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Connecting

July 3, 2023

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2022 Photo by Julio Cortez (Associated Press)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this July 3, 2023,

“Born on the Fourth of July” – a phrase from the song “Yankee Doodle Dandy” that was part of a Broadway musical by George M. Cohan – has special meaning to one of our Connecting colleagues (and probably more).

Chris Lehourites, AP’s Deputy International Sports Editor based in London, was born July 4, 1970, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to Octavia and Charles Lehourites. “My mother was born in Greece,” said the 26-year AP veteran. “They are in Greece right now for the summer, up in the small village in the mountains where she was born.

“I have always loved being born on the 4th because it’s a day people have fun ... cookouts, beach, warm summer nights, and fireworks!

“I never worked on my birthday until I was sent to London by the AP. Not only is it not a holiday here, but it almost always falls during Wimbledon or the World Cup, and I have been at one or the other every summer since I arrived here 18 years ago.”

The Wimbledon tennis tournament opens today in London – and guess who will be working for his 19th straight birthday.



I know of another of our colleagues, **Mike Stewart**, AP Regional Photo Editor-South, is a Fourth of July baby - and there may be more of you out there also born on the Fourth. If so, send me a brief story and photo and I'll include in Wednesday's edition.

Today’s issue brings you the latest listing of colleagues who are 100, in their 90s and in their 80s – and one of them in the 90s category would welcome a note:

That’s our 96-year-old colleague **Gene Herrick**, who covered the Korean War and Civil Rights Movement as an AP photographer. You can reach him through his companion **Kitty Hylton** at - kshylton@jetbroadband.com “Thank you for thinking of him,” Kitty said. “He will be 97 on the 26th of July and is doing fairly well. Have a safe and happy 4th of July.”

Have a safe and happy Fourth – Connecting will return to your mailbox Wednesday morning.

Paul

Thanks to Adolphe Bernotas, retiring after 58 years in Guild

Marc Humbert – in a note to Adolphe, following Friday’s Connecting story on his Guild service:

You have the thanks of a grateful (mini-) nation. You were always our cheerleader and our protector. Couldn’t ask for a better rep. So, thank you.

-0-

Larry Margasak - Adolphe, so many owe you so much. Every dollar bill ever earned by AP staffers under the Guild contract should have your picture on it. Solidarity Forever and thank you.

-0-

Bruce Richardson - I’m happy to say that I count Adolphe Bernotas as one of my friends even though he and I sat on opposite sides of the table at many, many contract negotiations, grievances and arbitrations beginning in the 80s.

We also spent several New Year Eves together as the Guild contract at one time had a December 31 expiration date. I can’t remember how many of those happened, but I know that my late wife kept track because I was in NYC and she was home with the kids in New Jersey.

Despite our differences, we did make some changes for the good of the staff.

I know that the union is missing a true friend. In later years, it was always good to see Adolphe and other union officials at the annual 25-year alumni dinner.

-0-

Nancy Shulins - Lavas rytas and sveikinu jus isejus j pensija — good morning and congratulations on retirement — to my old friend and fellow Lithuanian, Adolphe Bernotas, who, as a seasoned AP newsman in Concord, helped save me from myself on countless occasions during my newbie days as a Montpelier staffer.

As one of the many you mentored in “the delights, inconsistencies and wonders of English,” I think of you fondly whenever I read about firefighters battling a blaze, inanimate objects suffering damage, and opposing sides hammering out 11th-hour agreements.

Because of you, I developed an ear for turgid prose early on. I also became a proud member of the Guild. I agree with your wife wholeheartedly: You have paid your dues and then some. Thank you for all of it. Geriausi linkejimai, Adolphe. Best wishes.

-0-

David Tirrell-Wysocki - Here is a note I sent to my friend Adolphe Bernotas. We still refer to each other by initials from our AP carryover note greetings and sign-offs.

AVB,

Congrats on your second retirement and for all the work you have done on your colleagues' behalf since I was in junior high (sorry).

