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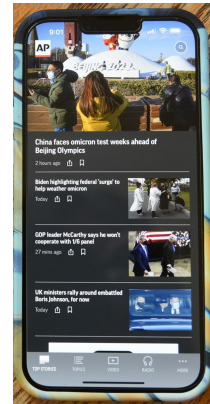
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Connecting

June 12, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this June 12, 2023,

Congratulations to a member of the AP family – **Miriam Silverman**, daughter of former AP managing editor **Mike Silverman** – who won a Tony Award on Sunday night for Best Performance by an actress in a featured role in a play - “The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window.”

Mike was proudly looking on from the balcony at the United Palace in New York as his daughter delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech in which she paid tribute to her father and her mother, **Anita**, who died in February of complications from pneumonia. Mike retired in 2009 after a 37-year career. His email is - mkslvrmn@gmail.com

It’s our lead story in today’s Connecting.

Moustafa Bassiouni, a longtime trusted driver and photo assistant for The Associated Press’ Cairo bureau, has died at age 64. Connecting will bring you a story and reaction

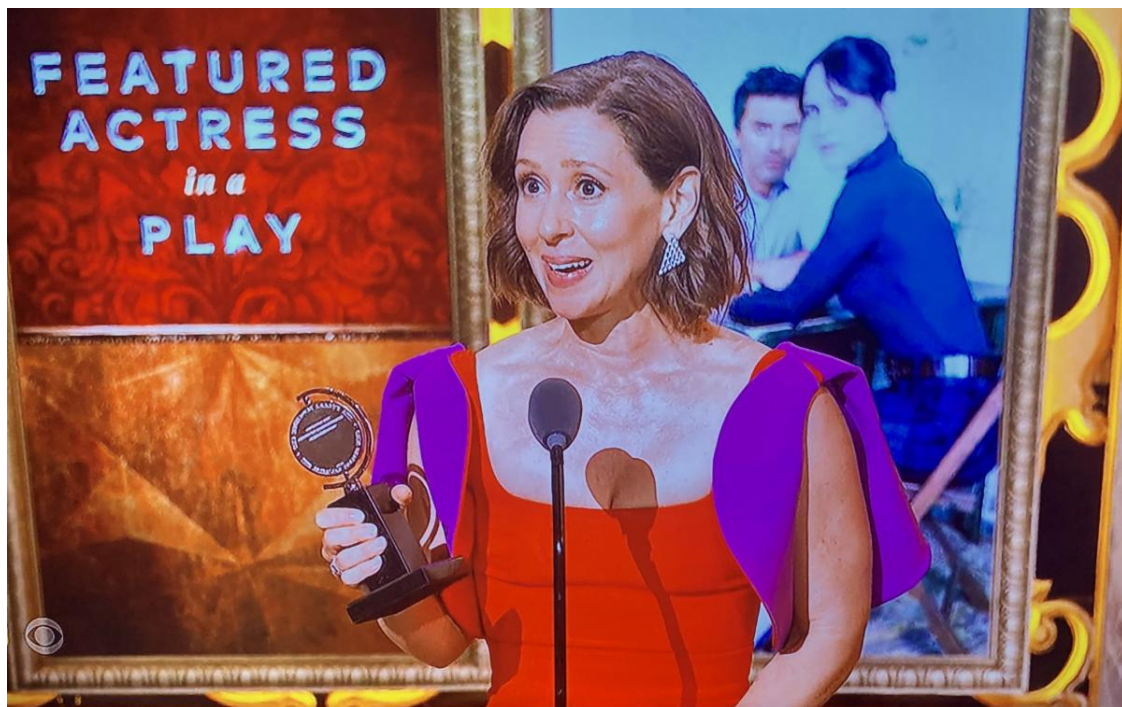
from his colleagues in Tuesday's edition. If you have a memory to share of working with him, please send it along.

