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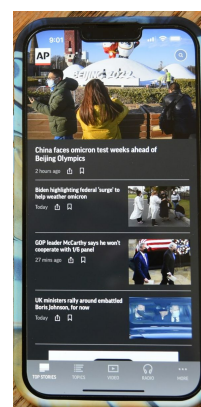
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Connecting

July 19, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 19, 2023,

Tuesday's front page of The Kansas City Star announced to Star readers that [Andale Gross](#), AP's race and ethnicity news editor based in Chicago, is the Star's new managing editor - the first Black managing editor in the newspaper's long history. Connecting brought you the news of his departure a week earlier when it was announced within AP.

We bring you the Star story and a photo from the Chicago bureau's farewell to Andale.

As you read today's edition, Ye Olde Connecting Editor will be behind the wheel, humming the tune of Marc Cohn's "[Walking in Memphis](#)" – with one refrain saying:

*Saw the ghost of Elvis
On Union Avenue
Followed him up to the gates of Graceland
Then I watched him walk right through
Now security they did not see him*

*They just hovered 'round his tomb
But there's a pretty little thing
Waiting for the King
Down in the Jungle Room*

While we're introducing two of our grandchildren (15 and 12) to Memphis and Graceland and all things Elvis, my friend and colleague **Peg Coughlin** takes the reins of Connecting for Thursday and Friday issues. So send your contributions to Peg at – pcoughlin@ap.org

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

Paul

Why is daily journalism in trouble? He asked his bot named Claude

Dave Tomlin - I am sampling an AI bot named Claude these days. Whenever I see commentary I like, such as the Jim Hightower piece on the death of local daily journalism in yesterday's Connecting, I ask Claude what he "thinks." Generally, I find Claude very good at distilling conventional wisdom on many topics, though he doesn't venture opinions.

Here's his take:

There are a few key factors that disrupted the traditional newspaper business model:

- The internet opened up competition for attention, information, and advertising. Newspapers lost their exclusivity as the primary source of news and classified ads.
- Readership, especially among young people, shifted online instead of purchasing print editions. This took away a major revenue stream.
- The rise of aggregators and social media enabled people to get news for free vs. paying for subscriptions.
- Classified ad revenue was decimated by websites like Craigslist, Monster.com and others.
- The recession in the late 2000s led to declines in overall advertising spending, which hit newspapers hard.
- Smartphones and tablets enabled instant access to news, detracting further from print.
- Google and Facebook captured the majority of growth in digital advertising as newspapers struggled to transition their ad business online.

- Declining revenues made it difficult for newspapers to maintain large newsrooms and retain top talent. This impacted the quality of coverage.

- Consolidation and acquisition of papers by large chains focused on cost-cutting over journalism exacerbated these problems.

So in summary, newspapers faced a perfect storm of declining readership, cratering ad revenue, rising costs, and competition from digital disruptors. The industry is still struggling to find a viable path forward.

Why executive-level leaders need to recalibrate

How to figure out your place and your purpose as the driving force behind your newsroom



Associated Press Executive Editor Julie Pace, left, Director of Photography David Ake, center, and Paul Haven, director of global newsgathering, celebrate on Monday, May 8, 2023, in New York after it was announced that the AP won a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography. (AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

By: Mel Grau
Poynter, June 22, 2023

For more than 25 years, Paul Haven reported on global events and directed news coverage for The Associated Press. He spent the bulk of his career overseas, in charge of regions such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Spain and Latin America. He was used to high-pressure situations and managing hundreds of people.

In November 2021, he became AP's vice president and head of global newsgathering, overseeing AP's global staff of reporters, photographers and video journalists in nearly 250 locations worldwide. It was a level of responsibility that required recalibrating his approach to leadership, which is why he applied for Poynter's Executive Leadership Summit last year.

He said it was a challenge to figure out how to balance big-picture strategy and day-to-day operations.

"You don't want to be removed from the news, but you also have to understand that there are now other people whose primary role it is to drive it, and your job is to help them," he said. "You have to figure out how to ... set larger goals and a larger ethos for your news organization."

Haven said that Poynter's executive program helped him learn how to allocate his time sustainably and effectively — specifically the keynote from New York Times managing editor Marc Lacey and Haven's one-on-one coaching with Poynter adjunct Cheryl Carpenter.

"I think the course helped me realize it's better to see yourself as a coach. The course definitely helped me chill out a little bit about what my role is and embrace it."

Beyond being proud of AP's journalism — including two 2023 Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of the war in Ukraine — he said he's excited about the cultural change that President and CEO Daisy Veerasingham and Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Julie Pace have led in the last couple years. Haven said he's never felt such a sense of dynamism at work.

"I pinch myself, and I can't believe I've got this opportunity to play the role I'm playing, helping modernize this company, which is like a giant battleship. And we're moving it."

