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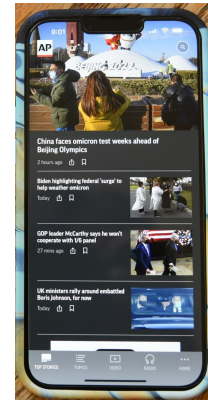
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Connecting

May 26, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this May 26, 2022,

Errin Haines – former race and ethnicity writer for the AP - offers this advice for journalists as they interview loved ones and others in the wake of the horrific school shootings in Uvalde, Texas:

“Take no for an answer. Never forget that you are meeting someone at what is likely their worst moment. Maybe you get the interview later, maybe you don’t. No one owes us their story. And no one’s humanity is worth sacrificing for one story — including your own as a journalist.”

And [this article](#) in Trusting News is headlined: “Imagine coverage of mass shootings that explains coverage goals and the reporting process, reduces harm, shows empathy and avoids polarizing narratives.” It’s worth a read.

Connecting would welcome your own story about interviewing families and loved ones after disaster strikes. How did you approach it? What advice would you share? What would you do differently?

Today's issue brings you sad news of the death of **Francis Quinn**, whose entire 28-year career with the AP was served as statehouse reporter in Augusta, Maine. Quinn died May 17 at the age of 70.

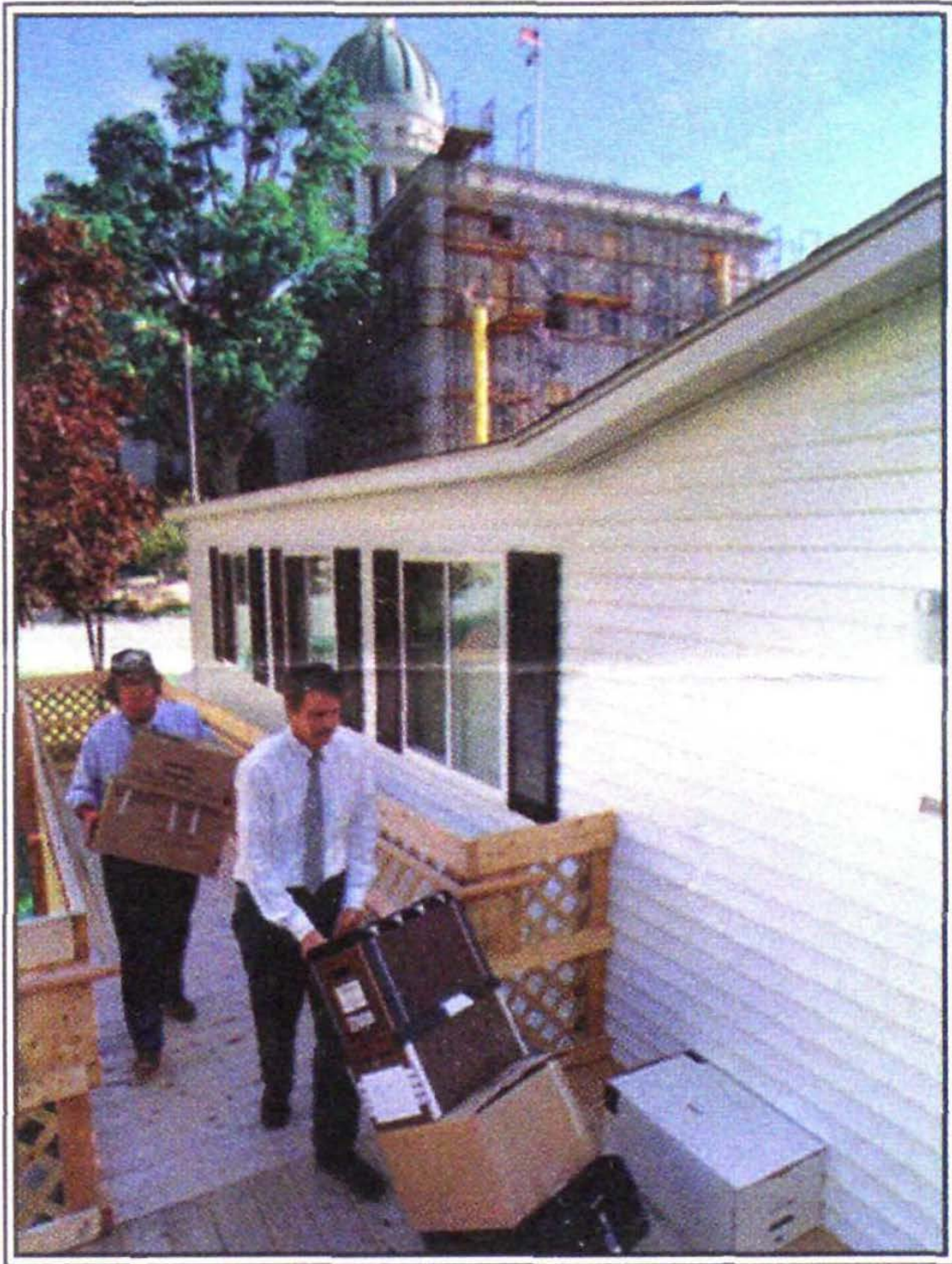
From his obituary: "He always referred to himself as a newspaperman and known to be objective, fair-minded, authentic and humble, along with having a special knack for developing interesting sources and stories."