Margaret Stafford: From colleague [Jim Carlson](#), on Friday's story on retirement of Kansas City newswoman Margaret Stafford: "Thanks for the report on Margaret Stafford and her retirement plans after such a great career. I loved the way she summed up the collaborative work that is so critical to success in the AP, and other news organizations as well. She was a key part of so many stories, whether as the main reporter or in one of the many other roles she mentioned."

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

Paul

Miriam Silverman wins Tony Award with her proud father looking on



Screenshot by Chris Connell

Miriam Silverman's performance in "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," the Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's 1964 play, earned her a Tony Award on Sunday night at the United Place in New York.

She is the daughter of Mike Silverman, former AP managing editor, and his wife Anita, who died in February of complications from pneumonia. Mike was proudly looking on from the balcony when her award was announced.

The New York Times said her portrayal of Mavis, the prim, bigoted Upper Manhattan matron and older sister to Iris, “shines through.”

Maia Penzer **wrote** in Theaterly that Silverman’s portrayal of Mavis Parodus Bryson was “incredible” and added:

“Miriam is no stranger to the spotlight! Silverman's numerous New York credits include roles in A Delicate Ship, Everything You Touch, You Got Older, The Hour of All Things and Finks (for which she received a Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Actress), Septimus and Clarissa, Hamlet, and many others. Miriam Silverman is best known for her roles in HBO's Bad Education, Fleishman is In Trouble, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, and Amazon's Dead Ringers.

“The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window is currently running at the James Earl Jones Theatre and stars Oscar Isaac as the titular Sidney Brustein, Rachel Brosnahan as Iris Parodus Brustein, Miriam Silverman as Mavis Parodus Bryson, and Gus Birney as Gloria Parodus.”

Here is Miriam’s acceptance speech:

“Oh, wow, wow, wow, wow. I am overwhelmed. This is for my Mom, whom I miss beyond expression. She taught me to live life with love, with conviction, compassion, radicalism and activism. This is also for my Dad – who’s up there somewhere. Hi, Dad! He brought me to the theater as a little girl and got me hooked on this business and he’s also the one who told me that day in the ICU that I should stick with this play no matter what, even if I wanted to quit, knowing how much it meant to me.

“Lorraine Hansberry was a visionary and a genius. It is a divine, divine honor to get to speak her words every night. We all know the transformational power of theater, that it can be a balm, to commune with one another every night. I’ve never felt that more tangibly.

“I have to thank everybody who’s been part of this along the way, bringing ‘Sidney Brustein’ home to Broadway. Everyone at the Goodman, everyone at BAM, everybody at the James Earl Jones, who keep me alive every night. My dear husband Adam, who’s over there, whom I would not have survived the last few months or years without. To Stella and Henry – Hi, Stella, hi, Henry – my beautiful children who are my source of joy. To my reps, to Joy Gresham, to our fearless producers, to Annie Kauffman, my brilliant director, who believed in me and saw me and brought me along for this ride. I have to thank everybody, my most beautiful cast, my crew, everybody.

“We are a staunchly pro-union household and I have to say my parents raised me to believe in the power of labor and workers’ being compensated and treated fairly and we stand with the WGA in solidarity. Thank you very much.”

(Connecting is grateful to colleague Chris Connell for transcribing Miriam’s remarks.)

An early visit to 50 Rock



Miriam Silverman was the subject of much attention when her dad Mike Silverman brought his newborn to AP Headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza for her first visit 45 years ago. From left: Mike Silverman, Mike's sister Martha Roth, Julie Dunlap, and Jim Fitzgerald holding Miriam.

A new graduate after 3 years of nights, weekends while working fulltime



Nancy Roberts Trott received her Master's Degree in Communications and Digital Media from the University of Washington this past weekend.

She said: "It took three years of night and weekend classes, while working full-time for Amazon on the Internal Corporate Communications team, but it was tremendously gratifying to finally walk with my classmates at Husky Stadium last week. It was also a huge surprise that I got to receive my degree from David Zeeck, chairman of the UW Board of Regents and former publisher of the Tacoma News Tribune. When I was at the AP, Dave was always one of my favorite members. I'm pretty sure that when I took the stage, Dave was pretty surprised, too.