Read more [here](#).

You always hear about the 'nuclear football.' Here's the behind-the-scenes story



A military aide carries the Presidential Emergency Satchel, also known as the "nuclear football," out of 10 Downing Street in London on Monday, July 10, 2023, after a meeting between Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and U.S. President Joe Biden. (AP Photo/David Cliff)

BY DEL QUENTIN WILBER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The most important — and mysterious — “football” in the world isn’t really a football at all.

Officially called the “ Presidential Emergency Satchel, ” the “nuclear football” is a bulky briefcase that contains atomic war plans and enables the president to transmit nuclear orders to the Pentagon. The heavy case is carried by a military officer who is never far behind the president, whether the commander-in-chief is boarding a helicopter or exiting meetings with world leaders.

Beyond those basic facts, however, not much is known about the satchel, which has come to symbolize the massive power of the presidency. Let’s change that.

William Burr, a senior analyst at the nonprofit National Security Archive at George Washington University, published a report Tuesday detailing his recent research into the presidential pigskin. Among the tidbits Burr unearthed: The football once contained presidential decrees that some in the U.S. government came to believe were likely illegal and unnecessary (there would be nobody left alive to implement them in the event of a nuclear holocaust).

Burr, who has spent three decades researching and writing about nuclear war planning and history, sat down with The Associated Press recently to talk about his research and the nuclear football’s history. The interview has been lightly edited and condensed for clarity:

Read more [here](#).

Kansas City Star announces hiring of AP's Andale Gross as its new managing editor





In a Facebook post last week that included the photo above, Andale wrote: “Today is my last day at The Associated Press after 16 years. I’m returning to my home state of Missouri to be managing editor of The Kansas City Star, the newspaper where I got my start as a reporter fresh out of Mizzou. I’m excited for the next part of my journey. Last night, my AP colleagues threw me a send-off here in Chicago, where I’ve spent 14 of my AP years. I appreciate them so much and will miss them.”

bed Monday at Overland Park's designated storm debris drop off site at 11921 Hardy St. Overland Park residents were allowed to dump tree debris downed by Friday's major storm for free.

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AP editor becomes Star's first Black managing editor

BY LUKE NOZICKA
lnozicka@kstar.com



Andale Gross

Andale Gross, a longtime journalist who recently worked as the race and ethnicity news editor at The Associated Press, has been named The Kansas City Star's next managing editor.

The job marks a homecoming for Gross: A native of Moberly, he earned a journalism degree at the University of Missouri and started in the industry in 1994, covering Olathe schools out of The Star's Johnson Coun-

ty bureau. "It's a full circle moment," said Gross, who starts Monday.

Gross will become the first Black editor to hold the position of managing editor. He will be The Star's second-highest-ranking editor and be in charge of day-to-day newsroom operations.

Describing himself as humble and honored, Gross said he plans to work hard to ensure underrepresented communities

feel like they are even more a part of The Star.

At the AP in Chicago, Gross helped shape the understanding of some of the nation's most significant stories in recent years, from the election of President Joe Biden to how the coronavirus pandemic disproportionately ravaged communities of color.

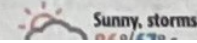
Gross, who will be based in The Star's Crown Center newsroom, takes over the role that was last held by Greg Farmer, who became executive editor earlier this year.

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FROM PAGE 1A

GROSS

eled as a reporter and story planner to Ferguson, Missouri, after the 2014 police killing of Michael Brown.

Gross worked as the AP’s race and ethnicity news editor for nearly four years, overseeing a team of reporters who cover race across the U.S. and world. They reported on spot news but also took a step back to do more “courageous” and meaningful work, he said.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, there were anecdotes about how the virus was devastating communities of color, but little data existed. So members of Gross’ team built their own database in one of the first attempts to examine the issue.

Gross is also proud of how his team covered the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer and the national racial reckoning that followed. He directed and edited stories that asked questions like, “What is a Black life worth?”

“For 12-year-old Tamir Rice, it was simply carrying a toy handgun. For Eric Garner, it was allegedly selling untaxed cigarettes.” began one story

that a reporter on his team wrote. “For Michael Brown, Sandra Bland and Ahmaud Arbery, it was the minor offenses of jaywalking, failing to signal a lane change and trespassing on a residential construction site.”

More recently, Gross’ team produced a series of stories in May centered on how the legacy of racism “laid the foundation” for health inequities that Black Americans face today.

