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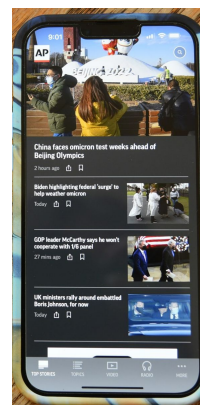
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Connecting

April 24, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this April 24, 2023,

A funeral service for AP audio engineer **Denny Vohar** will be held today from 2-4pm EST at Brown Funeral Home at the South Berkley Chapel in Inwood, WVA. Denny worked for AP Radio in Washington for 38 years. He died April 19 of heart failure at the age of 71. We bring you his obituary in today's edition.

NATE WOULD BE PROUD: Our colleague [Daniel Polowetzky](#), son of legendary AP Foreign Editor **Nate Polowetzky**, shares this news: "My daughter **Daisy Polowetzky** will be attending the Newhouse School of Public Communications of Syracuse University as a freshman this fall. She will be majoring in Magazine, News and Digital Journalism. She never got to meet her grandfather but he would have been thrilled to see her follow in his footsteps. Sometimes things skip a generation."

SHOUTOUT TO DAVID BAUDER: From Tom Jones, senior writer for Poynter in his report today on the Fox News-Dominion settlement last week: "Associated Press' excellent media reporter David Bauder addressed one other question in his story,

“Will Fox settlement alter conservative media? Apparently not.” Bauder writes, “Experts doubt the settlement will lead to much of a course correction in conservative media, save for a little less specificity to avoid future lawsuits.” Bauder has a slew of details in his story, which I strongly recommend. You can read David’s story in today’s Stories of Interest.

We bring you an invitation from AP Corporate Archives to join a webinar today at 1 p.m. EDT celebrating the 20th anniversary of the department that records the 177-year history of The Associated Press. The focus: working in the archives. A second webinar will be held May 1.

Here’s to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live your life to the fullest!

Paul

Obituary for Dennis James Vohar

Dennis James Vohar passed away peacefully on April 19, 2023, at the age of 71 in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Born November 24, 1951 in Sewickley, PA, he was the son of the late Agnes and John Vohar. In recent years, Denny’s battle with complications from diabetes, displayed his unwavering faithfulness in our Lord and his determination in facing all of life’s challenges. Through the pain, Denny remained strong and loving for his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Denny was a loving husband, father, and grandfather to 8 grandchildren and a retired Audio Engineer for Associated Press in Washington, DC for 38 years. Denny’s most memorable time working for AP is when he attended and worked at the Olympics in Lillehammer Norway, Turin Italy, Athens Greece, Beijing China, Salt Lake City Utah, and Atlanta Georgia. He spent 5-6 weeks working and enjoying himself with other Associated Press employees from all over the world.



Denny is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Susan; one son, Jeffrey Vohar of Martinsburg; three daughters, Stacie Grande, and husband Justin, of Winchester, Natalie Rardin, and husband Jon, of Stephenson, Adrienne Williams, and husband Kenny, of Winchester; 8 grandchildren: Alyssa, Ryder, Paige, Karleigh, Melody, Chase, Emery, and Landon; one sister, Donna Vohar; two brothers, David Vohar, and wife Barbara, Donald Vohar, and wife Pamela. Ambridge High School, PA Class of '69.

Funeral Service will be held on Monday, April 24 at 3:00 pm at the Brown Funeral Home South Berkeley Chapel, Inwood with Pastor Tim Guerino officiating. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the chapel.

To send flowers to the family of Dennis James Vohar, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

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

Memories of Denny Vohar





David Lubeski - I've never known anyone as easy going as Denny Vohar. He never lost his temper. He never raised his voice. At six Olympics he was the engineer who set up our broadcast facilities and kept it running. He enjoyed Las Vegas vacations with his wife Sue and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was one of the good ones.

The photos above show Denny in Tiananmen Square with (from left) me, Denny, Jack Briggs and Jim Bell. The photo of him in front of a plate of food is from the Athens Olympics in 2004.

Remembering Woody Baird - 'Mr. Memphis'

Linda Deutsch - I am so sorry to hear of Woody Baird's passing. I met Woody in Memphis when I was dispatched to cover the 25th anniversary of Elvis Week, the celebration of the King's life held every summer at Graceland. That year was seen as a milestone, and everyone was flying in to cover it. The Morning TV shows broadcast from there and gave tours of Graceland. As a lifelong Elvis fan, I was the natural AP candidate for the job. Woody, our man in Memphis and a local legend, was to show me how to get around. He had covered the yearly event since it began and I had the feeling he was relieved to have someone else in town to handle it. First, I had lunch with Woody and heard his colorful stories of Elvis weeks past. He was a southern style raconteur with some of the funniest stories I've ever heard. What a charmer he was.

