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Connecting

June 5, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this June 5, 2023,

What was the first story you wrote or photo you took that made it into publication?

Our colleague **David Hume Kennerly** shares that May 24 marked the 60th anniversary of his first published photo – in the Roseburg (Ore.) High School newspaper, the Orange R, and taken with the school’s Crown Graphic 4x5. It showed action from a baseball game and carried no photo byline.

The Roseburg High

Orange R

VOL. 35, NO. 9

ROSEBURG HIGH SCHOOL, ROSEBURG, OREGON

May 24, 1963

*Home Again*

Lance Casebeer and Jerry Boucock wait for Bob Manning as he crosses home plate after belting a three-run homer in action against Marshfield.

Kennerly went on to a storied photo career that continues to this day. He won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for his portfolio of photographs of the Vietnam War, Cambodia, East Pakistani refugees near Calcutta, and the Ali-Frazier fight in Madison Square Garden, has photographed every American president since Lyndon B Johnson and was the chief White House photographer for Gerald Ford.

Connecting looks forward to hearing your own story.

There's more to the lead story in Friday's Connecting, titled "Millions of AP images and video now available on single platform with AI-powered search."

The company providing the technology, MerlinOne, has four staffers in senior positions who are alumni of the AP Photos operation as photographers and phone editors: **Rande Simpson, Peter Leabo, David Tenenbaum** and **Jim Gerberich**. "So in a real sense," Tenenbaum said, "this is us coming full circle! We are honored to be serving AP in making the millions of photos and videos discoverable!"

Leabo shares more in today's issue.

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

Paul

Former AP staffers at MerlinOne, Inc.

Peter Leabo - A footnote to your Friday lead article in Connecting on the AP using AI search in its AP Newsroom storefront platform for multimedia content. MerlinOne (known then as T/ONE, Inc.) was founded in 1988 by former AP Boston chief photographer David Tenenbaum to produce standards-based image scanning and transmission systems for the news industry. Realizing newspapers' need to save the thousands of digital images received each day, Tenenbaum, who has a Master's of Science degree from MIT, turned the company's focus to a digital image archive solution and the Merlin digital asset management solution was born (and the company's name was changed shortly thereafter to MerlinOne).

Former AP photographer and photo editor (DN, KX, FX) Peter Leabo joined MerlinOne in 1992 as director of sales and marketing. Former AP photo editor Rande Simpson (NY & WX) joined MerlinOne as a sales lead in 1998. Former AP photographer and technology lead Jim Gerberich (FX, BX, NY) joined MerlinOne recently as the AI sales lead and evangelist. Simpson, Gerberich, and Leabo still work for MerlinOne (although Leabo had a 17-year stint with IBM before returning four years ago). Several other former AP photo staffers have also worked for MerlinOne, including Peter Southwick (BX), Paul Benoit (BX), and David Breslauer (DN).

Tenenbaum has been leading MerlinOne's AI development efforts for more than six years. Those AI innovations include Facial Recognition AI, Visual Similarity Search AI, IMPACT! AI (that orders images based on overall impact), and the game-changing NOMAD multimodal AI Visual Search that powers AP Newsroom.

More memories of Seattle's Jim Cour

Lyle Price - The recent passage of Jim Cour who spent 29 years with AP at Seattle causes me as a one-time AP guy born in Seattle and now living in a suburb of that city to remark on how I knew firsthand of his excellence as a sports journalist but ironically is due to my AP tenure in California when he was at UPI in Los Angeles for 15 years or so in the 1960s and 70s.

You see, when I was based in LA for about 10 of my 12 years at AP, I would commonly paw through the daily copies of So Cal newspapers that'd be sprawled on an office table in my search of items for outright lifting or some sort of follow-up. Yes, we had stringers, and some member paper and broadcast members were faithful callers; but in those days, AP didn't give credit to a newspaper even partially if it picked up something from a member. It was in pawing through those papers that I quite often would come across a sports byline by Jim Cour of UPI with an LA dateline. And Cour's writing was invariably interesting--to the point of offbeat and interesting again and again.

