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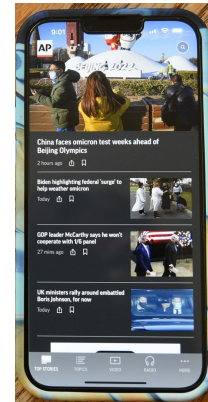
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# Connecting

May 24, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this May 24, 2023,

Happy 140<sup>th</sup> birthday to one of the world’s most famous bridges – the Brooklyn Bridge – from The Associated Press, a news service that was 37 years old when traffic first crossed over the bridge, spanning the East River and linking the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn.

We lead with an AP Images blog produced by **Kathleen Elliott**, a New York photo editor, that provides a great history of the bridge and some outstanding images.

If you are out and about near the bridge today, snap a photo of you and the bridge. We would also welcome your favorite story or photo related to the bridge. Please send along.

Connecting calls your attention to outstanding AP teamwork on a series, [“From birth to death.”](#)

“From birth to death, Black Americans fare worse in measures of health compared to their white counterparts. They have higher rates of infant and maternal mortality, higher incidence of asthma during childhood, more difficulty treating mental health as teens, and greater rates of high blood pressure, Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses. The Associated Press spent the past year exploring how the legacy of racism in America has laid the foundation for the health inequities that Black people face.”

The package is written by Kat Stafford, with photos by Maye-E Wong, videos by Noreen Nasir and illustrations by Peter Hamlin.

Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest.

Paul

## Brooklyn Bridge turns 140



The Brooklyn Bridge majestically spans the East River and frames part of the Manhattan skyline in this striking night photo taken from the Brooklyn side of the river, May 15, 1958. When it opened in 1883 it was the largest suspension bridge in the world and the first to incorporate steel-wire in its construction. (AP Photo/Hans Von Nolde)



# TO-DAY'S NEWS

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

## BROOKLYN'S BRIDGE-

Completion of the Great Bridge connecting Brooklyn and New York.

The two Cities assume a Holiday Appearance.

Trouble among Miners.

### Opening of the Brooklyn Bridge.

NEW YORK, May 24.—To-day was a gala day in Brooklyn. Throughout the city there appeared to be a general surrender of business to sight seeing and celebration. The main business avenues, the heights and many streets clear out into the suburbs were decked most gaily with flags and bunting and flowers for the bridal with city over the river. The

public buildings, private houses, street cars, wagons and trucks, all flying colors of all nations in honor of the opening of the high bridge. On every hand preparations are being made for illumination to-night. Great satisfaction is expressed among the people of Brooklyn at this completion, of which so much is expected for their city. Venders of bridge souvenirs were about in hundreds and hundreds and found ready sale for their wares. Enterprising merchants took the opportunity of advertising their wares on the backs of pictures of the Brooklyn bridge. Fulton street from the furthest end to the river front was gay with colors. The decoration of the Academy of Music has occupied a small army of men, and is being prepared for the reception to-night.

The President and Cabinet, together with other distinguished invited guests, entered carriages on the south side of the hotel, and preceded by military escort moved down Fifth avenue and Broadway to city hall park, where the members of the common council received the President and Cabinet.

The 140th anniversary of the day the Brooklyn Bridge opened to traffic is May 24, 2023. At the time of its completion, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world, connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn across the East River.

The picket fence in front of the bridge has been removed and a strong force of police guard the approach. Crowds began to gather early, and waited with patience the arrival of the procession and the beginning of the ceremonies.

Construction began on the bridge in 1869 and finished in 1883. Numerous complications occurred through the years, including the death of the designer John A. Roebling at the beginning of construction following an accident that occurred on a ferry slip while he was examining the worksite.

Through Columbia Heights and streets

Text and photo curation by Kathleen Elliott  
AP Images Blog

His son, Washington Roebling, and daughter-in-law Emily Warren Roebling undertook direction of the construction of the bridge until it was completed in 1883.

Read more [here](#)

## AP + BB = HBD

[Roberto FE Soto](#) – in a LinkedIn post, wrote: The 177-year-old AP today has happily reminded all of us that this is also the anniversary of a younger architectural wonder.

The AP has been breaking news and covering the world's biggest stories, always committed to the highest standards of objective, accurate journalism. We were founded as an independent news cooperative, whose members are U.S. newsmen and broadcasters, steadfast in our mission to inform the world. From delivering the news via pony express in 1846 to working in virtual reality today, we are always innovating.

