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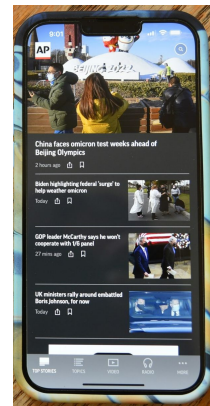
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Connecting

July 28, 2023

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Valerie Komor re-boxes the records of World Services, an AP division formed after World War II to supply national and international news to overseas clients in 114 countries. (AP Photo)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this July 28, 2023,

Today's Connecting extends further congratulations to our colleague **Valerie Komor**, AP's director of Corporate Archives for the work she has done over 20 years to preserve AP history.

Overnight, [Valerie](#) sent this response:

"I've received so many nice notes of congratulations from across the AP, from those I know and those I have never met. Thank you so much for your warmth and friendship! I could not do this wonderful job without your friendship and ongoing engagement in AP's illustrious legacy. Paul, please know this means you!

"And for those who may have missed it, here is the link to the AP Images blog we made to celebrate 20 years of the corporate archives. Click [here](#) to view."

And in this issue, we extend more congratulations, to four of our colleagues just elected to the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, as well as a fifth - my special friend and Connecting colleague **Jeannie Eblen**, who died in 2021 and now joins her late husband **Tom Eblen** in the Kansas Hall.

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

Paul

Challenges that faced Valerie Komor cannot be understated

[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - Congratulations to Valerie Komor – AP's director of Corporate Archives - on completing 20 years in her role as AP's chief archivist.

The enormity of the challenge she faced upon coming to the company cannot be overstated. She was being asked to organize the news, corporate, governance, internal and other records of a company that in its first 157 years largely had been run by journalists, people not particularly known for their propensity and ability to keep and organize their belongings. One of her first tasks, as I recall, was to venture into the dusty, dirty basement bowels of AP's Rockefeller Plaza headquarters and to begin sorting and retaining what was there. Her job took on urgency when the decision was made to move a year later to the pyramid-shaped building at 33rd Street, nearly two miles and a cultural world away.

Our offices were near each other at 33rd Street and we often visited. I enjoyed talking to her and getting to know about her work to organize AP's corporate history. I believe it was Valerie's efforts that determined the news cooperative was founded two years earlier than it had long believed.

It's regrettable that many of AP's member news organizations did not have a Valerie Komor to help them retain their own records, particularly stories and photos that are valuable to recording and understanding the nation's long journey. As many closed or abandoned their buildings in favor of lower-cost quarters, document, story and photo archives were simply left to be discarded by construction crews and new tenants. I had the sad experience of walking through two former newspaper buildings where story and photo files from their libraries were strewn about the floor and hallways. Such a lost, potentially valuable resource.

AP bureaus and offices weren't immune. For most of their history and prior to the Internet, storage of printed stories, photos and records was up to the individuals who worked there. There was no clear organization or plan to retain them, or to have them collected in a central AP repository. In some cases, essential history was lost. In New Jersey, for example, troves of old photos from events such as the Lindbergh kidnapping or the tragic fire aboard the SS Morro Castle that had been stored in former horse stalls under the Statehouse apparently were tossed when state employees cleaned out the space for new storage.

Connecting colleagues among 34 inductees into Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame

Four of our Connecting colleagues are among 34 new members to be inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, the largest group ever in a single year, the Kansas Newspaper Association announced this week.

Here are profiles on each:

[Julie Doll](#) - Reporting and leadership roles dotted the career of 1979 Kansas State University graduate Julie Doll.

She worked as a reporter at the Lawrence Journal-World and the Hays Daily News and then moved to the Hutchinson News in 1981, but a year later she joined the Harris Enterprises management intern program.

She was named editor and publisher of the Hays Daily News in 1984, leading a talented staff covering tough issues like the farm crisis and the city's water shortage.

In 1990, she took over as publisher of the Camarillo Daily News, a Harris property in California. After those properties were sold in 1994, she went to work in newsroom management at the Poughkeepsie Journal in New York and guided the newspaper's coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

From 2002 to 2010, she worked at the Lafayette (Ind.) Journal and Courier. In 2012, she was named business editor of the Wichita Eagle before leaving the business in 2015.

-0-

Jeannie Kygar Eblen (deceased) - Jeannie Kygar Eblen was known as a skilled writer and editor at area newspapers, a national magazine, the University of Kansas and several non-profit organizations.