As one who himself was a high school sports editor and wrote church league basketball games and junior league baseball games for \$1 a story for the Bellingham Herald for two years in high school, my first ambition was to become a professional sports announcer or a sports writer. Spending three years in the Army convinced me

that writing non-sports news and features would suit me better. But at AP I still dabbled in sports when the need arose--and came to admire Cour's touch.

When UPI had its 23-day strike in 1972 or so, I assisted its staff on the picket line a number of times and made it a point to chat with Cour. He subsequently gave me a call when he went to work for AP in Seattle and I was at a suburban daily, but although I was at an AP paper, I didn't bother to see how he was doing wire-wise on our own AP wire. I did tell him, however, how much I had admired his work. Since, of course, the Seattle papers had their own sports staff, I wouldn't see his stuff in the local papers (nor in my own).

The most fascinating sports story I have ever read was a tale by a UPI writer when Roger Maris broke Babe Ruth's 60-homer season record. The UPI guy wrote an "interview" of what the Babe would have said about that feat had the Babe still been alive. Jim Cour's stuff was of that caliber.

And...

On two other subjects recently or frequently noted in Connecting. One, as I recollect the term "wire" was in disfavor as a term for AP to use to describe itself and was once castigated in an AP memo which might have been the opinion of a high-up rather than an outright order, but I don't believe that term was ever used in print as a synonym in any AP document or news story during my AP years of 1964-1976.

Two, despite how I once thought that the computer would change a newsperson's ability to keep track of what they were writing as successfully on a computer as via a typewriter whose paper pages could be laid out on a desk and scanned, I managed to do so without any strain. And, although it may distress those who tell Connecting how much they still enjoy holding a newspaper in their hands, it is my own experience after several years now that I prefer to read the Seattle Times and the Washington Post via the computer. I can do it faster and also flip back and forth faster. Not that I am trying to convince anyone that finds otherwise that they are misguided! At any rate, to current computer-savvy generations, I suspect that whatever future paperless news might have won't suffer because it's on a computer rather than held in one's hands.

Meeting another Gandhi 51 years later



Former New Delhi bureau chief **Myron Belkind** and his wife Rachel met Rahul Gandhi, Indian opposition political leader, at the National Press Club on June 1. Rahul Gandhi's father, Rajiv Gandhi; grandmother, Indira Gandhi, and great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru all served as prime ministers of India. Belkind showed Rahul Gandhi a photo taken in 1972 when he introduced then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at a news conference in his capacity as president of the Foreign Correspondents Association of South Asia in New Delhi.



Robert F. Kennedy: The Man Who Changed My Life



Photo/David Hume Kennerly

By [David Hume Kennerly](#)

In 1966 I was a 19-year-old newbie staff photographer for the Oregon Journal, the state's largest afternoon newspaper. One of my first big assignments was to photograph Sen. Robert Kennedy appearing in Portland. Kennedy was going to be the first national politician that I would lay eyes and my lens on. It was a visit that would change my life and the direction of my career.

I will never forget the infamous moment five years earlier, Nov. 22, 1963, when RFK's brother President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. I was a high school sophomore at Roseburg High sitting in a class when the announcement was made. That feeling of shock and horror resonate to this day.

Getting the chance to photograph Robert Kennedy was particularly meaningful to me, and I didn't want to blow it.

When I arrived at the Portland Labor Hall where Kennedy was appearing, the place was jammed. I couldn't get in. Not good. My fledgling career could be over practically before it started.

Read more [here](#).

First Jeff Baenen Broadcast Journalism scholarship awarded

Jeff Baenen - Minnesota State University Moorhead, where I graduated in 1976 with an undergrad degree in Mass Communication, has awarded its inaugural Jeffrey Baenen Broadcast Journalism Scholarships. One of the first recipients is Halle Sanders. Here is a bit about Halle for Connecting.

