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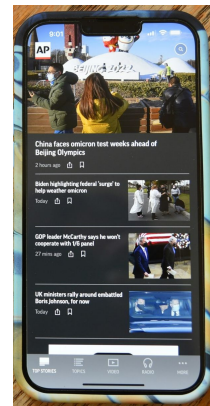
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# Connecting

July 5, 2023

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**Photo/Gary Hershorn**

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 5, 2023,

I hope you had a great and safe Fourth of July weekend.

The stunning photo above of a full Buck Moon rising in a haze behind the Statue of Liberty in New York City was taken Sunday by our colleague [Gary Hershorn](#), who is

deputy photo director for ABC News - with earlier photo work with Thomson Reuters, Reuters and United Press Canada. (For your information: he used Canon R10 Camera. 400mm lens. Iso 100. Shutter speed was 1/2 second and fstop was 7.1)

**VACATION RELIEF:** We will be in Northern California for the next few days. My friend **Peg Coughlin** will handle Connecting editor duties for Thursday and Friday editions, so please send your submissions to her at – [pcoughlin@ap.org](mailto:pcoughlin@ap.org)

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

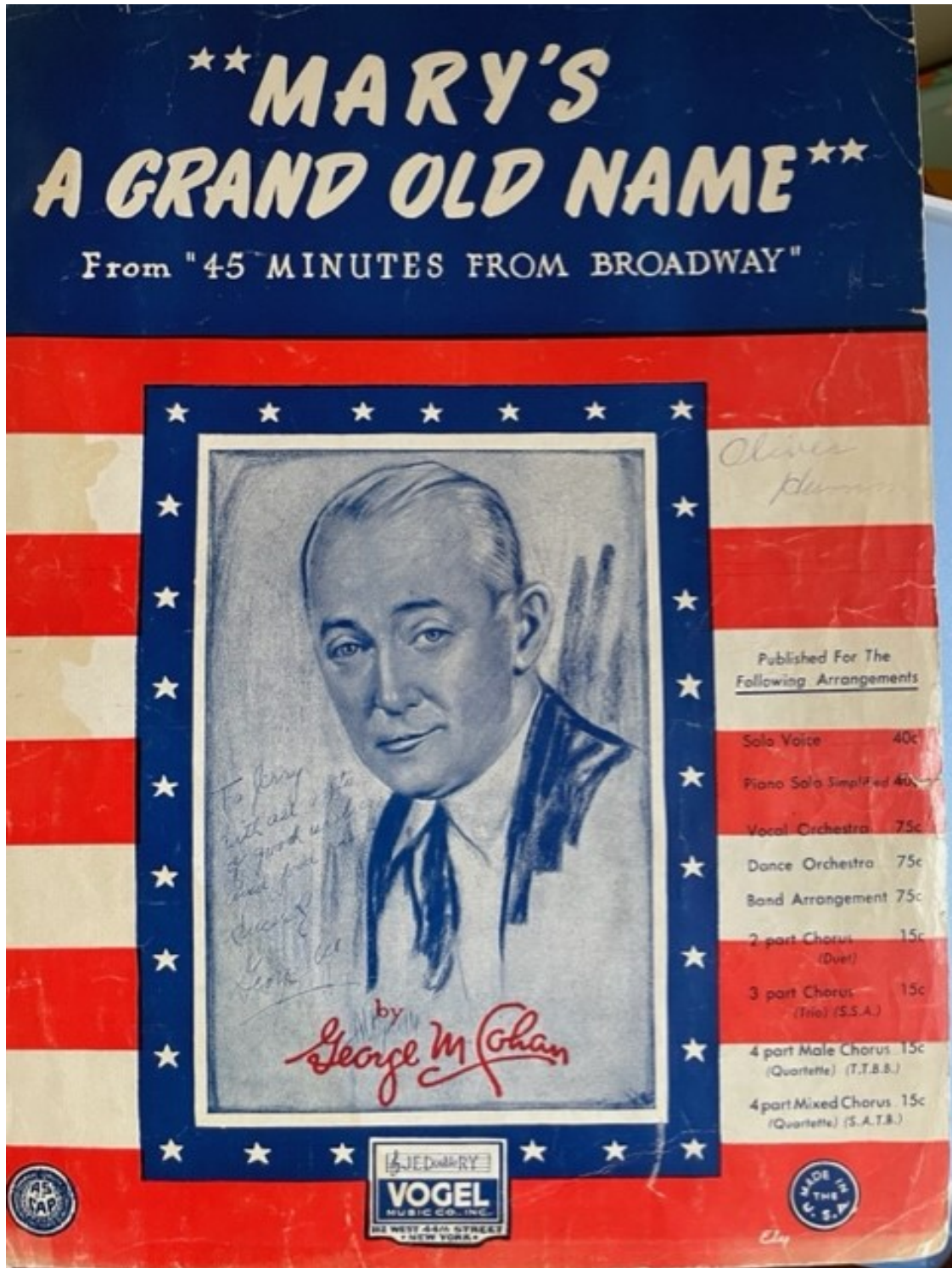
Paul

## On Wimbledon duty on his birthday on the Fourth of July



**Chris Lehourites** – AP deputy international sports editor – was covering the Wimbledon tennis tournament Tuesday on his birthday when he took a brief time out when presented by co-workers with a piece of carrot cake with a wooden coffee stirrer as a candle. “It was really nice of my co-workers to do that for me,” he said. Among the stories he covered on his birthday, **Princess Kate taking her seat** in the Royal Box, right next to retired champion Roger Federer.

# 'Born on the Fourth of July' – and family ties to George M. Cohan



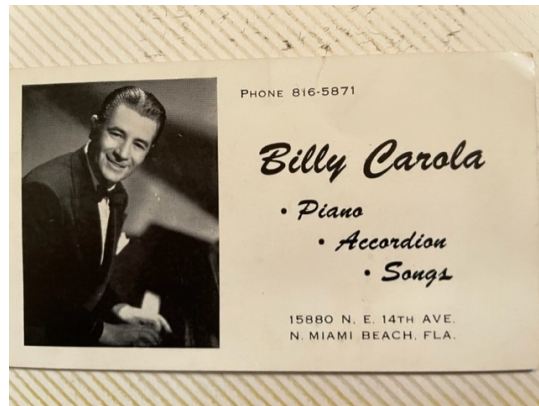
