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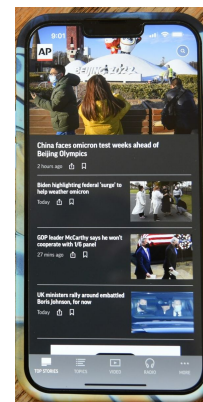
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Connecting

July 18, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this July 18, 2022,

Remember the New York City blackout of 1977? If you were working at AP Headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza back on that July day 45 years ago, there's little doubt that it's a memory that stays with you to this day.

From time to time, our colleagues in AP Corporate Archives dig into the files and contribute an AP memory of years ago. In today's Connecting, we bring you four pages from the AP Log that tell how AP people coped with the blackout to keep news flowing. There are many familiar names in the Log story including some who are current Connecting colleagues.

Our thanks to **Francesca Pitaro** of Corporate Archives for sharing.

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

Paul

ap LOG

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10020

July 18, 1977

HOW WE COVERED THE BLACKOUT

The New York City Bureau was investigating reports of scattered power outages.

The General Desk was interrupting a story on the Spanish parliament to move an urgent from Washington on the neutron bomb.

Before Karl Swanson, the bureau night supervisor, could complete his check on the outages; before "A" Wire filer William Gillen could move the urgent, at 9:34 p.m. EDT, it happened.

The blackout.

Though most state and regional wires kept right on going, national wires routed through the New York computer system stopped. National DataStream stopped. The "A" went dead. Sports, National Broadcast, Wirephoto, World Services. With only a few exceptions, everything in New York. Dead.

With electrical power gone, the AP staff got going.

Staffers moved quickly in New York and elsewhere. Rapidly, The Associated Press recovered, blanketed the story, shifted for backup to regional computers, moved responsibility for the national and international AP report to Washington and delivered thorough coverage of the blackout and other major developments to its members.

The first priority: Deliver the story.

While arrangements were being completed for

passing responsibility to Washington, Swanson dictated a bulletin to the Philadelphia bureau, which used its own computer to immediately relay the story to other AP regional headquarters. From there, news of the blackout went on state circuits. About 40 minutes elapsed from the time the power failed until most members got a publishable story. Another lead was dictated to Philadelphia for relay. Additional staffers were summoned in the event Philadelphia, rather than Washington, had to become the temporary General Desk.

Within an hour, Swanson deployed 25 reporters, many volunteering before they could be called. A few yards away, the General Desk also was gearing up. Every off-duty General Desk staffer except those out of town on vacation volunteered to help.

This initial response, and subsequent efforts by the editorial, photo and communications staffs, put The AP far ahead of competitive services in meeting that first priority — delivering the news.

While state wires relayed national copy, Washington Chief of Communications Larry Stephens revived the "A" in all newsrooms outside the Northeast, rerouting circuits which normally originate in New York through Chicago and Kansas City. New York Communications Manager Bill Lenz rearranged strategic telephone connections on emergency power.

By about midnight, national DataStream and "A" wires were operating. Sports stories, including leads on the night's baseball games, continued to be relayed on state circuits until the sports wire was restored about 1:30 a.m.

APRadio was never disrupted because it's based in Washington. Wirephoto was handled by Washington for about 30 minutes until it went on emergency power, and regional bureaus filed national broadcast news on state circuits until national broadcast operations went manual at midnight.

Eugene Juerling, coordinator of international communications, patched a Telex system into emergency generator power to get copy to and from the United States. London assumed control for all areas within its reach: Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Soviet Union and India. London

Continued on page 2

'WELL DONE'— FULLER

President and General Manager Keith Fuller messaged AP bureaus his assessment of the staff's response to the blackout emergency:

"Once again the AP staff has performed very well in meeting an extraordinary challenge. I express my personal thanks to all members of the staff who helped continue our service during the New York blackout. We will be looking at our operation and our systems to see what might be done differently and better if there is a next time, but the AP performance this time should make every staff member proud."

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Jerry Mosey, standing, and Burt Berliner plan picture prospects.



Sam Boyle, left, Tom Kelly and Karl Swanson make plans.

