

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

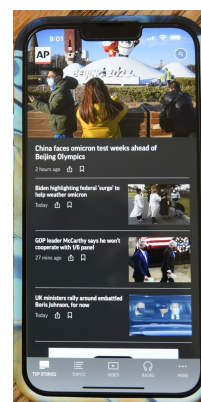
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

May 5, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this May 5, 2022,

News of the retirement plans of **Jim Kennedy**, AP's director of strategic planning for the past 21 years, brought comment to Connecting from the three AP CEOs/presidents for whom he first worked.

They join in praise of Kennedy's contributions the AP's current President/CEO **Daisy Veerasingham** - who announced Tuesday that Kennedy will retire May 25 after a 30-year career that included innovation in a number of AP products.

We lead today's Connecting with the thoughts shared by the three former AP leaders - **Lou Boccardi**, **Tom Curley** and **Gary Pruitt**, and from two other Connecting colleagues who worked with Kennedy - **Randy Picht** and **Marty Rose**.

Got a memory of Jim to share? Send it along.

More curmudgeonly comment is brought to you in today's issue as **Malcolm Ritter**, who started this all by admitting that in retirement, he daily critiques the New York Times and Washington Post. It has been some time since a topic elicited more comment. Keep it coming!

Finally, we bring you news of plans for a Celebration of Life for our colleague **Tom Jory**, a highly respected AP editor who played a vital role in AP's election counting system. Tom died in December 2021 at the age of 77. It will be held Saturday, June 4, in Brooklyn, N.Y. The flyer on this event shared by his daughter **Samantha Deutsch** can be found in today's Final Word. The wire story on his death is [here](#).

The RSVP link in the flyer may not work, due to newsletter formatting. To RSVP, contact Samantha at - sammiejory@aol.com

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A salute to career of Jim Kennedy



AP Business News Editor Jim Kennedy greets President Bush before a May 1 address by the president to the Society of American Business Editors and Writers in Washington. Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the society, arranged for the president's appearance and introduced Bush to the gathering of about 100 business journalists from across the country. Bush used the opportunity to outline his proposals for protecting the environment and jobs in a free-trade agreement with Mexico.

1991 image courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

Lou Boccardi – *AP President/CEO, 1985-2003* - In a period when tomorrow seemed to become yesterday in what felt like a flash, Jim brought a creative and steady hand to our new world. Daisy's note brims with specifics and there's no need to repeat them here. Well done, Jim.

-0-

Tom Curley – *AP President/CEO, 2003-2012* - Jim was the ideal person to serve as AP's lead strategist for more than two decades of nothing but chaos and upheaval in media.

Jim could and did worry with the best of them. Turns out he was nearly always right. The threats he identified were at least as monstrous as he imagined.

Jim is appreciated at AP for introducing many firsts. Perhaps what he should be revered for is an ability to inspire so many others to join the crusade and help develop revolutionary products or solutions. He made doing the impossible something of a creative addiction. And he usually did it with captivating metaphors. There was the pony (pony express days) that needed a giddyup and a firehose (literally) of content turned on AP members who couldn't afford the volume or manage the stream.

Jim wore his passion for AP on both sleeves. No one ever wanted to let him down. His track record of success - being able to see through the fog of change and find a path forward for AP - was second to none. He probably was toughest on those in the corner office - back when there were corner offices. If not now when? Those four words from him usually provided the kick to get the newest thing launched.

-0-

Gary Pruitt – *AP President/CEO, 2012-2021* - Jim brought a spark and sparkle to all he did for AP. He generously mentored emerging talent and always graciously gave credit to others. Importantly, Jim led the process that devised AP's business strategy, and that plan will resonate for years to come. There can be no greater tribute to the strategist par excellence.

Kennedy Heads Business News

James M. Kennedy, business enterprise editor, has been named to head the Business News department. He succeeds Michael W. Millican, who has resigned to enter public relations.

Kennedy, 35, was business editor of the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune before joining the AP in March 1987.

As business enterprise editor, he has been responsible for working with domestic and foreign staff members in developing aggressive coverage of business, economics and finance.

Kennedy began his journalism career at The Journal in Ogdensburg, N.Y., where he became managing editor before moving to Tampa.



KENNEDY

1988 AP Log, courtesy AP Corporate Archives

And...