[Chris Carola](#) - Happy birthday to Chris Lehourites, AP's Deputy International Sports Editor based in London, and Mike Stewart, AP Regional Photo Editor-South in Atlanta and any other Connecting colleagues "Born on the Fourth of July."

As Paul Stevens noted in the lede item for Monday's Connecting, that's a phrase from the song "Yankee Doodle Dandy" that was included in a musical written and produced

by and starring George M. Cohan, who's considered the father of Broadway musicals.

Like Chris Lehourites, George M. was born in Rhode Island – on July 3, not the Fourth.

My family has a connection to George M.: our paternal grandfather, Brooklyn-born professional jazz musician Billy Carola, was married to Helen Cohan, one of George M. and Agnes Cohan's three children (the others were Mary and George Jr.).



Helen was Billy's third wife. His marriage to my father's mother, Andrea Ryan, of Mechanicville, N.Y., ended when my father was a boy. Andrea and Billy met around 1930, when Billy was the guitar and banjo player and crooner for a popular jazz band whose performances from hotel ballrooms and top-floor "Rainbow Rooms" were broadcast live over the radio by General Electric-owned WGY in Schenectady and WOR in Manhattan.

During his Albany years from the mid-1920s to the early '30s, Billy performed for then-governors Franklin D. Roosevelt and Al Smith, the first Catholic to run for president. We have a clipping from an Albany newspaper cartoon depicting Roosevelt next to a figure playing a guitar, with the words "FDR enjoyed Billy Carola's singing." Another clipping, this one an ad for a popular downtown Albany music avenue where Billy was a regular performer, touted him as "The Boy Of A Thousand Songs."

