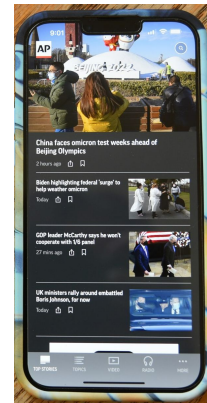


SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#)

Connecting

Aug. 31, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype

[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Newsletters](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Aug. 31, 2023,

Lots of life has happened and been experienced in the 90-plus years of our colleague [Norm Abelson](#) – one of Connecting's most frequent contributors.

That includes being in Washington 60 years ago when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Although the anniversary was several days ago, Norm's words are worth a look:

In my memory, it is the feeling of standing among the throng on that special "I Have A Dream" day six decades ago. But there is something more than that timeless speech that stands out, something this nation may have lost in the current welter of political and social warfare.

Of course, things were far from perfect on that day, especially with regard to the evils of poverty, of racism, of division that had brought us together to the Mall that sunny August day. Still there was a special feeling in the air – and it shone like a beacon of hope, of possibilities, of brotherhood.

It was more than the words, as piercing and honest as they were. It was the crowd, being in the crowd, jammed together, Black and white, the aged bent but smiling, and the infants raised up on the shoulders of their Dads. All of us there to listen, to learn, to be moved to action. To unite.

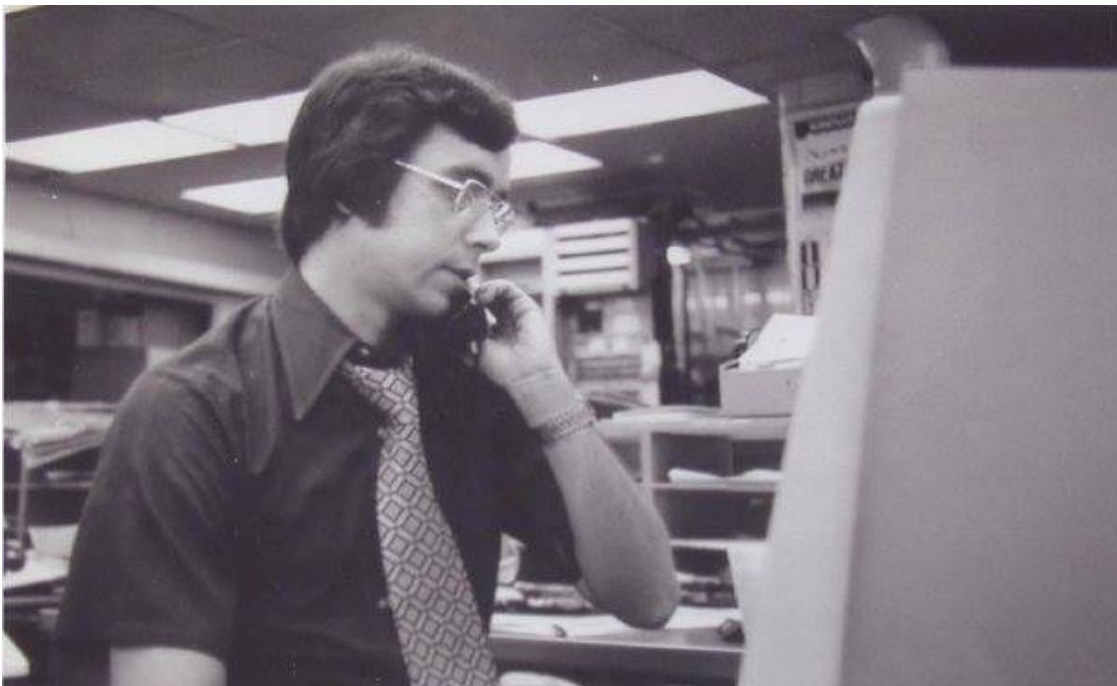
I heard not one mean word, not one angry word. I saw not one person among the hundreds of thousands push or shove. Rather shouts of "Amen. Amen" rang in the air. Could that not have been the way it is supposed to be? Can this nation sustain itself if instead it continues along its present path of anger and division? Martin Luther King did not believe so. On that day he spoke not only of the dream, but told us that there was much work to do to reach the top of the mountain.