I served my former employer as NY Bureau Chief and Director of Operations for North America for The Associated Press. AP is the largest and oldest non-for-profit news agency on the planet. It is headquartered in New York City and was founded in 1846. AP operates as a cooperative, unincorporated association, and produces news reports that are distributed to its members throughout the USA and the world.

This is the 140th anniversary of the day the Brooklyn Bridge opened to traffic is May 24, This one is old enough to have qualified for Medicare three times.

At the time of its completion, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world, connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn across the East River.

## On the New York Times new dateline policy

[Jim Carlson](#) - We followed the policy of using the dateline where the reporting was being done on a byline story. Of course, this could appear confusing in some cases.

Before my retirement from the AP in Milwaukee, I was working one evening when I found a brief broadcast story from Eau Claire about a window washer surviving a six-story fall from a hotel. The item had virtually no information on the guy's condition.

So I made some calls and eventually got to a hospital spokeswoman who provided some details but declined more info because of patient privacy. I asked if she would talk with the patient or his relatives and see if they would allow a short interview. Bingo!

She provided a number, and the guy himself answered from his hospital bed. He had some leg injuries but otherwise made it OK, landing partly on a covering for the hotel entrance. A braking device on a rope also might have slowed his fall a little. His

mother was there so I talked with her and mainly got this message: he's not going back to this job.

So I ended with a Milwaukee-dated byline story about what happened in Eau Claire.

I was surprised to find later that the Eau Claire newspaper used my story, with dateline. They likely couldn't get all the details on their own.

I also saw that a retired editor of that paper was among the readers who noticed. He submitted a comment on the oddity of a Milwaukee story telling such a local tale.

For me, the evening of otherwise pretty routine duties got a boost of excitement by using a fraction of my time to develop a story that made national wires, and with byline no less.

It's something I'll always miss about AP work.

## Roosevelt Hotel

[Robert Burns](#) - I thought I would offer a memory about a New York hotel that was an AP alternative to the Roosevelt when I first arrived in the city in March 1980 to begin four years in AP Business News.

Mike Millican, who brought me to Business News from the St. Louis bureau, put me up at the Drake, which stood at 56th and Park Avenue. It was a fabulous hotel, demolished some years ago. During my month-plus stay while hunting for a Manhattan apartment, one moment at the Drake stands out so starkly that I will never forget it.

I was in the shower one morning in late April, listening with half an ear to a radio broadcast that suddenly delivered a gut punch. It was an early report on the failed U.S. military mission to rescue the 52 American hostages in Tehran, which had ended in deadly disaster in the Iranian desert. I remember feeling sad, even confused. Of course, I had no idea that I would go on to spend most of my career covering the U.S. military and learning why how such missions are so difficult and risky.

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[Lindel Hutson](#) - Count me among the AP alums who spent time at NY's Roosevelt Hotel. About a month, moving from Little Rock to the NY General Desk in the '70s.

I was watching the 1971 movie 'The French Connection' recently and the hotel was featured in a street chase scene. Either Popeye Doyle (Gene Hackman) or the Roy Scheider character were after the bad guys and ran down the street and into the lobby of the Roosevelt.

## Stories of interest

## ***Ghost papers. Journalists find themselves alone or with just a few left in the newsroom*** (Editor and Publisher)

Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher

In “The Expanding News Desert,” UNC’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media’s Knight Chair in Journalism and Digital Media Economics, Penelope Muse Abernathy, maps two paths that lead to a “ghost newspaper.” The first, she proposed, diminishes a news brand through acquisition by a larger enterprise, which then changes the nature of the publication, perhaps reducing it in frequency or turning it into a free lifestyle supplement.

“Between 2004 and 2018, almost 600 once-stand-alone newspapers — or one-third of the 1,800 papers that the country lost — became advertising supplements, free-distribution shoppers or lifestyle specialty publications,” Abernathy explained.

The second path sees staff cut until it becomes impossible to “adequately cover their communities,” Abernathy suggested. “Although the exact number is hard to pin down, we estimate, based on news accounts and industry data, at least 1,000 of the 7,200 newspapers still published in this country — and perhaps as many as 1,500 — have lost significantly more than half of their newsroom staff since 2004. As a result, they have become ghosts, with drastically curtailed reach and journalistic missions,” Abernathy concluded.

Evidence of this is playing out across the country: newsrooms with just a few reporters, reporters and editors wearing more hats and newspapers without editors or publishers.