BLACKOUT

Continued from page 1

was hooked into the domestic "A" to get U.S. stories for its needs. Tokyo handled the Pacific and Southeast and Northeast Asia. And London, Washington and Tokyo also coordinated efforts through telephone communication. World Services used the RadioPhoto circuit to transmit photographs of the blackout story to Latin and South American members and then kept copy moving via Telex.

Washington summoned reinforcements when the New York computer signaled failure and it became apparent that filing responsibilities would be shifted. An expanded Washington desk was organized quickly, in time to wrap up an AMs report that, with the blackout stories, included the shooting down of an American helicopter over North Korea and the apparent suicide of a congressman's wife. Then, in telephone coordination with General

Desk early supervisor Bill Ahearn and his crew, Washington turned out a thorough PMs report.

When the blackout came, it interrupted dinner at a Manhattan restaurant for General Desk staffers Jim Donna, Gerry LaBelle, Eileen Powell and Roger Petterson. After trying unsuccessfully to telephone the desk, they headed to the office — but not before Donna forked over \$4 to the bartender for eight table candles.

Those candles, and some left from the 1 blackout, eventually would light the manual typewriters reporters and editors had to use once their cathode ray tube screens went dark. And in this electronic age it took a few moments of scrounging through other offices to produce enough manual typewriters to go around.

The night General Desk supervisor, Sam Boyle, was returning from the cafeteria when the lights at Rockefeller Center dimmed. Before he could sit



Dave Riley, foreground, Warren Leary and Washington staffers prepare national report.



Lou Boccardi, left, Burl Osborne, Larry Blasko, Wayne Parrack and Ben Helling activate computer.



Dennis Eskow, left, Julie Dunlap and Supervisor Bill Ahearn wrap up PMs report.

down with his ham and cheese, the office turned black. Even before the few emergency light bulbs flickered on, City Bureau staffers already were on the telephones — which somehow kept working — with Con Ed, the police and other emergency agencies.

Malcolm Carter, who had just finished his shift in the New York City bureau, returned and began writing the main story. Bureau News Editor Tom [unclear] arrived a few minutes later, followed shortly by New York Chief of Bureau Craig Ammerman. Sidebars began flowing — Tom Crane's recollection of the 1965 blackout and report on transit problems, Mary Campbell's eyewitness report from a Broadway show and Ray Pike's compilation of vignettes.

General Executive Dan Perkes saw the blackout triggered by a lightning strike at the Con Ed Indian Point plant near his home and provided key



Switchboard operator Michele Lockhart works by candlelight.

eyewitness detail in early stories.

Reports on looting came from Jane See White, who would spend most of three days in Harlem; early street reaction from Marc Charney in Greenwich Village and Jackie Stone in Times Square; Bill Murphy and Mike Precker covered rioting in the Bronx House of Detention and the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn.

The Albany AP bureau, meanwhile, did its own blackout story and filed it to the Northeast. "We couldn't get through to New York at all, so basically we had to assume that New York didn't exist at all," said night supervisor Pete Jacobs.

In Washington, PMs supervisor Dave Riley, with Dave Espo, Mike Aaron and Joe Hebert were on duty when power failed in New York. Science Writer Warren Leary and Evans Witt of the Special Assignment Team were in the bureau and

Continued on page 4



Operator Richard O'Neill foreground, manually operates broadcast wire as Bryan O'Hanlon edits.



The end of a long night for sports writer Fred Rothenberg.

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BLACKOUT

Continued on page 3

were tapped for duty. A dozen other reinforcements headed for the office, along with Chief of Bureau Marvin L. Arrowsmith, who directed Washington operations with Special Correspondent Walter R. Mears.

Once the telephone dictation on the blackout was switched from Philadelphia to Washington, AMs leads were handled there by Don Rothberg, chief of the Washington Congressional staff; Witt handled early PMs.

It would have been a hectic Wednesday night for Washington in any event. Jurate Kazickas had the White House bulletin that an American helicopter had been shot down over North Korea. Mike Putzel learned that the wife of a congressman involved in last year's sex scandal had shot herself, and Ann Blackman, who is married to Putzel, developed that story. Dave Espo reported on a missing Soviet defector who was a U.S. double agent. Assistant News Editor Mike Sniffen, who rearranged the staff into national, international and Washington desks, also wrote — based on a late-night tip — a PMs budget on a plan to end federal housing subsidies.

