

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

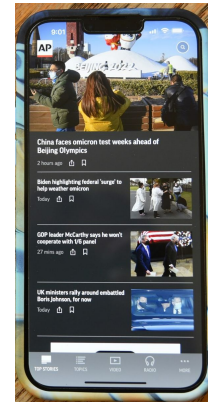
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

May 18, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this May 18, 2023,

Our colleague **Sue Cross** is stepping down from her role as executive director and CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN) by the end of this year – and we bring you that story as our lead for today’s Connecting.

Cross started her career in journalism after graduating from Ohio State University in 1983 when she was hired as vacation relief in the AP’s Cincinnati bureau. She quickly ascended through roles including chief of bureau in Phoenix and Los Angeles to become Senior Vice President - Business Development & Partner Relations Americas. She left the AP in 2014. She joined INN a year later.

Cross made it clear in a note today to Connecting that she is not retiring: “My parents worked into their 80s; not sure I’ll go that far but I will stay involved with news through a lot of projects in this space and working with startups. I don’t expect to be

as peripatetic as my amazing traveler colleague **Kevin Walsh**, but will double down on the ability to work from anywhere.”

Congratulations, Sue - we look forward to hearing more of your next chapters.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest!

Paul

Institute for Nonprofit News starts transition to new leadership

Veteran journalist and news leader Sue Cross will step down as executive director & CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN) by the end of this year, INN announced today (Wednesday).

Cross led the transformation of INN from a relatively small consortium of news organizations into the hub of a fast-growing network with 425 nonprofit newsrooms across North America. Together, these newsrooms send about 4,200 journalists into the field to deliver coverage at the local, state, national and global levels — a rich source of quality reporting made available as a public service through more than 7,000 media outlets.



“The expansion of the nonprofit news movement since 2015 and the growth of the INN Network are very much owing to the leadership and creativity of Sue Cross,” said Marcia Parker, chair of INN’s board of directors. “At a time when much of the news industry is struggling, INN has proven that supporting nonprofit news organizations is an effective and sustainable way to meet the demand for news in communities across the country. On behalf of the entire board of directors, I thank Sue for her tireless work and for leaving INN stronger than it has ever been.”

Cross has helped lead a shift in how journalism in America is funded through capacity-building programs that help news organizations build broad, sustainable community support for public service journalism. The NewsMatch program — a collaborative fundraising initiative supported by a coalition of funders and managed by INN, The Miami Foundation and News Revenue Hub — has helped raise over \$270 million for emerging newsrooms since its launch in 2016. NewsMatch has been critical in launching successful startups in communities that had lost local news and expanding outlets that serve people of color and rural areas.

With INN members, Cross established the INN Index research program to collect and study data on the nonprofit news field. INN also won broader adoption of best practices and standards that can counter disinformation and build public trust in

news, through network members' commitment to editorial independence, transparency about news funding and control, and inclusive and representative coverage.

"This marriage between fostering change and commitment to strong public service values in journalism is creating a new world of news — one that's critical to countering disinformation and preserving democracy," Cross said. "I've been honored to support INN members who are leading the movement to provide news as a public good — and inspired by the outstanding journalism they generate."

Cross plans to continue supporting news reinvention through part-time and project roles while completing a personal project over the next two years.

"We are in a golden age of news innovation" Cross said. "I am moving on at a moment when the members of INN, their board and an outstanding and dedicated staff will continue moving smartly to achieve INN's vision: a world where everyone has access to the quality news and information we all need to make decisions that affect our lives, our communities and our democracy."

In June, the INN board of directors will launch a national executive search through Koya Partners. The board is committed to an inclusive transition process that engages staff, members and other stakeholders invested in the future of nonprofit news.

Sue Cross' email – sue@inn.org

Tori Smith Ekstrand honored by UNC-Chapel Hill



Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz with Associate Professor Tori Smith Ekstrand.

[Tori Smith Ekstrand](#), an associate professor in the Hussman School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was one of three faculty members who have received 2023 Faculty Awards for Global Excellence.

Ekstrand served with AP's Corporate Communications from 1990 to 1999 and was director the last three years.

Since 2017, Ekstrand has been an engine behind growing collaborations at the intersection of data science and democracy with UNC-Chapel Hill's longtime strategic partner Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen in Germany.

The annual awards, administered by the Office of the Vice Provost for Global Affairs (OVPGA) and presented May 2, recognize faculty contributions to advancing the University's global vision articulated in Carolina Next: Innovations for Public Good. Gina Chowa, Robert Jenkins and Ekstrand were selected from nearly 40 nominees.

Click [here](#) for link to the news release.

AP Connecting Reunion this weekend in Texas!



AP Connecting reunion co-host Diana Heidgerd on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 displays AP headphones that will be among the door prizes at this weekend's gathering in the

Dallas area.

