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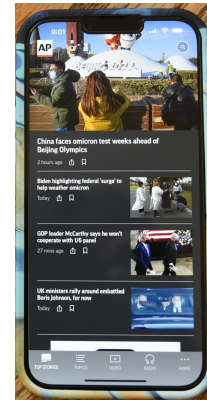
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Connecting

May 3, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this May 3, 2022,

Our colleague **Malcolm Ritter** wants to know if he's the only curmudgeon in this crowd?

Anyone, anyone, anyone???

We lead today's Connecting with his story on a passion he's adopted in retirement to spot language mistakes in the pages of two of the country's best newspapers – the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Our latest listing of the Connecting 80s and 90s Clubs published Monday mistakenly included two of our colleagues who are deceased – **Harold Waters** and **Mike Rouse**. I have removed their names from the next list to be published and from our email list. One of the sad parts of this job. RIP, Harold and Mike.

But then there was this uplift from the newest member of the 80s Club:



Bruce Lowitt - When my wife asked what I wanted to do for my 80th birthday (on April 29), I said, “Nothing. No party. No people coming over. Just another day.” A few days later Arlene said, “How’d you like to go to Nathan’s?”

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, Coney Island was a destination growing up and Nathan’s frankfurters (pronounced “frankfooters”) were an essential part of any visit. I hadn’t been there in at least the 36 years I’ve been in Tampa Bay, the first 18 with the St. Pete Times before retiring from full-time journalism.

Arlene had found my G-spot.

We flew up Thursday, spent yesterday at Nathan’s, walking the boardwalk (the rides aren’t open yet) and so on, had dinner in Manhattan with my nephew and niece and are flying home today. Probably the best birthday I’ve had since ... well, since my parents took my older brother (by eight years) and me to Coney Island for my 10th.

We should all be so lucky at this age.

Whenever your next birthday comes along, whether it has a zero at the end or just another number, I hope it’s as rewarding and fun as my latest was.

-0-

Loved Bruce's note, but he left my stomach growling for a Nathan's.

This from Poynter: [Tuesday is World Press Freedom Day — a day to celebrate press freedom across the globe and the journalists who bring us truth every day \(though we believe it should be celebrated all year\).](#)

