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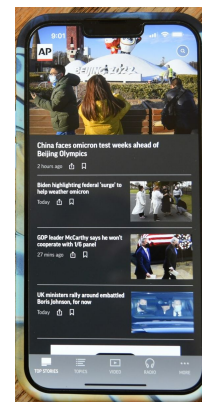
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Connecting

Oct. 21, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 21, 2022,

The 2022 midterm election is fewer than 3 weeks away – and no news organization plays a more critical role than The Associated Press in its unique role of tabulating and calling the races on Nov. 8.

How many races?

“This year, we will call more than 7,000 races, from Senate and House races to gubernatorial contests and statewide races ranging from secretary of state to attorney general and more,” said **Anna Johnson**, AP’s Washington chief of bureau. “AP has been doing this for more than a century. We base all our race calling decisions on facts, and importantly, we don’t project winners.

We wait until there is a clear winner before we declare who has won a race.”

In a Q-and-A that is our lead story today, Johnson explains the role that AP plays in the critical midterms.

On the lighter side, Connecting’s call for stories about your favorite car was heeded by several colleagues. Here’s an invitation to share your own story.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



AP’s role in the US midterm elections



A voter fills out their ballot at an early voting location in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 26, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

By Nicole Meir

On Nov. 8 The Associated Press will count the vote, declare winners and cover the results of House, Senate and statewide races across the U.S. in a critical midterm election cycle.

Washington Bureau Chief Anna Johnson outlines AP's coverage plans and explains the significance of the role AP plays in the American democracy:

What kind of coverage can we expect from AP in the run-up to the midterms? Any particular areas of focus?

From now until Nov. 8, The Associated Press will provide robust, fact-based reporting on races across all 50 states and the big issues around the country. We will have stories in all formats – in text, photo, video, audio and so much more.

A huge emphasis this year – which is different from what we've seen in previous years, especially in previous midterm elections – is on election administration. AP will produce stories on how races are run in various places and the role of election administrators at the state and local levels. There will also be an emphasis on coverage of candidates that have the potential to impact how elections are run if elected, particularly secretary of state offices. Beyond that, expect to see a lot of explanatory journalism from AP before, on and after Election Day, on everything from counting the vote to the process of certifying an election in various states and more. You'll also see race-calling explainers detailing how AP declares the winner in any given race.

AP has declared winners in elections since 1848. What should the public know about AP's role in the election process?

AP plays a unique and crucial role in the elections because we declare winners. This year, we will call more than 7,000 races, from Senate and House races to gubernatorial contests and statewide races ranging from secretary of state to attorney general and more. AP has been doing this for more than a century. We base all our race calling decisions on facts, and importantly, we don't project winners. We wait until there is a clear winner before we declare who has won a race.

How will AP use polling leading up to and on Election Day?

I want to highlight a few things about polling at the AP. First, we have our own [AP-NORC polls](#) that gauge Americans' views on a range of key issues and look into their levels of confidence in the U.S. government. You will see AP stories written about these polls, which provide important insights into the opinions of Americans.

The other thing I'll mention is horse race polling—the “who's up, who's down” type of polling. While AP sometimes uses horse race polling as a detail to explain the dynamic of a particular race or issue, you will never see this polling in the lead of an AP story or as a headline. A horse race poll is just a brief snapshot in time, and typically, the situation might have changed on the ground before the story is even published.

I also want to touch on [AP VoteCast](#), AP's comprehensive survey of the U.S. electorate. AP VoteCast is incredibly important because it doesn't just show which candidate people voted for, but why they voted the way they did. AP VoteCast not only informs our race calling, but it also provides a detailed portrait of the American electorate that is really valuable for the stories that we produce on Election Day and beyond.

What are a few of the biggest challenges you expect to see this election cycle?

We anticipate long waits in counting the ballots, which is something we saw in the 2020 election. We may not know the winner on election night, specifically in close races in certain states. It may take a few days, or perhaps even longer in some races. In that time, misinformation about a particular race can flourish.

