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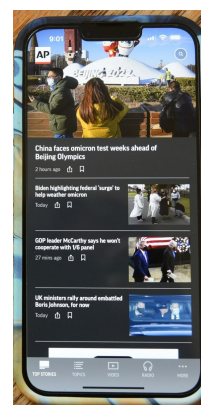
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# Connecting

August 8, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 8, 2022,

Fifty-five years ago, **Marcus Eliason**, age 20, joined the AP bureau in Tel Aviv as a messenger and trainee “puncher.” A month later, on June 6, 1967, the Arab-Israeli conflict known as the Six-Day War broke out. When the new hire arrived at work and was chastised for not rushing in earlier, he told of having to buy emergency groceries for his mother, dig a backyard bomb shelter, pick up stranded hitchhikers, and so on.

“Don’t stand there talking about it, kid,” an old hand growled. “Write it down.”

That was the beginning of one of the most impactful careers in the history of the AP, as recounted in our lead story today by colleague [Charlie Hanley](#) about the death of his friend on Friday at the age of 75. Eliason was an international journalist whose insightful reporting, sparkling prose and skillful editing graced Associated Press news wires for almost a half-century.

Marcus was a regular contributor to Connecting, his emails arriving as lordcopper@gmail.com with the name attached as "G. Samsa." Confused at first by who sent them, it didn't take me too long to know that such emails were from Marcus. But not until I asked Hanley about them did I learn the rest of the story. Charlie shares:

*"Hah. Astute question. Marcus had his quirks and one was to confound new acquaintances with his silly email address. Lord Copper was the comic publisher of Evelyn Waugh's fictional Daily Beast newspaper, in Scoop, the guy who sent the wrong Mr. Boot (the nature writer mistaken for the swashbuckling novelist) to cover a war that has broken out in "Ishmaelia."*

*Worse than that, the name attached to an incoming "lordcopper" email was not that, but "GSamsa." That's Gregor Samsa, the guy who wakes up as a cockroach in Kafka's Metamorphosis.*

*My old pal was incredibly well read. Maybe too well read!*

Just one of many, many reasons why he will be missed.



**Marcus and Eva Eliason**

If you would like to send a note to Marcus' wife, here are addresses: Eva Eliason, 134 West 93rd St, Apt. 9A, New York, NY 10025 or at - [evaeliason2@gmail.com](mailto:evaeliason2@gmail.com)

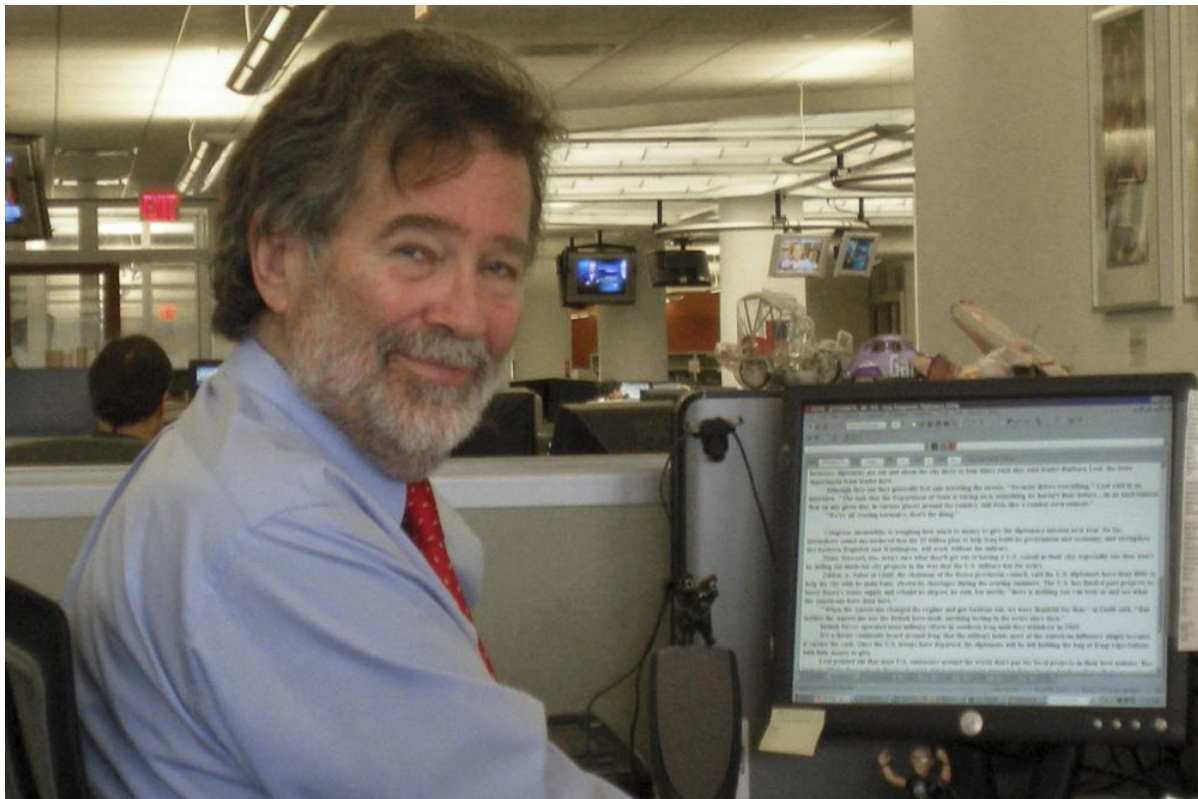
Your memories of working with Marcus are welcomed.

Connecting struck a chord with your memories of Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully, who died last week, and other of your favorite broadcasters. We bring more of your memories in today's issue.

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

Paul

## Longtime AP correspondent, editor Marcus Eliason dies at 75



This 2011 photo shows Associated Press journalist Marcus Eliason in New York. Eliason, an international journalist whose insightful reporting, sparkling prose and skillful editing graced Associated Press news wires for almost a half-century, has died at age 75. Eliason died on Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, in a New York hospital, his family said. (AP Photo/Charles J. Hanley)

By CHARLES J. HANLEY

NEW YORK (AP) — Marcus Eliason, an international journalist whose insightful reporting, sparkling prose and skillful editing graced Associated Press news wires for almost a half-century, has died. He was 75.

