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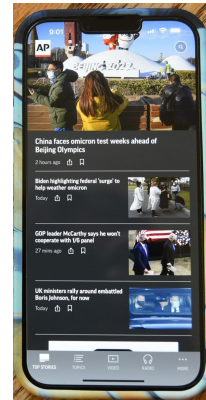
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# Connecting

July 12, 2022

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Good morning on this Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Today, Connecting brings the heart-warming story of Ed and Barbara Staats' love story that started with heart-breaking loss. Thanks [Adam Yeomans](#) for sharing that "there's life after. ...".

And how about sharing your Dog Days of Summer photos with Connecting. Dogs, cats, grandkids, you and yours, etc. We all know how difficult it can be filling a news report during these dog days.

Be well,

Peg

## Devastating battle with Alzheimer's leads to Louisville couple's love story

*(Spectrum News 1 Louisville)*



*Barbara and Ed Staats found an unlikely happy ending after both of their spouses passed away from Alzheimer's. (Photo contributed by Barbara Staats)*

**BY JACQULYN POWELL KENTUCKY**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — One Kentucky couple took the most unfortunate of circumstances and turned it all into a love story.

Barbara and Ed Staats met thanks to an Alzheimer's Association support group  
Both of their spouses passed away after battling Alzheimer's

Charlene Staats, who died in 2017 at age 78, supported her husband's four decades-long career as a reporter, editor and administrator for AP. Her husband was appointed in 1984 as the AP's Kentucky bureau chief, a position he held until retiring in 2002. Staats also previously served as the bureau chief in Albany, New York, for seven years. Now, the couple advocates for others suffering from the disease

Ed and Barbara Staats laugh looking back at how their romance began.

"Ed said to me, 'Would you like to go for coffee sometime?' And I was so shocked, because no man had asked me out in 40 years, you know, so I said, 'I don't know,' and I just ran out of the building. I just left him standing there," Barbara said, laughing.

They met each other in an Alzheimer's support group through the Greater Kentucky/Southern Indiana Alzheimer's Association. Both of them had been married for decades before Barbara's husband, Al and Ed's wife, Charlene, were diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Al and Charlene ended up in the same care facility and passed away within just a few months of each other.

“So we’d see each other,” Barbara said of Al. “And I did see what a wonderful caring man he was, and he came every day, and he treated her so well, and I thought that’s a special guy.”

Ed said after both of them took plenty of time to grieve, “There was a happy ending, so called, to that, with our marriage a couple of years after the spouses passed away.” “There’s life after Alzheimer’s.” Smiling, Barbara added, “There’s life after Alzheimer’s.”

However, their story doesn’t end with their wedding. Resources and support groups provided by the Alzheimer’s Association helped both of them so much in navigating the diseases that now, they spend their time helping other families in the same situation.

Barbara hosts special talks, giving people with the disease and their care-takers tools and useful information, along with sharing her personal experience with Al’s diagnosis. In June alone, which is Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month, she’s hosted nine of the talks.

Ed is there for every one of them. Barbara jokes that he’s her roadie, as he sits on standby to help with any technical issues and lovingly watches his wife.

Barbara said for the last nine years of Al’s life following his diagnosis, he worked to spread awareness about the disease.

“Of course, at first it was a terrible experience and was just heart wrenching, and we cried a lot, but once we got over all that, we decided that, ‘Ok, we need to accept this and we need to learn as much about this disease as we can and then go on and tell as many people about it as we can,’” Barbara said. “So he worked right up until he couldn’t anymore with his illness. He spoke before the legislators in Kentucky about what it did, how it affected him and how it affected our family. He was in trial studies and all kinds of things, trying to help as much as he could.”

Now, Barbara says as she continues that work, “For me, it’s a part of Al’s legacy. It’s keeping him alive in my heart and in my mind.”

Barbara and Ed add that they have a lot of respect for each other’s late spouses and those respective relationships.

“There’s no jealousy,” Barbara said. “We both still love our late spouses, of course. They were a part of our lives. But, we love each other now. It’s time to move on without forfeiting them. So we’re able to talk about them, you know, if all the sudden I hear a song and I get sad and I cry, he understands. Somebody else might not understand that.”