In addition to benefiting from your guild activities, the result of our working together in Concord for 29 years imprinted many official and unofficial journalism/writing terms and slogans I still use.

A favorite:

"When in doubt, leave it out!"

In your list of activities, you neglected to mention that you were an aerobics instructor, with George H.W. Bush doing jumping jacks next to you during one presidential primary season. Talk about an imprinted image!

Thanks for continuing to organize our monthly "old farts" journo lunches. It is so nice to stay in touch with folks whose character, humor and friendships were developed on deadline.

DEW

Kabul, Capital of Afghanistan's Tragic Symmetry



Kathy Gannon at work in the fall of 2001, when the heavy, anti-Taliban coalition bombing of Kabul drove her into the basement of the Associated Press house in the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood of Kabul. —Dimitri Messinis, AP

**By Kathy Gannon
For Policy Magazine**

My relationship with Kabul evolved over more than three decades when Afghanistan was my regular work commute from my home, first in Peshawar and then in Islamabad, nearly 500 kilometres to the east. As correspondent and then news director for the Associated Press in Pakistan and Afghanistan, I watched Kabul change, grow and accommodate the cultural, political and social pendulum swings from regime to regime as its people adapted to a succession of new realities, often imposed from outside, with little to no understanding of Afghans or Afghanistan.

The Kabul of 2021 following the Taliban's return had a surreal feel about it. I had been in Kabul often when the Taliban last ruled Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001. And in August, 2021, as I sat in a government office once again occupied by Taliban officials — most of them wearing the traditional turban and all wearing the bushy beard — I was struck by the tragic symmetry of Afghanistan's history, one closely linked to mine.

The Kabul of 2021 bore only a passing resemblance to the sleepy city the Taliban had fled two decades earlier. Back then, barely a few hundred thousand people lived in the Afghan capital and the traffic was mostly bicycles and beat-up, old yellow taxis. Vast swaths of the city were in ruins, destroyed by warring mujahedeen groups, who had turned their guns on each other after taking power from the Moscow-backed communist government in 1992. They were ousted by the Taliban in 1996.

Read more [here](#). [Kathy](#), retired AP news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, is a Connecting colleague.

Dan Haney's Koala picture

[Claude Erbsen](#) - Dan Haney's koala image in Friday's Connecting reminds me of something the late long-time Sidney COB Peter O'Loughlin told me a couple of decades ago.

"They are so cute," he said "because they are permanently stoned out of their minds thanks to the narcotic content of their eucalyptus leaves."

Cute they are, but they can be mean as hell when disturbed and their sharp claws can inflict considerable damage. Definitely not petting zoo candidates.

Celebrating 20th year in the ministry

[Amy Lignitz Harken](#) - Greetings from a former AP Staffer. June 29 was the 20th anniversary of my ordination to ministry, and Ye Ole Connecting Editor and my former COB Paul Stevens thought you might appreciate an update.

The seven years I spent with the AP and the dedicated colleagues alongside whom I worked were immeasurably important in the years that followed. There was Carl Hilliard (DEN), who told this neophyte staffer writing up a sentencing story that he didn't know what "conjugal visit" meant and I needed to call the court and ask; TOP correspondent Lew Ferguson urging in his Oklahoma drawl as deadline approached, "Let's whip this pony home!"; and the newly retired Margaret "Key" Stafford, the unflappable rock of KAN — and so many others.

My ministry path started out the usual way: a couple years as an associate minister in a big church, followed by five years as senior minister at a slightly smaller church. Instead of going on to serve larger and larger churches — in the way many pastors aspire — my churches have been increasingly small. I think it's because I'm concerned about the way we human beings communicate — or not — with each other. In large settings, how we interface gets lost or hides in the folds of organizational charts, power hierarchies, politics, scapegoating, and group-think. In a small setting, it's harder to hide.

