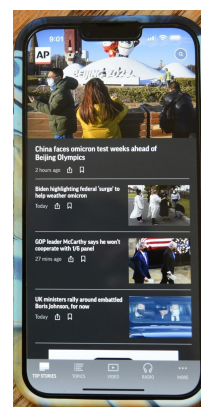


SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#)

Connecting

May 26, 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 Friday morning on this May 26, 2023,

How often do you get to greet in person and thank the one who hired you after 50 years have passed?

That was the opportunity afforded me when I met up with **Ed Staats** at last weekend's AP Connecting reunion in the Dallas area (a reunion remarkably well done by organizers **Diana Heidgerd** and **Mike Holmes** and highly recommended for others to emulate).

Fifty years ago, Ed was chief of bureau in Albany, N.Y., and I was a journalism grad student at the University of Kansas who over spring break in March 1973 drove to the East to interview with several newspapers and The Associated Press. **Keith Fuller** was personnel director then and administered the AP tests in his office at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and chatted with me about what I wanted to do when I grew up.

My sports writing experience was a plus, especially stringing for AP at the University of Iowa, and although short on experience after four years of military service sandwiched between Iowa and Kansas, I was placed on the AP circular - a communication mailed to all domestic bureau chiefs and others listing people who NY Personnel believed were worthy of hiring consideration.



Ed Staats took a chance on me and offered a news position in Albany - as the numerical replacement (love that term!) for **Denis Gray**, who was assigned to the AP's Saigon bureau (and is a Connecting colleague who never left Southeast Asia).

My wife Linda and I packed our belongings into a U-Haul truck for the 1,300-mile journey east and I started a week later. A few weeks into my job, Ed and his wife invited us to their home for dinner. He was a great teacher and role model. And when an AP-wide cutback in 1974 impacted Upstate New York and resulted in my position being eliminated since I was the junior staffer (one with a newborn baby), Ed worked with Sports Editor **Wick Temple** and Personnel Executive **Ron Thompson** to find me an opening in St. Louis where there was a sports need. And it was off to the races - with a rewarding career of 36 years. And now, 10 years as your Connecting editor.

So how about you? You ever have a similar experience with a later-in-life reunion with the one who hired you? I hope you'll tell your story.

Have a great Memorial Day weekend - remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. If you're doing anything special this weekend, send along a story and photo to use when Connecting resumes on Tuesday.

And, as always - be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest!

Paul

Dan Perry hosts Yerevan journalism panel that includes Tom Kent



From left: Maria Titizian, Lara Setrakian, Tom Kent, Robert Stewart (on screen from Ohio) and Dan Perry.

Dan Perry - On May 24 I hosted a panel and webinar on journalism in the digital age at the American University in Armenia at which my panelists included former AP international editor and standards editor Tom Kent.

Tom argued that the news need not be dumbed down and that new digital-friendly formats can be deployed to keep younger audiences interested in serious journalism. He also cautioned against unbridled use of AI in journalism, noting that essentially it would not produce original reporting but rather a rehash of material on the internet whose true veracity cannot be known.

Other panelists included Prof. Robert Stewart, the former director of the EW Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University (co-sponsors of the event), veteran US journalist Lara Setrakian (who founded an Yerevan-based NGO), and Maria Titizian, the editor-in-chief of Armenia's English-language EVN Report.

They addressed potential content-sharing partnerships between local and global media, the ethics of war reporting, and the tensions between news as a business and news as a public service.

I noted to the university audience that Kent bears the responsibility for the entire event in a way, having in 1990 hired me into the AP and sent me to Bucharest to set up a bureau on account of my immigrant parents having taught me Romanian. It led to a 28-year AP career in which I was at various points the Caribbean bureau chief, the Jerusalem bureau chief, the Europe-Africa Editor and the Middle East Editor of the agency. Tom took the reference in his stride, expressing no opinion.

Brooklyn Bridge



[Dave Lubeski](#) - Here's my Brooklyn Bridge photo. It's from December of 2010 during a visit to NYC for a symposium when I was employed by George Washington University. The meeting took place downtown and my hotel was just a few blocks from the bridge. I ventured out in search of food in the evenings and walked along the shoreline of the East River and took the shot when I got to this vantage point.