Introducing Halle Sanders, one of the first recipients of the inaugural Jeffrey Baenen Broadcast Scholarship at Jeff's alma mater, Minnesota State University Moorhead. Halle hails from Langdon, a small town in northeastern North Dakota, and plans to major in Communication and Multimedia Journalism at MSUM, where she starts this fall as a freshman. She has loved writing since middle school and recently interned at Simmons Multimedia. "I love creating and sharing with others, something I hope to do for the rest of my life in varying types of media," Halle says. (Photo: PJCole Photography.)



(I joined AP in 1978 as part-time staffer in Bismarck, N.D., and was promoted to North Dakota statehouse reporter before transferring to Minneapolis bureau in 1981. I became Minnesota broadcast editor in 1985, a position I held for 24 years before becoming Breaking News Staffer and videographer in Minneapolis in 2009. Retired September 2020 after 42 years with AP.)

Myron Belkind profiled in Ohio State publication



Rachel and Myron Belkind in Indian attire at his inauguration as the 107th president of the National Press Club in 2014.

Ohio State University School of Communication College of Arts and Sciences Donor Spotlight

Upon graduating from Ohio State (journalism, '61) and then from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism (MS, '62), [Myron Belkind](#) dedicated his life to journalism for more than 40 years, working for The Associated Press and now inspiring the next generation of journalists at George Washington University.

"Responsibility, accuracy and fairness. That gives journalists the one thing that enables them to practice journalism: credibility," said Belkind. "We are allowed to practice journalism only as long as we have credibility. That's what I have tried to instill in my students."

Belkind's passion for teaching what good journalism represents is his primary goal. His experiences allow him to incorporate unique perspectives into his lessons.

Before retiring in 2005 from The Associated Press, Belkind transferred to the Tokyo AP Bureau to finish where he began his foreign correspondent career over 40 years ago: in Asia. On his last day, he and his wife, Rachel, attended the annual sakura, or cherry blossom, reception hosted by Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace.

"Normally, guests do not speak with the royals. However, the Empress stopped to say hello, and I said we were honored to spend the final day of our AP life at the sakura

reception,” Belkind said.

Belkind was also the bureau chief at the London AP Bureau for 21 years (preceded by three years as assistant chief of the bureau) before moving to Tokyo. He covered four British prime minister administrations (including Margaret Thatcher’s), the royal family from the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 to her death in 1997 and the conflicts between the British and the Irish Republican Army.

Read more [here](#).

Interested in an AP putter?

Mark Mittelstadt - Any colleagues interested in one of the AP-logo putters the company offered as promotional items a while back?

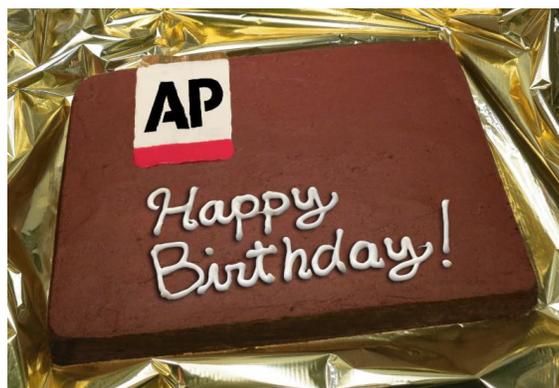
I wound up with two. One I actually still use. The spare has come along for the ride.

We’re doing some late spring cleaning and it’s time for this to either find the wall in someone’s office or even their golf bag. It would be a shame to sell it at a garage sale. I’ll ship it free to the first person who requests it via email.



It’s a quality club made by Brazzos Golf of Waco, Texas. I can’t guarantee any holes in one. But it will let you strike the ball straight and down the middle, just like AP’s news reports.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[David Espo](#)

[Nolan Kienitz](#)

[Ed Zurga](#)

Stories of interest

Chuck Todd leaving NBC political panel show ‘Meet the Press’ and being replaced by Kristen Welker (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Chuck Todd said on Sunday that he’ll be leaving “Meet the Press” after a tumultuous near-decade of moderating the NBC political panel show, to be replaced in the coming months by Kristen Welker.