Counting ballots all comes down to a state's own rules, which vary from state to state. Pennsylvania is a good example of a state where it may take longer to know who won, because counties are not allowed to start processing mail-in ballots until Election Day. In any close race — and we have some very competitive races in Pennsylvania this election cycle — it can take a while for all ballots to be counted. This is normal.

Johnson talks about AP's role in the 2022 midterm elections in [this video](#).

John Gaps III leaves behind 'a ton of memories'



John, right, singing at the Barcelona Olympics press village beer tent. Photo editor Dan Hansen standing. Santiago Lyon far left. The other two are unidentified. (Stephen Hart photo)

[Steve Hart](#) - I have a ton of memories working with John but two stand out in my mind.

John singing loudly what sounded like a Japanese sea shanty with colleagues at the Barcelona Olympics.

The other was spending a few weeks together in Waco, Texas, for the Branch Davidians where, before the fatal end, every day seemed to be a repeat of the previous one.

He and others would seek out a different photo at the same time scoping out the best vantage point for the end. We would then move a picture or two; hit a bucket of golf balls at the driving range that was next to the hotel; then a game of pool at the hotel bar; all to be repeated the next day.

Believe it or not the movie "Groundhog Day" had just been released and John organized us all to go see it one evening.

He breathed life into every one of those days.

Years later we reconnected after he started posting short video biblical explainers. I had reached out via email and we would 'chat' about his new mission. I'm so glad we did.

Yesterday was a bad day and I sorely miss him.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This post repeated from Thursday to include photo caption.)

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Howard Gros - I had the privilege of working with John at many AP events and got to witness first-hand his commitment and professionalism. We developed a friendship over the years, and I'm terribly saddened to hear about his passing.

As all that knew him can attest – he loved to have fun even during some of the worst assignments. There is one assignment that is etched in my memory forever. During the U.S. intervention in Haiti (1994), I received a late-night call from the VP of Communications asking me if I'd go help work out some issues with the NC2000 digital camera. He then explained that it was in Haiti...

Well, after sitting in a Florida hotel for days waiting for the U.S. to clear our flight, I boarded a small jet with a couple other journalists and landed on the island. I was greeted at the chaotic airport by none other than John and Scott Applewhite - I felt a whole lot better. Well, then we arrived at the Holiday Inn, which was AP's base of operation; John showed me where I could sleep, gave me a vest, a helmet and explained where the escape route was. At that point I wasn't sure what I had gotten myself into, especially one morning when the U.S. strung concertina wire and positioned armored vehicles round the hotel due to a threat against the media located there.

Over the next number of days, working with John we resolved the issues with the NC2000 cameras and had a few laughs. This was my first experience in this type of situation and thanks to John I was made to feel at ease. John and Scott allowed me to join them on a photo assignment where I got to experience up close just a small

amount of what these brave guys did so many times. There were a few tense situations which helped me develop an even deeper appreciation for photojournalists.

John, thanks for being a friend and I pray that memories like this bring some comfort to your family.

New Connecting series: **Your dreamiest car(s) ever**

Jim Hood - It is indeed, as Paul Stevens said in today's (Oct. 20) Connecting AP, never too late to buy your dream car. Unless, of course, you've already done so. In my case, I bought several of my dream cars over the years. More than a few turned into nightmares.



My Porsche 911 was every guy's dream – unbelievably fast, glued to the road and with brakes that would stop a train but would not stop you from crashing through the bankruptcy barrier. It was long in the tooth when I got it and ran up maintenance bills the size of my hometown's budget. Also, a six-speed manual with a racing clutch is not really fun to deal with in the slow-crawl that passes for traffic in Northern Virginia.

So I ditched the Porsche and went for something revolutionary – a Chevy Volt, the first mass-market electric car. It saved on gas bills and was appealingly homely but drove like a pile of bricks on wheels.

