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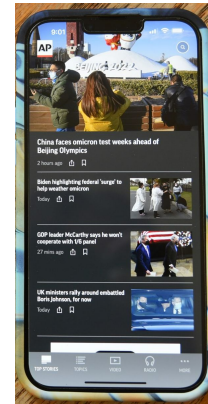
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Connecting

Feb. 10, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Feb. 10, 2023,

Did you come to the AP from a competing news service?

If so, in a suggestion made by our colleague [Mike Feinsilber](#), we'd like to hear your story that includes such things, noted by Mike, as "why they left their old job, what sort of reception they got at AP, how their old and new employers compared, what they miss, whether the adjustment was smooth or rugged, whether they'd do it again, whether the switch meant a pay boost, whether they still feel like migrants after all this time, whether their former agency tried to keep them from leaving, whether they felt like they were starting all over again — that sort of thing. Might make for some surprising recollections."

Look forward to hearing your story.

JANE SEE WHITE: On Saturday, March 11, 2023, there will be a private graveside burial for our colleague Jane See White in her hometown of Mexico, Mo. A Celebration of

Life brunch will follow at 10:30am at The Oaks (formally the Mexico Country Club) where all friends of Jane and friends of the family are welcomed.

CONNECTING ARCHIVE: Due to a transition of Connecting Archive editors, the archive is on a brief hiatus and will be back up and updated March 1. The archive is listed in each day's Connecting masthead and includes each issue since 2013.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Thoughts on the killer earthquake



A woman reacts as rescue workers carry the body of an earthquake victim in Adiyaman, southeastern Turkey, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. Thousands who lost their homes in a catastrophic earthquake huddled around campfires and clamored for food and water in the bitter cold, three days after the temblor and series of aftershocks hit Turkey and Syria. (AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

Wendy Davis Beard - It's not just the 20,000 and counting dead and thousands more injured in the Turkish/Syrian earthquake I grieve for... it's the toddlers pulled safely from the rubble without immediate or maybe even extended family to care for them in the future.

What will happen to these children jostled to ambulances in the arms of White Helmut first responders? Will there be a baby lift like the one organized as Saigon fell and orphanages were abandoned in Vietnam? Will jets stripped of seats with babies

tethered to the floor be flown to America and Australia as happened after the Vietnam War?

Is there a feeling, as suggested on the BBC, that Western countries who failed Syria during its Civil War and punishing invasion by Russia may ultimately respond with greater generosity, commitment and compassion today or tomorrow?

Or Is there inevitable compassion fatigue when one has seen the same countries reduced to rubble with white helmets digging out innocent civilians so many times before (even at the Oscars, on best documentary film)?

I felt terrible survivors' guilt watching homes reduced to dust while I tried to reorganize a cleaner to help me I am disabled vacuum our floors and then felt worse still when I instantly realized I would write these lines this afternoon whilst rescuers are still trying to claw out with their bare hands in subzero temperatures, survivors whose cries are already beginning to lessen in their frequency...

How many will be extinguished by the time I click Save?

Speaking of balloons





Neal Ulevich - Ah balloons, everyone loves them. When I visited the Taiwan-controlled offshore island of Quemoy in 1979, the Nationalists launched balloons when the

prevailing winds would carry them over China. The sizable payloads were mostly snacks and propaganda timed to dump on the Communist mainland. Sometimes the timers failed, and the government of India was known to protest when the cargo ended up near Indian villages.

In more recent times...I see high altitude research balloons from time to time on my ADS-B monitoring screen, sort of like radar (but better). Occasionally one is launched from the Boulder CO area. They show up on my FlightAware screen identified as HBAL, and it's easy to pinpoint their exact real time location and altitude because they send out ADS-B signals, as most US airplanes, even little ones, are now required to do. The Chinese presumably used a similar, perhaps the same, system to track their balloons. Easy and cheap. I must assume their balloons were sending back data, and it was probably monitored. If so was it encrypted or in the clear? Their balloons and ours all have some navigational ability, but not much. The balloon is at the mercy of the winds, only climbing or descending to catch a different breeze is their minimal control.

The photos above show a balloon launch from Quemoy in 1979.

Birth of Photo Mechanic

This is a guest post from **Dennis Walker**, the founder and President of Camera Bits and the creator of Photo Mechanic. It is a personal accounting of the trial-by-fire leading up to its initial historic release as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary. Stay tuned for more 25th Anniversary goodies from Camera Bits throughout the rest of the year.

