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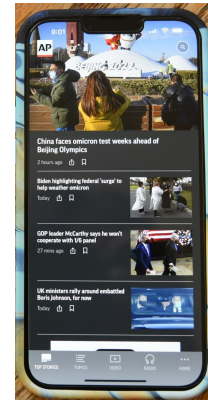
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Connecting

April 25, 2022

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Colleagues:

Good Monday morning on this April 25, 2022.

Today's Connecting brings news of the death of former AP foreign correspondent Larry Malkin.

Also, AP is starting a financial literacy reporting team, a two-year effort supported by the Charles Schwab Foundation, aimed at spreading personal financial knowledge to underserved audiences in the financial services industry.

Finally, check out one of the stories of interest about a small Arkansas weekly that received an award for Fairness in Journalism at Harvard. The two other finalists were The Washington Post and Miami Herald/ProPublica. Community journalism matters, no matter the size of the community or the newsroom.

Be well,

Peg
pcoughlin@ap.org

Former AP foreign correspondent Larry Malkin dies at 91



Lawrence (Larry) Malkin spent a long career as correspondent, editor, and author. He died April 19 at home in Manhattan of kidney failure. He was 91.

His energy, curiosity, and loyalty to those he loved will be more than missed by his wife of 62 years Edith (nee Stark), his daughters, Elisabeth (Eduardo Garcia) and Victoria (David Mikics), his grandchildren, Eva, Gabriel and Ariel.

He reported on the Six-Day War for The Associated Press and the 1978 Afghanistan Revolution for Time Magazine. His dispatches on the 1960s decline of the British economy won an Overseas Press Club award. He wrote from Paris, London, New Delhi, Madrid, and Washington. He later covered Wall Street for The International Herald Tribune.

As editor, he worked with former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker on his memoir "Changing Fortunes." He edited the memoir of Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin, "In Confidence," one of New York Times' 10 best in 1995.

He wrote "Krueger's Men," about the greatest counterfeit in history: The Nazis selected 140 Jewish prisoners to produce false pound notes in a concentration camp under SS orders. The book was translated into eight languages.

Malkin worked with Stuart E. Eizenstat on "Imperfect Justice," an account of recovering blocked Holocaust accounts, and on "President Carter."

He was born in Richmond Hill, Queens, son of David and Jennie. He is a 1951 graduate of Columbia University and a decorated veteran of the Korean War.

His ashes will be placed in the citrus grove of the family's house in Deia, on the Spanish island of Mallorca. Shared by **Mike Feinsilber**.

Reflecting on the state of the media

[Dan Perry](#) - Season's greetings - and hats off to all of you continuing to do amazing journalistic work. From the perch of early retirement I follow AP's courageous and compelling report on the Ukraine war (and more) and remain in awe of journalists who risk all to tell the story that must be told and will not tell itself.

That said, I thought to share an article I wrote on the dire state of the news media; that such is its state is obviously not an original (or even disputable) notion, but some of the points may be thought-provoking (or at least annoyance-provoking, which in the light of night at least can be more fun). The below link is the Substack version (please sign up!); it appeared originally in MediaPost which is walled.

<https://danperry.substack.com/p/the-news-media-needs-an-honest-reckoning?s=r>

Since leaving AP I've enjoyed interesting adventures in the business world, but the odd thing is that once freed to write and say what I want I found the possibility impossible to resist. Perhaps that will come to some as no surprise.

Warm regards from Tel Aviv.

Commenting on Nieman's 'Conservatives' mistrust of media'

[Ed McCullough](#) - The Nieman Lab article "Conservatives' mistrust of media," which surveyed a scant 25 "self-identified" conservatives, sheds little light. American trust in media "to report the news fully, accurately and fairly" is the second lowest on record, 36%. That's from Gallup (Oct. 7, 2021) based on nationwide polling updated continuously since 1997. The lowest point was 32% during the presidential election of 2016.