And a bit more about Nancy, requested by Connecting: "OK, my AP career has a long path: I started as an editorial assistant in the Concord, N.H., bureau in 1990 after graduating from the University of New Hampshire. I was later promoted to reporter and worked in Providence, RI., Albany, N.Y., and then went back to the Concord bureau as their day supervisor. I left AP in 1996 when my husband, former Boston Bureau reporter Bob Trott, got a job in Seattle. I returned to AP in 1999, when Dale Leach hired me as Seattle News Editor. In 2002, I went to Washington, D.C., to be

regional editor, and then I returned to Seattle (again!) to replace Dale as bureau chief after he went to Texas. I was promoted to Regional News Director a few years later, and became Northwest Bureau Chief shortly after that. Finally, I left AP in 2013 to join the corporate world, doing internal communications for Alaska Airlines. Today, I'm doing internal communications at Amazon."

John King and AP mention

[Lindel Hutson](#) - CNN's John King was interviewing political strategist and commentator David Axelrod on Friday about the Trump federal indictment. At the end of the interview, Axelrod, a former staffer at the Chicago Tribune, mentioned that King is stepping away from his show to lead a new reporting project for CNN focusing on coverage of the 2024 election.

Said Axelrod: "I know this is your last show behind the desk, and as an old print reporter I so admire you as the old AP political reporter you are because you bring those sensibilities to this desk every day and everything you do, and that's why you're really the very best there ever is and I can't wait to see what you do in the field. This is going to be one helluva year and CNN's going to be smarter for having you out in the field covering it."

King, who joined CNN in 1997, replied, "I'll see you again, my friend. I'm ... just changing seats. I'm not going anywhere."

Connecting series:

My first published story or photo

[Lee Margulies](#) — This may or may not have been my first published story—I can't remember anymore—but it certainly was one of the first. And it definitely was my first encounter with heavy-handed editing. Or was it timid editing? Or prudish? Clever? Justifiably cautious? You tell me.

In the fall of 1964, I was a senior at Birmingham High School in Van Nuys, Calif., working for the student newspaper, the Courier. Because of a scheduling conflict, however, I wasn't in the journalism classroom, instead serving as circulation manager during another period and taking on writing assignments in my spare time. Like a correspondent in the field, in other words, I wasn't present when editors were at work.

Because I'd been lucky enough to spend the previous summer in London, I'd seen "Goldfinger," the third installment of the James Bond series, months ahead of its release in the United States. So I volunteered to write a review that could run in our final issue before winter break, during which the movie would be arriving.

I was not naïve in choosing my lede; I knew it might be problematic. But I reasoned that it was a quote from the movie, and from the novel too for that matter, and as a writing device it nicely set up the point I wanted to make about the film. Beyond that

—well, you know, it was the '60s. Go for it! So here is what my 17-year-old self wrote for the Dec. 11, 1964, Courier:

“My name is Pussy Galore.”

Secret Service agent 007, having just regained consciousness, replies to the beautiful speaker, “I must be dreaming.”

This is a feeling also held by the viewer throughout James Bond's latest thriller, “Goldfinger,” scheduled to open in Los Angeles on Christmas Day. Only in a dream could events like these actually take place.

The review continued for 10 more paragraphs. As I look back on it, I should be proud that the piece ran just as I wrote it, with only one word altered. All that sticks with me, though, after nearly six decades, is the surprise I felt when I read my article in print. No one had told me about the change. No one had consulted me. No one had asked if I wanted to revise it. I don't know who made the alteration. I was too confounded, embarrassed and, to be honest, amused to ask. I'd always assumed our faculty adviser was responsible but as I think about it now, it might just as likely have been a student editor. Oh well, that's how journalism goes sometimes, as we all had to learn at some point in our careers. And if the change hadn't been made, I wouldn't be telling you this story. So there's that. Oh, what was the change? See if you can spot it. The lede that was published under my (possibly first) byline was:

“My name is Kitty Galore.”