If you have a favorite memory of working with him, please share it with Connecting.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Francis Quinn, longtime Maine AP State House reporter, dies at 70



Augusta AP's Glenn Adams and Fran Quinn moving into the media trailer. (Bukaty Photo)

Francis Quinn wearing ball cap in this 1999 New England Log photo, courtesy AP Corporate Archives.

MEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — Francis X. Quinn, a former Associated Press reporter who covered Maine government and politics with fairness and integrity for more than a

quarter century, has died. He was 70.

From 1981 to 2009, Quinn was a fixture in Maine where lawmakers and others described him as a quiet and humble observer with a deep knowledge of state politics — and who didn't tolerate spin or lies.

"None finer, funnier, or more quietly observant," Maine Gov. Janet Mills wrote in an online tribute.

Lee Umphrey, former communications director for then-incoming Gov. John Baldacci, became friends with Quinn but recalled a rough first meeting when he tried to steer Quinn away from a story.

"I ask the questions," Quinn retorted.

Quinn had an early interest in journalism, starting a sports column in the fifth grade. Later, he worked at several newspapers but the majority of his career, 28 years, was with The Associated Press at the Maine State House.

Raised in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Quinn loved Boston sports. As a kid, his favorite holiday was Patriots Day when he watched the Boston Marathon, followed by the Red Sox baseball game.

He attended Georgetown University and graduated from Boston College before launching his professional journalism career.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Bill Kole.

Click [here](#) for link to his obituary. Shared by David Tirrell-Wysocki, Adolphe Bernotas.

A pitch to read, watch and listen to the work that's happening right now...Texas has a lot of great newsrooms and journalists



[Kristen Hare](#) – *faculty member, Poynter Institute, and Connecting colleague* - This (Wednesday) morning, I sat next to my husband and rows of other parents in folding chairs on the basketball court of the school where my two children have spent most of the last six years. Fifth graders' names were called one by one as they graduated from elementary school. I knew them, they'd been in classes with my daughter since kindergarten.

They were little once, with messy untucked uniform shirts, sticky hands and loud voices. They're self-aware now, with neatly done hair, in dresses, bow ties and practiced smiles.

They were given awards including "biggest heart," "future CEO" and "best friend." We took pictures. My 11-year-old rolled her eyes a lot, but when she got home, she put the bright bunch of yellow flowers we gave her into water and disappeared in a trail of giggles with her friends.

Every family deserves this, I thought. Every community. Every child.

I'm not quite sure what to do after the horrific school shooting in Texas. I could interview reporters who covered Columbine, Sandy Hook and Parkland. I could share tips on mental health and covering trauma. I could follow the creeping numbness and pass this off as someone else's story to cover and absorb and get back to literally anything else.

Instead, I'm going to keep reading the work of the local journalists who will tell us what happened. I felt that familiar shock-then-numbness 11 days ago after the mass

shooting that targeted Black residents in Buffalo. What finally helped me break through it was reading the work of journalists at The Buffalo News.

This is not a pitch to support local news. It's a pitch to read, watch and listen to the work that's happening right now. Texas has a lot of great newsrooms and journalists.

They, and the people they're covering, deserve our attention.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Connecting confessional: **Mistakes that we make**

Joseph Carter - In Dallas, November 22, 1963, I was back-up reporter aboard the White House press bus for that other wire service when three shots rang out. Out the bus window, I saw people falling to the ground and a cop drop his motorcycle and dash up the "green grass knoll."

At the Trade Mart, I phoned (no cell phones then) the desk to report but instead I was told the grim news. Editor Jack Fallon but asked what I heard and saw. He said I said the cop dashed up the "green grassy knoll".