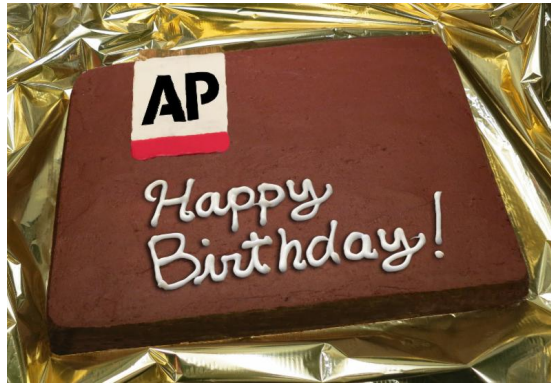
The Staats hope that as they continue to keep Al and Charlene’s memories alive and spread awareness about Alzheimer’s and Dementia, they can help with fundraising efforts for research about the disease.

## More iPhoneography

[Wendy Davis Beard](#) - British country estate open to public.



**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



Tuesday, July 12

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## Stories of interest

*Opinion: I stopped reading the news.*

*Is the problem me - or the product?* (The Washington Post)

By Amanda Ripley

(Amanda Ripley is the author of "High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped — and How We Get Out" and host of the Slate podcast "How To!")

I have a secret. I kept it hidden for longer than I care to admit. It felt unprofessional, vaguely shameful. It wasn't who I wanted to be.

But here it is: I've been actively avoiding the news for years.

It wasn't always this way. I've been a journalist for two decades, and I used to spend hours consuming the news and calling it "work." Every morning, I read The Washington Post, the New York Times and sometimes the Wall Street Journal. In my office at Time magazine, I had a TV playing CNN on mute. I listened to NPR in the shower. On weekends, I devoured the New Yorker. It felt like my duty to be informed, as a citizen and as a journalist — and also, I kind of loved it! Usually, it made me feel more curious, not less.

But half a dozen years ago, something changed. The news started to get under my skin. After my morning reading, I felt so drained that I couldn't write — or do anything creative. I'd listen to "Morning Edition" and feel lethargic, unmotivated, and the day had barely begun.

What was my problem? I used to cover terrorist attacks, hurricanes, plane crashes, all manner of human suffering. But now? I was too permeable. It was like I'd developed a gluten allergy. And here I was — a wheat farmer!

So, like a lot of people, I started to dose the news. I cut out TV news altogether, because that's just common sense, and I waited until late afternoon to read other news. By then, I figured, I could gut it out until dinner (and wine).

But the news crept into every crevice of life. I couldn't avoid exposure — in my email inbox, on social media, in text messages from friends. I tried to toughen up. I gave myself stern lectures: "This is real life, and real life is depressing! There is a pandemic happening, for God's sake. Plus: Racism! Also: Climate change! And inflation! Things are depressing. You should be depressed!"

The problem is, I wasn't taking action. The dismay was paralyzing. It's not like I was reading about yet another school shooting and then firing off an email to my member of Congress. No, I'd read too many stories about the dysfunction in Congress to think that would matter. All individual action felt pointless once I was done reading the news. Mostly, I was just marinating in despair.

I went to a therapist. She told me (ready?) to stop consuming the news. That felt wrong. Wasn't it important to be informed? Quitting the news felt like quitting the world.

Then one day a journalist friend confided that she was avoiding the news, too. Then I heard it from another journalist. And another. (Most were women, I noticed, though not all.) This news about disliking news was always whispered, a dirty little secret. It reminded me of the scene in "The Social Dilemma," when all those tech executives admitted that they didn't let their kids use the products they had created.

And that gets to the heart of the problem here: If so many of us feel poisoned by our products, might there be something wrong with them?

Last month, new data from the Reuters Institute showed that the United States has one of the highest news-avoidance rates in the world. About 4 out of 10 Americans sometimes or often avoid contact with the news — a higher rate than at least 30 other countries. And consistently, across all countries, women are significantly more likely to avoid news than men. It wasn't just me and my hypocrite journalist friends after all.

