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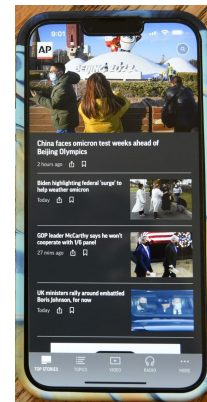
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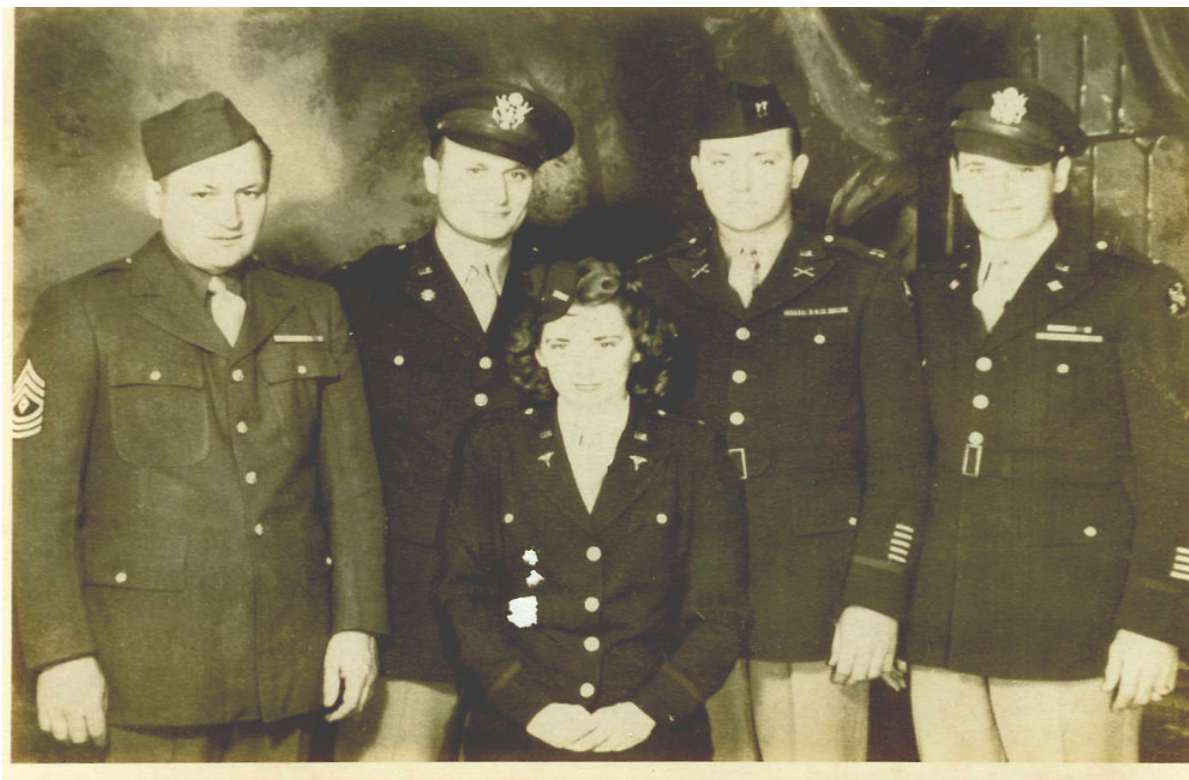
May 27, 2022

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Five Stevens who served in World War II. From left: Ed, Fritz, Esther, Walt and Al.

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this May 27, 2022,

Here's to a safe and wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

I had the privilege of honoring my dad, **Walter B. Stevens**, with a Memorial Day Edition story in the pages of the small Nebraska weekly where he launched his lifelong career in newspapering that spanned eight decades.

