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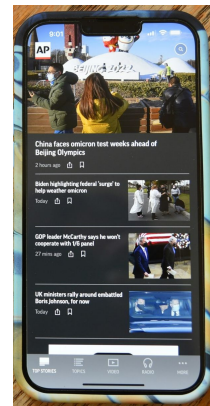
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Connecting

Aug. 21, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 21, 2023,

Today's Connecting provides you with several look-back articles by your colleagues:

Dennis Redmont, on highlights from past papal trips he has taken;

Scott Charton, on memories of working with George Esper covering the Great Floods of 1993;

Francesca Pitaro, on the great Babe Ruth and the 75th anniversary of his death.



We returned home Sunday night from a few days with friends in Lake George, Colo., where it was 45 degrees Sunday morning as we departed; the temperature was 105 when we got home to Kansas. But that 60-degree elevation in a matter of hours did not spoil a great trip that included riding the cog railway up to the top of Pikes Peak. Highly recommend if you've not done it. Thanks to **Peg Coughlin** for last Friday's vacation relief duty.

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

Paul

A Look Beyond Papal Trips that Read Like Thrillers



EDITOR'S NOTE: Pope Francis' recent visit to Portugal prompted our colleague Dennis Redmont to recall past papal trips he took as an Associated Press journalist in a 42-year career. He was invited to comment by the largest TV News Network in Portugal, SIC Noticias, and the Daily Diario de Noticias.



Dennis Redmont - A papal trip to a Catholic country brings with it an explosive mixture of history, diplomacy, politics, and sensational events. And after the trip ends what remains in memory are the unusual events, but some of them only become clear years later.

I have been a witness of Popes and Portugal for over 50 years and travelled with three Popes on more than 40 trips around the world as an Associated Press correspondent.

The first Pope was Paul VI on May 13, 1967, when I was AP correspondent in Lisbon.

The pope unexpectedly landed at Montereal military base nearby the Fatima shrine because he did not want to pay direct tribute to Salazar's regime by landing in Lisbon, the capital.

Later only people understood this was part of a project which brought a secret visit of the leaders of Portuguese territories fighting for independence.

On July 1, 1970, the Pope received in Rome at a discreet Vatican audience formed by the leaders of the main liberation movements from the Portuguese colonies. They included Agostinho Neto, who led the Mpla (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola), Marcelino dos Santos, who headed the Frelimo (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique) and Amílcar Cabral, secretary general of the Paigc (Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde). At that time, they were all engaged in a single battle for the overthrow of Portuguese colonial rule and the establishment of free societies.

For the first time in history a pope was meeting with the leaders of guerrilla movements that moreover were fighting against "very Catholic" Portugal ruled by a regime, whose Catholic hierarchies, had always been on the side of colonialism with very rare exceptions.

Pope Paul VI's meeting with leaders of African independent movements almost caused a major diplomatic incident with Portugal so much so that the latter, in protest, decided to withdraw its ambassador from Vatican territory. This lasted a few months.

But the visit, which was later leaked, set the stage for continuing Catholic presence in Portuguese speaking Africa. Still today there are many Catholic missions which operate schools and hospitals around these now independent countries and are able to continue their work with some difficulties.

Another time, in 1982, also in Fatima, John Paul II came to venerate the Virgin Mary for "saving" him after the notorious assassination attempt of 1981 by Turkish gun men Mehmet Ali Ağca . The Pope declared the Virgin had protected his life and the attempt of his life was a response to his support of freedom for his Polish country against Communism.

The Polish labor union led Solidarność movement was being materially and morally supported by the Vatican and the United States which eventually led to the collapse of the Soviet dominated eastern Europe.

On the first anniversary of his shooting , on May 13, 1982 , during the Pope's visit to Portugal got another blow. An unbalanced "ex- priest" Juan Fernandez Krohn took a swipe with a sharp bayonet at John Paul II when the Pope unexpectedly appeared for an evening prayer at the chapel of Fatima. It was on the heels of an assassination attempt in Rome in 1981, and the Vatican and Portugal went into a lockdown mode.