My current ministry is mostly helping churches in transition, and communication is key. Both inside and outside church settings, I see my work as helping people share themselves — their experiences, ideas, opinions, stories, hopes, etc. — with others, and accepting each other for who they are. This involves creating honest, non-judgmental spaces where people can speak their truth. Even in church, this is a radical thing. My dream is if human beings can connect in healthful ways on a small scale, there's hope for humankind on the global scale.

I'll repeat an offer I made last fall. If any journalist struggling in these difficult times needs an empathetic ear, I'm here to listen. E-mail me at lignitzharken@yahoo.com

Turning 80 ... with a little help from his family



Mort Rosenblum - Here's the official portrait of my birthday bash on the Amalfi coast. It turns out you can still tie your shoes, not say “malarky” and speak fairly complete sentences after the dreaded 8-0. The whole beloved gang showed up from America, from my big sister, Jane Kay, to little Belle, barely toddling. Love 'em all dearly. (EDITOR’S NOTE: Mort turned 80 on June 12, but noted his birthday bash was delayed for logistical reasons.)

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER
**AP sets authoritative tone in Titanic
submersible coverage**



AP journalists followed the sun and worked across regions and formats to document the saga of the missing Titan submersible for a week of nonstop coverage that broke news, offered smart enterprise and analysis, live updates, chunky explainers, graphics, live and produced video content, radio pieces and a comprehensive photo report.

A report that a deep-ocean submersible was missing near the North Atlantic site of the Titanic was confirmed early in the week by a small group of AP reporters. What came next was a marathon of coverage that spanned nearly every hour of the day for the rest of the week, with the world waiting as 96 hours of breathable air inside the submersible would have been slipping away.

Toronto correspondent Rob Gillies first confirmed the news Monday and Concord, New Hampshire, newswoman Holly Ramer began researching — soon discovering that Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, had written about the submersible company in 2021. Finley offered sources and background as Ramer called the company's advisor, who gave AP the first information about how much oxygen the submersible had and when it might run out. AP broke the news of the 96-hour timeline, a moment that set off a ticking clock for a rescue that was watched around the world.

Patrick Whittle in Portland began on Tuesday morning by going through his vast network of oceanic sources. Across the globe, Jon Gambrell, Jennifer McDermott, Lolita Baldor, Mark Pratt, Steve LeBlanc, Gene Johnson, David Sharp, Mike Casey, Ed Komenda, Danica Kirka, Munir Ahmed, Stefanie Dazio, Leon Ramirez and others began working various angles that would keep our wires busy with sidebars for days..

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

India team delivers compelling, all-format coverage of grueling heatwave



When nearly 170 people died across two northern Indian states in a scorching heatwave, a team of AP journalists made the organization the first among international media outlets to file the news.

The heatwave struck India's two most populous states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar over the weekend and into Monday.

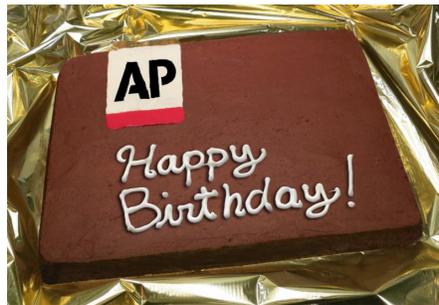
AP reporter Biswajeet Banerjee in Uttar Pradesh sent in the first story on Saturday when at least 34 people had died as the state sweltered under the severe heat. Newsperson Aijaz Hussein worked with Banerjee to file the story quickly, and the two of them — with inputs from Indrajeet Singh in Bihar — followed up with an update on Sunday, when 96 people had died across both states. Nearly 170 people had died by Monday evening.

Video journalist Piyush Nagpal and photojournalist Rajesh Kumar Singh were already in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur district for a feature on heat commissioned by the Climate team when this news came in. Chief photographer Manish Swarup quickly reacted and made the decision to deploy them to Ballia district, the epicenter of the crisis.

The smart planning and quick coordination paid off: By Monday morning, Nagpal and Singh were on the ground in Ballia after a grueling car journey of 800 kilometers that took all night. Once there, they worked through the searing heat to file powerful video and photos that depicted a grim situation. The visuals showed overwhelmed health workers and a hospital struggling to accommodate the rising number of sick residents being wheeled in on stretchers.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Tuesday to...