It was Sunday morning January 25th, 1998, and I was in The Associated Press' trailer in the parking lot at Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego. Last-minute preparations were underway for coverage of Super Bowl XXXII between the Green Bay Packers and the Denver Broncos – Favre vs Elway. Perfect! This was a big day for me and my fledgling company, Camera Bits (which was just me doing business as). AP was willing to give Photo Mechanic its first real exercise to cover this big game even though PM wasn't for sale quite yet. It was at version 0.99 I recall.

So I was a bit surprised when Jim Dietz, my technology contact at AP, asked me to make just one last-minute change to PM. I laughed at him because this is definitely not standard protocol. Normally everything is all set up and locked down by Saturday, and Sunday is to just get the job done. Making a new build of PM on game day sounded crazy to me, but Jim explained why it wasn't such a big deal, and that he had faith in me. Back then it was important for AP to include the words "DIGITAL PHOTO" in some IPTC field (I can't remember which one) if the photo was taken by a digital camera versus film. I frankly think it was a "be prepared" warning to AP's members (newspapers) because the images from the 1.3 MP NC2000e camera were a bit low resolution, especially when the editors did a tight crop. But since AP's Super Bowl coverage was all digital by then, Jim asked me to just "rubber stamp" every photo that PM processed with this IPTC field indicating a digital source.

Read more [here](#). Shared by **Bill Sikes**, who noted, "A cool bit of AP photo-handling history from the perspective of the vendor who created the Photo Mechanic software

that's still being used. Chuck Burton had posted it in FB. It's amazing how much we take for granted given where the technology is today."

Dates to Remember: May 19-21 Connecting Reunion in Texas

Diana Heidgerd - Please plan on attending the May 19-21, 2023, AP Connecting Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. More details will be available via Connecting later this month. Please pay your own way for all events.

Events will include casual get-togethers/outings on Friday & Saturday, May 19-20, a group dinner Saturday night, May 20, and a Texas Rangers vs. Colorado Rockies game on Sunday afternoon, May 21 (limited number of game tickets available).

Details will be announced soon on a reunion hotel, near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (free airport shuttle).

Some possible outings:

Main Street Fest in nearby Grapevine: www.grapevinetexasusa.com Free shuttle from hotel.

Fort Worth cowboy history & museums: www.fortworthstockyards.org, www.cowgirl.net, www.kimbellart.org

Arlington: Tour the home of the Dallas Cowboys: AT&T Stadium Tours presented by SeatGeek | AT&T Stadium (attstadium.com)

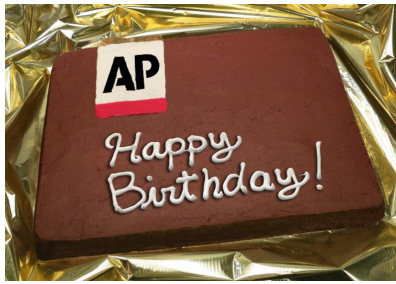
Dallas: History of 1963 JFK assassination: www.jfk.org The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Current presidential history, on SMU campus in Dallas: www.bushcenter.org The George W. Bush Presidential Center. Bush & his wife live in Dallas.

Reunion organizers are Joei Bohr of the Atlanta area, Mike Holmes of Omaha and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas.

Hope to see you in May!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Del Brinkman](#)

On Saturday to...

[Jim Smith](#)

On Sunday to...

[Karen Magnuson](#)

Stories of interest

How to Destroy (What's Left of) the Mainstream Media's Credibility (New York Times)

By BRET STEPHENS
Opinion Columnist

It is hardly a secret within America's newsrooms that our profession has lost much of the public's trust. Gallup, which has polled "Confidence in Institutions" for decades, found that, as of last summer, just 16 percent of Americans had either a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in newspapers — down from 25 percent a decade earlier and 35 percent in 2002. For TV news, the latest results were even worse. Eleven percent of Americans trust it. Fifty-three percent don't.

Most of us, in or out of the news media, would surely agree that this is a bad thing: We were a saner country when we could argue from a common set of uncontested facts. But we have a harder time agreeing on why trust in media collapsed and, more crucially, on how it can be restored.

Leonard Downie Jr., a former executive editor of The Washington Post, has an idea.

In a guest essay last week for The Post, Downie made the case that newsrooms must set aside journalistic objectivity because a new generation of journalists "believe that pursuing objectivity can lead to false balance or misleading 'both-sides-ism.'" He added, "they feel it negates many of their own identities, life experiences and cultural contexts, keeping them from pursuing truth in their work." He even claims that

objectivity was never a standard he upheld, even though the principles he says were the goals he pursued as editor — “accuracy, fairness, nonpartisanship, accountability and the pursuit of truth” — are the same as those upheld by most objective journalists and little different from what he elsewhere says is the dictionary definition of objectivity — “using facts without distortion by personal beliefs, bias, feelings or prejudice.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Marc Humbert.