Randy Picht – *executive director, Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute* - It was a dark and stormy night, well actually, more likely, another gray day in Rochester NY, when the phone rang and the relatively new business news enterprise editor called me to inquire about using one of my stories for his enterprise digest. Absolutely and thanks for asking, I said. And so began a wonderful, energizing, decades-long mentoring relationship that shaped my career in the AP and was critical in helping me into my position here at the Missouri School of Journalism.

I wish I could remember the story so I could write something like who knew a story about grapes or 35mm film could be such a catalyst. But it really didn't have much to do with the content but rather Jim's terrific eye for taking a pedestrian story and making it great, his interest in mentoring young reporters and his terrific and inspiring ability to jump into challenges with both feet. He always made time to talk and looked for ways to be helpful. And it was always wonderful simply knowing that he was there at AP headquarters ready to deliver the best analysis and advice you could ask for.

Indeed, I called him just a few weeks ago to get some advice on strategic planning. He was, of course, most generous with his time and, as usual, helped me get centered and ready to go. And, while we have lots to get nostalgic about, our favorite topic that always comes up is the team that Jim put together to solve the AP's "stock table crisis." Jim asked me to join the team, much as he asked if he could use my story for the enterprise digest and the rest was history. A lot of learning, traveling and strategizing ensued, and we were able to avert the crisis, initiate a turnaround and, after a few years, had a tremendous success story to tell. That's one reason the subject comes up all the time when we talk. The other is that we had a lot of fun on the way to success!

It won't be the same AP without Jim and I'll have to readjust my outreach for strategic planning and other advice since I'm hoping Jim will be staying busy working on that golf handicap. Although I certainly can use plenty of advice around the green so maybe I'll still be keeping him busy. Congratulations to Jim!

-0-

Marty Rose - I first met Jim when he was writer in Business News at 50 Rock and I was in the stock market tabulations department. When Jim was made Business News Editor, we worked closely together with Randy Picht and an incredible software team to make our stock market data the best in the country. Together, we won back the New York Times as a customer that had tried another service that proved unable to compute a weekly net change correctly. When Jim got promoted to Vice President, he made big decisions such as going full throttle with internet business, which was the immediate future. In my 42 years at AP, I never worked for a more dedicated or personable boss than Jim. I hope he has a wonderful retirement; he has certainly earned it.

Remembering Lenny Ignelzi

J. David Ake – *AP director of photography, in staff note Monday* - Please take a moment today to salute the passing of an AP legend. We lost retired San Diego photographer Lenny Ignelzi this weekend.

The term legend gets thrown around a lot, but Lenny truly fits that mold. He shot and lived larger than life. In his double-breasted blue blazer with his signature cigar, he was a storyteller without match. And he backed it up with his pictures. Again and again.

More than just a natty-dressed, cigar-smoking, photographer extraordinaire, he was one heck of a newsperson. He knew his town; he knew the story and he knew how to tell it with a camera. Lots of people can point a camera and take a picture. Very few can make a picture. There is a difference. Lenny knew how to make a picture, and did.

He had his mischievous side too. Messing with “the man” was a passion of his. And I can say as I was “the man” in the latter part of his career, he was good at it. He was often right, but don’t tell him I said so. I will miss sparing with Lenny. The AP will miss their friend and colleague and the world will miss his pictures.

-0-

And here is the wire story that moved on his death:

Leonard Ignelzi, renowned AP photographer, dies at 74



Lenny Ignelzi, long-time staff photographer for The Associated Press, takes photos after a Chargers-Broncos game at Qualcomm Stadium in 2016. (K.C. Alfred / The San Diego Union-Tribune)



FILE - Photographer Lenny Ignelzi leans against a dugout rail Oct. 3, 2014, before Game 2 of baseball's AL Division Series between the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Kansas City Royals in Anaheim, Calif. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and BERNIE WILSON

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Leonard Ignelzi, whose knack for being in the right place at the right time produced breathtaking images of Hall of Fame sports figures, devastating wildfires and other major news over 37 years as photographer for The Associated Press in San Diego, has died. He was 74.

Ignelzi died Friday in Las Vegas of cerebral amyloid angiopathy, a condition associated with frequent strokes and other neurological issues, according to his wife, Bobbi.

Known as Lenny, he was a highly versatile photojournalist whose biggest passions were sports and breaking news. Few people, if any, have attended more Padres baseball or Chargers football games, yet he found fresh angles with each assignment until retiring in 2016.

