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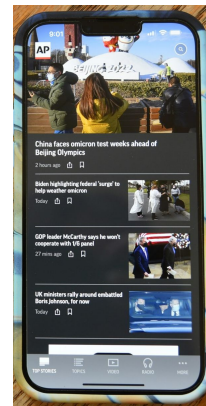
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# Connecting

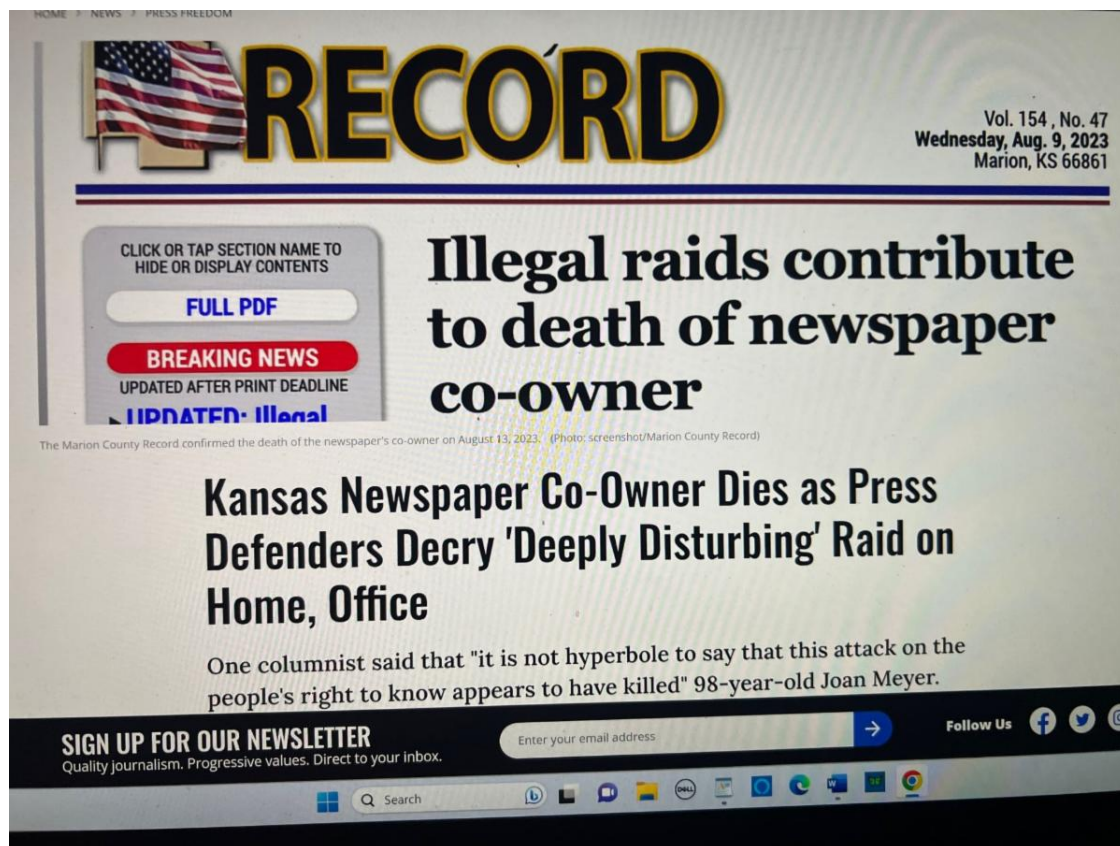
Aug. 14, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 14, 2023,

Few stories have hit closer to home than that occurring in the small central Kansas community of Marion, where the police department is facing heavy criticism for raiding the local newspaper's office and the owner and publisher's home, seizing computers and cellphones, and, in the publisher's view, stressing his 98-year-old mother enough to cause her weekend death.

Marion is about two hours from where I live – and over my four decades in Kansas, I got to know the owners of the Marion County Record – **Bill and Joan Meyer**, and since Bill's death in 2006, Joan and their son **Eric**, the Record's editor and publisher. My wife Linda's memories of the newspaper go back even further – part of her growing-up years were in tiny Lost Springs, Kan., where the Record to the south and the Herington Times to the north were the "big-city" newspapers.