Re the statement that "Our interviewees view mainstream news outlets as part of a group of liberal institutions," well, the non-partisan AllSides Media Bias Chart lists the New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, USA Today and other media - including AP fact checkers - as "left leaning." Any perception that "mainstream" news organizations are "liberal" is hardly confined to "self-identified conservatives."

Interesting indeed to delve into what's going on. The legitimate starting point would be take into account that not all Democrats are liberal. Not all Republicans are conservative or support former president Donald Trump. According to Gallup, 69% of political independents in last year's survey lacked "a great deal" or even "a fair amount" of "trust and confidence in newspapers, television and radio news reporting."

Why is that?

AP launches financial literacy reporting team

The Associated Press announced last week it will launch a two-year project to advance explanatory reporting on financial literacy, helping spread personal finance knowledge to audiences historically underserved by the financial services industry.

AP will create a financial literacy beat team to help reach a younger, less affluent, and racially and ethnically diverse group of Americans — including people of color, Spanish speakers, and middle and lower-income households.

The team will produce personal finance journalism in words, visuals and graphics, and in multiple languages, while leveraging the expertise of AP's journalists across the globe to equip AP customers with data and ideas on localizing personal finance stories in their communities.

The effort is supported by Charles Schwab Foundation, a private foundation that is separate from The Charles Schwab Corporation.

AP retains complete editorial control of all content.

“There is a crisis of financial illiteracy in the U.S. that is taking place against a backdrop of widening wealth inequality,” said Noreen Gillespie, AP global business editor. “As government programs that bolstered Americans’ finances during the pandemic begin to fade away, many vulnerable individuals are likely to experience fresh challenges. Now more than ever, it is paramount for AP to build a team dedicated to personal finance journalism that speaks to a truly diverse audience.”

“Financial literacy is a critical life skill that everyone needs, yet too many people in our country don’t have access to the tools and education they need to make smart money decisions,” said Charles Schwab Foundation President Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz.

“Together with The Associated Press, Charles Schwab Foundation is helping to level the economic playing field by supporting the creation of personal finance content that is responsive to the financial needs and wishes of underrepresented people and communities.”

The grant from Charles Schwab Foundation is the latest example of how AP works with foundations and nonprofits to expand coverage and reach new audiences.

Learn more about AP’s work with philanthropic organizations [here](#).
See AP’s standards for working with outside groups [here](#).

Best of the Week

AP team tells the poignant stories behind 'empty spaces' as US

nears 1 million COVID deaths



A team of AP journalists collaborated on an ambitious and innovative project to capture the approaching toll of 1 million U.S. deaths from COVID: They looked for the empty spaces, then told the stories of the individuals who had filled them. And they let the voices of those left behind reveal the mosaic of loss that has forever marked the country.

In true AP fashion, the package came together with extensive coordination across departments and formats, resulting in compelling content and an immersive presentation that resonated with customers and engaged the audience. The stories emerged among the most popular on AP News throughout the weekend and will be republished when the official toll hits 1 million. But the greatest barometer of success may have come in the words of grateful loved ones of those featured in the stories.

For bringing fresh eyes and new voice to the once-unimaginable loss that will shape the way we live for years to come, the team of Adam Geller, David Goldman, Shelby Lum, Carla K. Johnson, Heather Hollingsworth, Samantha Shotzbarger and Elise Ryan is AP's Best of the Week — First Winner.

Read more [here](#).

Powerful AP reporting from Kharkiv documents the horror of civilians under Russian attack



As Russian shelling increased on the partially blockaded northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, photographer Felipe Dana, video journalist Mstyslav Chernov and producer Vasilisa Stepanenko delivered arresting images documenting the horrors of war, telling victims' stories with sensitivity and offering a glimpse into how war tears apart innocent lives.