Ignelzi hid in bushes during a gunman's assault on a McDonald's restaurant in San Diego that killed 21 people in 1984. His images of the U.S.-Mexico border showed San Diego's transformation from dominant corridor for illegal crossings to fortress of razor-topped walls and stadium lights.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the San Diego Union-Tribune obituary.

Click [here](#) for KPBS 2014 interview with Lenny Ignelzi.

More memories of Bi Byington

Joyce Rosenberg - Bi was an amazing person, so full of knowledge, passionate about everything he tackled, one of the kindest and most caring people I've ever met. He was also so complicated -- his passion and need for perfection fueled his sometimes explosive temper. So did the sometimes creaky AP technology that managed to go on the fritz in the middle of the night when he was working solo. Bi's temper could scare some people away, and that is sad, because he was so worth getting to know.

Bi was wonderful to talk to -- he had a hunger to learn about everything, so there were many topics he was eager to discuss. He would buy gifts for people he cared about, and while they weren't cheap, there were no strings attached at all. A Tivoli radio he gave me sits in my kitchen. He knew how much I loved classical music; we talked about it often.

When he left the AP, and it wasn't his choice to do so, he went home to his family and, bless them, they took wonderful care of him. He lived in a house his sister owned, and she got him a sweet little chihuahua, Chico. I am so grateful to them; he had a lot of sadness in his life, but I think that back home with his family, he was able to be in a better place in all regards.

He was a good person, a good friend.

Curmudgeonly speaking...

Adolphe Bernotas - Curmudgeon I am, teetering between "what's the use?" and "for God's sake!" as I read newspapers and/or watch TV and mutter to myself.

Sometimes I declare to my inner grammarian: "what the hell's the use fighting? Writing letters to the editor? I've been watching this crap ever since I left Sister Catherine's eighth-grade class at St. Joe's 70 years ago. They're getting stupider. It's hopeless. Losing battle."

But when special outrages such as "between you and I" or "less people" show up, I start yelling at the TV again. "Damn it, between you and me, fewer people! 'Less apple sauce, fewer apples.' Why is it so hard? U.S.-born Americans assaulting their own language; blah, blah, blah."

And so it goes until I flip back into "it's hopeless."

-0-



Lou Boccardi - Our children gave me this coffee mug a long time ago. As you can see, Joan and I encouraged the exercise of First Amendment rights at our dinner table. When I later became aware of Rodney Dangerfield's "I don't get no respect" routine, I began to wonder. But I convinced myself that the mug was a sign of affection. Or at least tolerance.

-0-

Bob Daugherty - I'm A curmudgeon, that's for sure! I take a bit different approach. I send kudos via email to AP photographers (domestic and foreign) when I spot what I believe to be standout images. Occasionally I see something that I believe isn't 100 percent, but I leave criticism to others.

-0-

[Dan Elliott](#) - I like pointing out grammar and spelling errors as much as the next curmudgeon. But it seems to me there are a lot more important things that reporters and editors need to hear from the sidelines, given the current climate for journalism and democracy.

-0-

[Henry Gottlieb](#) - Put me on the list of retirees who reads the Times and Post with a mental blue pencil. I'm not good at catching grammar errors. Colleagues who read my copy back in the day will think, "yeah, we know."

But it seems like each morning I see gross violations of sacred rules such as the use of the words "only" and "just" in lines like "only three people were killed," and a daily surfeit of cliches and thinly disguised opinion. I found the overused superlative "iconic" in three Times stories one morning.

My wife, Tracy Gottlieb, also a former AP writer, now journalism professor at Seton Hall University, listens to my breakfast time rants and says, "get over yourself."

-0-

[Steve Graham](#) - To my mind the test of a real AP curmudgeon is whether one would write the Connecting editor in the event a grammar or style error should appear in that publication. (wink) (To which Ye Olde Connecting Editor replies, "They do, they do.")

-0-

[Tom Kent](#) - I'm pleased to be a curmudgeon, too. Sometimes it's butchered phrases like "took a different tact" or a missed subjunctive. But, like Bob Wielaard, I look for more substantive targets, too.

We have a local news site that regularly writes stories about local restaurants. A typical lead is, "Joe's Pizza is getting rave reviews from customers." The rest of the article is based entirely on positive comments on "Yelp." (Negative ones are not quoted.) I was sure the restaurants were paying the news site. The reporter emailed back to me that no money changes hands, and "our readers just like these stories." I observed that the time spent on them could be better used covering a city council meeting. No reply.