DALLAS - Nearly 60 people have signed up for this weekend's AP Connecting reunion in the Dallas area, with group dinners Friday & Saturday nights plus the Texas Rangers vs. Colorado Rockies game on Sunday afternoon.

Many thanks to the staff of AP Corporate Communications, Corporate Archives and Human Resources in New York City for their support and encouragement, including Lauren Easton, Nicole Meir, Valerie Komor & Wyllis McEwan.

Special thanks to reunion co-host Mike Holmes and Friday night BBQ group dinner co-sponsors David Sedeño and John Lumpkin.

A variety of door prizes – ranging from water bottles to headphones to AP-branded clothing – will be handed out during the group Tex-Mex dinner Saturday night. The program will include: Quiz: How Much Do You Know about AP Staff, Stories & History? Remembrances of late/great AP journalists Mike Cochran & Denne Freeman. Recognition of AP staffers who've retired since the September 2021 Connecting reunion in Texas. Additional remarks & a group photo.

See you this weekend in Texas!

Sunset watching in Naples, Florida



[Hank Ackerman](#) – Sunsets in Naples...When he is in Naples, a guy on the 3rd floor of a beach condo blares taps with his trumpet when the sun breaches the horizon over the Gulf of Mexico. The he shamelessly plays “Hail to the Victor.” (U of Michigan fight song) Many people clap if a sunset is particularly beautiful. Everyone looks with anticipation for the “flash” of green but are usually disappointed. This shot is from the Hurricane Ian-damaged Naples Pier. It could be suggested that more people watch sunsets than watch professional sports or go to churches, mosques or synagogues.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Epperson](#)

[James Gill](#)

Stories of interest

Christiane Amanpour voices dissent over Trump town hall, says she had ‘very robust exchange’ with CNN chief (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy, CNN

It has been one week since CNN’s town hall with Donald Trump — and the fierce fallout stemming from the event is still reverberating.

While accepting the prestigious Columbia Journalism Award and serving as the school’s 2023 commencement speaker, Christiane Amanpour on Wednesday became the first network anchor to publicly voice dissent with management over the town hall, which has spawned a storm of fierce backlash.

Amanpour, CNN’s chief international anchor, disclosed that she had met with CNN boss Chris Licht this week and that the two “had a very robust exchange of views” about the matter. She said that Licht “welcomed that exchange of views,” but stood by

his decision to hold the town hall. Licht told staffers the morning after the event that he believed it was worthwhile because it woke people up to the stakes of the 2024 election.

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

-0-

CNN names Kaitlan Collins to fill prime-time vacancy in Chris Cuomo's old slot (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN said Kaitlan Collins will host a new hourlong show at the center of the prime-time lineup, filling a slot left vacant since the firing of Chris Cuomo and as the network's ratings are at a low ebb.

Collins will begin regularly hosting the 9 p.m. Eastern show next month, the network said Wednesday, making the announcement during a Warner Discovery sales presentation to advertisers.

The ex-White House correspondent moderated CNN's town hall with former President Donald Trump last week, but was generally held blameless for criticism the event received.

"She is a smart and gifted journalist who we've all seen hold lawmakers and newsmakers accountable," CNN Chairman Chris Licht said in a memo to staff members. "She pushes politicians off their talking points, gets real answers — and as everyone who's worked with her knows — breaks a lot of news."

It's the biggest move by Licht, who became CNN's leader last year, to put his imprint on the prime-time lineup, which has lagged far behind Fox News and MSNBC in viewership.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Lavrov: White House has called Kremlin to seek release of Gershkovich and Whelan (Reuters)

May 17 (Reuters) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday that White House officials had requested the release of detained Americans Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan in conversations with a Kremlin official.

In an interview with a Russian TV channel, Lavrov said White House officials "sometimes call" Yury Ushakov, a presidential aide specialising in foreign affairs, and send "one and the same signal" demanding the release of the two men.

He did not say how Ushakov responded.

Wall Street Journal reporter Gershtovich was arrested on March on suspicion of spying, which he and his newspaper deny.

Whelan, a former U.S. marine, was arrested in December 2018, held for 18 months in Lefortovo prison in Moscow, and jailed for 16 years in June 2020 on spying charges. He too has denied the accusations, and Washington has designated both men as "wrongfully detained".

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Jane Earle, journalist and former Denver Post staffer, dies at age 88 (Denver Post)

By KIERAN NICHOLSON

Jane Earle, a journalist, writer and academic, died April 9 at her Denver home. She was 88.

Born on March 23, 1935, in Kentucky, Earle began her career in journalism in Ohio and also worked at The Daily Oklahoman and the Oklahoma City Journal before joining the staff of The Denver Post in 1970 as a feature writer. At The Post, Earle switched beats to cover federal courts and federal agencies and during her seven-year tenure she also covered state government, the legislature and minority political affairs. Among Earle's stories at The Post were pieces on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Chicano Movement and the Wounded Knee occupation in 1973.