The next day the Pope looked shaken, but he went through his masses and speeches.

The Vatican stonewalled, saying the Pope had not been hit. When I confronted a bishop who was a high-level papal aide with proof of Public TV footage, he snapped at me as he sucked on a cigarette under an altar " Don't believe everything you see on videotapes!".

For years, the Vatican denied that John Paul had been hit, but after his death, his private secretary Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, confirmed in an interview and a memoir that the pontiff was bandaged up beneath his robes after the bayonet attack.

Gianfranco Svidercoschi, an Italian journalist who was a Vaticanist, in 2014, wrote a book titled "Ho vissuto con un Santo-" and Cardinal Dziwisz revealed in the interview for the book that the Pope was injured.

The book takes its name from a sentence spoken by Cardinal Dziwisz during the interview, "I have lived next door to a saint. Or at least, for almost forty years, every day, I saw sainthood up close as I always thought it should be."

Five years ago, I tracked down Krohn, the infamous self-styled Spanish cleric, who attempted on Pope's life and got his version of the story and served a jail term in Portugal.

"What Dziwisz said is a lie," he indignantly told me: "the Pope's bodyguards immediately threw me to the ground. I stood right in front of the Pope; I was face to face with him. His face showed maturity and hardness, but John Paul II did not give the slightest sign that he had been hurt."

Krohn went on to say that that the action was to be a sacrifice to be made for the salvation of the Church of Spain and of his convictions as a Catholic and Spanish nationalist. Krohn was convinced that the Roman Curia was collaborating with the Communist police and the high hierarchs in Poland. Most likely he, who belonged to Lefebvre's Catholic-integralist current, could not accept the existence of a young, Eastern European pope who was showing a more open and tolerant face of the Church.

Today, Krohn still runs a blog out of Belgium in French and Spanish.

The trip of Pope Francis To Portugal in August already produced its share of controversy with the price of the altar at many millions of Euros and the duration of his five-day stay, interrupting regular life mainly in Lisbon.

The Pope's recent appointments of new cardinals, including one more Portuguese just ahead of his trip as a gesture, bring the total of Portuguese voting cardinals to four in a future papal election, meaning these cardinals will protect Pope Francis' legacy and have a block of votes which should be one of the highest in the world per capita.

Remembering George Esper and the Great Flood of 1993



PROTECTING THEIR SHOPS: Residents of Clarksville, Mo., add more sandbags in front of their shops in an attempt to stem rising Mississippi River waters in this photo by St. Louis AP photographer James Finley.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are lots of memories among AP staffers of covering the Great Flood of 1993, and with 30-year retrospectives, memories are flooding back. Former Missouri Roving Correspondent [Scott Charton](#) was among the staffers who spent weeks in the flood zone that summer, ranging for stories all along the swollen Missouri and Mississippi rivers. While Scott and the rest of the Missouri staff worked long days covering the flood, staffers from New York and other AP bureaus came into the state to assist. Scott offers a memory of one of AP's best, the late Special Correspondent George Esper, widely known not only for his excellent Vietnam War coverage but his hard work and his willingness to pitch in on assignments. Scott recalls:

"George very humbly and politely walked into the Jefferson City bureau in the Missouri Capitol Building and asked me how he could help. AP had just been offered a seat on a Missouri National Guard Huey helicopter to ride along with Gov. Mel Carnahan for an aerial tour of flooding along the Missouri. I asked George to take the seat and we both chuckled about this esteemed veteran of combat coverage once again boarding a Huey for AP news coverage. George rushed to a junior high school football field where choppers were landing because the Air National Guard base near the river was under flood waters.

A couple of hours later – and this was before widespread cell phone availability, and with some cell towers out of service due to flooding – George rushed into the office. He picked up the phone and called a supervisor in New York: ‘We’re competitive with The New York Times on this air tour, stand by.’ He dictated a digest line, then sat down at a bureau computer and dashed out his story. After his flurry of typing, George turned to me and quietly asked if I had a moment to backread for him. It was an honor, especially since the only thing I can remember changing was a spelling of a local landmark. Then New York had another request of George from his flood reporting. Levees, and their failures under pressure of extraordinary flooding, were frequently mentioned in our stories; tell us, George, what is a levee? George flipped through his notes and began typing. He turned out a masterful 300 or so words, and it became a widely displayed national sidebar.