[Chris Lehourites](#)

[Mike Stewart](#)

Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

100s:

Fred Hoffman

90s:

Norm Abelson

Malcolm Barr

Henry Bradsher

Hal Buell

Joseph Carter

Albert Habhab

George Hanna

**Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Gene Lahammer
Joe McGowan
Charlie Monzella
Bob Petsche
Arlon Southall
Lou Uchitelle
Sal Veder
Doris Webster
Joe Young
Arnold Zeitlin**

80s:

**Hank Ackerman
Paul Albright
Rachel Ambrose
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Frank Aukofer
Jim Bagby
Myron Belkind
Ed Bell
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Brian Bland
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ed Breen
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Ford Burkhart
Harry Cabluck**

Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Norm Clarke
Steve Crowley
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Mike Doan
Bob Dobkin
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Dodi Fromson
Joe Galu
Bill Gillen
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Jerry Harkavy
Paul Harrington
Mike Harris
Chick Harrity
Merrill Hartson
Monte Hayes
Jerry Jackson
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude
Edie Lederer
Carl Leubsdorf
Jim Limbach
Bruce Lowitt
David Liu
Jim Luther
Larry Margasak
John Marlow

Dave Mazzarella
Chuck McFadden
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Karren Mills
Peggy Mooney
Bill Morrissey
Harry Moskos
Ron Mulnix
Bruce Nathan
Greg Nokes
Larry Paladino
Jay Perkins
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Mort Rosenblum
Denis Searles
Richard Shafer
Susanne Shaw
Mike Short
Victor Simpson
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Karol Stonger
Mark Thayer
Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jeffrey Ulbrich
Jack Walker
Mike Waller
Bob Walsh
Dean Wariner
Don Waters
Lew Wheaton
Jeff Williams

Byron Yake
Johnny Yost
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

CBS SUNDAY MORNING: Extra! New strategies for survival by South Carolina newspapers



Pierre Manigault, chairman of Evening Post Industries, which owns the Charleston Post and Courier, with "Sunday Morning" senior contributor Ted Koppel. CBS NEWS

By TED KOPPEL

The historic city of Charleston, South Carolina is home to the oldest daily newspaper in the South. Back in the days of the Louisiana Purchase, when Napoleon was making news, it was reported in the Charleston Courier. These days Pierre Manigault owns the paper (what is now called the Post and Courier) that was begun 221 years ago.

He's the latest in a long line: his great-grandfather bought into it in 1896, making Pierre the fourth generation now to own the paper.

Koppel asked, "You haven't heard, Pierre, but newspapers are done. They're finished."

"I've heard the rumor!" he laughed.

But instead of cutting back, Manigault is bucking the trend: hiring more staff, expanding digitally across the state, and investing heavily in, of all things, a state-of-

the-art printing press. Family ownership means he can do, more or less, what he wants.

"Are you really in it any more to make money?" asked Koppel.

"No, no. The short answer to that is no," Manigault replied. "This is not the business to make money in. It once was, as you well know. These presses have printed money. But it's a different world."

One in which an estimated 70 million Americans now live in what's come to be known as a "news desert."

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

-0-

Photographer Ansel Adams and his legacy (CBS News)

Photographer Ansel Adams (1902-1984) created unparalleled images of the American West at a time when photography was not universally appreciated as a fine art. Today Adams is the most recognizable name in nature photography, and his landscapes have been acclaimed for their soulfulness. Correspondent Conor Knighton visits an exhibition on the artist's work, "Ansel Adams: In Our Time," currently on view at the de Young Museum in San Francisco; and visits Adams' home in Carmel, Calif., where his dark room has been preserved by his son, Michael Adams.

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

-0-

Heidi Stevens: The decimation of National Geographic — an imperfect witness to the world — disconnects us from each others' humanity (Tribune News Service)

Story by Heidi Stevens, Tribune News Service

National Geographic, the 135-year-old imperfect chronicler of the planet and its people, is shrinking to a shell of its former self.

