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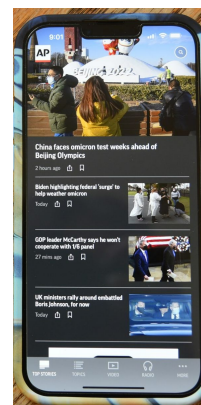
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# Connecting

June 20, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this June 20, 2023,

Want an easier way to keep up with the ever-changing news scene?

The AP has a newsletter for that.

We lead today's Connecting with word from AP Newsletter editor **Sarah Naffa** on the relaunch of the AP flagship newsletter, **the Morning Wire**, with an entirely new look after months of behind-the-scenes experimentation and collaboration. The Morning Wire reports without bias the top stories that are shaping the world from AP's award-winning journalists and photographers.

Her story leads today's issue – and at the end, you will find a link to sign up for the Morning Wire and other AP newsletters: The Afternoon Wire, The Sports Wire, The Week in Pictures and AP News Alerts.

Connecting is also placing the AP Newsletter link in the masthead of each day's issue.

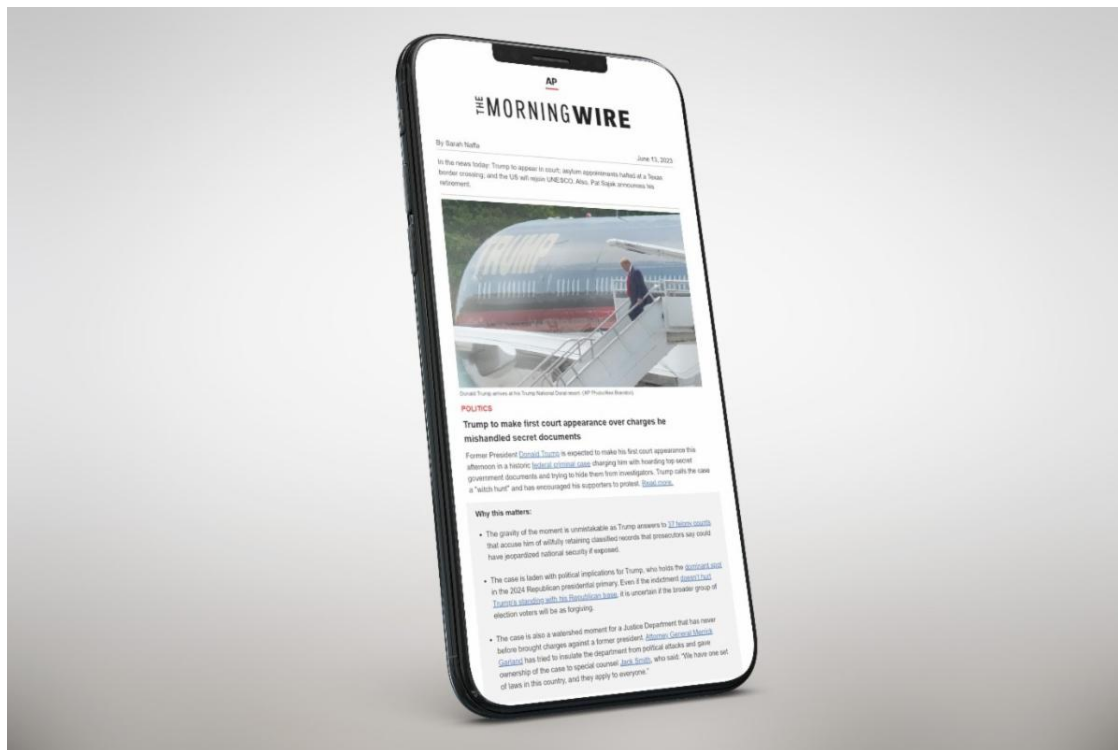
Our condolences to colleague [Greg Nokes](#) whose son Deston died Monday from cancer. Deston is pictured at right with his life's companion, Bridgitt Calder, who, Greg said, "has been a blessing to him. He was a great son to me and to his stepmom Candy. And a wonderful father to his children, Deanna and Jacob, who were with him at the end. His passing leaves a hole in my heart. We will miss him dearly." Deston, 63, lived in Gresham, Ore.



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

Paul

## AP relaunches flagship newsletter, The Morning Wire



[Sarah Naffa](#) – AP Newsletter Writer, London - On the 14th of June 2023, the AP flagship newsletter, the Morning Wire, relaunched with an entirely new look after months of behind-the-scenes experimentation and collaboration. At the helm of the project was Amy Langfield, and myself as well as a group of highly talented individuals: Sydney Salazar, Darrell Allen and Eitan Goldstein. Our mission? To cater to the existing needs of our loyal readers, but also to expand our reach and captivate an even wider audience.

