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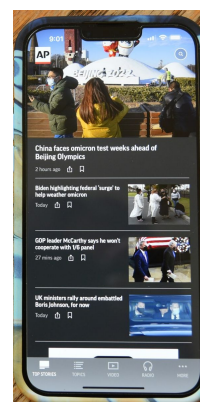
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Connecting

August 5, 2022

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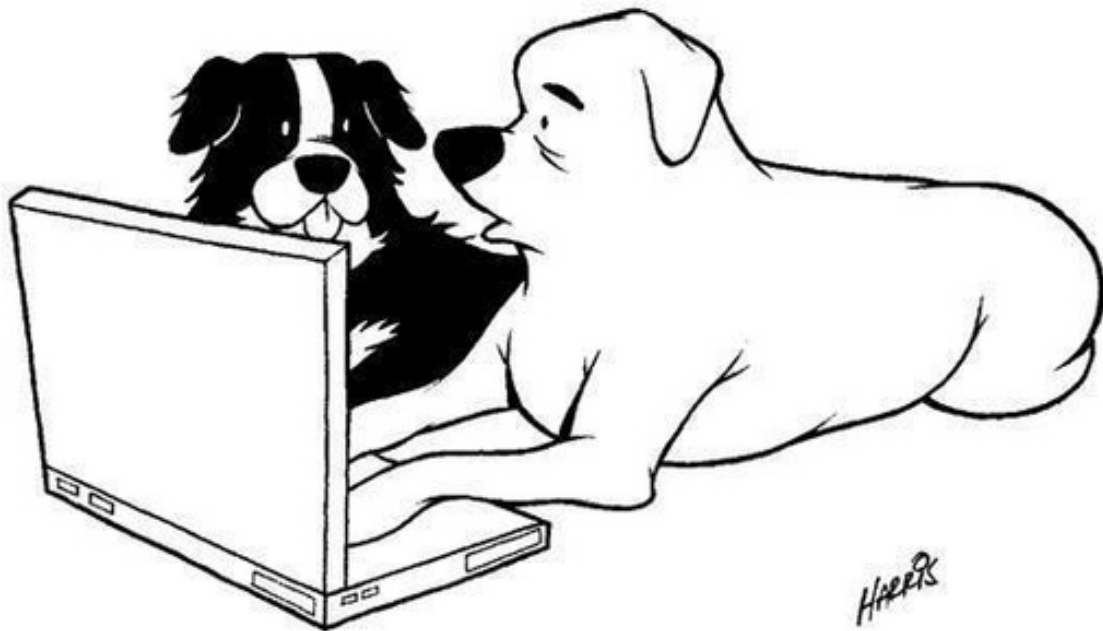
Good Friday morning on this Aug. 5, 2022,

Mike Tharp's brave account of his battle with cancer, published in Thursday's edition, prompted these thoughts from his fellow Connecting colleagues:

Ray Newton - Must have been tough for Mike to write that piece about cancer. Sharp, crisp and touching.

Ed Tobias - I totally understand, and agree with, Mike Tharp when he writes: "One point: if I don't make it, I don't want any bullshit about "long battle with cancer." I don't want it ever said about me that I'm battling - or, worse, had a long battle with - multiple sclerosis. I LIVE with my MS as best I can. I understand it and we coexist. That's just the way it is.

Connecting Summer Homework



“And then I just hit delete. I haven’t actually eaten any homework for years.”

The call for your stories as part of your Connecting Summer Homework – an idea spurred by **Norm Abelson** - has received one response thus far (thanks, **Bruce Lowitt**). And then there’s this from colleague **Andy Lippman**:

*Messrs. Stevens and Abelson:
My son will not be turning in his homework for this assignment.
The dog ate it!
Andy Lippman's mom.*

Again, the homework assignment: As a reporter, what was the most embarrassing or difficult question you ever had to pose? What was the toughest or scariest story to cover, the strongest positive or negative response you ever got back from a piece you wrote? The funniest. and/or most memorable? Additionally, for photographers, what was the most difficult shot to get, and the one you're most proud of?

We bring you in today’s issue – in the wake of the recent death of beloved Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully – your thoughts on your own favorite broadcaster...and a heart-warming account of his interaction with our late colleague **Sue Manning**.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Summer homework on most negative AND funny response to a story

Bruce Lowitt - Here's a combination answer, the strongest negative response I ever got back from a piece I wrote and the funniest and most memorable, all in one.

