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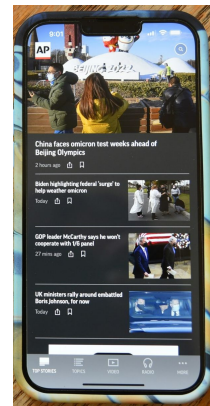
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# Connecting

July 26, 2023

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**J. W. Milam, 36, and half-brother Roy Bryant, 24, confer with one of their lawyers J.W. Kellum, right, just before pleading innocent, September 6, 1955 at Sumner, Miss.. They are charged with kidnapping Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black youth who they claim "made some remarks" and whistled at Bryant's wife. (AP Photo/Gene Herrick)**



These 12 men were seated September 20, 1955, in the jury box to hear testimony and decide the fate of Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, who are charged with slaying Emmett Louis Till. Left to right, in front row, are Gus Ramsey, James Toole, E.L. Price, J.A. Shaw, Jr., Ray Tribble, and Ed Devaney. Back row, Travis Thomas, George Holland, Jim Pennington, Davis Newton, Howard Armstrong, and Bishop Matthews. The alternate juror is not pictured. (AP Photo/Gene Herrick)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 26, 2023,

A proclamation signed Tuesday by President Joe Biden **establishing a national monument** honoring Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, has special meaning for one of our senior Connecting colleagues – **Gene Herrick**.

The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument includes three protected sites, in Illinois, where Emmett (pictured at right) was born 82 years ago to the day on Tuesday, and in Mississippi, where he was tortured and killed after being accused of whistling at a white woman. The Mississippi sites are Graball Landing, the spot where Emmett's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River just outside of Glendora, Miss., and the Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse in Sumner, Miss.ippi, where Emmett's killers were tried.

Herrick was an Associated Press photographer who covered the 1955 trial in which two white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, were tried and acquitted by an all-white

jury. They later confessed to the killing, and the white woman who accused Emmett of making crude advances toward her later recanted.

Today is the 97<sup>th</sup> birthday of Herrick, who lives in Virginia, and we invite you to join in an “email shower” to wish him the very best and let him know how much we’ve appreciated his Connecting posts over the years. 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](mailto:kshylton@jetbroadband.com)

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

Paul

## A personal memory of Tony Bennett



**Billy Joel, center left, and Tony Bennett, center right, pose with students on stage before a special master class school-wide assembly event for the Frank Sinatra School**

of the Arts, the public high school Bennett founded, on Thursday, May 30, 2013, in New York. (Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)

**Francesca Pitaro** - Both of my daughters attended the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts (FSSA) high school in Astoria, NY, founded by Tony Bennett in 2001 and named after his pal Frank Sinatra. The school is funded in part by Exploring the Arts, a non-profit that Bennett started with his wife Susan Crow Benedetto.

Tony purposely chose the location in his home borough of Queens for FSSA, a school that fosters a creative environment with a full arts curriculum, including specialties in music, voice, dance, visual arts, and film. It was an amazing gift to the students of New York. My daughter Emilia was in the vocal program graduating in 2008. Tessa studied dance, graduating in 2013. Tony Bennett showed up often at school events, celebrating his 80th birthday at the school and bringing in performers to give master classes. Our family and so many others benefitted from Tony's generosity and wisdom.

This quote from Bennett appears on the Exploring the Arts website (<https://www.exploringthearts.org/about>). "My goal as a creative person is to express truth and beauty in whatever I do." He succeeded.

## More opinions on writing - too much, too little?

**Joe Frazier** - In 1979 I was finishing a two-year stint on the cables desk in New York, which in those years was boot camp for those seeking foreign postings.

I was being sent to Mexico City which, in those turbulent years, meant a strong dose of Central America, then being reduced to a bloody cinder by a variety of civil wars and revolutions.

On my last day on the desk, I approached the late George Bria, the far-famed desk supervisor whose credentials dated to World War II. I asked him if he had any advice. His reply:

"Joe, just get the blood and guts up high and keep it to 600 words."

George liked words. He rarely wasted them.

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**Dan Sewell** - Re Hal Bock's KISS rule: Keep it Short and Simple, I learned it differently: Keep it Simple, Stupid! That worked well, too.

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**Robert Wielaard** - Inevitably, Connecting devotes much attention to the demise of newspapers. I worked for three of them plus AP and I'm going to rain on the parade. It's not the length/brevity of content that kills newsprint. It's readers voting with their

feet. People like me! I have eight news apps on my phone/laptop. I pay for one of them: €15/month, i.e. €0,50/day.