George embodied the spirit of AP we were all taught in the Old School: We ALWAYS run for the phone, because in the old days, phones were fixed-location devices and dashing to get word out first was in the best tradition of getting it first. Now we communicate by cell phone, text and email, but the spirit is the same. George died in February 2012, age 79, after a brilliant career in journalism and later as a college teacher. He remains my No. 1 example of The Bigger They Are, The Nicer They Are.”

Click [here](#) to read George Esper obituary.

George Chidi ‘one of best reporters in Atlanta’



Photo of George Chidi by Nicole Craine for The New York Times

Robert Ingle – *in reaction to New York Times story in Friday's Connecting* - George Chidi is one of the best reporters in Atlanta, but certainly not the usual and customary. I found treatment of him by some other locals on the Trump grand jury story awkward.

Some called him a “freelancer” although he is a columnist for a paper based in Decatur, an Atlanta suburb, and publishes a newsletter. That doesn't sound like a freelancer to me. Maybe I'm old fashioned.

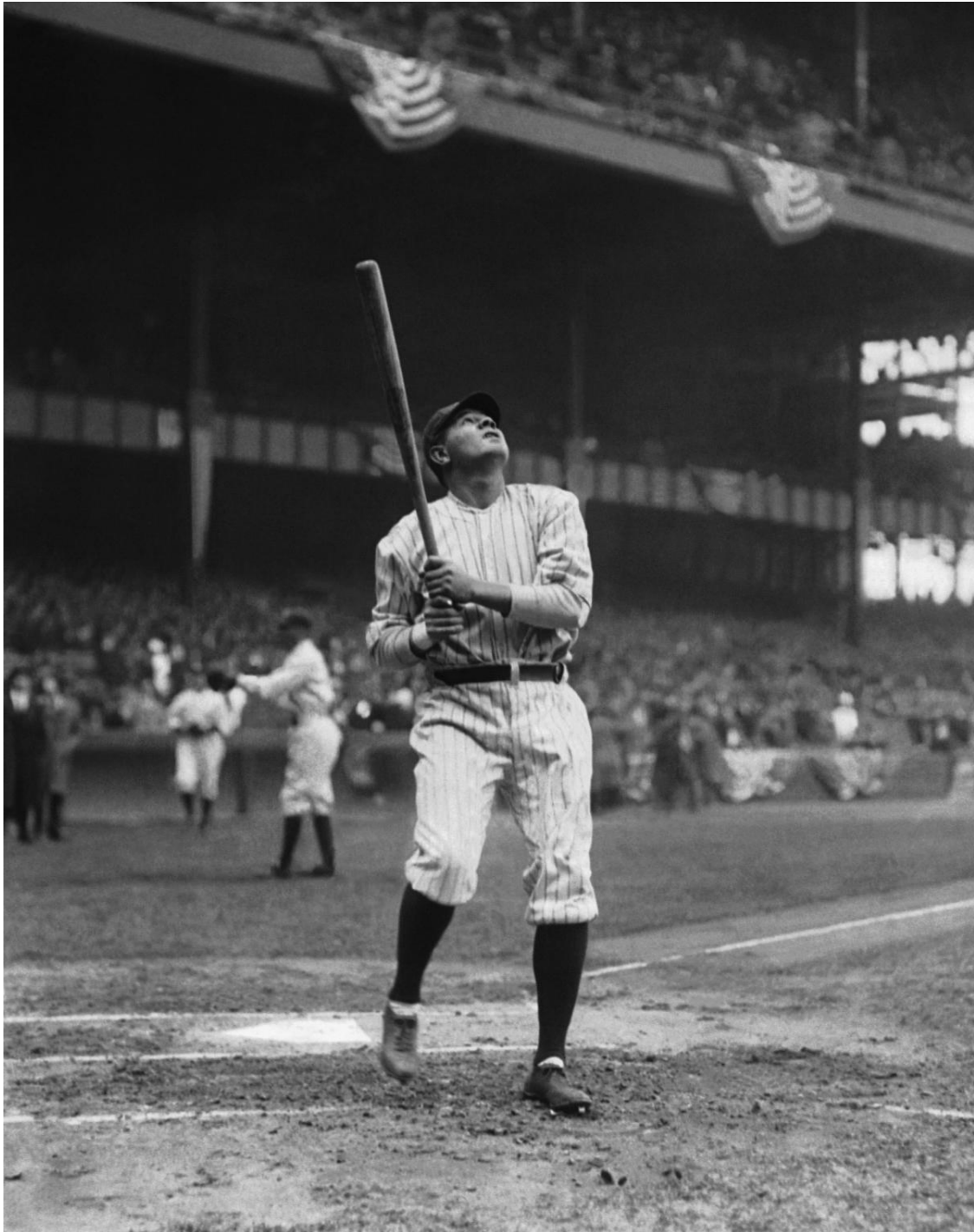
You have to ask why this independent journalist who scored the scoop that got him subpoenaed by the grand jury and on national TV was the only one in a building full of reporters who did. They were watching routine counting of Biden electors while Chidi was watching Republicans go to the basement. He followed them, got kicked out, but what a story.