George M. Cohan Sr. died at 64 at his Manhattan apartment on Nov. 5, 1942, five months after the film "Yankee Doodle Dandy" was released. Our family believes Billy met Helen Cohan sometime in the 1940s.

During summers before he died, Billy would drive to upstate New York from the couple's home in Florida to visit my family, often playing solo gigs in restaurant piano bars on his return trip down the East Coast. Around that time, the three Cohan siblings each received a wirehaired terrier puppy from the same litter. They named the dogs Yankee, Doodle and Dandy.

Helen and Billy had Doodle. I can still remember Billy pulling up to our house one summer in his convertible Cadillac with the top down, Doodle sitting in the front passenger seat.

Helen and Billy remained married until his death in 1968. She died in 1996 in Los Angeles.

After I sent this story to Paul, my daughter and I headed to my mother's apartment. Joan Carola died June 26 at 88. My siblings and I have started the process of clearing out her apartment and going through her things.

In her bedroom is the upright piano that stood in the living room in our family home for decades, played mostly by our lawyer father, especially during large family gatherings. On the piano bench was a pile of files, the top one with the words "Photo

- George M Cohan Do Not Bend" and signed "JC" in my mother's handwriting. Inside was a black-and-white head shot of George M. Cohan.

*George M. Cohan's*  
**8 FAMOUS AMERICAN SONGS!**  
 ...as featured in the new  
 WARNER BROS. PICTURE  
**Yankee Doodle Dandy**  
 starring **JAMES CAGNEY**

- YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG**  
 You're a grand old flag, you're a high fly-ing flag; And for - ev - er, in
- YANKEE DOODLE BOY**  
 I'm a Yan-kee Doo-dle Dan - dy, A Yan - kee
- GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**  
 Give my re - gards to Broad - way, re - mem-ber me to Her - ald
- HARRIGAN**  
 H - A - dou-ble B - l - O - A - N agella Har - ri - gan.
- MARY'S A GRAND OLD NAME**  
 For it is Ma - ry, Ma - ry, plain as an - y name can be; But with pro -
- SO LONG MARY**  
 "So long, Ma - ry! Ma - ry, we will miss you so. So long, Ma - ry!
- FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FROM BROADWAY**  
 Co - ty for - ty - five minutes from Broad - way, Think of the chang - es it brings; For the
- I WAS BORN IN VIRGINIA**  
 I was born in Vir - gin - ia, That's the state that will win you;

PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS -- O - Orchestration  
 B - Band Arrangements  
 C - Chorus Arrangements

MADEHAYES  
**VOGEL**

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

**BUY UNITED STATES  
 WAR SAVINGS  
 BONDS AND STAMPS**

In another file was sheet music for a Cohan song from his 1906 musical, "45 Minutes From Broadway," reissued in 1942 to promote Warner Bros. Pictures' newly released "Yankee Doodle Dandy" starring James Cagney. The back cover lists the titles of Cohan's "8 Famous American Songs" performed by Cagney in the film.

I had never seen these files before. My mother had never mentioned them, even when we talked about Billy Carola and Helen Cohan.

Yesterday, the Fourth of July, I watched James Cagney on cable TV, singing and dancing his way through "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

By the way, on July 4, 2008, my story tracing the song's original lyrics to a colonial-era fort across the river from Albany was sent out on AP's national news wire. Click [here](#) to read.

## A vote of thanks to Adolphe Bernotas

[Malcolm Barr Sr.](#) - As president of the Wire Service Guild Local 222 at the time of the historic 1969 strike against The Associated Press, I also would like to pass along my vote of thanks to Adolphe Bernotas for his valuable support during the walkout. We never met, but I was aware of his presence at the time and grateful to him and those hundreds of AP newsmen and women who supported the strike.

