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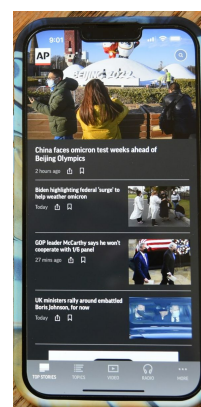
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Connecting

July 25, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this July 25, 2023,

The newly released film “Oppenheimer” prompted the AP’s [Kathleen Elliott](#) to delve into the Associated Press archives for stories and photos about the physicist called the father of the atomic bomb.

Kathleen is a photo editor and social media producer in New York. We bring her work as our lead story in today’s issue.

‘EMAIL SHOWER’ FOR GENE HERRICK BIRTHDAY – Our colleague Gene Herrick turns 97 years young on Wednesday, and Ye Olde Connecting Editor hopes you will join him in an “email shower” to wish Gene the very best and let him know how much we’ve appreciated his posts. Gene was an AP photographer during the Korean War and was one of the top photographers covering the Civil Rights Movement in the South. You can send your email to him in care of his partner, Kitty Hylton at - kshylton@jetbroadband.com

SO WHAT DID COPY BOYS DO? A question posed after Monday's Connecting to colleague [Norm Abelson](#), who like **Tony Bennett**, once served as an AP copy boy: "We tore copy and distributed to editors. We delivered foto packages to airport and rail station for mailing. We worked part time in foto developing. We ran AP tours for visitors. Of course we made coffee runs, and assorted other errands. At end of day, we reviewed and stapled and filed together the day's report. If we were lucky, we occasionally got to write minor pieces, e.g., local sports, obits, etc."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

J. Robert Oppenheimer - The man behind the bomb



In this Sept. 9, 1945, photo, Gen. Leslie R. Groves, right, and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, who cooperated on the development of the atomic bomb, survey the area in Alamogordo, N.M., where a tower once stood before the test bomb exploded. (AP Photo)

Text and photo curation by Kathleen Elliott

Julius Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist called the father of the atomic bomb, was born April 22, 1904, in New York.

Oppenheimer, who died in 1967, led the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. The

theoretical physicist was later accused of having communist sympathies and his security clearance was revoked following a four-week, closed-door hearing.

With the release of a film about his life, we looked through the Associated Press photo archives for coverage of Oppenheimer over the years.

The following text is from The Associated Press article, "Men 5 Miles Away Felled, Steel Tower Is Vaporized", printed in The Boston Herald, Tuesday, August 7, 1945.



Scientists and workmen rig the world's first atomic bomb to raise it up onto a 100 foot tower at the Trinity bomb test site near Alamogordo, N.M., July 6, 1945. In the blast that followed, the tower disappeared. Heat generated within the bomb's explosion was nearly 100 million degrees, more than ten times the heat at the surface of the sun. (AP Photo)

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Aug. 6 (AP) – A blinding flash, followed within 40 seconds by a shuddering explosion that sent a huge multi-colored cloud roaring upward to an altitude of 40,000 feet and caused reverberations felt for a 250-mile radius across New Mexico and Arizona, marked the first test of the new destructive atomic bomb, conducted July 16, at a remote location on the Alamogordo, N.M., Army airbase.

The steel tower which held the bomb was melted, and turned into vapor by the blast, and in the earth of the remote, New Mexico desert test ground a deep crater was gouged.

As winds dispersed, the mass that had shot into the stratosphere in five minutes, and the tremendous pressure wave that knocked down two men standing 5 miles away,

passed over, the scientists and military authorities whispered, "This is it." they said the test of their \$2,000,000,000 experiment was successful beyond all hope.

They had observed the test from 10 miles. In disclosing details of the bomb, which hit Japan, the army quoted them today as seeing a ball of fire "many times brighter than the mid-day sun."

The brilliant flash startled a blind girl, Miss Georgia Green, 120 miles away, and she asked "What's that?" Windows rattled at Gallup, N.M., 250 miles north west.

"It was just as if the sun had come up, and then suddenly gone down again," one witness, 150 miles west remarked.

In the control center, Dr. James B, Conant, president of Harvard University, and J. R. Oppenheimer, Director of the atomic laboratory, stared ahead in the long seconds just before the blast.

