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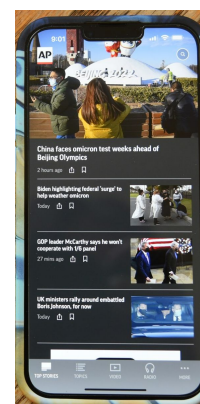
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Connecting

June 16, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this June 16, 2023,

The career of our colleague [Andale Gross](#) has gone full circle with Thursday's announcement that he will be leaving The Associated Press to become managing editor of The Kansas City Star.

Gross, the AP's director of race and ethnicity coverage for the past four years, began his journalism career as a reporter with the Star nearly 30 years ago after graduating from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism. He worked for newspapers in Waterloo, Iowa, and Akron, Ohio, before being hired in AP-Kansas City by then Chief of Bureau **Kia Breaux**, now an AP regional director. Gross moved to AP-Chicago in 2009.

We wish him well in his new challenges. And as I told him, as a 39-year subscriber to The Star, I am expecting great things!

Congratulations to our colleague **Mike Harris**, retired after a longtime career as AP auto writer, who is the latest to join Connecting's 80s Club. Happy 8-0, Mike!

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

AP's Andale Gross named managing editor of Kansas City Star



Race and Ethnicity News Editor Andale Gross in 2019. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

Josh Hoffner - AP National News Director - in a staff note Thursday:

Andale Gross, the leader of the AP's race and ethnicity coverage for nearly four years, is leaving the AP next month to become the Managing Editor for the Kansas City Star. This is a tremendous loss for the AP but also a wonderful opportunity for Andale as he takes the helm of a newspaper in a major U.S. media market in his home state - and at the place where he started his career in journalism nearly 30 years ago. He was a just-out-of-college reporter covering suburban school board meetings when he joined the Star; now he will be leading the newsroom. It's an amazing career arc and we were blessed to have him as a colleague, friend and newsroom leader in his 16 years at AP.

Andale is a journalist of infinite character, poise and mettle. As the editor of the Race and Ethnicity Team, he has been the driving force behind some of the AP's best journalism in the last four years, in addition to being a steadfast leader during a turbulent period in America that included a global pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, nationwide racial injustice protests and many other police killings. Through it all, he has pushed our journalism to new levels and elevated the conversation around race in the process.

His many accomplishments at AP include the 2020 Gramling award for journalistic excellence. The recent Birth to Death project. Standout coverage of the 2020 protests. He was a founding member of the Central Desk in 2009. His involvement in the National Association of Black Journalists made him a prominent voice in the industry, and a mentor to countless journalists over the years.

Above all he is a terrific colleague, friend and a dedicated family man in the truest sense of the word - to his wife Lisa, their two sons, relatives near and far, and to his professional and AP family. Andale has never missed a chance to offer encouragement, hail accomplishments, commiserate over setbacks and then forge ahead in resolute fashion. He asks after kids, parents, significant others, pets, you name it. There's no doubt the relationships he has built in doing so will be with him from AP to the Star and beyond.

Andale's last day at AP will be July 14. More to come between now and then on the transition, interim R&E leadership, a permanent successor and of course, a proper send-off.

Memories of Milt Sosin, Matt Bokor revived

[Edward Birk](#) - Seeing Dan Sewell's post Thursday about Miami stringer Milt Sosin revived vivid memories of Milt. He was tall and lanky, just like the Jaguar XKE 12 cylinder car he drove. I first met Milt taking his dictation of racing results from Gulfstream horse track.

Tuesday's arraignment in Miami also revived memories of news editor Matt Bokor's amazing calm while chaos was swirling about. Whether it was riots over a police officer acquittal or hurricanes or the overdose death of David Kennedy in Palm Beach or union negotiations the presaged the death of Eastern Airlines or the CIA's Southern Air Transport supporting the Contras, Matt remained calm and knew who to call to start reporting.

The only thing that seemed to ruffle Matt was when new staffers mangled the Style Manual rules for Realtor, Episcopalian, Congressman and the like.

Ever own a rubber-type printing press?

[John Wylie](#) - Loved the piece on the rotary rubber type printing press story. I got one of those as a Christmas present one year as a child since my family had a long history

in journalism, and had great fun printing handbills, etc. Don't think I ever tried a "newspaper" quite like the one described--my mother would have laughed; my grandmother (brought up on Victorian-era etiquette) would likely have tanned my hide or at least threatened to. Thanks for bringing back a delightful childhood memory.