Dad and his three brothers and one of his sisters – five of the 10 children of **Margaret** and **Henry Stevens** - served in the Army during World War II. The photo above was taken in late 1945, after they had returned to their hometown of Hartington, Neb., and before they resumed their careers – my dad, heading to Missouri to be editor of the Excelsior Springs Daily Democrat, then on to newspapers in Iowa.

Rob Dump, publisher of the **Cedar County News** in Hartington, where dad began his newspaper career in 1933, asked if I would write a column for the News' Memorial Day special section about the five Stevens who served in the war - and I told him it would be an honor.

Click [here](#) for a link to the story, which appeared in Wednesday's News.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend – see you in your Inbox next Tuesday.

Paul

Applying automation in the newsroom



Vice President and Head of Global News Production Derl McCrudden, bottom left, outlines AP's use of AI in the newsroom during a webinar at the WAN-IFRA 2022 Asian Media Leaders Summit, May 25, 2022. (AP Photo)

By Nicole Meir

At the WAN-IFRA 2022 Asian Media Leaders Summit on Wednesday, Vice President and Head of Global News Production Derl McCrudden outlined how AP is using artificial intelligence in the newsroom.

"AI and automation have a place," McCrudden said, when asked about AI's role in the news-making process.

The objective, McCrudden explained, is to use AI and automation as a way of liberating news teams from tedious work and instead focus on producing higher-value journalism.

"AI is really about empowering our people, not replacing them," he stressed, saying it's "a way of getting rid of the mundane stuff, so you can focus on the stories that matter."

McCrudden outlined the ways in which AI and automation are applied to AP's news operations, including using AI not just as a newsgathering tool but also to increase audience engagement.

AP has used AI to manage information flows, produce audio-to-text transcriptions, help with text-to-text translations, create shot lists in predictable environments, write stories based on data sets, localize content and more.

AP started automatically generating corporate earnings stories in 2014 and has added automated game previews and recaps of some sports.

Watch a replay of McCrudden's presentation:

Read more [here](#).

Interviewing families, friends of victims of tragedies one of biggest challenges a journalist can face

Patrick Casey - How to cover a story with the victims' angry, soul-crushed families and friends reeling and wailing right in front of you? Gosh. Where to start? It's definitely learn as you go. I covered the Oklahoma City bombing from the first day and was at Ground Zero in New York City on Sept. 12, 2001, and the thing I quickly found out is that there is no manual for dealing with the madness. You must be completely sensitive to the situation, to the people you are interviewing and never be rude, pushy or aggressive even though you need to get the story. You have to make real friends with them, especially if you're covering the story over the long haul. You can't pretend phony stuff just to gain access or snag a quote -- they will sniff that out immediately -- and instead offer sincere friendship, empathy and as much understanding as you can for losses and emotional damage you will never, never understand. You need to take a deep breath occasionally as well and clear your mind of all the horrific things you are seeing - otherwise it will eat you up. You also have to tune things out and be mentally strong while working under unimaginable pressure. It's absolutely trial by error, do the best you can, one step at a time.

-0-

Dan Sewell - Trying to interview survivors or family members of those who died in tragedies is one of the most challenging tasks a journalist has.

But it is part of the job.

I was trying to remember how many mass shootings I've covered, and I came up with at least 8 (3 in schools). Add hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, a hotel fire, other disasters; murders, a military invasion and a federal building bombing, and it's a lot of those kinds of interviews.

I approached them with the philosophy that some people want to talk about the tragedy, want to tell people about their loved ones, so it can be therapeutic for them.

Some instead will become angry and call you "a vulture," or worse. Then you apologize for the intrusion, say "very sorry for your loss," and back right off.

I tried to do these solo when possible, because one person is obviously less intimidating than a pack. I put my notebook, recorder and phone away until after I introduced myself and asked if I could talk with them. If a photographer was with me, they'd stay back and keep their cameras down, usually letting me get into the interview and then at some point I would ask the subject if we could take photos.