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Police: Reporter pushed down, arrested had refused to leave (AP)

By JOHN SEEWER

The arrest of a broadcast reporter who was pushed to the ground and handcuffed while covering a news conference came after he got into an argument with the head of the Ohio National Guard and refused to leave, police said Thursday.

NewsNation correspondent Evan Lambert was arrested Wednesday at an elementary school in East Palestine where Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine was giving an update about the derailment of a train carrying toxic chemicals. Video of the arrest that followed Lambert’s live broadcast during the event showed the cable news reporter facedown on the ground being handcuffed.

Lambert was charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest, both misdemeanors. He spent about five hours in jail before being released on a \$750 bond, according to court records.

“No journalist expects to be arrested when you’re doing your job, and I think that’s really important that that doesn’t happen in our country,” Lambert said after his release.

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

-0-

NBC and MSNBC Staffers Walk Off the Job to Protest Layoffs (Daily Beast)

By Corbin Bolies, Diana Falzone, Justin Baragona

Unionized reporters and editors at NBC News staged a daylong walkout on Thursday in protest of recent layoffs and the network’s handling of ongoing contract bargaining.

About 40 staffers from the unit gathered out front of the network’s 30 Rockefeller Plaza headquarters, in a gated-off section of the West 49th St. sidewalk, holding signs

labeling NBC as “Nothing But Criminals” and referencing lyrics from Taylor Swift’s recent album *Midnights*, such as “Karma’s gonna track you down.” Staffers were also accompanied by an inflatable “Scabby The Rat”—a common prop for union protests—and a giant check railing against “stolen wages.”

Union leaders first promised the walkout earlier this week, specifically citing NBC’s decision to lay off seven unit members last month without notifying the union. The NBC Guild has since filed multiple unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, though it has grown impatient in waiting for a resolution.

Read more [here](#).

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Brett Favre sues auditor, sportscasters in defamation case (AP)

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre filed lawsuits Thursday in Mississippi, accusing the state auditor and two national sportscasters of defaming him in public discussions about the mispending of welfare money that was supposed to help some of the poorest people in one of the poorest states in the nation.

The lawsuit against Auditor Shad White says the Republican “has carried out an outrageous media campaign of malicious and false accusations against Brett Favre — the Hall of Fame quarterback and native son of Mississippi — in a brazen attempt to leverage the media attention generated by Favre’s celebrity to further his own political career.”

In a separate lawsuit against former NFL player Shannon Sharpe, Favre said Sharpe made “egregiously false” statements about him on the Fox Sports talk show “Skip and Shannon: Undisputed,” including that Favre “stole money from people that really needed money.”

Read more [here](#).

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How Mina Kimes, football nerd, is shaping the future of NFL coverage (Washington Post)

By Ben Strauss

LOS ANGELES — Mina Kimes, a Yale grad turned investigative business reporter turned NFL analyst on ESPN, was winding her way along a hiking trail through a Pasadena forest on a recent afternoon, with her dog, Lenny, in tow. She wore a hoodie, leggings and a hat with a South Korean flag, a nod to her mother’s home country. As the path

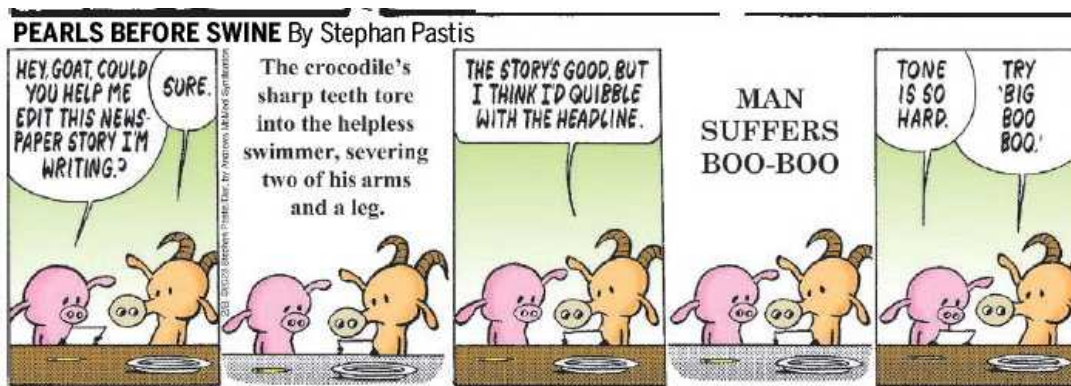
snaked back and forth across a stream, she picked up Lenny at every crossing, cradling him in her arms to keep his paws dry.