Wonder how many other Connecting colleagues had experiences with this. If so, and if they kept theirs, could they let me know what company made them. It could make a wonderful feature for our internationally syndicated weekly feature For the Kid in You which is designed to encourage children and families to relearn the joys of reading and sharing print newspapers.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Wayne Chin](#)

[Ron Edmonds](#)

[Mike Harris](#)

On Saturday to...

[Daniel Haney](#)

Stories of interest

SPJ concerned about record number of job cuts to newsroom staff

Press Release | Society of Professional Journalists

The Society of Professional Journalists is concerned about the increased number of layoffs to journalists in 2023.

This year has seen a record number of media job cuts with the most recent being LAist, run by Southern California Public Radio, and dot.LA, which focuses on tech and startup news. LAist announced Tuesday that it is eliminating 21 positions, 10% of staff, as part of a restructuring due to a revenue shortfall. Dot.LA laid off its entire editorial staff of seven journalists on Monday as it shifts focus to newsletters.

Thursday, SPJ expressed concern over the Los Angeles Times elimination of 74 positions, about 13% of staff. At the time, SPJ Vice President Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins said, "This is yet another sign of a disturbing trend across our industry. When newsroom management makes these kinds of cuts, the public becomes less informed, which puts our very Democracy at risk."

A new report from Challenger, Gray & Christmas, found at least 17,436 jobs have been cut as of May 31, a 315% increase from this time last year. This is the highest amount of job cuts on record, including surpassing cuts made during the beginning of the pandemic.

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

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Guatemala: Prominent journalist José Zamora sentenced (BBC)

A Guatemala court has sentenced leading journalist José Zamora to six years in jail for money laundering, in a case condemned by human rights groups.

Zamora, 66, was also fined \$38,000 (£30,000) - but cleared of blackmail and influence-peddling charges.

He described the charges against him as "political persecution".

Zamora is the founder of El Periódico, a newspaper that regularly reported on alleged corruption involving President Alejandro Giammattei and his allies.

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

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The bitter strike at Insider — longest ever in digital media — is over (Washington Post)

By Will Sommer and Elahe Izadi

Even casual followers of Insider — the fast-paced publication that has become one of the biggest successes of digital media — probably noticed something amiss this month after employees went on strike.

Old stories were getting recycled and presented as new. The company's millionaire founder started writing his own articles to fill the void, including one telling Apple to "ignore the haters" of its new \$3,500 virtual-reality goggles.

Meanwhile, the drama spilled out onto the streets of Brooklyn, where the similarly deep-pocketed editor in chief was caught on video tearing down fliers bearing his face with the phrase, "Have you seen this millionaire?"

"I find this to be frustrating," Nicholas Carlson acknowledged in the video first published by the New York Post, before biking away from the scene.

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

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Upstart News Site Has Youth on Its Side, and Albany in Its Sights (New York Times)

By **Ginia Bellafante**

When he was a 17-year-old high school student in 2015, Akash Mehta was appointed to Brooklyn Community Board 6, which runs from Cobble Hill to Park Slope and passes, in part, through Boerum Hill, where he grew up. The New York State Legislature had recently lowered the minimum age for participation to 16; community boards have outsized influence in the life of New York neighborhoods, often determining what can get built and what can't, and their demographic composition skews toward the late-middle-aged and cranky. His friends made fun of him.

Akash loved city government the way other kids loved Tomb Raider. He had already interned for the City Council, where he began as an emissary of the "adopt a basket" program, going around to pet stores to persuade them to protect municipal trash cans from overflowing on the sidewalks. College came and went — two years on the militaristically back-to-the-land Deep Springs campus in California and then the University of Chicago — after which Mr. Mehta graduated into the uncertainties of the pandemic in the summer of 2020.

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

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It's Not a Good Sign When People Who Don't Pay for News Have So Little to Choose From (New York Times)

By **LYDIA POLGREEN**

In a recently published profile of the former CNN executive Jeff Zucker, a tidbit of news caught my eye. Zucker, who has a venture fund with \$1 billion to invest, is one of

at least three suitors seeking to buy a controlling stake in Air Mail, a glossy media company catering to the jet set elite, founded by the former Vanity Fair editor in chief Graydon Carter. A recent weekly edition includes a profile of the caterer turned mercenary magnate who is a close ally (and possible competitor) of Vladimir Putin, an excoriation of new diversity rules for the Oscars and an article on Adele's go-to rosé. It's a frothy mix of European royals, luxurious fashion and salacious true crime, redolent of the Vanity Fair of yore. Air Mail has made quite a splash: It threw a star-studded bash with Warner Brothers in Cap d'Antibes that was the toast of the Cannes Film Festival last month. It is generally a fun read. I have been a subscriber for a while.