The magazine laid off all its staff writers, eliminated its audio department and will no longer be sold on U.S. newsstands beginning next year, Washington Post media reporter Paul Farhi reports.

"The cutback — the latest in a series under owner Walt Disney Co. — involves some 19 editorial staffers in all, who were notified in April that these terminations were coming," Farhi writes. "Article assignments will henceforth be contracted out to freelancers or pieced together by editors."

The story is familiar, especially in 2023, a year of record media cuts. This year's layoffs are so far outpacing even 2020, when the onset of the pandemic eliminated tens of thousands of media jobs. Small outlets are disappearing. Big outfits are shrinking: The Los Angeles Times. NPR. The Athletic. The Washington Post.

"The magazine's current trajectory has been years in the making," Farhi writes, "set in motion primarily by the epochal decline of print and ascent of digital news and information. In the light-speed world of digital media, National Geographic has remained an almost artisanal product — a monthly magazine whose photos, graphics and articles were sometimes the result of months of research and reporting."

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

-0-

World's oldest national newspaper prints final edition after 320 years (Guardian)

By DONNA FERGUSON

The world's oldest national newspaper has printed its last daily edition almost 320 years after it began.

Wiener Zeitung, a Vienna-based daily newspaper, will no longer print daily editions after a recent law change meant it had ceased to be profitable as a print product.

The law, which was passed in April by Austria's coalition government, ended a legal requirement for companies to pay to publish public announcements in the print edition of the newspaper, terminating Wiener Zeitung's role as an official gazette.

This change resulted in an estimated €18m (£15m) loss of income for the publisher, according to Der Spiegel, and has forced the paper to cut 63 jobs, including reducing its editorial staff from 55 to 20.

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

-0-

Alito's Op-Ed Outlet Is A Favorite For Leaks From The Supreme Court's Conservatives (Huffington Post)

By Paul Blumenthal

When Justice Samuel Alito received questions from reporters at the nonprofit news site ProPublica about an Alaskan fishing trip the justice took and failed to disclose in 2008 that was paid for by billionaire hedge fund manager Paul Singer, he ran to the Wall Street Journal Opinion page to issue a "prebuttal."

Alito's op-ed was unusual. As ProPublica reporters Jesse Eisenger and Stephen Engelberg noted: It 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." It was also odd to see a newspaper open its pages to a government official for purposes of getting out ahead of another news outlet's story.

What made Alito's op-ed prebuttal unusual also made it conspicuous. Instead of deflecting stories of the court's dysfunction and ethical woes, Alito's choice of venue shined a light on the relationship between the conservative justices and the Journal's Opinion section, which is famous for its close relationship with the business-friendly GOP establishment.

"Justice Alito could have issued this as a statement on the SCOTUS website," Bill Grueskin, a former deputy managing editor at the Journal, told The New York Times in a piece about Alito's op-ed. "But the fact that he chose The Journal — and that the editorial page was willing to serve as his loyal factotum — says a great deal about the relationship between the two parties." (The news pages of the Journal, where Grueskin worked, are editorially separate from the editorial page.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Malcolm Ritter.

-0-

Fox ushers out Geraldo Rivera with tribute as he says he was fired from 'The Five' (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News ushered Geraldo Rivera off the air with cake and balloons on Friday, while he left with a timely reminder that his journalism career was a product of affirmative action.

Rivera said that Fox fired him from his regular perch on "The Five," and that he decided to leave the network as a result.

With his last two appearances on the afternoon political talk show apparently canceled, Rivera received a going-away party on the morning show "Fox & Friends," where he generally delivered commentary once a week.

"I feel very emotional and deeply moved," Rivera said following a tribute that included clips from his career and goodbye messages from the likes of Jesse Watters, Bret Baier, Sean Hannity and Jeanine Pirro.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Patriotism ... what is it really?

By **JIM SPEHAR**

The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colo.