One that worked out: on Palm Sunday, 1994, an F4 tornado collapsed a church roof during a service in Piedmont, Alabama, killing 20 people.

Pastor the Rev. Kelly Clem wasn't at her home when journalists showed up, but I knocked on a neighbor's door who told me the name of a relative she was staying with.

I called, and surprisingly, she came to the phone and was friendly. It turned out her 4-year-old daughter was among the dead. She talked about Hannah, chuckling about "the times I had with that child." She also talked at length about her role as pastor to help lead her congregation through its grief and to use faith for strength.

After our story moved, a couple local reporters admonished me, saying I had no business intruding upon her grief.

I had no regrets, because I knew she had found some relief in talking about her feelings and her little girl.

Connecting confessional: **Mistakes that we make**

Ron Fournier - Mistakes? I've made more than a few. The one that resonates the most occurred on a Saturday shift in the Little Rock bureau. I was running the report solo, picking up member copy and filing a couple AP enterprise pieces saved for the weekend. One of those was a story I had written midweek. It had been edited and polished by the news editor, who left it for me to push out Saturday morning. A few minutes after I pushed the button on the story, a member called to point out an error, which I corrected in a 1st Ld-Writethru. I had misspelled the byline. My byline. I misspelled my own damn name: "Fornier"

-0-

Doug Tucker - My biggest mistake was a real doozy, an embarrassing boo-boo for the ages. I told the world a major American city had vanished. Disappeared. Gone away.

I still don't think I deserved all the ensuing ridicule, though. Technically - TECHNICALLY - I was right. Plus, my unfortunately worded message accurately predicted the entire town would be right back.

Misfortune befell me many summers ago when I was manning the broadcast desk in Kansas City, the AP's control bureau for Kansas and Missouri. One of our regular fixtures in those days was something labeled "St. Louis Today."

A valuable planning tool for member newsrooms, SLT was a detailed listing of every city council meeting, garden club gathering, ballgame and bake sale. If it was happening in St. Louis the next day, it was noted in SLT.

But one Dec. 31 St. Louis sent word nothing was scheduled for the Jan. 1 holiday, so SLT would not be coming.

Knowing we'd get calls if it didn't move, I dutifully put out this message: "News Directors: There is no St. Louis today. It will return on Tuesday."

That evening, I was spending a quiet New Year's Eve with a friend when she shrieked "Doug! They're making fun of the AP on the news!"

I hurried in from the kitchen just in time to see the printer copy of my message displayed on the TV screen.

"There is no St. Louis today. It will return on Tuesday."

Golly, I thought, my heart sinking. It sure sounds different from how it looked on the broadcast wire, doesn't it?

"We received this startling news bulletin today from The Associated Press," said the grinning TV guy while a gaggle of studio folks chuckled in the background.

"But for our viewers who have friends and family in St. Louis, there is good news. We have checked. The city of St. Louis and all its citizens are still there, and everybody is OK."

The next few days I came in for some good-natured ribbing from some good-natured folks. But nothing more was said or done. If any of my bosses (there were quite a few) noticed what happened, they didn't think it was important enough to bring up. Which means, I'm sure, that they didn't notice.

Remembering AP Photo Editor Al Resch – he took a chance on me

[Gene Herrick](#) - I had a wonderful photographer's life with The Associated Press, and it was started, and refreshed, by head Photo Editor Al Resch. We were not related, and seldom talked, but we had rather great careers.

In 1946, I was a Wirephoto Operator in Cleveland, and one night the monitor in New York asked if Jim Mahler, the staff photographer, was covering the night Cleveland Indians baseball game. I told him that Mahler was out of town.

Bam! The monitor suggested I should go out and cover the game. Was he nuts, or was I nuts? I grabbed my old Burke and James 4x5 camera, and headed for the game. Astonishingly, I got a good picture, and early, then headed back to office and processing.