I can still see in memory that The Mall was ringed by a circle of bright yellow school buses, each proudly festooned with identifying signs – a school group from here, a union from there. Before the speakers, we joined in a march around the periphery, more of a walk than a parade, more of a get-together of people who had a dream.

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

Paul

Remembering a story beat long ago – before news tools were mobile phones, recorders



Bill Hendrick at the controls of a CRT in the Louisville bureau

Bill Hendrick - AP 1971 to 1979, Atlanta Journal-Constitution 1979 to 2008 - The last time I visited the National Press Club in D.C. (for lunch, not work, I'm retired) a dozen or so kids probably just out of college were tapping away feverishly with both thumbs at their mobile phones, writing stories that could be filed in an instant with the push of a button.

Today, everything has a 'flash' priority. Even pictures, which in my day at The AP took 11 minutes to transmit, and that's after you could finally get a regional photo editor or New York photos to give you the go-ahead.

"New York, Louisville." Etc., etc.

Finally...

"Louisville, New York, whatcha got?"

"Ok, go ahead."

We all know that technology has revolutionized journalism (and not for the better, in my view) but seeing those fuzzy-cheeked men and young women made me recall the time I covered a coal mine disaster in the shady hollows of eastern Kentucky. There'd been a coal mine accident earlier in the week that killed 15 men in a mine near the hamlet of Oven Fork, near Whitesburg.

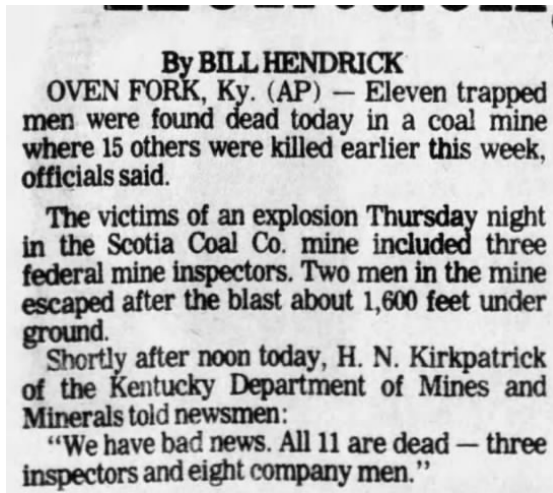
Rescue/recovery workers had gone in a few days later, one of whom I'd interviewed in his trailer just before he joined the rescuers. He wasn't scared. I did several stories later on that interview, but first things first.

Late that night or in the wee hours we heard there'd been another explosion. The 11 rescuers were trapped.

Reporters thronged the area and had scouted around for phones, only one of which was anywhere nearby, maybe a half mile away. I was determined to get there first because in those days, beating UPI was everything.

As soon as state mining official H.N. Kirkpatrick came out and said all members of the rescue team had been killed in a second blast, I broke like a fullback through the gaggle of reporters and weeping family members (who didn't yet know) and hauled butt to the one phone to call in the bulletin. Bureau chief Bill Winter sent it out with a flash priority and within minutes it broke into a story moving on the AAA wire at 66 words a minute. I figured I could get anything else he said later.

We beat UPI by 30 minutes or more. This wasn't the biggest story of my career, (but it's what comes to mind when seeing youngsters take notes or write stories on mobile



phones with both thumbs, or hold iPhone recorders up to interviewees.)

The next year we moved to NY where I was named business news supervisor, even though I knew nothing about business, and later to the Foreign Desk (Cables).