I was all set to cover the festivities that night when the unthinkable happened. A huge storm blew into Memphis and drenching rain fell on the memorial parade to Elvis' graveside by some 50,000 fans. Traffic was snarled and it looked like I would never get to the scene — until Woody rode to my rescue. He found me in the crowd, put me in his truck and barreled through roadblocks. Everybody knew him and while others were held back, he was waved through by the police. It was a soggy mess but we got there and I got my story. And Woody, who thought he had been relieved of Elvis duty for once, turned out to be an important part of the coverage once again. He was, after all, Mr. Memphis and the consummate AP newsman was always on duty.

-0-

Jeff Rowe - About 20 minutes into my first day on the job at the New Orleans bureau, I thought "this guy (Woody Baird) is an A-1 character." At the small California dailies where I had worked before AP, I had never met such a reporter. He spun a steady stream of mini anecdotes about journalism and life, was courteous but intense when phone reporting and always answered the phone "the Associated Press," emphasis on "the," which he pronounced "thee."

Woody seemed perfectly cast in his lifetime role as a reporter.

I learned a lot from Woody -- how to quickly organize a story, write it fast, check it against my notes, and send. Speed and accuracy were paramount.

Once, after he had written a story about some feat of valor, I recall him saying, semi-seriously, that he wanted to be a hero. Woody was given to such stream-of-consciousness speaking.

I think my reply was: "you are, look at the work you do." But that was inadequate.

Some weeks later, I was working swing shift with Woody when my wife called about 9 p.m. -- someone was trying to break into our second-floor apartment, she said. Woody heard this and while I was still on the phone, tossed me the keys to his

car and said "go." We lived just a few miles from the bureau and I typically rode my bike to the bureau. Thanks to Woody, I was out the door and rolling within seconds. I actually beat the police to our building, who met me with guns drawn.

The would-be burglar had fled but had broken a second door to the apartment, which I nailed shut, loaded wife and 3-year-old son in Woody's car and dashed back to bureau. They slept for the rest of my shift on the bureau floor.

To this day, my wife says that for his quick and selfless action, Woody was a hero. I agree.

The AP Corporate Archives at 20

Connecting colleagues are invited to take part in two Zoom webinars that will focus on working and writing in the AP Corporate Archives. Here is information on the first, which will be held Monday, April 24.

Working in the Archives: Moderator, Giovanna Dell'Orto, Global Religion Team

When - Mon Apr 24, 2023, 1 pm – 2pm (EDT)

Where - <https://ap.zoom.us/j/96255045325>

A conversation with AP's archivists past and present: Valerie Komor, Francesca Pitaro, Sarit Hand, Sam Markham and Joyce LeeAnn Joseph.

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/96255045325>

The Corporate Archives was founded in July 2003 with a grand mission: to document the news, governance and administrative operations of the AP worldwide. Through programs in acquisitions, processing, oral history, exhibits, blogs, publications, and preservation, we are able to enhance and support the AP brand while uniting our far-flung staff around an illustrious legacy. No other U.S. news organization can boast of such an archive!

To celebrate our anniversary, read the [AP Images Spotlight](#) blog.

The second webinar will be held May 1, 2023, at 11am EDT:

Writings from the Archives: Moderator, John Daniszewski, Standards Editor

A conversation between John and scholars who have used the archives: Heidi Tworek (the history of international news agencies), Richard Fine (The Price of Truth: The Journalist Who Defied Military Censors to Report the Fall of Nazi Germany), Gene Allen (Mr. Associated Press: Kent Cooper and the 20th Century World of News).

Zoom information for May 1 webinar will be provided later this week.

New-member profile: Jeff Donn

Jeff Donn's career began with carbon paper and a manual typewriter and ended with advanced data software and encrypted email. All the while, the core principles of accuracy and fairness remained firmly in place.

After newspaper stints on both coasts as a reporter and managing editor, Donn joined the AP in 1985 in Albany, N.Y. Over the next decades, he worked as an editor at the old Foreign Desk at Rockefeller Center; a correspondent in Springfield, Mass.; and as Boston-based Northeast writer for Newsfeatures — along with intermittent stints as a science and medical writer.



