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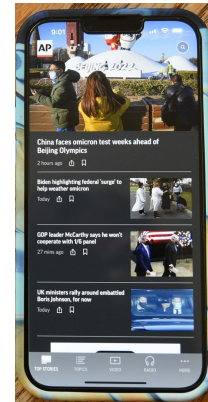
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Connecting

Feb. 24, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Feb. 24, 2023,

Traveling on deadline was (and for some, is) part of the AP experience for many of us. And in follow to colleague Molly McMillin's story in Thursday's issue about making a Washington flight from Wichita's airport 45 minutes after she awakened, we'll share more such experiences.

[Alan Flippen](#) - I haven't had an aviation experience like Molly's since 9/11, but in the olden days I could sometimes make it from my apartment in Manhattan to an office in WDC in two hours door-to-door on the Delta shuttle, if highway and air traffic cooperated. Now I only take Amtrak -- not only is it less of a hassle to board, but the Acela avoids most of the street traffic at both ends. Still, it's a three to 3 1/2-hour trip anymore.

[Paul Stevens](#) – Molly McMillin's aviation experience reminds me of my own travel deadline story. I was working as the AP's regional vice president for the Midwest when I landed my first lunch appointment with one of my major customers, Mary Junck,

president and CEO of Lee Enterprises (and later, chairman of the AP board). Our appointment at Lee headquarters in Davenport, Iowa, was for noon and I decided a two-hour flight from Kansas City that morning would get me there in plenty of time. But when I approached the airport in my company car, I learned that my 7 a.m. flight was delayed two hours, meaning there'd be no way to make it in time. I U-turned out of the airport and sped (appropriate word) up the interstates and five hours later, pulled into a parking spot at Lee Enterprises 15 minutes before noon.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

An ethical question

[Mike Feinsilber](#) - An ethical question. The printed New York Times regularly devotes some of page three to readers' comments on stuff that appeared in the paper. On Thursday, page three carried two letters from readers reflecting on the role of public libraries.

One of them had a glaring grammatical error. It started:

"I grew up in poverty. From an early age, I knew we were different from most families, but every Saturday my mother would take my little brother and I to our local public library."

The ethical question is whether the Times should have changed it to "my little brother and me." If it doesn't, is the Times perpetuating a pretty common error? After all, one of a newspaper's roles is educating readers. And if it does, is the Times obliged to tell the letter writer that it is fixing an error?

Or is the paper obliged to print the exact words of the writer, the grammar notwithstanding? If it changes people's words once, can it change a writer's words for clarity's sake, elsewhere? Is that the start of a slippery slope?

It would be nice to know what other Connectors think.

On serving in a media pool

[Steven Herman](#) - Donald Trump chose Saudi Arabia for his first trip presidential trip outside the country despite his campaign rhetoric to impose a "Muslim ban" on travel to the United States.

During that initial week overseas, Trump would also go to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Rome, Vatican City, a NATO summit in Brussels and a G-7 leaders' meeting in Sicily. I was there for all of it as a VOA White House correspondent, many days the radio pool reporter – a marathon of travel and reportage that put significant stress on the White House press, and staff, Secret Service agents and our hosts.

There were highlights (the president, a black yarmulke atop his golden coiffure, tucking a note inside the Western Wall per Jewish custom) and lowlights (Trump shoving aside Prime Minister Dusko Markovic of Montenegro to get to the front of the pack for the NATO leaders' group photo).

However, two images from the first stop will likely outlast memories of the other destinations. The first was a smiling Trump, clad in suit and blue and white tie, wagging a saber in the Saudi capital while he bobbed to the drumming alongside men in traditional dress during a ceremonial sword dance. The second indelible image was the pose with Melania at his side, facing the Egyptian president and Saudi king as they all laid hands on a mysterious, glowing orb. At both these events, I was hovering near the president, just out of camera view, simultaneously recording audio as the radio pooler, furiously dispatching descriptions to the pool chain and Twitter and trying to snap a few pictures to capture the incongruity of what the sound and written words could not fully convey. We also witnessed Trump, entering the Royal Court as bagpipes played to receive a gold medal from King Salman, the Collar of Abdulaziz Al Saud, the kingdom's highest civilian honor.