Born in Chautauqua County in southeast Kansas, Eblen graduated in 1966 from Oklahoma State University and married Tom Eblen. Later, she worked as a reporter for 10 years at the Kansas City Star, then was field editor for Better Homes & Gardens magazine for four years.

When Tom was named general manager of the Fort Scott Tribune, she immersed herself in freelance writing and as public information officer for Fort Scott Community College.

When the Eblens moved to Lawrence so Tom could take over as general manager of the University Daily Kansan and as a news professor at the University of Kansas, Jeannie was known as the “newsroom mom.”

She also worked as a copy editor at the Star, the Lawrence Journal-World and the Miami County Republic.

-0-

Gloria Freeland - A professor for 37 years at the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism at Kansas State University, Gloria Freeland became synonymous with community journalism.

She was associate director of Student Publications Inc. for 15 years and director of the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media for 22 years, retiring in 2020.

She organized the Collegian’s 1996 centennial celebration, the 2010 Miller School centennial gala and served on the planning committee for K-State’s sesquicentennial activities in 2013.

She also served for 15 years as the school’s internship coordinator. She received her bachelor’s degree in journalism and master’s degree in business administration from K-State.

She and her husband, Art Vaughan, a former K-State professor, wrote a book, “An Opportunity to Be Better,” about the sister city relationship between Morganville, Kan. and Metz, France after World War II. It was published in English and later in French.

-0-

Steve Haynes - The newspaper career of Steve Haynes spans more than five decades, the majority of it in Kansas.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, he began his professional newspaper career at the Kansas City Star and Times.

He moved to Colorado, led where he the Mineral County Miner and the South Ford Times in Creede, Colo. from 1980 to 1986. He was co-owner and co-publisher of SLV Publishing in Monte Vista, Colo. From 1986 to 1993.

He and Cynthia moved to northwest Kansas and he was the co-owner, publisher and editor of Haynes Publishing Co. and Nor'West Newspapers for nearly 30 years until his retirement. Those newspapers included the Colby Free Press, Goodland Star-News, St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times, and later the Rawlins County Square Deal and a shopper, the Country Advocate.

While Steve Haynes has been in the newspaper business for more than five decades, the majority of it in Kansas, his accomplishments in the industry are outstanding as well.

He was president of the Colorado Press Association in 1988, where he headed successful campaign for the state Sunshine Law and president of the Kansas Press Association in 1998-99.

In 2008, he was elected president of the National Newspaper Association after serving in a number of capacities on the board. He still serves on the NNA Foundation board.

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Susanne Shaw - The daughter of a small-town Kansas newspaper man, Susanne Shaw for five decades dedicated her life to journalism education at the University of Kansas and throughout the world.

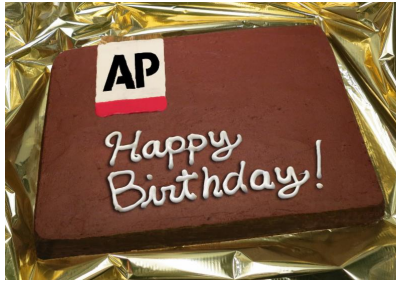
Shaw began as a high school journalism teacher in 1961 in Wichita and was unwavering in this guiding principle: students, "I love students," she once said. "They bring me happiness that money can't buy."

She grew up in Wellington and worked summers at the Daily News, eventually doing every job at the newspaper.

After graduation from KU with a bachelor's degree from the School of Education, she taught at Wichita South High School, returned to get her master's degree in journalism, then returned to Wichita South to be publications adviser and journalism teacher.

She joined the KU journalism faculty in 1971. She left Kansas once briefly to work at the Tallahassee Democrat before entering a management training program. She left Lawrence again to become editor and publisher of the Coffeyville Journal, but returned to the KU faculty again in 1984, where she remained for the next 35 years

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Paul Bowker](#)

[Jackie Hallifax](#)

[Mark Huffman](#)

[Jim Suhr](#)

On Saturday to...

[Walt Rastetter](#)

On Sunday to...

[David Briscoe](#)

[Frieda Frisaro](#)

Stories of interest

This Startup Wants to Create an AI-Generated CNN

(Hollywood Reporter)

By ALEX WEPRIN

Standing in what appears to be a modern newsroom, the business correspondent breaks down the earnings report from Disney, highlighting subscriber growth at its streaming services and revenue at its theme parks. Rattling off stats and figures as images of Mickey Mouse and Disney+ fill the screen, a user might not think twice about the report.