Chidi doesn't run with the crowd. I met him when he appeared uninvited at a private gathering for U.S. Sens. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, Ds-Ga. It wasn't open to media. I was there, but not as press. I knew Ossoff's parents before they were married and Warnock was pastor to civil rights icon, Congressman John Lewis, a friend of 40 years.

Chidi's presence bothered some. I argued he should stay. He did.

My read on the stories he does is Chidi usually does a better job than his bigger competitors. That probably disturbs some in traditional media.

75 years since the death of Babe Ruth



Babe Ruth pops one up in practice at New York's Yankee Stadium ca. 1920s. A large man of large appetites, Ruth was never exactly svelte, but he was not always the overweight figure depicted later in his career. In the prime of his career he looked trim and athletic, but his fondness for hot dogs -- and just about everything else -- remains an enduring part of his legacy. (AP Photo)

The Babe, Baseball Immortal, Is Dead

By John Wallace

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. (AP)—Babe Ruth, who rose from the obscurity of an orphanage to become one of baseball's immortals, died tonight of cancer.

The once-mighty slugger, his frame and strength weakened by a long and painful illness, lapsed into unconsciousness shortly before death came to him—peacefully.

AP Images Blog

Text and Photo Curation by [Francesca Pitaro](#)

August 16, 2023 was the 75th anniversary of Babe Ruth's death.

George Henry Ruth, Jr. (1895-1948), affectionately known as the Bambino and the Sultan of Swat was a baseball legend, driving in 2,209 runs and compiling a .342 lifetime average.

To mark the anniversary, the AP looked into the archives for this remembrance of Ruth's life and career.

Read and view more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

Speedy, smart coverage on Hawaii's wildfire breaks AP engagement records



AP's all-formats team in Maui, Hawaii, outperformed the competition, broke consecutive all-time digital engagement records and scored hundreds of video downloads with fast, smart, authoritative and comprehensive reporting on the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. in more than a century.

Honolulu's Audrey McAvoy owned the story from the get-go after she was on the ground within hours of a wildfire obliterating a centuries-old town. She was quickly joined by Portland, Oregon, reporter Claire Rush, Salt Lake City photographer Rick Bowmer and video journalists Ty O'Neil and Haven Daley, from Las Vegas and San Francisco respectively. Under intense reporting pressures, the team pushed past blocked access, no cell phone coverage for hours and differing time zones with colleagues who supported them from across the world. Some slept in the burn zone.

