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# Connecting

June 27, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this June 27, 2023,

The essay by our colleague **Norm Abelson** in Monday's Connecting was one of the finest stories we've been privileged to publish – and if you didn't get a chance to read it, I hope you'll go back and do so.

We lead today's issue with comments of Norm's colleagues about this work.

AP Corporate Archives has been essential to Connecting since the outset of our newsletter. Expanding on what was published Monday, to name all six members of the team: Corporate Archives Director **Valerie Komor**, archivist **Francesca Pitaro**, photo editors **Kathleen Elliott** and **Julia Weeks** in New York, and assignment coordinators **Kathryn Bubien** and **Katherine O'Mara** in London.

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

Paul

## Hurried century



**Norm Abelson, an inveterate collector, checks out part of his Disney collection.**

[Jim Carlson](#) - I found a definite link between the excellent essay by Norm Abelson and the Denver Post report on its decision to stop allowing viewer commenting on its website.

Call it ageism, but I have always advocated for newspapers to encourage letters to the editor. It's a form of commenting that has seen a drastic decline, despite my email pokes at the editors here in Milwaukee. But it still survives in limited form.

The main thing: writing such a letter requires knowledge, comprehension, thought and the ability to make a convincing case. Of course, there will be an editorial review before it gets published. That's to be expected.

The alternative of streaming comments opens the way for insults, rants and online fights to erupt in those comment sections, with no referees available. I find the only value on the rare occasions when I look at comments is that it gives some idea of public reaction to a story -- until it gets taken over and out of context.

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[Susan Clark](#) - I read your perspective and wanted to thank you for sharing your experiences. I am jealous of you having 20 grandchildren. I have 2 and wow they are in their own worlds.,

I am 78 and go to gym every day, I find it amazing that people of today , who are in their 50s and 60s, are unaware of so much. I am surprised by the lack of knowledge about certain things. The other night nobody knew exactly who Davy Crockett was! It was a reminder to me that we all come from so many different backgrounds.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts and experiences.

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[Denis Gray](#) - Absolutely beautiful essay by Norm. Sharing it with older non--AP friends.

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[Nolan Kienitz](#) - What a superb article by Norm Abelson. His perspective is simply: SPOT ON !!

I've shared with many (also retired) friends of mine and they have already replied with positive input.

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[Andy Lippman](#) – in a note to Norm:

Your well written piece brought to mind a song in the Broadway musical: "The Roar of the Greasepaint....."

Cyril Ritchard who plays the officious "Cocky" is playfully recalling the "Good Old Days" and concludes:

"Ah, but why think of May in November  
"When December is all that you'll get.

"And while there are beautiful things to remember  
"The ugly things. One should forget."

Your piece captures the essence of recalling the good, the bad and the ugly."

And as Maurice Chevalier might have sung in "Gigi" on TMC: "Ah, yes. I remember it well."

Thanks for sharing. You still got the touch.

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**Chris Sullivan** - Norm Abelson's fine Connecting essay on the warp-speed pace of life these days and with it the lost chance to reflect reminded me of a story that Ted Anthony wrote to kick off an AP series assessing the 20th century (as we prepared to turn the calendar to 2000). Twenty-three years ago, the piece titled 'Hurried Century' opened from inside the patrol car of a state trooper clocking speeders on an interstate. Then Ted observed:

*"Stop and smell the roses? No more. Instead, better wake up and smell the coffee. What an exhilarating, exhausting world we've created in our haste to create a world we can manage. A world of seven-day diets and 24-hour news channels and one-hour photo processing and 30-minute pizza delivery and 10-minute facials and two-minute warnings and Minute Rice.*

*Fast food. Fast computers. Fast cars in fast lanes. (Or, if you prefer, rapid transit.) And Nestle Quik and Quik Marts and quick-cut commercials. A superhero faster than a speeding bullet and a bullet train faster than a speeding car. ... Sound bites and the rat race and instant coffee and microwave popcorn and radio stations that make a breathless promise: 'You give us 22 minutes, we'll give you the world.' ...*

*Get rich quick. Get fast-tracked. Get your 15 minutes of fame. Live fast, die young, leave a good-looking corpse. Run on empty. Just do it."*

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**Kevin Walsh** – in a note to Norm:

Your essay in today's Connecting was one of the most thoughtful, beautifully written "reflections" that I've read in some time.

I shared it with a good friend, who said, "What a beautiful and thoughtful commentary on the progress of life."

Others said, "An eloquent reminder of what living life fully truly means." And "Well written, thought provoking and much to reflect on."

I'm not sure I had the good fortune to talk with you during my 31 years with the AP. I very much enjoyed getting to know you through your essay.

## More on Charles Kelly's overlines

[Harry Cabluck](#) - Regarding Peggy Walsh's memories of the humanely humorous Charlie Kelly and Gary Gardiner's recalling of photo overlines... some called them "kickers."