"A journalist most of her life, she was a writer first and foremost with a deep appreciation for the role of the press in defending American democracy," said her daughter, Jennifer Wollerman. "Her fearlessness, thirst for information, passion for history and talent for finding the heart of the story drove her from very humble beginnings to accomplish great things as a storyteller."

Earle left The Denver Post and became editor, and later publisher, of Denver Magazine, a journal of politics and arts during the late 1970s and early 1980s. After leaving the magazine, she was a freelance editorial consultant and writer for the Colorado School of Mines and several corporate clients. She then joined KMGH Channel 7 as editorial director, a position she held for five years. During that time, she taught journalism at Metropolitan State College (now MSUD). While teaching, Earle completed an undergraduate degree, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a double major in History and Journalism.

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

Today in History - May 18, 2023



Today is Thursday, May 18, the 138th day of 2023. There are 227 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On May 18, 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

On this date

In 1652, Rhode Island became the first American colony to pass a law abolishing African slavery; however, the law was apparently never enforced.

In 1863, the Siege of Vicksburg began during the Civil War, ending July 4 with a Union victory.

In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later by *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

In 1910, Halley's Comet passed by earth, brushing it with its tail.

In 1927, in America's deadliest school attack, part of a schoolhouse in Bath Township, Michigan, was blown up with explosives planted by local farmer Andrew Kehoe, who then set off a bomb in his truck; the attacks killed 38 children and six adults, including Kehoe, who'd earlier killed his wife. (Authorities said Kehoe, who suffered financial difficulties, was seeking revenge for losing a township clerk election.)

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1934, Congress approved, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the so-called "Lindbergh Act," providing for the death penalty in cases of interstate kidnapping.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1981, the New York Native, a gay newspaper, carried a story concerning rumors of "an exotic new disease" among homosexuals; it was the first published report about what came to be known as AIDS.

In 1998, the U.S. government filed an antitrust case against Microsoft, saying the powerful software company had a "choke hold" on competitors that was denying consumers important choices about how they bought and used computers. (The Justice Department and Microsoft reached a settlement in 2001.)

In 2015, President Barack Obama ended long-running federal transfers of some combat-style gear to local law enforcement in an attempt to ease tensions between police and minority communities, saying equipment made for the battlefield should not be a tool of American criminal justice.

In 2020, President Donald Trump said he'd been taking a malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, and a zinc supplement to protect against the coronavirus despite warnings from his own government that the drug should be administered only in a hospital or research setting.

Ten years ago: A car driven by an 87-year-old man plowed into dozens of hikers during a parade in Damascus, Virginia, injuring about 50 people. (The driver, who suffered from a medical condition, was not charged.) French President Francois Hollande signed a law authorizing same-sex marriages and adoption by gay couples. Oxbow, ridden by Hall of Fame jockey Gary Stevens, led from start to finish to win the Preakness; Kentucky Derby winner Orb came in fourth.

Five years ago: A 17-year-old armed with a shotgun and a pistol opened fire at a Houston-area high school, killing eight students and two teachers. (Dimitrios Pagourtzis is charged in state court with capital murder; his attorney says he is facing 11 federal charges.) A 39-year-old airliner crashed and burned in a field just after taking off from Havana, Cuba, killing 112 people. President Donald Trump said he would nominate acting Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie to permanently lead the department. (Wilkie was confirmed by the Senate in July.) Hasbro announced that the United States Patent and Trademark Office had issued a trademark for the scent of Play-doh.

One year ago: Nearly 1,000 last-ditch Ukrainian fighters who had held out inside Mariupol's pulverized steel plant surrendered, Russia said, as the battle that turned the city into a worldwide symbol of defiance and suffering draws toward a close. President Biden invoked the Defense Production Act to speed production of infant formula and authorized flights to import supply from overseas amid a national shortage. The U.S. Soccer Federation reached milestone agreements to pay its men's and women's teams equally.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Priscilla Pointer is 99. Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson is 85. Actor Candice Azzara is 82. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 81. Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson is 77. Former Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., is 75. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 75. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 74. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 73. Actor James Stephens is 72. Country singer George Strait is 71. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 68. International Tennis Hall of Famer Yannick Noah is 63. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 63. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 62. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 57. Singer-actor Martika is 54. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 53. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 48. Country singer David Nail is 44. Actor Matt Long is 43. Actor Allen Leech is 42. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 38. Actor Spencer Breslin is 31. Actor Violet Beane is 27. Actor Hala Finley is 14.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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.

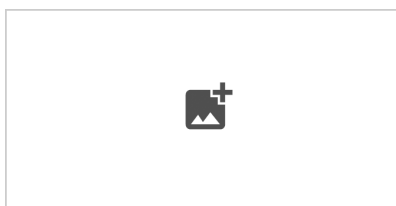
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!