Of course, we knew that some things needed to remain unchanged. After all, our readers come to us for the unbiased and nonpartisan news they received from the AP, and we weren't about to mess with that. However, we wanted to give them a little something extra—a sleeker design, a more user-friendly format, and some exciting new surprises to look forward to each day.

Our new design is modern, and ready for you to skim from the moment it lands in your inbox. We understand that life moves at lightning speed these days, so we've made our content easily digestible, ensuring you get the gist of each story at a glance. So, what's the new angle that was about to make the new Morning Wire shine?

It's all about the "Why this Matters" formatting. We wanted to make sure our readers got the key bits of context from each story without having to dig through mountains of information or scroll endlessly online at the start of their mornings. But we're also not trying to limit anyone here. If you happen to be looking for more than just the top 3 stories of the day, we made sure that you were covered. We've included a selection of links so you can dive even deeper into any story that piques your interest, ensuring that the new newsletter experience was, more than anything, providing the reader the choice to dig deep into the stories you care about.

This relaunch is so much more than just a cosmetic upgrade—it's a bold statement of our commitment to delivering top-notch journalism in a reader-friendly package, with the options for you to dive deep where you so choose, but still feel like you know what's going on out there.

Some examples of the feedback we've already received:

- "This is what Morning Wire should be, a thoughtful piece of journalism that puts the news in context, and not just a collection of links."

- "What a fresh relief ! I get all the news I want in an easy-to-follow package. I can't thank you enough."

- "I want to commend the updates to this newsletter. The summaries and key takeaways are extremely helpful, and I'm now taking the time to really read and engage with content rather than a mere headline. Props to the team!"

To sign up to the AP Morning Wire, and all our other current newsletters: [Click here](#)

## Remembering George Gedda



US Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, talks at the start of an exclusive interview with AP Washington staffers at the State Department, June 23, 2001. Seated from left: Powell, State Department newsman George Gedda, Chief of Bureau Sandy Johnson, Assistant Chief of Bureau Terry Hunt and Chief Diplomatic Writer Barry Schweid, right foreground. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite) Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.

**Sandy Johnson** - former AP Washington chief of bureau - George was the consummate international relations reporter. He dressed like a diplomat, had elegant manners and could swear a blue streak in Spanish. He essentially owned the Latin America beat, ceding much of the rest of the world to his longtime colleague, Barry Schweid. Cuba was a specialty and George made an annual trek to Fidel's bastion. As Matt Lee's excellent obit noted, George had a passion for baseball, especially the players who came from the Dominican Republic.

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**Foster Klug** – AP News Director for the Koreas, Japan, Australia and the South Pacific - I was lucky to spend three years working with George when I landed the job of Asia Correspondent in the Washington bureau in 2005. I was in my early 30s and was on the World Service team, which included George and Billy Mann and Harry Dunphy -- all serious and very longtime experts in diplomacy and world affairs, something I was not, by any stretch. And yet seared into my memory is a lunch George took me to very early on in the State Department cafeteria, where he gave me a wire-ready primer on North Korea. I took notes, lots of them, and over the years his thoughts have repeatedly made their way into my stories on North Korea, probably the country I've written about most. He was invariably kind, patient and happy to share his vast knowledge on seemingly the entire world as I squeezed myself into the AP room in the press bullpen at State between him and the journalistic whirlwind of Barry Schweid. It was a great AP education in covering diplomacy.

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**Samuel Koo** - During my three-year stint as the Day Editor on the World Desk (1970-1973), George was my favorite go-to person at the State Department.

George always seemed to have time for his NY desk colleagues. He fielded my frequent queries with kindness and patience. And that left a lasting impression on me. Here and there he'd also pick my brain on developments in the Far East. Only once did he cut me short saying the Secretary of State's news conference was about to begin. Only once.

He was the youngest of the five-member (yes!) State Department Bureau, staffed by towering veterans like John M. Hightower, Spencer Davis, Lewis Gulick and Endre Marton. He once told me what an honor it was for him to work with them. Still, he was not exactly a second fiddle, having carved out a special niche, Latin America, and I must say I learned a great deal from his coverage and one-on-one explanation.

Whenever I remember my old AP colleagues, George's face always pops up, although we lost contact after I left the AP. Kindness and patience -- George's hallmarks.

May he rest in peace.

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**Susanne Schafer** - Such great sorrow enveloped me upon learning of the passing of George Gedda. Many have already expressed their memories of him as a great journalist. I can only add that in the days when I was a newbie reporter assigned to the State Department, he was full of guidance and assistance, never exhibiting the coldness and disregard that marked those who feared competition from younger reporters. Among the stuffy-suited diplomatic reporters, I remember him as a generous, sparkling gem.