I recall—but I haven't got a copy of the transmission—that is what UPI reported in the breaking story.

Because I was overnight editor assigned and actually paid overtime to be "back up" dude because the regular correspondent, Al Spivak, was on vacation and the slot was vacant, I remained in Dallas when the press plane left. After a busy couple days, I took a free morning to take my son to view the scene of the shots.

Oops, I discovered the knoll was brown—winter kill! What happened? The apparent solution: the press bus windows had green tinted covers.

Yes, I was guilty of believing my lying eyes.

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Mike Holmes - Early in my AP career, I made a mistake that wound up being a scoop.

Covering the Iowa House of Representatives in the late 1970s was a B.C. (before computers or cell phones) endeavor. Reporters sat at a bench at the front of the House, but to file stories you had to use pay phones in a hallway behind the chamber.

Around 10 o'clock one morning, lawmakers passed a bill to make some minor change in tax law. There was still time to catch afternoon papers, so I ducked out and called in a BC (both cycles) brief.

While I was on the phone, the House voted to reconsider the bill to correct its effective date -- something my 100-word brief didn't even mention. However, that

action meant the bill had to remain in the House for 24 hours before it could get final approval.

Bigger things were on the day's agenda, and none of my colleagues mentioned the reconsideration when I got back to my seat. So imagine my surprise the next day, when the same bill came up for debate, again, and was passed, again.

Chuck Bullard of the Des Moines Register sat next to me. "You going to do anything on this?" he asked, hoping he wouldn't have to. I momentarily pondered the rigmarole that would be required to correct an essentially correct story.

"Nah," I replied, "We had it yesterday."

Connecting mailbox

Older you get, the more pet peeves you have

Jim Bagby - Retired sports ace Doug Tucker, whose sharp eye is equal to the AP copy he once produced, nailed an increasing reporting trend in the May 25 Connecting. He offered his latest pet peeve as reporters who forego questions in favor of telling their interviewees to "talk about" the subject at hand.

Tucker called it "a lazy way to elicit information and gather story-expanding quotes. It's also less effective than asking pointed, specific questions that draw the subject into a flow of conversation." Makes one wonder if the next step will be "Well, whatta ya wanna talk about tonight?" Makes me shiver, too.

Almost as much as baseball commentators who describe a short two-game series. Are there long ones? Or the high, towering fly ball. I keep looking for the low ones. Or for athletes who have improved by hard work; lately, we seem to hear only of those who "grinded." There's a word that has ground itself into, uh, the ground.

OK, I confess, the older I get, the more pet peeves I seem to accumulate.

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Hal Bock - Noting my friend Doug Tucker's criticism of "Tell me about.." I always found it a good way to begin a conversation which is how I wanted my interaction with athletes to go. Dickey was the only one who objected, although I believe it was more a matter of him being a wise guy with me.

On another matter, the Indianapolis 500 this weekend reminded me of another brush with death in the service of the AP. Sometime after Secretariat nearly sent me to the press box in the sky, I was covering Indy when it was suggested I take a ride around the track with the great Mario Andretti. Great idea, I thought.

On the day before the race, I met up with Andretti, note pad and recorder in hand. This was a time before New York had a seat belt law. I climbed into the passenger seat