“He’s afraid of the water,” Kimes explained.

Kimes had no experience in NFL media when she joined ESPN the Magazine as a feature writer in 2014. Since then, her profile has grown at warp speed: She is a co-star of ESPN’s “NFL Live” and a regular on “First Take.” Last year, she called preseason Los Angeles Rams games on TV. She hosts her own NFL podcast in which Lenny is the titled co-host.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word



Shared by Paul Albright, Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - Feb. 10, 2023



Today is Friday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2023. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 10, 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

On this date:

In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War in North America).

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg (KOH'-borg) and Gotha (GAH'-thuh).

In 1936, Nazi Germany's Reichstag passed a law investing the Gestapo secret police with absolute authority, exempt from any legal review.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a busboy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1989, Ron Brown was elected the first Black chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

In 1992, boxer Mike Tyson was convicted in Indianapolis of raping Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson served three years in prison.) "Roots" author Alex Haley died in Seattle at age 70.

In 1996, world chess champion Garry Kasparov lost the first game of a match in Philadelphia against an IBM computer dubbed "Deep Blue." (Kasparov ended up winning the match, 4 games to 2; he was defeated by Deep Blue in a rematch the following year.)

In 2005, North Korea boasted publicly for the first time that it possessed nuclear weapons.

In 2015, NBC announced it was suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War. Jon Stewart announced he would step down as host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central later in the year.

In 2020, U.S. health officials confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus among the hundreds of people who'd been evacuated from China to military bases in the United States; it was among the 13 confirmed cases in the U.S. Britain declared the new coronavirus a "serious and imminent threat to public health" and said people with the virus could now be forcibly quarantined.

Ten years ago: Joe Paterno's family released its response to Penn State's report on the Jerry Sandusky scandal, attacking Louis Freeh's conclusion that the coach hid sex

abuse allegations against his longtime assistant. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford took charge of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. At the Grammy Awards, Fun. won song of the year for "We Are Young"; Gotye's "Somebody I Used to Know" picked up record of the year.

Five years ago: Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes in Syria that were ordered after Israel intercepted an Iranian drone that had infiltrated its airspace; it was the most serious Israeli engagement in Syria since the war erupted there almost seven years earlier. In a tweet that appeared to take aim at the rising #MeToo movement, President Donald Trump wrote that "lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation;" the tweet came in the aftermath of the resignation of a pivotal aide, Rob Porter, who'd been accused of abusing two ex-wives. The Korean women's hockey team, the first in Olympic history to combine players from the North and South, lost its debut game, 8-0, to Switzerland before a cheering, chanting sellout crowd at the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

One year ago: The U.S. Labor Department revealed that inflation over the past year had soared at its highest rate in forty years. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the Ukraine crisis has grown into "the most dangerous moment" for Europe in decades, while his top diplomat held icy talks with her Moscow counterpart who said the Kremlin wouldn't accept lectures from the West.

Today's birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 96. Actor Robert Wagner is 93. Singer Roberta Flack is 86. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 83. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 76. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 73. Walt Disney Co. executive Robert Iger is 72. Rock musician and composer Cory Lerios (Pablo Cruise) is 72. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 68. Actor Kathleen Beller is 67. Country singer Lionel Cartwright is 63. Movie director Alexander Payne is 62. ABC News correspondent George Stephanopoulos is 62. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 59. Actor Laura Dern is 56. Writer-producer-director Vince Gilligan (TV: "Breaking Bad") is 56. Country singer Dude Mowrey is 51. Actor Jason Olive is 51. Actor Elizabeth Banks is 49. Actor Julia Pace Mitchell is 45. Reggaeton singer Don Omar is 45. Actor Uzo Aduba is 42. Actor Stephanie Beatriz is 42. Actor Max Brown is 42. Actor Barry Sloane is 42. Rock singer Eric Dill is 41. Actor Trevante Rhodes is 33. Actor Emma Roberts is 32. Actor Makenzie Vega is 29. Actor Chloe Grace Moretz is 26. Actor Yara Shahidi is 23.

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.

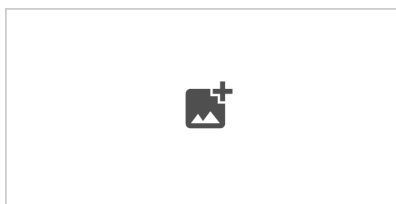
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

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

Paul Stevens

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