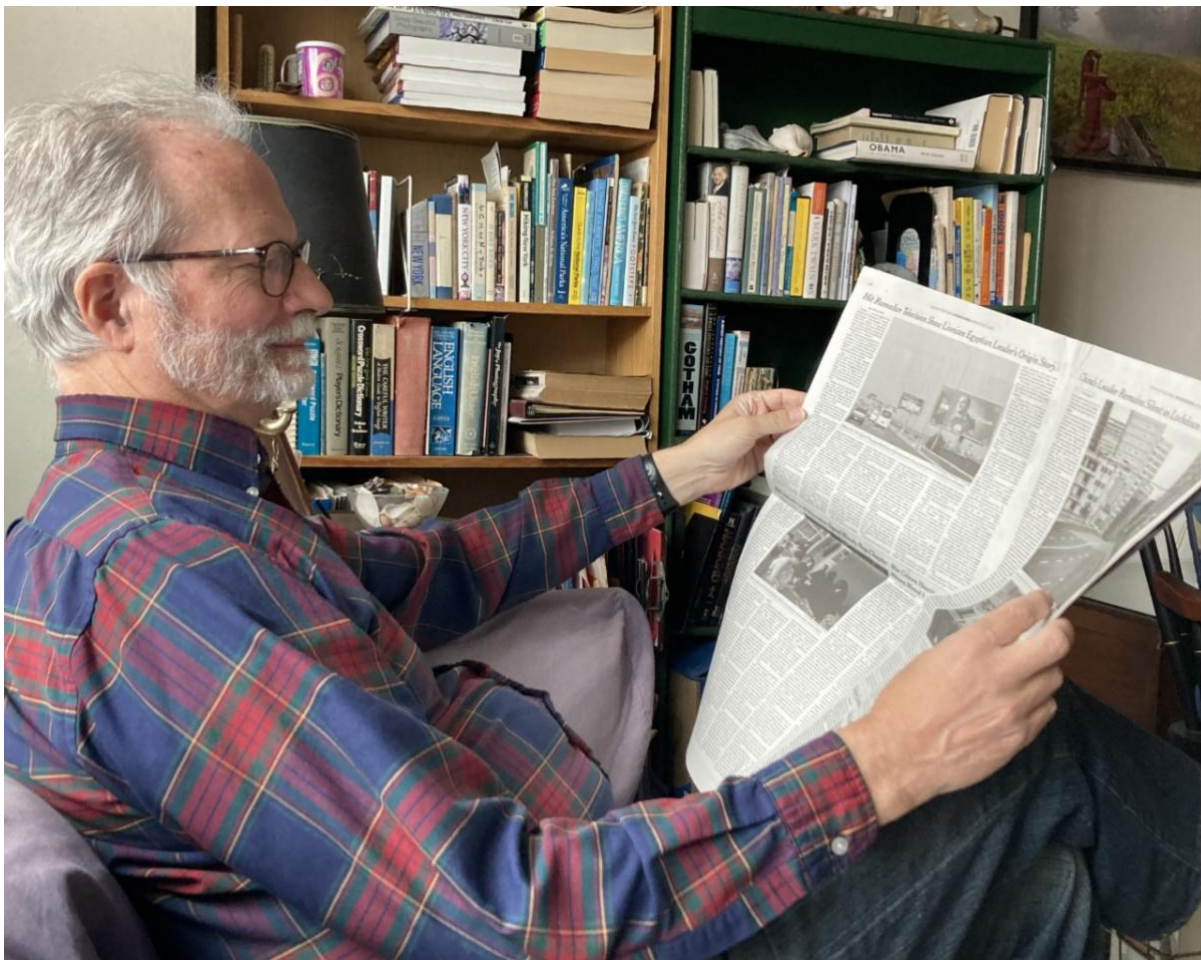
Finally, have you an opinion on [the major leak from the Supreme Court](#) on Monday evening in which Politico published what it said is a draft of an opinion on Roe v. Wade that indicates the majority of the court is prepared to overrule the 1973 landmark decision?

Been involved in a similar type of leak in your reporting years? Share your story, and check Top AP News in the masthead for the latest.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

An unexpected retirement hobby

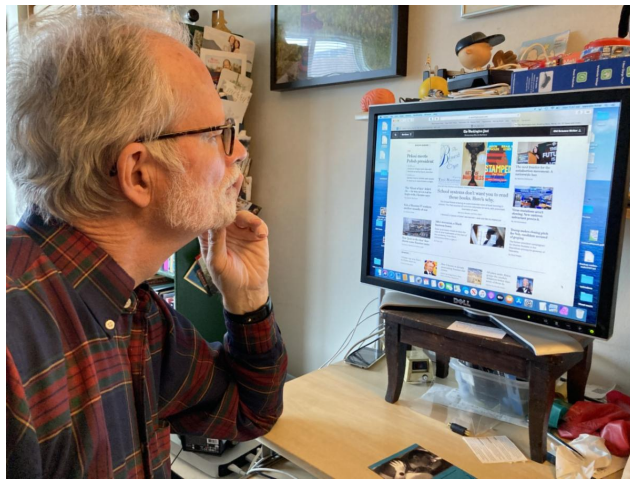


Photos by Jane Ritter

[Malcolm Ritter](#) - On a single day recently, the digital front pages of the New York Times and the Washington Post both displayed

stories with the same error: misusing “lay” to mean “lie.” After noting the bylines involved, I tweeted a message to one of the reporters.

It was just one example of notes I find myself sending after spotting language mistakes. Do other Connecting readers do this? Or am I the only curmudgeon in the crowd?