Todd, 51, told viewers that “I’ve watched too many friends and family let work consume them before it was too late” and that he’d promised his family he wouldn’t do that.

Todd has often been an online punching bag for critics, including Donald Trump, during a polarized time, and there were rumors that his time at the show would be short when its executive producer was reassigned at the end of last summer, but NBC gave no indication this was anything other than Todd’s decision. It’s unclear when Todd’s last show will be, but he told viewers that this would be his final summer.

“I leave feeling concerned about this moment in history but reassured by the standards we’ve set here,” Todd said. “We didn’t tolerate propagandists, and this network and program never will.”

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

-0-

Inside the high-stakes clash for control of Ukraine’s story (Semafor)

By BEN SMITH

Journalists covering the Russian invasion of Ukraine are engaged in a running, low-grade conflict with the Ukrainian government, which many believe uses access and accreditation to shape their stories.

Articles and broadcasts from outlets including NBC News, The New York Times, CNN, The New Yorker, and the Ukrainian digital broadcaster Hromadske have led to journalists having their credentials threatened, revoked, or denied over charges they’ve broken rules imposed by Ukrainian minders.

The largely unreported conflict spilled briefly into public in late May when the well-known Ukrainian photographer Maxim Dondyuk complained on Instagram that the military press office was threatening to revoke his accreditation after his haunting images appeared in a New Yorker article portraying the trench life of Ukrainian draftees on the front line.

“The authorities only allow press tours with press officers, where they show off in front of the camera and are afraid to show the real situation,” Dondyuk wrote in furious posts to Instagram, which he subsequently deleted, adding that Ukrainian authorities were threatening to strip his accreditation. “Are you ready to read only stupid propaganda?”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Martha Malan, Richard Chady.

-0-

A good-news story about Iowa newspapers (Iowa Capital Dispatch)

By DOUGLAS BURNS

DENISON — Gordon Wolf was everywhere in Denison.

Until he wasn't.

A trusted newspaper editor, a 24-year veteran of the Denison Bulletin-Review, a bespectacled journalist fond of button-down short-sleeve shirts that date to an earlier time of ink-stained work when most newspapers had their own presses, a reporter with the ever-present camera around his neck, Wolf built a considerable brand as the chronicler of City Council and other meetings, and parades and new business openings, and all that makes life, well, life in this western Iowa city.

Just weeks ago, though, Wolf saw his career ended abruptly in a major reshuffling of the newspaper by its owner, the chain Lee Enterprises.

Having started in 1999 in Denison, Wolf's Bulletin-Review career came to a close April 21.

His newspaper run could have ended there, like those of so many thousands of journalists caught in the hurricane-force challenges facing American newspapers.

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

Today in History - June 5, 2023



Today is Monday, June 5, the 156th day of 2023. There are 209 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On June 5, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded after claiming victory in California's Democratic presidential primary at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

On this date:

1794 — Congress passed the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from taking part in any military action against a country that was at peace with the United States.

1950 — The US Supreme Court, in *Henderson v. United States*, struck down racially segregated railroad dining cars.

1967 — War erupted in the Middle East. Israel, anticipating a possible attack by its Arab neighbors, launched a series of airfield strikes that destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian air force; Syria, Jordan and Iraq immediately entered the conflict.

1975 — Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to international shipping, eight years after it was closed because of the 1967 war with Israel.

1976 — Fourteen people were killed when the Teton Dam in Idaho burst.

1981 — The Centers for Disease Control reported that five men in Los Angeles had come down with a rare kind of pneumonia; they were the first recognized cases of what later became known as AIDS.

2002 — Fourteen-year-old Elizabeth Smart was abducted from her Salt Lake City home. (Smart was found alive by police in a Salt Lake suburb in March 2003. One kidnapper, Brian David Mitchell, was sentenced to life without parole; the other, Wanda Barzee, was released in September 2018.)

