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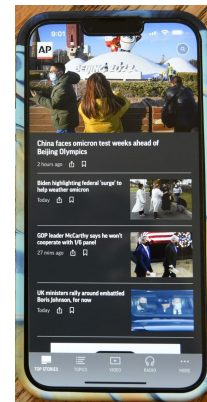
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Connecting

May 23, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this May 23, 2022,

A ball, a bat – seems simple enough. We’re referring to those basic objects of baseball captured mid-air in the photo above taken by AP Kansas City photojournalist [Charlie Riedel](#). But there’s more to the photo than meets the eye. Scroll down to The Final Word for the rest of the story.

Our colleague [Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar](#) has been retired from the AP’s Washington bureau for a couple weeks now, but like many of us, you can take the boy or girl out of the AP but you can’t take the AP out of the boy or girl.

Ricardo noted to Ye Olde Connecting Editor that in the recap of his newspaper career before joining the AP in 2008, his years at Knight Ridder’s Washington bureau – “a formative experience,” he said - were omitted. A Corrective is in order, I asked? Nope, he replied – “Not a ‘corrective’ but a 1st Ld-Writethru. Eds: Adds details.” With that:

Ricardo worked at the Boston Herald American, the Miami Herald (both in Miami and Washington), the Knight Ridder Washington bureau, and the Washington bureau of the Los Angeles Times. (Then, to our remarkable good fortune, he joined the AP in 2008 and covered the remarkable story of the passage of the Affordable Care Act, before becoming our resident expert on health care.)

LIVESTREAM OF LARRY HEINZERLING MEMORIAL: Information is now available on the livestream of the memorial this Saturday, May 28, for our colleague Larry Heinzerling. That information can be found in today's Connecting. If you have any questions, you can contact his wife Ann Cooper at - annkcooper@gmail.com

Congratulations to our colleague Nedra Pickler, former AP White House reporter, and her team at communications firm Finsbury Glover Hering. They were awarded the public relations industry's top honors last week for their pro bono work on the prosecution for George Floyd's murder, which occurred two years ago on Wednesday. We bring you the story in today's issue.

We lead today's issue with the first response to our call for how you introduce yourself most effectively when talking to a news source. Thanks to our colleague **Hal Bock** for getting the ball rolling.

Memorial Day 2022 is six days away. Connecting would love to hear your own stories of those loved ones who have died - and keeping with our journalistic theme, especially those who played a role in your career. A favorite story or anecdote. We will publish these through the coming week.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

'Hi, my name is Hal Bock of The Associated Press in New York'

Hal Bock - When I called for a story, I would introduce myself this way: "Hi, My name is Hal Bock of The Associated Press in New York." I felt that the AP and New York lent some prestige to my opening. Sometimes it did, sometimes it didn't.

When I interviewed athletes, I tried to start a conversation. I would say "Tell me about ..." That worked with some great ones like Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio and Hank Aaron among others. It did not work with knuckleball pitcher (and maybe knuckleball head, as well) R.A. Dickey.

Dickey had climbed Mt. Everest in the off-season so I cleverly opened my interview with "Tell me about climbing Mt. Everest." His reply was: "Is that a question?"

So I rephrased: "What was it like to climb Mt. Everest?"

And we went from there.

Another time, the Mets had a pitcher who had fled Cuba five times before successfully making it to America. The problem was he only spoke Spanish. Your resourceful reporter got another pitcher, Oliver Perez, to translate and I had my story.

You do what you have to do.

Nedra Pickler, Finsbury Glover Hering team honored for pro bono work on George Floyd murder



Former AP White House reporter Nedra Pickler and her team at communications firm Finsbury Glover Hering were awarded the public relations industry's top honors last week for their pro bono work on the prosecution for George Floyd's murder, which occurred two years ago this Wednesday.

The Public Relations Society of America selected their work with the office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison for their Best of Silver Anvil Award during a ceremony May 19 in New York City. Earlier this month, they were also recognized with a SABRE Award for best crisis communications campaign. [This short video](#) describes more about their work.

While it's unusual for a public relations firm to work for state prosecutors in a criminal trial, Ellison brought on FGH to help with the communications challenges associated

with prosecuting such a controversial and high-profile case, drawing massive worldwide media and public attention. The trial was the first ever in Minnesota to be televised in its entirety, and more than 23 million people watched the verdict of guilty on all counts against Derek Chauvin as it was delivered live on April 20, 2021.

In Minnesota, the state doesn't typically prosecute murders, and Ellison's office had limited budget to match the case's extraordinarily high stakes. While on average [three people](#) are killed by law enforcement in America each day, [police murder convictions are exceedingly rare](#), and the public was demanding accountability for Floyd. Despite this, pretrial social sentiment was trending against the prosecution, driven by conservative influencers.

