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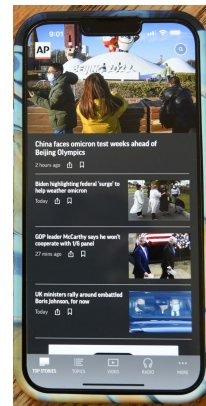
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Connecting

July 20, 2023

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Colleagues:

Good Thursday morning on this July 20, 2023,

It's the dog days of summer again, when *Connecting really* could use your contributions.

Just what are the "dog days of summer"? According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, "The term "Dog Days" traditionally refers to a period of particularly hot and humid weather occurring during the summer months of July and August in the Northern Hemisphere. In ancient Greece and Rome, the Dog Days were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat! Today, the phrase doesn't conjure up such bad imagery. Instead, the Dog Days are associated purely with the time of summer's peak temperatures and humidity."

Have a healthy, happy and well-air conditioned day!

Peg
pcoughlin@ap.org

Why are newspapers in decline?

Joe Galu - Why are newspapers in decline? Of course, there's competition for time and attention, but are newspapers fighting back or are they fighting the last century's war? Can the Internet print large, easy-to-read Baseball Standings? Can the Internet serialize a novel or a local history book? Does the Internet voluntarily present various points of view? Does the Internet print photos of local kids and their achievements in sports and other activities? We need far more imagination. Remember when newspapers ran contests? The old Herald Tribune (I think) had a word-based contest, drew so many entrants that they were totally overwhelmed. They had a forklift guy pull out one bail at random and judged those entrants. Nobody complained. Circulation rose all during the contest. People argued over the questions -- "can a guppy 'dart'?"

Early bird catches the Blue Heron



From a morning dog work in North Carolina. ([Dennis Conrad](#))

Stories of interest

***Announcing the 2023-24 Poynter-Koch
Media and Journalism Fellowship*** (*Poynter*)



The Poynter Institute and Stand Together Fellowships are proud to welcome 61 early-career journalists to the prestigious Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellowship program. The yearlong fellowship kicks off in August.

This class of impressive news professionals includes reporters, editors, photographers, photojournalists and audience producers from news organizations across the country. They represent an array of newsrooms, including The Oaklandside, the Miami Herald, The Texas Tribune, Underscore News and WBEZ Public Radio.

The joint program is in its fifth year. Fellows accepted into the fellowship are placed in full-time, paying roles at news organizations or participate in their current roles. The fellowship pays 60% of their salary. As part of the fellowship, they'll receive training to develop cross-disciplinary skills and accelerate their careers in journalism by connecting with seasoned mentors and award-winning journalists on a weekly basis and through three in-person events throughout the year. Their robust, real-world curriculum is led by Poynter's Kristen Hare and Stand Together Fellowship's Benét J. Wilson.

Read more [here](#).

OpenAI partners with American Journalism Project to support local news (Reuters)

OpenAI is committing \$5 million to the American Journalism Project (AJP) under a partnership that will look for ways to support local news through artificial intelligence, the Microsoft-backed startup said this week.

The deal will also give the non-profit and related organizations up to \$5 million in OpenAI credits for the use of the technology popularized by ChatGPT.

The move is part of a broader push by OpenAI to partner with media organizations. Last week, the startup struck an [agreement](#) with news publisher the Associated Press (AP) to license a part of AP's archive of stories and explore generative AI's use in news.

Read more [here](#).

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

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.

It will continue to publish online and is hoping to distribute a monthly print edition, although that plan is reportedly still in development.

The newspaper, which is owned by the Austrian government but is editorially independent, began publishing in August 1703 and has seen out 12 presidents, 10 kaisers and two republics.

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

POLITICO co-founder John Harris returning as top editor *(Deadline)*

By Ted Johnson

John Harris, the co-founder of Politico, is returning to the media outlet's newsroom leadership as global editor in chief.

He'll succeed Matt Kaminski, who is stepping down as U.S. editor in chief on Aug. 31. Kaminski will serve as editor at large, and will contribute regular pieces on U.S. and global affairs.

Harris has served as editorial chair, advising the company on longterm strategy. He co-founded Politico in 2007, and the publication has had a huge impact on the way that

politics and policy is covered in the digital age. Politico was sold to Axel Springer for more than \$1 billion in 2021.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 20, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 20, the 201st day of 2023. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

On this date:

In 1917, America's World War I draft lottery began as Secretary of War Newton Baker, wearing a blindfold, reached into a glass bowl and pulled out a capsule containing the number 258 during a ceremony inside the Senate office building.