Why are people avoiding the news? It's repetitive and dispiriting, often of dubious credibility, and it leaves people feeling powerless, according to the survey. The evidence supports their decision to pull back. It turns out that the more news we consume about mass-casualty events, such as shootings, the more we suffer. The more political news we ingest, the more mistakes we make about who we are. If the goal of journalism is to inform people, where is the evidence it is working?

So maybe there is something wrong with the news. But what? A lot of people say the problem is bias. Journalists say the problem is the business model: Negativity is clicky. But I've started to think that both theories are missing the most important piece of the puzzle: the human factor.

Read more [here](#).

Shared by Sylvia Christensen, Harry Dunphy, Len Iwanski, Bill McCloskey.



*(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)*

## ***EXPLAINER: What happens next in the Musk-Twitter saga?***

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Reporter

### Summary

Elon Musk and Twitter are bracing for a legal fight after the billionaire said Friday he was abandoning his \$44 billion bid for the social media company. Twitter is vowing to challenge Musk in court to uphold the agreement. Shares of Twitter slid about 10% on Monday. There are many questions left for Twitter users, investors and others to mull — including why Musk backed out and whether Twitter can legally force him in court to go through with the deal he signed.

### Story Body

Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Twitter are bracing for a legal fight after the billionaire said Friday he was abandoning his \$44 billion bid for the social media company. Twitter is vowing to challenge Musk in court to uphold the agreement. Shares of Twitter slid more than 11% on Monday. Here's a look at what could happen next.

Read more [here](#).

## ***Fact check: Journalists are not all rich elites, as a Fox News guest claimed*** (Poynter)

**By Gabrielle Settles**

As a fact-checking reporter, I'm no stranger to hot takes about my job.

My colleagues and I face daily rhetoric about what we do. Claims that we're a part of the "liberal mainstream media" have become commonplace — and unfortunately, we've had to come to grips with other verbal attacks that are more direct, and spiteful.

But a month or two ago, there was one particular claim about journalists that, quite frankly, shocked me to hear — that we're all rich.

On a May 19 episode of his Fox News show, "Jesse Watters Primetime," Watters hosted Batya Ungar-Sargon, deputy opinion editor at Newsweek.

Watters had just finished delivering a monologue blaming the Biden administration for high inflation, baby formula shortages, the fallout from the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, and more. He predicted a summer of rage in 2022, but, he said, the media wouldn't cover the chaos accurately, and would make the president look good instead.

Then he asked Ungar-Sargon for her thoughts on the media and the nation's problems.

"They don't care about these issues," Ungar-Sargon said. "And the reason they don't care about these issues is because they are not struggling with these issues. American journalists are part of the elites. They are rich. They are not out there, struggling to pay for gas. They are not living in crime-ridden cities. Those are their neighbors who they don't care about, who they abandoned when they stopped being working class and became part of the elites."

To say that all journalists in America belong to the same class is wrong. True, there are some, especially those on television, who have gained wealth and notoriety. But journalists in this country fall along a wide range of salaries, from \$20,000 to \$100,000 or above.

The second part of Ungar-Sargon's claim struck me as even more wrong — because journalists absolutely do care about the communities around us.

Local and national journalists have been at the forefront of covering multiple tragic mass shootings, baby formula shortages, the continued effects of COVID-19 in our country and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

Fact-checking claims about my own profession could open me up to charges of bias. But in this case, I think the facts are on my side. What do you think?



Read more [here](#).

# The Last Word

## *What are the Dog Days of Summer?*

By Farmers' Almanac Staff

The “Dog Days” of summer are from July 3 to Aug. 11 each year. They’re usually the hottest and most unbearable days of the season.

We often hear about the “Dog Days” of summer, but few know where the expression originated. Some think it’s a reference to the hot, sultry days that are “not fit for a dog.” Others suggest it’s the time of year when the extreme heat drives dogs mad. But where does the term come from? And what does it have to do with dogs? You may be surprised to see it has to do with the stars.