Mears rallied a dictation pool to take incoming story calls from bureaus around the globe until Stephens altered the Washington system to accept high-speed stories normally routed to New York.

The first sports department confrontation with the blackout came when the lights went out during the Cubs-Mets game at Shea Stadium. Other AMs sports stories had cleared, but only one of 13 baseball games had ended. Again, the backup was in the regional hubs.

Staffers at major league ball parks adjusted and telephoned their stories to Chicago, which sent them on the AP's single-circuit, or interbureau, wire. The hubs relayed them to state and regional wires.

Bureaus pitched in to help prepare and transmit other sports copy. Chicago produced a set of standings. The baseball all-star story was written in New York and telephoned to Kansas City. The Shea game was telephoned to Boston.

Baseball box scores had to wait for power to be restored.

Later, Seattle repeated the sports file so New York could see what had been done. "When that finally happened, we knew what a good job the whole country had done during the dark hours," said Sports Editor Wick Temple.

Chicago was ready to file the business news wire when it opened for PMs. New York's financial institutions were closed, but otherwise it was business pretty much as usual for AP members, who got spot news and early commodity tables.

New York began to transmit directly on the wire again at about 7 a.m. EDT Thursday when a CRT, using emergency power, was connected by telephone to the Washington computer. It allowed New York to move copy directly onto DataStream and

**When Lights Went Out
The Calls Came In**

AP switchboard operator Michelle Lockhart suddenly became the lone operator of a very important telephone exchange when the New York blackout occurred.

At first, her only light was a dim glow from a single console pushbutton. But she got more light when a copy boy "came by with a candle and stood it in my coffee mug — which wasn't empty." And she got assistance when colleague Celia McNally hustled in to help out.

City desk assistant Jerry Jackson joined the both operators with a walkie talkie. Because technical problems prevented City Bureau telephones from ringing, Jackson would alert News Editor Tom Kelly via walkie talkie when calls came in. Kelly would tell Jackson where the call should go and it would be put through to a waiting writer.

the "A." The first item updated the PMs Blackout budget. By 11:30 a.m., full power was restored and New York computers were back in operation.

"The skill and dedication of hundreds of staff members kept AP service going through the night. We are proud of every one of them," said Vice President and Executive Editor Louis D. Boccardi who was packing for a vacation when his light went out. It was delayed when he returned to the office to provide assistance, with AP Managing Editor Burl Osborne.

In the end, it was the sweeping, smash play in AMs and PMs newspapers throughout the world that provided the testimonial for the AP team.

"I have no way of knowing how many AP employees actually contributed to our report that night," Ammerman said. Boyle agreed: "So much good work by so many on the power failure story that it is hard to write about it without overlooking someone."

One sidebar included a little tweaking from Richard Pieniac, a bureau staffer who commutes from Nutley, N.J. His first assignment was to stay at home and monitor New York radio and TV stations. He also wrote what it was like NOT to be affected, to enjoy TV, air conditioning and cold milk.

The AP team effort kept on going after operations returned to normal. Marc Rosenwasser wrote a story describing ghostlike New York streets the day after the blackout. His story included information from Ron Thompson, deputy director of personnel, who interviewed passers-by as he walked to work from the East Side; Enterprise Editor Jeffrey D. Alderman, who did the same from the West Side; Tel Aviv Bureau Chief Frank Crepeau, in New York on leave, who visited Times Square; and Business News writer Bob Holden, who provided notes on Wall Street and the World Trade Center. □

Photo heroes



Dirck Halstead's sister Anne McPherson enthusiastically spreads Dirck's ashes at the family plot at Hopewell Cemetery with his cousin Welthy Soni-Myers at right. Photo/David Kennerly



From left: Dave Burnett, David Kennerly and Rick Smolan at Saturday's memorial for Dirck. Photo/Rolfe Tessem

[David Kennerly](#) - My buddy Dirck Halstead had a final wish. Saturday, it was fulfilled.

We spread his ashes at the grave of his hero Robert Capa at Amawalk Hill Cemetery in Amawalk, NY. When he was only 16 years old, Dirck documented Capa's burial. He followed in Capa's footsteps throughout his career. I also placed some of his ashes enclosed in a small Canon camera battery container next to the Capa tombstone. Dirck, a lifelong Canon user, would have gotten a charge out of that!