Here is a note of a conversation I had a couple of years ago with Pentagon AP correspondent Fred Hoffman, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday (incidentally, I'm now catching up on him having celebrated my 90th last March!). Fred recognized my leadership during the strike (I had the AP's Justice Department beat at the time), saying to the effect that while the strike didn't bring all the gains we sought, the financial boost to his AP pension gave him that little bit of an edge to his finances that, when added to his other pensions, allowed him to live in relative comfort during these many years following his retirement. That statement made me look back on my activities with a certain amount of pride.

Thank you Fred, thank you Adolphe, and thanks to all the AP staffers of the day who followed me out to the picket lines.

## Hope other stores take up the challenge





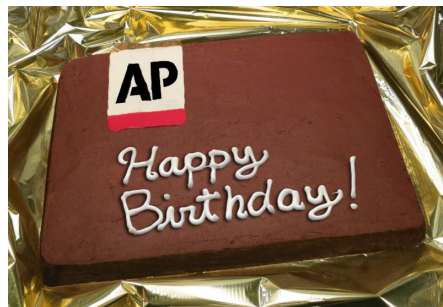
**Charlies Monzella** - While spending the Fourth of July on Cape Cod, I spotted this sign in a store in Truro. I hope other stores will take up the challenge.

## Connecting sky shot – Nebraska



[Mike Holmes](#) - Cherry County, Nebraska: 5,545 people; 166,000 cows; 3,845,760 acres.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jim Drinkard](#)

[Deb Martin](#)

[John Rogers](#)

# Stories of interest

## ***Judge limits Biden administration in working with social media companies*** (AP)

BY JIM SALTER

A judge on Tuesday prohibited several federal agencies and officials of the Biden administration from working with social media companies about “protected speech,” a decision called “a blow to censorship” by one of the Republican officials whose lawsuit prompted the ruling.

U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty of Louisiana granted the injunction in response to a 2022 lawsuit brought by attorneys general in Louisiana and Missouri. Their lawsuit alleged that the federal government overstepped in its efforts to convince social media companies to address postings that could result in vaccine hesitancy during the COVID-19 pandemic or affect elections.

Doughty cited “substantial evidence” of a far-reaching censorship campaign. He wrote that the “evidence produced thus far depicts an almost dystopian scenario. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a period perhaps best characterized by widespread doubt and uncertainty, the United States Government seems to have assumed a role similar to an Orwellian ‘Ministry of Truth.’ ”

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Kremlin open to talks over potential prisoner swap involving detained US reporter Evan Gershkovich*** (AP)

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin on Tuesday held the door open for contacts with the U.S. regarding a possible prisoner exchange that could potentially involve jailed Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, but reaffirmed that such talks must be held out of the public eye.

Asked whether Monday’s consular visits to Gershkovich, who has been held behind bars in Moscow since March on charges of espionage, and Vladimir Dunaev, a Russian citizen in U.S. custody on cybercrime charges, could potentially herald a prisoner swap, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Moscow and Washington have touched on the issue.

“We have said that there have been certain contacts on the subject, but we don’t want them to be discussed in public,” Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. “They must be carried out and continue in complete silence.”

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

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## ***Time Is Zooming By. Four Ways You Can Slow It Down***

(Wall Street Journal)

**By Elizabeth Bernstein**

Feel like time is moving faster than ever? You're in good company.

Stanford University behavioral scientist Jennifer Aaker was walking her dog with her father recently when she stopped suddenly. She told her dad that she had to turn back because she had work to do. The pair was four minutes into their daily stroll.

Dr. Aaker, who studies our perception of time, was just then working on research on how we can create beautiful moments in our day.

It's ironic, Dr. Aaker knows. "But the pace of life is insane these days."

Most of us feel as though time speeds up as we get older. But that feeling is happening to more people of all ages right now.