No story in Connecting has generated the activity of feeds from Connecting colleagues – more than 30 of you shared stories produced by various media outlets around the world. And I thought I would list – with thanks - those contributors here:

Paul Albright, George Arfield, Myron Belkind, Adolphe Bernotas, Larry Blasko, Lou Boccardi, Kia Breaux, Ford Burkhart, Jim Carlson, Richard Chady, Sibby Christensen, Dennis Conrad, Claude Erbsen, Lindel Hutson, Len Iwanski, Valerie Komor, Andy Lippman, Courtney Eblen McCain, Mark Mittelstadt, Doug Pizac, Kent Prince, Carol Riha, Jim Rowley, Michael Rubin, Michael Sniffen, Hal Spencer, Marla Tobin, Dave Tomlin, Neal Ulevich, Peggy Walsh, John Wylie, Sonya Zalubowski.

We bring you the AP story on what happened in Marion. Topeka Correspondent **John Hanna** was on site and provided a story and photos for the wire. He was assisted in reporting efforts by another Connecting colleague, **Margery Beck** of Omaha.

Click [here](#) to view the Record's own coverage.

Connecting welcomes your thoughts on what happened in Marion, a community of 1,900.

Colleague [John Wylie](#) of Oklahoma said that in his more than half a century spent as a very active local, regional and national advocate for the First Amendment, open meetings, open records and shield laws for journalists doing their jobs, "I have never seen the level of totalitarianism as what we are seeing now. Just across the state lines we have the McCurtain County case in Oklahoma and now the Record in Kansas. So much corruption is exposed by the shrinking but valiant community newspapers that still attend public meetings, request and review public records, purchase orders, etc. I can't imagine the document involved in Kansas poses a threat to national security."

Our colleague **David Briscoe**, once AP bureau chief in Hawaii, offers a well-written takeout on the horrific wildfires on the island of Maui that have now claimed nearly 100 lives. Officials warn the human toll is still not fully known.

**OUR COLLEAGUES TAD BARTIMUS AND DEAN WARINER** – who are longtime residents of Hana, Hawaii, thank their friends who reached out by phone and emails during the fiery devastation of Maui. Tad wrote, "Thank you for your offers of help. We are fine but the Lahaina area is devastated, burned to the ground. Our hearts are broken. We live in East Maui and were not directly affected. But we still cannot reach West side friends, communication nearly impossible. The Lahaina and west Maui fires were horrific...Relief efforts underway, if you want to help please donate to the Salvation Army. Tad's email - [hanagirl@aol.com](mailto:hanagirl@aol.com)

Click [here](#) for coverage by the Maui News. I thought you might like to know that there is a GoFundMe fundraiser to support the staff of the News, which is working under extraordinary conditions. Click [here](#).

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

## A central Kansas police force sparked a firestorm by raiding a newspaper and the publisher's home



**Record Publisher Eric Meyer**



**AP Photos/John Hanna**

**BY JOHN HANNA AND MARGERY A. BECK**

MARION, Kan. (AP) — A small central Kansas police department is facing a torrent of criticism for raiding a local newspaper’s office and the owner and publisher’s home, seizing computers and cellphones, and, in the publisher’s view, stressing his 98-year-old mother enough to cause her weekend death.

Several press freedom watchdogs condemned the Marion Police Department's actions as a blatant violation of the U.S. Constitution's protection for a free press. The Marion County Record's editor and publisher, Eric Meyer, worked with his staff Sunday to reconstruct stories, ads and other materials for its next edition Wednesday, even as he took time in the afternoon to provide a local funeral home with information about his mother, Joan, the paper's co-owner.

A search warrant tied the raids by Marion police, led Friday morning by Chief Gideon Cody, to a dispute between the newspaper and a local restaurant owner, Kari Newell. She is accusing the newspaper of invading her privacy and illegally accessing information about her and her driving record and suggested that the newspaper targeted her after she threw Meyer and a reporter out of restaurant when it hosted an event for the congressman who represents the area.

While Meyer saw Newell's complaints — which he said were untrue — as prompting the raids, he also believes the newspaper's aggressive coverage of local politics and issues played a role. He said the newspaper was examining Cody's past work with the Kansas City, Missouri, police as well.