His initial big story came when he was the first AP staffer to arrive at a collapsed New York State Thruway bridge that fatally sent cars tumbling into a surging river far below in the black of night. Since then, he has edited Persian Gulf war coverage at the Foreign Desk, investigated the FBI's use of violent informants, helped cover the 2001 domestic terrorism attacks, reported on the space shuttle program with the Columbia crash and return to flight with Discovery, covered the Boston marathon bombings and French terrorism attacks in Paris and Nice, and co-authored a series on targets of the Russian hackers who meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

From 2007 to his retirement in 2019, he worked as a member of the AP's national and global investigative teams. He took part in a group that documented pharmaceutical traces in drinking water of tens of millions of Americans, joined in winning a Polk award as lead investigative writer on the BP oil spill, earned AP's Gramling Award in part for helping to direct coverage in Tokyo of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown. He became a Pulitzer Prize finalist in national reporting for a series on aging nuclear power plants.

Personally, though, he would say that one of his greatest honors was inheriting George Esper's Boston desk and office when the AP legend retired. Talk about inspiration!

In intermittent assignments, Donn worked in New Orleans and Phoenix training AP staffers from around the country in advanced investigative approaches and data reporting. He has repeatedly served as a panelist at national conferences of Investigative Reporters and Editors.

He also taught undergraduate and graduate classes in journalism research methods as a part-time adjunct professor at Boston University. But he never took a college class in journalism. He holds a Ph.D. in French literature from Princeton University.



Jeff Donn

Reporter

D.O.B. 5/8/53

AP Associated Press

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In retirement, he likes waking without an alarm, reading fiction and nonfiction, playing jazz guitar, and taking his dog on long walks.

National Press Club members get a first look at AP and ABC documentary “Grand Knighthawk: Infiltrating the KKK” on April 24

By Cecily Scott Martin

Join the Club Events Team tonight (Monday, April 24) at 6 p.m. EDT in the Ballroom for a screening of The Associated Press and ABC News

documentary “Grand Knighthawk: Infiltrating the KKK.” The National Press Club members are receiving a first look at the documentary which will not be released to the public until Thur., April 27.

Get your ticket!

The synopsis from the producers:

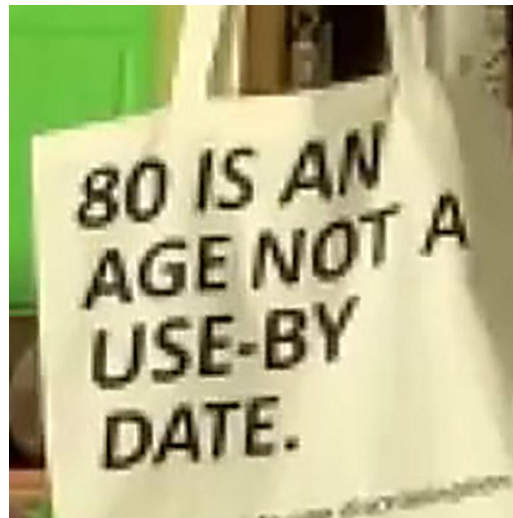
Two of America’s largest and most-trusted news organizations, The Associated Press and ABC News, are working together for the first time to take you inside one of the world’s most sinister secret societies – the Ku Klux Klan. The George Stephanopoulos Productions (GSP) for ABC News Studios documentary “Grand Knighthawk: Infiltrating the KKK” follows the story of a former Army sniper Joseph Moore, who goes undercover inside the klan to stop the modern-day lynching of a Black man and expose not just the perverseness of white supremacy in the Deep South, but also its troubling intersection with law enforcement.

The true crime narrative is based on award-winning investigative journalist Jason Dearen’s written series for The Associated Press “The Badge and the Cross” which won the 2022 Online Journalism Award for feature reporting, large newsroom, as well as the Society for Professional Journalists 2022 Green Eyeshade award for the best investigative reporting in the American South.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey.

Turning wood in retirement

Doug Pizac - One of my post-career retirement activities is to turn wood -- making bowls, lidded boxes, vases, etc. -- to keep my creative juices flowing and satisfied. I belong to three woodturning clubs. In March I hosted "An Evening with Richard Raffan" as a Zoom session with the famed turner who is an icon in the craft. He lives in Australia and spoke to us from his office.