Still, it was jarring to see that this confection has so many suitors, checkbooks at the ready, at a time when the butcher's bill in American journalism grows longer and longer. Last week, The Los Angeles Times announced it will reduce its newsroom staff by 13 percent, a month after the paper celebrated winning two Pulitzer Prizes. Last month, Vice, a company that once seemed like the invincible future of media, sought bankruptcy protection. BuzzFeed shuttered its Pulitzer Prize-winning news division. Insider slashed its staff by 10 percent earlier this year; its journalists are currently on strike. Hundreds of journalists from Gannett, the once mighty local news company, also staged a short strike last week after years of staffing and budget reductions. We've seen deep cuts at the major TV and cable news networks. MTV News closed its doors.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Today in History - June 16, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 16, the 167th day of 2023. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 16, 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

On this date:

In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

In 1941, National Airport (now Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport) opened for business with a ceremony attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova, 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; Tereshkova spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

In 1970, Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark, New Jersey, became the first Black politician elected mayor of a major Northeast city. Chicago Bears running back Brian Piccolo, 26, died at a New York hospital after battling cancer.

In 1977, Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev was named president, becoming the first person to hold both posts simultaneously.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos signed the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties during a ceremony in Panama City.

In 1999, Thabo Mbeki took the oath as president of South Africa, succeeding Nelson Mandela.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., announced his resignation from Congress, bowing to the furor caused by his sexually charged online dalliances with a former porn performer and other women. Osama bin Laden's longtime second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri, took control of al-Qaida.

In 2015, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign to become president of the United States with a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

In 2016, President Barack Obama traveled to Orlando, Florida, the scene of a deadly nightclub shooting that claimed 49 victims; the president embraced grieving families and cheered on Democrats' push for new gun control measures. Walt Disney Co. opened Shanghai Disneyland, its first theme park in mainland China.

In 2020, federal authorities announced murder and attempted murder charges against an Air Force sergeant, Steven Carrillo, in the fatal shooting of a federal security officer outside a U.S. courthouse in Oakland, California. (Carrillo, who had ties to the far-right, anti-government "boogaloo" movement, pleaded guilty to a federal murder charge after prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty.)

Ten years ago: Riot police firing tear gas and water cannons repelled thousands of anti-government protesters attempting to converge on Istanbul's central Taksim

Square while Prime Minister Recep Tayipp Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn) defended the crackdown at a rally of his supporters. Justin Rose captured his first major championship and became the first Englishman in 43 years to win the U.S. Open, shooting a closing 70 at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, for a 1-over 281 total. Connecticut accountant Erin Brady won the Miss USA pageant in Las Vegas.

Five years ago: China announced 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in U.S. imports, including soybeans and beef, in response to President Donald Trump's tariff hike on a similar amount of Chinese goods; China also scrapped agreements to narrow its trade surplus with the United States. Officials in Hawaii said the lower Puna eruption had destroyed 467 homes. A 23-foot-long python swallowed a 54-year-old woman in central Indonesia, an extremely rare occurrence.

One year ago: Witnesses testified to the Jan. 6 committee that Donald Trump's closest advisers viewed his last-ditch efforts to pressure Vice President Mike Pence to reject the tally of state electors and overturn the 2020 election as "nuts," "crazy" and even likely to incite riots. Industry officials said thousands of cattle in feedlots in southwestern Kansas died of heat stress due to soaring temperatures, high humidity and little wind. Severe weather forced Abbott Nutrition to pause production at a Michigan baby formula factory that had just restarted amid a national shortage.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Eileen Atkins is 89. Actor Bill Cobbs is 89. Author Joyce Carol Oates is 85. Country singer Billy "Crash" Craddock is 85. R&B singer Eddie Levert is 81. Actor Joan Van Ark is 80. Actor Geoff Pierson is 74. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Duran is 72. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 71. Actor Laurie Metcalf is 68. Actor Arnold Vosloo is 61. Actor Danny Burstein is 59. Model-actor Jenny Shimizu is 56. Actor James Patrick Stuart is 55. Rapper MC Ren is 54. Actor Clifton Collins Jr. is 53. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 53. Actor John Cho is 51. Actor Eddie Cibrian is 50. Actor Fred Koehler is 48. Actor China Shavers is 46. Actor Daniel Bruhl is 45. Bluegrass musician Caleb Smith (Balsam Range) is 45. Actor Sibel Kekilli is 43. Actor Missy Peregrym (PEH'-rih-grihm) is 41. Actor Olivia Hack is 40. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: "American Idol") is 36. Actor Ali Stroker is 36. Tennis player Bianca Andreescu is 23.

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

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