"This is the type of stuff that, you know, that Vladimir Putin does, that Third World dictators do," Meyer said during an interview in his office. "This is Gestapo tactics from World War II."

Cody said Sunday that the raid was legal and tied to an investigation.

The raids occurred in a town of about 1,900 people, nestled among rolling prairie hills, about 150 miles (241 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City.

Meyer said that one Record reporter suffered an injury to a finger when Cody wrested her cellphone out of her hand, according to the report. The newspaper's surveillance video showed officers reading that reporter her rights while Cody watched, though she wasn't arrested or detained. Newspaper employees were hustled out of the building while the search continued for more than 90 minutes, according to the footage.

Meanwhile, Meyer said, police simultaneously raiding his home seized computers, his cellphone and the home's internet router.

But as Meyer fielded messages from reporters and editors as far away as London and reviewed footage from the newsroom's surveillance camera, Newell was receiving death threats from as far away, she said. She said the Record engages in "tabloid trash reporting" and was trying to hush her up.

"I fully believe that the intent was to do harm and merely tarnish my reputation, and I think if had it been left at that, I don't think that it would have blown up as big as it was," Newell said in a telephone interview.

Newell said she threw Meyer and the Record reporter out of the event for Republican U.S. Rep. Jake LaTurner event at the request of others who are upset with the "toxic" newspaper. On the town's main street, one storefront included a handmade "Support Marion PD" sign."

The police chief and other officials also attended and were acknowledged at the reception, and the Marion Police Department highlighted the event on its Facebook page.

LaTurner's office did not immediately return phone messages left Sunday at his Washington and district offices seeking comment.

Newell said she believes the newspaper violated the law to get her personal information as it checked on the status of her driver's license following a 2008 drunken driving conviction and other driving violations.

The newspaper countered that it received that information unsolicited, which it verified through public online records. It eventually decided not to run a story because it wasn't sure the source who supplied it had obtained it legally. But the newspaper did run a story on the city council meeting, in which Newell herself confirmed she'd had a DUI conviction and that she had continued to drive even after her license was suspended.

A two-page search warrant, signed by a local judge, lists Newell as the victim of alleged crimes by the newspaper. When the newspaper asked for a copy of the probable cause affidavit required by law to issue a search warrant, the district court issued a signed statement saying no such affidavit was on file, the Record reported.

Cody, the police chief, defended the raid on Sunday, saying in an email to The Associated Press that while federal law usually requires a subpoena — not just a search warrant — to raid a newsroom, there is an exception “when there is reason to believe the journalist is taking part in the underlying wrongdoing.”

Cody did not give details about what that alleged wrongdoing entailed.

Cody, who was hired in late April as Marion's police chief after serving 24 years in the Kansas City police, did not respond to questions about whether police filed a probable cause affidavit for the search warrant. He also did not answer questions about how police believe Newell was victimized.

Press freedom and civil rights organizations agreed that police, the local prosecutor's office and the judge who signed off on the search warrant overstepped their authority.

“It seems like one of the most aggressive police raids of a news organization or entity in quite some time,” said Sharon Brett, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, adding that it seemed “quite an alarming abuse of authority.”

Seth Stern, director of advocacy for Freedom of the Press Foundation, said in a statement that the raid appeared to have violated federal law, the First Amendment, “and basic human decency.”

“The anti-press rhetoric that's become so pervasive in this country has become more than just talk and is creating a dangerous environment for journalists trying to do their jobs,” Stern said.

Meyer said he has been flooded with offers of help from press freedom groups and other news organizations. But he said what he and his staff need is more hours in the day to get their next edition put together.

Both he and Newell are contemplating lawsuits — Newell against the newspaper and Meyer against the public officials who staged the raid.

As for the criticism of the raid as a violation of First Amendment rights, Newell said her privacy rights were violated, and they are “just as important as anybody else’s.”

## Hellscape in Paradise



**Wildfire wreckage is seen Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii. The search of the wildfire wreckage on the Hawaiian island of Maui on Thursday revealed a wasteland of burned-out homes and obliterated communities as firefighters battled the deadliest blaze in the U.S. in recent years. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer**

[David Briscoe](#) - The fire was fast, but the news was slow.