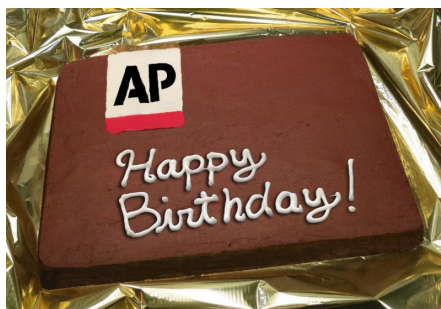
Gross was a leader in the news agency’s inclusive storytelling program, where he and others ensured that stories were being told across various communities and with diverse sources.

At The Star, Gross hopes to help produce journalism that resonates across the many “Kansas Cities in Kansas City,” such as in the LGBTQ+ community and immigrant community.

“So that when people look at The Star, they can see themselves in it,” he said.

Luke Nozicka:
816-234-4104,
@LukeNozicka

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Belated congratulations to...

[Carolyn Carlson](#)

[Michael Weinfeld](#)

Stories of interest

Belarus arrests a prominent journalist in its continued crackdown on dissent (AP)

BY YURAS KARMANAU

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Authorities in Belarus have arrested a prominent journalist who has written for the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the latest step in a yearslong crackdown on opposition figures, independent journalists and human rights activists.

The Belarusian Association of Journalists said Ihar Karnei, 55, was arrested in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, on Monday. His apartment was raided, with police seizing phones and computers, his daughter, Polina, told The Associated Press.

The authorities have offered no explanation for the arrest and the searches. However, RFE/RL has been labeled extremist in Belarus, and working with it or spreading its content is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

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

-0-

Covering suicide responsibly (Quill Magazine)

By Julie Scelfo

For more than a quarter of a century, suicide prevention experts have advised journalists against providing too many details about specific suicide methods, or presenting stories about suicide in a prominent way, due to the risk of copycat deaths.

So a New York Times front page headline left me shocked: “Where the Despairing Learn Ways to Die.” The investigative piece looked into a website where visitors shared suicide methods and encouragement.

Was my former employer really flouting these guidelines and offering details that could be read by anyone of any age who was already considering the act? As someone who has written about suicide for the Times and other outlets, devoting periods of my life to the agony of figuring out how to convey the subject in a compelling way without seeming to exalt it, I couldn’t help worrying that featuring such a website represented yet another slip in professional standards.

Yet with suicide now the second leading cause of death among children ages 10 to 14, and the coronavirus pandemic contributing to a wave of despair in high school students, I recognized the newsworthiness of this urgent social crisis. Shouldn’t reputable news organizations be leading the way in providing coverage that is insightful, responsible and helpful?

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

-0-

Top 50: CNN overtakes New York Times as biggest news website in the US (Press Gazette)

By Aisha Majid

CNN overtook the New York Times to become the biggest news website in the US in June, according to Press Gazette’s latest monthly top 50 ranking.

Historically CNN had been above the New York Times but the newspaper brand overtook the broadcaster in February 2022 after it bought the Wordle game and had remained above ever since.

Visits to the CNN website were up 5% year-on-year to 458 million in June, according to data from digital intelligence platform Similarweb.

Visits to the New York Times website meanwhile were down 9% to 423.2 million pushing the newspaper brand into second position. In recent months, CNN has been closing the gap on the New York Times as web traffic to nytimes.com has consistently fallen compared to 2022, possibly in part due to falling interest in the popular game Wordle.

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

And...

Top 50 biggest news websites in the world in June 2023: CBS News and AP fastest-growing

By Aisha Majid

The news division of US broadcaster CBS was the fastest-growing English-language news website in the world in June, according to Press Gazette's monthly ranking of global online traffic.

Visits to cbsnews.com were up 69% to 87.4 million, according to data from digital intelligence platform Similarweb.

It was followed by apnews.com (87 million visits, up 53%), which recently signed a deal with Open AI to license its archive, and timesofindia.com (194.3 million, up 35%).

Read more [here](#).

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Daily Mail and NY Post Open Fire in Hilariously Petty War (Yahoo)

Lachlan Cartwright, Andrew Kirell

This reporting is featured in this week's edition of Confider, the newsletter pulling back the curtain on the media. Subscribe here and send your questions, tips, and complaints here.

A long-simmering feud between the Daily Mail and the New York Post has reached its apex with both outlets apparently instructing editors to avoid mentioning, attributing, or linking to the other, Confider has learned.

The two wildly popular tabloids have long competed over the same stories, and have often resisted acknowledging rivals. But their beefing heated up last month, four people familiar with the situation said, when the Post initially failed to credit the Mail as having first reported a lawsuit claiming pro-golf star Greg Norman and his wife hosted a boozy party where an underage girl was sexually assaulted.

The Post later added a credit, but hard feelings lingered, with Mail leaders quietly directing news staff to stop linking to the Post.

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

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Scripps Howard Leadership Academy Returns, Debuts at Newhouse (Newhouse.syr.edu)

By Genaro C. Armas

A prestigious immersion program funded by the Scripps Howard Fund for aspiring leaders of journalism and mass communications schools has returned after a several-year hiatus through a new partnership with the Newhouse School.