After my first son was born my wife and I figured we had to leave NY, so I interviewed Atlanta Journal-Constitution editors, got a job and moved. My son, a premie (now a lawyer), instantly and completely changed my ambition. And AP wouldn't transfer me back to AX, where I'd worked for two years before LX (and LX two years before NY), because, or so I was told, the Guild wouldn't let me give up my \$50 weekly NY differential (which may or may not be true).

Of course, this illustrates how technology has changed our calling, as well as the world. My fingers are too shaky to text or take notes on a mobile phone so I wouldn't be able to cut it these days.

Another thing that's changed: praise and constructive criticism.

Also in Louisville, Muhammad Ali returned to his hometown and I learned he was staying at Stouffer's Hotel, where AP had put me up for a month when I arrived. I phoned the hotel and, to my surprise, was put through to Ali's suite. And I interviewed him. He told me he wasn't retiring and needed to fight again to pay off an ex-wife.

For this major scoop I got a nice letter from, I think, Wick Temple, the head honcho in NY sports. Praise works. My whole goal my whole time in The AP was to make the AAA wire, and I tried every day with decent success.



When I transferred from LX to NY, bureau chief Jake Booher at my going-away party handed me an A-wire he'd made of wood, I guess on his skill saw. It was a large letter A with an electrical wire stapled to it. It's on display in my home office today.

I had a great career at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, traveled many times to foreign lands and 44 states. But I always wondered what would have happened had the Guild allowed The AP to lop off my NY differential and transfer me back to Atlanta!

Competition in West Virginia

Kelly Kessel - The news of Ogden Nutting's death jogged a lot of memories. When I landed in Charleston in 1985, the two dozen West Virginia dailies were split evenly between AP and UPI. Nutting's papers were in the UPI camp until 1988 or 1989. While as a relative newbie I was never involved in negotiations, I knew the chiefs were always making trips to Wheeling to promote our work in the effort to bring them into the fold. My chiefs were Eric Newhouse, Terry Kinney and Pete Mattiace, and I'd bet their predecessors were on the job, too. Maybe now they can talk about what it took to bring them aboard.

By the time I left for State College in 1990, West Virginia was mostly an AP state - we picked up six Nutting papers in one sitting (two at Wheeling, two at Parkersburg, one at Elkins and one I cannot remember for the life of me).

Why that has stuck with me for 35 years, I have no idea. I just remember that we were consistently reminded about the opsn, whose office in the Charleston Newspapers building was just two doors down. Trauma of a sort-of newspaper war, I suppose.

Bill Kole's book on aging

Bob Ingle - I always thought living to an advanced age was a relatively modern thing. But when we were researching corruption history for our book "The Soprano State" we ran across a classified ad in Philadelphia for a land sale in the 1770s by a guy named Ingle that caught my interest.

Years of research found my seventh great grandmother in Germany was born in 1676 and died in 1776 at 100 years old.

Incredibly, when she died her grandson, my fifth great grandfather, was an officer fighting the American Revolution under Gen. George Washington.

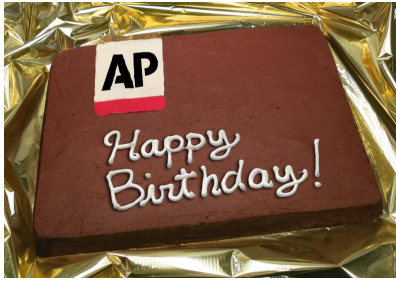
A gathering to celebrate John Flesher's 42-year AP career



Celebrating John Flesher's career, from left: Seated in front: Jennifer Dixon, Carlos Osorio, Sharon, Leah and John. Second row: Michelle White, Sandi Svoboda, Greta Guest, Maggie Mellott, Kathy Hoffman and Randi Berris. Third row: Ed White, David Runk, Dee-Ann Durbin, Laura Lessnau, Tom Krisher, Larry Lage and Mike Householder. The four lads on the side: Roger Schneider, David Eggert, Jeff Karoub and Joey Cappelletti. Corey Williams escaped before we began taking pictures. A thousand thanks to them all, and to everyone else who has made this journey with me.