Charley once recalled the kicker for a photo from a Buffalo hockey game where the goalie was shown frozen in the crease as an opposition power play was approaching to score. The kicker, "Buffalo Goalie, Won't You Come Out Tonight." Charlie also claimed there was a cheer from an Austin-Peay basketball game where a team member was nicknamed "The Fly." The cheer, as soon as his team took the offense was, "Our Fly is open, our fly is open...Go Peay! Go Peay."

It was a personal challenge to come up with a kicker while souping the print in the darkroom. There's enough time while one rocks the tray back and forth for about two minutes to see the image developing. The letters IRATE popped out in plenty of time to make it easy to finish the caption before the print was dry enough to transmit.

## A special day – June 26, 2023

[Valerie Komor](#) - On this day, 61 years ago, Horst Faas and Peter Arnett both arrived in Saigon to join bureau chief Mal Browne.

And 17 years ago, AP hosted a reunion of Saigon bureau staff in New York.

## Hummingbird – don't fly away...

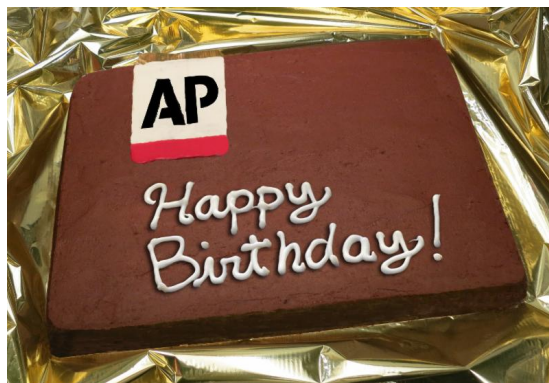


Our colleague [Nick Ut](#) captured and shared this image of a hummingbird at Kenneth Park in Los Angeles, and Ye Olde Connecting Editor can't help but share the lyrics of Seals and Crofts' 1973 classic song by that name:

Oh hummingbird  
Mankind was waiting for you to come flying along  
Heavenly songbird  
We were so wrong we've harmed you  
Oh hummingbird  
Lend us your wings  
Let us soar  
In the atmosphere of Abha  
Lift us up  
To the heaven of holiness  
Oh source of our being  
Oh humming... bird  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
In you I've found a fragrance  
I'll love 'til I die

I just love you love you love you  
I don't even know the reason why  
Now  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
The sweetness of your nectar  
Has drawn me like a fly  
I just love you love you love you  
I don't even know the reason why  
Now  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Haven't you noticed the days?  
Somehow keep getting longer  
And the spirit voices whisper in us all  
Haven't you noticed the rays?  
The spirit Sun is stronger  
And a new day is dawning  
For us all  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Alas here comes the gardner  
He's come to till the flowers  
The draught of understanding  
Wisdom peace and love is ours  
Now  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away  
Hummingbird don't fly away fly away

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Andy Alexander](#)

[John Daniszewski](#)

[Mike Holmes](#)

## [Ed Williams](#)

# Stories of interest

## ***Newsmax Staffers Hit With Subpoenas in 2020 Election Defamation Suit*** (Rolling Stone)

By DIANA FALZONE

DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS' defamation lawsuit against Fox News laid bare how the network communicated behind the scenes about broadcasting 2020 election misinformation, ultimately leading the network to fork over a massive settlement. Newsmax could be next, as voting-technology company Smartmatic has subpoenaed several of the right-wing cable network's current and former employees for work and personal correspondence.

Several Newsmax insiders, who spoke with Rolling Stone under a condition of anonymity due to a fear of reprisal, said that roughly three weeks ago they were told to hand over "mirror images of their personal cellphone, personal email, and iCloud," as Smartmatic's lawsuit against the network moves forward.

Smartmatic's attorney J. Erik Connolly, managing chair of the litigation practice group at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan, & Aronoff, LLC, tells Rolling Stone: "Smartmatic intends to pursue discovery from the current and former Newsmax employees who participated in the egregious disinformation campaign against the company. Some of the discovery has come, and will come, from the company. Smartmatic is pursuing these individuals to get the rest. Our complaint does not numerically specify the amount of damages we have suffered."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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## ***A quick rundown of the top issues facing Danielle Coffey, now three weeks in as the new CEO of the News/Media Alliance*** (Editor and Publisher)

Episode 194 of "E&P Reports" - A Vodcast series hosted by Mike Blinder

Danielle Coffey's first few weeks as the News/Media Alliance (NMA) chief executive were anything but "business as usual." After being appointed the new president and CEO of this leading trade organization, representing over 2,000 news and magazine



media outlets worldwide, some of the most critical issues and advocacy concerning Western news media's future required immediate attention.

That list includes Gannett's recent stand-alone antitrust filing against Google; Canada's final passage of the Canadian Journalism Compensation Bill, which will require big-tech companies like Google & Facebook to pay news organizations for the content they monetize; and how this may impact the U.S. Congress passing laws that would offer similar compensation to American news outlets.