The Volt fizzled out and was replaced with a lightly used Audi A3. It had fancy wheels, slim profile tires and heavily tinted windows. Cops were drawn to it and always expressed surprise when the tinted window came down and they found a sedate elderly gentleman at the wheel.

One officer – who normally directs traffic at an elitist private school in our neighborhood (who do you have to p*ss off to get that assignment?) -- was enjoying poaching motorists one school holiday. He nabbed me and, besides the speeding issue, pulled a little gadget from his belt and measured the tint on my window. That was a \$50 ticket and a \$200 window-scraping job.

The Audi and Porsche followed a long line of other specimens, mostly European but a few domestic. I tend to amass multiple copies of the same car and thus have had two Alfa Romeo 164s (true beasts), two Alfa Romeo roadsters (true junk), two Peugeot 405s, two Fiat 124 roadsters and multiple Mini Coopers, one of which got caught in Superstorm Sandy at the age of a few weeks and was last seen bobbing down a street in Jersey City.

The Fiats tended to expire quickly. One of mine had a run-in with a boulder that came rolling down a mountain just outside Sedona, Arizona. The local constabulary wrote me up for damaging state property (to wit, the boulder).

The Alfa 164s were seldom seen in the U.S. When they were, it was usually on the back of a tow truck. I bought my first one from a bankrupt dealer in Florida and drove it home to Virginia overnight, sans license plates, at about 120 mph. A few highway patrolmen flashed their lights at me in a "Hey, cool it" manner but then went back to sleep. On the way, the power steering failed, the windshield wipers quit and the car overheated (very strange at highway speeds).

The 164 had an enormous V-6, front-wheel drive and suspension that must have started out on a Peugeot bicycle. I once stomped on the accelerator on an empty stretch of road and the thing leaped into the opposite lane.

One rainy day I was driving the 164 to meet the late, ex-AP VP Roy Steinfort for lunch when the windshield wipers failed and the engine overheated outside a Saturn dealership. I lurched into the parking lot, walked inside and said I wanted a car that I could drive in the rain.

I drove out in a big Saturn sedan. I forget the model name, although it might have been Tsunami. It was amazingly overpowered, burned gas like a blast oven and had a trunk that thought it was a well. The slightest amount of rain and the trunk would have two inches of standing water.

Daughter Marisa and I drove the thing to Los Angeles in three days, the "Check Engine" light blinking all the way. There, I more or less abandoned it, assigning it to our West Coast ConsumerAffairs editor, the late Martin H. Bosworth (who died of natural, non-traffic-related causes).

In between these were several Mini Coopers, by far the most fun to drive of any car, bar none. For various odd reasons, I was renting a house in the mountains above Malibu and whipping the Mini Cooper S convertible up and down Decker Canyon Drive became my primary pastime. Try it sometime.

For more pedestrian purposes, I became addicted to the Volkswagen Tiguan and have had four of them, including two still in the fleet. They're surprisingly lively and handle really well, especially if you get the sport suspension.

At some point, spousal pressure caused me to think a slightly bigger SUV-type of vehicle would be advisable so I picked up a low-mileage Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 from Carvana. They deliver cars on the back of a truck and beat it out of town quickly, which is a pretty good strategy if you think about it.

I took the Benz out for a drive and all was well until I turned a corner. As the ungainly beast lurched precariously to the right, I thought my days would end at Tattersall Trail and Miller Heights Road. This supposed marvel of German engineering made the Alfas look calm and collected.

So, taking all this under advisement, I recently did something I had never done before in 50+ years of abusing machinery. I bought a Japanese car. (OK, it's made in Ohio but

...) It's an Acura TLX and is a very mean-looking car with a scowling grill, desirable qualities on the Jersey Turnpike. It also squeezes 270 horsepower out of its four-banger engine, feeding a ten-speed transmission and all-wheel drive.