FGH worked with Ellison's team to develop a communications plan to ensure the prosecution's key messages were resonating with both media and the public. FGH closely tracked social, print and broadcast media coverage and provided real-time reports to the prosecution team. Following the successful verdict, FGH developed and executed a cross-channel, multi-week national media strategy for prosecutors to amplify their victory and cement its legacy to bring systematic change.

In total, FGH reviewed and analyzed more than 54 million tweets, a quarter of a million news articles and 86,000 broadcast segments during the trial alone. In addition, FGH worked with the attorney general's office on more than 30 media statements, remarks and op-eds that helped shape the media and public narrative of the case. Following the guilty verdict and sentencing, FGH arranged 44 interviews for members of the prosecution team with top-tier print, radio and broadcast outlets. Ellison said in [a statement to Axios](#) that "while the attorneys kept their focus on the facts of the case and the pursuit of justice, FGH kept their focus on the world around us. They've been a completely integral and invaluable part of the team."

(Story by [Nedra Pickler](#). She is a native of Flint, Michigan, spent 17 years at the AP, joining the Detroit bureau in 1998 after graduating from Michigan State. In 1999 she moved to Lansing to cover the state legislature and in 2000 she was transferred to Washington as Michigan regional writer. In 2002 she was promoted to the national political staff, covering presidential campaigns and the White House under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. She also spent three years covering the federal courts.)

Oh, the mistakes we once made

[Mike Harris](#) - The call out for mistakes made during our AP careers reminded me of one from my first year with the company.

I was working the overnight (midnight to eight) in the Chicago bureau in 1969. On Sundays, my main task during those quiet hours was to file the Interbureau Wire. It was set up for smaller newspapers and radio stations that couldn't afford AP's more detailed or specialized wires. For the IB, you took the top stories of the day and cut them down to a manageable size and included only the necessary lists.

One of the lists I included every week was the Top 100 in record sales.

My first week on the IB, I read the list and saw an obvious typo: "Thank you for letting me be mice elf again."

I quickly changed it to "Thank you for letting me by myself again." And I did that every week for a month - until one of my colleagues noticed and informed me I was changing the actual name of the popular song by Sly and The Family Stone.

My face was red. But I also got a laugh out of it - and still do.

Once they displayed the day's top news



Michael Weinfeld - With the number of newspapers dwindling, there are far fewer newspaper boxes in city streets. I found these abandoned boxes in the artist community of Madrid (pronounced MA'-drihd), New Mexico about 30 miles south of Santa Fe.

Retiring Selected Broadcast Fixtures

In a staff note Friday from Noreen Gillespie and Ron Vample:

This June, we will officially retire the remaining state NewsMinute, SportsMinute and Right Now fixtures. This change comes as we unveil the new CORE product offering to U.S. customers.

This change comes after two years of customer conversations where we learned that newsrooms need a more digitally savvy offering from AP. So in place of these fixtures, long known as the “rip and read” scripts for radio and television, we’ll deliver long-form text, access to video, audio and graphics, and access to summaries on all stories.

This change is in direct response to the modern needs of our member newsrooms. It’s also an opportunity for AP journalists to focus on what we do best – original breaking news.

Our customers are excited about this change. But we know that there may be some complaints. The notice below went to customers yesterday, and we have also been previewing the change in Zoom calls with major groups and individual, smaller newsrooms. ...

Best of the Week

AP Exclusive: Inside the 11-day search for escaped Alabama inmate and his jailer accomplice



In photos at left, inmate Casey White and Lauderdale County Assistant Director of Corrections Vicky White are shown in undated handout photos released April 2022. The pair were fugitives for 11 days after Vicky White helped Casey White escape from jail in Florence, Ala. At right, during a news conference in Evansville, Ind., May 10, 2022, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Dave Wedding discusses the May 9 capture of the fugitive pair. Vicky White died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound and Casey White was taken into custody after a vehicle chase and crash. U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE (LEFT); LAUDERDALE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (CENTER); AP PHOTO / TIMOTHY D. EASLEY

The search for Alabama fugitives Casey White and Vicky White captured the attention of the world. When the U.S. Marshals Service took over the hunt early in the story, Washington-based federal law enforcement reporter Mike Balsamo reached out, working his network of sources in the Justice Department and the U.S. Marshals Service for details. Balsamo also connected with the U.S. marshal for the Northern District of Alabama, knowing he would be the person most likely to have the inside information that would enable AP to put together a clear timeline of a messy escape saga littered with gaps and confusing accounts.

Even as authorities were holding news conferences to talk about the violent end of the story — Vicky White dead; Casey White in custody — Balsamo began cajoling the marshal and the Marshals Service to talk with him first and lay out a detailed account of the manhunt.