He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, developed pneumonia earlier this week at a nursing home, and died on Friday in a New York hospital, his family said.

From Israel and the 1967 Six-Day War to apartheid-era South Africa and on to Afghan battlegrounds, bloody Belfast, the Iron Curtain's fall, the handover of Hong Kong and countless other datelines and stories, Eliason witnessed and reported on some of the great world events of the 20th century's final decades. And when that century drew to a close, it was the Eliason touch that greeted the new one.

"From East to West and North to South, the world welcomed the new millennium in a shimmering tapestry of song and light that rippled around the globe," he led off AP's main article on January 1, 2000.

By then he had moved on to his final posting, from which he retired in 2014, as a New York-based editor of some of AP's biggest stories and projects — and, finally, as chief editor for international feature stories, a valued guiding hand for scores of AP reporters worldwide.

"A classic AP go-to guy is gone," said former AP President and CEO Louis D. Boccardi. "Even a quick look at the outline of his assignments, both abroad and here at home, says it all. If there was a tough assignment that needed a steady hand, Marcus was often the choice."

"Marcus was a wonderful writer and editor, erudite, wise and supporting," said former AP International Editor John Daniszewski, now the AP's vice president and editor-at-large for standards. Observed Claude Erbsen, a longtime correspondent and global AP executive: "He could make words sing and dance."

Jack Marcus Eliason was born on Oct. 19, 1946, in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, to Jewish immigrant parents from Europe, grew up in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and moved as a teenager with his parents to Israel. At age 20, after a brief apprenticeship at The Jerusalem Post, Eliason joined the AP bureau in Tel Aviv as a messenger and trainee "puncher," or operator of the Telex machine used to transmit stories.

A month later, on June 6, 1967, the Arab-Israeli conflict known as the Six-Day War broke out. When the new hire arrived at work and was chastised for not rushing in earlier, he told of having to buy emergency groceries for his mother, dig a backyard bomb shelter, pick up stranded hitchhikers, and so on.

"Don't stand there talking about it, kid," an old hand growled. "Write it down."

He did, launching a sterling career in news and being promoted to staff reporter a year later. Once asked how he learned to write so well, he replied, "By punching the great copy of journalists in the AP bureau in Tel Aviv."

Through the 1970s, the Eliason byline topped some of the biggest stories from the Middle East: terror attacks and Israeli government turmoil, another Arab-Israeli war, Anwar Sadat's history-making 1977 visit to Jerusalem.



**AP staffers, from left, Granville (Bob) Watts, Chief of Bureau Hal McClure, newsman Marcus Eliason, Secretary Ilana Balaban, messengers Michael Gross, Marcel Castro, front, and photographer Brian Calvert pose for a photograph on July 15, 1969, in Tel Aviv, Israel. Eliason, an international journalist whose insightful reporting, sparkling prose and skillful editing graced Associated Press news wires for almost a half-century, has died at age 75. Eliason died on Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, in a New York hospital, his family said. (AP Photo/Brian Calvert)**

“Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt, had landed in Israel on a mission of peace. The time was 7:59 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19,” he reported. “For Israelis, and doubtlessly for Egyptians, too, it was more stupendous than Neil Armstrong’s foot touching the moon.”

In 1978, Eliason was posted to the AP bureau in Paris, where among many other assignments he covered the exiled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as he led, from afar, the Islamist revolution in Iran.

After a stint back in Israel, Eliason transferred to London, where he rose to news editor. His astute reporting and masterful prose stood out in one of AP’s premier “writing bureaus,” whether covering the bloodshed of the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland or having fun with British eccentrics like “the world’s worst poet,” William McGonagall.

“Scotland does its poets proud, and no town is without its statue to Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott or Robert Louis Stevenson,” Eliason wrote from Dundee. “But mention The Great McGonagall in his hometown and reactions range from a fond chuckle to pained silence.”

He next returned to Israel, this time as chief of bureau, leading a staff of prize-winning reporters and photojournalists in the 1990s, overseeing the nonstop flow of news of Palestinian uprisings, intermittent Arab-Israeli peace talks, Israeli political battles and Scud missile attacks from Saddam Hussein's Iraq. From there, he moved on to his final international assignment, in Hong Kong, where he ran coverage of the 1997 handover of the British colony to Chinese control, writing all the while.

Throughout the decades, the AP also tapped the talents of the big, gregarious Israeli with the South African accent — a high school graduate whose insatiable reading and store of knowledge often amazed colleagues — for temporary assignments in some of the world's hottest spots, on some of the era's most important stories.

He reported from Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion of that country in 1979 and from his southern African homeland during the worst of its anti-apartheid upheavals. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the AP dispatched Eliason to travel along the former Iron Curtain border to interview ordinary citizens and write an in-depth report on the meaning of that epic chapter of 20th-century history.

In 1997, he left Hong Kong for AP headquarters in New York and a job as lead editor for feature articles from around the world, an acknowledged master becoming an understanding mentor for a cadre of younger foreign correspondents, from Beijing to Berlin to Buenos Aires.

"He was one of those journalism heroes I had as a young writer — those fascinating, unattainable bylines," said one of those correspondents, Ted Anthony, now AP's director of new storytelling and newsroom innovation. "Then he became the greatest editor I've ever had, an astonishing mix of encourager and enforcer. And a dear friend."

When he retired after 47 unbroken years with the AP, Eliason remarked that "I'm a guy who has worked all his life. No fellowships, no sabbaticals, no parental leaves. I was having way too much excitement for that."

Leaving his desk for the last time, he heard the vast AP New York newsroom burst into applause. "It was a gracious, spontaneous gesture that reminded me once again how lucky I have been," he later wrote. Said Boccardi: "It was the AP that was lucky."