AP was the first major media to document the devastation from the air, gain exclusive access to a church service where relatives of the victims gathered, enter the burn zone and focus on Native Hawaiians and locals who lost everything. Honolulu reporter Jennifer Kelleher anchored the story with help from Chris Weber, from Los Angeles. Video journalist Manuel Valdes, based in Seattle, produced daily stories off live feeds from the field, user-generated content, Zoom interviews and drone video, bolstering visual coverage from the start. Global Media Services' biggest overseas video clients were fed days of live images from the devastated zone.

Boise newswoman Rebecca Boone produced a groundbreaking accountability piece on how sirens meant to alert the public to danger didn't sound, and that authorities relied on social media amid blackouts. Other stories shed a light on Lahaina's storied past, the role climate change played in the blaze, the search for victims, survivors' tales, the affordable housing crisis, environmental damage and the fire's toxic dangers, the famed banyan tree and the science behind the wildfires, by reporters across the U.S.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Immersive projects by hip-hop team and a reporter's multiformat approach on glacier share award



AP / AP PHOTO



AP / BECKY BOHRER

In today's AP, collaboration across the News Department — across formats, across geographies, across different points of view and areas of expertise — is more important than ever. So, too, is the opposite: the initiative of a single AP journalist to tell important stories. Without either of these crucial skills, AP's report is less than it might be.

It is in that spirit that this week's Best of the Week second winner is awarded — split evenly between two projects that illustrate the best of what we can do individually, and the best of what we can do together.

The projects came together in completely different ways: One in which a team of journalists produced a cross-format project that celebrated hip-hop music's 50th anniversary and its impact on the world. The other was also a cross-format project — but done by only one journalist who worked remotely with editors — that captured in images and in words how an Alaska town is facing the loss of its iconic glacier.

Both took time and dedication to pull off. And both served AP customers across a wide spectrum of media, as well as direct-to-consumer via [apnews.com](#) and the mobile app.

For the hip-hop anniversary, digital designers worked with reporters, videographers and photographers from the Entertainment and Race and Ethnicity department. The seed for it came from Deepti Hajela, of the New York City bureau and the Race and Ethnicity team. After she approached Andale Gross with the idea, it blossomed through team brainstorming sessions into an exploration of the growth and influence of hip-hop on society, from fashion to entertainment to business to sports and social justice. Hip-hop's history of reinvention unified the disparate pieces that Darrell Allen's design team could bring together visually.

While R and E's Aaron Morrison, Noreen Nasir, Hajela, Sharon Johnson, Business' Glenn Gamboa, and Sports' Kyle Hightower and Alanis Thames worked on their stories, Entertainment's Gary Hamilton and Jonathan Landrum Jr. interviewed more than two dozen hip-hop stars.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jay Reeves](#)

[Kendall Weaver](#)

Stories of interest

Court documents suggest reason for police raid of Kansas newspaper (AP)

BY JIM SALTER

The police chief who led the raid of a Kansas newspaper alleged in previously unreleased in court documents that a reporter either impersonated someone else or lied about her intentions when she obtained the driving records of a local business owner.

But reporter Phyllis Zorn, Marion County Record Editor and Publisher Eric Meyer and the newspaper's attorney said Sunday that no laws were broken when Zorn accessed

a public state website for information on restaurant operator Kari Newell.

The raid carried out Aug. 11 and led by Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody brought international attention to the small central Kansas town that now finds itself at the center of a debate over press freedoms. Police seized computers, personal cellphones and a router from the newspaper, but all items were released Wednesday after the county prosecutor concluded there wasn't enough evidence to justify the action.

Late Saturday, the Record's attorney, Bernie Rhodes, provided copies of the affidavits used in the raid to The Associated Press and other news media. The documents that had previously not been released. They showed that Zorn's obtaining of Newell's driving record was the driving force behind the raid.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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Kansas Newspaper Is Talk of Town, and Not Just for Getting Raided (New York Times)

By Kevin Draper

One person said The Marion County Record covered two recent deaths insensitively. Another said a handful of articles focused needlessly on a simple paperwork error that led to tax credits getting rejected. A third thought an opinion column harped too harshly on the poor quality of children's letters to Santa Claus.