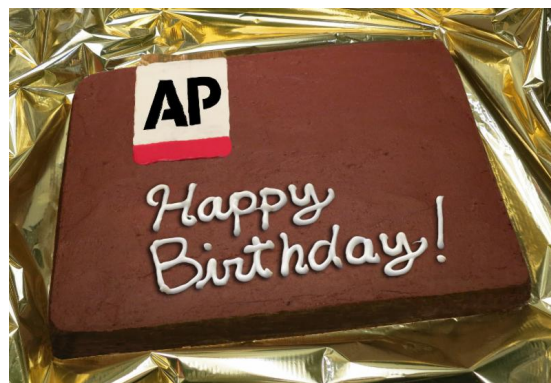
Working tirelessly, often at great personal risk, the AP team captured scenes that echo the tragic experience of so many Ukrainians.

"Please open your eyes, my bunny. Please," Nina Shevchenko pleaded after one shelling as she stroked the lifeless face of her son Artem, 15. "I lived for you."

For riveting, revealing and compassionate coverage of one city's agony, the team of Dana, Chernov and Stepanenko earns AP Best of the Week — Second Winner honors.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



No Connecting colleagues' birthdays today.

Stories of interest

The Edsel, Quibi and CNN+?

New addition to business failures (The Associated Press)

By David Bauder

NEW YORK (AP) — The Edsel. Quibi. New Coke. The Segway. DeLorean sports cars. The pantheon of colossal business failures has a new member in the CNN+ streaming service.

The news network's subscription offering hadn't even been operating for a month before Warner Bros. Discovery announced this week that it would be shutting down on April 30.

"It's going to be in the Top 10," said Steve Rosenbaum, executive director of the NYC Media Lab and an expert in business innovation, surveying the lengthy history of products that went belly-up.

While "CNN minus" comments quickly proliferated, it's no joke to the more than 300 people hired for CNN+, which was in development for two years. CNN is expected to absorb some of those jobs but there will be layoffs — a clear picture on those numbers is still emerging.

The company spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the project and no one knew when, or if, losses would be replaced by profits.

Read more [here](#).

Inside the Implosion of CNN+ (The New York Times)

By [John Koblin](#), [Michael M. Grynbaum](#) and Benjamin Mullin

David Zaslav had been chief executive of Warner Bros. Discovery for all of a few hours when he learned he had a problem.

On April 11, the day his newly merged company began trading on Nasdaq, Mr. Zaslav greeted New York employees with pasta and ice cream bars, delivering an impromptu rallying cry to his new charges. He was on his way to Washington, next stop on the coronation tour, when a call came in.

His team had just gotten its first look at data from CNN+, the much-promoted subscription streaming service started two weeks before, and the news was grim. Fewer than 10,000 viewers were watching at any given time, despite a multimillion dollar ad campaign and big hires like Chris Wallace. They were recommending a cold-eyed review.

Three days later, shortly after Mr. Zaslav appeared with Oprah Winfrey for a rah-rah company town hall, he gathered his deputies inside a low-slung stucco building in Burbank, Calif., on the Warner Bros. studio lot, and said he agreed with their conclusion: shut it down.

The near-instant collapse of CNN+ amounted to one of the most spectacular media failures in years, a \$300 million experiment that ended abruptly with layoffs in the offing and careers in disarray. The corporate tug of war over its fate exposed deep philosophical divides about the future of digital media, as executives struggle to navigate a rapidly changing marketplace where technology and consumer habits shift day to day.

Read more [here](#).

Arkansas weekly with five staffers wins Award for Fairness in Journalism at Harvard

Finalists are The Washington Post, Miami Herald/ProPublica
(Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard)



The Madison County Record in Huntsville, Arkansas, exposed attempts by the Huntsville School District to cover up allegations that basketball players sexually assaulted teammates and the school board's attempts to conceal its decision to either reduce or throw out punishment for some students. Shannon Hahn/The Madison County Record

Cambridge, Mass. – An unflinching investigation by The Madison County Record into attempts by the Huntsville, Arkansas, school board to cover up sexual assault

allegations by junior high school basketball players, is winner of the 2021 Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Journalism.