Grayish aerial video with before-and-after photos first showed the extent of the devastation as wildfire of uncertain origin essentially destroyed the quaint yet bustling former Hawaiian Kingdom capital of Lahaina on Maui.

We know how it spread — side winds of a passing hurricane — and we may find out at what vulnerable point it first consumed buildings, but we don’t know how, exactly when or where it started and maybe never will.

The Lahaina conflagration was one of four fires that burned for days on the paradise island.

Few major news operations report regularly from Hawaii. The Associated Press bureau I once headed in Honolulu still has a strong staff but with a wisp of its former depth and only recently moved out of the COVID mode of operating from reporters' homes.

Early AP stories carried double and triple bylines, including Hawaii-based Audrey McAvoy and Jennifer Sinco Kelleher. Ty O'Neil, AP video journalist out of Las Vegas, had some cogent aerial observations carried on the wire and in Connecting August 11. From high in the air, Ty's account was as vivid and informed as any of the scattered early local eyewitness reporting.

Matt Sedensky, AP national writer who interned in Honolulu, filed [a masterful weekend piece](#) on survivors, including: "An immigrant cook building a new life. A widow preparing to say goodbye. A couple taking their wedding vows." That was his lead. The rest is a must-read for anyone who wants to feel real human beings reacting to the horror.

The lack of datelines betrayed that many stories, including Matt's, were not reported from the scene. The New York Times early accounts came from staff in Seoul, Korea.

I'll leave the real reporting to those currently in the business. But, like many retirees remembering what it's like to be caught in the fray of a big story, I can't avoid the well of thoughts, emotions and memories such a disaster kindles.

While the confirmed death toll rose from 36 to 53 on Thursday and 93 by Sunday, a state recovery spokesman told CNN the missing could be "up to 1,000." Politicians were saying the number of dead would rise "exponentially" an obvious hyperbole. Early reporting wasn't asking the right questions on the extent of the tragedy: How and by whom are the dead and missing to be tallied? Reporting had not yet even begun on who had died.

Official word on anything comes slowly in these laid-back islands. At infrequent news conferences, every available official is brought to the podium, even when the feed is national. All say they'll be brief and to the point. They rarely are. The networks pull away quickly, often before vital questions have been answered or even asked.

The fact that three days after the fire, the count was not increasing is either a minor comfort or hard to figure? The 1,000 figure may or may not be an exaggeration, but we need some indication of how much more tragedy may be yet to come.

Words could not tell the complete story at the start. We had to rely solely on the horrendous images.

More like the work of Oppenheimer than any normal bombing or "war zone" cliché, the Maui wildfires were spread at blast furnace speed by a hurricane that technically missed the Hawaiian islands — as most do.

According to Gov. Josh Green, who was vacationing on the mainland when disaster hit, the Hawaii wildfires were fast devolving into the deadliest and worst natural disaster in state history. The Sunday Honolulu Star-Advertiser called Lahaina's the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century.



No tsunami, hurricane, earthquake or volcanic eruption has taken such a toll on humans, their homes, animals, cultural landmarks and businesses.

Airlines were flying tourists by the thousands — out but not in, just when tourism levels seemed fully recovered from three years of COVID restrictions.

A sprawling banyan tree, a Maui landmark for nearly two centuries, was a prominent casualty, although some of its multiple roots and trunks may still grow.

What's clear is that wide swaths of paradise are now a hellscape.

One mystery is why it didn't happen earlier. A possible answer already favored by environmental activists seems to be that global climate change set the stage for the perfect firestorm.

After Lahaina's two centuries as a bustling whaling town, island capital and now tourist mecca, the flammability of mostly wooden buildings in a bustling community amidst a drying landscape fatally aligned with factors of climate, drought and the little-noticed or largely ignored fact of frequent island wildfires.

These lush tropical islands of the Pacific, with frequent rain storms (more often accompanied by rainbows than thunder or lightning) seem an unlikely place for the wildfire danger that is very real.

Not all wildfires can be classified as "natural disasters." Some are sparked by man-made fires. A notorious one that burnt out an entire unpopulated valley on Oahu was an intentional burn by the U.S. military that spread much wider than intended.