It seems to be a supreme engineering achievement. It's comfortable, quiet, with excellent if not mind-bending acceleration and is probably the best-handling car I've driven, with the possible exception of the 911. Oh and it also has something nearly none of my more exotic specimens ever had – plenty of leg room. Not a minor consideration after a certain age.

And no, it doesn't have tinted windows.

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Robert Ingle - In high school I always wanted an MGB but it was a terrible car mechanically. And I couldn't afford even a used one. I said if the Japanese ever build a good version that size, I will get one.



Fast forward and our book "The Soprano State" just made the New York Times Best Seller list and movie producers were calling. My newspaper publisher said "I never saw you do anything for yourself, isn't there something you always wanted?"

By now the Mazda MX5 was the best selling roadster in the world. "You want it in automatic?" the salesperson asked. I replied, "Of course not, that's gotta be a stick."

They didn't have it in British racing green like the MGB I loved. But it is the best driving car I ever owned. The salesperson said it was the only time in his 30 years in the business anyone ever came in and wrote a check for a new car.

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Jim Willis - Paul, the Connecting reference to your bright red VW bug reminded me of the vanity plate I once saw on a similar car: CHIGGER

Congratulations to my friend Ed Williams on his new Ford, although it seem to me that Aubie the pickup should be orange. Black stripes would be good, too! ;-)

More on expense accounts

Keith Robinson - When I was ACOB in Columbus, a group of member editors and I went to a bar on the top floor of a hotel where we were having a meeting of our state version of the APME (called the Associated Press Society of Ohio). We all ordered drinks and cigars, and I put both on an expense report, which COB Jake Booher approved without question.

Jake got some pushback from NY, which questioned why his ACOB would try to get reimbursed for the cigars. Jake, God rest his soul, defended me, saying I did it in the spirit of “member relations,” which was true. NY approved the expense.

Excessive?

I hadn't thought much of it. I thought that's what bureau managers did, especially when I remembered that Jake once told me he took top editors of the Akron Beacon Journal out to dinner and spent \$700 on the meal and wine. And that was in the 1990s.

I learned from one of the best.

This e-bike set for 18 holes



[Gerald Jackson](#) – Re Thursday’s story on e-bikes. Mine’s all set for 18 holes. No rebate, but it’s a blast.

First Native American woman in space awed by Mother Earth



In this image from video made available by NASA, astronaut Nicole Mann shows her dreamcatcher during an interview on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022. The first Native American woman in space said Wednesday that she's overwhelmed by the beauty and delicacy of Mother Earth, and is channeling "positive energy" as her five-month mission gets underway. (NASA via AP)

By MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The first Native American woman in space said Wednesday she is overwhelmed by the beauty and delicacy of Mother Earth, and is channeling "positive energy" as her five-month mission gets underway.

NASA astronaut Nicole Mann said from the International Space Station that she's received lots of prayers and blessings from her family and tribal community. She is a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California.

Mann showed off the dream catcher she took up with her, a childhood gift from her mother that she's always held dear. The small traditional webbed hoop with feathers is used to offer protection, and she said it's given her strength during challenging times. Years before joining NASA in 2013, she flew combat in Iraq for the Marines.

"It's the strength to know that I have the support of my family and community back home and that when things are difficult or things are getting hard or I'm getting burned-out or frustrated, that strength is something that I will draw on to continue toward a successful mission," Mann told The Associated Press, which gathered questions from members and tribal news outlets across the country.

Read more [here](#).

NOTE: AP's Marcia Dunn interview with Nicole Mann can be viewed [here](#). The questions all came from AP members and tribal media outlets.

And behind the scenes of the story..

Our colleague [Marcia Dunn](#) provides a huge shoutout to AP Phoenix-based [Katie Oyan](#) in connection with her interview Wednesday with Native American astronaut Nicole Mann. Katie is AP deputy news director for Local News Success. Katie is pictured at right.