John Flesher - On the evening before my final day with The Associated Press, a delightful gathering of family, friends and colleagues past and present celebrated with me in Detroit. Behind us is the historic Stroh River Place building, which housed our bureau for many years. We had a grand time Tuesday getting caught up, recalling adventures in news gathering and pledging to stay in touch. These wonderful folks represent a much larger group of journalists I've had the honor of working with for more than four decades — based in Michigan, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and bureaus around the nation. I enjoyed reporting and writing the stories, but I love the people even more.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Dowling](#)

[Dana Fields](#)

[Steve Helber](#)

[Ellen Nimmons](#)

[Jeff Ulbrich](#)

Stories of interest

How The Daily Tar Heel designed the front page everyone is talking about (Poynter)

The Daily Tar Heel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

VOLUME 131, ISSUE 16

ARE YOU SAFE? WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU ALONE? GUYS I'M SO FUCKING SCARED. HEY- COME ON SWEETHEART- I NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. CAN YOU HEAR ANY GUNSHOTS? PLEASE STAY SAFE. BARRICADE THE DOOR OR IF YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN AND GET TO A PLACE THAT CAN LOCK DO SO. MY TEACHER IS ACTING LIKE NOTHING IS HAPPENING AND I'M LOWKEY FREAKING OUT. I WISH THESE NEVER HAPPENED. STAY CALM AND SAFE - WE LOVE YOU. I AM SO SORRY THIS IS HAPPENING. I LOVE YOU. WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING? MULTIPLE VOICES AND LOUD BANGING. I'M IN CLASS EVERYONE IS LOSING IT PEOPLE ARE LITERALLY SHAKING. STILL GOING ON AND COMING CLOSER, HOPING IT'S COPS. I'M GONNA FUCKING THROW UP. KINDA WISH I HAD SOMEONE ELSE HERE THOUGH. PLEASE PRAY FOR US. PLEASE STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND KEEP YOUR DOORS LOCKED OR FORTIFIED. LOVE YOU SO SO MUCH. ARE YOU HOME? SOMEONE IS ALREADY SHOT. IT'S ALSO SCARY HOW UNPREPARED OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF WERE FOR THAT. I'M LISTENING ON THE SCANNER. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING YET. IT WILL BE OK MY LOVE JUST STAY PUT. THERE'S SOMEONE ARMED ON CAMPUS. YOU HAVE A WHOLE COMMUNITY IN THE SAME BOAT WITH YOU. ARE U HIDDEN? LONGEST HALF HOUR OF MY LIFE. I'M SO SCARED TO LEAVE. STAY DOWN. DO YOU HEAR SHOOTING? PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU ARE SAFE. HEY ARE YOU DOING ALRIGHT. LIKE MENTALLY, THIS SHITS SCARY. I LOVE YOU. IM SAFE STILL. MY TEXTS WON'T GO THRU. I AM SAFE. ACTIVE SHOOTER ON CAMPUS. I'M IN DEY RN BUT I CAN SEE PEOPLE RUNNING AND HEAR SCREAMING. GET UNDER THE DESK!!!! OR RUN IF YOU CAN! PUT STUFF IN FRONT OF THE DOOR! PLEASE BE CAREFUL. I'M SCARED. I'M SO SCARED RN. OMG. I'M SO SCARED. HOLY FUCK SOMEONE'S IN MY BUILDING. SAFE? YES YOU? YES. CHECKING IN JUST HOPE Y'ALL ARE SAFE WHEREVER Y'ALL AT. APPARENTLY SOMEONE WAS SHOT IN CAUDILL. POLICE SCANNER SAYS 1 PERSON DOWN NO PULSE. PLEASE STAY THERE WHERE YOU'RE SAFE. ARE YOU SAFE RIGHT NOW? ARE YOU SAFE? PLEASE SEND LITERALLY ANYTHING. I HEARD SOMEONE GOT SHOT. CAN YOU CALL ME? ARE YOU OKAY?? IDK WHAT TO DO. I WISH I COULD JUST COME GET YOU. DON'T STOP TEXTING ME.