When the announcer shouted "now!" And there came a burst of light, followed shortly by a deep, growling roar, Oppenheimer's face relaxed in tremendous relief.

The test had been delayed an hour and a half by a thunderstorm which prevented aerial observation.

So terrific was the blast that the Associated Press in New Mexico and Arizona received numerous inquiries, some an airline distance of 250 miles from the blast seen, regarding an earthquake.

Read and view more [here](#).

Meeting a celebrity – her puppy gave her up

[Susan Clark](#) - This was an interesting meeting with someone playing an important part of the news at the moment.

Many years ago when Fran Drescher, the SAG President, was doing The Nanny, I was in the 8th floor bathroom at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and next to me in the next stall, was a puppy on the floor, and a female voice that I recognized and I had to say to her "I know who you are. I recognize your voice." It was Fran Drescher.

She was being interviewed by the Japanese TV station on our floor.

We both refreshed our makeup, while I told her my two sons love her. Coming out of the bathroom, she told her husband Marc Jacobson that my sons love her and watch the show!

It was an exciting moment I always remembered.

Writing length – too much, too little?

Malcolm Barr Sr. - Jim Hood's overlong response to my critique of newspapers presenting overlong articles is exactly what I was talking about. Jim, I could not get to the end of your justification for newspapers, and yes, the AP's propensity for stories running hundreds of words (sometimes thousands) long, that are beyond many readers' ability and time restraints to finish. But I did finish after interrupting to brew a pot of morning tea! You see, even retirees with allegedly much time on their hands have neither the time nor inclination to plow through pages of long stories with their morning coffee (or tea, as we Brits prefer). Thanks to my former colleagues (including a former bureau chief) who also responded - tersely!



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Hal Bock - In addition to being taught the journalistic basic of who, what, where, when and how, we were taught a simple formula for stories. We were told to follow the KISS rule - keep it short and simple. Sometimes that was altered to Keep it short, stupid. The policy served me well for 40 years at The AP. I did takeouts, too, maybe 2,000-3,000 words, but the basic AP news story was rarely more than 500 words. It was a skill I was proud of being able to do and one I taught my J students at Long Island University for seven years as journalist in residence.

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Jeffrey Ulbrich - I'm getting in on the tail end of this long/short story debate and have two thoughts. One, I think long stories are far, far from the top of the list of reasons newspapers are losing readership. Secondly, this is not an either/or choice. Any good, readable newspaper should have both, plenty of hard hitting concisely written pieces that keep us abreast of what's going on in this world of ours as well as a few longer thoughtful stories that explain why it's going to hell in a handbasket, and others, what the hell, just because they're interesting. I agree with Jim Hood who notes that readers are free to stop reading at any time, or even skip long articles altogether and go on to something more satisfying like Charlie Brown or Calvin. Oh wait, I guess you can't do that anymore if you are a reader of the NYT, an institution that also decided recently that a sports department is an unnecessary accessory to a newspaper. Never mind my daily routine upon picking up the morning paper of quickly scanning the front page to see if there is anything new I need to worry about, then turning to the sports page for my regular injection of non-violent (usually) happiness.

He was there when JFK was shot, and he's over the conspiracy theories



[Joe Carter](#) - a Connecting colleague - in 1963.

Perspective by Petula Dvorak

Columnist, The Washington Post

Those three shots — and the conspiracy theories that followed — have haunted him for decades.

Now 91, Joe Carter was on the press bus in the Dallas motorcade that day in 1963. He has struggled in the 60 years since, troubled by people whose wild ideas clashed with the dogged reporting he did in those early, raw moments after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

“I didn’t know at that moment how deadly those shots were,” Carter said. And by deadly, he’s talking about more than the clanging violence, more than the blood and brain matter he saw on Jackie Kennedy’s clothes in the hospital, more than the nation’s massive spasm of grief at his death.

“To me, it unleashed an ugliness in the American people,” he said. For decades, he would not mention his role. “When I did, very often some nitwit would tell me what really happened. Shouting loudly. Not daring to call me a liar, but insinuating.”