An update from our Beijing Connecting correspondent



Zhang Wanli was tested for COVID-19 for a second straight day on Wednesday as the city of Beijing conducts three days of mass testing to curb the spread of the virus. Photo by Patrick Casey.

Patrick Casey - What's Beijing like these days? The city isn't officially locked down, but things remain tense. Health officials on Wednesday closed our neighborhood subway station and ordered public buses to bypass the usual stops here. That came as the city conducts three days of mass testing to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

The anti-virus effort is being done in the midst of a five-day May Day holiday that ends today and has been anything but festive. All restaurants have been closed to dine-in

eating since Sunday and offered only takeout and delivery during the holiday. Parks and other tourist attractions remain open but to a limited number of visitors.

Even though Beijing has reported only about 400 locally transmitted COVID cases for the past two weeks as of Wednesday, there are few places to go. The city's movie theaters, gyms, and performance venues are all dark and school re-openings have been postponed for another week.

In addition, people trying to enter most businesses, stores or shopping malls must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test to get inside and those who can't also aren't allowed to ride subways or buses.

The ongoing threat of a lockdown has prompted people to crowd the grocery stores and load up on food and other necessities. Supplies are fine, fortunately. I ventured out this afternoon to buy milk and bananas and there seemed to be plenty of everything. We're certainly not lacking.

At the same time, people living where the virus has been detected remain confined to their apartment buildings or compounds. That includes thousands in the community where my wife Zhang Wanli and I lived until last summer. The lockdowns are ostensibly for 14 days but friends tell us that they're not sure when they will be allowed out.

What will they do when they can finally venture out? Pretty much what everybody else is doing ... staying close to home (we've haven't been outside of Beijing for three years), dodging the virus, cleaning closets, learning new skills, reading, binging on TV, ... and waiting for the day they can again go where they want.

Stylebook - abortion-related

[Paula Froke](#) – *AP Stylebook editor in note to news staff* - Yesterday we published our new guidance on the term pregnant people (and related). Here it is:

pregnant people

Phrasing like pregnant people or people who seek an abortion seeks to include people who have those experiences but do not identify as women, such as some transgender men and some nonbinary people.

Such phrasing should be confined to stories that specifically address the experiences of people who do not identify as women. See gender, sex and sexual orientation.

And our long-standing entry on abortion:

abortion

Use the modifiers anti-abortion or abortion-rights; don't use pro-life, pro-choice or pro-abortion unless they are in quotes or proper names. Avoid abortionist, which connotes a person who performs clandestine abortions.

New heads of video, US news are named

By Nicole Meir

In a memo to staff on Wednesday, it was announced that Sara Gillesby will lead global video for AP and Josh Hoffner will direct U.S. news coverage.

Here is the memo from Executive Editor Julie Pace, Vice President and Head of Global News Gathering Paul Haven, and Vice President and Head of Global News Production Derl McCrudden:

We are thrilled to share two important News leadership appointments: Sara Gillesby will be AP's new director of global video and Josh Hoffner steps into the role of director of U.S. news. These moves put two of AP's most innovative and ambitious leaders in key roles at a transformative time for the company.

As the leader of global video, Sara will have a wide range of responsibilities, including keeping us fast and competitive in the daily report, expanding our successful live news coverage, and driving greater consistency across a wide range of video output. It's a crucial role at a time when video has never been more important to the AP, our customers and audience.

Sara has been news director for the U.S. East region since 2018, overseeing all-format teams across 10 states from Ohio to Maine. She oversaw regional coverage of the impact of the pandemic, the social justice protests sparked by the death of George Floyd in 2020, and the last presidential election in which Pennsylvania played a pivotal role.

Previously, as video news assignment manager in New York for nine years, Sara led video coverage of stories that resonated globally, including the impact of Hurricane Sandy, the mass shooting in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, and the Boston marathon bombings. She joined AP as a video producer in 2005.

Sara is the first woman and the first Latina to lead global video at AP. She will relocate to London and report to Derl McCrudden, vice president and head of global news production. She'll begin her new role on June 1.

As director of U.S. news, Josh will lead efforts to modernize our U.S. coverage, making it faster, more ambitious and better aligned with the needs of customers in a digital age. A key element of the transformation will be the addition of a substantial number of new video staffers across the country.