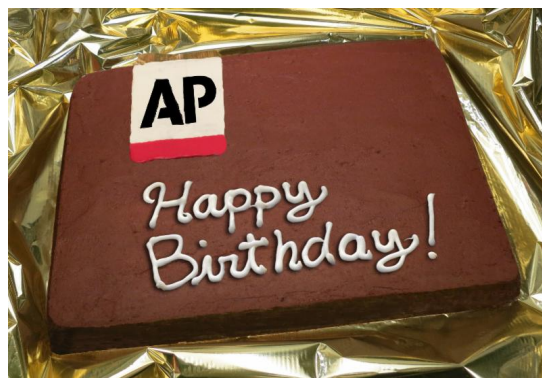
Another AP Sighting



Reed Saxon - This one has been under our noses - or thumbs - forever, most likely. The AP on every Sharpie ever made means "Approved Product," rated by an outfit known as the ACMI, the Artist and Creative Materials Institute, Inc. I never heard of them, either, until I looked them up.

Note that their webpage also has a CL for "Cautionary Labeling," which should have been observed when a Trump-inspired meteorologist wannabe (I doubt a real one would have done this) used a Sharpie to enlarge the forecast area of a Florida hurricane. Thus was created "Sharpiegate."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Harry Weber](#)

On Saturday to...

[Ruth Gersh](#)

On Monday to...

[Bryan Brumley](#)

[Arnold Garson](#)

[Ted Mendelsohn](#)

Stories of interest

She started an aid network for laid-off journalists and it spread like wildfire (Poynter)

By: Omar Gallaga

On the morning of Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, Kati Kokal was trying to keep up with news about the first week of school in her role as an education reporter at The Palm Beach Post. About two hours into her work day, the bombshell she'd been expecting landed: The Post's owner Gannett began making layoffs that would over the next few weeks affect 3% of its U.S. workforce, about 400 workers.

Kokal, who'd been organizing a community aid response for laid-off Gannett employees in anticipation of the announcement, was suddenly flooded with direct messages. Her idea was to get the word out on social media about newly available talent on the market and to connect those in need with volunteers who could offer various types of support, financial help or leads on new job opportunities.

"It happened so fast," she said, "I put out a note on Twitter that was like, 'If you're laid off (direct message) and I'll send you this Google Form.' It really blew up and all of a sudden I had a hundred DMs from people who had been laid off."

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

-0-

Twitter's launch of DeSantis' presidential bid underscores platform's rightward shift under Musk
(AP)

By Ali Swenson

NEW YORK (AP) — Two years ago, signing a bill intended to punish Twitter and other major social media companies, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis blasted the platforms as “suppressing ideas” during the COVID-19 pandemic and silencing conservative voices.

What a turnaround.

The new Elon Musk-owned version of Twitter helped DeSantis launch his bid for the Republican presidential nomination Wednesday. Though it was marred by technical glitches and skewered by the candidate’s critics, the forum nevertheless underscored Twitter’s unmistakable shift to the right under Musk, who bought it for \$44 billion and took over in October.

“The truth was censored repeatedly, and now that Twitter is in the hands of a free speech advocate, that would not be able to happen again on this Twitter platform,” DeSantis said during the Twitter Spaces event.

Musk, co-hosting the event, responded to the praise by saying, “Twitter was indeed expensive, but free speech is priceless.”

Read more [here](#).

-0-

A 135-year-old newspaper is resurrected in southwestern Pennsylvania (Editor and Publisher)

Alyssa Choiniere | for Editor & Publisher

The Weekly Recorder was printed in rural southwestern Pennsylvania for 135 years and changed forms and hands multiple times.

The community also changed — as the oil and gas industry moved into the rural landscape.

“Washington County, in my opinion, is the gem of Pennsylvania. There are so many great things this county has to offer. We sit on top of the Marcellus Shale. We’re a huge producer of oil and gas. The healthcare industry ... and agriculture is unbelievable. ... There’s so much to highlight within Washington County,” said The Weekly Recorder Editor William R. Smith. “The idea of featuring our county and our people is just outstanding.”

The new owners of The Weekly Recorder hope to highlight those areas and others with the resurrection of the newspaper. Penn West Media purchased the newspaper from DFM Publishing, and three lifelong residents who are active in their communities will lead it. Daryl W. Price and Matthew G. Uram will serve as the newspaper’s publishers. The first edition was published on April 23.

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

-0-

Stop the Presses? Newspapers in the Digital Age

(Congressional Research Service)

During the past 20 years, more than 200 local daily newspapers have either reduced their publication frequency or ceased publishing altogether. Among those that survived, many employ a fraction of the journalists that they did at the turn of the 21st century, and many publish far fewer original, local, and investigative news stories than they did previously. As a result, in order to get local news, thousands of U.S. communities rely on “ghost newspapers” that are shells of their former selves and may rarely employ full-time professional local journalists. Researchers report that, among other societal effects, the lack of a daily newspaper to monitor local governments and publicly traded companies can lead to increased financing costs to make up for investors’ lack of trust.

