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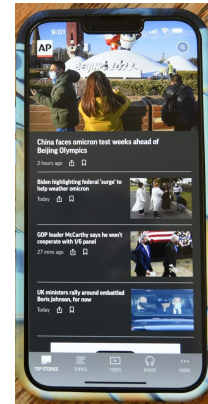
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Connecting

June 26, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this June 26, 2023,

Our colleague **Norm Abelson** shares the perspective of one who's lived more than 90 years on our planet in today's lead essay for Connecting – and even quotes from philosophers Kierkegaard and Confucious in the process.

One of my favorite lines from his piece:

And, yes, when Bogart says "Here's lookin' at you, kid," to Bergman in "Casablanca," I still day-dream it was me. Importantly, there was plenty of time for such day-dreaming. Life had a slower drum-beat.

I think you'll agree with me it's a great way to start the week.

Here's to the week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

Losing it in the 21st Century



Norm Abelson - Frequently I tune in to Turner Classic Movies channel. In television's ocean of mediocrity, childish sexuality, brutal violence and crass commercialism, TCM offers an island of true entertainment. It has been a haven for me, a nonagenarian who loves old flicks, especially in black and white.

Looking Back:

**You live life looking forward,
you understand life looking backward. - Kierkegaard**

Yes, I tune in because I believe that the old movies frequently were superior to those being made today. But there is another reason - the comfort of familiarity. I recognize the actors I thrilled to, the streets I walked down, the radio serials and music I listened to, the automobiles, the elevated trains and street cars I rode in, the clothing folks wore. Men in felt hats and suits; well dressed and coiffed women.

And, yes, when Bogart says "Here's lookin' at you, kid," to Bergman in "Casablanca," I still day-dream it was me. Importantly, there was plenty of time for such day-dreaming. Life had a slower drum-beat. As a young kid I'd often join my buddy, Charlie Perry, climbing the chestnut tree in his back yard; there we'd sit until his mom called us in for a thick slice of her home-baked bread. As a teen, I'd sometimes bike up to Waitt's Mount, the highest point in my hometown, lie on the hillside and idly watch puffy clouds glide by. It wasn't only that the experience fed my still unformed longings, but also that a kid had the time to do things just for the heck of it. And they weren't mechanized. ("Hey, Mom, I'm going out to play.") I have come to believe that doing nothing is doing something.

In much of today's warp-speed world, there is for me a declining sense of comfort or familiarity. I can't say exactly when it happened, but at some point, I began to lose touch with the popular culture, its music (I stop just north of the Beatles, Ella Fitzgerald, Madonna and Tony Bennett.), its art, parts of its literature. There came a tipping point, a moment in time when I lost touch, with little hope ever to catch up.

I don't think I suffer from incurable Old Foggy-ism. I use a computer - although sparingly. I have a cell phone, most of its functions a mystery. And I definitely do not want totally to go back in time to the "good old days," which for a guy born into near poverty during the Great Depression were not always that good. Also, I realize, of course, that many things have changed for the better, and I am grateful.

II. The New World

Study without reflection is a waste of time.

He who learns but does not think is lost. - Confucius

So, it's not merely the yearning for some of the old days that have got me down; rather it is both today's pace of change, and the easy availability of just about anything and everything. When so much is available 24/7 (I hate that phrase), then nothing is special. The time-honored expression that something is "worth waiting for" loses meaning. With it also comes the loss of that wondrous sense of anticipation. Gone is the delicious feeling of holding a love letter a few moments before unsealing it, or counting the days until a package arrives in the mail.

With everything from lousy pizza to awful fast food available with a single click, the whole concept of waiting is out the window, followed in quick succession by the loss of patience at anything or anyone that does not respond to one's tiniest desires instantly. ("Where the hell is that pizza delivery guy?") The loss of patience is succeeded by the loss of value, or worth. Too much, too quickly and easily obtained leads directly to that loss of worth - as, for example, the little girl who has a closet full

of dolls, none special, versus the child with one doll that is oh, so very special, carefully handled and well loved.

Everything from commercials on-line and on television to full-page ads in the press zero in increasingly on words like “faster,” “quick,” and “instant.” The polite “upon request” has been replaced by the crass “on demand.” American consumers have for some years been offered cheap goods from China. The great “advance” in civilization has been that now the junk can get to we poor suckers even faster.