In some cases, entire “beats” have disappeared — in small communities and across entire states.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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## ***Russian court extends Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich's detention by 3 months*** (CBS)

BY STEFAN BECKET

Washington — A Russian court has extended the detention of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich for at least another three months, Russian media outlets said Tuesday, the latest setback in efforts to secure his release.

News agencies TASS and Interfax reported that Lefortovsky District Court in Moscow ordered Gershkovich held until Aug. 30, citing the court's press service. Gershkovich faces espionage charges that the U.S. has denounced as fabricated, and the State



Department has determined he is being "wrongfully detained," a designation that requires the U.S. government to work to secure his release.

The 31-year-old correspondent was arrested in March in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg and soon charged with spying. The Russian Foreign Ministry claimed he was "caught red-handed while trying to obtain secret information" and "using his journalistic status as a cover for illegal actions," a charge strenuously denied by Gershkovich, the Wall Street Journal and U.S. officials. He appealed his pretrial detention in April, which was rejected by the court.

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

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## ***Eugene Register-Guard languishes under Gannett, nation's largest newspaper chain*** (OregonLive.com)

**By Jeff Manning | The Oregonian/OregonLive**

The Eugene Register-Guard, once one of the best newspapers in the region, today has no local editor, no publisher, no physical newsroom and little love from a dismayed citizenry. The news staff that once exceeded 80 now stands at six.

The paper's editor quit last fall and was not replaced locally. The two remaining news reporters are taking direction from editors at the Statesman Journal, located 66 miles north in Salem. The third largest paper in Oregon has taken control of the second largest.

The architect of this tectonic shift in Oregon journalism is Gannett Co. Inc., a financially challenged creation of New York financiers that has become notorious for its rapid-fire acquisition of hundreds of newspapers and the radical downsizing that typically follows.

Gannett, the owner of the Statesman Journal since 1973, was itself swallowed up by another company called GateHouse Media in 2019, a \$1.9 billion deal that created the largest print media name in the country.

Though it was the Gannett name that survived the merger, GateHouse controlled the new venture with 50.5% of the shares. GateHouse leaders oversee 260 daily newspapers and hundreds of weeklies — one in five of the nation's newspapers.

A year earlier, GateHouse had acquired the Eugene paper for a bargain basement price. (GateHouse also for a time owned The Mail Tribune in Medford but sold the paper to Steven Saslow's RoseBud Media, which would oversee its closure less than six years later.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham, Lee Siegel.

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## ***Opinion: 7 news outlets reimagining political journalism in smart ways*** (Washington Post)

**By Perry Bacon Jr.**

Political journalism is in crisis. Over the past few months, BuzzFeed News, FiveThirtyEight, Vice and a number of other outlets that specialize in political news have substantially cut staffing and coverage. Even CNN and The Post have laid off journalists. And the political media is struggling to cover an increasingly radical Republican Party without seeming to be on the side of the Democrats.

But there is good news, too. Several new or expanding outlets are addressing some of political journalism's long-standing shortcomings: insufficient coverage of state and local government and of people who aren't White and upper-income; an over-prioritization of elections over policy; a failure to recognize that the courts are a central front in today's political conflicts.

And this matters. I don't care about the state of political journalism just because it's my field. The coverage decisions and priorities of news outlets affect the behavior of elected officials and the lives of everyday citizens. Good political journalism is vital.

Here are seven outlets that are reimagining political journalism in smart ways:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady, Randall Hackley, Dennis Conrad.

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## ***Opinion: CNN needs a new chief. Here's the ideal candidate.*** (Washington Post)

**By Jennifer Rubin**

The calamitous and widely panned CNN town hall with disgraced former president Donald Trump personified much of what is wrong with the mainstream media: the insatiable desire for sensationalism, the dereliction of duty to pursue the truth, infuriating passivity, and the normalization of lying and political extremism. (Disclaimer: I am an MSNBC contributor.)

Nearly as bad: the expected corporate defensiveness that followed, including CNN chief Chris Licht's chewing out of media reporter Oliver Darcy for exhibiting the temerity to do his job (i.e. media criticism) in discussing his employer's errors in providing an uncontrolled forum for Trump's assault on reality.

Licht's alleged encouragement of Trump to "have fun" and his refusal to acknowledge the fundamental error in presenting Trump in this fashion should disqualify him from management of a major news outlet. Instead of Licht, the cable news network that

created the medium of cable news might consider putting a real journalist at the top of the organization. I've got just the person.

At the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism graduation last week, CNN chief foreign correspondent Christiane Amanpour provided a master class in controlled and graceful yet searing criticism of her employer.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Richard Chady, Bill McCloskey.