During the session I noticed in the background he had a reusable shopping tote bag hanging up behind him and what it said caught my eye which I made a screen grab of. It says, "80 is an age not a use-by date."

What a wonderful way to look at life.

AP sighting – New York



Malcolm Ritter - It's a restaurant in Greenwich Village.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

Telling the epic story of perilous migration through one lost boat



A nearly two-year AP investigation tracked a single boat from its high-hopes departure from Mauritania to its sad end on a beach in the Caribbean, determining the fates of young men who boarded the craft hoping for a better life.

Two years ago, Barcelona video journalist Renata Brito learned of a boat that had washed up on the Caribbean island of Tobago with dead men aboard. For the next two years, she and colleague Felipe Dana, a photographer and video journalist, undertook a dogged chase to find out who the men were, what had happened to them, and what heartbreak and unresolved questions they had left behind. They succeeded.

Pinballing from the West African nation of Mauritania to France and Tobago, they found forensic evidence. They found clues. They found people. They built a network of sources. And beyond the human story, they found an epic tale of migration inflected with uneven legal policies and the impact of climate change. By the end of their journey, they knew who these men were and what led them to their deaths. They even confirmed one man's identity with a DNA test.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER
**AP Africa team delivers searing,
unconventional look at gas industry's
impact on Senegal fishing town**



Utmost care and patience yielded a sensitively told story of women in Senegal's fishing town of Saint-Louis who had turned to prostitution to feed their families, in response to hardship caused by an international gas project.

AP West Africa correspondent Sam Mednick had been looking into reports that a fishing exclusion zone around an offshore gas project was adding to the economic hardships faced by locals in Saint-Louis, Senegal. Using great care, Mednick, along with freelance photographer Leo Correa and investigative video journalist Grace Ekpu, worked with contacts in the coastal town to find concrete examples of people affected by the gas project.

Through careful efforts owing to the sensitivities around the legal yet taboo work, the AP team was able to identify four women who had begun secretly working as prostitutes after the decline of their family fishing incomes. The team assured the women that their anonymity would be protected if they allowed the AP to tell their stories.

Interviews were conducted discreetly, and, through gentle questioning, the women opened up. Ekpu and Correa overcame the challenge of not identifying them by using careful yet artfully edited images and voice distortion in video post-production to ensure anonymity.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Evelyn Colucci-Calvert](#)

[Reed Saxon](#)

Stories of interest

Will Fox settlement alter conservative media? *Apparently not* (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Days after Fox News agreed to pay nearly \$800 million to settle a lawsuit over its airing of 2020 election lies, you'd be hard-pressed to notice anything had changed there.

Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham led their shows Thursday talking about Hunter Biden, the president's son. Ingraham's show warned, "The left wants the government to be your only family." Hannity targeted familiar villains — Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and Vice President Kamala Harris. Carlson mocked a speech on racial equity, saying it meant "that straight white men are bad."

Experts doubt the settlement will lead to much of a course correction in conservative media, save for a little less specificity to avoid future lawsuits.

So far, that's been the chief result of a Connecticut jury's verdict last year that Alex Jones must pay \$965 million to parents of Sandy Hook school shooting victims, after claiming the 2012 massacre was a hoax and that grieving parents were actors. Now Jones is more likely to keep names out of it, said Nicole Hemmer, a Vanderbilt University professor and author of "Partisans: The Conservative Revolutionaries Who Remade American Politics in the 1990s."

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a Poynter analysis by Tom Jones: Opinion | Answers to reader questions about the Dominion-Fox News case.

-0-

NBCUniversal CEO Shell departs over ‘inappropriate conduct’ (AP)

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeff Shell, the chief executive of NBCUniversal and one of the media industry's renowned executives, is departing the company after an investigation into inappropriate conduct, parent company Comcast announced Sunday.

In a brief statement, Shell said Sunday would be his last day after what he called “an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the company.”

“I’m truly sorry I let my Comcast and NBCUniversal colleagues down, they are the most talented people in the business and the opportunity to work with them the last 19 years has been a privilege,” said Shell, who has been CEO of NBCUniversal since January 2020.

He joins a number of media industry executives who have left their posts in recent years over inappropriate relations, including others at NBCUniversal. Three years ago, NBCUniversal Vice Chairman Ron Meyer, a Hollywood power player, left the company after revealing he received threats of extortion following a settlement with a woman with whom he had an affair.