The phrase is a reference to Sirius, the Dog Star. During the “Dog Days” period, the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth. Sirius is a part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog.

In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun. On July 23rd, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the Sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *diēs caniculārēs*, or “dog days.”

Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3 to August 11 each year.

While this period usually is the hottest stretch of summer, the heat is not due to any added radiation from Sirius, regardless of its brightness. The heat of summer is simply a direct result of the Earth’s tilt.

During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun’s rays to hit at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days.

## Today in History – July 12, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 12, the 193rd day of 2022. There are 172 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 12, 1909, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing for a federal income tax, and submitted it to the states. (It was declared ratified in February 1913.)

### On this date:

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr.

In 1812, United States forces led by Gen. William Hull entered Canada during the War of 1812 against Britain. (However, Hull retreated shortly thereafter to Detroit.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1908, comedian Milton Berle was born Mendel Berlinger in New York City.

In 1965, the Beach Boys single "California Girls" was released by Capitol Records.

In 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a Black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed a measure creating the Congressional Budget Office. Former White House aide John Ehrlichman and three others were convicted of conspiring to violate the civil rights of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

In 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running-mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

In 1991, a Japanese professor (Hitoshi Igarashi) who had translated Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was found stabbed to death, nine days after the novel's Italian translator was attacked in Milan.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 2016, with hugs and handshakes, Bernie Sanders endorsed Hillary Clinton for president during an appearance in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden rallied support for President Barack Obama at the NAACP's convention in Houston, declaring that Republican challenger Mitt Romney's election-year agenda would hurt — not help — working families in the black community. A scathing report by former FBI Director Louis Freeh said the late Joe Paterno and other top Penn State officials had buried child sexual abuse allegations against Jerry Sandusky more than a decade earlier to avoid bad publicity.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the FBI, Christopher Wray, told a Senate panel that he did not believe that a special counsel investigation into possible Russian ties between Russia and the Trump campaign was a "witch hunt," as Trump had characterized it. Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was found guilty of corruption and money laundering and sentenced to almost 10 years in prison.

One year ago: New COVID-19 cases per day in the U.S. were more than twice as high as just three weeks earlier, jumping to an average of about 23,600; the increase was driven by the fast-spreading Delta variant, lagging vaccination rates and Fourth of July gatherings. Fire swept through a coronavirus ward at a hospital in southern Iraq, killing more than 90 people; it was the second catastrophic fire in less than three months to kill hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Iraq. Former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards died at 93; the Democrat had served four terms as governor and dominated the state's politics for decades, but also spent eight years in federal prison for taking payoffs to help steer riverboat casino licenses to his cronies.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-musician Christine McVie is 79. Actor Denise Nicholas is 78. Singer-songwriter Butch Hancock is 77. Fitness guru Richard Simmons is 74. Singer Walter Egan is 74. Writer-producer Brian Grazer is 71. Actor Cheryl Ladd is 71. Gospel singer Ricky McKinnie is 70. Country singer Julie Miller is 66. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 66. Actor Mel Harris is 66. Actor Buddy Foster is 65. Rock guitarist Dan Murphy (Soul Asylum) is 60. Actor Judi Evans is 58. Rock singer Robin Wilson (Gin Blossoms) is 57. Actor Lisa Nicole Carson is 53. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 51. Country singer Shannon Lawson is 49. CBS newsman Jeff Glor is 47. Actor Anna Friel is 46. R&B singer Tracie Spencer is 46. Actor Alison Wright is 46. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., is 46. Actor Steve Howey is 45. Actor Topher Grace is 44. Actor Michelle Rodriguez is 44. Actor Kristen Connolly is 42. Country singer-musician Kimberly Perry (The Band Perry) is 39. Actor Matt Cook (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 38. Actor Natalie Martinez is 38. Actor Bernard David Jones is 37. Actor Ta'Rhonda Jones is 34. Golfer Inbee Park is 34. Actor Melissa O'Neil is 34. Actor Rachel Brosnahan is 32. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast Jordyn Wieber is 27. Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai is 25.

# Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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