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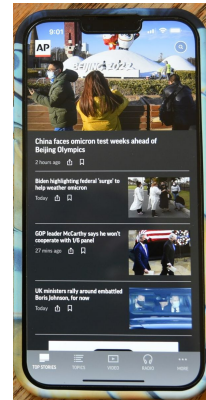
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Connecting

July 27, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 27, 2022,

An Editors' Note from the New York Times on Tuesday:

An obituary of the actor Tony Dow was published in error. The Times based the confirmation of his death on a Facebook post by his representatives, which proved erroneous and has since been deleted.

And this Yahoo story: [Tony Dow Alive: Wife And Management Team Announced Death In Error; Son Says "He Has A Fighting Heart" – Update](#)

The incorrect report on Dow, famous for portraying Wally on the hit television series



"Leave It To Beaver," never reached the AP wires.

Our colleague [David Bauder](#) – AP's media writer – shares:

I was teaching a class at the Newhouse school in Syracuse Tuesday (doing that two days a week this summer) and I got an email from our photographer par excellence, Richard Drew. Lucky I happened to see it right away.

Richard said he heard from a friend, a television producer, who had called Dow's wife to express his condolences and she told him that while Dow was in hospice, he was still alive.

I quickly called my colleagues Lynn Elber and Mona Lisa Malone, learning we were just about to file an obit based on Facebook post from his management, which others had used as source. I said hold on. We made more checks, and the Facebook post was deleted.

Saved from a bulletin kill, unlike many of our competitors!

Prayers go out to Dow, whose family said is in hospice and does not have long to live.

Have a good day - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

That piano-playing Mears family



A special scene from last Friday's gathering at the National Press Club in Washington to honor the memory of Walter Mears. From left: Cynthia Long (daughter of Walter's sister, Carolyn), Jennifer Hinojosa (daughter of William Mears, Walter's brother), Madeline Stich (daughter of Stephanie Stich, Walter's daughter), Nathaniel Stich (son of Stephanie Stich, Walter's daughter), Rachel Geanious (daughter of William Mears, Walter's brother) and Cam Mears (son of William Mears, Walter's brother).

Stephanie Stich – *daughter of Walter Mears* - The Mears family has a history of piano playing. Our grandfather, Walter's dad Edward, was a concert pianist. Both Nathaniel and Cam are also pianists.

Dad said it skips generations because after retirement he took piano lessons for several years. According to him, the lessons didn't "take". He could only play beginner level versions of the show tunes he loved.

After the professional pianist left for the evening, Nathaniel and Cam took over and continued playing songs dad loved. The family joined in to sing along with what we're now calling Cousin Karaoke.

Also, the Press Club was wonderful. The food, drink, staff, all were fantastic.

I've also added more pictures to the slide show. The same link should work just fine to include any updates I made or will make. People shared more photos once they got home from the event. It was very kind of them! **[Walter Mears Celebration of Life Photo Slideshow](#)**



Above is another photo from the evening, showing, from left: Stephanie Stich, Margaret Callahan, Susan Mears.

To the Man of the Day

[Norm Abelson](#) – (age 91½) – on colleague Gene Herrick's 96th birthday Tuesday:

Gene Herrick is a hero of mine;
he's aged like the finest of wine.
But also, you see,
he's older than me,
and that makes me feel really fine.
P.S. - Happiest of Birthdays. my friend.
You really are a hero to all of us.

Connecting new-member profile

Amy Lignitz Harken



[Amy Lignitz Harken](#) - Greetings from Maine, from a former AP staffer.

I worked in the DEN and KAN buros from 1991 to 1998, a stint that wasn't particularly remarkable to anyone other than myself. For me, it was deeply gratifying. My former CoB (and Ye Olde Connecting Editor) Paul Stevens thought you might be interested in what I've been up to since then, in 300 words. I utterly failed to hit that target but trust you'll forgive my rustiness.

Ostensibly, I left the AP to pursue fiction writing. Frankly, I wasn't good at it. Concerns for plot and character inevitably succumbed to my obsession with AP style and syntax that prioritized brevity over beauty. Any coherent storylines I managed to squeeze out were embarrassingly preachy.

With all these obsessive and preachy inclinations, I enrolled in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. I was ordained into Christian ministry in 2003 in Kansas City (TOP Correspondent John Hanna attended my ordination). I'm now a minister in mid-coast Maine.

In many ways, a decade (professionally) in the Fourth Estate was more existentially formative than two decades in the First. Journalism had been my lifeblood since junior high school. The questions that arose in the newsroom were the same that stirred my spirit when I wasn't at work.