U.S. Marshal Marty Keely did just that, late enough in the evening that Balsamo knew if he could get the story on the wire within hours, he would give the AP a massive competitive win.

Read more [here](#).

Online access to Larry Heinzerling May 28 memorial



Here are streaming details:

YOU TUBE:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKUC6MtwnS-xPSddTRUaSmQ/featured>

ZOOM:

Topic: Larry Heinzerling Memorial May 28th

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83284733540>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13126266799,,83284733540# or +19292056099,,83284733540#

Or Telephone:

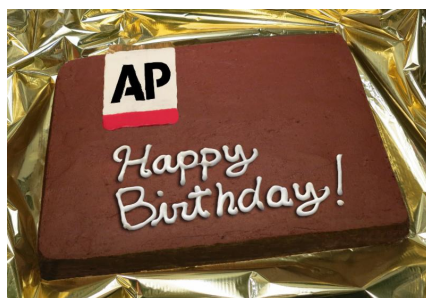
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or
+1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 832 8473 3540

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83284733540>

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bob Egelko](#)

[Chris Leonard](#)

[Dave Tomlin](#)

[Jack Walker](#)

Stories of interest

It's time for local journalists to reckon with the racism we overlooked (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

BUFFALO — When a gunman opened fire at a Buffalo supermarket last weekend, I tried to help The Washington Post find a local freelance journalist to start covering the story while editors scrambled to get our own reporters to the terrible scene. As a Western New York native who worked at the Buffalo News for decades, I was pretty well positioned to be a scout.

I texted one former colleague who told me he would check to see if he could take an outside assignment. The response came back quickly:

“Denise said no.”

Buffalo News deputy managing editor Denise Jewell Gee made the right call, of course. This was an all-hands-on-deck moment for the paper, which has acquitted itself well. It has broken news about the massacre while providing a stream of vivid reporting and heartfelt commentary. The News even delivered thousands of free papers to the city’s East Side where 10 Black people were killed and three other people were injured in what’s been aptly described as a racially motivated domestic terrorist attack.

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

-0-

Ukraine’s Journalists Need Your Help (Wall Street Journal)

By Efim Marmer

Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine

Journalists don’t confess; they solicit confessions. Yet here I am—editor in chief of Ukrayina-Tsentr, a weekly Ukrainian newspaper—and I’m opening with a confession of my own political nearsightedness.

In March 2005, I was among a small delegation of Ukrainian journalists at North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters in Brussels. The first talk we heard from NATO officers included a map of Europe with a raving mad Russian bear suspended above it. This slide elicited howls of laughter from my colleagues and me. It had to have been a relic of the Cold War. The world had changed. The Soviet Union had collapsed, yet NATO still saw Russia as the enemy of the civilized West?

We were so naive, so stupid.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bobbie Seril.

-0-

Lara Logan, Once a Star at CBS News, Is Now One for the Far Right (New York Times)

By Jeremy W. Peters

When Lara Logan reached the heights of American journalism more than a decade ago, as the chief foreign affairs correspondent for CBS News, her bosses didn't think twice about sending her to cover the biggest stories in the world. Producers clamored to work with her as she landed interviews with a Taliban commander, chronicled the Arab Spring and tracked the Ebola outbreak. Former President Barack Obama called her to wish her well after the most traumatic event of what seemed like a limitless career: She was sexually assaulted while covering a demonstration in Cairo's Tahrir Square in 2011.

But today Ms. Logan cuts a far different figure in American media. Instead of on national news broadcasts, she can be found as a guest on right-wing podcasts or speaking at a rally for fringe causes, promoting falsehoods about deaths from Covid vaccines and conspiracy theories about voter fraud.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

Pulitzer Prize Cartoonists Pen Protest Letter to Pulitzer Board (AAEC)



WE THE CARTOONISTS,
A letter to the Pulitzer Board from past Pulitzer prize-winners and finalists in the editorial cartooning category:

May 19th, 2022

Dear Pulitzer Prize Board,

We are dismayed to see the Editorial Cartooning category removed from the annual conferring of Pulitzer Prizes. From America's inception, the editorial cartoon has crystallized our messy political struggle. Iconic historic images — like Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die" woodcut, Thomas Nast's plutocrat with a money bag head, and Herblock's cartoon coining the term "McCarthyism" — all sprung from the minds of individual cartoonists drawing visceral, emotional, and urgent opinions, in response to the news events of their day. The greatest American editorial cartoons draw on every inch of the First Amendment to, as John Stuart Mill wrote in *On Liberty*, "push arguments to their logical limits."