Photo/David Kennerly

Thanks to Dirck's sister Anne Macpherson for assembling friends and relatives at the Brinckerhoff Inn in Fishkill, NY and at the Halstead family plot at the Hopewell Cemetery in Hopewell Junction. Lots of love expressed. Also attending were photographers Dave Burnett and Rick Smolan along with cameramen Tony Hirashiki, Rolphe Tessem and his partner Linda Ellerbee.

David Snider, who created the Digital Journalist with Dirck, gave a heartfelt talk about how much Dirck did for him. Some of Dirck's cousins and high school classmates also attended. The main theme was all the things that Dirck did to help others during a long and glorious career.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Click [here](#) for New York Times story on the death in late March of Dirck Halstead, who photographed world-shaking events for half a century for United Press International, Time magazine and other news outlets.

Connecting mailbox

Changes in candidate availability

Julie Inskoop - I enjoyed reading Mike Holmes piece on whether an editorial endorsement really matters.

And I do believe that the people who cover our elected officials and candidates closely have unique insights that can help voters.

However, I have to react to his statement that no candidate ever refused his offer of an interview and the chance to earn their endorsement.

That was the case for us for many, many years but not recently. The reaction and availability of candidates (especially elected officials) has changed dramatically in the last several years.

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Gathering of AP Pulitzer winners



Peter Arnett – With the commemorative service for Walter Mears to be held this Friday, I thought it was timely to share this photo from my files. It was taken at an AP gathering in New York in the late 1980s that brought together seven Pulitzer Prize

winners. From left: Saul Pett, Peter Arnett, Walter Mears, Malcolm Browne, Nick Ut, Horst Faas and Eddie Adams.

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Birthdays come in five sections

Gene Herrick - Birthdays are those so-called Special Days when we acknowledge the fact that we were born.

They come in five sections:

1. When we reach the age of about 5, and can recognize that family and friends are making to-dos over you, and wearing funny hats, and singing "Happy Birthday." We think this is great.
2. Teen-age – That period in one's life, between 11 and 16, which seems to be awkward, and out of place with everybody and everything.
3. Then 17-25, when one has trouble identifying oneself. One doesn't know if he/she is a teen-ager, or blooming young adult, with possibilities of being accepted into the society of mankind.
4. That period after 25 until 40, when we think we are hot "Tomatoes," and work hard at feeding our egos.
5. Then, 41 until... We figure we are at that great age of doing, being and recognized by friends, relatives and bosses. Our aim was to really be somebody. But, what is a somebody? All I know is that I have tried to live a life to its uttermost, and in a respectable way.

God willing, and the creeks don't rise, I will observe, celebrate, my 96th birthday this month. I hope to honor God and myself by looking in the mirror and saying, "You gave your all and spent almost all of the time being creative, loving, appreciative of God, and mankind."

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'This is my book, and there's no comma'

Ed Williams - "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth."

-Isaiah 21:6 KJV

As reported by Josh Dewberry in The Monroe Journal:

Lee Sentell, the state tourism director, said the following comma story was told during a luncheon in Monroeville with Nelle Harper Lee present.

When Miss Lee received an advance copy of the dust jacket for "Go Set a Watchman," there was a comma after "Go." She said the comma shouldn't be there, but she was told that the King James Version contains such a comma in Isaiah 21:6.