Hal Bock and I used to write the NFL Picks each week, he for AMs papers and I for PMs (remember them?). On Oct. 24, 1977, the Minnesota Vikings were playing the Rams in Los Angeles on Sunday night. The Vikings were 4-1 and had held the opposition to seven points or less in three of their wins, the Rams were 3-2 and had a slightly better offense but a weaker defense.

My logic told me that the Vikings' defense would handle the Rams' second-year quarterback, Pat Haden, while Fran Tarkenton, a nine-time Pro Bowl QB, would frustrate the Rams' defense. I picked the Vikings to win, but in a relatively low-scoring game.

The Rams won 35-3. Haden passed for two touchdowns and ran for one while the Rams, sacking Tarkenton four times and intercepting him twice, outgained Minnesota 397 yards to 206.

Several days later I received in the mail a portion of a sports page. I didn't know from which newspaper it came because my AP picks had appeared somewhere in the middle of the page and the story had been ripped out, rather angrily, it seemed. My Vikings-over-Rams pick had been circled by the sender, who didn't give his (or her) name, but had scrawled over it, "Stick this up your f----- ass!!!"

I remember showing it to Hal and saying, "Hey, check it out. Somebody reads me."

And...this from Norm Abelson in Thursday's issue:

Most embarrassing and difficult: In front of a huge crowd at the opening of a major arts center at Dartmouth College, his alma mater, I asked recently remarried Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, "It is true you are having an affair with Joan Crawford?"

Colleague **Margaret Lillard** asked: "Hey - Norm left us hanging. What was Rockefeller's answer?"

Norm replied: "After I asked the question, Rocky growled some unintelligible sounds as he pushed by me into the crowd. Before I could follow, his burly body man pushed me aside. I reported all to NY. Couldn't find anything since whether he ever commented further. Crawford much later made a brief comment re rumors they had once contemplated marriage, to the effect that how could she marry a guy she had never even dated."

Vin Scully and AP's Sue Manning



Sue Manning meeting Dodger broadcaster Vin Scully. Her brother Danny is in the background. Photos/Reed Saxon

[Andy Lippman](#) - If you want an idea of how a true blue-Big Blue fan looked up to Dodgers announcer Vin Scully, all you had

to do was look at this smile on the late LA staffer Sue Manning's face.

A visit between the two was arranged - as part of her retirement gift in May 2016. Sue and her brother Danny were invited into the broadcast booth to meet one of her favorite sports stars - Scully, who died earlier this week.

"What an incredible, wonderful, unbelievable, over the top out of this world, truly amazing and thoughtful, sweet, brilliant and memorable night," Manning recalled later.



Manning, who was using a scooter by that time in her career, often marked the start of the home baseball season by organizing a hot dog lunch at the bureau.

But on this night, she had front row seats and anything she wanted, except for one thing. She wanted Scully to change his mind about retiring at the end of the year.

He didn't.

Sadly, Manning- who was day supervisor in the LA bureau during coverage of OJ Simpson, the Northridge earthquake and the Rodney King riots, and who later wrote about pets for the wire service - died in July 2019 at the age of 71.

Who was your favorite sports announcer?

Harry Atkins - Let's not forget Ernie Harwell (42 years broadcasting Detroit Tigers). "That ball is loooooong gone!" "He stood there like the house by the side of the road."

-0-

Brent Kallestad - Agree with Bill Hancock ... Scully by far IMO and probably have his mentor, Red Barber, next in a field of great ones.

Ray Scott, Al Michaels, Ernie Harwell, Dick Enberg come to mind quickly as does Costas. Lot of greats, but just one Vin.

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Larry Margasak - Paul, you didn't mention the late, great, Hall of Fame Phillies broadcaster Harry Kalas. Up there with Vin. Click [here](#).

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[Victor Simpson](#) - One name clearly missing from the list: Russ Hodges my beloved NY Giants play by play man.

"The Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant," made him famous forever after Bobby Thomson hit the shot heard round the world to beat the Dodgers in the 1951 playoffs.

With such greats as Willie Mays and company, it's hard to be nostalgic for Brooklyn.