Wrote Marcia to Connecting: "Katie, who has Indigenous roots herself, came up with the idea, gathered questions from AP members and tribal news outlets, and coached me on the pronunciation of the various tribal names. The latter paid off!

"[In the story by the Osage News](#), not only do I get mentioned by name, it says I nailed the pronunciation of the Osage Nation's private school. Thank goodness Katie gave me pronouncers in advance, and I practiced this one in particular over and over again, trying not to stumble. I guess it paid off. And I quote from the story: 'Dunn pronounced Daposka Ahnkodapi perfectly.' (By the way, Daposka Ahnkodap is pronounced Dah-POSE-kah Awn-KOH-dawp-pee and means Our School in the Osage Nation.)"



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Montgomery](#)

On Saturday to...

[John Harris](#)

On Sunday to...

[Steve Loeper](#)

Stories of interest

Fleeing Xi's China, journalist makes fresh start abroad (AP)

By DAKE KANG

BEIJING (AP) — Investigative journalist Wang Zhi'an once exposed corruption, land seizures, and medical malpractice in China, with millions of viewers and a powerful platform: state broadcaster CCTV.

Wang now lives alone in central Tokyo after being blacklisted in his homeland. His journey from on-air personality at the heart of China's vast state media apparatus to reporter in exile illustrates how even government-backed critical reporting has been curtailed under Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader since Mao Zedong.

Unlike many muckrakers, Wang hasn't given up. Deep in debt and armed with little more than a laptop, a tripod, and a camera borrowed from a friend, Wang is back in business — this time on YouTube and Twitter, both banned in China.

"Here I can tell the truth, and nobody will restrict me anymore," Wang said, sitting in his Tokyo studio, a living room in his modest three-story walk-up.

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

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Photographer injured by police during 2020 George Floyd protests in Denver reaches \$485,000 settlement (Denver Post)

By KIERAN NICHOLSON

A Denver photographer who nearly had a finger severed when a police officer shot him with a less-lethal projectile while he documented George Floyd protests in 2020 in downtown Denver has agreed to settlements of \$485,000, according to his attorneys.

Trevor Hughes has come to terms with Denver, Golden, Arvada and Jefferson County, according to Killmer, Lane & Newman, the law firm representing him.

On Monday, Denver City Council approved a resolution authorizing payment, for "liability claims," of \$350,000 to settle Hughes' excessive force lawsuit against the Denver Police Department.

Golden, Arvada and Jefferson County, also named in the lawsuit, have each agreed to \$45,000 settlements. Hughes filed the lawsuit in August 2021 in U.S. District Court in Denver. Law enforcement agencies from around the metro area aided Denver police during the 2020 protests. The settlements with Golden, Arvada and Jefferson County were reached in September.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Most of the Americans who will pay for news are rich

(Nieman Lab)

By LAURA HAZARD OWEN

It's hard to find things that Americans agree on, but here's one: More than half believe that the largest funding source for news should be advertising.

A new survey from Gallup and the Knight Foundation asked a nationally representative sample of 5,593 American adults a bunch of questions about paying for news. There's some interesting stuff here! Re: That advertising question, it was one of very few things that over 50% of respondents agreed on, when it comes to funding news.

After that, people are pretty divided. The richest Americans, for instance, are much more likely than Americans from other income groups to say that the primary source of funding for news should be individual donations. Note in the chart below, too, that the poorest Americans were quite a bit more likely than those from higher-income groups to say that the government should be the primary funding source for news.

Read more [here](#).

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Fight over slain reporter's files going to Nevada high court (AP)

By KEN RITTER

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A judge blocked Las Vegas police, prosecutors and defense attorneys Wednesday from accessing a slain investigative journalist's cellphone and electronic devices over concerns about revealing the reporter's confidential sources and notes.

Then she backed away from the case, citing an immediate appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court.

"I don't think I have jurisdiction anymore," Clark County District Judge Susan Johnson told attorneys for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, county prosecutors,

defense attorneys, and lawyers representing the Las Vegas Review-Journal and dozens of media organizations. “Let’s see what the Supreme Court says.”