I had flown to Riyadh on the White House press charter plane from Joint Base Andrews with a refueling stop at Hahn airport in Germany. Already jet-lagged and barely conscious, I got almost no sleep the first night in Saudi Arabia attempting to track down my luggage which had gone to the other hotel where most of the White House journalists were staying. I was assigned to the Ritz Carlton (not yet known as the world's most luxurious torture chamber) where the pool reporters were lodged. Such baggage boondoggles are common on presidential trips for those rotating in and out of the pool daily (as is the case with those assigned radio duty).

I have scant memory of the sleep-deprived three-day stay in the Saudi capital as pool reporting meant working from early morning until late at night. My heroes of the trip were the Bangladeshi waiters of the hotel's Italian restaurant who agreed to keep the restaurant open past 11 p.m. so a few of the famished and very weary White House journalists could finally eat a meal. We tipped them handsomely and wished we could have awarded them the Collar of Abdulaziz Al Saud.

I left Riyadh in one of the press vans near the rear of the presidential motorcade to the airport, our nervous local driver's right foot hard on the accelerator pedal attempting to keep pace with the speeding high-powered vehicles. Nothing seems more hazardous in our line of work than riding in motorcades when speeds approach 90 miles per hour with vehicle bumpers inches apart. Typing pool reports on my laptop or cell phone was a necessary distraction. The Air Force One flight that day would be historic – the first known non-stop journey from Saudi Arabia to Israel.

The Israelis, not wanting to be outdone by the Saudis, put on a welcome for us at Ben Gurion International Airport that Trump would brag about throughout his term. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered all his Cabinet ministers to attend. There were red carpets and multiple military honor guards. A photo I snapped of the pomp highlights the ham radio W7VOA 'QSL' card I exchange with amateur radio operators around the world with whom I've made contact on the shortwave bands.

Something occurred on the tarmac in a fraction of a second and it is what most of the world will remember of the arrival. With wife Melania on his left, the president

reached out his hand for the first lady to take. Instead, she flicked her wrist to swat it away, a scene caught on video that went viral and launched a million-meme march across the internet increasing speculation about the state of Trump's third marriage. The first lady's press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, (later to become White House press secretary) would recall the slap was more akin to a game than a spat – the president “often tried to hold her hand or messed with her hands on purpose in front of the camera to irritate her” and in this particular instance Melania rebuffed him considering it was “against protocol to hold hands at such a formal ceremony.”

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Steve Paulson - I was in the Secret Service bubble several times, including a task as the AP pool reporter for the visit by Vice President Al Gore in the aftermath of the Columbine massacre. While walking from a nearby theater stage to a makeshift Columbine memorial with the vice president, I noticed a Columbine victim hobbling on crutches about 100 yards behind, and dropped back to interview him. The politicians were so busy patting each other on the back they failed to notice him, even though they were more than happy to use him as a prop. When I tried to get back into the bubble, the Secret Service stopped me and told me I had to stay back. Only when Gov. Bill Owens intervened and told them I was with him did they let me back in. I included it in my story: “Vice President Al Gore and retired Gen. Colin Powell led an array of dignitaries on the makeshift stage in the movie theater parking lot. Afterward, they walked slowly to nearby Clement Park to place more flowers at an impromptu memorial that has been growing daily since the massacre. Nick Foss, 18, who was grazed by a bullet and injured while helping teachers and students hide in a closet and overhead air ducts, limped in the procession behind Gore and Owens. He was supported by Columbine High School Principal Frank DeAngelis, and mourners applauded as they passed.” I was also riding along with Vice President Dan Quayle on a visit to Denver when he decided to stop in the middle of traffic at a Subway, at one of the busiest intersections in Denver where five major avenues intersect, to get an iced tea and hold an impromptu meet and greet. It took hours for Denver police to sort out the traffic jams.

Covering Jimmy Carter



Bob Daugherty - President Carter was not one of the more outgoing presidents. He could be camera shy. It came as a surprise that he made a stop on his way to a town hall appearance in downtown Bardstown, Ky. To my surprise the limo started to ease slowly through the crowd. It stopped after a few feet, Carter's door opened he climbed out. I assumed he'd shake a few hands and be on his way. Much to my surprise, he walked to the front of the limo, and slid up on the hood. In short order he slid over the windshield and finally the roof. I don't recall images from his later town hall appearance received much play.

A prized autograph from Joe Rosenthal

Dennis Anderson – That was an excellent article from WWII on Deadline that was shared in Thursday's Connecting about AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal and the Iwo Jima flag-raising photo on its anniversary. I'd like to add my own AP anecdote thinking it might interest the AP family.