But a closer look would show that the correspondent's lips weren't quite matching up to the words she was saying.

The video is a demo clip from a startup called Channel 1 News, which is seeking to use generative artificial intelligence to create a new type of video news channel. Founded by producer and director Scott Zabielski (Tosh.0, The Jim Jefferies Show) and tech entrepreneur Adam Mosam, Channel 1 will launch this year with a 30-minute weekly show made available through a FAST channel, though the ambition is to produce newscasts customized for every user (Mosam says that next year they intend to produce between 500 and 1,000 segments daily) accessible via an ad-supported app or video platform.

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

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Former Mississippi governor sues news site over welfare fraud comments (AP)

BY MICHAEL GOLDBERG

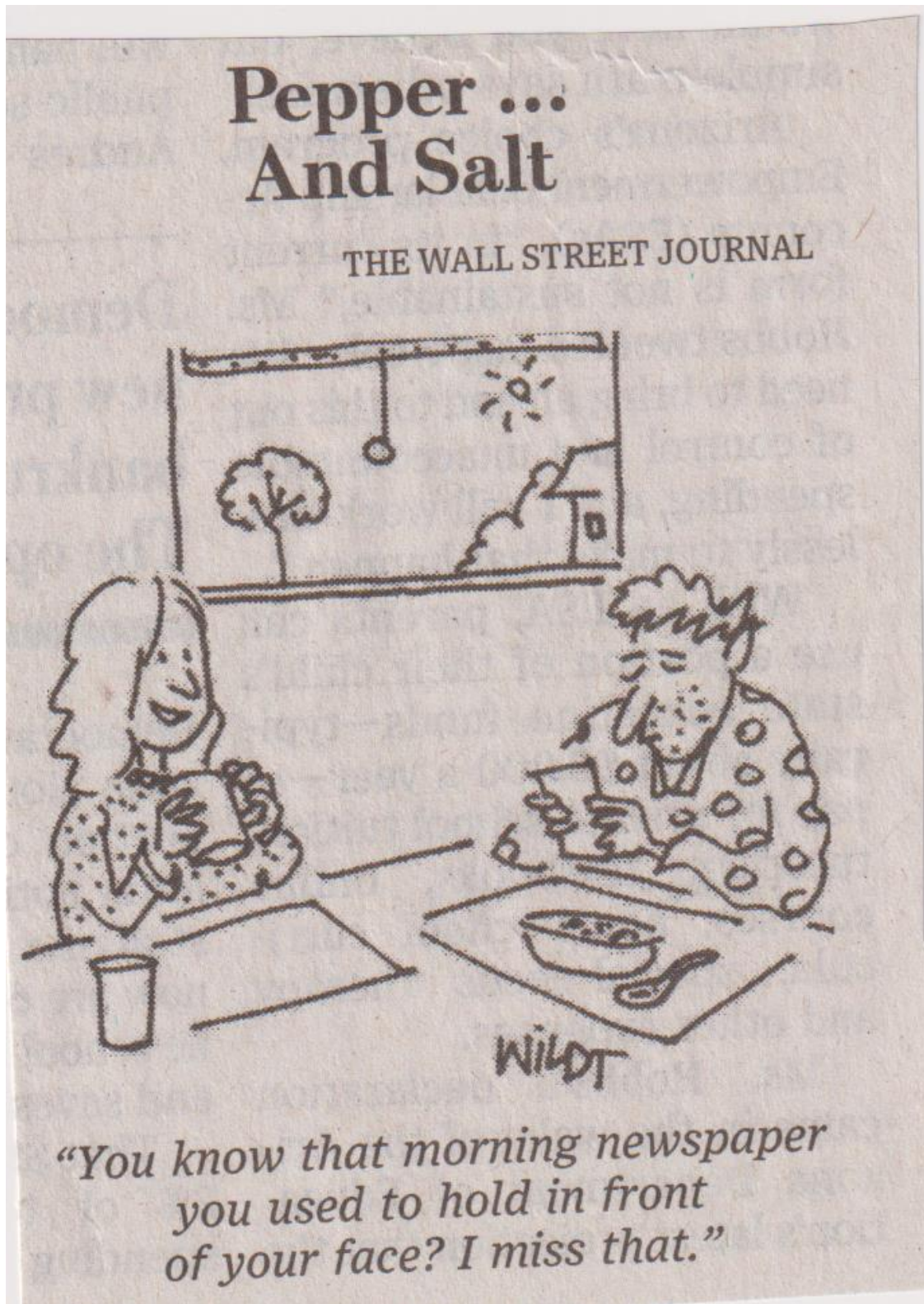
JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Former Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant is suing a local news organization, claiming it defamed him in public comments on the misspending of \$77 million of federal welfare funds intended to help some of the poorest people in the U.S.