For 100 years the distinguished Pulitzer Prize has walked hand-in-hand with the idiosyncratic editorial cartoonist, elevating the gritty public artform by (almost) annually bestowing its revered prize upon the "best" of the craft. This partnership has allowed publishers with intestinal fortitude to keep a seat for the local cartoonist on the newspaper Editorial Board, justifying their employment with the weight of the award. This has, without a doubt, nurtured the vitality of the medium and helped our nation weather its political discourse for the better.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.

-0-

Roger Angell, Who Wrote About Baseball With Passion, Dies at 101 (New York Times)



Author Roger Angell in a photo from 2006. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File)

By Dwight Garner

Roger Angell, the elegant and thoughtful baseball writer who was widely considered among the best America has produced, died on Friday at his home in Manhattan. He was 101.

The cause was congestive heart failure, his wife, Margaret Moorman, said.

Mr. Angell's voice was original because he wrote more like a fan than a sports journalist, loading his articles with inventive imagery.

The Boston Red Sox catcher Carlton Fisk came out of his crouch, Mr. Angell wrote, like "an aluminum extension ladder stretching for the house eaves." The Baltimore Oriole relief pitcher Dick Hall pitched "with an awkward, sidewise motion that suggests a man feeling under his bed for a lost collar stud." Mr. Angell (pronounced angel) described Willie Mays chasing down a ball hit to deep center field as "running so hard and so far that the ball itself seems to stop in the air and wait for him."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

Click [here](#) for The New Yorker story. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word



Kansas City Royals' Bobby Witt Jr. reacts after being hit by a pitch thrown by Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Davis Martin during the first inning in the second game of a

baseball doubleheader Tuesday, May 17, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Here's the rest of the story on that ball and bat displayed at the top of this issue. The photo at top of Connecting – a tighter crop of this photo above that moved on the wire - was posted by photojournalist Charlie Riedel to Instagram and Facebook. "I don't think the resolution would have held up for AP purposes but the crop was fine for Instagram/Facebook," he said.

Today in History - May 23, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2022. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

In 1937, industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, founder of the Standard Oil Co. and the Rockefeller Foundation, died in Ormond Beach, Florida, at age 97.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and recommissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces bogged down in Anzio began a major breakout offensive.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action that helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1975, comedian Jackie "Moms" Mabley, 81, died in White Plains, New York.

In 2007, President George W. Bush, speaking at the U.S. Coast Guard commencement, portrayed the Iraq war as a battle between the U.S. and al-Qaida and said Osama bin Laden was setting up a terrorist cell in Iraq to strike targets in America.

In 2016, during his visit to Asia, President Barack Obama, eager to banish lingering shadows of the Vietnam War, lifted the U.S. embargo on selling arms to America's former enemy. Prosecutors failed for the second time in their bid to hold Baltimore police accountable for the arrest and death of Freddie Gray, as an officer was acquitted in the racially charged case that triggered riots a year earlier.

Ten years ago: Egypt held the Arab world's first competitive presidential vote. (Islamist Mohammed Morsi was ultimately named the winner following a runoff.)

Five years ago: President Donald Trump made a personal appeal for peace between Israel and the Palestinians as he closed a four-day swing through the Middle East. Roger Moore, the star of seven James Bond films, died in Switzerland at age 89.

One year ago: A cable car taking visitors to a mountaintop view of northern Italy's most picturesque lakes plummeted to the ground and tumbled down a slope, killing 14 people. (The lone survivor, a 6-year-old boy, became the subject of a custody battle between family members in Italy and Israel; the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that he should be returned to his relatives in Italy.) A Ryanair jetliner flying from Greece to Lithuania was forced to land in Belarus so authorities there could arrest a passenger, journalist Raman Pratasevich, a key foe of authoritarian Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. At age 50, Phil Mickelson won the PGA Championship in South Carolina to become the oldest major champion in golf history. Children's author and illustrator Eric Carle, known for the classic "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," died at 91 in Massachusetts.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Barbara Barrie is 91. Actor Joan Collins is 89. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 86. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 78. Actor Lauren Chapin is 77. Country singer Judy Rodman is 71. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 71. Singer Luka Bloom is 67. Former baseball manager Buck Showalter is 66. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 64. Actor Lea DeLaria is 64. Country singer Shelly West is 64. Author Mitch Albom is 64. Actor Linden Ashby is 62. Actor-model Karen Duffy is 61. Actor Melissa McBride is 57. Rock musician Phil Selway

(Radiohead) is 55. Actor Laurel Holloman is 54. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 52. Country singer Brian McComas is 50. Actor John Pollono is 50. Singer Maxwell is 49. Singer Jewel is 48. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 48. Actor LaMonica Garrett is 47. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 42. Actor Lane Garrison is 42. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 41. Actor Adam Wylie is 38. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 36. Golfer Morgan Pressel is 34. Actor Alberto Frezza is 33. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') 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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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