A newspaper in my niche of Europe charges me €3,50 a day. For yesterday's news?! I don't feel sorry for newspapers anymore. It's closing time. As a consumer, I find them as useful as the horse-drawn buggy. There is no future for newspapers, but -- as I discovered post-AP -- there is a great need for people who can write.

## Tuskegee and AP

[Jim Carrier](#) - Tuesday, July 25, was the anniversary of [AP's expose](#) on the Tuskegee Syphilis experiment in 1972.

I'm particularly interested, not only because of my civil rights work in Alabama but because I now sit as a "community" member of the Institutional Review Board at the University of Vermont medical school. We approve all medical research, work that began with the AP's expose. The IRB is made up of doctors and researchers, a staff of analysts, and, by law, two community (non-scientist) members who study, debate and approve all research on humans. The heart of our work is ethics, in particularly "informed consent."

I began working for AP in 1971, a year before Jean Heller's piece was published, and I didn't realize how momentous it was. To join the IRB I had to study and pass a test on this history, and the regulations that followed, regs that govern human drug and device experimentation in the U.S. and worldwide.

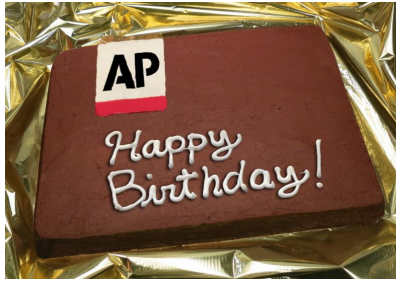
## Really?!? Are there no editors left?

[Cecilia White](#) - I don't know if you or any of our Connecting readers saw this appalling headline in today's (7/25) "Hello," but it's a doozy. Definitely a candidate for the "worst headlines" category. Are there no editors left?

"OBAMA'S PERSONAL CHEF TAFARI CAMPBELL SEEN CONFIDENTLY SWIMMING LAPS AFTER TRAGICALLY DROWNING"

Oh, my ....

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mike Hendricks](#)

[Gene Herrick](#)

[Mark Scoloro](#)

## Stories of interest

### ***Scoop: Forbes union study shows pay disparities of newsroom workers of color*** (Axios)

By Sara Fischer, Kerry Flynn

Stark disparities in salaries and tenure exist between white newsroom workers and people of color at Forbes, according to a union study obtained by Axios.

Why it matters: The study results come as Forbes' union and management continue to battle for a contract, bolstering the union's concerns of inclusion that it's raised since joining the NewsGuild of New York in 2021.

Details: The survey, parts of which were shared in March, found the union's 61 full-time white members make \$94,360 on average, almost \$15,000 more than its eight Black members and \$7,000 more than its 10 Asian members.

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

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### ***Al Jazeera slams naming of its journalists on Egypt 'terror' list*** (Al Jazeera)

Al Jazeera Media Network has condemned a decision by an Egyptian court to reinstitute several of the network's journalists and TV presenters on its latest "terrorism" list.

In a statement on Tuesday, Al Jazeera urged the Egyptian authorities to “reconsider and refrain from measures that impede journalistic work and restrict freedoms”.

The network also called on the United Nations and international human rights organisations to pressure Egypt in halting the arbitrary listing of journalists and oppose such violations of rights and liberties.

Egypt’s “terrorist” list operates on a roster that undergoes renewal every five years.

Individuals added to the list are subjected to a travel ban, asset freeze and passport cancellation.

The latest ruling was issued by the Cairo Criminal Court, and disseminated in the official al-Waqai’ al-Masriya newspaper.

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

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## ***FIFA intervene after incident in Women's World Cup press conference 'endangered players'*** (Mirror)

Story by Laura Hartley

A FIFA representative was forced to intervene during Morocco's Women's World Cup press conference after a reporter's 'unethical' question.

Moroccan captain Ghizlane Chebbak faced the media ahead of the North African nation’s historic World Cup debut, but the moment was overshadowed after one reporter asked whether there were gay players in the Moroccan squad.

The journalist, understood to be from BBC World News Service, asked: “We know that gay marriage is illegal (in Morocco), are there any gay players in the team, and what is it like for them.”

The question was shut down by a FIFA moderator, who reminded media that they were not there to discuss politics. The country are not just making history as debutants in the tournament, but defender Nouhaila Benzina will become the first player to wear a hijab at a senior women’s football tournament.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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## ***How right-wing news powers the 'gold IRA' industry*** (Washington Post)

By Jeremy B. Merrill and Hanna Kozłowska



Dedicated viewers of Fox News are likely familiar with Lear Capital, a Los Angeles company that sells gold and silver coins. In recent years, the company’s ads have been a constant presence on Fox airwaves, warning viewers to protect their retirement savings from a looming “pension crisis” and “dollar collapse.”

