I told him I'd probably be looking for work as a news reporter. Bob suggested that I get in touch with Jack Simms, AP's New England bureau chief, about any openings. That contact led to an interview and test in New York, after which Simms offered jobs in Providence or Portland, Maine. I had been to Providence and wasn't overly impressed; Portland seemed somewhat more interesting and exotic. I moved there on a cold, wintry day in February 1968 and before long, fell in love with the area. I spent 41 years in the bureau before opting for the AP's massive buyout in 2009. My life would surely have been different but not for the job lead that Stokes had passed on to me. But I can't imagine that it would have been as satisfying.

After his retirement from AP, Simms went on to head the journalism department at Auburn University. One of his students, David Sharp, had studied under Simms and was a longtime colleague of mine in the Portland bureau, where he still serves as correspondent. Small world!

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Mike Holmes - The only lottery I ever won was the draft lottery. At the time, I was working three jobs to pay for college. It looked like I'd be getting my draft notice and diploma on the same day. So I joined the Navy.

After basic training, I requested assignment to a submarine base in Holy Loch, Scotland. Of course, I wound up on an aircraft carrier headed to Vietnam.

When I reported to the ship, a sharp-eyed personnel clerk noticed that I had been studying journalism. He figured the ship's Public Affairs Office could use me. We were the flagship for the Tonkin Gulf commander, and our little shop handled press releases for the fleet, published a daily newspaper, a quarterly magazine and yearbook, operated radio and TV stations, and even led tour groups when we were in port.

Two Vietnam deployments later, I got out, went back to school, and sought an internship at the local daily, the Omaha World-Herald. The executive editor took one look at everything I'd done as a Navy journalist and offered me a job.

That set me on a 45-year career that took me to another newspaper, 27 years with The AP and then back to the World-Herald as editorial page editor.

But I've often wondered what would have happened if that personnel clerk had thought I should be a boatswain's mate.

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Bill McCloskey - Before the Army sent me to Vietnam in 1967, I encountered a GI photographer returning from an assignment there. I explained that before I was drafted, I had worked in professional radio in Philadelphia and if I had to go to Vietnam, I'd rather be at Armed Forces Radio Vietnam than being a signal company clerk in the Mekong Delta.

The photographer gave me the name of the head of AFVN and suggested I send him a resume and a tape, as I would for a civilian job. I did and heard nothing until arriving at Cam Ranh Bay to change planes. An MP approached me in the PX where I was killing time and pronounced "McCloskey, they're looking for you in Saigon." Apparently in true Army fashion the Signal Brigade to which I was assigned thought, if someone else wants him, we'd better keep him." AFVN has "requisitioned" me, I was told. Instead, I found myself assigned to the 1st Signal Brigade's newly created Public Information Office in Saigon. I was thus a PR guy for the Army's phone company

Many years later, after a tour at APRadio, I was assigned by the AP Washington bureau to cover the Federal Communications Commission and the legislative/regulatory activities of the nation's phone companies. After AP I joined BellSouth in PR. Full circle.

Remembering loved ones of Connecting colleagues

Ann Lowenkron

Dr. Ann H. Lowenkron, 79, award-winning nurse educator and wife of longtime Indianapolis AP sports writer **Hank Lowenkron**, died Saturday, March 26. Here is a report on services held for her Tuesday. Click [here](#) for her obituary. You can reach out to Hank at - hlofnyc@yahoo.com

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Jodi Perras - Ann's funeral was a lovely service attended by family and friends, including AP alumni Steve Herman, Diane Balk-Palguta, Tom Wyman and myself. I wanted to share a couple of quick stories that I think you'll appreciate.

In addition to the staff from Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, the service included remarks from Ann's best friend, her daughters, her son-in-law and from Hank.

Hank recalled how AP New York wanted to transfer him to a line bureau and suggested he take a sportswriter opening in Indianapolis in the late 1970s. Ann hadn't traveled much outside New York City and warned Hank that if a Conestoga wagon showed up at the Indianapolis hotel to show them around, she was heading back to New York. Thankfully, she found modern transportation and modern plumbing when she arrived.