His stadium run complete after visit to ballpark in Philadelphia



Michael with his daughter Lauren Liedtke at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia on June 10, 2023.

Michael Liedtke - As of last Saturday night, I can now say I have made it out to the old ballgame in every city where Major League Baseball stadium, encompassing far more than 30 stadiums because I went to edifices that no longer exist (think old Shea Stadium in Queens and old Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, as well as Candlestick Park in San Francisco and Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego).

As with a lot of things in life, retracing how the journey began helps understand the culmination. It's an odyssey that began in 1970 when my dad (Cosmic Jim) took me to Shea Stadium to see my first big-league game in person. It was a very nurturing gesture because he never really like baseball. But my dad took me anyway because he knew I had become a fan of the sport during the Miracle Mets season of 1969 (Donn Clendenon -- the MVP of the 1969 World Series -- and Tommie Agee were my favorite players on that team).

After my parents' divorce resulted in a 1971 move back to my Southern California roots, my affinity for baseball deepened. That primarily happened because of my grandpa, who helped raise me while showing me how much fun it could be passing part of a day or night watching or listening to a baseball game with a fellow fan. It probably helped that the incomparable Vin Scully would be narrating the Dodger games in his own imitable way while my Grandpa and I spent hours together sharing a game (and, as I grew older, something frosty and cold to drink) often with nothing else with us but a transistor radio broadcasting Vin's dulcet tones. And, of course, there were those special days when my grandpa would take me to a game at Dodger Stadium, which became like both a cathedral and refuge for me until I graduated from high school and moved to the Bay Area to attend San Jose State. And, like a lot of people who come to the Bay Area to matriculate at one of the region's distinguished universities, I never left. So the Oakland Coliseum -- in all its various permutations -- has served as my baseball mecca for the past 40-plus years.

After my grandpa died in 2004, I resolved to honor his memory by attending a game in every Major League Baseball stadium. At some point, my quest sparked Lauren Liedtke 's interest too (by then, my daughter had inherited the love of the game from my grandpa and me, forging a generational bond that's part of baseball's magic) and joined me on many of the trips. She also has visited some of the stadiums on her own (she is now at 23 and counting, for those keeping score at home). The baseball bond within the Liedtke family is why I wore a baseball cap that my grandpa gave me nearly 50 years and a t-shirt that Lauren gave me for Father's Day a few years ago to last night's game pitting the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Philadelphia Phillies at Citizens Bank Park, the final stop on my stadium tour.

It's a journey I will never forget, not so much for the games themselves, but for all the "in between" moments. Besides all the revelatory conversations that occurred between pitches or lulls in the action, I learned so much about the United States and the people who inhabit the country as I spent time in cities that I probably would have not visited if they had not had a Major League Baseball stadium. And every city seemed to have so many interesting things to see and do that I never could seem to do everything I wanted to get done on my list, but it has always been fun trying.

At some point last night, Lauren asked me how many baseball games I have attended and I realized I didn't really know; I lost count decades ago. The precise number doesn't really matter anyway. I do know each game has yielded a familiar-yet-unique experience shared with so many of my long-time friends while making more new friends and passing acquaintances along the way. (Here's a special shout out to those who have attended multiple games with me, providing memories that have become the souvenirs money can't buy). And, in case you're wondering, just because I have made to all the Major League Baseball cities doesn't mean I am going to stop going to

games in the future. So maybe we will run into each other down the line in a stadium near you at the old ballgame...

Call this the NY GEN building?



Dan Day - I'm in Baltimore for a couple of Orioles games with a few family members. I'm not sure why, but when leaving the ballpark tonight I spotted this sign on what I'm guessing is called the NYGEN Building.

(HINT: Mike Silverman and Marty Thompson are former AP managing editors. DOUBLE HINT: Neither is connected to the names on the sign, to editor's knowledge, anyway.)

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

Despite great physical risks, AP delivers searing live coverage of clashes in Kosovo



Many of the AP's most iconic images from the 1998–99 war in Kosovo were the work of video crew Vojislav Stjepanovic and Radul Radovanovic in Bosnia.