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[Patty Woodrow](#) - The death of Vin Scully reminded me of my days as a huge Orioles fan, and later, employee. I worked for the organization for a few years before joining AP and I even have an '83 World Series ring to show for it.

The answer to your question "who were the favorite announcers from your youth?"I would say Tom Marr and Rex Barney. Perhaps not as well-known to most people as the "GOATS" mentioned in Connecting but very well-known and beloved in my hometown of Baltimore.

For much of my youth Tom Marr covered Baltimore sports...Orioles, Colts and Bullets... reporting for CBS Radio News as well as WFBR-AM radio and WMAR-TV. He later announced play-by-play for eight seasons of the Orioles (1979-1986) on WFBR before pivoting to a 30-year career in talk radio. He was the voice of the Orioles during my time there and to this easily impressed 20-something year old, as much a celebrity as the players were.

Rex Barney, after a short-lived baseball career as a pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers (before I was even born), called Philadelphia Phillies games on WOR-TV in 1958 and later two seasons of Orioles games in the early 80s on a local cable television channel. However, my fondest memories of Rex are as the PA announcer for the games at Memorial Stadium which he did for nearly 30 years. I was fortunate to know him personally when I worked there. He was always quick with a big bear hug whenever I stopped by the press box during a game or if he came by the front office beforehand. I remember him as a sweet, kind and gentle giant.

Vin Scully's passing brought back fond memories of these two Baltimore icons. Thanks for asking the question.

Congratulations to AP friends

[Sylvia Wingfield](#) - Congratulations...

It's not often that I can send heart-felt good wishes to THREE valued friends and leaders from my 42-year AP career.

— To Kristin Gazlay and Charles Hill, who made the Dallas bureau a better place in the '80s, as they begin a new retirement life together back in Texas.

— To Brian Carovillano, a great colleague in Providence and Boston in the early 2000s, as he begins a new leadership role at NBC.

On the search for Amelia Earhart

Bill Kaczor - The AP retrospective on the search for Amelia Earhart is missing some significant context. The reason that the search has focused on Nikumaroro Island, formerly known as Gardner Island, for the past three decades is due to the efforts of two retired military officers from the Florida Panhandle.

I helped cover the search from afar as Pensacola correspondent. That included interviews in 1992 with the two men during which they recalled how a local newspaper story brought them together. Both lived in Fort Walton Beach but didn't know each other until Tom Gannon, a former Air Force navigator, read the article in 1986 about Tom Willi, an ex-Navy pilot, and his theory that Earhart came down on Nikumaroro. Gannon previously had reached the same conclusion. Each had relied on his knowledge of celestial navigation to plot a course to the island. Together they approached Richard Gillispie and Pat Thrasher, the husband and wife who founded The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR). Gillispie at first didn't want to have anything to do with searching for Earhart because there were so many conflicting and unproven theories about her disappearance. He changed his mind only after Willi and Gannon presented a detailed analysis of their theory based on records of the search that followed her disappearance (A Navy search plane flew over Gardner but no one did a land search of the island), radio calls she made before vanishing and celestial navigation principles in use at the time. They theorized that when Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, were unable to find Howland Island, where they intended to land, they flew a course that would get them to Gardner Island. "As far as we're concerned, they went there on purpose," Gannon told me. "It was their planned alternate, even probably before they took off." Without the persistence of these two men, and the publicity they got from the AP and other media, none of the discoveries outlined in the retrospective would have happened. Gannon passed away at age 92 in 2013. Willi is 94.

Jerry Ceppos was an incredibly good friend

Peggy Walsh - Others have eloquently written about the life of Jerry Ceppos. He was an outstanding editor, mentor and teacher. He also was an incredibly good friend.

We met when he was at the San Jose Mercury News and I was San Francisco COB. In a time with many highly competitive newspapers, Jerry was always the quieting voice. We shared many great lunches. He and his wife Karen were gracious friends. When Jim and I married, Jerry sent a vintage bottle of wine with a sweet note and an explanation for a wine newbie.

Years later after I left AP and the Times and was a consultant for Knight Ridder, he and I kept in touch. When he faced a health crisis more than 20 years ago, we had lunch

when he was at a meeting in Atlanta. In the 36 years since we met, we continued to keep up with each other.