It wasn't very long that Resch called and offered me the Indianapolis Staff Photographer's post, which I gratefully, and astonished, accepted. Never, in all of my dreams, did I ever expect to receive a call like that. I said yes, my voice rather wobbly.

It was rather rapidly that I was on my way. John Jamison was the Chief of Bureau, and one of the nicest persons I have known.

That led to my exciting 28-year photographer career with the AP. I've never had regrets, except my last post, which I resigned in 1972.

Resch has passed on to the happy place, but my memories of him are a daily delight. He was not bubbly by nature, but conversing with him was always interesting and a pleasure.

I only met Resch twice in my 28 years, Once in Rapid City, S.D., and once in Minneapolis, when he transferred me to Chicago to go from staff photographer to a desk editor, mostly working on the new Midwest Wirephoto Network.

To this day I think of him and the risk he took taking me on staff. I tried hard at my assignments.

Thanks, Al, for the trust, and opening the door for me to have a wonderful and traveling AP career.

Guns – A Modest Proposal

Charlie Hanley – Would you report on COVID-19 without placing it in the context of its cause and its treatments? Would you report on climate change without mentioning carbon emissions and non-carbon solutions?

Years ago, when I was in a minor position of responsibility at 50 Rock, and the U.S. headlines, as ever, told of mass killing after mass killing (remember, even back in the '80s), I suggested it be made policy that every such AP story, from the first breaking moments, include boilerplate describing that state's gun laws – who can buy what under what circumstances etc. – and focus immediately and heavily on the guns involved in the story, even if it had to be “could not be immediately determined,” or “police did not immediately disclose.” Because that's the context. Simple as that. It's gun laws – both cause and solution. It's not “mental health” or any other canard the gunmongers might peddle (as though the U.S. has 10 or 20 times more mentally ill per capita than other, gun-sensible countries).

My idea got nowhere (“We'll get letters”), and I was dismayed over the years to see story after story – there were many fine exceptions, of course – that showed little curiosity about the weapon, its provenance and the legal context. As bodies pile up, the situation on the wire has no doubt improved. But it wasn't so long ago that I followed one school shooting over three AP cycles during which there was not a word on where, when, how, how legally did that 15- or 16-year-old girl, the shooter, end up with that gun in her hand. God's will?

Indy 500 memory: Getting to know James Garner

Michael Harris - Since this is the week of the Indy 500, I have been thinking about some of the great adventures I had at the Brickyard during my 47 years covering "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

I wrote this story for my blog, but I think it's worth repeating.

I got to meet and get to know some famous people during my years at Indy. One who actually became a friend was actor James Garner, a true fan of Indy car racing and the 500. I was introduced to Jim by Mario Andretti, and, after that, he would often stop by the AP office at the Speedway just to talk racing and hang out.

One day, he showed up just as a practice was starting and longtime Indianapolis News reporter Dick Mittman and I were walking toward the viewing area in the grass near the first turn. Other than the pits, it was the closest you could get to the track when the cars were running.

That area was fenced in. Behind the fence was the famed and infamous "Snake Pit," an area where in the old days at Indy it was like the wild west. It was much more tame by the 70's, but the area still attracted the great unwashed.

As Dick and I and Jim strolled onto the grassy area, a high-pitched female voice could be heard shouting, "Jimmy! Jimmy! Jimmy!"

We looked to see who was calling and it turned out to be a particularly buxom woman in short shorts and a tank top with piles of flaming red hair and a big toothy smile.

It was obvious she was calling to Jim Garner and he acknowledged her, waving and shouting, "Hi, honey!"

That didn't satisfy her. As we turned toward the track and the cars roaring past, over the sound of the engines, we heard, "Jimmy! Jimmy! Jimmy!"

Again he turned toward her with a wave and a smile. This time, she rewarded his attention by lifting her tank top and showing off her rather impressive assets.

Jim said, "Very nice, honey!"

But this young lady could not be deterred. She wanted more attention from the Hollywood star.