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

Readers Should Insist AI Not Lead to Smaller Newsrooms (MEDIAite)

By Dan Perry

This is shaping up as the year the other shoe dropped on artificial intelligence: what began as a plotline of science fiction has matured into global terror that AI might replace masses of white-collar workers. It’s a big deal for many industries, but few cases should spark as much concern as journalism — an industry that’s critical to society and which has already been disrupted to the breaking point.

It may seem self-serving for a veteran journalist to claim journalism is so important, but I stand by it: with all due respect to social media influencers and independent bloggers — the other two primary “sources” of information — neither have the commitment to verification, standards and ethics that the quality media does, or the resources to pursue them.

Those things are essential to maintaining the public’s trust, which is already being hammered by the toxicity of modern politics, which has tainted everyone in the ecosystem including the media. If that trust deteriorates any further, and if the younger generations are not reclaimed for real journalism, then society’s ability to navigate free markets and democratic politics will plummet.

Read more [here](#).

Chalk up another victory for the perfidious spell checker.

[Claude Erbsen](#) – from Monday’s Best of the AP column in Connecting:

National politics reporter Brian Slodysko and Washington reporter Eric Tucker spent months **pouring** through thousands of documents to capture how Supreme Court justices wield their influence and power in a series of powerful investigative stories that are loaded with new revelations.

AP Tour de France coverage

[Dennis Conrad](#) - Connecting colleague John Willis sent me the AP story on its photographers documenting characters along the Tour de France route. So, quite naturally, I forwarded it to my daughter Julia, who is on a family vacation in France visiting the sites and relatives. She responded that they had seen an AP vehicle whiz by while they were watching the Tour. And she sent me her own wire-worthy photo of a couple of characters, my grandchildren, Theo, 5, and Maia,



12. Julia still remembers when at 15 she helped AP photographers at court side cover Michael Jordan’s Bulls in the first round of the 1998 NBA playoffs.

Connecting sky shot – Florida



Bruce Lowitt - A rainbow over Dunedin, Fla., as a storm approaches.

Stories of interest

Santa Barbara's paper, one of California's oldest, stops publishing after owner declares bankruptcy (AP)

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Pulitzer Prize-winning Santa Barbara News-Press, one of California's oldest newspapers, has ceased publishing after its owner declared the 150-year-old publication bankrupt.

The newspaper became an online-only publication in April. But its last digital edition was posted Friday when owner Wendy McCaw filed for bankruptcy.

Managing editor Dave Mason broke the news to staff in an email Friday, according to NoozHawk, a digital publication whose executive editor, Tom Bolton, used to lead the News-Press.

"They ran out of money to pay us. They will issue final paychecks when the bankruptcy is approved in court," Mason wrote to staff.

On Monday, the News-Press' website was still online, with the most recent stories published Friday. There was no mention that it would cease publishing or that it has declared bankruptcy.

A voicemail message left Monday by The Associated Press in the newsroom's phone number was not immediately returned.

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

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Elon Musk reveals new 'X' logo to replace Twitter's blue bird (AP)

BY KELVIN CHAN AND BARBARA ORTUTAY

Goodbye, Twitter. Hello, X.

Elon Musk has unveiled a new "X" logo to replace Twitter's famous blue bird as he follows through with a major rebranding of the social media platform he bought for \$44 billion last year.

The X started appearing at the top of the desktop version of Twitter on Monday, but the bird was still dominant across the smartphone app. At Twitter's headquarters in San Francisco, meanwhile, workers were seen removing the iconic bird and logo Monday until police showed up and stopped them because they didn't have the proper permits and didn't tape off the sidewalk to keep pedestrians safe if anything fell.

As of early afternoon, the "er" at the end of Twitter remained visible.

The haphazard erasure of both the physical and virtual remnants of Twitter's past were in many ways typical of the chaotic way Musk has run the company since his reluctant purchase.

"It's the end of an era, and a clear signal that the Twitter of the past 17 years is gone and not coming back," said Jasmine Enberg, an analyst with Insider Intelligence. "But the writing was on the wall: Musk has been vocal about transforming Twitter into platform X from the start, and Twitter was already a shell of its former self."

Read more [here](#).