How does one measure the loss of value, for example, of using Google exclusively instead of going to the well-worn family dictionary or leafing through the thesaurus or searching in a volume of an encyclopedia, or visiting the public library? Google offers speed and accuracy (most of the time). But the price we pay for the whole speed machine that life has become is a big one: In the speed and banality of that change lies this basic evil: the costly loss of reflection. It is this loss of time for reflection, I believe, that lies at the bottom of much that is be-deviling humanity.

Before we're even able to reflect upon and assimilate the latest change, new changes come tumbling out of Silicon Valley. The philosophy is simple, if not simplistic: If it can be done technically, then do it. Possible consequences become irrelevant, whether it's a new and speedier way for firing missiles half-way around the world, clogging the skies with toy and delivery drones, or developing artificial intelligence technology to make machines more “human.” I'm afraid we humans still have a hell of a long way to go before we are even worthy of emulating. I might even opt for AI that is less like us. Oh, and AI is now “composing” things from college essays to novels. One wonders how Shakespeare, Milton or Hemingway ever got anything written without such digital assistance.

Does all of this mean we have ceded the thinking process over to the techies and their machines? Are we continuing to buy into the philosophy that reflection is an unnecessary luxury, and worrying about consequences slows things down and cuts into revenue streams? I fear the answer to both questions, increasingly, is “Yes.”

Always I have been content with accepting this continuum of life: Collecting experience in the early years. Gaining knowledge in the mid years through learning and observing. Having wisdom later on from living life and absorbing and reflecting. But this rational and humanistic approach seems to have been turned on its head. Time marches on, we may all agree. But does it have to be at the speed of light?

I'm doing my best to deal with all this while living in the times of my twenty-something grandchildren. I'm working hard to understand and share their world, and I can say, happily, they're quite respectful of what is left of mine.

Remembering AP photographer Charles Kelly

Peggy Walsh - I never imagined that spotting a photo by Charlie Kelly on an Instagram page would lead to Connecting's publication of Francesca Pitaro's wonderful presentation in Friday's issue.

It started with me sending you a screenshot of the photo I saw. You contacted Francesca who shared that amazing writeup she had just written.

I worked with Charlie in Atlanta for 10 years. Francesca really captured Charlie the photographer and the man.

I was curious about how things worked, and she was kind enough to explain.

"I'm glad you enjoyed the post. We have a team of 6 (myself, (Director) Valerie (Komor), 2 NY photo editors and 2 London photo library staffers) and we brainstorm weekly, discussing upcoming anniversaries, underutilized photos, etc., anything that might make a good blog. I don't handle the Instagram account, but when we create a new blog, one of our team members who handles Instagram and Twitter, puts a few images up with a link to the full post. It's a way of promoting the historic blog post.



"If you want to see all the historical blog posts done by our team, you can go to **this page**, and scroll through. Some are related to specific staffers or AP history, and others are tied to anniversary stories."

Corporate Archives, of course, is the keeper and collector of all things AP and has many other terrific projects.

I also recommend following the Instagram account, appphotoarchive. It's a great look at history and sometimes you're lucky enough to spot someone you know.

-0-

Gary Gardiner - I worked in Atlanta with Charles Kelly. He was a wonderful storyteller, humorist, and overline writer. Overlines are the brief headlines that preceded the caption on photo transmissions. Their intent was the same as headlines, say what is interesting and why I should continue to read. Two especially come to mind.

During an Atlanta Hawks game during the Christmas season, Charlie made a photo of Charlie Criss failing to make a pass to Wayne "Tree" Rollins. The photo showed the failure. "Oh! Criss Missed Tree" was the overline.

The second photo showed Santa, attended by a nurse in North Pole elf costume, donating blood. "Rude Elf, You Bled those Tiny Veins Dear."

The challenge in our office became an overline that would top Charlie's wit or at least make him laugh. Don't remember making him laugh too many times and certainly never topped these two.

A useful new verb – 'to prebut'

[Mike Feinsilber](#) - This is from Politico on June 25. Among other things, it gives us a useful new verb: "to prebut. "

Around midday on Friday, June 16, ProPublica reporters Justin Elliott and Josh Kaplan sent an email to Patricia McCabe, the Supreme Court's spokesperson, with questions for Justice Samuel Alito about a forthcoming story on his fishing trip to Alaska with a hedge fund billionaire.

We set a deadline of the following Tuesday at noon for a response.