Again, we heard, "Jimmy! Jimmy! Jimmy!"

Jim was getting a bit peeved. He wanted to watch practice in peace.

Again he turned to look toward her. And again, she raised her top. This time, he said, "Honey, I've seen better" and turned back to the action on the track.

There was a chorus of laughter from both sides of the fence, and we heard no more from the young lady.

Online access to Saturday's memorial for Larry Heinzerling



Remembering Larry Heinzerling

Hosted by: Larry's Family

Saturday, May 28 at 11:00 AM ET

New York Society for Ethical Culture, Ceremonial Hall - 2 West 64th Street at Central Park West New York, NY 10023

Here are streaming details:

YOU TUBE:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKUC6MtwmS-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#

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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/kchtHHqPBr>

An AP 'find' in Florence photo shop

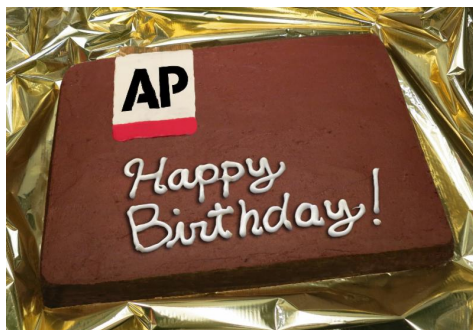






[Jim Reindl](#) - Photo shop in Florence, Italy with an old AP transmitter in the window. May 26, 2022.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Ruth Gersh](#)

On Sunday...

[Bryan Brumley](#)

[Arnold Garson](#)

[Ted Mendelsohn](#)

Story of interest

'We cannot sanitize these killings': News media considers breaking grimly routine coverage of mass shootings (Vanity Fair)

The Texas Tribune's staff has felt determined to aggressively cover this week's horrific school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, said editor in chief Sewell Chan, even as they are "exhausted that we have to cover this at all, exhausted that we have to cover this again, and resigned to taking part in what sometimes seems like a numb, meaningless ritual." In newsrooms across America, a country where mass shootings have become a gruesome facet of daily life, the process has sadly become routine. "We all know the playbook by now. We all know how it unfolds," Chan added. "The grief, the announcement, the outrage. Some semblance of public debate. And then generally no action. And that has been the pattern, really, for at least two decades, going back to Columbine."

Indeed, as NPR national correspondent Sarah McCammon put it, "I was in high school when Columbine happened. I had a kindergartener during Sandy Hook. I have an elementary school student now. And I've covered so many of these." With Tuesday's killing of at least 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school coming on