Then that was no longer the case. It became unavoidably apparent in the late '90s when we published the lists of the Top Stories of the Year. These contained the usual: winners of elections and sports tournaments, natural disasters, the oscillations of politics, and so forth. These stories were not at all what I would have picked. What about that archaeological discovery that shed light on the origins of life on earth? All

those gripping stories that could help humankind understand our place in the universe?

It was a startling and excruciating moment, realizing that my curiosity had diverged from the curiosity of the newsroom. My Big Questions suddenly felt obscure, and maybe even irrelevant, to my vocation. So, after a lot of sleepless nights and emptied boxes of tissues, I resigned.

After the aforementioned failed attempt to write fiction (how does one actually make up things to write?), I relented to that Something Bigger.

Of course, my time in the newsroom has been of immeasurable value. One, I know how things work, like budgets and politics, endemic to any human endeavor, including church. Two, I'm good at explaining things, whether a district court ruling or the dark side of sacrificial atonement theology. Three, I'm good at anticipating the questions of others, such as the taxpayer in the town diner or the bean-counter in the third pew. Four, I know how to listen, and to listen beyond and behind the words spoken. Also coming in handy are my AP-honed ability to decide what's most important and abhorrence of secrets and lies. And, a thousand other things.

One difference is in the writing. The shape of a sermon is an inverted inverted pyramid. I guess that would make it a pyramid? Another is that people are always eager to talk to me, at all times, about all things.

What I miss most — and I miss it deeply — is toiling alongside colleagues who, without exception, are smart, hard-working, big-hearted, superbly humored, generously collaborative, and almost always right.

I'm hopeful that I still have something to offer the Fourth Estate. I have been appalled and distressed at the treatment of journalists in recent years, and at the nasty, dangerous attitude toward mainstream media in some quarters. It makes me angry and afraid. I can only imagine what working journalists feel as they strive to fulfill their calling.

A couple years ago, through my former AP colleague and friend Michelle Morgante, I offered myself as a listening confidante to any journalist needing to talk. The offer still stands. My most recent training and experience is holding space for group conversations, and I could do that, too. Please feel free to pass my e-mail address to anyone who might find an empathetic conversation useful: lignitzharken@yahoo.com.

In the meantime, please know that if I worked with you in the past, you probably have made a cameo in a sermon or two. But, don't worry, I didn't use your real name. I have learned to make up those.

Connecting mailbox

***Kudos to Allen Breed on Tuskegee anniversary story
– and shout-out to Edie Lederer***

[Linda Deutsch](#) - Wow! I urge all of you to read the wonderful story by AP writer Allen Breed about the Tuskegee anniversary. This morning, the entire story filled Page 2 of the Los Angeles Times.

He gives Edie Lederer great credit for her important role in breaking the story and explains how AP finally came to report this tragic piece of history. He interviewed Edie, and her comments about giving the big scoop to another investigative reporter are the essence of her dedication to getting the story out. Her humility is something aspiring reporters should be taught to emulate.

Congratulations all over again, dear Edie. You went on to have many more scoops in your legendary career. But as a fledgling reporter you were already making waves.

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Sexist headline?

[Mike Feinsilber](#) - This headline on an AP story on an AP website seems sexist, no?

Medic in heels commands respect on Ukraine's front lines

Or belittling in any case.

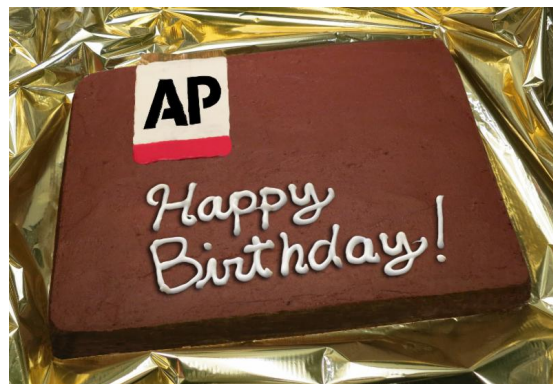
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Sunset at Lake Como



Taken and shared by [Mark Thayer](#)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Harry Atkins](#)

Stories of interest

Tim Giago, trailblazing Native American journalist, dies (AP)

By GRETCHEN EHLKE

Tim Giago, the founder of the first independently owned Native American newspaper in the United States, has died at age 88, his former wife said.

Giago, who died at Monument Health in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Sunday, created an enduring legacy during his more than four decades of work in South Dakota journalism, his colleagues said.

Giago, who was a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe, founded The Lakota Times with his first wife, Doris, in 1981, and quickly showed that he wasn't afraid to challenge those in power and advocate for American Indians, she said.