The world lost not only a great journalist, teacher, editor and mentor. Jerry was a kind and wonderful friend.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

Bill Wertz - Let me say from the start that I think the New York Times is one of our nation's best newspapers. However, there are times when its reporters and editors see the world from a skewed perspective. A headline today reads: "GOP Governors Cause Havoc by Busing Migrants to East Coast." Really? When you read the story, it reports accurately that Texas and Arizona have been "overwhelmed with a surge in unauthorized border crossings that Peaked under the Biden administration." This happened because the Biden administration "has sought to unravel some of the harsh border restrictions imposed by former President Donald J. Trump." So what's really causing the "havoc?" It seems it wasn't a big story as long as the immigrants stayed in the border states. Big problem now that they are landing in other parts of the country. As noted in this column before, any news story that takes one side or the other or promotes someone's business or political agenda, contributes to mistrust of the news media in general. As it does in many other respects, I'd like to see the NYT set the media standard for "down the middle" reporting.

More on taxes

Ed McCullough - The first time I paid income taxes in Venezuela, in 1995 after transferring there from Buenos Aires the year before, the tax consultant asked, "How much do you want to pay?" I thought emphasis was on the first two words.

The rest of our conversation went something like this:

A.: I want to pay what I owe.

Q.: That's not what I asked. I asked "How much do you want to pay?"

A.: I want to pay what is owed.

His response: You're new here. I can't let you do that.

In Venezuela then and probably still, everything was negotiable. We - well, he - ended up filling out the forms. There apparently was no need to supply supporting documents. Funnily enough it was acceptable to pay in cash. The consultant made sure all the proper stamps were received so no one could claim afterward that anything more was owed.

The man ahead of me in line paid in cash, too. The wad in his hand seemed about as thick as mine. "You see," I said. "He's paying about what I'm paying." The consultant looked at me like I was crazy. "You see," he said, flicking his eyes to the paperwork the

man also carried. "He's probably filing for his whole family. Or neighborhood. What you're paying for one person."

AP Sighting



[Michael Weinfeld](#) - An AP sighting on I-25N in Colorado Springs.

AP News: Seven years of sex abuse: How Mormon officials let it happen



EDITOR'S NOTE: This from colleague [Lee Siegel](#): As someone who lived in Utah for 24 years, I say the AP deserves big congratulations for this story.

By MICHAEL REZENDES

BISBEE, Ariz. (AP) — MJ was a tiny, black-haired girl, just 5 years old, when her father admitted to his bishop that he was sexually abusing her.

The father, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and an admitted pornography addict, was in counseling with his bishop when he revealed the abuse. The bishop, who was also a family physician, followed church policy and called what church officials have dubbed the “help line” for guidance.

But the call offered little help for MJ. Lawyers for the church, widely known as the Mormon church, who staff the help line around the clock told Bishop John Herrod not to call police or child welfare officials. Instead he kept the abuse secret.

“They said, ‘You absolutely can do nothing,’” Herrod said in a recorded interview with law enforcement.

Herrod continued to counsel MJ’s father, Paul Douglas Adams, for another year, and brought in Adams’ wife, Leizza Adams, in hopes she would do something to protect the children. She didn’t. Herrod later told a second bishop, who also kept the matter secret after consulting with church officials who maintain that the bishops were excused from reporting the abuse to police under the state’s so-called clergy-penitent privilege.

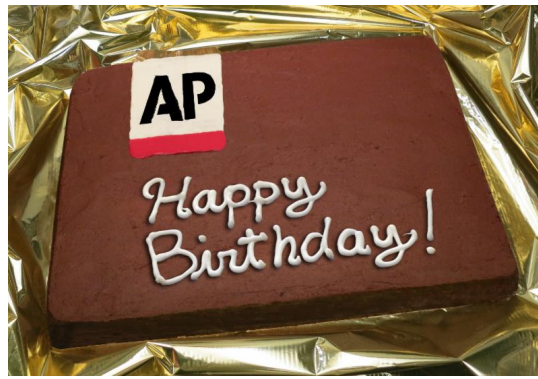
Adams continued raping MJ for as many as seven more years, into her adolescence, and also abused her infant sister, who was born during that time. He frequently recorded the abuse on video and posted the video on the internet.