The reporting by the community weekly with a circulation of just 4,000 and only five staff members found that the local school board members sought to conceal not only the assault allegations but also their decision to reduce the recommended punishment for some students and to throw out punishment for others.

Judges selected two other entries as finalists for the Taylor Award:

*"FEMA's disasters," an in-depth look by Washington Post national enterprise reporter Hannah Dreier at how the Federal Emergency Management Agency is struggling to help disaster survivors in the age of climate change and inequality in America.

*"Birth & Betrayal," a Miami Herald/ProPublica series that revealed that a Florida program created to protect OB-GYNs from large malpractice bills deprives families of their right to sue when births go wrong and repeatedly denied critical medical expenses for injured children.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 25, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 25, the 115th day of 2022. There are 250 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY

On April 25, 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses.

ON THIS DATE

In 404 B.C., the Peloponnesian War ended as Athens surrendered to Sparta.

In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller contained the first recorded use of the term “America,” in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci.

In 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.

In 1862, during the Civil War, a Union fleet commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut captured the city of New Orleans.

In 1898, the United States Congress declared war on Spain; the 10-week conflict resulted in an American victory.

In 1901, New York Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell, Jr. signed an automobile registration bill which imposed a 15 mph speed limit on highways.

In 1915, during World War I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.

In 1945, delegates from some 50 countries gathered in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.

In 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed in orbit from the space shuttle Discovery. (It was later discovered that the telescope’s primary mirror was flawed, requiring the installation of corrective components to achieve optimal focus.)

In 1992, Islamic forces in Afghanistan took control of most of the capital of Kabul following the collapse of the Communist government.

In 2002, Lisa “Left Eye” Lopes of the Grammy-winning trio TLC died in an SUV crash in Honduras; she was 30.

In 2019, former Vice President Joe Biden entered the Democratic presidential race, declaring the fight against Donald Trump to be a “battle for the soul of this nation.”

Ten years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on Arizona’s tough immigration law. (A divided court later threw out major parts of the law.)

Five years ago: A federal judge blocked President Donald Trump’s attempt to withhold funding from “sanctuary cities” that did not cooperate with U.S. immigration officials, saying the president had no authority to attach new conditions to federal spending. Ivanka Trump drew groans and hisses from an audience in Berlin while defending her father’s attitude toward women, but brushed the negative reaction aside as “politics” during her first overseas trip as a White House adviser.

One year ago: America’s top general in Afghanistan said the U.S. military had begun closing down operations in the country and that Afghanistan’s security forces “must be ready” to take over. “Nomadland,” Chloé Zhao’s portrait of itinerant lives on open roads across the American West, won Best Picture at the 93rd Academy Awards; Zhao was honored as best director.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Al Pacino is 82. Ballroom dance judge Len Goodman (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 78. Rock musician Stu Cook (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 77. Singer Bjorn Ulvaeus (ABBA) is 77. Actor Talia Shire is 77. Actor Jeffrey DeMunn is 75. Rock musician Steve Ferrone (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 72. Country singer-songwriter Rob Crosby is 68. Actor Hank Azaria is 58. Rock singer Andy Bell (Erasure) is 58. Rock musician Eric Avery is 57. Country musician Rory Feek (Joey + Rory) is 57. TV personality Jane Clayson is 55. Actor Renee Zellweger is 53. Actor Gina Torres is 53. Actor Jason Lee is 52. Actor Jason Wiles is 52. Actor Emily Bergl is 47. Actor Marguerite Moreau is 45. Singer Jacob Underwood is 42. Actor Melonie Diaz is 38. Actor Sara Paxton is 34. Actor/producer Allisyn Snyder is 26. Actor Jayden Rey is 13.

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

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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