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Q&A: A new documentary tells the story of India's news crisis (Columbia Journalism Review)

By ZAINAB SULTAN

In 2018, Vinay Shukla, an Indian documentary filmmaker, approached Ravish Kumar, a high-profile TV personality in the country, to be a part of his latest film, *While We Watched*. Shukla, who is known for his observational documentaries, had grown

disturbed by India's polarized media landscape. An ardent fan of newsroom dramas, he wanted to set up his cameras in the offices of NDTV, a network, where Kumar worked, that was known for maintaining high journalistic standards in a country where many media outlets were turning into mouthpieces for the government of Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP.

Shukla had noticed that Kumar was a rare anchor in India not to have fallen in line with Modi's political agenda. Instead, he was almost "chastising" his audience and urging them to question Modi's tactics, Shukla said. His film ended up chronicling Kumar's work and family life as he navigated a spiraling world of disinformation; Shukla shot it over two years, a process that was not without risks given that Kumar had faced threats linked to his work. (Additionally, Modi's government has turned the screw on independent filmmaking, a trend that I explored in *Fadeout*, a short film that I made for CJR's recent Authoritarianism Issue.) Late last year, Kumar resigned from his position as a primetime anchor after twenty-seven years, following the takeover of NDTV by Gautam Adani, a billionaire who is believed to have close ties to Modi.

While *We Watched* has been on the festival circuit for the past year and has won various major documentary awards. The team behind the film recently released it in the UK and Ireland, and is now gearing up for its US theatrical release on Friday at the IFC Center, an independent film space in New York City. Earlier this week, I spoke with Kumar and Shukla about the threats to journalism in India, the scrutiny facing media professionals under the Modi government, and what it's like to continue to fight for the truth. Our conversation has been edited for length and clarity (and my exchanges with Kumar have been translated from Hindi).

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Northwestern journalism graduate Biden picks female admiral to lead Navy. She'd be first woman on Joint Chiefs of Staff (AP)

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden has chosen Adm. Lisa Franchetti to lead the Navy, an unprecedented choice that, if she is confirmed, will make her the first woman to be a Pentagon service chief and the first female member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Biden's decision goes against the recommendation of his Pentagon chief. But Franchetti, the current vice chief of operations for the Navy, has broad command and executive experience and was considered by insiders to be the top choice for the job.