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader.

In 1951, Jordan's King Abdullah I was assassinated in Jerusalem by a Palestinian gunman who was shot dead on the spot by security.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, killing more than 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

In 1993, White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster Jr., 48, was found shot to death in a park near Washington, D.C.; it was ruled a suicide.

In 2006, the Senate voted 98-0 to renew the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act for another quarter-century.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed an executive order prohibiting cruel and inhuman treatment, including humiliation or denigration of religious beliefs, in the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects.

In 2010, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted almost totally along party lines, 13-6, to approve Elena Kagan to be the Supreme Court's fourth female justice.

In 2015, the United States and Cuba restored full diplomatic relations after more than five decades of frosty relations rooted in the Cold War. The U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed a landmark deal to rein in Iran's nuclear program.

Ten years ago: People rallied in dozens of U.S. cities, urging authorities to press federal civil rights charges against George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch leader found not guilty in the shooting death of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin. Five employees of an Italian cruise company were convicted of manslaughter in the Costa Concordia shipwreck that killed 32 people, receiving sentences of less than three years. Longtime White House correspondent Helen Thomas, 92, died in Washington.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump escalated his threats to punish China for its trade policies, warning in an interview airing on CNBC that he was prepared to impose tariffs on all Chinese imports. Ohio Gov. John Kasich spared the life of condemned killer Raymond Tibbetts, commuting his sentence to life without parole, after a juror came forward and said information about the extent of Tibbetts' tough childhood wasn't properly presented at trial. Charlotte, North Carolina, was chosen to host the 2020 Republican National Convention.

One year ago: The U.S. Senate unexpectedly launched a new push to protect same-sex marriage in federal law after a surprising number of Republicans helped pass landmark legislation in the House. The bill started as an election-season political effort following the Supreme Court's abortion ruling, which raised concerns that other rights could be at risk. (The legislation would pass months later.) Britain's record-breaking heat wave spurred calls for the government to speed up efforts to adapt to a changing climate, after wildfires created the busiest day for London firefighters since bombs rained down on the city during World War II. An Indiana man ran into a burning home and saved five people, including a 6-year-old girl he jumped out of a second-floor window with. Nick Bostic said the serious injuries he suffered were "all worth it."

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 87. Artist Judy Chicago is 84. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 80. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 79. Singer Kim Carnes is 78. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 76. Rock musician Jay Jay French (Twisted Sister) is 71. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols, Man Raze) is 67. Actor Donna Dixon is 66. Rock musician Mick MacNeil (Simple Minds) is 65. Country singer Radney Foster is 64. Actor Frank Whaley is 60. Actor Dean Cain is 59. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 57. Actor Reed Diamond is 56. Actor Josh Holloway is 54. Singer Vitamin C is 54. Actor Sandra Oh is 52. Actor Omar Epps is 50. Actor Simon Rex is 49. Actor Judy Greer is 48. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 45. Singer

Elliott Yamin (yah-MEEN') (American Idol) is 45. Supermodel Gisele Bundchen is 43. Rock musician Mike Kennerty (The All-American Rejects) is 43. Actor Percy Daggs III is 41. Actor John Francis Daley is 38. Dancer-singer-actor Julianne Hough is 35. Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg is 35.

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.

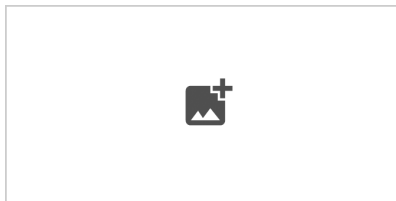
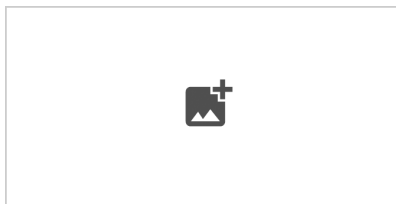
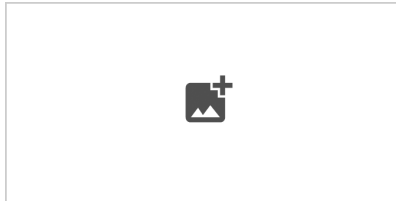
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



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