Eliason is survived by Eva, his wife of 44 years and countless house moves and adventures; a daughter, Avital, of Tel Aviv, Israel, and a son, David, of New York. The family said he will be buried in Kadima, Israel.

*Charles J. Hanley was a writer and editor for The Associated Press from 1968 to 2011.*

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

## Your memories of Marcus Eliason

[Donna Abu-Nasr](#) - I started working closely with Marcus in 2002, when it became easier to get visas to Saudi Arabia. Together we had a lot of fun (and arguments!!) discovering the kingdom. There was a recent discussion about editors here. We all

need them, but we need someone like Marcus: a mentor who's not patronizing, but one who lets you grow. A guiding hand that's not controlling. A role model who's passionate, curious and generous. Marcus stayed in touch even after I moved to Bloomberg in 2011. He emailed me two years ago to ask about my family following the Beirut port blast. He wanted updates on the new Saudi under MBS when I moved there in 2019, and even sent story ideas. Will miss you, dear M.

My condolences to Eva, Avital and David.

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**Harry Dunphy** - It's hard to know where to begin - Charlie Hanley did a beautiful job on Marcus Eliason's career, portraying what an outstanding job he did as a reporter, writer editor and manager and what a special person he was.

Throughout our overlapping careers he was a cherished colleague, confidant and friend.

I was fortunate to have him on the staff when I arrived in Paris as COB along with other talented reporters such as Paul Chutkow, Jeff Ulbrich and later Elaine Ganley. They produced a steady stream of excellent enterprise stories that greatly enhanced the bureau's reputation. They were also ready to go on a moment's notice to other bureaus that needed.

We had known each other and been in touch on many Middle East stories when I was in Beirut and Cairo earlier in the 1970s. He helped me and Verity and our young family get settled in the Paris area and filled me in on bureau operations and problems, as did my predecessor, Mort Rosenblum, down the road as editor of the International Herald Tribune.

In the newsroom, the telephone operator would call out the name of the intended recipient.

When it was for Marcus, she would stretch out his name, "Marcooserm sur la une." (Marcus on one).

Forever after when he had occasion to call me he would say, "It's Marcoose" and I would get it immediately.

It's also worth saying that he was often "sur la une" (on Page 1) in newspapers throughout the world during his career.

Early on I knew he was special. When I joined the cable desk at 50 Rock before going to Beirut, the overnight editor, Harris Jackson, often gave me his stories from Israel, saying "he's pretty good and you don't need to touch much."

It was a good introduction to the turbulent Middle East, my first destination as a correspondent.

In Beirut we became acquainted first by messages and then by telephone when that was possible. We met several times in Beirut and Tel Aviv. On my first visit there, he

arranged talks with top foreign ministry officials so I could get the Israeli perspective on events I was covering.

Our contacts continued when I went to Cairo and we followed the rise of President Anwar Sadat. Had I remained in Cairo a little longer, I would have been on the plane with Sadat to Jerusalem and would have covered with Marcus his historic visit.

As the obit pointed out, not only was he a great correspondent and editor, he was also a wise and helpful mentor to many reporters and editors throughout his later years with AP.

As has often been said, what makes our organization such a wonderful place to work is the people. Marcus Eliason was one of the best.

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**Arthur Max** - For 42 years Marcus Eliason ripped up my copy. From the first story I ever wrote to the last, many of them went through his hands. In the old days in Tel Aviv, when his blue pencil didn't suffice, he would crumple up my offering and put a fresh sheet of paper in his own typewriter. He once roasted me in the days before spellcheck for my legendary "variations on the English language."

And I loved him for it.

He turned mundane features into magic, whether his own or editing another's. His words sang off the page. He had a wondrous eye for the odd, the quirky, the humorous. As an editor, he had a talent for making you look good.

Like Marcus two years earlier, I started out as a go-fer, running errands and punching the reporters' copy onto telex tape for transmission to London. Early on, Marcus threw me bones to chew on — two paragraph bread-and-butter stories of the latest Israeli air strikes across the Suez Canal. With great satisfaction I signed them off (end) (am/me).

So many images: a young and bushy Marcus strumming an Elton John song on his guitar; his classic "heh-heh" of a laugh; his merciless punishment of typewriter keys. Once we slogged together through deep mud to cover a mass killing on the Israel-Lebanon border, and he was having difficulty. By that time I had worked with him for four years and I didn't know he had a prosthetic leg.

My first big interview: We met Israeli war legend and ex-defense minister Moshe Dayan in his garden, where he kept his fabled collection of questionably obtained archaeological artifacts. Briefly out of public office but rarely out of the public eye, he had much to say about his ideas for the Mideast. Marcus, though far more senior and experienced, let me write the story under his edit. Bylines were AP rarities in the '70s, and double bylines were unknown, so I was thrilled to have it. But it was Marcus who took the heat when Dayan called to complain and who gave the story a mollifying but insubstantial tweak in a writethru.

Nearly 20 years later Marcus was back in Israel and I parachuted in from Delhi for the Gulf War. During an Iraqi missile barrage, we sheltered in the "safe room," (normally



the darkroom) in Jerusalem. Marcus had attached cardboard Mouseketeer ears to his gas mask for the amusement of his kids and to ease their fears. When AP Radio called, he did a muffled Q&A through the mask. Ahh, if only we had APTV back then for a standup!

Having only worked overseas, it was hugely comforting to have an editor in New York who'd been there, done that, and knew exactly what was needed. As anyone in the foreign service will tell you, Marcus always had your back.

Over the decades Marcus mentored countless youngsters coming up through the AP. Though we were the same age, I am proud to consider myself probably the first.

If Marcus could see this, he'd say, "Run it through again and cut it by half."