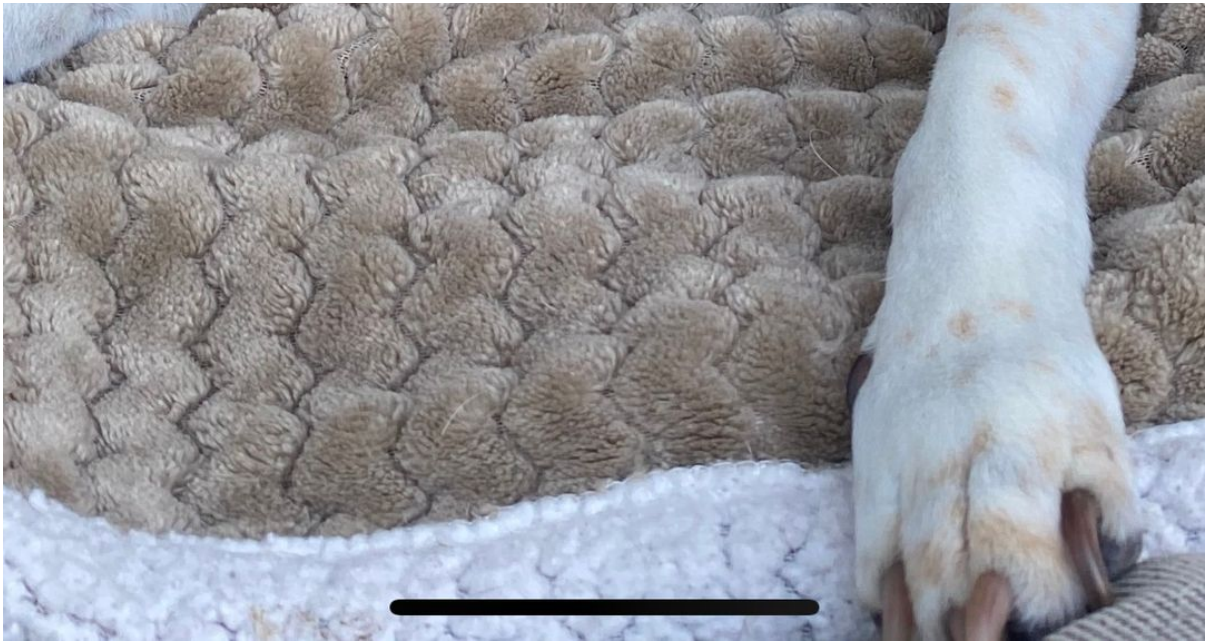
Her reply:

"That's the Lord's book. This is my book, and there is no comma."

For the love of our dogs

Goodbye to Willie Nelson...





Scott Paske - They are all special creatures. Every single one of them. For us, the uniqueness of this boy identified as Willie Nelson on his adoption papers first became apparent at a Pals Animal Rescue reunion in Sedgwick County Park shortly after he joined our family in 2008. Strangers came up to us and said hello to him by name, people we figured who either met him at an area pet store or once had him in their care until a beagle's ways sent them in another direction.

Mallory Pirner said it best recently when she texted "I'm glad we got to be his forever family!" Our crew has never been more united on a declaration. After 14 wonderful years in our home and more than 16 on this earth, the time came to send Willie across the Rainbow Bridge this morning. It is a decision any good veterinarian will tell you to make with your head and not your heart. In the end, the head prevailed, and the heart now deals with the fallout.

It has been said countless times that they are family. It is true, and it's why the heartache and heartbreak are real today. We have braced for this moment by remembering Willie's best days, some of which will likely pop up in a future Paske post or two. In the last few weeks, vintage Willie resurfaced on a couple occasions, his final gifts to us, I'm sure. As he left this world today, we made sure he knew he owed us nothing more. He never owed us a thing.

...And welcome to Elvis



Dave Tomlin with Elvis. Photo/Humane Society of Lincoln County (N.M.)

Pam Tomlin – Our daughter Lizzy and friends have been volunteering at the local Humane Society of Lincoln County, Ruidoso, NM, this summer. Because they are 12, an adult must be with them. Dave waits in the lobby and hears all the amazing stories...of adoption and of drop-offs. One really has to develop healthy boundaries. Thursday, Elvis was “surrendered.” His owner reported Elvis was attacked by their new

dog and lost an eye. Dave couldn't quit talking about Elvis so we made room for him. That makes 3. And, now we'll try to get a thicker skin.

Best of the Week

Striking visuals highlight AP's all-formats coverage as Sri Lankans storm government residences, offices



People mob President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence for a second straight day during anti-government protests in Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 11, 2022. Within days, Rajapaksa fled the economically crippled island nation and emailed the resignation his critics have demanded for months. AP PHOTO / ERANGA JAYAWARDENA

When police imposed a curfew in Sri Lanka's capital a day before the planned protest demanding the resignations of the country's president and prime minister, the AP's Colombo team knew to expect something big. Protesters have blocked the entrance to the president's office for months, accusing him and his powerful family of corruption and misrule.