Fifteen minutes later, McCabe called the reporters. It was an unusual moment in our dealings with the high court's press office, the first time any of its public information officers had spoken directly with the ProPublica journalists in the many months we have spent looking into the justices' ethics and conduct. When we sent detailed questions to the court for our stories on Justice Clarence Thomas, McCabe responded with an email that said they had been passed on to the justice. There was no further word from her before those stories appeared, not even a statement that Thomas would have no comment.

The conversation about Alito was brisk and professional. McCabe said she had noticed a formatting issue with an email, and the reporters agreed to resend the 18 questions in a Word document. Kaplan and Elliott told McCabe they understood that this was a busy time at the court and that they were willing to extend the deadline if Alito needed more time.

Monday was a federal holiday, Juneteenth. On Tuesday, McCabe called the reporters to tell them Alito would not respond to our requests for comment but said we should not write that he declined to comment. (In the story, we wrote that she told us he "would not be commenting.")

She asked when the story was likely to be published. Certainly not today, the reporters replied. Perhaps as soon as Wednesday.

Six hours later, The Wall Street Journal editorial page posted an essay by Alito in which he used our questions to guess at the points in our unpublished story and rebut them in advance. His piece, headlined "Justice Samuel Alito: ProPublica Misleads Readers," was hard to follow for anyone outside ProPublica since it shot down allegations (notably the purported consumption of expensive wine) that had not yet been made.

In the hours after Alito's response appeared, editors and reporters worked quickly to complete work on our investigative story. We did additional reporting to put Alito's claims in context. The justice wrote in the Journal, "My recollection is that I have spoken to Mr. Singer on no more than a handful of occasions," and that none of those conversations involved "any case or issue before the Court." He said he did not know

of Singer's involvement in a case about a long-standing dispute involving Argentina because the fund that was a party to the suit was called NML Capital and the billionaire's name did not appear in Supreme Court briefs.

Pat Milton honored with Lifetime Achievement Award



ABOVE: The AP gang, from left: Larry Neumeister, Pat Milton, Kiley Armstrong and Josh Hoffner.

RIGHT: Pat Milton with Scott Pelley, 60 Minutes correspondent.

Pat Milton, CBS News senior investigative producer and former AP journalist, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for National News by the Fair Media Council at a Friday luncheon ceremony at Gatsby on the Ocean on Long Island attended by more than 300 guests including former colleagues of Pat's from the New York Bureau of The Associated Press - Larry Neumeister, courts reporter; Josh Hoffner, national news director, and Kiley Armstrong, former news editor now retired.

Milton said she was grateful and humbled to be honored with the award – “A glorious and quite overwhelming tribute shared with awesome colleagues and dear friends. What a blessing!!!”

Milton was a reporter/writer with the AP for more than 25 years. She opened the AP's first bureau on Long Island and served as Long Island correspondent for 20 years. She

joined CBS News in 2008 and is a three-time Emmy-winning senior producer of CBS News investigative unit. She also produces for 60 Minutes.