Campfires, garbage burns, tossed cigarets and electrical sparks have also started some destructive island fires. Whatever the spark, four were burning in different parts of Maui when Lahaina was lost.

In fact, any manner of natural disaster is relatively rare in these laid-back islands. Other remote populated islands across the Pacific are much more vulnerable to rising ocean levels and the full gamut of weather and ocean dangers. No matter the cause, death and widespread property damage beyond vegetation are rare in Hawaii.

These fires in paradise are different. In addition to the counted and uncounted lives lost, Hawaii residents on Maui and beyond are all affected across these close-knit islands of Aloha. Many local families have roots and close ties on more than one of the seven populated islands.

When one suffers, all suffer. That's part of island aloha.

The stories are only beginning to emerge. ABC reported Rudy Mazur planned a formal opening for his art gallery, moved from Honolulu to Lahaina, the day of the fire. He had a great location on Lahaina's popular tourist strip, Front Street, now a burnt concrete shell is all that's left of paintings collected over a lifetime.

No bodies fell from burning high-rises in the historic seaside town, but people along Front Street literally had to jump into the ocean as their unreachable parked cars

exploded and buildings burned around them.

Some spent hours in the water before rescue, many with stories yet to be told and prayers yet to be uttered to mourn the dead and to give thanks for the living.

Perversely, for many locals, a popular island expression — “Lucky we live Hawaii” — may now be more widely: “Lucky to be alive in Hawaii.”

Some of my favorite personal memories of Maui are lunches with AP members and evening drinks (nonalcoholic, I’m afraid) at the second-floor open lanai of Lahaina’s Cheeseburger in Paradise, with sunset reflecting off the harbor and the island of Lanai rising low and hazy across the shimmering golden harbor. The soundtrack is a live Jimmy Buffet cover.

It never was the real Jimmy Buffet nor the real Margaritaville, but it was my favorite burger since my Mother’s.

Now it’s all just memories from the rubble. The owner reports the restaurant was burnt to the foundation but vows it will be rebuilt, which is what most are saying.

But I’ll never hear that song the same again.

### ***BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER***

## **Cross-format reporting keeps AP ahead on coverage of Niger’s coup**



West Africa correspondent Sam Mednick was in Niamey — by chance to make use of a visa nearing expiration — when mutinous bodyguards launched a coup against their president. But her stellar, singlehanded all-formats coverage is due entirely to her extraordinary multimedia skills and perseverance.

On the day of the July 26 coup, she covertly filmed troops on the streets from her car, braved bullets to cover protestors opposed to President Bazoum's ouster and worked late into the night reporting as the new junta took to the airwaves.

Day after day, Mednick produced live video, photos of demonstrations, WhatsApp clips to colleagues and interviews on and off the record to show the importance of the coup in a country that has long been considered a bulwark of democracy against Islamic extremism and autocracy.

She did it alone. Our regular local stringer was abroad, our West Africa senior video producer had left for the Mideast, and our West Africa bureau chief was on vacation.

And she's still at it.

Read more [here](#).

### *BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER*

## Baldor, Copp break news that Biden picked Colorado for Space Command HQ



It was a decision that was eagerly anticipated in military circles and by residents of Alabama and Colorado: whether President Joe Biden would ultimately decide to

reverse a Trump-era decision to move Space Command to Huntsville or keep it in Colorado Springs.

As Biden contemplated his choice, Pentagon reporters Lolita C. Baldor and Tara Copp were routinely checking in with their sources for any updates. Their due diligence — as well as Baldor and Copp’s extensive sourcing and expertise in covering the military — paid off, as the two were the first to report Biden’s decision that Space Command would remain in Colorado.

Soon after Biden made his decision, Baldor and Copp moved rapidly to report and confirm the details while pulling together background from their previous stories on the topic — knowing that their speed was of the essence, while other journalists were likely chasing the news as well.

In the end, Baldor and Copp’s story beat every other news outlet. Not only were Baldor and Copp first to report the news, but they also took readers inside the key decision-making process and the internal divisions among top military officials on what Biden should do.