The judge pointed during a brief hearing to her restraining order, issued minutes earlier, and acknowledged the fast track taken on a question that all sides agree needs a state high court ruling.

Her order blocks immediate review by police of six devices that attorneys for the newspaper expect contain source names and notes compiled by reporter Jeff German before he was killed Sept. 2 in a knife attack outside his home.

Read more [here](#).

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Iran’s media blackout sets the stage for state violence (Poynter)

By: Seth Smalley

Right now, there is countrywide, ongoing unrest in Iran, spurred by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while she was in the custody of the “morality police,” a security force in Iran concerned with enforcing hijab use and other strict forms of expression. The regime’s answer to the protests? A violent crackdown, internet censorship, cellular blackouts and deliberate occlusion of information and journalism.

According to Reuters, at least 240 people have died so far, including dozens of minors. Iran denies the deaths are a result of its own security forces.

“There are no journalists on the ground. No journalists are allowed to work in these situations. Unless you are working for the regime,” said Farhad Souzanchi, editor-in-chief of FactNameh, an Iranian fact-checking organization. FactNameh is not based in Iran and all of its employees, including Souzanchi, use pseudonyms to protect their identities from the Iranian government, whose World Press Freedom Index ranking was recently downgraded from 174 to 178 (behind only North Korea and Eritrea). “You won’t be able to find professional photography from the protests; it’s all citizen generated. The few professional photographers that tried have been arrested.”

Today in History – Oct. 21, 2022



Today is Friday, Oct. 21, the 294th day of 2022. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 21, 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.

On this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1917, legendary jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie was born in Cheraw, South Carolina.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1976, Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize for literature, the first American honored since John Steinbeck in 1962.

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White — who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate — was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 2001, Washington, D.C., postal worker Thomas L. Morris Jr. died of inhalation anthrax as officials began testing thousands of postal employees.

In 2014, North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington.

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden announced he would not be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Rodham Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner.

Ten years ago: Former senator and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern, 90, died in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A Wisconsin man opened fire at the Brookfield spa where his wife worked, killing her and two others and wounding four other women before turning the gun on himself. Garth Brooks was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame along with trailblazing singer Connie Smith and keyboard player Hargus "Pig" Robbins.

Five years ago: The five living former presidents appeared together for the first time since 2013 at a concert in Texas to raise money for victims of devastating hurricanes. The Houston Astros reached the World Series for just the second time in the team's history, beating the New York Yankees 4-0 in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series. (The Astros would beat the Dodgers in seven games in the World Series.)

One year ago: A gun held by actor Alec Baldwin on a movie set in New Mexico killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza. The House voted to hold Steve Bannon, a longtime ally and aide to former President Donald Trump, in contempt of Congress after he defied a subpoena from the committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection. President Joe Biden, speaking at a forum hosted by CNN, said the U.S. was committed to defending Taiwan if it were to come under attack. Human remains that were found in a Florida nature preserve were identified as those of Brian Laundrie, who'd been a person of interest in the death of girlfriend Gabby Petito when the couple was on a cross-country road trip.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joyce Randolph is 98. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 82. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 81. Singer Elvin Bishop is 80. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 80. Actor Everett McGill is 77. Musician Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn) (Chicago) is 76. Actor Dick Christie is 74. Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 73. Actor LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 73. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 69. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 67. Singer Julian Cope is 65. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 65. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 63. Actor Melora Walters is 62. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 51. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 49. Actor Jeremy Miller is 46. Country singer Matthew Ramsey (Old Dominion) is 45. Actor Will Estes is 44. Actor Michael McMillian is 44. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 42. Actor Matt Dallas is 40. Actor Charlotte Sullivan is 39. Actor Aaron Tveit (tuh-VAYT') is 39. Actor Glenn Powell is 34. Country singer Kane Brown is 29.

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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