Hank also said Ann's greatest achievement was being married to him for over 50 years. He noted that some of his former coworkers were in the room, and we know he can be a difficult man to get along with. He spoke at length about how supportive Ann was during his career as a sports writer with late night assignments, and how difficult her illness has been the last two years.

He very much appreciates all the notes and calls he's received from former colleagues. "Don't forget me," he said, acknowledging that life would be difficult without Ann in the days to come.

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Florence Mary Sharp Fournier, a native Detroiter who is the mother of four including former AP Washington bureau chief **Ron Fournier**. She died on March 28 at the age of 79. Click [here](#) for her obituary. You can reach out to Ron at - rfournier@truscottrossman.com



From April 2016 at a book party she threw me for family and friends in St Clair Shores, MI ("Love That Boy"). It's my favorite.

Ron noted that she had an early interest in journalism but "gave up her journalism aspirations to raise us kids. And, yes, one of the gifts she gave me was a few hours over the holidays to write her obituary together. Her hands were useless the last two or three years but her mind was sharp to the end.

The lead of their obituary collaboration:

Grosse Pointe Woods - Florence Mary Sharp Fournier, a native Detroitter who also made homes in Canada and Florida, whose long and loving marriage served as an example for her four children, a wise and wise-cracking ringleader at work and home who had a gift for making everybody around her thrive, passed on Monday, March 28, 2022. She was 79.

Asked shortly before her death how she would like to be described, Flo replied: "A mother. A good person." Her family and friends remember her as a great mother and a person full of goodness and grace.

Flo was born and raised on Coram Street in the northeast corner of her beloved Detroit, cattycorner from her future husband, Ronald E. Fournier. Flo and Ron played together as children – their parents were close friends and neighbors – and they started dating in high school. "After we dated each other's friends," Flo said years later, "we decided the cream rose to the top."

The two were married September 29, 1962, and soon they bought their own home on Coram Street, where they raised their four children in the close-knit neighborhood. Flo had graduated from Denby High School in 1960, where she studied journalism, and set aside her love of writing to start a family.

Connecting mailbox

Photos from Walter Mears memorial



TOP PHOTO: Left to right: Walter Mears' daughters Stephanie Stich (left) and Susan Mears flank his grandson Aidan Wiemer. **RIGHT PHOTO:** From left: Mid-Atlantic correspondent Jonathan Drew, former AP CON staff, GEN desk and RAL news editor Margaret Lillard and

longtime RAL statehouse writer Gary Robertson.

Margaret Lillard - I thought Connecting colleagues would like to see these photos from the memorial service in Chapel Hill, N.C., last week for AP legend Walter R. Mears.



I took myself to dinner afterward and on the menu was one of my favorite beers - Gizmo's Fake News IPA. If you've never heard of it, please note they did what I called a 1st Ld-Writethru on their can around the 2020 election - new version here, old version here.

I like to think the note read: "Eds: REDESIGNS to more appropriately place blame on certain types of 'reporters.'" Of course, I ordered one to salute a man who, as much as any of our colleagues, put the lie to that obnoxious term.

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What a fine, straight-shooting job by AP's Josh Boak

Joe Carter – I once was the spokesman at Jimmy Carter's "White House Council on Wage and Price Stability," a nasty job but work, huh?

Communicating what the council was attempting was a challenge. Hence, I came to appreciate reporters who would shoot straight, get it right and somehow convey what we considered was true. Some were great. Informed. No baggage. Just the facts. Others were dangerously bad. I seldom reflect on those times.

However, today in the newly and greatly improved (no daily editorial page as a starter) OKLAHOMAN, I read the dispatch signed by Josh Boak of AP under the "Biden seems minimum tax on wealthiest households." What a fine, straight-shooting job! You really can be proud of your years at AP. The number of Josh Boaks in the business are few. The percentage of able, unbiased economic reporters at AP towered among the best.

Just needed to share this with someone who cares.