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**Dan Perry** - The untimely loss of Marcus Eliason leaves me shattered, and I am not one to easily use that word. Anecdotes cannot do this titan justice. All I can think to say is what I wrote on Facebook: I met many fine people in my 28 years at the Associated Press, but none possessed a kinder spirit, a keener mind or a crisper keyboard than Marcus Eliason. After postings from Hong Kong to Paris to London to Jerusalem he became chief editor for international features, daring to mess with my copy yet doing it with style and always for the best. I considered him a mentor, but my lasting memory will be of recent years when he frequently visited Israel and we would share a glass as friends. My older, wiser friend was a world-class curmudgeon who somehow never lost his wonder, and was also forever complaining that the noise was too loud.

RIP, dear Marcus, and if you somehow can, send dispatches from heaven.

## Sue Manning and Vin Scully

**John Willis** - Thanks for Friday's remembrance of Sue Manning. As soon as I saw the crawl with the breaking news of Vin Scully's death the other night, I thought of Sue and her love of the Dodgers.

I was lucky enough to be her supervisor when she first joined The AP in Spokane in 1978.

I'm sure she was one of the first ones, along with Tommy Lasorda, at the door to welcome Vin into Dodger Blue Heaven.

## Your homework assignment *(saved from being eaten by your dog)*

**Frank Aukofer** - For your homework assignment, I offer "the putzie box," from my memoir/autobiography, "Never a Slow Day." It takes place when I was a young reporter in the early 1960s at The Milwaukee Journal.

At that time, I worked a lot as a swing man, a reporter who filled in on the beats of other reporters on their days off. It was a lousy assignment because a swing man, unless he'd been around for a lot of years, didn't know anybody, had no sources, barely knew where the building was, and was basically there to get his finger in the dike if something big happened. It was not unlike what is expected these days of a pool reporter on Air Force One.

I drew the county and circuit courts on a Friday. There were a dozen or more of these civil courts in the Milwaukee County Courthouse, and Friday was motion day, a busy time when lawyers were filing, and judges hearing, motions on various cases before them. They produced almost nothing in the way of stories, but the reporter was expected to keep track of them nevertheless.

### **The Putzie Box**

It was a frantic day. When I checked into the office in the morning, Waldon Porterfield, sitting in as the assignment editor, handed me a sheaf of legal-looking papers to check out. On my way to the Courthouse, I scanned them and saw that the writer was complaining about his treatment at the hands of different judges in Milwaukee and Brown (Green Bay) counties, accusing the judges of everything from misconduct to criminal actions. The treatise was not signed, but paper-clipped to it was a small piece of note paper that said further information could be had from Walter Block. It gave a phone number.

One of those mentioned was Circuit Judge Myron Gordon, who was scheduled to hear a motion by Block that morning. I walked into Gordon's courtroom and Block, who was representing himself, introduced himself. I said, Oh yeah, we got your letter. I pulled it out and Block started pointing out different passages, but I waved him off, saying I had other courts to check and would be back later.

I spent the whole day rushing from one court to another without scaring up even a single story worth reporting. I didn't return to Gordon's courtroom until the end of the day, and by then Block was long gone. As was the custom, I simply walked back into the judge's chambers to find out what had happened. The judge was alone. I asked a few questions and Gordon asked how I knew so much about the case. I took the papers out of my pocket and said, Well, we got this letter.

The judge grabbed it out of my hand and started reading, muttering occasionally to himself. He handed it back without a word and said he had denied Block's motion for a change of venue. I didn't think it was a story and didn't plan to write one.

That night, there was a knock at the door of our one-room apartment on N. Cass St. It was a deputy sheriff with a summons ordering me to Gordon's court at 9 the following morning with the letter. I had no idea what was going on, but I was scared. I went in early Saturday morning and told the whole episode to Harry Hill, the deputy city editor.

He exploded. What in the hell was I doing, showing a judge a letter that had been sent to The Journal? My protest that the judge had snatched it out of my hand was no

excuse. Hill told me to honor the subpoena and assigned another reporter to cover the hearing.

It was bizarre. It was Block, Judge Gordon, a bailiff, a court reporter, the Journal reporter and me. Gordon acted as both prosecutor and judge. He put me on the stand and basically had me recount how I had gotten the letter.

I learned later that Block had been in and out of courts in both Brown and Milwaukee counties. His wife had sued him for divorce, and he had filed a counterclaim, accusing her of prostitution. He said she had putzie box on the dresser in their home, and when he wanted to have sex with her, he had to put \$20 in the putzie box. Judges had uniformly ruled against him, and he had just as routinely accused them of prejudice, criminal conduct and whatever else he could think of.

Unknown to me, Gordon had told Block at an earlier encounter that if he ever vilified another judge he would be held in criminal contempt of court. After listening to my testimony, Gordon said from the bench that he was convinced Block had written the letter to The Journal, in direct violation of his warning. He found Block guilty of contempt and sentenced him to six months in jail.

I thought for certain that I would be fired on my return to the office. But Hill simply chewed me out once more and told me to never, ever give a news source any communication a reader might send to the paper. We carried a short story in the Sunday paper about Gordon sending Block to the slammer, but that was it. I never heard another thing about either him or the Putzie Box.

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**Sally Hale** - I can't resist weighing in on the "homework" questions. My submission could fit into several of the categories:

One of my first assignments as a 24-year-old reporter in the Dallas AP bureau was to drive to Waxahachie and do a feature on a nudist community there. I am still not sure whether this was some sort of rite of passage - but I wasn't about to question state editor John Hotard. And so I found myself interviewing a man wearing only a cowboy hat, awkwardly holding my reporter's notebook at face level so that I wouldn't have to look ... down. Duly embarrassed, I got the story and got the heck out of there. Interestingly, no photographer was assigned to this story.

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**Tom Kent** - For the homework assignment ("What was the most embarrassing or difficult question you ever had to pose?"):

At AP Hartford, we had a story about a man who was sawn in half in a sawmill accident. A member asked – and I had to ask the police officer who had been there – if he was sawn vertically or horizontally.

# Vin Scully – and your other favorite sports announcers

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - Washington Post's Mark Fisher's touching essay on Vin Scully has taken me back seven decades to when as a Word War II refugee from Soviet and Nazi rape of Lithuania I came to the new world of Connecticut and became a Brooklyn Dodgers fan.