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

-0-

Russia ‘will not forgive’ US denial of journalist visas (AP)

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Sunday that the United States has denied visas to journalists who wanted to cover Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's trip to New York, and Lavrov suggested that Moscow would take strong retaliatory measures.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. State Department about the claim of refused visas. The journalists aimed to cover Lavrov's appearance at the United Nations to mark Russia's chairmanship of the Security Council.

“A country that calls itself the strongest, smartest, free and fair country has chickened out and done something stupid by showing what its sworn assurances about protecting freedom of speech and access to information are really worth,” Lavrov said before leaving Moscow on Sunday.

“Be sure that we will not forget and will not forgive,” he said.

“I emphasize that we will find ways to respond to this, so that the Americans will remember for a long time not to do this,” deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

Read more [here](#).

Why Isn't the Death of Local News National News?

(Radio Lowdown)

By **JIM HIGHTOWER**

My city's daily newspaper has gotten so emaciated it should be in hospice care.

Its front "section" is down to six pages, half of which are cheap ads, and nearly all of its articles are out-of-date, cut-and-paste pieces bought from out-of-state "content providers." This embarrassment, put out by the Gannett chain of over 1,100 cadaverous papers, pretends to be the "news" source for Austin, a vibrant city of a million people and the capitol of the second-largest state in America! Gannett, owned by a multibillion-dollar Japanese hedge fund, profits by buying up local papers, firing most of the news staff, raising prices, selling off the papers' assets, then killing the paper.

If your town's publication is now a Gannett property, look to Salinas, California for its future. The 152-year-old Salinas Californian was this important region's main news artery until its hedge-funders started hacking. The paper was down to one reporter last December, but that lone journalist quit – and the Californian is now a "newspaper" without reporters – meaning no coverage of elections, city hall, sports, police, workplace issues... etc.

The Salinas paper is technically alive, overseen until recently by another Gannett paper – located 300 miles away! Now, says the chain's comically-named "Center for Community Journalism," Salinas residents can get their news by reading Gannett's national paper, USA Today.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber.

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A California journalist documents the far-right takeover of her town: 'We're a test case' (Guardian)

by **Dani Anguiano**

In a seemingly long gone era – before the Trump presidency, and Covid, and the 2020 election – Doni Chamberlain would get the occasional call from a displeased reader who had taken issue with one of her columns. They would sometimes call her stupid and use profanities.

Today, when people don't like her pieces, Chamberlain said, they tell her she's a communist who doesn't deserve to live. One local conservative radio host said she should be hanged.

Chamberlain, 66, has worked as a journalist in Shasta county, California, for nearly 30 years.

Never before in this far northern California outpost has she witnessed such open hostility towards the press.

She has learned to take precautions. No meeting sources in public. She livestreams rowdy events where the crowd is less than friendly and doesn't walk to her car without scanning the street. Sometimes, restraining orders can be necessary tools.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carol Riha, Sonya Zalubowski, Richard Chady.

The Final Word

Before You Die, Secure Your Digital Life (Wall Street Journal)

By Julie Jargon

The certainties in life are death and taxes, right? Now that tax season is over, it's time to turn your attention to the other one.

People often arrange for who gets their money, real estate and physical belongings when they die. But what about the digital assets we accumulate in a lifetime—photos, social-media accounts and more?

If you don't have your digital matters sorted—or even just spelled out in a memo—you will be burdening your loved ones. They will have to spend their grieving hours on customer-support calls, trying often fruitlessly to gain access to your accounts and files.

Nancy Gourlie lost her partner of 18 years, Burton Sellers, in February. The pair were avid photographers, and he had thousands of nature and family photos in his iCloud account.

After his death, his account began receiving emails saying that payments for iCloud storage were past due and warning that his account would be closed. His credit cards had been locked posthumously, she said, so the automatic payments weren't going through. When she tried to log in from her computer with a saved password, it didn't work: Mr. Sellers, who had dementia, apparently changed his Apple ID password and didn't tell her.

"The thought of losing all those photos made me sick," she said.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 24, 2023



Today is Monday, April 24, the 114th day of 2023. There are 251 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On April 24, 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, between Camp Parks, California, and Westford, Massachusetts.

On this date

In 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.

In 1915, in what's considered the start of the Armenian genocide, the Ottoman Empire began rounding up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.

In 1960, rioting erupted in Biloxi, Mississippi, after Black protesters staging a "wade-in" at a whites-only beach were attacked by a crowd of hostile whites.

In 1961, in the wake of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, the White House issued a statement saying that President John F. Kennedy "bears sole responsibility for the events of the past few days."