## Today in History - May 24, 2023



Today is Wednesday, May 24, the 144th day of 2023. There are 221 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History

On May 24, 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message "What hath God wrought" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line. ON THIS DATE In 1935, the first major league baseball game to be played at night took place at Cincinnati's Crosley Field as the Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 2-1.

In 1937, in a set of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood in the North Atlantic, killing all but three of the 1,418 men on board.

In 1961, a group of Freedom Riders was arrested after arriving at a bus terminal in Jackson, Mississippi, charged with breaching the peace for entering white-designated areas. (They ended up serving 60 days in jail.)

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1974, American jazz composer and bandleader Duke Ellington, 75, died in New York.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde supersonic transport service to Washington.

In 1980, Iran rejected a call by the World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages.

In 1994, four Islamic fundamentalists convicted of bombing New York's World Trade Center in 1993 were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

In 1995, former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson died in London at age 79.

In 2006, "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary about former Vice President Al Gore's campaign against global warming, went into limited release.

In 2011, Oprah Winfrey taped the final episode of her long-running talk show.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama addressed the sexual assault epidemic staining the military, telling U.S. Naval Academy graduates to remember their honor depended on what they did when nobody was looking and said the crime had "no place in the greatest military on earth." British fighter jets intercepted a Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 777 carrying more than 300 people from Pakistan and diverted it to an isolated runway at London-Stansted Airport, where two British passengers who had allegedly threatened to destroy the plane were arrested. Toronto Mayor Rob Ford denied that he smoked crack cocaine and said he was not an addict after a video purported to show him using the drug.

Five years ago: After a Justice Department briefing, Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said there was no evidence to support claims that there was a government spy in President Donald Trump's campaign. The president abruptly canceled a planned summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, blaming "open hostility" from North Korea. (A week later, Trump announced that the summit would take place in mid-June.) Trump granted a rare posthumous pardon to boxing's first black heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson, more than 100 years after what many see as a racially-charged conviction for violating the Mann Act by traveling with his white girlfriend. The president signed into law a measure loosening restraints for banks imposed after the 2008 financial crisis. A gunman was shot and killed by two bystanders after opening fire at an Oklahoma City restaurant and wounding three patrons. Jerry Maren, the last surviving Munchkin from the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," died at a San Diego nursing home; he was 99.

One year ago: An 18-year-old gunman opened fire at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, killing 19 children and two teachers. The gunman, Salvador Ramos, a former student at the school, was also killed. It was the deadliest shooting at a U.S. grade school since the attack in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, almost a decade earlier. Russia's invasion of Ukraine reached the three-month mark, with Moscow bogged down in

what increasingly appeared to be a war of attrition, with no end in sight and few successes on the battlefield. An Iraqi man living in Ohio was arrested on a charge of plotting to assassinate former President George W. Bush.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS - Actor-comedian-impressionist Stanley Baxter is 97. Jazz musician Archie Shepp is 86. Comedian Tommy Chong is 85. Singer Bob Dylan is 82. Actor Gary Burghoff is 80. Singer Patti LaBelle is 79. Actor Priscilla Presley is 78. Country singer Mike Reid is 76. Actor Jim Broadbent is 74. Actor Alfred Molina is 70. Singer Rosanne Cash is 68. Actor Cliff Parisi is 63. Actor Kristin Scott Thomas is 63. Actor John C. Reilly is 58. Actor Dana Ashbrook is 56. Actor Eric Close is 56. Actor Carl Payne is 54. Rock musician Rich Robinson is 54. Former MLB pitcher Bartolo Colon is 50. Actor Dash Mihok is 49. Actor Bryan Greenberg is 45. Actor Owen Benjamin is 43. Actor Billy L. Sullivan is 43. Actor-rapper Jerod Mixon (aka Big Tyme) is 42. Rock musician Cody Hanson (Hinder) is 41. Dancer-choreographer-singer Mark Ballas is 37. Country singer Billy Gilman is 35. Rapper/producer G-Eazy is 34. Actor Brianne Howey is 34. Actor Cayden Boyd is 29.

## 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!

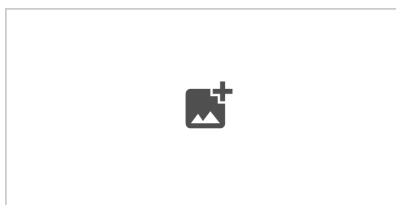
Here are some suggestions:

- **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.

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