One such ad caught the attention of Terry White, a disabled retiree from New York. In 2018, White invested \$174,000 in the coins, according to a lawsuit by the New York attorney general — only to later learn that Lear charged a 33 percent commission.

Over several transactions, White, 70, lost nearly \$80,000, putting an “enormous strain” on his finances, said his wife, Jeanne, who blames Fox for their predicament: “They’re negligent,” she said. A regretful White said he thought Fox “wouldn’t take a commercial like that unless it was legitimate.”

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

## The Final Word

**SHOE** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

## Today in History - July 26, 2023



By The Associated Press

**Today is Wednesday, July 26, the 207th day of 2023. There are 158 days left in the year.**

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

On July 26, 2016, Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be nominated for president by a major political party at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

### **On this date:**

In 1775, the Continental Congress established a Post Office and appointed Benjamin Franklin its Postmaster-General.

In 1847, the western African country of Liberia, founded by freed American slaves, declared its independence.

In 1863, Sam Houston, former president of the Republic of Texas, died in Huntsville at age 70.

In 1945, Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's prime minister after his Conservatives were soundly defeated by the Labour Party. Clement Attlee succeeded him.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act, which reorganized America's armed forces as the National Military Establishment and created the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1953, Fidel Castro began his revolt against Fulgencio Batista (fool-HEN'-see-oh bah-TEES'-tah) with an unsuccessful attack on an army barracks in eastern Cuba. (Castro ousted Batista in 1959.)

In 1956, the Italian liner Andrea Doria sank off New England, some 11 hours after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm. At least 51 people died, from both vessels.

In 1971, Apollo 15 was launched from Cape Kennedy on America's fourth successful manned mission to the moon.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 2002, the Republican-led House voted to create an enormous Homeland Security Department in the biggest government reorganization in decades.

In 2020, a processional with the casket of the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, where Lewis and other civil rights marchers were beaten 55 years earlier.

Ten years ago: Ariel Castro, the man who'd imprisoned three women in his Cleveland home, subjecting them to a decade of rapes and beatings, pleaded guilty to 937 counts in a deal to avoid the death penalty. (Castro later committed suicide in prison.) A gunman went on a rampage at a Hialeah, Florida, apartment complex, killing six

people before being shot dead by police. Billionaire Texas oilman George P. Mitchell, considered the father of fracking, died at his home in Galveston; he was 94. JJ Cale, whose best songs like "After Midnight" and "Cocaine" were towering hits for other artists, died in La Jolla, California at age 74.

Five years ago: As a deadline set by a federal judge arrived, the Trump administration said more than 1,800 children who were separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border had been reunited with parents and sponsors; hundreds more remained apart. Shares in Facebook plunged 19 percent, wiping out \$119 billion of the company's Wall Street value; the plunge followed Facebook's warning that its revenue growth would slow significantly. The last six members of a Japanese doomsday cult who remained on death row were executed for a series of crimes in the 1990s, including a gas attack on Tokyo subways that killed 13 people.

One year ago: Former President Donald Trump returned to Washington for the first time since leaving office, vigorously repeating his false election claims that sparked the Jan. 6 insurrection at the nearby Capitol. Russia said it would pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine. The announcement, which was expected, threw into question the future of the 24-year-old space station. Klondike announced it would be discontinuing the Choco Taco.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Colbert is 92. Actor-singer Darlene Love is 82. Singer Brenton Wood is 82. Rock star Mick Jagger is 80. Movie director Peter Hyams is 80. Actor Helen Mirren is 78. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Queen) is 74. Actor Susan George is 73. Olympic gold medal figure skater Dorothy Hamill is 67. Actor Nana Visitor is 66. Actor Kevin Spacey is 64. Rock singer Gary Cherone is 62. Actor Sandra Bullock is 59. Actor-comedian Danny Woodburn is 59. Rock singer Jim Lindberg (Pennywise) is 58. Actor Jeremy Piven is 58. Rapper-reggae singer Wayne Wonder is 57. Actor Jason Statham is 56. Actor Cress Williams is 53. TV host Chris Harrison is 52. Actor Kate Beckinsale is 50. Actor Gary Owen is 50. Rock musician Dan Konopka (OK Go) is 49. Gospel/Contemporary Christian singer Rebecca St. James is 46. Actor Eve Myles is 45. Actor Juliet Rylance is 44. Actor Monica Raymund is 37. Actor Caitlin Gerard is 35. Actor Francia Raisa is 35. Actor Bianca Santos is 33. Actor-singer Taylor Momsen is 30. Actor Elizabeth Gillies is 30.

## 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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