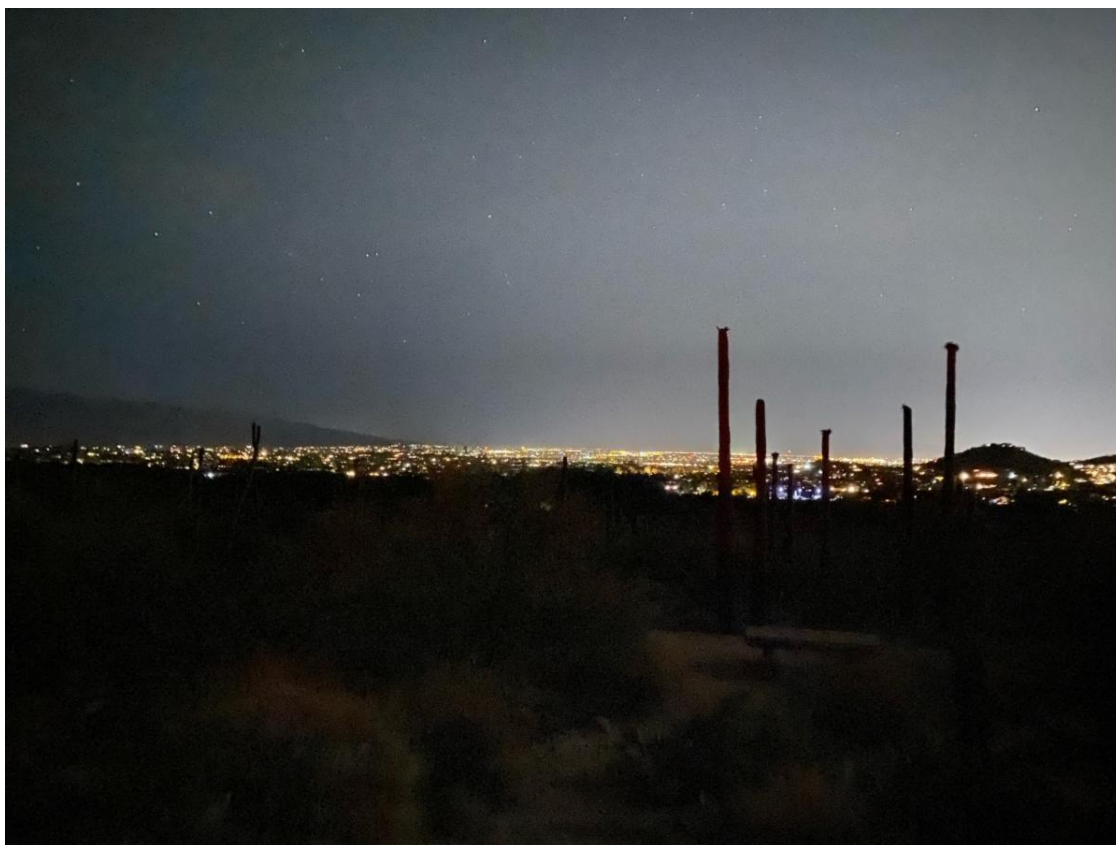
Connecting sky shot – Tucson

CONGRATULATIONS, PAT!!



"Original, honest, tenacious, Pat Milton's reporting is the bedrock of countless major exclusives at CBS News. Newsmakers who decline to talk to anyone else speak to Pat because of her sincerity and meticulous pursuit of what is true.....There is no democracy without journalism. Pat Milton's journalism, without fear or favor, is the best example of what our nation so urgently demands today."

Scott Pelley
60 Minutes



Mark Mittelstadt - The Tucson metro area lights up the night sky as seen from an overlook at Sabino Canyon Recreation Area at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains. We enjoyed a ride on the Canyon Crawler electric tram to the end of the 3.7-mile paved trail in Sabino Canyon, then took a short ride into Bear Canyon. It was a fitting end to the celebration of a milestone birthday for Mary.

Smarter than the average bear



Terry Anderson - Smarter than the average bear, indeed. He also drank all the sugar water from my hummingbird feeders. The photo was taken recently on my porch in Greenwood Lake, NY. We see quite a few bears around here from the state park that is behind my house. He's likely one of the cubs I saw behind the house earlier this spring, one of four (!) the mama had in a line behind her.

It's not a story til it's in print



RAO SURAMAPLLI Special to The Olathe News

Paul Dew, Jack Malarky, Paul Stevens and George Varghese meet up often for a game of tennis.

Friendship the key motivator for these older tennis players

BY MARTHA MCCARTY
Special to The Olathe News

The United States Tennis Association did some research recently and noticed an interesting pattern. Pickleball isn't the only sport growing in popularity.

Tennis grew by 5.6 million players in the past three years in the U.S., according to the association. And if you're wondering about the age cap for playing, a local pro has an answer.

Jack Malarky, men's senior tennis coordinator at Overland Park's Genesis Health Club, says you're never too old.

"We don't specify an age for senior tennis, but most are retired at 65 and up — many being way up," said Malarky, 86.

At age 78, retired doctor George Varghese played a wholehearted comeback three months after five-

vessel bypass surgery 20 years ago. During a game, a nitroglycerine patch sticks to his chest.

"I play right now with 82- or 83-year-olds," Varghese said. "And I have played with 90-year-olds. It's a sport you can keep playing and you get good exercise."

Seventy-six-year-old Paul Stevens — sometimes called Tall Paul — formed a lasting friendship with Varghese years ago. The two friends often share a court.

"We always play doubles," Varghese said. "We go for the ball, front and back and sideways. We're too old to play (singles)."

Some players who come to Genesis Health Club in Overland Park were late to learning the game. Varghese, who grew up in India, competed in sports, but didn't try tennis until settling in America in 1971. Malarky calls himself "a Pittsburgh guy"

whose wife taught him to play when he was half the age he is now.