The Marion County Record, a newspaper that reports on a small town of less than 2,000 people on the western edge of the Flint Hills in Kansas, turned into a First Amendment cause célèbre in the past week, after police officers and sheriff's deputies raided its newsroom, an incredibly rare occurrence in American journalism. The authorities seized computers and phones, in what they said was an investigation into identity theft and computer crimes.

Reporters and television cameras have descended upon the town to cover the raids, which were roundly condemned by news organizations and free press advocates. On Wednesday, the local prosecutor returned the electronic devices, saying he had determined there wasn't a "legally sufficient nexus" to justify the searches.

Marion residents, however, are having far different conversations about the over 150-year-old paper and its owner and editor, Eric Meyer, who has been running day-to-day operations for the past two years. At the center of the discussions: What is the appropriate relationship between a community and a local news organization, and what duty, if any, does it have to be a booster for the places it covers?

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

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The Revealing Case of a Kansas Judge and a Search Warrant (New York Times)

By Gregory P. Magarian

Mr. Magarian is a professor at the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and the author of "Managed Speech: The Roberts Court's First Amendment."

Small-town newspapers are vanishing from the American landscape, crushed by economic pressures from online media and corporate consolidation. In some cases, governments have piled on, seeking to sink or undermine the papers that remain. Those papers should be able to rely on courts to protect them from government abuses. Too often, however, courts fail to do their job.

Marion, Kan., provides a vivid, troubling example. On Aug. 11, the police in that central Kansas town of 2,000 brazenly raided the office of the weekly Marion County Record and the home of its publisher. Officers seized reporters' computers, phones and other materials.

The Marion police said the raid was necessary to an ongoing investigation. That inquiry reportedly concerned a local restaurant owner's claim that the Record, while reporting about her application for a liquor license, had broken the law to obtain information about her past drunk-driving offense. Magistrate Judge Laura Viar's sweeping warrant cited "identity theft" and "unlawful acts concerning computers" as grounds for the raid.

The Record's publisher, Eric Meyer, told NPR that the paper had also been digging into allegations of past misconduct by Marion's police chief, Gideon Cody, who took office on June 1 after retiring from the Kansas City Police Department. Mr. Meyer says Mr. Cody had threatened to sue the paper.

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

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Opinion | Why climate experts are criticizing a Hawaii headline from ABC News (Poynter)

By: Annie Aguiar, Alex Mahadevan, Tom Jones and Amaris Castillo

As part of its reporting on the devastating wildfires in Hawaii, ABC News published an article Tuesday with the headline "Why climate change can't be blamed for the Maui wildfires."

That headline, which has now been edited to add a hedging "entirely" after "blamed," topped a story pointing out the lack of attribution studies tying climate change to the wildfires.

Reporter Emily Atkin, who runs the climate crisis-focused newsletter Heated, went straight to the article's sources to ask if the headline phrasing accurately reflected their comments. It didn't.

"Climate change absolutely can be partially blamed for the severity of the Maui disaster because climate change worsens wildfires, and climate change plays a role in literally all weather events," Atkin said. "We just don't yet know how much blame, because we don't yet have attribution studies that can tell us that sort of thing."

Read the scientists' full responses, and how Fox News reported on the ABC News edit, over at Atkin's newsletter Heated.

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

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Canada demands Meta lift news ban to allow wildfire info sharing (Reuters)

By David Ljunggren

OTTAWA, Aug 18 (Reuters) - The Canadian government on Friday demanded that Meta (META.O) lift a "reckless" ban on domestic news from its platforms to allow people to share information about wildfires in the west of the country.

Meta started blocking news on its Facebook and Instagram platforms for all users in Canada this month in response to a new law requiring internet giants to pay for news articles.

Some people fleeing wildfires in the remote northern town of Yellowknife have complained to domestic media that the ban prevented them from sharing important data about the fires.