Adams was finally arrested by Homeland Security agents in 2017 with no help from the church, after law enforcement officials in New Zealand discovered one of the videos. He died by suicide in custody before he could stand trial.

The Associated Press has obtained nearly 12,000 pages of sealed records from an unrelated child sex abuse lawsuit against the Mormon church in West Virginia. The documents offer the most detailed and comprehensive look yet at the so-called help line Herrod called. Families of survivors who filed the lawsuit said they show it’s part of a system that can easily be misused by church leaders to divert abuse accusations away from law enforcement and instead to church attorneys who may bury the problem, leaving victims in harm’s way.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[James Rowley](#)

On Saturday to...

[David Seden](#)

Stories of interest

Gannett reports disastrous financial results; layoffs are coming (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Gannett recorded a dismal second quarter financially, the company reported Thursday – important revenues sources down, costs up and a loss of \$54 million on revenues of \$749 million.

Strong cost reduction moves are on the way. Media division head Maribel Perez Wadsworth, in a note to staff, warned of impending layoffs. “In the coming days,” she wrote, “we will ... be making necessary but painful reductions to staffing, eliminating some open positions and roles that will impact valued colleagues.”

Gannett stock, already down roughly 45% for the year, fell another 28.5% in midmorning trading, indicating Wall Street had not expected such bad results.

CEO Mike Reed said in a conference call with analysts that the company’s long-term strategy of developing paid digital subscriptions and digital advertising remains sound. But he made no effort to sugarcoat what happened last quarter and is expected for the remainder of 2022.

Read more [here](#).

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Reuters US Reporters Are Striking for First Time in Decades (Bloomberg)

By Josh Eidelson

Thomson Reuters Corp. journalists in the US launched a daylong strike Thursday, the first walkout in decades among the media company's long-unionized staff.

Employees began a 24-hour strike at 6 a.m. New York time Thursday after claiming the company didn't fairly negotiate pay increases, according to the Communications Workers of America's NewsGuild, which represents US-based Reuters reporters, photographers and video journalists. The group said about 90% of the 300 or so Reuters employees it represents agreed to participate.

The news organization proposed a three-year contract with guaranteed annual pay increases of 1%, according to the union, which would erode employee spending power against a backdrop of 9% inflation. Members of the guild believe Reuters managers aren't working with them in good faith, and have also filed a complaint with the US National Labor Relations Board. They join an expanding group of media workers that have recently pushed back against what they characterize as unfair treatment by their employers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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Photographer Reunites Puppy with Owner After it Was Lost in a Fire (PetaPixel)



Patches is reunited with his owner | Natalie Golay / Rescue Ranch

By MATT GROWCOOT

Photojournalist Jonathan Rivas was documenting the devastating McKinney Fire in California when a puppy emerged from the ashes and ran up to Rivas — ecstatic that it had found a human.

Rivas, of AIO Filmz, filmed the emotional footage and later shared it on Twitter in a bid to find the little dog's owner.

"Putting this out for the owner. Small pup, estimated to be four months was found roaming within the fire zone," he wrote on Twitter.

Remarkably, Rivas's post worked and the puppy, whose name is Patches, was reunited with his grateful owner James "Mac" Benton.

Rivas has been taking video of Benton's still-smoldering property when Patches appeared through the wreckage. The heart-warming footage shows the cute pup bounding toward Rivas, clearly elated that a human had arrived. The kind cameraman sweet-talked the dog and gave it water and plenty of love. Footage shows the dog gulping down a bowl of water.

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

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Myanmar charges Japanese journalist with spreading fake news (AP)

BANGKOK (AP) — A Japanese video journalist detained in Myanmar while covering a brief pro-democracy march has been charged with violating a law against spreading false or alarming news, the Southeast Asian country's military government announced Thursday.

Toru Kubota, a Tokyo-based documentary filmmaker, was arrested Saturday by plainclothes police after taking images of the protest.

He is the latest of about 140 journalists arrested since the military seized power last year from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than half have been released, but the media remains under tight restrictions.

A military information office, the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, said in a statement that Kubota was charged with incitement, specifically causing fear, spreading false news, or agitating against a government employee. It carries a penalty of up to three years in prison. Most of Myanmar's imprisoned journalists were charged under the same law.