This is not just a game of Gotcha. I react only to writing that somebody was paid to produce, and only when there’s a reasonable chance the error can be fixed with a writethru or a future edition of a book. That has still left plenty of room for:

- the online news story about a patient who was supposedly following a strict medical “regiment,” rather than “regimen.”
- the author who wrote that a college applicant was a “shoe-in,” rather than “shoo-in.”
- the online newsletter that declared an employee was not “phased” by unexpected developments, rather than “fazed.”
- the drug rehab center that called one graduate an “alumni,” the collective term for two or more people.
- the associate pastor who kept using the same poetic-sounding line in her congregational prayer until I pointed out that, actually, that phrase didn’t say what she intended.

Why do this? Partly it’s a sense of loyalty to a language that provided me a livelihood for decades. I don’t want to see mistakes become entrenched. And since such errors bother me, so why not try to do something about them? It gives me hope for doing even a tiny bit of good in the world, just like picking up litter in a park. (Yeah, I do that too).

In fact, it has done some good. My message on the lie/lay problem, for example, brought this response: “Thank you, Malcolm! We have corrected this.” Then came a followup that warmed my reporter’s heart: “(It wasn’t me!).”

It even does good in unexpected ways. After I alerted one young reporter to an obviously wrong word that resulted from mistyping a single letter, we continued our Twitter conversation and I ended up passing along a tip for avoiding job burnout.

“That was incredibly helpful. You have no idea,” the reporter wrote back. “I know you probably weren’t expecting to give career advice after pointing out a typo, but I’m grateful.”

How many copy editors get a reaction like that?

Gary Clark: An old-school AP bureau chief



At Gary Clark's AP retirement party in 2009. From left: Brent Kallestad, Tallahassee correspondent under Gary; Michael Giarrusso, Gary's news editor in Atlanta, and Dan Sewell, Matt Bokor and Will Lester, his news editors in Miami.

Michael Giarrusso - *Deputy Head of Newsgathering, Global Beats* - Gary Clark was an old-school AP bureau chief, someone who had the news chops to lead an editorial operation, and the incredible ability to manage relationships throughout AP and with members of all sizes and types. He was as comfortable talking to big newspaper group owners as he was dealing with a local news editor in a small paper in South Georgia.

Gary's philosophy on a news staff was to hire a diverse group of good leaders and to let them take the lead on editorial choices. He would defend that staff to the rest of AP, to members and to anyone who tried to restrict access to public records. What I learned most from Gary that I still use every day is how he had relationships going back decades that he called on inside and outside AP, and that he had built up enough trust and favors that he could get help whenever he needed it. Whether it was a foreign correspondent he mentored in Miami years earlier, or a member editor he played golf with, Gary had relationships all over.

And Gary could actually play golf. Not like a journalist, but like a golfer. Member publishers and editors all wanted him (and his wife Fay) on their side in any competition. He was always the No. 1 draft pick in any tournament.

Personally, Gary showed me that an AP leader can give much of his life to this company, while also having a rich personal life. Gary doted on his kids and grandkids, and Fay was often with him at AP and member events. That was important to me, in a company where work sometimes trumps everything.

My favorite anecdote may be that Gary would have been a great reviewer of children's television. When my wife was the editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's News for Kids section, we didn't have children and we had lots of videotapes of new kids' shows. She often gave the tapes to Gary, who would watch them with his grandkids. I remember him bringing one weirdly-titled show back into my office, putting it on the desk and saying – "This is going to be a huge hit." I couldn't believe him, because it sounded like such a strange cartoon. But Gary was right. "SpongeBob SquarePants" was a cultural phenomenon that Gary saw coming before everyone else.

The Giarrussos are sending all their best to Fay, Gary and the extended family. I hope they are able to enjoy this time with the chief – the best COB I ever had.