My friend Nicol Roberts - whose father was a Navy photographer during and after WWII - presented me with a print signed by AP combat photographer Joe Rosenthal. She found the print in her dad's estate trunk.

Thank you, Nicol, for keeping print in the AP family.

As an editor in the APME family I was able to embed during the first year of the Iraq War and always held the combat photographers like Rosenthal and Nick Ut in high esteem.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Susan Brady Boyle](#)

[Phil Dopoulos](#)

On Saturday to...

[Julie March](#)

[Diane Balk Palguta](#)

[Amy Shafer](#)

[Lee Siegel](#)

Stories of interest

Remembering Spectrum News 13 reporter Dylan Lyons



Flowers and notes were left at a small makeshift memorial in front of the emergency room at Orlando Regional Medical Center on Thursday. A TV journalist and a child were shot and killed yesterday and several others were injured at a scene where a woman was found murdered earlier in the day. (AP Photo/John Raoux)



BY SPECTRUM NEWS STAFF ORLANDO

Dylan Lyons was born and raised in Philadelphia but made Central Florida his home, when he enrolled in, thrived in and graduated from UCF.

That's when he began his journey up the ladder of career success.

He moved to Gainesville to do what he loved — anchoring and reporting the news.

"He took his job very seriously. He loved his career. He loved what he did," said Spectrum Sports 360 reporter and friend, Josh Miller. "He loved the community, telling the stories of people, reporting on the news, and he was just passionate about what he did."

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for latest AP story.

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'Incredibly damning:' Fox News documents stun some legal experts (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi, Jeremy Barr and Sarah Ellison

The disclosure of emails and texts in which Fox News executives and personalities disparaged the same election conspiracies being floated on their shows has greatly increased the chances that a defamation case against the network will succeed, legal experts say.

Dominion Voting Systems included dozens of messages sent internally by Fox co-founder Rupert Murdoch and on-air stars such as Tucker Carlson in a brief made public last week in support of the voting technology company's \$1.6 billion lawsuit against the network. Dominion claims it was damaged in the months after the 2020 election after Fox repeatedly aired false statements that it was part of a conspiracy to fraudulently elect Joe Biden.

Dominion said the emails and texts show that Fox's hosts and executives knew the claims being peddled by then-president Donald Trump's lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell weren't true — some employees privately described them as "ludicrous" and "mind blowingly nuts" — but Fox kept airing them to keep its audience from changing channels.

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

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DeSantis wants to roll back press freedoms — with an eye toward overturning Supreme Court ruling

(Politico)

By **MATT DIXON**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' broken relationship with the mainstream media could get even worse.

At the governor's urging, Florida's Republican-dominated Legislature is pushing to weaken state laws that have long protected journalists against defamation suits and frivolous lawsuits. The proposal is part DeSantis' ongoing feud with media outlets like The New York Times, Miami Herald, CNN and The Washington Post — media companies he claims are biased against Republicans — as he prepares for a likely 2024 presidential bid.

Beyond making it easier to sue journalists, the proposal is also being positioned to spark a larger legal battle with the goal of eventually overturning *New York Times v. Sullivan*, the landmark 1964 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that limits public officials' ability to sue publishers for defamation, according to state Rep. Alex Andrade, the Florida Republican sponsoring the bill.

"There is a strong argument to be made that the Supreme Court overreached," Andrade said in an interview. "This is not the government shutting down free speech. This is a private cause of action."

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

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Ozy Media CEO Carlos Watson Arrested, Charged With Securities Fraud (Variety)

By **Todd Spangler**

Carlos Watson, CEO of digital media and entertainment company Ozy Media, was arrested Thursday in New York ahead of his arraignment on charges of federal securities fraud and wire fraud.

The Justice Department's indictment charges Ozy Media and Watson with conspiracy to commit securities fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud Ozy's investors and lenders "by making material misrepresentations about Ozy's financial and business assets," the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York said in a statement. Watson is also charged with "aggravated identity theft" for his role in the impersonation of multiple media company executives in communications with Ozy's lenders and prospective investors in furtherance of the fraud schemes, prosecutors said.