But what followed on Saturday and subsequent days was unprecedented — a stunning show of public fury over the country's dire economic crisis and months of political turmoil.

As tens of thousands of citizens rallied in the heart of Colombo, the AP photo and video team already knew where the action would be most dramatic. They planned

alternate communications in case the internet was shut down, and anticipated quick filing of mobile phone video via WhatsApp to the Delhi bureau for editing and transmission, with longer video edits to follow later.

The crowd's numbers kept swelling and the visual crews were well positioned to capture the drama when protesters stormed the colonial-era presidential palace. The extraordinary visuals showed demonstrators taking a dip in the presidential swimming pool and occupying the home of the most powerful man in the country.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Chris Tomlinson](#)

[Bill Welch](#)

Stories of interest

Uvalde video shows raw feelings toward journalists linger

(AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Two news outlets' decision to release an excruciating 77-minute video this week showing police inaction during the Robb Elementary School mass shooting drew a harsh response from residents of Uvalde, Texas, even though they have sought this type of transparency for weeks.

Families of the 19 children and two teachers killed by an 18-year-old gunman on May 24 said the Austin American-Statesman and KVUE-TV displayed insensitivity by releasing the video to the public before those directly affected had a chance to see it.

The surveillance video footage published Tuesday — which was then shown and written about by other news organizations — captures the gunman entering the school, and includes audio of shots fired from inside a classroom. It shows police quickly entering the school and then milling about in a hallway for more than an hour before they eventually kill the gunman.

The community's response reflects the raw feelings directed toward reporters who came to Uvalde to probe what happened, and the reality that journalism often steps on toes.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Unimaginable abortion stories will become more common. Is American journalism ready? (Nieman Labs)

By LAURA HAZARD OWEN

As more states restrict or ban abortion, more girls who are raped will face a choice between crossing state lines for care or having babies while they are still in elementary school.

I wish that this weren't true. But events this week make it very clear that if you can't bear to believe it — even if it seems so impossible that it needs a heartily skeptical fact-checking treatment — it is going to happen.

And reporters who want to tell these stories (and the news organizations those reporters work for) may have to abandon some conventional journalism wisdom in order to give the stories the attention they deserve.

Last week, in response to the Supreme Court's vote to strike down Roe v. Wade, President Joe Biden signed an executive order in an attempt to protect abortion access. In remarks at the time, Biden said, "Just last week, it was reported that a 10-year-old girl was a rape victim — 10 years old — and she was forced to have to travel out of state to Indiana to seek to terminate the pregnancy and maybe save her life." The story he was citing was published by the Indianapolis Star on July 1.

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

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Eugenio Scalfari, revolutionized Italy's journalism, dies (AP)

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

ROME (AP) — Eugenio Scalfari, who helped revolutionize Italian journalism with the creation of La Repubblica, a liberal daily that boldly challenged Italy's traditional newspapers, died Thursday at 98, the Senate president announced.

Senate President Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati led lawmakers who were debating a bill in a minute of silence to honor one of the deans of Italian journalism.

The Rome-based La Repubblica broke ground when it burst onto already crowded newsstands in 1976, grabbing readers' attention with punchy headlines and a tabloid format. Its sassy style of writing that had little in common with the austere prose then used by Italy's leading paper, Corriere della Sera, headquartered in Milan.

His novel recipe proved a success, and La Repubblica became Italy's No. 2 daily newspaper.

In Scalfari's latter years, the journalist, a self-described atheist, filled La Repubblica with what he described as a detailed recounting of long conversations in person and by telephone with Pope Francis.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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One newspaper, two publishers (Fort Dodge Messenger)

By KELBY WINGERT

LAKE CITY, Iowa — Calhoun County residents are seeing double this week. Two issues of the Lake City Graphic-Advocate hit the streets this week — each with the familiar purple masthead, but each with a different publisher.

Both Chris Nelson of Nelson Media Company and Matt Grohe of Mid-America Publishing believe they are the rightful owners of The Graphic-Advocate.

Mid-America Publishing, based in Hampton, has published the Lake City newspaper for the last 15 years. Earlier this spring, news that The Graphic-Advocate was going to shut down began to spread.