By: Amaris Castillo

The new edition of The Daily Tar Heel was supposed to be about the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's upcoming football season. Then an armed person was

reported to be on campus Monday afternoon. The university went into an hourslong lockdown. The suspect was later arrested in the fatal shooting of a faculty member.

Members of the independent student newspaper staff regrouped Monday evening. They scrapped their original idea for the front page.

“We said, ‘Well, we can’t do that. We need something impactful,’” said Caitlyn Yaede, the Tar Heel’s print managing editor. “We need something that’s going to really communicate the gravity of the situation.”

Then the idea came — very late Monday night. Emmy Martin, the 2023-24 editor-in-chief of The Daily Tar Heel, was in bed and looking through all the text messages she’d received during the lockdown. She hadn’t had a chance to respond to them. She also saw social media posts from some of her UNC peers who posted the text messages they’d received.

“And that’s kind of when it hit me. Everyone was getting these texts, and we were all kind of not having the same experience, but having an experience we all shared together,” said Martin, a junior double majoring in journalism and information science. “That’s when I kind of knew that that is our front page.”

She texted Yaede. What if they strung together text messages by UNC students who were locked down?

“I said, ‘Genius. Perfect,’” said Yaede, who went to UNC for undergrad and is now pursuing a master’s degree in public policy.

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

-0-

Reporter for raided Kansas newspaper files federal lawsuit against Marion police chief (Kansas City Star)

BY KATIE MOORE

A reporter whose cellphone was seized and finger injured by police during a raid on the Marion County Record has filed a federal lawsuit against the city’s police chief, Gideon Cody.

“Chief Cody acted in unreasonable and unnecessarily violent fashion,” said the lawsuit filed Wednesday by reporter Deb Gruver.

During the Aug. 11 raid, Cody handed Gruver a copy of a search warrant, and she reached for her phone to call Eric Meyer, the paper’s publisher. “Chief Cody responded by reaching over the papers and snatching the phone out of her hand,” the lawsuit alleged.

“There was no factual basis to believe Ms. Gruver’s personal cellular phone was evidence of the alleged crime, or any crime,” the lawsuit continued. During the

encounter, Gruver said her finger was injured.

Cody did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

CNN names Mark Thompson, former BBC and New York Times executive, as its new leader (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — A former chief executive of the BBC and The New York Times who says he sees opportunity in times of disruption was chosen Wednesday to lead CNN, which has burned through two leaders and bled viewers over the past two years.

Mark Thompson was appointed as CNN's new chair and CEO by the network's parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery. Thompson will replace Chris Licht, who was fired in June, and a four-person team that had been running CNN in the interim, when he takes over Oct. 9.

Thompson, who left the Times in 2020 after eight years as that company's president and CEO, is credited with helping the newspaper transition to a digital-first organization more dependent on paid subscribers than the collapsing advertising market that has doomed many newspapers.

The native of England, who was knighted by the British government this year, was director-general of the BBC from 2004 to 2012.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

States Newsroom launches Oklahoma Voice (Editor and Publisher)

Press Release | States Newsroom

States Newsroom, the nation's leading network of state-based nonprofit news outlets, has launched Oklahoma Voice to provide people in the Sooner State with free, nonpartisan reporting on some of the state's biggest issues, including public schools, health care, hunger, transportation, criminal justice reform and workforce development. With the launch of Oklahoma Voice, States Newsroom's network now includes 36 newsrooms.