-0-

FRIENDS OF GARY CLARK: Gary was diagnosed recently with Stage 4 throat cancer. Gary's wife Fay said Gary would love to hear from his many friends. Gary turned 78 last month and has bravely faced serious health issues for several years now. Share a Gary memory with Connecting, as Michael did above. If you would like to send him an email, maybe sharing a favorite memory with him or whatever you'd like to say, you can do so in two ways: an email through Fay at Clarkfay@hotmail.com or a letter at: 1563 Fernando Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Remembering Elton 'Bi' Byington III

Christopher Bacey – I am sorry to learn of the passing of Elton Byington, III, known affectionately to all of us at "Bi." He certainly was a unique individual and those moments of "frustration" were legendary. Because I worked nights in Sports and the GenDesk/NY Buro, he and the other members of the "Glass House" typically gravitated toward our desks because we were typically around at the same time he was. Bi was a very knowledgeable individual, and I learned a great deal from him. One of the side effects also was that I learned a lot about technology and was often able to "translate" to other individuals (e.g., sportswriters or news people) how the editorial content was affected by the AP computers ... such as after the GH guys "updated" all of the systems and we would open the baseball standings only to find they were one-day old.

As a result, I developed an aptitude for how tech and editorial worked together, and in every subsequent Corporate Communications or PR job I have had, I've served as one of those de facto translators. (Our Service Desk was one of the first-ever to deliver news online and via Cable TV through the Times-Mirror pilot...).

I am sure Bi had this effect on other young AP staffers as he was always eager to share his knowledge, which I had understood at the time ranged from math and physics to rock-and-roll music. He'll be missed.

Remembering John Besch

Mark Mittelstadt - John Besch was a welcome sight for troubled eyes.

When I started as a newsman in the Des Moines bureau John often rode to the rescue of our stricken DESI Mouse.

He was a welcome face coming through the bureau door.

Good guy and a lot of fun to work with, especially when a normally busy control bureau was limping along on one or two editing terminals.



Remembering Lenny Ignelzi



Ted Warren – Above is a nice photo of Lenny Ignelzi, taken by Greg Bull in 2014.

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John Willis - I was stunned and greatly saddened by the news of Lenny Ignelzi's death.

Lenny and I became friends in 1976 when I was the AP correspondent in Vegas and he was a shooter for The Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Lenny was always eager to pick up some extra stringer money, and I was just the guy who could arrange it. We seemed as well suited for each other as peanut butter and jelly.

It was a one-man operation in those days, and we had to string various weekly events just because there were so many. No problem, VG was on the photo network almost every day with one or more shots, and they were more than likely from Lenny.

I was so impressed with his work that I gave Lenny carte blanche to shoot and transmit anything he thought useful. He never let me down. We were a team at big boxing cards, and that's where he did some interesting shots from an overhead angle at The Las Vegas Hilton. Lenny got so tight on some shots you could literally see the whites of the subjects' eyes, and droplets of perspiration flying from a boxer's head after being hit flush on the jaw.

He also got some wonderful shots from the annual charity tennis event hosted at Caesars by Alan King. I remember one in particular of Oakland Raiders' wide receiver Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff laying out to return a shot that looked to have been going way long. The concentration in his facial features was comical and amazing at the same time. There he was, frozen in time, laid out horizontally in the air for a charity tennis match.

Lenny's sense of composition was remarkable.

As I was on my way out the door in 1978 to take the correspondency in Spokane, I called LA photos to tell them how helpful Lenny had been during my tour, and that they should keep him in mind if something at The AP came open. It did and we were lucky to have him shooting from San Diego for many, many years. He was wired for AP work, I think.

-0-

Bob Macy - We are saddened by the death of Lenny Ignelzi. He was a classic photographer and a great asset to the AP team.

There are a great many stories you could share about Lenny — like late November, 1989, when he was in Vegas to shoot the Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran fight as an opening attraction at the new Mirage Resort. Lenny was also on hand to shoot Mirage opening activities.