The lawsuit comes just over two months after Mississippi Today and one of its reporters, Anna Wolfe, won a Pulitzer Prize for her coverage of the welfare misspending. The news outlet's story announcing that honor is one example of where the former governor says he was defamed. Bryant's attorney filed a complaint Wednesday in the Circuit Court of Madison County against the outlet's CEO, Mary Margaret White, and Deep South Today, the outlet's nonprofit owner.

The lawsuit, which does not appear to challenge the veracity of Mississippi Today's findings about the welfare scandal, claims White and other employees made "slandorous" or unfounded comments about Bryant when discussing the outlet's reporting in several public settings.

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

The Final Word



Shared by Paul Albright

Today in History - July 28, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 28, the 209th day of 2023. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 28, 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

On this date:

In 1609, the English ship Sea Venture, commanded by Adm. Sir George Somers, ran ashore on Bermuda, where the passengers and crew founded a colony.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing, which had limited people to one pound of coffee every five weeks since it began in Nov. 1942.

In 1945, A U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000.

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1995, a jury in Union, South Carolina, rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in 2024).

In 2015, it was announced that Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Naval intelligence analyst who had spent nearly three decades in prison for spying for Israel, had been granted parole.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia, where she cast herself as a unifier for divided times as well as an experienced leader steeled for a volatile world while aggressively challenging Republican Donald Trump's ability to lead.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire at a popular garlic festival in Gilroy, California, killing three people, including a six-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, and wounding 17 others before taking his own life.

In 2020, President Donald Trump issued a stout defense of the disproved use of a malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, to treat COVID-19, hours after social media companies took down videos shared by Trump, his son and others promoting its use.

Ten years ago: Pope Francis' historic trip to his home continent of South America ended after a marathon week in Brazil. In southern Italy, 39 people were killed when a tour bus plunged into a ravine. An armed thief stole a \$136 million diamond collection from a jewelry show at the Carlton International Hotel in Cannes, France. Actress and singer Eileen Brennan died in Burbank, California at age 80.

Five years ago: Pope Francis accepted the resignation of U.S. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the emeritus archbishop of Washington, D.C., following allegations of sexual abuse, including one involving an 11-year-old boy. A magnitude-6.4 earthquake in Lombok, Indonesia destroyed homes, killed at least 16 people and injured dozens more.

One year ago: President Biden declared his support for the "historic" inflation-fighting agreement struck by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and holdout Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, an expansive health care and climate change package that had eluded the White House and seemed all but lost. Biden said the bill will be a "godsend" for American families. Rescue workers plucked people off rooftops amid fast-rising water in central Appalachia, where torrential rains unleashed devastating flooding that caused at least three deaths in Kentucky. Beloved British actor Bernard Cribbins died at the age of 93.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 92. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 82. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 80. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 78. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 77. Actor Linda Kelsey is 77. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 76. Actor Sally Struthers is 76. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 74. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 69. Former CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 66. Actor Michael Hayden is 60. Actor Lori Loughlin is 59. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 58. Former hockey player Garth Snow is 54. Actor Elizabeth Berkley is 51. Singer Afroman is 49. Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 47. Actor John David Washington is 39. Actor Jon Michael Hill is 38. Actor Dustin Milligan is 38. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 37. Rapper Soulja Boy is 33. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd (TV: "The X Factor") is 30. Golfer Nelly Korda is 25.

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.



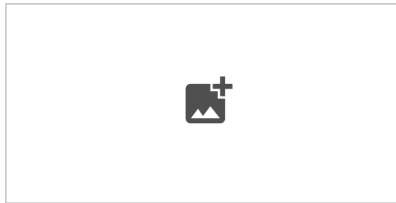
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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