Many afternoons and evenings evaporated listening to the pictures Scully painted especially from Ebbets Field of my beloved Bums. (Was it on WWCO or WATR?).

We had seen American GIs play baseball in post-war Bavaria, and as single-digit-age kids in the polyglot United Nations refugee camps we amused ourselves with a somewhat related game, propelling sticks spinning end over end into the infield.

Our family had arrived in Connecticut in the late winter of 1952 and by spring I could handle bat and glove during fourth grade recess at Mary Abbott School in Middlebury.

In Waterbury at St. Joseph's Grammar School, we usually were Dodgers or New York Yankees fans. As a Lithuanian there was no question I would become a Dodgers fan because a countryman, Johnny Podres, was one of the team's ace pitchers. (Despite the Hispanic-sounding name, Podres came from Lithuanian immigrants, ancestral name Poderis).

Although some infidels in the Lithuanian-American community of Waterbury became Yankees fans, most of us hated the Yankees (with exceptions for Mickey Mantle; and while we disliked National League rivals, the New York Giants, we loved Willie Mays).

A few Red Sox Fans revered Ted Williams; there was a sprinkling of Giants fans; and some heartbroken grieving followers of the Braves, who had abandoned Boston for Milwaukee.

In the migration of Northeast MLB teams, my heartbreak came in 1957, when the Dodgers deserted Ebbets Field for a "ravine" in California; we would have switched to the Giants, but they too slunk away, to San Francisco.

All that was left to us Yankee haters would be the New York Mets, but the joy of being a fan just wasn't there for me, even at Shea Stadium.

At Crosby High School I had focused on the Red Sox because a local boy from rival Leavenworth High, Jimmy Piersall, had made a splash with the Boston team, but increasingly baseball faded from my heart.

Then in 1967 I left New York City to take a job in New Hampshire, the Concord bureau of Associated Press, where it was impossible to avoid the Red Sox. (My father used to complain that "all Americans talk about is baseball.").

In our part of New England, the Red Sox aura saturated sports pages, TV and radio and drew me back into reading box scores. Dodgers and Red Sox fans shared a common

history -- hating the Yankees especially during the teams' playoffs and World Series battles against the common enemy, the Yanks. Even their stadiums -- Fenway Park and Ebbets Field -- were similar.

Thus, my credentials as a Yankee-despising Brooklyn Dodgers fan gave me easy entry into Red Sox Nation and I have been a suffering fan ever since.

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**Mark Duncan** - While I never worked with the late Vin Scully, I witnessed one memorable encounter.

After working the first two games of the 1984 World Series in San Diego, we flew back to Detroit for game 3. Sitting a few rows back on the aisle was Joe Garagiola, who was one of the broadcasters handling the game.

Joe was not happy being stuck in coach but was easily recognized by other passengers and was constantly in conversation with those in the cabin.

About halfway through the flight, his broadcast partner, Vin Scully, made his way back from First Class, bearing an adult beverage for Joe.

After a few minutes chatting with passengers, Scully went back to his seat.

For the record, the Tigers won the series 4-1.

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**Mike Harris** - All the talk about baseball announcers brought back memories of growing up in Madison, WI listening to Earl Gillespie and Blaine Walsh, the voices of the Milwaukee Braves in the 1950s. I can still remember hanging on their every word as Hank Aaron or Eddie Mathews strode to the plate with the winning run in scoring position, or Warren Spahn getting ready to face Willie Mays. Those two guys made the scene come alive to this (then) young baseball fanatic.

Later, I loved listening to Bob Uecker and Jon Miller, both wonderful, laid back announcers.

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**Margaret Lillard** - This Southern kid (raised partially in Hawaii) only saw an ice hockey game - the Miracle on Ice - once before moving to NYC in the early '90s. John Davidson and Sam Rosen taught me and addicted me to the game via the NY Rangers' TV broadcasts. When I finally got the chance to cover some games for The AP, I had the pleasure of meeting Mike Emrick, another excellent play-by-play man and a lovely person. But as my first coach once said, "I'd rather play than watch" - and I still am playing ... in goal, with my 62nd birthday looming next month. Thanks to these great guys, and to my terrific colleagues on the Sports desk and in the bureaus (particularly my first "coaches," Dave Ginsburg and Ken Rappoport), for sharing the magic with me.

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**Jim Limbach** - Re play by play: Jon Miller and -- in Chicago -- Harry Caray and Jack Brickhouse.

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**Bruce Lowitt** - In 2002, long after I had left AP Sports, I wrote a story, Voices of the Past, for the St. Petersburg Times, because Tigers broadcaster Ernie Harwell was retiring that season. It included these two grafes:

The home run call is a broadcaster's signature. Allen's was "Going, going, gone!" although Harry Hartman is credited with having said it first at a 1929 Reds game. They were simple yet dramatic. Harwell's "It's long gone!" Kiner's "It's gone, goodbye!" Caray's "It could be, it might be, it is. A home run!" Prince's "Kiss it goodbye!" Hodges' "Bye, bye, baby!"

Scully never has had a home run call. It is its very absence that builds the drama. "When I first started, I would follow the outfielder. I'd say, 'Long fly to left. Hermanski's going back. ... Way back. ... To the track. ... At the wall. ... Gone!'"

And this one:

Scully has broadcast Dodgers games since 1950, before they fled Flatbush for Los Angeles. "People will forever say to me, 'I love to hear your voice because it reminds me of when I heard it a long time ago,'" he said. "It reminds me of summer nights in the backyard with my dad' or fishing or something."

And because I was comparing the days when, as I began the story, We listened to the games through their eyes and saw them with our imagination ... with today, I ended it this way:

We no longer see baseball our own way. If we hear the game on the radio, we know we'll see highlights on SportsCenter, televised replays from different angles and in slow-motion.

We all see it the same way.

And we leave our imagination next to the remote.