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A meeting of AP Broadcast minds



Jim Hood, Rob Dalton, Evelyn Dalton and Mark Thayer (left to right) all found themselves in Palm Springs recently. Comparing notes, the group decided that their AP years under Roy Steinfort were probably the most fun they had during their careers. The total of those AP years: 75.

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My old neighborhood

[Peggy Walsh](#) - I was sad and horrified to read about the camera theft and beating on Twin Peaks. I lived in that neighborhood in my AP days in San Francisco and spent many days enjoying the view from Twin Peaks.

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Correspondents Memorial





Ken Klein - I just hiked the Maryland section of the Appalachian Trail.

This Trail intersects with historical sites such as the original George Washington Monument and a memorial arch built in 1896 honoring Civil War journalists. A more recent marker there adds a somber reminder of the risks of documenting conflict.

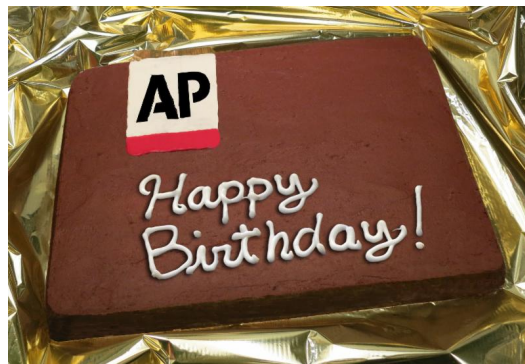
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At Religion News conference



From left, AP Religion Team director David Crary, reporter Luis Henao, news editor Holly Meyer, associate engagement manager Ashlee Schuppius, reporters Peter Smith and Deepa Bharath and customer engagement manager Gerry Kiernan pose for a photo at the Religion News Association conference in Bethesda, Md, March 25, 2022. (Photo by Barbara Borst)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Sarah Nordgren](#)

Stories of interest

Media measuring company Nielsen to be acquired in \$16B deal (AP)

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Nielsen is being acquired for \$16 billion, including debt, about a week after the media measurement company rejected a smaller offer earlier this month.

Viewing data collected by Nielsen plays a big role in determining where billions in advertising dollars are spent each year. The company itself has annual global revenue of about \$3.5 billion.

A group of private equity investors led by Evergreen Coast Capital Corp., an affiliate of Elliott Investment Management L.P., and Brookfield Business Partners L.P. along with institutional partners will pay \$28 for each outstanding Nielsen share.

Brookfield Business Partners will invest approximately \$2.65 billion via preferred equity, convertible into 45% of Nielsen's common equity. The equity version of the deal is worth just over \$10 billion in cash, with the remainder in debt held by Nielsen.

Brookfield said Tuesday that it anticipates investing approximately \$600 million, with the remaining balance funded from institutional partners.

Read more [here](#).

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Calls renewed for release of Chinese-Australian journalist (AP)

BEIJING (AP) — Journalist groups have renewed calls for the release of Chinese-Australian business reporter Cheng Lei on the eve of her trial in Beijing on espionage charges.

Formerly a leading presenter for state-owned China Global Television Network, Cheng has been held for 19 months on suspicion of relaying state secrets abroad.

It's not clear if Australian diplomats who have asked to attend her trial will be permitted to do so.

In a joint statement, Australia's Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance, the International Federation of Journalists, the Australian National Press Club and its U.S. counterpart said Cheng was being held on "dubious charges that have yet to be substantiated with any evidence."

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

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This 108-year-old Alaskan newspaper is free for the taking! The Cordova Times seeks a new owner. (Editor and Publisher)

In the March issue of Editor & Publisher, the Cordova Times was featured as an “honorable mention” in “10 That Do it Right,” E&P’s yearly salute to top news media companies. The small weekly in remote South-Central Alaska (only accessible by boat or plane) was awarded “Best Comprehensive Coverage of the COVID Pandemic” across all media, broadcast and print, and “Alaska’s Best Weekly” for two years in a row by the Alaska Press Club.