Stevens had a head start. "I started playing when I was 8 or 9 years old in Fort Dodge, Iowa," he said. "My dad had played tennis and he introduced me to it."

Stevens, who is 6 feet 5 inches tall, said his height helps his serve

"I'm not the fastest on the court, but the serve is probably my strongest stroke."

Vigorous exercise and group camaraderie are key motivators, Stevens says.

"A good thing is, we're in a social-type setting. It's an outlet. A lot of these folks are friends."

Even so, all are competitors.

"I like to win," Stevens said. "Everyone wants to win, but no one takes a loss personally."

Etiquette and respect are far more important to these players than competition. Rarely is an argument heard on the court, according to the players.

And while health episodes may slow them down, these older players often come back to the sport.

Stevens came back with doctor's approval after months of rehab for a broken leg from a tumble at home. The allure of tennis stays strong.

In fact, love is a well-known word in the language of tennis. Players chant the word repeatedly, as if in a chorus: "I love to play...I love to play...I love the game."

Malarky's personal philosophy is a reminder: "A lot of good can come from a friendly game of tennis," he said.

"A strong case can be made for any age. Put the phone down and pick up a racket."

For more information on Genesis Health Clubs Overland Park senior coordinator, email jackmalarky@gmail.com.

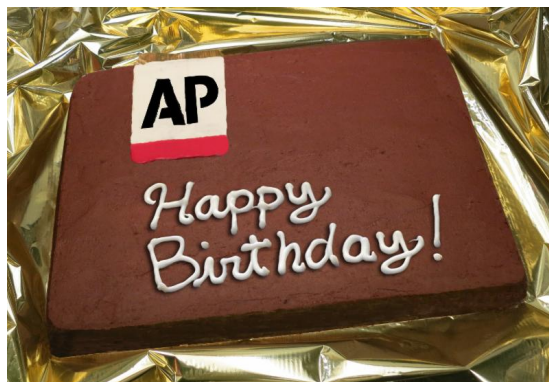
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Paul Stevens – At least that's how I feel about it...Luddite that I may be. Colleague Marty McCarty's story for The Kansas City Star appeared online several days ago, and

yes, friends emailed me a link. But I hope I never lose the thrill of seeing such a story in print – and yes, friends snail mailed me copies. At least the dwindling number of friends who subscribe to print.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Joe Coleman](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Ed Golden](#)

[Deepti Hajela](#)

Stories of interest

CBS News effort shows the growth in solutions journalism to combat bad news fatigue (AP)

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — A Colorado school is creating a “zen den” for troubled students. A soccer coach in Pittsburgh goes out of her way to relieve pressure on players. A Chicago community group equips a van for mobile mental health help, and a Los Angeles school trains students to counsel peers.

Each effort to tackle youth mental health issues has been featured on a local CBS newscast recently, examples of a movement toward “solutions journalism.”

The idea is that reporters need to be more than the bearer of bad news.

“We want to look past the who, what, where and why to asking ‘how can we help?’” said Wendy McMahon, co-president of CBS News and the CBS Television Stations. “How can we help make our communities better places to live? That’s the aspiration.”

CBS has trained news leaders in solutions journalism at the 14 local stations it owns, in big markets like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, and opened an “innovation lab” for them to work together on stories.

Read more [here](#).

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The Denver Post is ending commenting on July 1. Here’s why. (Denver Post)

By **LEE ANN COLACIOPPO**

We have long valued the comments section of our website as a place to raise differing viewpoints, let us know voices we might have missed, point out errors or confusing language — and let readers engage in a lively debate.

But, unfortunately, we have also witnessed our commenting section becoming an uncivil place that drives readers away and opens those trying to engage in thoughtful conversation to hateful, personal attacks.

The Denver Post has tried a variety of approaches over the years to counter that, including encouraging our journalists to engage with commenters and adding layers of controls around our moderation with professional full-time moderators.

None of it managed to make our commenting section the productive space for engagement we envisioned.

Our resources need to be devoted to bringing you news that matters and makes us worthy of the trust you put in us when you subscribe to The Post. And so we have decided to close our commenting sections effective July 1.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Neal Ulevich.