On April 26, Grohe wrote a letter on The Graphic-Advocate's Facebook page explaining that the newspaper had been losing money for years — including \$18,000 in 2021 — and that he was “exploring options” for the business.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Journalists being targeted in 'sustained effort' by nation-state hackers, researchers say (DailyDot)

Mikael Thalen

Cybersecurity researchers say they have witnessed a “sustained effort” by nation-state hackers to compromise the accounts of journalists.

In a blog post on Thursday, the cybersecurity firm Proofpoint detailed the numerous campaigns it says were carried out by state-sponsored and state-aligned hacking groups against members of the media.

The hacking groups, referred to as advanced persistent threat (APT) actors, either impersonated or targeted journalists in order to access information deemed valuable by foreign governments.

“A well-timed, successful attack on a journalist’s email account could provide insights into sensitive, budding stories and source identification,” the blog states. “A compromised account could be used to spread disinformation or pro-state propaganda, provide disinformation during times of war or pandemic, or be used to influence a politically charged atmosphere.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History – July 18, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 18, the 199th day of 2022. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick (chap-uh-KWIH’-dihk) Island near Martha’s Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK’-nee), 28; Kennedy’s car later went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

On this date:

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union troops spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of Black soldiers, charged Confederate-held Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. The Confederates were able to repel the Northerners, who suffered heavy losses; the 54th's commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was among those who were killed.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

In 1925, Adolf Hitler published the first volume of his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf (My Struggle)."

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

In 1964, nearly a week of rioting erupted in New York's Harlem neighborhood following the fatal police shooting of a Black teenager, James Powell, two days earlier.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

In 2005, an unrepentant Eric Rudolph was sentenced in Birmingham, Alabama, to life in prison for an abortion clinic bombing that killed an off-duty police officer and maimed a nurse.

In 2013, Detroit, which was once the very symbol of American industrial might, became the biggest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, its finances ravaged and its neighborhoods hollowed out by a long, slow decline in population and auto manufacturing.

In 2020, Canadian officials said the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team would not be able to play its home games in Toronto during the shortened 2020 season because it wasn't safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States. (The Blue Jays would play "home" games in the ballpark of their minor league affiliate in Buffalo, N.Y.)

Ten years ago: Rebels penetrated the heart of Syria's power elite, detonating a bomb inside a high-level crisis meeting in Damascus that killed three leaders of the regime, including President Bashar Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump declared that it was time to “let Obamacare fail” after the latest Republican effort to repeal President Barack Obama’s health care law was blocked in the Senate. Trump announced that he would nominate former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman to be U.S. ambassador to Russia. The Trump administration slapped new sanctions on 18 Iranian individuals, groups and networks, a day after certifying to Congress that Iran was technically complying with the nuclear deal and could continue enjoying nuclear sanctions relief.

One year ago: Collin Morikawa, a 24-year-old from California, won the British Open to become the first golfer to capture two different majors on his first attempt; he’d won the 2020 PGA Championship 11 months earlier. Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia won cycling’s Tour de France for a second straight year.

Today’s Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 93. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 87. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 84. Musician Brian Auger is 83. Singer Dion DiMucci is 83. Actor James Brolin is 82. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 82. Singer Martha Reeves is 81. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 73. Business mogul Richard Branson is 72. Actor Margo Martindale is 71. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 68. Actor Audrey Landers is 66. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 65. Actor Anne-Marie Johnson is 62. Actor Elizabeth McGovern is 61. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 60. Rock musician Jack Irons is 60. Broadcaster Wendy Williams is 58. Actor Vin Diesel is 55. Actor Grant Bowler is 54. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 51. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 50. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 50. Actor Eddie Matos is 50. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 47. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 47. Actor Elsa Pataky (“The Fast and the Furious” films) is 46. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (formerly with Eve 6) is 44. Movie director Jared Hess is 43. Actor Jason Weaver is 43. Actor Kristen Bell is 42. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK’-heel HOWS’-man) is 41. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 40. Actor Priyanka Chopra is 40. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 39. Actor Chace Crawford is 37. Actor James Norton is 37. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 36. Actor Travis Milne is 36.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