Among those details: Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, who had conducted his own review of the potential relocation, wanted Space Command to be located in Alabama, while Gen. James Dickinson, the head of Space Command, argued that moving his headquarters now would jeopardize military readiness. Baldor and Copp reported that Biden was ultimately swayed by Dickinson’s case.

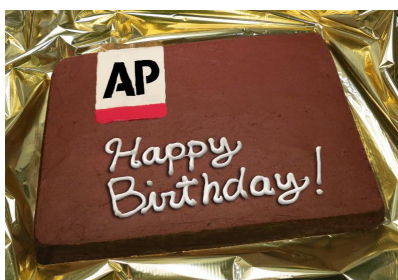
Read more [here](#).

## Man on a laptop



Captured in Battery Park City, Manhattan, by [Santiago Lyon](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



## [George Garties](#)

# Stories of interest

## ***'Native American' or 'Indigenous'? Journalism group rethinks name*** (AP)

BY MICHAEL WARREN

ATLANTA (AP) — The Native American Journalists Association is aiming to become more inclusive as its members vote on whether to rebrand as the Indigenous Journalists Association — a move inspired, in part, by evolving trends in cultural identity.

The group, with more than 950 members mostly in the United States, is expected to approve the change at its annual conference this week in Winnipeg, Canada. Voting on the new name, as well as branding that would replace a feather with an “ija” logo in stylized letters, runs through Thursday, Aug. 10.

Founded in part by Canadians in 1983, NAJA wants to foster inclusion with Indigenous journalists there as well as in Alaska and Hawaii, since “Native American” is a modern alternative for “American Indian” — referring specifically to the millions of descendants of the original inhabitants of what is now the Lower 48 states.

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

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## ***Neeraj Khemlani steps down as head of CBS News*** (Los Angeles Times)

**Stephen Battaglio**

Neeraj Khemlani is stepping down as co-head of CBS News.

The Paramount Global unit announced Khemlani's exit on Sunday. No successor was named, but Khemlani shared his title with Wendy McMahon, who oversees the CBS-owned TV stations and could step into his role.

In a memo to staff, Khemlani said he will remain with CBS as a content producer.

"I'm pleased to share that I've signed a multi-year, multi-platform first look deal with CBS to develop content — including documentaries, scripted series and books for Simon & Schuster," he said. "It's an opportunity that will allow me to write, report and develop stories that I've long wanted to pursue."

Khemlani took over the news division from Susan Zirinsky in April 2021. He was the fourth executive to hold the post since 2011.

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

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## ***Post police bureau chief sucker-punched by stranger during NYC commute*** (New York Post)

By Tina Moore

I've spent 17 years reporting and writing about crime in the Big Apple, telling the stories of countless crime victims — and now, I'm one of them.

I was headed to my desk at One Police Plaza downtown on Tuesday when I was punched in the ribs out of the blue by a stranger with a criminal record.

Even though I did everything I could to help cops catch my attacker — shouting for help, taking pictures as he fled, flagging down an officer, reporting the crime, and helping police identify the suspect — my case is going nowhere, one of so many lost in the system's inability to act on common sense.

So a dangerous assailant, who police sources told me has a long rap sheet, is still in the wind, while I and other potential victims are watching our backs.

"Everyone is at risk," a Manhattan cop told me. "This guy ... he's just going to hit someone else."

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

## **The Final Word**

### ***Opinion The country has come apart. Rural America has a cure.*** (Washington Post)

By Dana Milbank

Since buying an old farm in the Virginia countryside last year, I have learned many things from the local weekly, the Rappahannock News. Among them:

Chuck and Diane Moore just celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary.

Mae Racer makes the best rice pudding.

A new bench at the corner of Main and Porter streets memorializes Chuck Hunter.

Ploy Goodnight did the decorations for the Child Care and Learning Center luncheon.

And Doug and Beverly Exline enjoyed a relaxing week on vacation in North Carolina.

I freely admit that I don't know any of these people. Yet, I am enthralled.

At a time when hooligans have hijacked the national discourse with disinformation and paranoia, the Rappahannock News operates in a calmer place where the slow rhythms of rural life are newsworthy — and where, regardless of political views, its readers are unified by a powerful sense of community. In tiny Rappahannock County, the newspaper still serves as the hymnal of our civic religion. It's a tradition that we need to rescue in rural America — and emulate in our cities.