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**Dave Lubeski** - I agree with the consensus that Vin Scully may have been the best of them all in the baseball broadcast booth. I never met him, but have every reason to believe the many stories that he was a class act in and out of the booth. He had a distinct delivery and the talent for coming up with the right phrase at the right time, never overdoing it, never becoming the story while reporting it and especially knowing when not to say anything.

I grew up in St. Louis in the 50s and early 60s and the Cardinals' Harry Caray was the man. He was in his prime and was an inspiration. I would sit in my parents' bedroom window pretending I was in the booth and call ball games being played in our

backyard. Jack Buck took over for Harry and also became an icon (Go crazy, folks!). When I began reporting sports on the radio in Houston, I met Jack at the batting cage before an Astros-Cardinals game. He was nice and genuine. I asked for and received career advice from him.

I also met Ernie Harwell (thanks for pointing out his 42 years with the Tigers, Harry Atkins) and Larry Margasak's memory of Harry Kalas, who sadly died in the broadcast booth before a Phillies game against the Nationals in DC. I knew Harry when he called Astros games. He had one of the smoothest deliveries of any baseball announcer, always had a smile on his face and friendly hello when I greeted him.

Victor Simpson pointed out Russ Hodges, who perhaps made the most famous baseball call ever on the shot heard 'round the world. Back in those days (1951) there were no broadcast radio rights and there were maybe half a dozen play by play accounts being broadcast on the radio at the same time. One of those announcers was Harwell, who told the story when I met him. Hodges just happened to be the TV broadcaster that day.

Brent Kallestad mentioned several and I certainly agree that Ray Scott, Al Michaels, Dick Enberg and Bob Costas are greats, but they were famous on a national level and not necessarily associated with a specific team.

It was also good to hear from Patty Woodrow, one of my AP Radio colleagues who mentioned Tom Marr and Rex Barney of the Orioles.

I would add Red Barber, Mel Allen, Bob Prince and Gene Elston, a man who never got much national publicity, but connected well with the fans in Houston, to the list of all-time greats in the baseball broadcast booth with those already mentioned here in Connecting.

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[Dave Skidmore](#) - Larry Margasak (a fellow alum of both the AP Washington bureau and of Northeast High School in Philadelphia) did not mention the late great Richie Ashburn, Phillies Hall-of-Famer from the 1950s and, later, broadcaster extraordinaire! Then there is the great (but not late) Bob Uecker, who I remember well from my time attending Milwaukee Brewers games while working at the Milwaukee bureau in the 1980s.

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[John Willis](#) - I remember many a night listening to the gravelly voiced Bob Prince, who spent 28 years doing Pirate games. My introduction to baseball in the early 50s was with Mel Allen doing the Yankee games. Living in northern NJ, just a few miles from, NYC, I also got to listen to Red Barber and Vin Scully doing the Dodgers and Russ Hodges doing the Giants. Fast forward two decades and I am a young married man with a new son, and still listening to Scully do Dodger games and pitching Farmer John's sausage on KFI in LA.

# FACT FOCUS: Why final election results take days, not hours

By ALI SWENSON and JOSH KELETY  
The Associated Press

As election workers spend long hours tallying ballots in Arizona and elsewhere in the days after Tuesday's primary elections, some critics are arguing they should be finished counting by now.

Widely shared Twitter posts this week called the delayed results "corrupt" and "unacceptable," while Arizona gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake in a press conference on Wednesday said Arizona voters should know the winner "when they go to bed on election night."

She repeated that gripe during a radio interview Friday, the day after the AP declared her victory in the primary, saying "we had days of waiting to get the ballots counted. It's a mess."

These complaints ignore the realities of modern-day ballot processing, which requires extensive time and labor, according to election officials and experts. In fact, states have never reported official election results on election night, experts say.

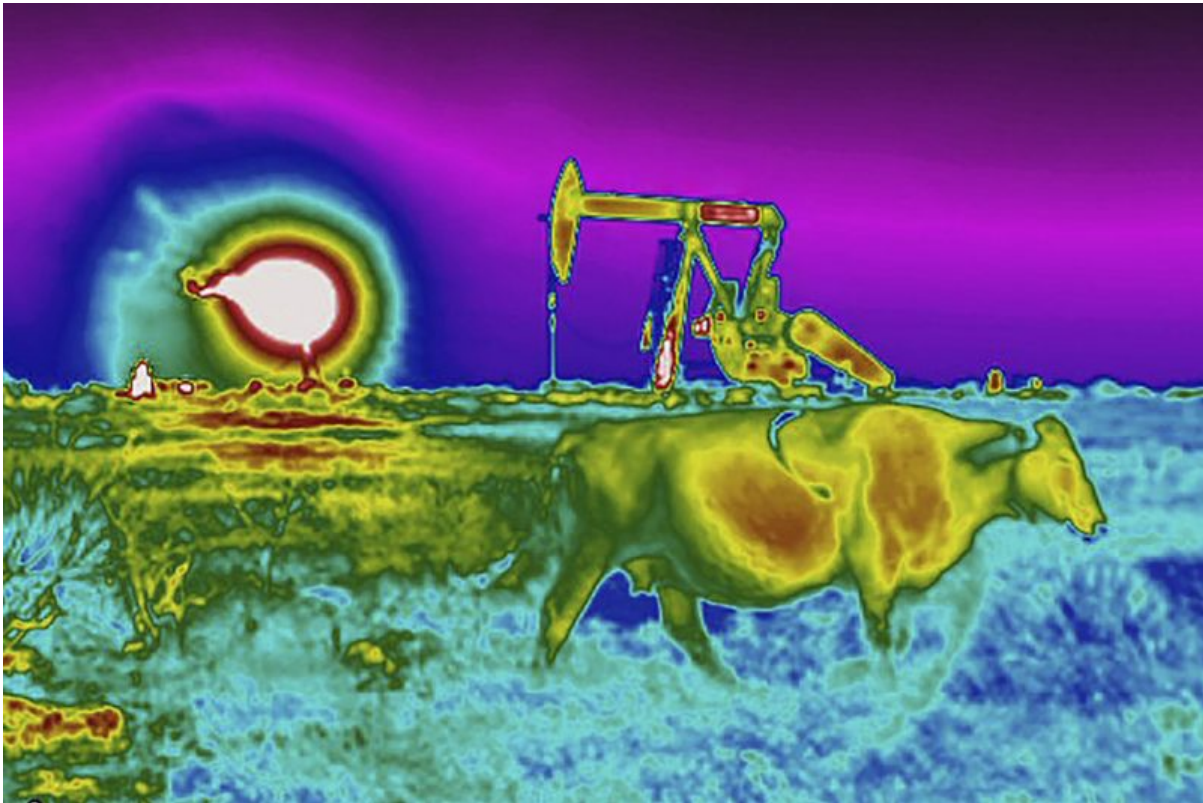
Here's a closer look at the facts.