I told Mirage owner Steve Wynn we wanted a unique photo of him; "You name it," Wynn replied. "How about a shot of you on the roof," I asked Wynn, about shooting him down toward the lighted boxing ring, 335 feet below. "Anything for you, Bob," Wynn responded.

Before I could tell the casino mogul I was sort of kidding, Wynn headed off for an elevator ride to the top of the 31-story building, trailed by myself and wife Melinda, Lenny and camera gear, and two Mirage workers lugging a ladder. Lenny used the

ladder for an incredible overhead shot of Wynn standing at the edge of the roof, the boxing ring glowing far below. It had to get a really great AP play for a great AP photog.

AP wins first, second in New England contest

[This pirate coins story](#), written by Boston-based AP news editor Bill Kole and illustrated by photographer Steven Senne, won first place in the history reporting category in the New England Newspaper & Press Association's annual journalism contest.

AP also took second place in education reporting for [an accountability story](#) by Boston-based reporter Phil Marcelo, video journalist Rodrique Ngowi, and photographer Steven Senne, that examined how Harvard and other colleges haven't kept promises their founders made to educate Indigenous students.

At dedication of memorial of slave brought to Oregon



Gregory Nokes – Here is a photo taken Sunday at Mt. Union Cemetery in Philomath, OR at the dedication of a memorial to Reuben Shipley, a slave brought to Oregon by one of my ancestors. Shipley later was given his freedom in exchange for helping his owner develop his farm. He married another former slave with whom he raised a family. Although unable to read or write, Shipley became a prominent farmer and donated the land for this cemetery where Blacks as well as whites could be buried. The story is told in my book: "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory," published by Oregon State University Press.

AP 'sighting' in Monday's New York Times crossword puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Sound of a sneeze
- 6 Op-____ (newspaper columns)
- 9 Capital of Oregon
- 14 Something a mutinying pirate might have to walk
- 15 December 31, for short
- 16 Topic in a dictionary or on a utility bill
- 17 Not in a million billion years
- 19 Championship mementos
- 20 Big band ____ (time span after the Jazz Age)
- 21 Boxing family surname
- 22 Counterpart of length



DOWN

- 1 Source of some wire stories
- 2 Religious official
- 3 Capital of Cuba
- 4 1/2 + 1/2
- 5 Vegetable with pentagonal cross sections
- 6 Worthy of coveting
- 7 Easter egg colorer
- 8 Neighbor of Montenegro
- 9 "What-e-e-ever you say ..."
- 10 China's continent
- 11 Indigenous reclamation movement
- 12 Cuts are dim, cum decesset

Shared by Eva Parziale, Ruth Gersh, Sibby Christensen, Eileen Powell, Dennis Ferraro.

Best of the Week

Inside a Lviv apartment building, AP team gives a glimpse of life for displaced Ukrainians



AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty

Through the lens of a single apartment building in western Ukraine, an all-formats AP team gave the world a deeply personal glimpse into the lives of the millions of people being displaced by war.

“I want my normal life,” said Nazar Kopan, a 6-year-old boy whose parents are doctors and wanted to stay in the country to help. Though he knows better, he sometimes asks to return home to Kyiv.

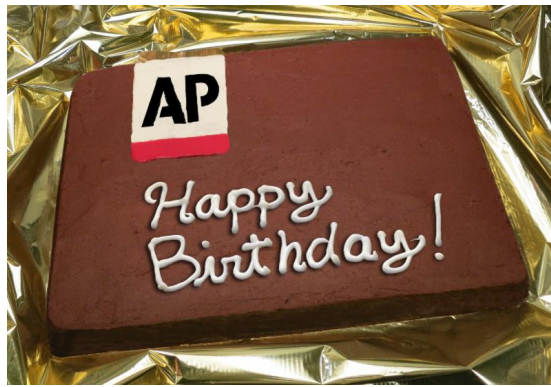
London-based news director Susie Blann wanted to tell the story of how the city of Lviv had welcomed hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who had been driven from their homes by war but had chosen to remain in their country.