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

## Today in History – Aug. 14, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 14, the 226th day of 2023. There are 139 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 14, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

### On this date:

In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that renounced aggression.



In 1947, Pakistan became independent of British rule.

In 1948, the Summer Olympics in London, the first held since 1936, ended.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1980, actor-model Dorothy Stratten was shot to death at age 20 by her estranged husband and manager, Paul Snider, who then killed himself.

In 1994, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the terrorist known as “Carlos the Jackal,” was captured by French agents in Sudan.

In 1995, Shannon Faulkner officially became the first female cadet in the history of The Citadel, South Carolina’s state military college. (However, Faulkner quit the school less than a week later, citing the stress of her court fight, and her isolation among the male cadets.)

In 1997, an unrepentant Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing. (McVeigh was executed by lethal injection in 2001.)

In 2009, Charles Manson follower Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars.

In 2020, India’s coronavirus death toll overtook Britain’s to become the fourth-highest in the world after another single-day record increase in cases.

Ten years ago: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators kicked off their first substantive round of peace talks in nearly five years, meeting at an undisclosed location in Jerusalem. Riot police swept away two encampments of supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi in Cairo, sparking running street battles. Former Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for illegally spending \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal items.

Five years ago: A highway bridge collapsed in the Italian city of Genoa during a storm, sending vehicles plunging nearly 150 feet and leaving 43 people dead. A state grand jury report concluded that some 300 Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania had molested more than 1,000 children since the 1940s and that church officials had covered up complaints. Puerto Rico officials announced that power was restored to the entire island for the first time since Hurricane Maria nearly 11 months earlier. Los Angeles transit officials said the city’s subway system would become the first in the country to install body scanners to screen passengers for weapons and explosives.

One year ago: A delegation of American lawmakers arrived in Taiwan just 12 days after a visit by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that angered China. China responded to Pelosi’s visit by sending missiles, warships and warplanes into the seas and air around Taiwan. The five-member delegation, led by Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, was there to meet President Tsai Ing-wen and other officials, as well as members of the private sector, to discuss shared interests including reducing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and investments in semiconductors. Salman Rushdie’s agent said the

author was “on the road to recovery” two days after suffering serious injuries in a stabbing at a lecture in upstate New York. A fire ripped through a packed Coptic Orthodox church during morning services in Egypt’s capital, killing 41 worshippers, including at least 15 children, and injuring 16 other people.

Today’s Birthdays: Broadway lyricist Lee Adams (“Bye Bye Birdie”) is 99. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 88. Singer Dash Crofts is 85. Country singer Connie Smith is 82. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 78. Movie director Wim Wenders is 78. Actor Antonio Fargas is 77. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 77. Actor Susan Saint James is 77. Author Danielle Steel is 76. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 75. “Far Side” cartoonist Gary Larson is 73. Actor Carl Lumbly is 72. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 71. Actor Jackee Harry is 67. Actor Marcia Gay Harden is 64. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin “Magic” Johnson is 64. Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., is 64. Singer Sarah Brightman is 63. Actor Susan Olsen is 62. Actor-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 59. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 59. Actor Halle Berry is 57. Actor Ben Bass is 55. Actor Catherine Bell is 55. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan is 53. Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 52. Actor Christopher Gorham is 49. Actor Mila Kunis is 40. Actor Lamorne Morris is 40. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 40. Former NFL player Tim Tebow is 36. Actor Marsai Martin is 19.

## 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 Central Region 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:

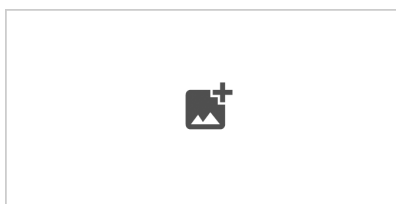
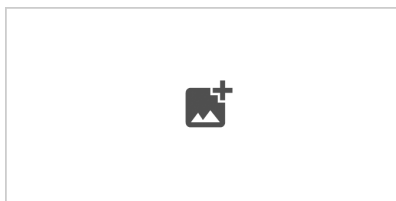
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **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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