Scientists who study time perception cite our newfound busyness and the contrast with pandemic-lockdown life, when time felt abundant and every day was "Blursday." Another factor, they say, is our motivation to get things done—making up for lost time and navigating an increasingly tough work environment.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Vice bosses got bonuses while staff wait to get paid***

(Semafor)

**By MAX TANI**

Just weeks before Vice declared bankruptcy in May, the millennial media company paid performance bonuses to top-level executives.

The bonuses were part of the annual payouts executives at the company received based on performance in the previous year, according to two people with direct knowledge of the stipends. But the checks were written as the company was gearing up for potential bankruptcy — which means many rank and file staffers and freelancers weren't paid for work from April and May, and were furious to learn of the bosses' bonuses.

The company has continued to cut costs in other areas, including eliminating the messaging app Slack. On Thursday, an HR rep sent an email to staff saying that the

company will not be able to pay severance this month.

A spokesperson for Vice declined to comment, but the company has previously maintained that despite delays, it intends to pay staff and freelancers for work completed before the bankruptcy.

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

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## ***No One Can Stop Rupert Murdoch. That's Increasingly a Problem.*** (New York Times)

**By William D. Cohan**

*Mr. Cohan is the author of "Power Failure: The Rise and Fall of an American Icon."*

What do we make of Rupert Murdoch, the 92-year-old patriarch of the Fox Corporation, at this moment?

We are post-Trump I but possibly on the precipice of Trump II. We are past the whopping \$787.5 million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems but awaiting the denouement of a similar case brought by Smartmatic. We are past the departure of Tucker Carlson and his sky-high ratings, but we are still waiting to see how the new evening lineup will fare in the increasingly cutthroat world of partisan cable television news.

Where once upon a time kings controlled their empires through vast landholdings, armies and pledges of fealty, Mr. Murdoch controls his corporate empire through the ownership of a special class of stock that gives him the largest voting stakes in his two main companies, the Fox Corporation and News Corp, the parent company of The Wall Street Journal, Barron's and other media properties.

In 2017, more than 40 percent of the shareholders in one Murdoch company voted to end the dual-class stock structure. But it was not enough to force the change. "It's a corporate governance nightmare," said Nell Minow, the vice chair of ValueEdge Advisors, a corporate governance consultancy.

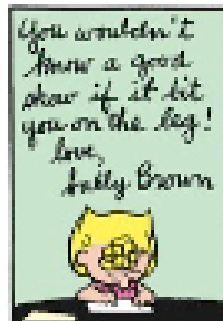
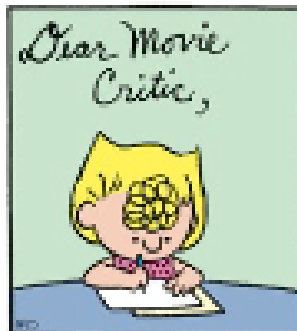
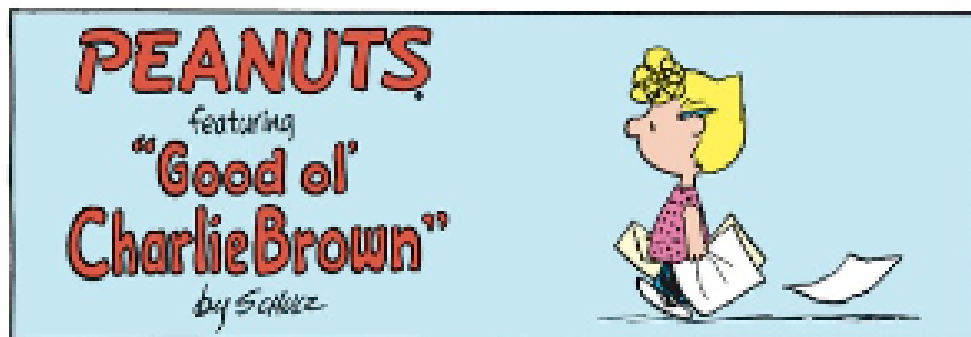
Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

## **The Final Word(s)**



Shared by Reed Saxon

# Peanuts by Charles Schulz



Shared by Len Iwanski

## Today in History - July 5, 2023



### By The Associated Press

**Today is Wednesday, July 5, the 186th day of 2023. There are 179 days left in the year.**

#### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 5, 1947, Larry Doby made his debut with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first Black player in the American League three months after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the National League.