Driver/fixer Yevhen Potoplyak was among those who had given up his home to house another family and described countless others who had done the same. It seemed to Blann that the best way to tell the larger story was to look behind the doors of one apartment block, to see who was now living there and how they had come to do so.

Getting enough people in one block to talk proved difficult. Working with Potoplyak, they chased numerous contacts — and contacts of contacts — trying to find families that felt comfortable enough telling their stories and letting the AP into their temporary homes.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Betsy Blaney](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Les Blumenthal](#)

[Scotty Comegys](#)

[Patti Duffy](#)

[Jessica Pasko](#)

Stories of interest

*Biden meets with parents of missing journalist
Austin Tice* (AP)

By ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden met Monday with the parents of American journalist Austin Tice, who was abducted in Syria nearly 10 years ago, the White House said.

“During their meeting, the President reiterated his commitment to continue to work through all available avenues to secure Austin’s long overdue return to his family,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement summarizing the meeting with Marc and Debra Tice.

She described the encounter as an outgrowth of “multiple meetings and conversations” between the Tice family and White House national security officials.

Debra Tice was introduced Saturday night as being in attendance at the White House Correspondents’ Association Dinner, where Biden paid tribute in his remarks to journalists who are missing or detained. Biden also said at the event that he wanted to meet with the Tices to speak about their son.

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

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Trevor Noah’s speech at the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner was funny yet inspiring (Poynter)

By: Tom Jones

“The Daily Show” host Trevor Noah crushed it as host of Saturday night’s White House Correspondents’ Association dinner. It was a speech that perfectly roasted those in attendance and in the news, but also closed with a robust reminder of the important role a free press plays in our society and democracy.

Noah took aim at everyone — the right, the left and the media — in the first WHCA dinner since 2019. He even poked fun at the fact that this year’s event might have been (should have been?) postponed because of COVID-19, saying, “It is my great honor to be speaking tonight at the nation’s most distinguished superspreader event. For real, what are we doing here? Did none of you learn anything from the Gridiron dinner? Like, do you read any of your own newspapers? I mean, I expect this from Sean Hannity, but the rest of you, what are you doing here? You guys spent the last two years telling everyone the importance of wearing masks and avoiding large indoor gatherings. And the second someone offers you a free dinner you all turn into Joe Rogan. (Dr. Anthony) Fauci dropped out. That should have been a pretty big sign. Fauci thought it was too dangerous to come tonight. Pete Davidson thinks it’s OK. And we all went with Pete.”

Around 2,000 people attended Saturday’s dinner and now we’ll all hold our breath and hope it doesn’t turn into a superspreader.

Read more [here](#).

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Is It Curtains For Foreign Correspondents? Not Exactly

By DAN PERRY

What could be better than being a foreign correspondent? Over some decades of it I was befriended by Jamaican Maroons, grilled by Moldovan peasants and labelled “zen” by Bono. I huddled with Yasser Arafat, offended Prince Phillip and was abandoned in mid-interview by John McCain. Between absurd such little episodes I got to add a few lines to the rough draft of history.

The population of our booze-fueled breed has been declining for years and some now predict the demise of global reportage. But I say that is premature.

The optimistic premise of international news coverage is that enough consumers might be interested in faraway events happening to people very different from them. Foreign correspondents are a way of increasing the odds: the content is produced by people more like you. Thus did Anglos, Europeans and Asians (mostly) begin to roam the earth, families in tow.

Former Bloomberg chief executive Justin Smith, in teasing out details about his new media venture, dismissed this model in an interview with the New York Times (one of its most prominent practitioners): “The idea that you send some well-educated young graduate from the Ivy League to Mumbai to tell us about what’s going on in Mumbai in 2022 is sort of insane.”