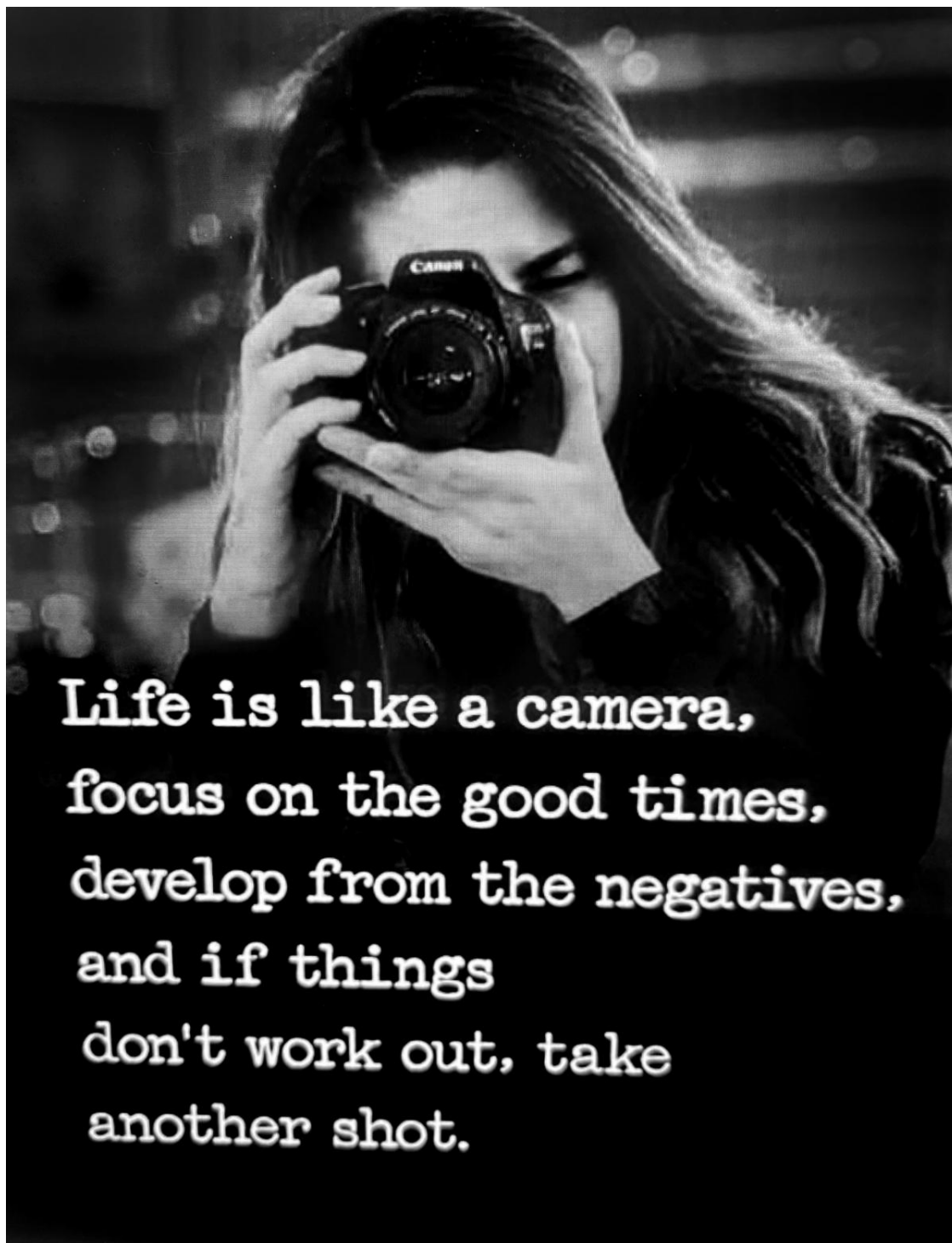
"Meta's reckless choice to block news ... is hurting access to vital information on Facebook and Instagram," Heritage Minister Pascale St-Onge said in a social media post.

"We are calling on them to reinstate news sharing today for the safety of Canadians facing this emergency. We need more news right now, not less," she said.

Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez earlier said the ban meant people did not have access to crucial information.