In 1967, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov was killed when his Soyuz 1 spacecraft smashed into the Earth after his parachutes failed to deploy properly during re-entry; he was the first human spaceflight fatality.

In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

In 1995, the final bomb linked to the Unabomber exploded inside the Sacramento, California, offices of a lobbying group for the wood products industry, killing chief lobbyist Gilbert B. Murray. (Theodore Kaczynski was later sentenced to four lifetimes in prison for a series of bombings that killed three people and injured 29 others.)

In 2005, Pope Benedict XVI formally began his stewardship of the Roman Catholic Church; the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said in his installation homily that as pontiff he would listen to the will of God in governing the world's 1.1 billion Catholics.

In 2013, in Bangladesh, a shoddily constructed eight-story commercial building housing garment factories collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

In 2019, avowed racist John William King was executed in Texas for the 1998 slaying of James Byrd Jr., who was chained to the back of a truck and dragged along a road outside Jasper, Texas; prosecutors said Byrd was targeted because he was Black.

In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration issued an alert about the dangers of using a malaria drug that President Donald Trump had repeatedly promoted for coronavirus patients. The parent company of Lysol and another disinfectant warned that its products should not be used as an internal treatment for the coronavirus, a day after Trump wondered aloud about that prospect during a White House briefing.

Ten years ago: A magnitude-5.7 earthquake near Jalalabad, Afghanistan killed more than 30 people and injured more than 100. The 11th-century minaret of a famed mosque in Aleppo, Syria collapsed as rebels and government troops clashed in the streets around it, depriving the city of one of its most important landmarks. The Umayyad Mosque was a UNESCO world heritage site and the centerpiece of Aleppo's walled Old City.

Five years ago: Former police officer Joseph DeAngelo was arrested at his home near Sacramento, California, after DNA linked him to crimes attributed to the so-called Golden State Killer; authorities believed he committed 13 murders and more than 50 rapes in the 1970s and 1980s. (DeAngelo is awaiting trial.) Scientists announced that they had used infrared spectroscopy data from the Gemini North telescope to determine that hydrogen sulfide is present in the clouds of Uranus.

One year ago: French President Emmanuel Macron comfortably won reelection to a second term. The victory for the 44-year-old centrist spared France and Europe from the seismic upheaval of a shift of power to firebrand populist, far-right challenger Marine Le Pen. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the highest-level visit to the war-torn country's capital by an American delegation since the start of Russia's invasion. The death toll from accidents at two coal mines in southern Poland increased to nine after four miners were brought to the surface and pronounced dead.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Shirley MacLaine is 89. Actor-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 81. Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 81. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 80. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 78. R&B singer Ann Peebles is 76. Former Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny is 72. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 70. Rock singer-musician Jack Blades (Night Ranger) is 69. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 68. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 66. Actor Glenn Morshower is 64. Rock musician Billy Gould is 60. Actor-comedian Cedric the Entertainer is 59. Actor Djimon Hounsou is 59. Rock musician Patty Schemel (Hole) is 56. Actor Stacy Haiduk is 55. Rock musician Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors) is 55. Actor

Aidan Gillen is 55. Actor Melinda Clarke is 54. Actor Rory McCann is 54. Latin pop singer Alejandro Fernandez is 52. Country-rock musician Brad Morgan (Drive-By Truckers) is 52. Rock musician Brian Marshall (Creed; Alter Bridge) is 50. Actor Derek Luke is 49. Actor-producer Thad Luckinbill is 48. Actor Eric Balfour is 46. Actor Rebecca Mader is 46. Country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard is 44. Country singer Danny Gokey is 43. Actor Reagan Gomez is 43. Actor Austin Nichols is 43. Actor Sasha Barrese is 42. Contemporary Christian musician Jasen Rauch (Red) is 42. Singer Kelly Clarkson is 41. Rock singer-musician Tyson Ritter (The All-American Rejects) is 39. Country singer Carly Pearce is 33. Actor Joe Keery is 31. Actor Jack Quaid is 31. Actor Doc Shaw is 31. Actor Jordan Fisher is 29. Golfer Lydia Ko is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

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

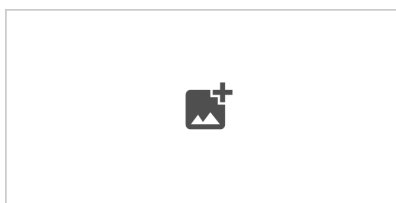
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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