Launching the paper, even years after the 1973 Wounded Knee siege between U.S. marshals and the Native American Movement, was challenging because wounds still existed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and in South Dakota, Doris Giago said.

Tim Giago blamed the American Indian Movement for violence on the reservation. Windows at the paper were broken and the office was firebombed.

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

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Americans are avoiding the news. What can journalists do? (WBUR)

By Dorey Scheimer and Meghna Chakrabarti

About 40% of Americans actively avoid the news, according to a Reuters Institute study. Among them is journalist Amanda Ripley.

So what needs to change? Ripley has an answer, and it begins with giving people hope:

"There is some overlap between what journalism does and how humans actually process information, but not a huge amount," Ripley says. "There's a lot you would do differently if you were going to design news for human consumption."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

Today in History – July 27, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 27, the 208th day of 2022. There are 157 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe (a previous cable in 1858 burned out after only a few weeks' use).

In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Virginia, for one hour and 12 minutes.

In 1940, Billboard magazine published its first "music popularity chart" listing best-selling retail records (in first place was "I'll Never Smile Again" recorded by Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra, with featured vocalist Frank Sinatra).

In 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the Kerner Commission to assess the causes of urban rioting, the same day Black militant H. Rap Brown told a press conference in Washington that violence was "as American as cherry pie."

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, charging he had personally engaged in a course of conduct designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo, Egypt, at age 60.

In 1981, 6-year-old Adam Walsh was abducted from a department store in Hollywood, Fla., and was later murdered. (His father, John Walsh, became a well-known crime victims' advocate.)

In 1996, terror struck the Atlanta Olympics as a pipe bomb exploded at Centennial Olympic Park, directly killing one person and injuring 111. (Anti-government extremist Eric Rudolph later pleaded guilty to the bombing, exonerating security guard Richard Jewell, who had been wrongly suspected.)

In 2015, the Boy Scouts of America ended its blanket ban on gay adult leaders while allowing church-sponsored Scout units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

In 2020, the world's biggest COVID-19 vaccine study began with the first of 30,000 planned volunteers helping to test shots created by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

Ten years ago: Britain opened its Olympic Games in a celebration of Old England and new, even cheekily featuring a stunt double for Queen Elizabeth II parachuting with James Bond into Olympic Stadium.

Five years ago: New White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, in an interview published by The New Yorker, attacked chief of staff Reince Priebus and other White House officials in sometimes profane terms. (A day later, President Donald Trump announced that Priebus was being replaced by John Kelly. Scaramucci himself was ousted on July 31.)

One year ago: American gymnast Simone Biles pulled out of the gymnastics team competition at the Tokyo Olympics to focus on her mental well-being, saying she realized following a shaky vault that she wasn't in the right headspace to compete; she was the latest high-profile athlete to discuss mental health struggles. Seventeen-year-old Lydia Jacoby of Alaska won the women's 100-meter breaststroke, upsetting American teammate and defending champion Lilly King. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that even vaccinated people return to wearing masks indoors in parts of the U.S. where the delta variant of the coronavirus was fueling infection surges. Robert Aaron Long, accused in eight killings at Atlanta-area massage businesses, pleaded guilty to murder in four of the deaths and was sentenced to life in prison. Actor Bob Odenkirk collapsed on the set of the TV drama "Better Call Saul" in New Mexico; he later announced that he'd had a small heart attack.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 100. Actor John Pleshette is 80. Actor-director Betty Thomas is 75. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 74. Singer Maureen McGovern is 73. Rock musician Tris Imboden (formerly with Chicago) is 71. Actor Roxanne Hart is 68. Comedian-actor-writer Carol Leifer is 66. Comedian Bill Engvall is 65. Jazz singer Karrin Allyson is 60. Country singer Stacy Dean Campbell is 55. Rock singer Juliana Hatfield is 55. Actor Julian McMahon is 54. Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (NIH'-koh-lye KAH'-stur WAHL'-dah) is 52. Comedian Maya Rudolph is

50. Rock musician Abe Cunningham is 49. Singer-songwriter Pete Yorn is 48. Former MLB All-Star Alex Rodriguez is 47. Actor Seamus Dever is 46. Actor Martha Madison is 45. Actor Jonathan Rhys (rees) Meyers is 45. Actor/comedian Heidi Gardner is 39. Actor Blair Redford is 39. Actor Taylor Schilling is 38. MLB All-Star pitcher Max Scherzer is 38. Singer Cheyenne Kimball is 32. Golfer Jordan Spieth (speeth) is 29. Actor Alyvia Alyn Lind is 15.

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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