In addition, the congressional support of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act (LJSA) has reemerged — legislation that would help fund local journalism via tax incentives to publishers for salaries, businesses who invest in advertising support and even the news consumers for any fees or subscriptions, paid to access the content created by local newsrooms.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Fox News unveils primetime lineup with Jesse Watters in Tucker Carlson's former time slot*** (AP)

By The Associated Press

Jesse Watters will fill the Fox News Channel time slot left vacant by the firing of Tucker Carlson, part of a dramatic revamp of the network's evening lineup announced on Monday.

Greg Gutfeld's late-night show that combines news and comedy will move up an hour to start at 10 p.m. Eastern, displacing Laura Ingraham. She'll shift to 7 p.m., the hour that Watters has occupied. Sean Hannity will stay in his 9 p.m. time slot, Fox said. The new lineup debuts on July 17.

The announcement comes roughly two months after Fox News fired Carlson shortly after settling a defamation lawsuit with the voting machine maker Dominion Voting Systems on the eve of trial. The case, which centered on the network's airing of false claims following the 2020 presidential election, exposed a trove of private messages sent between Fox hosts, including Hannity and Carlson, in which they criticized peers at the network.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Former CNN executive David Bohrman, pioneer of the 'Magic Wall,' dead at 69*** (CNN)

**By Juliana Liu**

David Bohrman, a former veteran CNN producer and executive who pioneered the use of the “Magic Wall,” died Sunday following complications after hip surgery, according to his family. He was 69.

Bohrman, a native of Hollywood, California, had a long and storied career in television, starting in local news in Los Angeles. He joined CNN in 1998 and later became the network’s Washington bureau chief and senior vice president.

“David was a CNN institution, a leader and innovator who mentored many through decades in television news,” a CNN spokesperson said in a statement.

“His impact at CNN lives on in our programming and his passion for news will be felt in our halls every day.”

Bohrman was the creator of countless news programs, having also spent chapters of his career at ABC News, CBS News, NBC News and serving as president of Current TV. He was known for his innovative approach to producing, which garnered him many awards.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - June 27, 2023



**By The Associated Press**

**Today is Tuesday, June 27, the 178th day of 2023. There are 187 days left in the year.**

### **On this date**

In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.

In 1880, author-lecturer Helen Keller, who lived most of her life without sight or hearing, was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

In 1942, the FBI announced the arrests of eight Nazi saboteurs put ashore in Florida and Long Island, New York. (All were tried and sentenced to death; six were executed while two were spared for turning themselves in and cooperating with U.S. authorities.)

In 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg (SHEHR'-boorg) from the Germans.

In 1950, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling on member nations to help South Korea repel an invasion from the North.

In 1957, Hurricane Audrey slammed into coastal Louisiana and Texas as a Category 4 storm; the official death toll from the storm was placed at 390, although a variety of state, federal and local sources have estimated the number of fatalities at between 400 and 600.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon opened an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first Black jurist to sit on the nation's highest court, announced his retirement. (His departure led to the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas to succeed him.)

In 2005, BTK serial killer Dennis Rader pleaded guilty to 10 murders that had spread fear across Wichita, Kansas, beginning in the 1970s.

In 2006, a constitutional amendment to ban desecration of the American flag died in a Senate cliffhanger, falling one vote short of the 67 needed to send it to states for ratification.

In 2011, former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) was convicted by a federal jury in Chicago on a wide range of corruption charges, including the allegation that he'd tried to sell or trade President Barack Obama's U.S. Senate seat. (Blagojevich was later sentenced to 14 years in prison; his sentence was commuted by President Donald Trump in February 2020.)

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its strongest defense of abortion rights in a quarter-century, striking down Texas' widely replicated rules that sharply reduced abortion clinics.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS - Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 85. Singer-musician Bruce Johnston (The Beach Boys) is 81. Fashion designer Vera Wang is 74. Actor Julia Duffy is 72. Actor Isabelle Adjani is 68. Country singer Lorrie Morgan is 64. Actor Brian Drillinger is 63. Writer-producer-director J.J. Abrams is 57. Former Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., is 55. Olympic gold and bronze medal figure skater Viktor Petrenko is 54. Latin singer Draco Rosa is 54. Actor Edward "Grapevine" Fordham Jr. is 53. TV personality Jo Frost is 53. Actor Yancey Arias is 52. Actor Christian Kane is 51. Actor Tobey Maguire is 48. Gospel singer Leigh Nash is 47. Christian rock singer Zach Williams is 45. Musician Chris Eldridge (Punch Brothers) is 41. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian is 39. Actor Drake Bell is 37. Actor Sam Claflin is 37. Actor India de Beaufort is 36. Actor Ed Westwick is 36. Actor Matthew Lewis (Film: "Harry Potter"; TV: "Ripper Street") is 34.

Actor Madylin Sweeten is 32. Pop singer Lauren Jauregui (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 27. R&B singer H.E.R. is 26. Actor Chandler Riggs is 24.

## 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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