-0-

Was Samuel Alito's Wall Street Journal 'prebuttal' a journalistic ethics lapse? (The Week)

By RAFI SCHWARTZ

For the second time this year, a conservative Supreme Court Justice finds themselves amid a growing controversy over their relationship with, and acceptance of gifts from, a billionaire donor who would then go on to have business before the high court. After an extensive series of reports detailing Justice Clarence Thomas' conspicuously beneficial relationship with billionaire Harlan Crow, investigative news outlet ProPublica this week published a similarly themed expose on Justice Samuel Alito, who allegedly received similarly lavish gifts from major GOP donor Paul Singer. Like Thomas and Crow, Alito did not include the gift — a 2008 private jet flight to Alaska followed by a stay in a \$1,000 per night luxury cabin — in his various financial disclosure forms, nor did he recuse himself when Singer's hedge fund, NML Capital, appeared before the court several years later.

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

-0-

In Amanpour CNN interview, Obama talks contrasting response to Titan sub and migrant crisis (USA Today)

Miles J. Herszenhorn

As a missing submersible with five wealthy passengers received days of nonstop media coverage, more than 700 people are feared dead in one of the worst migrant shipwrecks in the Mediterranean. Former President Barack Obama said in a Thursday interview on CNN that the uneven media attention received by the two tragedies was emblematic of the economic inequality plaguing democracies.

The U.S. Coast Guard said Thursday that the five people in the submersible were killed after the vessel suffered a "catastrophic implosion." The submersible went missing on Sunday while carrying passengers on a \$250,000 tourism trip to visit the wreckage of the Titanic.

Just days earlier in Greece, a fishing boat carrying hundreds of migrants to Italy sank in front of a Greek coast guard ship. With more than 700 people feared dead, many are calling for an investigation after the Greek coast guard decided not to intervene to prevent the boat from sinking.

Speaking from Athens with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, Obama said that one of the most pressing threats to democracy is "obscene inequality."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Weekly editors, publishers feel a need to look after their and counterparts' mental health in the isolation that defines 'rural' (Rural Blog)

By Al Cross

Director and Professor, Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues,
University of Kentucky

Has there been a more stressful time for community journalists, especially those in rural areas, where the isolation that defines rurality limits access to mental-health care and gives them few trusted peers to rely on for help and support? Rural editors, publishers and reporters have suffered the double whammy of the pandemic amid the impact of the great digital shift, which has robbed them of audience, revenue and colleagues.

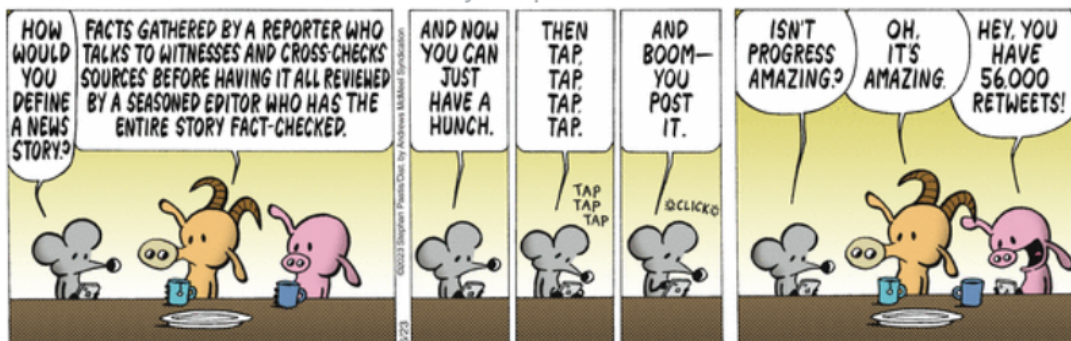
Several editors and publishers talked about these existential issues with rural-journalism researchers June 21 at the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors' annual conference in Reno. After Christina Smith of Georgia College and State University and Kyle Miller of the University of South Dakota presented their research on rural journalists' mental health, Smith asked them if they have "confidants" with whom they can discuss the stresses of the job and the problems those stresses can cause. That sparked an interesting conversation.

ISWNE President Gordon Cameron of Hamilton, Ontario, said that after every annual conference, "We leave energized and that's because, the people in this room, you all get it," through common experiences, some of which can be stressful. He said that has helped him get through "difficult times." Ken Garner of the Maryville Forum in Missouri said "I've found my tribe" in ISWNE. He said retired publishers Gary and Helen Sosniecki, longtime ISWNE stalwarts, had helped him, and he would have "no issue" calling anyone in the room at the University of Nevada-Reno for help. He said that is a key to his mental health.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis



Shared by Michael Weinfeld, Bruce Lowitt, Paul Albright, Len Iwanski.