Their deep experience meant they knew something big was about to happen when minor disturbances broke out following mayoral victories by ethnic Albanians in Serb-majority towns where Serbs overwhelmingly boycotted the elections.

At the time, there were just simmering tensions in northern Kosovo. But Stjepanovic's and Radovanovic's instincts told them to deploy immediately. Soon, the situation unraveled as ethnic Serb demonstrators began clashing with NATO-led peacekeepers. Video journalist Stjepanovic and producer Radovanovic were at the heart of the action, documenting the story and broadcasting it live, even with Molotov cocktails and tear gas flying less than a stone's throw away.

Some journalists fled the scene, and others were targeted while trying to cover the story. Stjepanovic and Radovanovic stayed. They found a balcony just above the fray that offered a wide view of the clashes, where soldiers were being pelted with rocks and firearms were being discharged. They delivered live shots through it all, a feat unmatched by local channels, let alone international competitors.

When the violence finally cooled, 30 international soldiers and more than 50 protesters had been injured. The crew delivered 11 hours of live coverage through it, and Belgrade producer Ivana Bzganovic swiftly produced multiple edits that won hundreds of hits.

Local and regional broadcasters relied on that video for coverage, even when they had crews on site. Because of it, AP has already received requests to sign up for Live Choice service, and broadcasters in the Balkans who are not customers are starting negotiations.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

India team delivers fast, comprehensive coverage of one of the country's deadliest train disasters



Two passenger trains derailed in eastern India late on a Friday evening, killing 275 people and injuring hundreds. The timing was particularly tough, with the weekend approaching and the news director heading on vacation.

That didn't stop the team from stepping up in a major way to cover one of the country's deadliest rail crashes in decades and dominating across formats.

Delhi newsperson Ashok Sharma put out an initial alert of 179 injured. Several other alerts followed as the death toll mounted and the numbers of those hurt multiplied.

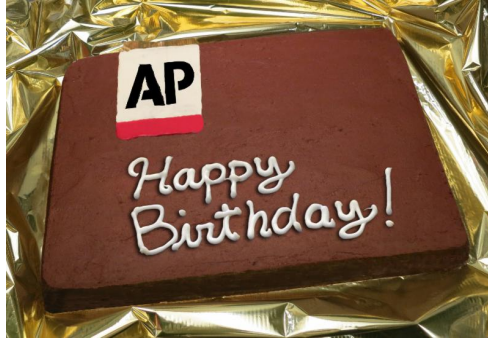
As Sharma worked quickly to send out updates to the story, video journalists Rishi Lekhi and Piyush Nagpal worked through the night to turn around edits of picked-up video from the crash site, as did Manish Swarup on photos.

Delhi correspondent Krutika Pathi joined Sharma on the text story, first from Delhi and later on the scene. Mumbai-based photographer Rafiq Maqbool made the grueling drive to the remote crash site in Balasore from the nearest airport in the regional capital. Once he was the first AP staffer on the scene, he filed quickly to all formats.

Maqbool, Pathi and Lekhi worked through scorching temperatures to document the tragedy and capture victims' accounts across formats.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Scott Charton](#)

[Jody Kurash](#)

[Mort Rosenblum](#)

[Ed Staats](#)

[Shawn Temple](#)

Stories of interest

LA Times Cuts 74 Newsroom Positions Including 'Several' Photographers (PetaPixel)

By MATT GROWCOOT

The Los Angeles Times has announced severe job cuts eliminating 74 newsroom positions including "several" photographer positions, representing 13% of the newsroom.

LA Times photographer Kent Nishimura took to Twitter to vent his frustration at finding out about his redundancy from a news article.

“Found this out via this article, before getting notice from HR while I’m on my honeymoon,” he writes. “Of the photo dept members who received notice today, all are people of color, and if cut, the photo dept won’t have Spanish speakers.”

Crestfallen staff photographer Dania Maxwell also took to Twitter to say she had given her “heart and soul” to the company.