Josh joined AP in 1998 and has most recently served as news editor for national beats. He has a breadth of experience that has thrown him into practically every type of assignment and role across U.S. news, most recently in directing coverage of the pandemic in the U.S. and abroad and leading a team of journalists covering immigration and family separation in the Trump administration that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He's fast and competitive in breaking news situations, has a knack for spotting the larger narrative and trend in a developing story, and has a great ability to leverage the AP's vast reach to tell the story in authoritative fashion.



Josh's first AP gig was as night supervisor and reporter in Bismarck, North Dakota. He then jumped to the national desk at AP headquarters in New York, where he served as overnight supervisor and had a hand in editing big stories such as the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina. He was New York City news editor from 2005 to 2009, and later helped launch the West Regional Desk.

Josh's promotion takes effect immediately. He will report to Paul Haven, vice president and head of global news gathering, and relocate to New York in the coming months.

With Josh's appointment, Noreen Gillespie now fully moves into her new role as head of global business news.

Please join us in congratulating Sara and Josh!

Stories of interest

The ruling or the leak? A battle to shape the media narrative on abortion. (Washington Post)

By Jeremy Barr and Elahe Izadi

There was only one subject on the mind of reporters who clustered around Mitch McConnell at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday. But as they tried to ask about the political and policy implications of a potentially looming overturn of *Roe v. Wade* — such as his thoughts on states that could prohibit even rape and incest victims from getting abortions — the Senate minority leader insisted they were coming at him with the wrong question.

“You need, it seems to me — excuse the lecture — to concentrate on what the news is today,” McConnell scolded. “Not a leaked draft, but the fact that the draft was leaked.”

The GOP leader’s testy media critique spoke to a larger tension playing out in the first 24 hours after the explosive Politico report based on a Supreme Court justice’s not-yet-public draft opinion — a real-time struggle to bend and shape the larger media narrative about the story’s significance.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Women journalists see harassment as part of the job, a new study finds (Nieman Lab)

By SHRADDHA CHAKRADHAR

A recent video of TV reporter Tori Yorgey being hit by a car while doing a segment on live television went viral for several reasons. Yorgey’s ultra-calm reaction was even more remarkable: She was quick to recover and say that she was okay, and even went on to say, “You know, that’s live TV for you.”

While journalists, especially broadcast journalists, have been trained to keep going no matter what and to not make themselves the story, a new study finds that women journalists also see attacks — deliberate or otherwise — as part of the job. The study, based on in-depth interviews with 32 print and broadcast journalists in the U.S., was published recently in the *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*.

The theme of women saying that harassment and attacks were part of the price they pay for being female journalists was something that kept coming up during the course of interviews, said Kaitlin Miller, assistant professor of journalism and media at the University of Alabama and the author of the new study.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Young people share a deep, widespread distrust in traditional media on a global scale (Editor and Publisher)

Claude Revel | for Editor & Publisher

Dozens of surveys have confirmed a lack of trust in the media among middle-aged and older people. Constant attacks from politicians and reliance on social media as a news source have accelerated this trend.

When SKEMA PUBLIKA, the think tank of SKEMA Business School, surveyed media posts from 2.8 million people ages 18-24 on five continents, we came to a surprising

conclusion — young people also share a deep, widespread distrust in traditional media on a global scale.

The EYES 2021 report (Emergy Youth Early Signs) is an original study published by SKEMA Publika and Antidox, a communications strategy consultancy based in France.

We examined social media posts worldwide from the United States, Brazil, China, France and South Africa. About 55.5 million tweets were published between July 2020 and June 2021 by 2.8 million 18- to 24-year-olds from five countries. The tweets were analyzed for sentiment surrounding five political topics: mainstream media and the press, social networks, security, new technologies and the world of work.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

We would like to invite you to a celebration of the life of

Tom Jory
1944—2021



Saturday, June 4, 2022
11AM-1:30PM

The Parish Hall at
The Church of St. Ann and
The Holy Trinity
Montague and Clinton Streets
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Light refreshments will be served.

We invite everyone to bring a story to tell and/or a photograph to share.

If you are not able to come, feel free to contribute your stories, [pictures](#) and messages via email.

Please RSVP to sammiejory@aol.com by May 21.

Today in History - May 5, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 5, the 125th day of 2022. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

On this date:

In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland on his 66th day without food.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

In 2009, Texas health officials confirmed the first death of a U.S. resident with swine flu.