Today in History - June 26, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 26, the 177th day of 2023. There are 188 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On June 26, 1945, the charter of the United Nations was signed by 50 countries in San Francisco.

On this date

In 1917, the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force deployed to France during World War I landed in St. Nazaire.

In 1925, Charles Chaplin's classic comedy "The Gold Rush" premiered at Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

In 1948, the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city's residents, declaring: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).

In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tennessee. Elvis Presley performed his last concert at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush went back on his "no-new-taxes" campaign pledge, conceding that tax increases would have to be included in any deficit-reduction package worked out with congressional negotiators.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced the U.S. had launched missiles against Iraqi targets because of "compelling evidence" Iraq had plotted to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush.

In 1996, the Supreme Court ordered the Virginia Military Institute to admit women or forgo state support.

In 1997, the first Harry Potter novel, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" by J.K. Rowling, was published in the United Kingdom (it was later released in the United States under the title "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone").

In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a handgun ban in the District of Columbia as it affirmed, 5-4, that an individual right to gun ownership existed.

In 2020, after protesters in Washington, D.C., attempted to pull down a statue of Andrew Jackson, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to protect monuments, memorials and statues.

Ten years ago: In deciding its first cases on the issue, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the nation's legally married gay couples equal federal footing with all other married Americans and also cleared the way for same-sex marriages to resume in California. New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested in the shooting death of Odin Lloyd; Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder. Seven-time champion Roger Federer was stunned by 116th-ranked Sergiy Stakhovsky in the second round of Wimbledon; third-seeded Maria Sharapova was knocked out by the 131st-ranked qualifier, losing to Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal.

Five years ago: A sharply divided Supreme Court upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries; dissenting Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the court was making a historic mistake by refusing to recognize that the ban discriminates against Muslims. Joe Crowley of New York, the fourth-ranking House Democrat, lost a primary to 28-year-old liberal activist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. General Electric Co. was removed from the Dow Jones industrial average, where it had been an original component in 1896; it was replaced by the Walgreens drugstore chain.

One year ago: Opening a summit in Germany, President Joe Biden and Western allies were intent on keeping economic fallout from the war in Ukraine from fracturing the

global coalition working to punish Russia's aggression. Britain's Boris Johnson warned fellow leaders not to give in to "fatigue" even as Russia fires missiles at Kyiv. In the U.S., parades celebrating LGBTQ pride kicked off in some of America's biggest cities amid new fears about the potential erosion of freedoms won through decades of activism. The annual marches in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and elsewhere took place after at least one Supreme Court justice signaled, in that week's ruling on abortion, that the court could reconsider the right to same-sex marriage recognized in 2015. A U.S. Navy destroyer that engaged a superior Japanese fleet in the largest sea battle of World War II in the Philippines became the deepest wreck ever discovered, according to explorers.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 89. Actor Josef Sommer is 89. Singer Billy Davis Jr. is 85. Rock singer Georgie Fame is 80. Actor Clive Francis is 77. R&B singer Brenda Holloway is 77. Actor Michael Paul Chan is 73. Actor Robert Davi is 72. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 68. Actor Gedde Watanabe is 68. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 67. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 66. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 64. U.S. Bicycling Hall of Famer Greg LeMond is 62. Country musician Eddie Perez (The Mavericks) is 55. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 54. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 53. Actor Sean Hayes is 53. Actor Matt Letscher is 53. Actor Chris O'Donnell is 53. Actor Nick Offerman is 53. Actor Rebecca Budig is 50. Baseball Hall of Famer Derek Jeter is 49. Contemporary Christian musician Jeff Frankenstein (Newsboys) is 49. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 49. Rock musician Nathan Followill (Kings of Leon) is 44. Pop-rock singer-musician Ryan Tedder (OneRepublic) is 44. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 43. Actor Aubrey Plaza is 39. Actor-singer Jennette McCurdy is 31. Actor-singer Ariana Grande is 30.

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.

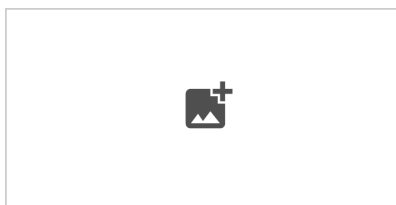
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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