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

## *Best of the Week – First Winner*

# Innovative AP team sheds light on methane 'super emitters' — invisible and virtually unregulated





In a photo made with an Optical Gas Imaging thermal camera, a plume of heat from a flare burning off methane and other hydrocarbons is detected in the background beside an oil pumpjack as a cow walks through a field in the Permian Basin in Jal, N.M., Oct. 14, 2021. Methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide, is invisible to conventional photography. AP PHOTO / DAVID GOLDMAN

It's difficult enough to write a compelling story about a highly technical subject, harder still to produce a rich visual package on a literally invisible threat — but an all-formats team of AP journalists rose to the challenge.

AP investigative reporter Michael Biesecker was looking for ways to tell the story of the dangers of methane emissions — an extremely potent greenhouse gas that is not adequately regulated. He learned that a handful of companies have been tracking methane using an infrared spectrometer, which measures wavelengths in light to detect and quantify methane in the atmosphere.

Patience and persistence paid off as Biesecker developed a relationship with Carbon Mapper — a joint venture of NASA and university researchers — which shared data with AP on 533 methane “super-emitter” sites in the Permian Basin, a 250-mile-wide expanse along the Texas-New Mexico border. Investigative data journalist Helen Wieffering then mapped those locations, giving Biesecker and photographer David Goldman a trail to follow when they visited the region.

Read more [here](#).

***Best of the Week – Second Winner***

## AP Exclusive: Japan's gender equality minister blasts male colleagues for 'ignorance'



**Seiko Noda, Japan's minister of gender equality and children's issues, speaks during a interview with AP in Tokyo, July 26, 2022. During the wide-ranging session, Noda, one of only two women in Japan's Cabinet, discussed the country's glaring gender gap, calling women "underestimated" in Japan. AP PHOTO / EUGENE HOSHIKO**

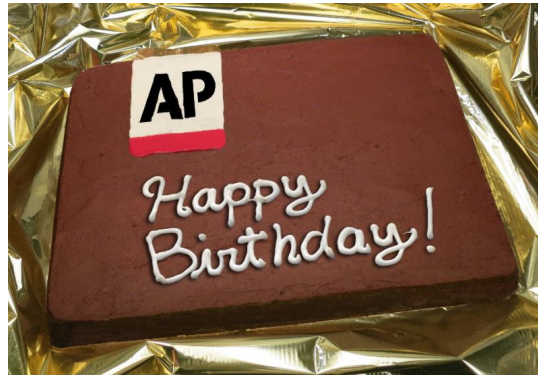
Planning and smart questions produced an outspoken AP interview with Seiko Noda, Japan's minister for gender equality and children's issues, who is a leading contender to be Japan's first female prime minister. Noda is one of only two women in Japan's Cabinet; the Japanese parliament is only 10% women.

She highlighted those points during the exclusive all-formats interview led by Tokyo correspondent Mari Yamaguchi and co-written with Japan news director Foster Klug. The more powerful lower house of Japan's two-chamber parliament is predominantly "people who do not menstruate, do not get pregnant and cannot breastfeed," Noda said.

Careful preparation by Yamaguchi and Klug, along with chief photographer Eugene Hoshiko and senior video producer Haruka Nuga, led to a list of questions that encouraged Noda to speak at length.

Read more [here](#).

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jeff Baenen](#)

[Steve Crowley](#)

## Stories of interest

*Alex Jones' \$49.3M verdict and the future of misinformation* (AP)



**Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones attempts to answer questions about his emails asked by Mark Bankston, lawyer for Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, during trial at the Travis County Courthouse in Austin, Wednesday Aug. 3, 2022. Jones testified Wednesday that he now understands it was irresponsible of him to declare the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre a hoax and that he now believes it was "100% real." (Briana Sanchez/Austin American-Statesman via AP, Pool)**

**By MICHAEL R. SISAK**

Alex Jones is facing a hefty price tag for his lies about the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre — \$49.3 million in damages, and counting, for claiming the nation's deadliest school shooting was a hoax — a punishing salvo in a fledgling war on harmful misinformation.

But what does this week's verdict, the first of three Sandy Hook-related cases against Jones to be decided, mean for the larger misinformation ecosystem, a social media-fueled world of election denial, COVID-19 skepticism and other dubious claims that the Infowars conspiracy theorist helped build?

"I think a lot of people are thinking of this as sort of a blow against fake news, and it's important to realize that libel law deals with a very particular kind of fake news," said Eugene Volokh, a First Amendment professor at the UCLA School of Law.

U.S. courts have long held that defamatory statements — falsehoods damaging the reputation of a person or a business — aren't protected as free speech, but lies about other subjects, like science, history or the government, are. For example, saying COVID-19 isn't real is not defamatory, but spreading lies about a doctor treating coronavirus patients is.

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

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## ***Opinion: How the news business's economics altered the news itself*** (Washington Post)

**By George F. Will**  
**Columnist**

In disagreeable times — e.g., now — nostalgia can be a narcotic. It is, however, reasonable to look longingly back to when newspapers were full of advertisements for department stores, grocery stores and automobile dealerships.