The feds alleged that Watson and his co-conspirators — including former Ozy chief operating officer Samir Rao and ex-chief of staff Suzee Han — “orchestrated a scheme to defraud investors in and lenders to Ozy of tens of millions of dollars through fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions about key aspects of Ozy’s business, including Ozy’s financial results, debts and audience size.”

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

Today in History - Feb. 24, 2023



Today is Friday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2023. There are 310 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1942, the SS Struma, a charter ship attempting to carry nearly 800 Jewish refugees from Romania to British-mandated Palestine, was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine in the Black Sea; all but one of the refugees perished.

On this date:

In 1803, in its *Marbury v. Madison* decision, the Supreme Court established judicial review of the constitutionality of statutes.

In 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1981, a jury in White Plains, New York, found Jean Harris guilty of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of “Scarsdale Diet” author Dr. Herman Tarnower. (Sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, Harris was granted clemency by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo in December 1992.)

In 1986, the Supreme Court struck down, 6-3, an Indianapolis ordinance that would have allowed women injured by someone who had seen or read pornographic material to sue the maker or seller of that material.

In 1988, in a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a \$150,000 award that the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against Hustler magazine and its publisher, Larry Flynt.

In 1989, a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

In 1993, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) resigned after more than eight years in office.

In 2002, the Salt Lake City Olympics came to a close, the same day Canada won its first hockey gold in 50 years (the U.S. won silver) and three cross-country skiers were thrown out of the games for using a performance-enhancing drug.

In 2008, Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel.

In 2011, Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time, heading toward the International Space Station on a journey marking the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

In 2015, the Justice Department announced that George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin in a 2012 confrontation, would not face federal charges.

In 2020, former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was convicted in New York on charges of rape and sexual assault involving two women. (Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in state prison.)

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI bestowed the final Sunday blessing of his pontificate on a cheering crowd in St. Peter's Square. At the Academy Awards, "Argo" won best picture while Ang Lee was named best director for "Life of Pi"; Daniel Day-Lewis won best actor for "Lincoln" while Jennifer Lawrence received the best actress award for "Silver Linings Playbook." Jimmie Johnson won his second Daytona 500, beating his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr., who made a late move to finish second. Danica Patrick, the first woman to win the pole, finished eighth.

Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council unanimously demanded a 30-day cease-fire across Syria to deliver humanitarian aid and evacuate the wounded, as the death toll reached 500 from a Syrian bombing campaign in the rebel-held suburbs of Damascus. (The cease-fire failed to take hold.) The body of the Rev. Billy Graham arrived at the library bearing his name in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Graham would lie in repose for two days. At the Winter Olympics in South Korea, American men won the gold medal in curling in a decisive upset of Sweden; it was only the second curling medal in U.S. history.

One year ago: Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, launching airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending troops and tanks from multiple directions. Ukraine's government pleaded for help as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee the violence. World leaders condemned the attack and many promised sanctions. Three former Minneapolis police officers were convicted of violating George Floyd's civil

rights by depriving Floyd of his right to medical care when Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes as the 46-year-old Black man was handcuffed and facedown on the street.

Today's birthdays: Actor-singer Dominic Chianese is 92. Opera singer-director Renata Scotti is 89. Singer Joanie Sommers is 82. Actor Jenny O'Hara is 81. Former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., is 81. Actor Barry Bostwick is 78. Actor Edward James Olmos is 76. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 76. Rock singer-musician George Thorogood is 73. Actor Debra Jo Rupp is 72. Actor Helen Shaver is 72. News anchor Paula Zahn is 67. Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Murray is 67. Country singer Sammy Kershaw is 65. Actor Mark Moses is 65. Actor Beth Broderick is 64. Actor Emilio Rivera is 62. Singer Michelle Shocked is 61. Movie director Todd Field is 59. Actor Billy Zane is 57. Actor Bonnie Somerville is 49. Jazz musician Jimmy Greene is 48. Former boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 46. Rock musician Matt McGinley (Gym Class Heroes) is 40. Actor Wilson Bethel is 39. Actor Alexander Koch is 35. Actor Daniel Kaluuya (Film: "Get Out") is 34. Actor O'Shea Jackson Jr. is 32.

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.



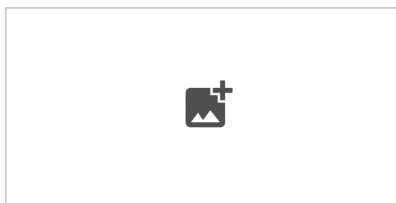
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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