The Cordova Times covers local news, city government, community features, commercial fisheries, environmental news, the Alaska legislature, Alaska Native news, arts, science, history and Alaskan culture. Unfortunately, The Cordova Times is struggling to remain in business since its current owners, The Native Village of Eyak (NVE), has recently announced that if a suitable owner does not come forward, the tribe will simply stop the newspaper. And the price? Free!

Tribal Council Chair Mark Hoover is quoted as saying: “We are open to any proposals and will work with any group that might be interested.” Interested parties should contact NVE Deputy Director Brooke Mallory for more information at brooke.mallory@eyak-nsn.gov.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Shared by Doug Pizac

Today in History - March 30, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 30, the 89th day of 2022. There are 276 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C., hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr.; also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and a District of Columbia police officer, Thomas Delahanty.

On this date:

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1842, Dr. Crawford W. Long of Jefferson, Georgia, first used ether as an anesthetic during an operation to remove a patient's neck tumor.

In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million, a deal ridiculed by critics as "Seward's Folly."

In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited denying citizens the right to vote and hold office on the basis of race, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish.

In 1923, the Cunard liner RMS Laconia became the first passenger ship to circle the globe as it arrived in New York.

In 1945, during World War II, the Soviet Union invaded Austria with the goal of taking Vienna, which it accomplished two weeks later.

In 1959, a narrowly divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Bartkus v. Illinois*, ruled that a conviction in state court following an acquittal in federal court for the same crime did not constitute double jeopardy.

In 1975, as the Vietnam War neared its end, Communist forces occupied the city of Da Nang.

In 1987, at the 59th Academy Awards, "Platoon" was named best picture; Marlee Matlin received best actress for "Children of a Lesser God" and Paul Newman was honored as best actor for "The Color of Money."

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a single measure sealing his health care overhaul and making the government the primary lender to students by cutting banks out of the process.

In 2015, Comedy Central announced that Trevor Noah, a 31-year-old comedian from South Africa, would succeed Jon Stewart as host of "The Daily Show."

In 2020, Florida authorities arrested a megachurch pastor after they said he held two Sunday services with hundreds in attendance in violation of coronavirus restrictions. (The charges were later dropped.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama said he was plowing ahead with potential sanctions against countries that kept buying oil from Iran, including allies of the United States, in a deepening campaign to starve Tehran of money for its disputed nuclear program. Anthony Davis became the first Kentucky basketball player and second freshman to be selected The Associated Press' Player of the Year.

Five years ago: North Carolina rolled back its "bathroom bill" in a bid to end a yearlong backlash over transgender rights that had cost the state dearly in business projects, conventions and basketball tournaments; the measure had required that transgender people use public restrooms that corresponded to the sex on their birth certificate. At Cape Canaveral, SpaceX successfully launched and then retrieved its first recycled rocket. Twitter said it was easing its 140-character limit in replies.

One year ago: G. Gordon Liddy, a mastermind of the Watergate burglary and a radio talk show host after emerging from prison, died at age 90 at his daughter's home in Virginia. NFL team owners agreed to increase the regular season to 17 games and reduce the preseason to three games.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Peter Marshall is 96. Actor John Astin is 92. Actor-director Warren Beatty is 85. Rock musician Eric Clapton is 77. Actor Justin Deas is 74. Actor Paul Reiser is 66. Rap artist MC Hammer is 60. Singer Tracy Chapman is 58. Actor Ian Ziering (EYE'-an ZEER'-ing) is 58. TV personality Piers Morgan is 57. Rock musician Joey Castillo is 56. Actor Donna D'Errico is 54. Singer Celine Dion is 54. TV personality/producer Richard Rawlings is 53. Actor Mark Consuelos is 51. Actor Bahar Soomekh is 47. Actor Jessica Cauffiel is 46. Singer Norah Jones is 43. Actor Fiona Gubelmann is 42. Actor Katy Mixon is 41. Actor Jason Dohring is 40. Country singer Justin Moore is 38. Actor Tessa Ferrer is 36. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 32. Rapper NF is 31.

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.

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