“I’ve given nights and weekends away from home for the work. I’ve given a lot more than any ‘job’ so it feels pretty dark,” she writes.

“The photo department was hit hard. It lost several photographers and editors. I’m one of two Spanish speakers that are being laid off. In a city where the most common language spoken other than English is Spanish, it speaks volumes about how the company will cover its own city.”

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

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A. G. Sulzberger on the Battles Within and Against the New York Times (New Yorker)

By David Remnick

Long before David Carr, the late Times media critic, published his 2008 memoir, “The Night of the Gun,” I asked him why he never wrote a book about newspapers and the rise of digital journalism. David, who had already gone fifteen rounds with life and was not prepared to wrestle with a book that would hold little popular interest, waved off my question, saying, “Have you ever noticed at Barnes & Noble that the books about media are on the fourth floor?”

Nevertheless, libraries are filled with books about the Times. There are volumes that celebrate and critique the paper and its history, ones that dissect its triumphs (the Pentagon Papers) and its low points (its derelict coverage of the Holocaust). What has yet to be examined in full is how the Times endured a prolonged era of financial decline, one so exigent that the Sulzberger family, which has owned the paper since the late nineteenth century, might have been forced to sell the paper—just as the Graham family would sell the Washington Post, for just two hundred and fifty million dollars, to Jeff Bezos. In 2009, Michael Hirschorn wrote in *The Atlantic*, “What if The New York Times goes out of business—like, this May? It’s certainly plausible. . . . The former Times executive editor Abe Rosenthal often said he couldn’t imagine a world without The Times. Perhaps we should start.” Instead, the Times reversed its fortunes, steadily transforming itself into a thriving, highly diversified digital enterprise while remaining the most important news-gathering organization in the country, and arguably the world. With the collapse of so many local and second-tier newspapers, with the disappearance of once promising sites like BuzzFeed News, the Times occupies a nearly singular place in American journalism, a fact that makes honest scrutiny of the paper in all its forms even more necessary than ever.

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

The Final Word

Astrophotographer Spends a Month of Sleepless Nights to Capture Rare Lunar Figure Eight (My Modern Met)



By Jessica Stewart

One dedicated astrophotographer was able to cross an incredible photo project off his checklist when he spent a month creating a lunar analemma, an asymmetrical figure-eight curve in the sky. This type of image often refers to the Sun, but can also be used by other celestial bodies. As they are very time-consuming and difficult to create, very few people have done so. Astrophotographer Wael Omar decided to create what he believes is the first analemma made by an Egyptian.

In layman's terms, an analemma is a diagram or photo that shows the position of a celestial body in the sky from a fixed position on Earth at the same mean solar time

over a specific period. For the Sun, an analemma requires images each day for an entire year. For the Moon, the analemma can be completed over one lunar cycle, which lasts a month. In both cases, the resulting pattern is a figure eight, which is owed to the tilted, elliptical orbits of these celestial bodies.

To image the Moon correctly, Omar needed to research the proper position and then return each day, 50 minutes later than the last, to take his photograph. Not only did this require Omar to take off work, but he also had many sleepless nights waiting for the right time to take the photograph.

“There were some cloudy nights, and I was a little lucky to see the Moon through [the clouds] when the time of the shoot came,” he tells My Modern Met. “I used a Canon 200D camera with an 18mm lens to shoot the images from the same location every day.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Hendren.

Today in History - June 12, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 12, the 163rd day of 2023. There are 202 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On June 12, 2016, a gunman opened fire at the Pulse nightclub, a gay establishment in Orlando, Florida, leaving 49 people dead and 53 wounded; Omar Mateen pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group during a three-hour standoff before being killed in a shootout with police.

On this date

In 1630, Englishman John Winthrop, leading a fleet carrying Puritan refugees, arrived at the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he became its governor.

In 1776, Virginia's colonial legislature adopted a Declaration of Rights.

In 1942, Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, received a diary for her 13th birthday, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding from the Nazis.

In 1963, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and sentenced to life in prison; he died in 2001.)