As someone who operated as a foreign correspondent (and also helped manage news bureaus) in the Americas, Africa, Europe and the Middle East, I felt the impact of those words. Here’s how I see what’s going on.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 3, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 3, the 123rd day of 2022. There are 242 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 3, 1979, Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher was chosen to become Britain's first female prime minister as the Tories ousted the incumbent Labour government in parliamentary elections.

On this date:

In 1802, Washington, D.C., was incorporated as a city.

In 1937, Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, "Gone with the Wind."

In 1947, Japan's postwar constitution took effect.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *Shelley v. Kraemer*, ruled that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to Blacks or members of other racial groups were legally unenforceable.

In 1960, the Harvey Schmidt-Tom Jones musical "The Fantasticks" began a nearly 42-year run at New York's Sullivan Street Playhouse.

In 1987, The Miami Herald said its reporters had observed a young woman spending "Friday night and most of Saturday" at a Washington townhouse belonging to Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart. (The woman was later identified as Donna Rice; the resulting controversy torpedoed Hart's presidential bid.)

In 2006, a federal jury in Alexandria, Virginia, rejected the death penalty for al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee), deciding he should spend life in prison for his role in 9/11; as he was led from the courtroom, Moussaoui taunted, "America, you lost."

In 2009, Mexican President Felipe Calderon told state television that a nationwide shutdown and an aggressive informational campaign appeared to have helped curtail

an outbreak of swine flu in Mexico.

In 2011, Chicago's Derrick Rose became at age 22 the NBA's youngest MVP.

In 2015, two gunmen were shot and killed by a police officer in Garland, Texas, after they opened fire outside a purposely provocative contest for cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad.

In 2016, in a stunning triumph for a political outsider, Donald Trump all but clinched the Republican presidential nomination with a resounding victory in Indiana that knocked rival Ted Cruz out of the race.

In 2018, a federal grand jury in Detroit indicted former Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn on charges stemming from the company's diesel emissions cheating scandal. (Under Germany's constitution, he could not be extradited to the U.S. to face charges.)

Ten years ago: U.S. officials published online a selection of letters from Osama bin Laden's last hideaway; the documents portrayed a network that was weak, inept and under siege — and its leader seemingly near wit's end about the passing of his global jihad's supposed glory days.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump met at the White House with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas (mahk-MOOD' ah-BAHS'), promising "to do whatever is necessary" to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

One year ago: An elevated section of the Mexico City metro collapsed as subway cars were passing over it, killing 26 people; investigations found that the failure was caused by construction defects. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the New York City subways would begin 24-hour service again in mid-May; they'd been shut down for cleaning during overnight hours since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. Bill and Melinda Gates said they were divorcing after 27 years of marriage; the Microsoft co-founder and his wife said they would continue to work together at the world's largest private charitable foundation. Singer-songwriter Lloyd Price, an early rock 'n roll star and rock Hall of Fame member whose hits included "Lawdy Miss Clawdy," died in suburban New York at the age of 88.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Frankie Valli is 88. Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, is 79. Sports announcer Greg Gumbel is 76. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., is 73. Pop singer Mary Hopkin is 72. Singer Christopher Cross is 71. Rock musician David Ball (Soft Cell) is 63. Country singer Shane Minor is 54. Actor Amy Ryan is 54. Actor Bobby Cannavale (ka-nuh-VAL'-ee) is 52. Music and film producer-actor Damon Dash is 51. Country musician John Driskell Hopkins (Zac Brown Band) is 51. Country-rock musician John Neff is 51. Actor Marsha Stephanie-Blake is 47. TV personality Willie Geist (TV: "Today") is 47. Actor Christina Hendricks is 47. Actor Dule (doo-LAY') Hill is 47. Country singer Eric Church is 45. Actor Tanya Wright is 44. Dancer Cheryl Burke is 38. Soul singer Michael Kiwanuka is 35. Actor Zoe De Grand Maison is 27. Rapper Desiigner is 25.

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
 paulstevens46@gmail.com