Attendees arrived Monday at the Syracuse University campus for the first day of the Scripps Howard Leadership Academy at Newhouse. The 2023 cohort includes associate deans, department chairs, faculty members and scholars interested in learning about the challenges and rewards of leading an academic institution.

The theme of the 2023 academy is “Innovating in Transformative Times.” The three-day gathering will focus on the challenges facing journalism and mass communications schools and the industry, as changing demands test the relevancy of programs today.

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

Today in History - July 19, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 19, the 200th day of 2023. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 19, 2005, President George W. Bush announced his choice of federal appeals court judge John G. Roberts Jr. to replace Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. (Roberts ended up succeeding Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who died in Sept. 2005; Samuel Alito followed O'Connor.)

On this date:

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

In 1975, the Apollo and Soyuz space capsules that were linked in orbit for two days separated.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.

In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

In 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which sustained the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

In 1990, baseball's all-time hits leader, Pete Rose, was sentenced in Cincinnati to five months in prison for tax evasion.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing gays to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue."

In 2006, prosecutors reported that Chicago police beat, kicked, shocked or otherwise tortured scores of Black suspects from the 1970s to the early 1990s to try to extract confessions from them.

In 2014, New York City police officer Daniel Pantaleo, involved in the arrest of Eric Garner, who died in custody two days earlier after being placed in an apparent chokehold, was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty. (Pantaleo was fired in August 2019.)

In 2016, Republicans meeting in Cleveland nominated Donald Trump as their presidential standard-bearer; in brief videotaped remarks, Trump thanked the delegates, saying: "This is a movement, but we have to go all the way."

In 2020, President Donald Trump refused to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming election, telling Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday" that it was too early to make any such guarantee.

Ten years ago: In a rare and public reflection on race, President Barack Obama called on the nation to do some soul searching over the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of his shooter, George Zimmerman, saying the slain black teenager “could have been me 35 years ago.” A Dallas woman plunged 75 feet to her death from a Six Flags Over Texas roller coaster when her safety restraint apparently failed.

Five years ago: The White House said President Donald Trump had invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to the White House in the fall for a second get-together, just days after a Helsinki summit that brought Trump criticism from Democrats and Republicans alike. Putin said his summit with Trump had been a success, and he accused Trump’s opponents in the U.S. of hampering any progress on the issues they discussed. A duck boat packed with tourists capsized and sank in high winds on a lake in the tourist town of Branson, Missouri, killing 17 people.

One year ago: Britain shattered its record for the highest temperature ever registered amid a heat wave that seared swaths of Europe. The unusually hot, dry weather triggered wildfires from Portugal to the Balkans and led to hundreds of heat-related deaths. Russian missiles struck cities and villages in eastern and southern Ukraine, hitting homes, a school and a community center. The American League beat the National League 3-2 in Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Helen Gallagher is 97. Singer Vikki Carr is 83. Blues singer-musician Little Freddie King is 83. Actor George Dzundza is 78. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 77. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ilie Nastase is 77. Rock musician Brian May is 76. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 76. Actor Beverly Archer is 75. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 72. Actor Peter Barton is 67. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 63. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 63. Actor Campbell Scott is 62. Actor Anthony Edwards is 61. Actor Clea Lewis is 58. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 58. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 52. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 52. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 49. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 47. Actor Erin Cummings is 46. TV chef Marcela Valladolid is 45. Actor Chris Sullivan (“This is Us”) is 43. Actor Jared Padalecki is 41. Actor Trai Byers is 40. Actor Kaitlin Doubleday (“Nashville”) is 39. Actor/comedian Dustin Ybarra is 37. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 33.

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.

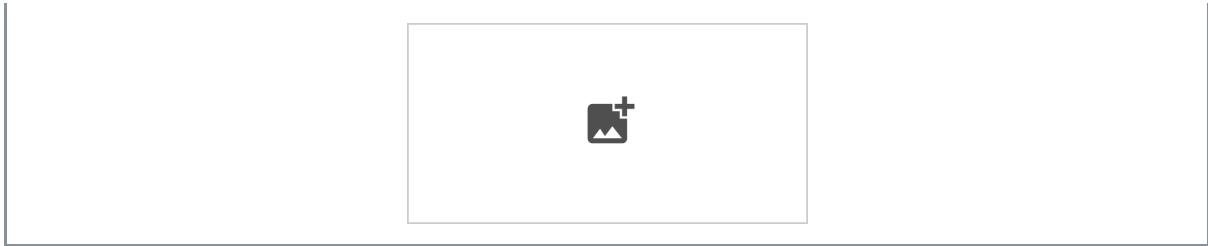
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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