In 1964, South African Black nationalist Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison along with seven other people, including Walter Sisulu, for committing sabotage against the apartheid regime (all were eventually released, Mandela in 1990).

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, unanimously struck down state laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

In 1978, David Berkowitz was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for each of the six "Son of Sam" .44-caliber killings that terrified New Yorkers.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, during a visit to the divided German city of Berlin, exhorted Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

In 1991, Russians went to the polls to elect Boris N. Yeltsin president of their republic.

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were slashed to death outside her Los Angeles home. (O.J. Simpson was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial but was eventually held liable in a civil action.)

In 2004, former President Ronald Reagan's body was sealed inside a tomb at his presidential library in Simi Valley, California, following a week of mourning and remembrance by world leaders and regular Americans.

In 2020, Rayshard Brooks, a 27-year-old Black man, was shot and killed by one of the two white officers who responded after he was found asleep in his car in the drive-thru lane of a Wendy's restaurant in Atlanta; police body camera video showed Brooks struggling with the officers and grabbing a Taser from one of them, firing it as he fled.

Ten years ago: The director of the National Security Agency, Gen. Keith Alexander, vigorously defended once-secret surveillance programs before the Senate Intelligence Committee, saying that collecting Americans' phone records and tapping into their Internet activity had disrupted dozens of terrorist attacks. Ariel Castro, 52, accused of holding three women captive in his Cleveland home for about a decade, pleaded not guilty to hundreds of rape and kidnapping charges. (Castro was later sentenced to life plus 1,000 years and soon after committed suicide in prison.) NASCAR driver Jason Leffler, 37, died after an accident during a dirt car event at Bridgeport Speedway in New Jersey.

Five years ago: After a five-hour summit in Singapore, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a joint statement agreeing to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, although the timeline and tactics were left unclear; Trump declared that he and Kim had developed "a very special bond." Republican Rep. Mark Sanford, a vocal critic of Donald Trump, lost his South Carolina congressional seat in a primary, hours after Trump tweeted that Sanford was "very unhelpful" and "nothing but trouble." Throngs of Golden State Warriors fans turned out for a second straight year to honor the NBA champions in a parade in downtown Oakland, California; in Washington, DC, the Stanley Cup champion Capitals were cheered by fans along Constitution Ave.

One year ago: Senate bargainers announced a bipartisan framework responding to a series of mass shootings, a modest breakthrough offering measured gun curbs and bolstered efforts to improve school safety and mental health programs. The proposal fell far short of tougher steps sought by President Joe Biden. Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said they had uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider a criminal indictment against former President Donald Trump for seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election. J. Joseph "Joe" Grandmaison, a larger-than-life Democratic operative who ran numerous campaigns and served as an appointee under three presidents, died at age 79.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter Richard M. Sherman is 95. Sportscaster Marv Albert is 82. Singer Roy Harper is 82. Actor Roger Aaron Brown is 74. Actor Sonia Manzano is 73. Rock musician Bun E. Carlos (Cheap Trick) is 72. Country singer-musician Junior Brown is 71. Singer-songwriter Rocky Burnette is 70. Actor Timothy Busfield is 66. Singer Meredith Brooks is 65. Actor Jenilee Harrison is 65. Rock musician John Linnell (They Might Be Giants) is 64. Actor John Enos is 61. Rapper Grandmaster Dee (Whodini) is 61. Actor Paul Schulze is 61. Actor Eamonn Walker is 61. Actor Paula Marshall is 59. Actor Frances O'Connor is 56. Actor Rick Hoffman is 53. Actor-comedian Finesse Mitchell is 51. Actor Mel Rodriguez is 50. Actor Jason Mewes is 49. Actor Michael Muhney is 48. Blues musician Kenny Wayne Shepherd is 46. Actor Timothy Simons is 45. Actor Wil Horneff is 44. Singer Robyn is 44. Rock singer-musician John Gourley (Portugal. The Man) is 42. Actor Dave Franco is 38. Country singer Chris Young is 38. Actor Luke Youngblood is 37. Actor Ryan Malgarini is 31.

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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