And news, much of it distressing: The world is a fallen place, and, as journalists say, we do not report the planes that land safely. Still, newspapers mattered more, and functioned differently, when they were substantially supported by advertisements for local businesses, rather than, as many increasingly are, by readers' digital subscriptions.

So argues Andrey Mir in “How the Media Polarized Us” in the Manhattan Institute’s City Journal. The title of Mir’s essay treats “media” and “newspapers,” his primary subject, as synonyms. But social media and cable television have pulled newspapers in their direction.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar.

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## ***“JOURNALISM KIND OF RUNS IN MY BLOOD”: NICHOLAS KRISTOF IS DONE WITH POLITICS*** (Vanity Fair)

BY CHARLOTTE KLEIN

It was nearly a year ago that I was trying to get Nicholas Kristof to talk to me about pivoting to politics, and the veteran journalist declined my request, saying he was “trying to do more listening than talking.” Now, one failed bid for Oregon governor later, he’s ready to talk.

I caught up with Kristof on Wednesday afternoon, a few days after The New York Times announced he’d be returning as a columnist, a role the 63-year-old journalist had held at the Gray Lady for the past two decades. Before that, he was a foreign correspondent. (He earned Pulitzers in both positions.) When Kristof left the Times last October to run for elected office in his home state of Oregon, some were skeptical he’d be able to win the support of voters given his lack of political experience. Kristof didn’t even get that far, with the Oregon Supreme Court ruling in February that he was ineligible to run because he didn’t meet the state’s three-year residency requirement. “I’ve no regrets about doing it. It was an effort that did not succeed, but I gave it my best,” Kristof told me, adding, “that was not enough.”

Read more [here](#).

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## ***What we lose if we lose the newspaper: Reflections on the viral madness tearing America apart*** (The Desert Sun)

Allan Goldstein

Something is broken in America. Our country is so fractured it hardly seems like one nation anymore. We have always had conflicting opinions about politics and life; that is not new. But we always assumed we lived in the same country.

That is not true anymore. Now we inhabit entirely different worlds. These worlds rarely cross, they are invisible to one another. We differ not only on opinions, but facts, not only facts, but what is real and what is illusion.

I am old enough to remember an America that was contentious, divided, even angry at times, but we always knew we all lived in the same place. Those days are gone.

Many changes have conspired to split America into multiple universes, but there is one major cause we rarely consider. It is something we took for granted, something that has nearly vanished without our noticing.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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## ***3 new arrests linked to slaying of Amazon expert, journalist*** (AP)

By DÉBORA ÁLVARES

BRASILIA, BRAZIL (AP) — Federal Police arrested three more suspects Saturday in a case arising from the slaying of a journalist and an Indigenous expert in the remote western reaches of Brazil’s Amazon rainforest in June.

A police statement alleges the three were involved in the hiding of the bodies after the killing. It said they are relatives of Amarildo da Costa Oliveira, known as “Pelado,” a fisherman who is one of three men previously charged with murdering the victims.

British journalist Dom Phillips, 57, and Brazilian Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, 41, were killed June 5 on their boat on the Itaquai river, near the entrance of the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory, which borders Peru and Colombia.

A total of seven people have been arrested for alleged involvement in the killings or the attempted coverup.

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

## Today in History – Aug. 8, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2022. There are 145 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 8, 1974, President Richard Nixon, facing damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal, announced he would resign the following day.

### On this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1861, biologist William Bateson, founder of the science of genetics, was born in Whitby, Yorkshire, England.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initialed a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he ended up doing.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

In 2000, the wreckage of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which sank in 1864 after attacking the Union ship Housatonic, was recovered off the South Carolina coast and returned to port.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice.

Ten years ago: Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi fired his intelligence chief for failing to act on an Israeli warning of an imminent attack days before militants stormed a border post in the Sinai Peninsula and killed 16 soldiers. Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings of the United States became the first three-time gold medalists in Olympic beach volleyball history, beating Jennifer Kessy and April Ross in the all-American final.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump said continued North Korean threats aimed at the United States would cause the U.S. to respond with “fire and fury like the world has never seen.” Venezuela’s new constitutional assembly, created by embattled President Nicolas Maduro, took over the halls of the opposition-controlled congress and decreed itself to be superior to all other branches of government. Singer Glen Campbell died in Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of 81; he had announced in 2011 that he’d been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

One year ago: Taliban fighters seized most of Kunduz city, the capital of a key northern Afghan province, the latest in a series of blows to government forces. The pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics officially came to an end; the closing ceremony was held in an empty stadium, though athletes were still able to gather on the field. Hall of Fame football coach Bobby Bowden, who built one of the most prolific college football programs in history at Florida State, died at his home in Tallahassee, Florida, at 91.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Nita Talbot is 92. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 85. Actor Connie Stevens is 84. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 83. Actor Larry Wilcox is 75. Actor Keith Carradine is 73. Movie director Martin Brest is 71. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 70. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is 69. Percussionist Anton Fig is 69. Actor Donny Most is 69. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 65. TV personality Deborah Norville is 64. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 61. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 61. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 60. Middle distance runner Suzy Favor Hamilton is 54. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 49. Country singer Mark Wills is 49. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 48. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 47. Singer JC Chasez (’N Sync) is 46. Actor Tawny Cypress is 46. R&B singer Drew Lachey (lah-SHAY’) (98 Degrees) is 46. R&B singer Marsha Ambrosius is 45. Actor Lindsay Sloane is 45. Actor Countess Vaughn is 44. Actor Michael Urie is 42. Tennis player Roger Federer is 41. Actor Meagan Good is 41. Rock musician Eric Hawk (Portugal. The Man) is 41. Actor Jackie Cruz (TV: “Orange is the New Black”) is 38. Britain’s Princess Beatrice of York is 34. Actor Ken Baumann is 33. New York Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo is 33. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 24. Actor Bebe Wood (TV: “The Real O’Neals”) is 21.

## 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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