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

The Final Word

It's been an exhilarating ride



Kristin Gazlay – *embarking on a new adventure in Dallas-Fort Worth with Charles Hill:*
Last night on my roof, last night in NYC, last night before the beginning of an exciting

new chapter. It's been an exhilarating ride, and I will be back. Thanks for everything, my New York peeps, both current and former.

Today in History – Aug. 5, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 5, the 217th day of 2022. There are 148 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 5, 1981, the federal government began firing air traffic controllers who had gone out on strike.

On this date:

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1914, what's believed to be the first electric traffic light system was installed in Cleveland, Ohio, at the intersection of East 105th Street and Euclid Avenue.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the 200-meter dash at the Berlin Olympics, collecting the third of his four gold medals.

In 1953, Operation Big Switch began as remaining prisoners taken during the Korean War were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1957, the teenage dance show "American Bandstand," hosted by Dick Clark, made its network debut on ABC-TV.

In 1962, South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested on charges of leaving the country without a passport and inciting workers to strike; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment. Movie star Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from "acute barbiturate poisoning."

In 1964, U.S. Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. became the first American flier to be shot down and captured by North Vietnam; he was held prisoner until February 1973.

In 1974, the White House released transcripts of subpoenaed tape recordings showing that President Richard Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, had discussed a plan in June 1972 to use the CIA to thwart the FBI's Watergate investigation; revelation of the tape sparked Nixon's resignation.

In 2010, the Senate confirmed Elena Kagan, 63-37, as the Supreme Court's 112th justice and the fourth woman in its history. Thirty-three workers were trapped in a copper mine in northern Chile after a tunnel caved in (all were rescued after being entombed for 69 days).

In 2011, the sun-powered robotic explorer Juno rocketed toward Jupiter on a five-year quest to discover the secret recipe for making planets. (Juno reached Jupiter on July 4, 2016.)

In 2020, authorities said protesters in Portland, Oregon, barricaded about 20 police officers inside a precinct and tried to set it on fire; police used tear gas on the crowd for the first time since U.S. agents sent by President Donald Trump left the city the previous week. A city commission in Minneapolis blocked a November vote on a proposal to dismantle the city's police department in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Ten years ago: A gunman opened fire, killing six people at a Sikh temple near Milwaukee before shooting himself dead during an exchange of fire with one of the first officers to respond. The robotic explorer Curiosity blazed through the pink skies of Mars, steering itself to a gentle landing inside a giant crater. Jamaica's Usain Bolt pulled away from the pack and crossed the finish line to claim consecutive gold medals in the marquee track and field event at the Summer Games in London. Britain's Andy Murray cruised past Roger Federer 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in the men's tennis singles final. Serena and Venus Williams won the women's doubles title.

Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions against North Korea for its escalating nuclear and missile programs. Eight-time Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt finished third in the 100-meter dash at the world track championships in London, which marked his farewell from the sport; the winner was American Justin Gatlin.

One year ago: Richard Trumka, who rose from the coal mines of Pennsylvania to preside over one of the world's largest labor organizations, the AFL-CIO, died at 72. A Texas appeals court upheld the murder conviction of Amber Guyger, a former Dallas police officer who was sentenced to prison for fatally shooting her neighbor in his home.

Today's Birthdays: College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Roman Gabriel is 82. Country songwriter Bobby Braddock is 82. Actor Loni Anderson is 77. Actor Erika Slezak is 76. Rock singer Rick Derringer is 75. Actor Holly Palance is 72. Pop singer Samantha Sang is 71. Rock musician Eddie Ojeda (Twisted Sister) is 67. Actor-singer Maureen McCormick is 66. Rock musician Pat Smear is 63. Author David Baldacci is 62. Actor Janet McTeer is 61. Country musician Mark O'Connor is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing is 60. Actor Mark Strong is 59. Director-screenwriter James Gunn is 56. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 56. Country singer Terri Clark is 54. Actor Stephanie Szostak is 51. Retired MLB All-Star John Olerud is 54. Rock musician Eicca Toppinen (EYE'-kah TAH'-pihn-neh) (Apocalyptica) is 47. Actor Jesse Williams is 42. Actor Brendon Ryan Barrett is 36. Actor Meegan Warner (TV: "TURN: Washington's Spies") is 31. Actor/singer Olivia Holt is 25. Actor Albert Tsai is 18. Actor Devin Trey Campbell is 14.

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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