## Sunrise/Sunset



**Guy Palmiotto** - The Sunset from Friday evening over the Intracoastal Waterway, looking West to the Barefoot resort in Myrtle Beach and Saturday's sunrise over Myrtle Beach. Maybe the smoke from the Canadian wildfires have had an effect on creating the look of both events.

## Stories of interest

## ***The ‘fact-checker’ job comes in different forms. A viral report misses that context to accuse journalists of bias*** (Poynter)

**By: Loreben Tuquero and Louis Jacobson**

The work of fact-checkers, like that of all journalists, is scrutinized for accuracy and fairness. Signs of bias can damage an organization’s credibility.

That’s why fact-checking organizations commit to policies that promote nonpartisanship, such as prohibiting their staff from publicly participating in the political process. This means journalists at fact-checking organizations don’t show support for political parties, politicians or political candidates — no yard signs, no bumper stickers, no volunteering and no campaign donations.

A viral story published by a conservative news website tries to show fact-checkers are biased, pointing to campaign donations that favor Democratic candidates. Other conservative news outlets picked up the story, and billionaire Elon Musk amplified it on Twitter.

The report is highly misleading, conflating two different types of fact-checkers who do different things.

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

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## ***Gannett tiptoes into generative AI, giving humans the last word*** (Reuters)

**By Helen Coster**

NEW YORK, June 16 (Reuters) - Publisher Gannett plans to include generative artificial intelligence in the system it uses to publish stories as it and other news organizations begin to roll out the popular technology that may help save money and improve efficiency.

But the largest U.S. newspaper publisher with over 200 daily outlets said it will include humans in the process so that the technology can’t be deployed automatically, without oversight. Generative AI is a way to create efficiencies and eliminate some tedious tasks for journalists, Renn Turiano, senior vice president and head of product at Gannett said in a recent interview with Reuters.

However, Turiano added, “The desire to go fast was a mistake for some of the other news services,” he said without singling out a specific outlet. “We’re not making that mistake.”

Gannett is hardly alone in its balancing act. For instance Reuters President Paul Bascobert said in a statement Thursday, responding to a reporter's request for comment about the company's plans, that as the news agency embraces AI technologies, it is "taking a responsible approach that safeguards accuracy and fosters trust."

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

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## ***Press freedom and civil liberties orgs condemn conviction of Asheville journalists***

### **Freedom of the Press Foundation**

Press freedom and civil liberties groups nationwide expressed their disappointment at the conviction by a jury of Asheville Blade journalists Matilda Bliss and Veronica Coit for violating a park curfew by recording police evicting a homeless encampment on Christmas night of 2021.

"We don't have secret police in the United States," said Seth Stern, Director of Advocacy at Freedom of the Press Foundation. "Officers are not entitled to operate without press and public scrutiny just because it's dark out. The Constitution requires that journalists be given sufficient access to public land to report the news, no matter the time."

The judge reportedly instructed the jury not to consider the constitutionality of the charges against Coit and Bliss. He orally denied their motion to dismiss on First Amendment grounds (a written ruling will follow). He was wrong, as the Department of Justice made clear the same day as the verdict in its report on its investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department: "Blanket enforcement of dispersal orders and curfews against press violates [the First Amendment] because they foreclose the press from reporting."

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

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## ***Furious San Francisco mayor fires back at GMA claim it's 'too dangerous to film' in city's downtown area***

(Independent)

### **Shweta Sharma**

Mayor London Breed has fired back at a claim in Good Morning America that San Francisco is "too dangerous" to film in the city's downtown area.



The mayor claimed such criticism is hampering the city's efforts to bounce back from the Covid pandemic even as police data from this year showed an increase in crimes like robberies, homicides and grand theft auto.

In recent years, many prominent employees of news networks have expressed concerns about San Francisco's increasing crime rate and the departure of several stores from the downtown area.

On Wednesday, ABC News reporter Matt Gutman told viewers he was advised against appearing live from downtown San Francisco for a Good Morning America show due to the area being deemed "simply too dangerous".

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

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## ***N.Y. Times spotlights local officials' use of public-notice ads as weapons, but doesn't explain that state laws differ*** (The Rural Blog)

By AL CROSS

At a time when local newspapers rely on advertising revenue from publishing public notices required by law, more local governments are moving the notices from newspapers to punish them for "aggressive coverage of local politics," reports Emily Flitter of The New York Times. Richard Karpel, the executive director of the Public Notice Resource Center, told Flitter "It's gotten worse over the years in terms of trying to use contracts and laws to lash out at newspapers."