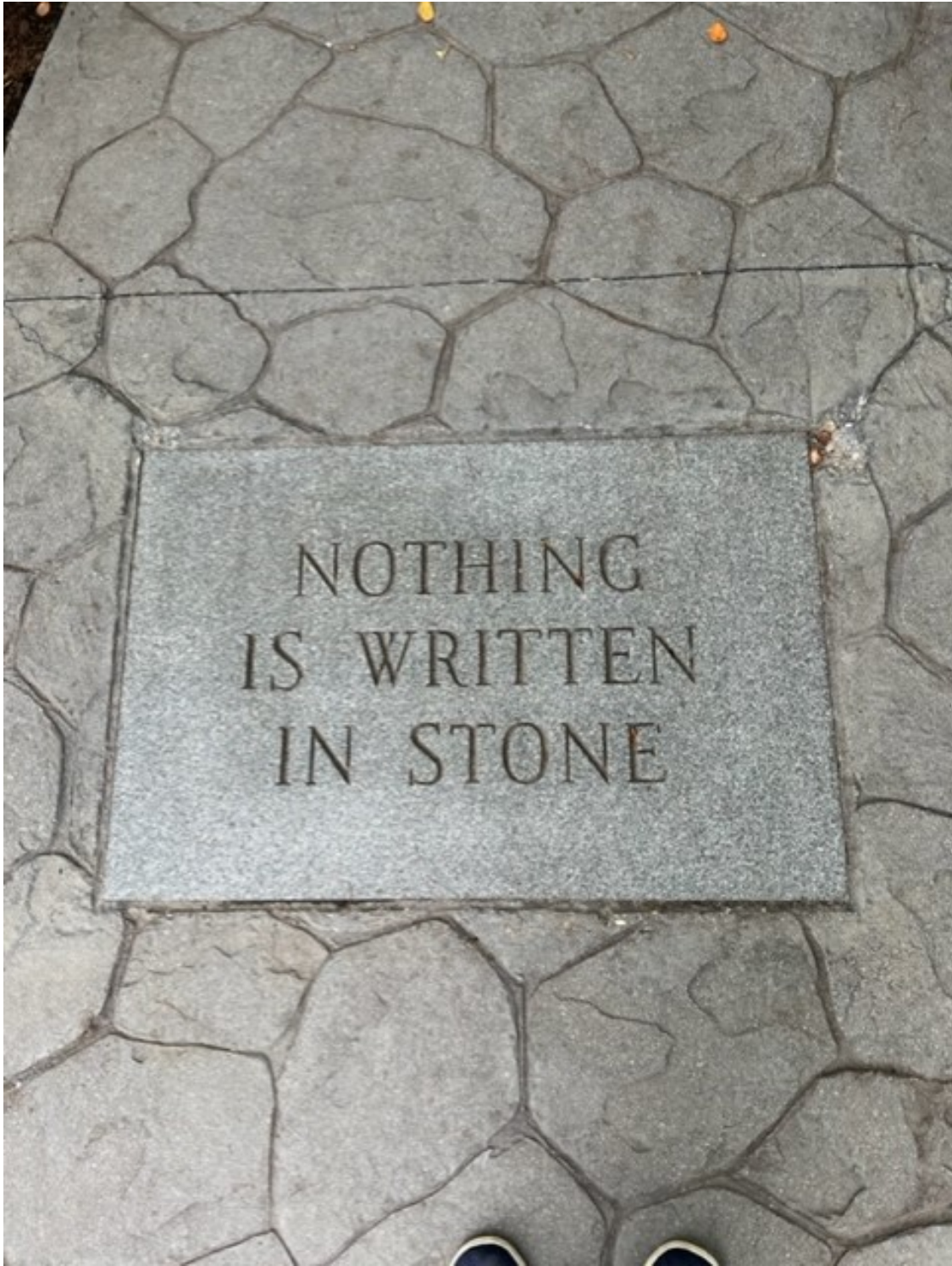
In a statement Friday, Biden noted the historical significance of her selection and said "throughout her career, Admiral Franchetti has demonstrated extensive expertise in both the operational and policy arenas."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recommended that Biden select Adm. Samuel Paparo, the current commander of the Navy's Pacific Fleet, several U.S. officials said last month. But instead, Biden is nominating Paparo to lead U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

A senior administration official said Biden chose Franchetti based on the broad scope of her experience at sea and ashore, including a number of high-level policy and administrative jobs that give her deep knowledge in budgeting and running the department.

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

The Final Word



Shared by Steve Dapper.

Today in History - July 25, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 25, the 206th day of 2023. There are 159 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 25, 1972, the notorious Tuskegee syphilis experiment came to light as The Associated Press reported that for the previous four decades, the U.S. Public Health Service, in conjunction with the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, had been allowing poor, rural Black male patients with syphilis to go without treatment, even allowing them to die, as a way of studying the disease.

On this date:

In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1943, Benito Mussolini was dismissed as premier of Italy by King Victor Emmanuel III, and placed under arrest. (He was later rescued by the Nazis and re-asserted his authority.)

In 1946, the United States detonated an atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in the first underwater test of the device.

In 1956, the Italian liner SS Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish passenger ship Stockholm off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; 51 people — 46 from the Andrea Doria, five from the Stockholm — were killed. (The Andrea Doria capsized and sank the following morning.)

In 1960, a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina that had been the scene of a sit-in protest against its whites-only lunch counter dropped its segregation policy.

In 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the first "test tube baby," was born in Oldham, England; she'd been conceived through the technique of in-vitro fertilization.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration at the White House ending their countries' 46-year-old formal state of war.

In 2000, a New York-bound Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after takeoff, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground; it was the first-ever crash of the supersonic jet.

In 2010, the online whistleblower Wikileaks posted some 90,000 leaked U.S. military records that amounted to a blow-by-blow account of the Afghanistan war, including unreported incidents of Afghan civilian killings as well as covert operations against Taliban figures.

In 2016, on the opening night of the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia, Bernie Sanders robustly embraced his former rival Hillary Clinton as a champion for the same economic causes that enlivened his supporters, signaling it was time for them to rally behind her in the campaign against Republican Donald Trump.