2004 — Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died in Los Angeles at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

2006 — More than 50 National Guardsmen from Utah became the first unit to work along the US-Mexico border as part of a crackdown by President George W. Bush.

2016 — Novak Djokovic became the first man in nearly a half-century to win four consecutive major championships, finally earning an elusive French Open title with a win over Andy Murray to complete a career Grand Slam.

2020 — Minneapolis banned chokeholds by police, the first of many changes in law enforcement practices to be announced in the aftermath of George Floyd's death; officers would also now be required to intervene any time they saw unauthorized force by another officer.

Ten years ago — British newspaper The Guardian reported the National Security Agency was collecting the telephone records of millions of American customers of Verizon under a top secret court order. President Barack Obama named Susan Rice his national security adviser, and nominated Samantha Power to replace Rice as United Nations ambassador. US Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them sleeping women and children, pleaded guilty to murder at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to avoid the death penalty. Carrie Underwood won the top honor video of the year at the CMT Music Awards for "Blown Away"; Miranda Lambert and Florida Georgia Line were the night's top winners with two awards apiece.

Five years ago — Fashion designer Kate Spade, known for her sleek handbags, was found dead in her Park Avenue apartment in New York in what the medical examiner determined was a suicide by hanging; she was 55. After it became clear that most players from the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles weren't going to show up, President Donald Trump gave the boot to a White House ceremony for the team, and instead threw his own brief "Celebration of America." Former TV mogul Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty in New York to rape and criminal sex act charges; he had been indicted a week earlier on charges involving two women. The Miss America pageant announced that it was eliminating the swimsuit competition from the event; the new head of the organization's board of trustees, Gretchen Carlson, said on ABC, "We're not going to judge you on your appearance because we are interested in what makes you you."

One year ago — Queen Elizabeth II appeared at the balcony of Buckingham Palace, delighting fans who had hoped to catch a glimpse of her during the final day of festivities marking the monarch's 70 years on the throne. Thousands massed outside the palace as the monarch appeared on the balcony with her son and heir, Prince Charles, his wife Camilla, and her eldest grandson Prince William and his family. (The queen died three months later, and Charles became king.) A massive fire at a container depot near a port city in southeastern Bangladesh killed at least 49 people, including nine firefighters, and injured more than 100 others. Alec John Such, former bassist and a founding member of Bon Jovi, died at age 70.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Actor-singer Bill Hayes is 98. Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers is 89. Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 84. Author Dame Margaret Drabble is

84. Country singer Don Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 78. Rock musician Freddie Stone (AKA Freddie Stewart) (Sly and the Family Stone) is 76. Rock singer Laurie Anderson is 76. Country singer Gail Davies is 75. Author Ken Follett is 74. Financial guru Suze Orman is 72. Rock musician Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) is 71. Jazz musician Peter Erskine is 69. Jazz musician Kenny G is 67. Rock singer Richard Butler (Psychedelic Furs) is 67. Actor Beth Hall is 65. Actor Jeff Garlin is 61. Actor Karen Sillas is 60. Actor Ron Livingston is 56. Singer Brian McKnight is 54. Rock musician Claus Norreen (Aqua) is 53. Actor Mark Wahlberg is 52. Actor Chad Allen is 49. Rock musician P-Nut (311) is 49. Actor Navi Rawat is 46. Actor Liza Weil is 46. Rock musician Pete Wentz (Fall Out Boy) is 44. Rock musician Seb Lefebvre (Simple Plan) is 42. Actor Chelsey Crisp is 40. Actor Amanda Crew is 37. Musician/songwriter/producer DJ Mustard is 33. Actor Sophie Lowe is 33. Actor Hank Greenspan is 13.

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!

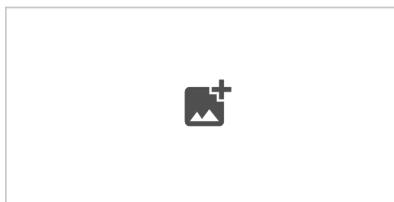
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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