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

The Final Word



From a friend of Betty Pizac - and this reaction to Betty's husband Doug from Connecting colleague Susan Ragan - "Life is not like THAT camera, it's like a Nikon!"

Today in History - Aug. 21, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2023. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 21, 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia, resulting in the deaths of at least 55 white people; scores of Black people were killed in retribution in the aftermath of the rebellion, and Turner was later executed.

On this date:

In 1858, the first of seven debates took place between Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (It was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1944, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China opened talks at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington that helped pave the way for establishment of the United Nations.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1991, the hardline coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

In 2000, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

In 2010, Iranian and Russian engineers began loading fuel into Iran's first nuclear power plant, which Moscow promised to safeguard to prevent material at the site from being used in any potential weapons production.

In 2015, a trio of Americans, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Spencer Stone, National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos and college student Anthony Sadler, and a British businessman, Chris Norman, tackled and disarmed a Moroccan gunman on a high-speed train between Amsterdam and Paris.

In 2020, a former police officer who became known as the Golden State Killer, Joseph James DeAngelo, told victims and family members in a Sacramento courtroom that he was "truly sorry" before he was sentenced to multiple life prison sentences for a decade-long string of rapes and murders.

Ten years ago: Army Pfc. Chelsea Manning was sentenced at Fort Meade, Maryland, to up to 35 years in prison for spilling an unprecedented trove of government secrets. (The former intelligence analyst was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison, but the term was commuted by President Barack Obama.) The National Security Agency declassified three secret court opinions showing how in one of its surveillance programs, it scooped up as many as 56,000 emails and other communications by Americans not connected to terrorism annually over three years.

Five years ago: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer, pleaded guilty to campaign-finance violations and other charges; Cohen said Trump directed him to arrange the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model to fend off damage to his White House bid. Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was found guilty of eight financial crimes in the first trial victory of the special counsel investigation into Trump's associates. The body of college student Mollie Tibbetts was found in an Iowa cornfield; authorities say they were led to the body by a farmworker from Mexico who was suspected of being in the country illegally and that he confessed to kidnapping and killing her while she was out running.

One year ago: The daughter of an influential Russian political theorist often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed in a car bombing on the outskirts of Moscow. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killing of 29-year-old TV commentator Daria Dugina, but the bloodshed gave rise to suspicions that the intended target was her father, Alexander Dugin, a nationalist philosopher and writer. Leon Vitali, the "Barry Lyndon" actor who became one of Stanley Kubrick's closest associates, died at age 74. "Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero" topped the box office in its first weekend in theaters, bringing in \$20.1 million.

Today's Birthdays: Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 84. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 82. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 78. Actor Patty McCormack is 78. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese (jee-ah mah-REE'-see) is 76. Actor Loretta Devine is 74. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 72. Singer Glenn Hughes is 71. Actor Kim Cattrall is 67. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 64. Actor Cleo King is 61. Rock singer Serj Tankian

(System of a Down) is 56. Actor Carrie-Anne Moss is 53. Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell is 53. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 52. Actor Alicia Witt is 48. Singer Kelis (kuh-LEES') is 44. TV personality Brody Jenner is 40. Singer Melissa Schuman is 39. Retired Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain (yoo-SAYN') Bolt is 37. Actor Carlos Pratts is 37. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 37. Actor Cody Kasch is 36. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 35. Actor Hayden Panettiere (pan'-uh-tee-EHR') is 34. Actor RJ Mitte is 31. Actor Maxim Knight is 24.

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.

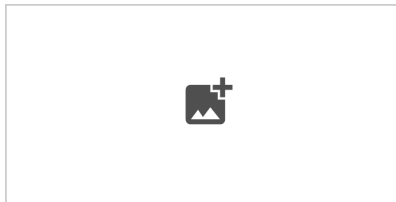
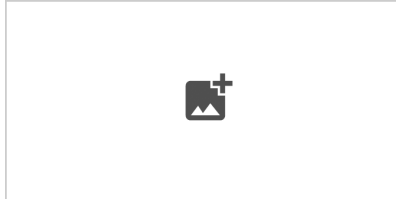
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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