Flitter cites several examples, primarily The Reporter in Delaware County, New York, but does not make clear that the Empire State is one of many that allow public officials to use public-notice ads as a weapon. Many other states require the notices to be published in the newspaper with the largest proven circulation in the officials' jurisdiction, largely eliminating their discretion.

Lawyers told Flitter that it's unconstitutional for governments to punish anyone for their viewpoints, but "Sometimes, it is hard to prove that a local government is revoking a contract because of its unhappiness about a newspaper's coverage. But other times, the rationale has been more or less explicit." Flitter cites the case of the Wet Mountain Tribune in Custer County, Colorado, which lost the county's public notices after it reported that its new public-health director had questionable educational credentials.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Words**



Shared by Doug Pizac

MY ENTRY IN *THE NEW YORKER* CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST



*"I'm the pool reporter."*

Shared by Len Iwanski

## Today in History - June 20, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 20, the 171st day of 2023. There are 194 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 20, 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

### On this date:

In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1943, race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

In 1944, during World War II, Japanese naval forces retreated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea after suffering heavy losses to the victorious American fleet.

In 1947, Gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, California, home of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted and was sentenced to five years in prison. (Ali's

conviction was ultimately overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court).

In 1972, three days after the arrest of the Watergate burglars, President Richard Nixon met at the White House with his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman; the secretly made tape recording of this meeting ended up with the notorious 18 1/2-minute gap.

In 1974, the film noir "Chinatown," starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1990, South African Black nationalist Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived in New York City for a ticker-tape parade in their honor as they began an eight-city U.S. tour.

In 2014, the Obama administration granted an array of new benefits to same-sex couples, including those living in states where gay marriage was against the law; the new measures ranged from Social Security and veterans benefits to work leave for caring for sick spouses.

In 2016, a divided U.S. Supreme Court bolstered police powers, ruling 5-3 that evidence of a crime in some cases may be used against a defendant even if the police did something wrong or illegal in obtaining it.

Ten years ago: Lightning began sparking more than 2,000 fires across northern and central California, eventually burning more than a million acres. Model Naomi Campbell was sentenced in London to 200 hours of community service and fined 2,300 pounds (\$4,600) after she pleaded guilty to kicking, spitting and swearing at two police officers during an argument over lost luggage while aboard a plane at Heathrow Airport.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump abruptly reversed himself and signed an executive order halting his administration's policy of separating children from their parents when they are detained illegally crossing the border; Trump had been insisting wrongly that there was no alternative to the policy because of federal law and a court decision. The Vatican announced that Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the retired Roman Catholic archbishop of Washington, D.C., had been removed from public ministry and would face further punishment over "credible" allegations that he sexually abused a teenager more than 40 years earlier. (Pope Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation as a cardinal on July 28.) A suspect was arrested and charged with murder in the killing of rising Florida rap star XXXTentacion.

One year ago: The nation's youngest children got their first chance at vaccines for COVID-19. Roughly 18 million kids under 5 became eligible, and shots began at a few locations. Two Florida deputies were suspended for leaking news about actor and comedian Bob Saget's death before his family was alerted. Clela Rorex, a former Colorado county clerk considered a pioneer in the gay rights movement for being the first public official to issue a same-sex marriage license in 1975, died at age 78.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bonnie Bartlett is 94. Actor James Tolkan is 92. Director Stephen Frears is 82. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 81. Actor John McCook is 80. Singer Anne Murray is 78. TV personality Bob Vila is 77. Musician Andre Watts is 77. Actor Candy Clark is 76. Producer Tina Sinatra is 75. R&B singer Lionel Richie is 74.

Actor John Goodman is 71. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 69. Rock musician John Taylor is 63. Rock musician Mark degli Antoni (de-gee-an-toh-nee) is 61. Christian rock musician Jerome Fontamillas (Switchfoot) is 56. Actor Nicole Kidman is 56. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan Tyminski is 56. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 55. Actor Peter Paige is 54. Actor Josh Lucas is 52. Rock musician Jeordie White (AKA Twiggy Ramirez) is 52. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 50. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 46. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 44. Actor Tika Sumpter is 43. Actor-singer Alisan Porter is 42. U.S. Olympic beach volleyball gold medalist April Ross is 41. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 40. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & the Nocturnals) is 40. Actor Mark Saul is 38. Actor Dreama Walker is 37. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse (plahs) is 34. Actor Maria Lark is 26.

## 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.

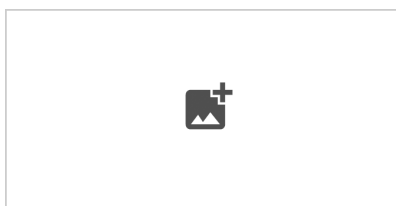
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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