In 2014, a narrowly divided Supreme Court upheld Christian prayers at the start of local council meetings.

In 2016, former Los Angeles trash collector Lonnie Franklin Jr. was convicted of 10 counts of murder in the "Grim Sleeper" serial killings that targeted poor, young Black women over two decades.

In 2020, Tyson Foods said it would resume limited operation of its huge pork processing plant in Waterloo, Iowa, with enhanced safety measures, more than two weeks after closing the facility because of a coronavirus outbreak among workers. Facebook said it had removed several accounts and pages linked to QAnon, taking action for the first time against the far-right conspiracy theory circulated among Trump supporters.

Ten years ago: Five Guantanamo Bay prisoners, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (HAH'-leed shayk moh-HAH'-mehd), the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, were arraigned in a proceeding that dragged on for 13 hours due to stalling tactics by the defendants.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump signed his first piece of major legislation, a \$1 trillion spending bill to keep the government operating through September. The Labor Department reported a burst of hiring in April 2017 as employers added 211,000 jobs, more than double the weak showing in March.

One year ago: A federal judge in Washington ruled that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention exceeded its authority when it imposed a national eviction moratorium. (The moratorium would remain in place during a Justice Department appeal; it was allowed to expire at the end of July.) The Biden administration joined calls for lifting patent protections on COVID-19 vaccines to help poor parts of the world get more doses. Four months after Facebook suspended the accounts of former President Donald Trump, the company's quasi-independent oversight board upheld the bans, but told Facebook to specify how long they would last. Peloton recalled about 125,000 treadmills; the Tread+ treadmills had been linked to the death of one child and injuries to 29 others. A government report said the U.S. birth rate had fallen by 4% in 2021, the largest single-year decrease in nearly 50 years.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Pat Carroll is 95. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 84. Actor Michael Murphy is 84. Actor Lance Henriksen is 82. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 79. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 78. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 77. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 74. Actor Melinda Culea is 67. Actor Lisa Eilbacher is 65. Actor Richard E. Grant is 65. Former broadcast journalist John Miller is 64. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 63. Broadcast journalist Brian Williams is 63. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 56. TV personality Kyan (KY'-ihn) Douglas is 52. Actor Tina Yothers is 49. R&B singer Raheem DeVaughn is 47. Actor Santiago Cabrera is 44. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 43. Singer Craig David is 41. Actor Danielle Fishel is 41. Actor Henry Cavill is 39. Actor Clark Duke is 37. Soul singer Adele is 34. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 34. R&B singer Chris Brown is 33. Figure skater Nathan Chen is 23.

And, thanks to a careful spotting by colleague [Craig Armstrong](#), this:

Today is the birthday of journalist Nellie Bly (books by this author), born Elizabeth Jane Cochran in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania (1864). When she was 16 her family moved to Pittsburgh where she read an editorial in The Pittsburgh Dispatch titled “What Girls are Good For.” (The paper’s answer was “not much,” at least, not outside the home.) She wrote a furious reply and signed it “Little Orphan Girl.” The editor was so impressed that he invited her in and offered her a job. She took it, and she borrowed the name “Nellie Bly” from a Stephen Foster song to use as her pen name.



Unlike most female journalists of the time, she didn’t write about fashion or gardening though. She wrote about the poor and the way women were exploited in factories, sometimes posing as a sweatshop worker to report from the inside, which made companies nervous. They threatened to pull their advertising so she was demoted to a beat that was deemed more suitable for a lady. She turned in her letter of resignation along with her story. She went to New York in 1887 and, after several months with no job prospects, she talked her way into an opportunity with Joseph Pulitzer’s New York World. Her assignment was to cover the notorious Blackwell’s Island Women’s Lunatic Asylum, and she went undercover, convincing doctors and judges that she was mentally ill. She was committed to the asylum and lived there in appalling conditions for 10 days. She wrote, “I have watched patients stand and gaze longingly toward the city they in all likelihood will never enter again. It means liberty and life; it seems so near, and yet heaven is not further from hell.”

In 1914 she went to work for the New York Evening Journal as America’s first female war correspondent. She wrote from the front lines of World War I for almost five years. She returned Stateside in 1919 and died of pneumonia in 1922.

Source: [Garrison Keillor’s The Writer’s Almanac](#)

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