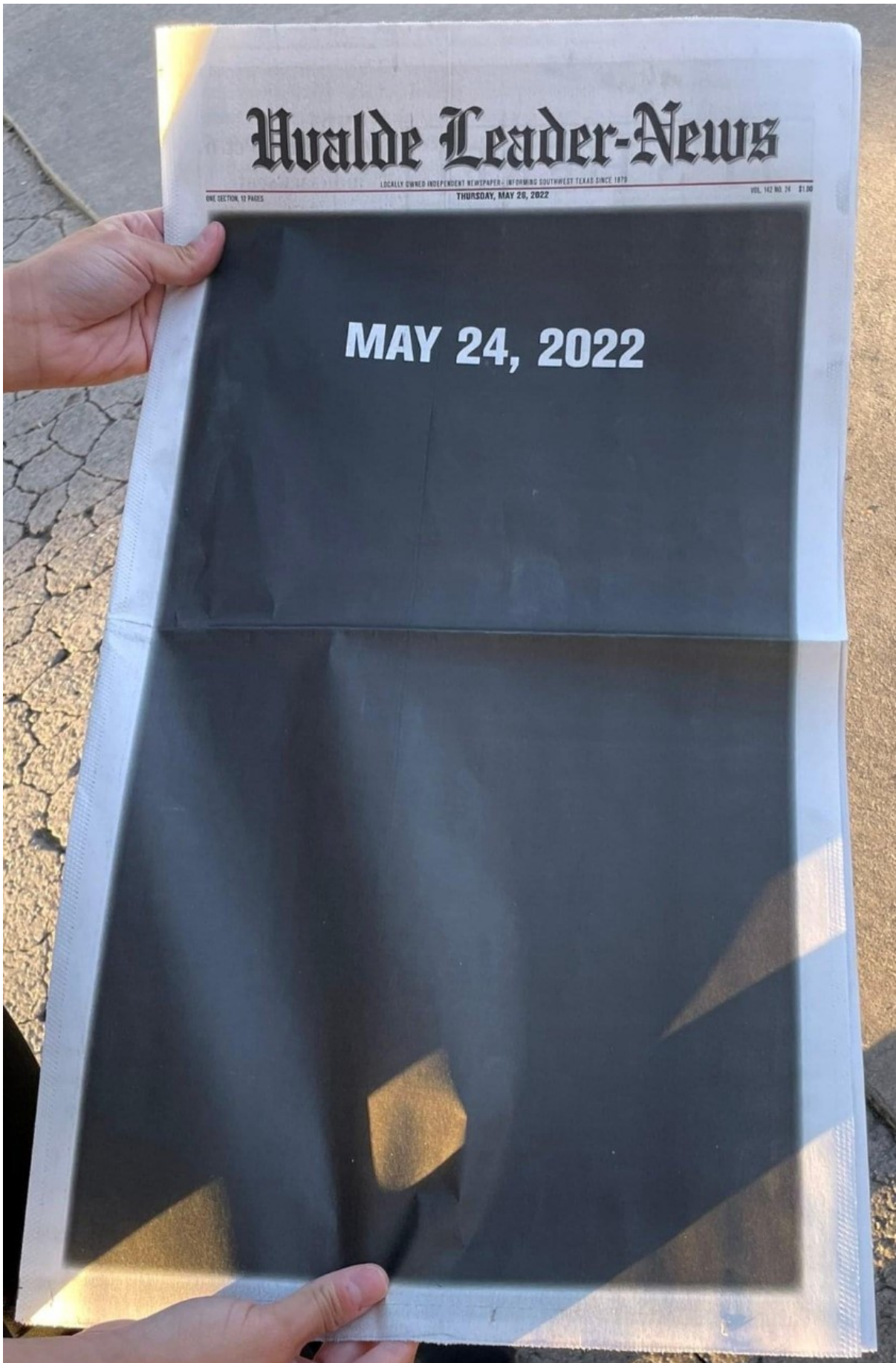
the heels of a mass shooting in a Buffalo supermarket—and amid decades of recurring tragedies in Newtown, Parkland, and elsewhere—journalists and academics are questioning whether the traditional coverage model is adequately capturing the carnage, and even considering whether showing more graphic footage would force the public, and political leaders, to fully confront the sickening reality of America's gun violence epidemic.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Crosses with the names of Tuesday's shooting victims are placed outside Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on Thursday. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)



The front page of Thursday's Uvalde Leader-News. Shared by Ed Williams.

Today in History - May 27, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 27, the 147th day of 2022. There are 218 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 27, 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, unanimously struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act, a key component of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislative program.

On this date:

In 1861, Chief Justice Roger Taney, sitting as a federal circuit court judge in Baltimore, ruled that President Abraham Lincoln lacked the authority to suspend the writ of habeas corpus (Lincoln disregarded the ruling).

In 1896, 255 people were killed when a tornado struck St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1936, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Mary left England on its maiden voyage to New York.

In 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, California, was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicles began crossing the next day).

In 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France with a loss of some 2,000 lives, three days after the Bismarck sank the HMS Hood with the loss of more than 1,400 lives. Amid rising world tensions, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed an "unlimited national emergency" during a radio address from the White House.