#### **On this date:**

In 1687, Isaac Newton first published his Principia Mathematica, a three-volume work setting out his mathematical principles of natural philosophy.

In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

In 1865, the Secret Service Division of the U.S. Treasury Department was founded in Washington, D.C., with the mission of suppressing counterfeit currency.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act.

In 1940, during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke off diplomatic relations.

In 1943, the Battle of Kursk began during World War II; in the weeks that followed, the Soviets were able to repeatedly repel the Germans, who eventually withdrew in defeat.

In 1954, Elvis Presley's first commercial recording session took place at Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee; the song he recorded was "That's All Right."

In 1971, President Richard Nixon certified the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.



In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first Black man to win a Wimbledon singles title when he defeated Jimmy Connors.

In 1977, Pakistan's army, led by General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, seized power from President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZUL'-fih-kahr ah-LEE' BOO'-toh).

In 2008, Venus Williams won her fifth Wimbledon singles title, beating younger sister Serena in the final.

In 2011, a jury in Orlando, Florida, found Casey Anthony, 25, not guilty of murder, manslaughter and child abuse in the 2008 disappearance and death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee.

Ten years ago: Pope Francis cleared two of the 20th Century's most influential popes to become saints in the Roman Catholic church, approving a miracle needed to canonize Pope John Paul II and waiving Vatican rules to honor Pope John XXIII. Enraged Islamists pushed back against the toppling of President Mohammed Morsi, as tens of thousands of his supporters took to the streets vowing to win his reinstatement and clashed with their opponents in violence that killed some three dozen people.

Five years ago: Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt resigned amid ethics scandals that prompted more than a dozen federal and congressional investigations; deputy administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist, was named to take over as acting administrator. James Alex Fields Jr. pleaded not guilty to federal hate crime charges in a car attack on a crowd of protesters opposing a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Aug. 12, 2017; a 32-year-old woman died and dozens were injured. (Fields later pleaded guilty to 29 federal hate crime charges under a plea deal in which prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty.)

One year ago: Police said a gunman who attacked an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago, killing at least seven people, legally bought two high-powered rifles and three other weapons despite authorities being called to his home twice since 2019 after he threatened suicide and violence. A Georgia prosecutor investigating the conduct of former President Donald Trump and his allies after the 2020 election subpoenaed Lindsey Graham, Rudy Giuliani, and other members of Trump's campaign legal team to testify before a grand jury, marking a major escalation in the case.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-musician Robbie Robertson is 80. Julie Nixon Eisenhower is 75. Rock star Huey Lewis is 73. Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Rich "Goose" Gossage is 72. Singer-songwriter Marc Cohn is 64. Actor John Marshall Jones is 61. Actor Dorian Wilson is 61. Actor Edie Falco is 60. Actor Jillian Armenante is 59. Actor Kathryn Erbe is 58. Actor Michael Stuhlbarg is 55. Rapper RZA is 54. R&B singer Joe is 50. Rock musician Bengt Lagerberg (The Cardigans) is 50. Actor Dale Godboldo is 48. Rapper Bizarre is 47. Rapper Royce da 5'9" is 46. Rock singer Jason Wade (Lifehouse) is 43. Actor Ryan Hansen is 42. Country musician Dave Haywood (Lady A) is 41. Soccer player Megan Rapinoe is 38. Rock musician Nick O'Malley (Arctic Monkeys) is 38. Actor Jason Dolley is 32. California Angels pitcher and designated hitter Shohei Ohtani is 29.

# 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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