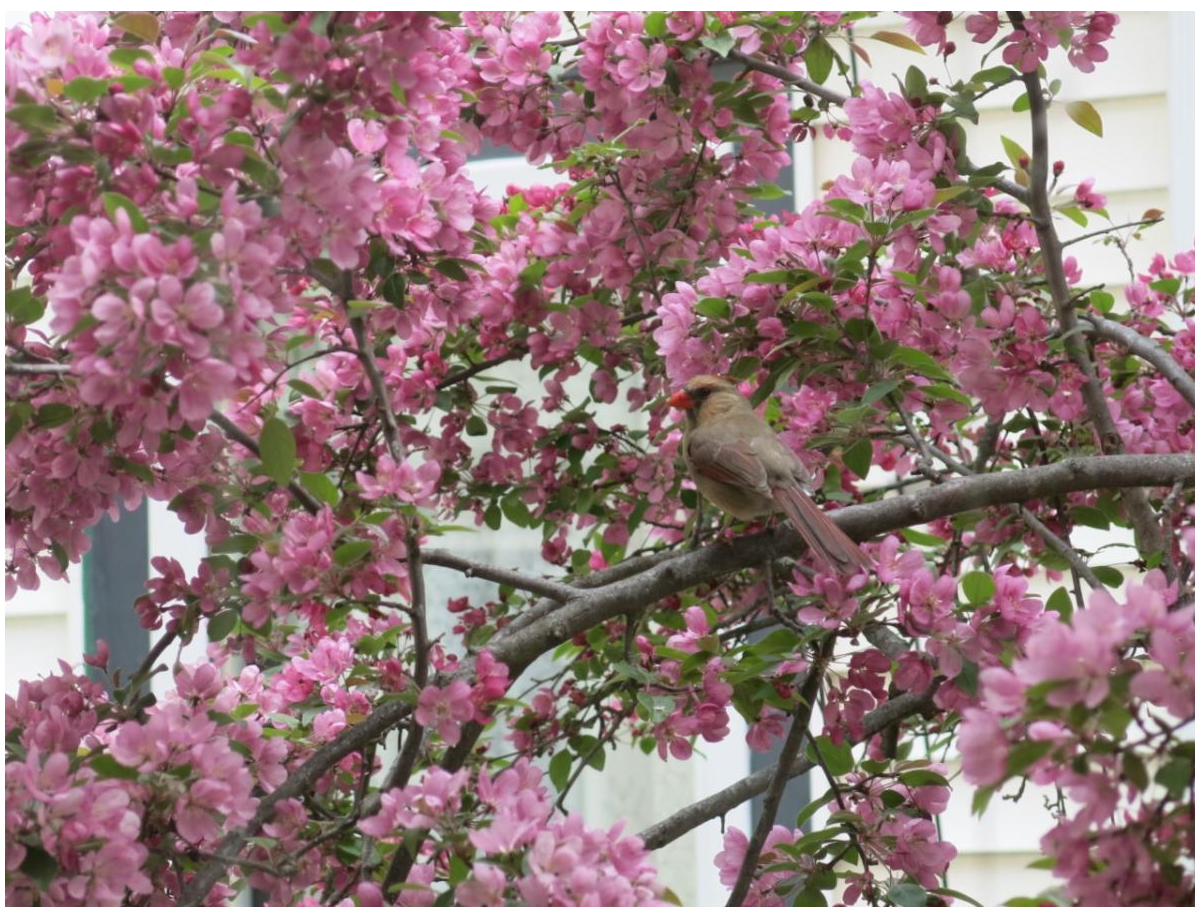
and off we went, without me wearing a seat belt. This is not a good idea when Mario Andretti is your driver.

We were soon zooming around the track with yours truly pinned against the passenger door, praying it would remain shut. The operative material on my tape is the zoom of the engine and then Andretti noting ``That was 100 miles per hour. On Sunday we'll be going twice as fast."

I am pleased to report that the door remained shut and, as in with my meeting with Secretariat, I lived. However, I never drove again without a seat belt.

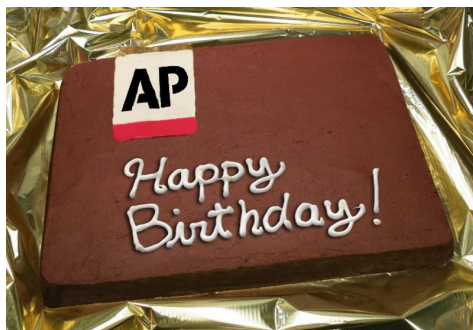
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Spring in Milwaukee



[Jim Carlson](#) – Yes, spring has arrived in Milwaukee. A female cardinal matches the crabapple blooms perfectly.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Harry Weber](#)

Stories of interest

Social media hammered by mounting questions over advertising (AP)

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Social media has had a rough 2022 with lingering questions about advertising spending, political ads and a \$44 billion takeover of Twitter that may or may not be happening, depending on which Elon Musk tweet you read.

Then late Monday Snap, which runs the Snapchat app that features vanishing messages and video special effects, issued a rather dire profit warning, saying that “the macroeconomic environment has deteriorated further and faster than anticipated,” since just last month.

Social media companies are competing for the same pool of advertising money that is increasingly under threat from spiking inflation and also changes at Apple Inc. that can restrict the information social media platforms can collect on users, a big selling point for advertisers.

Shares of Snap Inc. plunged 43% Tuesday.

And with Wall Street unsure if the company is an outlier or a canary in the social media coal mine, shares of Facebook parent Meta Platforms, Twitter, Alphabet and Pinterest all slumped alongside it.

Read more [here](#).