When I sat down on Friday morning to write a hopefully patriotic Fourth of July column, the first words that came to mind were some unforgettable long ago thoughts from a local, my late friend, sometimes a supporter and sometimes an antagonist, Ralph D'Andrea.

"Patriot is what someone else should call you," I jotted down long ago after hearing or reading Ralph's words, "not something you should call yourself."

Someone more famous, at least to those of us of a certain age, put it a bit more eloquently.

"I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion," said Adlai Stevenson, "but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

So instead of celebrating a flag waving, hamburger and hot dog grilling, beer drinking, parade watching long four-day weekend, my own thoughts will wander down a slightly more twisted path. Befitting, perhaps, a sometimes jaded editorial page columnist with a little too much time in grade as both a participant and observer of politics.

Read more [here](#). Jim Spehar is a Connecting colleague.

Today in History - July 3, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 3, the 184th day of 2023. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe (en-TEH'-bee) Airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN'-dah) by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages.

On this date:

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1863, the pivotal three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1979, Dan White, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison. (White served only 5 years of his sentence and killed himself in October 1985.)

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan presided over a gala ceremony in New York Harbor that saw the relighting of the renovated Statue of Liberty.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 1996, Russians went to the polls to re-elect Boris Yeltsin president over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov (geh-NAH'-dee zhoo-GAH'-nahf), in a runoff.

In 2011, Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) won his first Wimbledon, beating defending champion Rafael Nadal 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

In 2020, speaking at the foot of Mount Rushmore on the eve of Independence Day, President Donald Trump asserted that protesters pushing for racial justice were engaging in a "merciless campaign to wipe out our history."

Ten years ago: Egypt's first democratically elected president, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military after just one year by the same kind of Arab Spring uprising that had brought the Islamist leader to power. The death toll rose to 16 from a United States drone strike on a militants camp in Pakistan's North Waziristan area. Pakistan condemned the strike as a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Five years ago: The Trump administration said it would not encourage schools to use race as a factor in the admissions process, rescinding guidance from the Obama era that was meant to promote diversity. Authorities in Indonesia called off a search for 164 missing people two weeks after the sinking of a ferry in Lake Toba. All were presumed dead. The bodies of three others were recovered, and 21 were rescued alive.

One year ago: A large chunk of a glacier in Italy's Alps broke loose, killing at least six hikers and injuring eight others. Hershel W. "Woody" Williams, the last remaining Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, was remembered at a memorial for his courage, humility and selflessness. U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin announced during the service that Williams would lie in state at the U.S. Capitol. Officials closed a Long Island beach to swimming after what they described as an unprecedented shark attack that injured a lifeguard.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 86. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 84. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 83. Attorney Gloria Allred is 82. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 80. Country singer Johnny Lee is 77. Humorist Dave Barry is 76. Actor Betty Buckley is 76. Actor Jan Smithers is 74. Actor Bruce Altman is 68. Talk show host Montel Williams is 67. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 65. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Depeche Mode, Yaz, Erasure) is 63. Actor Tom Cruise is 61. Actor Thomas Gibson is 61. Actor Hunter Tylo is 61. Actor Connie Nielsen is 59. Actor Yearley Smith is 59. TV chef Sandra Lee is 57. Singer Ishmael Butler is 54. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 54. Actor-singer Shawnee Smith is 54. Actor-singer Audra McDonald is 53. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 52. Actor Patrick Wilson is 50. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 48. Actor Andrea Barber is 47. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 47. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 45. Actor/comedian Julie Klausner is 45. Actor Elizabeth Hendrickson is 44. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 43. Actor Olivia Munn is 43. Actor Shoshannah Stern is 43. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 34. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 32.

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.

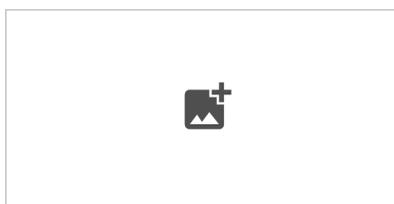


Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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