In 1942, Doris "Dorie" Miller, a cook aboard the USS West Virginia, became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross for displaying "extraordinary courage and

disregard for his own personal safety” during Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1957, the single “That’ll Be the Day” by Buddy Holly’s group The Crickets was released by Brunswick Records.

In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. O’Brien*, upheld the conviction of David O’Brien for destroying his draft card outside a Boston courthouse, ruling that the act was not protected by freedom of speech.

In 1993, five people were killed in a bombing at the Uffizi museum of art in Florence, Italy; some three dozen paintings were ruined or damaged.

In 1994, Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia to the emotional cheers of thousands after spending two decades in exile.

In 1998, Michael Fortier (FOR’-tee-ur), the government’s star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing case, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after apologizing for not warning anyone about the deadly plot. (Fortier was freed in January 2006.)

In 2020 protests over the death of George Floyd in police custody rocked Minneapolis for a second night, with some people looting stores and setting fires. Protests spread to additional cities; hundreds of people blocked a Los Angeles freeway and shattered windows of California Highway Patrol cruisers. The U.S. surged past a milestone in the coronavirus pandemic, with the confirmed death toll topping 100,000.

Ten years ago: Syria strongly denied allegations that its forces had killed scores of people — including women and children — in Houla, but the U.N. Security Council condemned government forces for shelling residential areas. Dario Franchitti won the Indianapolis 500 for the third time. Johnny Tapia, the five-time boxing champion whose turbulent career was marked by cocaine addiction, alcohol, depression and run-ins with the law, was found dead at his Albuquerque, New Mexico, home; he was 45.

Five years ago: British Airways canceled all flights from London’s Heathrow and Gatwick airports as a global IT failure upended the travel plans of tens of thousands of people on a busy U.K. holiday weekend. Music legend Gregg Allman, whose bluesy vocals and soulful touch on the Hammond B-3 organ helped propel The Allman Brothers Band to superstardom and spawn Southern rock, died at his home near Savannah, Georgia; he was 69.

One year ago: The Washington state attorney general charged two Tacoma police officers with murder and another with manslaughter in the death of Manuel Ellis, a Black man who died after repeatedly telling them he couldn’t breathe as he was being restrained. (The officers have pleaded not guilty.) Former House Speaker Paul Ryan, in a speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California, urged fellow conservatives to reject the divisive politics of former President Donald Trump as well as those Republican leaders who emulated him.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is 99. Author John Barth is 92. Actor Lee Meriwether is 87. Musician Ramsey Lewis is 87. Actor Louis Gossett Jr. is 86. Actor Bruce Weitz is 79. Former Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) is 78. Singer

Bruce Cockburn (KOH'-burn) is 77. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster is 75. Singer-actor Dee Dee Bridgewater is 72. Actor Richard Schiff is 67. Singer Siouxsie Sioux (The Creatures, Siouxsie and the Banshees) is 65. Rock singer-musician Neil Finn (The Finn Brothers) is 64. Actor Peri Gilpin is 61. Actor Cathy Silvers is 61. Comedian Adam Carolla is 58. Actor Todd Bridges is 57. Rock musician Sean Kinney (Alice In Chains) is 56. Actor Dondré Whitfield is 53. Actor Paul Bettany is 51. Rock singer-musician Brian Desveaux (Nine Days) is 51. Country singer Jace Everett is 50. Actor Jack McBrayer is 49. Rapper Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 47. Rapper Jadakiss is 47. TV chef Jamie Oliver is 47. Alt-country singer-songwriter Shane Nicholson is 46. Actor Ben Feldman is 42. Actor Michael Steger is 42. Actor Darin Brooks is 38. Actor-singer Chris Colfer is 32. Actor Ethan Dampf is 28. Actor Desiree Ross (TV: "Greenleaf") is 23. U.S. Olympic gold-medal-winning gymnast Jade Carey is 22.

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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