In 2000, daily newspaper industry revenue peaked at \$89 billion, adjusted for inflation in 2020 dollars. Twenty years later, the revenue had fallen by 80%. Although some large, national newspapers continue to thrive, the newspaper industry as a whole has contracted. Websites and mobile apps enabling individuals to access news without a subscription have increased competition for readers and advertising. Between that 20-year period, revenue gains from online newspaper advertisements (from \$0 to \$3.1 billion) have not replaced revenue losses from print newspaper advertisements.

Some technology companies both compete and collaborate with newspaper publishers for online advertising revenue. For example, in addition to competing with newspapers’ websites for display advertising revenue, Google sells ad spaces (i.e., areas on websites/mobile apps set aside for online advertisements) on behalf of online publishers. Likewise, Google buys ad spaces on behalf of companies seeking to market goods or services to consumers with advertising (i.e., advertisers). For each step of the process—known as the ad tech stack—Google earns commissions from both buyers and sellers. In January 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice joined eight states in filing a lawsuit against Google, alleging that the company is violating antitrust laws by engaging in unlawful conduct to monopolize the ad tech stack. An additional 16 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico filed a similar suit in 2021. In January 2021, a judicial panel combined this suit with multiple suits filed by newspaper publishers, advertisers, and others. Google claims these allegations mischaracterize its business and the degree of competition within the ad tech stack.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Thompson.

The Final Word

Non Sequitur by Wiley Miller



Shared by Len Iwanski.

Today in History - May 26, 2023



Today is Friday, May 26, the 146th day of 2023. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

On this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1865, Confederate forces west of the Mississippi surrendered in New Orleans.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

In 1971, Don McLean recorded his song "American Pie" at The Record Plant in New York City (it was released the following November by United Artists Records).

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley were married in the Dominican Republic. (The marriage ended in 1996.)

In 2004, nearly a decade after the Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the attack. (Nichols later received 161 consecutive life sentences.)

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. California's Supreme Court upheld the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid.

In 2011, Ratko Mladic (RAHT'-koh MLAH'-dich), the brutal Bosnian Serb general suspected of leading the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys, was arrested after a 16-year manhunt. (Mladic was extradited to face trial in The Hague, Netherlands; he was convicted in 2017 on genocide and war crimes charges and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2020, Minneapolis police issued a statement saying George Floyd had died after a "medical incident," and that he had physically resisted officers and appeared to be in medical distress; minutes after the statement was released, bystander video was posted online. Protests over Floyd's death began, with tense skirmishes developing between protesters and Minneapolis police. Four police officers who were involved in Floyd's arrest were fired.

Ten years ago: A U.S. drone strike killed Waliur Rehman (wah-lee-UR' REH'-man), the No. 2 commander of the Pakistani Taliban. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, a conservative firebrand and a favorite of tea party Republicans, said she would not run for another term in the U.S. House. The Rev. Andrew Greeley, 85, an outspoken Roman Catholic priest, best-selling author and longtime newspaper columnist, died in Chicago.

Five years ago: Joshua Holt, who traveled to Venezuela from Utah in 2016 to marry a Spanish-speaking Mormon woman, but was jailed and labeled as the CIA's top spy in Latin America, was set free by Venezuela's anti-American government and returned to the United States with his wife. The leaders of North and South Korea met for the second time in a month in a surprise summit at a border village to discuss Kim Jong Un's potential meeting with President Donald Trump.

One year ago: It was revealed that the gunman who massacred 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school was inside for more than an hour before he was killed in a shootout with police. The amount of time that elapsed stirred anger and questions among family members, who demanded to know why authorities did not storm the place and put a stop to the rampage more quickly. Moscow pressed the West to lift sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine, seeking to shift the blame for a growing food crisis. Ray Liotta, the actor best known for playing mobster Henry Hill in "Goodfellas" and baseball player Shoeless Joe Jackson in "Field of Dreams," died at age 67.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musburger is 84. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 78. Singer Stevie Nicks is 75. Actor Pam Grier is 74. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 74. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 74. Former British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 74. Actor Margaret Colin is 65. Actor Doug Hutchison is 63. Actor Genie Francis is 61. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 61. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 59. Actor Helena Bonham Carter is 57. Distance runner Zola Budd is 57. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 55. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 53. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 52. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 52. Singer Lauryn Hill is 48. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 45. Actor Elisabeth Harnois is 44. Actor Hrach Titizian is 44.

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.

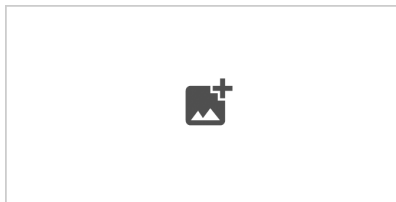
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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:unsubscribe_stevenspl@live.com)

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!