In 2019, President Donald Trump had a second phone call with the new Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, during which he solicited Zelenskyy's help in gathering potentially damaging information about former Vice President Joe Biden; that night, a staff member at the White House Office of Management and Budget signed a document that officially put military aid for Ukraine on hold.

In 2020, federal agents fired tear gas to break up rowdy protests in Portland, Oregon that continued into the early morning. Demonstrations had been taking place in the city every night for two months in the aftermath of the Minneapolis death of George Floyd.

Ten years ago: Pope Francis, dubbed the "slum pope" for his work with the poor, received a rapturous welcome from one of Rio de Janeiro's most violent shantytowns and demanded the world's wealthy end the injustices that had left the poor on the margins of society. The U.S. attorney in New Jersey announced that four Russian nationals and a Ukrainian were charged with running a sophisticated hacking organization that over seven years penetrated computer networks of more than a dozen major American and international corporations, stealing and selling at least 160 million credit and debit card numbers, resulting in losses of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Five years ago: After a White House meeting, President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (zhahn-KLOHD' YUN'-kur) announced they had agreed to work toward "zero tariffs" and "zero subsidies" on non-automobile goods, dialing down tensions that had been rising. Sergio Marchionne (SEHR'-jee-oh mar-kee-OH'-nay), the founding CEO of Fiat Chrysler who saved two carmakers from near-certain failure, died at the age of 66 after complications from surgery in Switzerland. A study published in the journal Science revealed that a huge lake of salty water appears to be buried deep in Mars, raising the possibility of finding life on the planet. Undefeated Triple Crown winner Justify was retired to stud because of swelling in an ankle; the colt had won all six career starts.

One year ago: On a visit to Canada, Pope Francis issued a historic apology for the Catholic Church's cooperation with the country's "catastrophic" policy of Indigenous

residential schools, saying the forced assimilation of Native peoples into Christian society destroyed their cultures, severed families and marginalized generations. According to exhibits released by House investigators, an original script for Donald Trump's speech the day after the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection included tough talk ordering the Justice Department to "ensure all lawbreakers are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law" and stating the rioters "do not represent me." But those words were crossed out with thick black lines, apparently by Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Folk-pop singer-musician Bruce Woodley (The Seekers) is 81. Rock musician Jim McCarty (The Yardbirds) is 80. Rock musician Verdine White (Earth, Wind & Fire) is 72. Singer-musician Jem Finer (The Pogues) is 68. Model-actor Iman is 68. Cartoonist Ray Billingsley ("Curtis") is 66. Rock musician Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) is 65. Celebrity chef/TV personality Geoffrey Zakarian is 64. Actor-singer Bobbie Eakes is 62. Actor Katherine Kelly Lang is 62. Actor Illeana Douglas is 58. Country singer Marty Brown is 58. Actor Matt LeBlanc is 56. Actor Wendy Raquel Robinson is 56. Rock musician Paavo Lötjönen (PAH'-woh LAHT'-joh-neh) (Apocalyptica) is 55. Actor D.B. Woodside is 54. Actor Miriam Shor is 52. Actor David Denman is 50. Actor Jay R. Ferguson is 49. Actor James Lafferty is 38. Actor Shantel VanSanten is 38. Actor Michael Welch is 36. Actor Linsey Godfrey is 35. Classical singer Faryl Smith is 28. Actor Mason Cook is 23. Actor Meg Donnelly (TV: "American Housewife") is 22. Actor Pierce Gagnon is 18.

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!

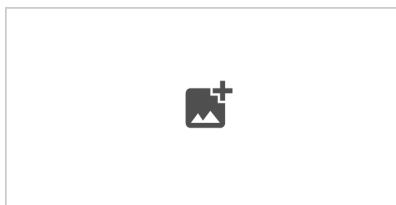
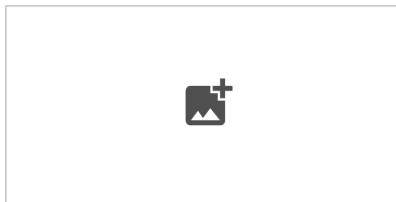
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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