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Trump press secretary Sanders wins GOP Arkansas governor nod (AP)

By **ANDREW DeMILLO**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Sarah Sanders won the Republican nomination for governor in Arkansas on Tuesday, putting her on a clear path to lead a solidly red state where Donald Trump’s popularity has overshadowed questions about his administration’s credibility that she faced during her time as White House press secretary.

Sanders won the GOP primary for the office her dad, former Gov. Mike Huckabee, held for a decade after a race where she shattered fundraising records. Sanders bombarded the state’s airwaves with TV ads invoking the former president and going after his favorite targets, including President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Sanders headed into the primary virtually assured of the nomination, and she remains a heavy favorite in the general election in a state that hasn’t elected a Democrat governor since 2010. Nuclear engineer and ordained minister Chris Jones won the Democratic nomination in Tuesday’s primary.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

After Texas School Shooting, The Onion Posts 21 Stories on Homepage With the Same Headline: “No Way to Prevent This,” Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens’ (Variety)

By **Todd Spangler**

Since 2014, satirical website The Onion has published virtually the same article — each with the same headline, “No Way To Prevent This,’ Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens” — 21 times, each one following a major gun massacre in the United States.

On Wednesday, The Onion posted all 21 of the articles on its homepage, calling stark attention to the unabated epidemic of mass gun killings in the country. That included the latest installment in the series, following the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that left 19 children and two adults dead at an elementary school.

“UVALDE, TX — In the hours following a violent rampage in Texas in which a lone attacker killed at least 21 individuals and injured several others, citizens living in the only country where this kind of mass killing routinely occurs reportedly concluded Tuesday that there was no way to prevent the massacre from taking place,” reads the latest article.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 26, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 26, the 146th day of 2022. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

On this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1865, Confederate forces west of the Mississippi surrendered in New Orleans.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

In 1971, Don McLean recorded his song "American Pie" at The Record Plant in New York City (it was released the following November by United Artists Records).

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley were married in the Dominican Republic. (The marriage ended in 1996.)

In 2004, nearly a decade after the Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the attack. (Nichols later received 161 consecutive life sentences.)

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. California's Supreme Court upheld the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid.

In 2011, Ratko Mladic (RAHT'-koh MLAH'-dich), the brutal Bosnian Serb general suspected of leading the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys, was arrested after a 16-year manhunt. (Mladic was extradited to face trial in The Hague, Netherlands; he was convicted in 2017 on genocide and war crimes charges and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2020, Minneapolis police issued a statement saying George Floyd had died after a "medical incident," and that he had physically resisted officers and appeared to be in medical distress; minutes after the statement was released, bystander video was posted online. Protests over Floyd's death began, with tense skirmishes developing between protesters and Minneapolis police. Four police officers who were involved in Floyd's arrest were fired.

Ten years ago: Gruesome video posted online showed rows of dead Syrian children lying in a mosque in Houla, haunting images of what activists called one of the deadliest regime attacks yet in Syria's 14-month-old uprising. International space station astronauts floated into the Dragon, a day after its heralded arrival as the world's first commercial supply ship.

Five years ago: Two men were stabbed to death aboard a light-rail train in Portland, Oregon; police said the victims were trying to protect two women who were the target of a man's anti-Muslim rant. (Jeremy Christian would be convicted of murder and sentenced to two life prison terms without the possibility of parole.) President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski (ZBIG'-nyef breh-ZHIN'-skee), died in Falls Church, Virginia, at age 89. Hall of Fame pitcher and former U.S. senator Jim Bunning, 85, died in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

One year ago: A gunman killed nine co-workers at a Northern California rail yard before taking his own life as sheriff's deputies raced into the building. President Joe Biden ordered U.S. intelligence officials to "redouble" their efforts to investigate the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, including any possibility that the trail might lead to a Chinese laboratory. Amazon said it was buying the movie studio MGM for \$8.45 billion, with hopes of filling its video streaming service with more viewing options. Kevin Clark, who played drummer Freddy "Spazzy McGee" Jones in the 2003 movie "School of Rock," was killed when he was struck by a car while riding his bicycle along a Chicago street.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musburger is 83. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 77. Singer Stevie Nicks is 74. Actor Pam Grier is 73. Actor Philip

Michael Thomas is 73. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 73. Former British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 73. Actor Margaret Colin is 64. Actor Doug Hutchison is 62. Actor Genie Francis is 60. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 60. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 58. Actor Helena Bonham Carter is 56. Distance runner Zola Budd is 56. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 54. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 52. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 51. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 51. Singer Lauryn Hill is 47. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 44. Actor Elisabeth Harnois is 43. Actor Hrach Titizian is 43.

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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