Oklahoma Voice will be led by Editor-in-Chief Janelle Stecklein. Stecklein has been covering Oklahoma government since 2014 as CNHI's Capitol bureau chief. Since graduating from college with degrees in journalism and political science, she has

worked for publications of all sizes, including the Herald-Banner in Greenville, Texas, the Amarillo Globe-News and The Salt Lake Tribune. Stecklein is particularly interested in examining how government policy decisions impact Oklahomans living outside the state's two largest cities. She resides in the Oklahoma City area with her husband and two children.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

A crackdown on 'woke' coverage is tearing Atlanta magazine apart (Washington Post)

By Laura Wagner

On a hot Tuesday in late June, staffers at Atlanta magazine gathered for a tense meeting with longtime publisher Sean McGinnis. On his agenda: pronouns.

"Are we, as a matter of fact, now writing stories based upon preferred pronouns?" McGinnis asked, citing to a recent profile of a labor organizer. "'She' is referred to as 'they' throughout the story."

One editor responded that using pronouns corresponding with a subject's identity is standard journalistic practice, "not a left or right thing." The publisher disagreed, according to a recording of the meeting obtained by The Washington Post: "People will think that that is taking a stance."

It was hardly the first time colleagues have disagreed over editorial choices — in Atlanta or anywhere in the media industry, where business concerns, personal politics, and news judgment often come into conflict. But McGinnis's statements and subsequent request to approve editorial content ahead of publication marked a tipping point in a small-scale culture war that had been building for a few years within the award-winning magazine. Staffers saw the interference as an egregious crackdown on coverage that management deems as too "progressive" — at a time when they are resolved to reflect the evolving reality of Atlanta, one of the Blackest, queerest cities in the South.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

Today in History - Aug. 31, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2023. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 31, 2010, President Barack Obama ended the U.S. combat mission in Iraq, declaring no victory after seven years of bloodshed and telling those divided over the war in his country and around the world: "It is time to turn the page."

On this date:

In 1881, the first U.S. tennis championships (for men only) began in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1886, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.3 devastated Charleston, South Carolina, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1962, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago became independent of British colonial rule.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk (guh-DANSK') that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1992, white separatist Randy Weaver surrendered to authorities in Naples, Idaho, ending an 11-day siege by federal agents that had claimed the lives of Weaver's wife, son and a deputy U.S. marshal.

In 1994, Russia officially ended its military presence in the former East Germany and the Baltics after half a century.

In 1996, three adults and four children drowned when their vehicle rolled into John D. Long Lake in Union, South Carolina; they had gone to see a monument to the sons of Susan Smith, who had drowned the two boys in Oct. 1994.

In 1997, Prince Charles brought Princess Diana home for the last time, escorting the body of his former wife to a Britain that was shocked, grief-stricken and angered by her death in a Paris traffic accident earlier that day.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin reported “a significant number of dead bodies in the water” following Hurricane Katrina; Nagin ordered virtually the entire police force to abandon search-and-rescue efforts and to instead stop increasingly hostile thieves.

In 2016, on Mexican soil for the first time as the Republican presidential nominee, a firm but measured Donald Trump defended the right of the United States to build a massive border wall along its southern flank, standing up for the centerpiece of his immigration plan during a joint press conference with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

In 2019, a gunman carried out a shooting rampage that stretched ten miles between the Texas communities of Midland and Odessa, leaving seven people dead before police killed the gunman outside a movie theater in Odessa.

In 2020, at a rally in Pittsburgh, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden resoundingly condemned violent protesters and called for their prosecution; he accused President Donald Trump of causing the divisions that had ignited the violence. Trump reiterated that he blamed radical troublemakers who he said were stirred up and backed by Biden.

Ten years ago: Short of support at home and allies abroad, President Barack Obama stepped back from a missile strike against Syria and instead asked Congress to support a strike against President Bashar Assad’s regime for suspected use of chemical weapons. British television interviewer David Frost, 74, died aboard a cruise ship bound for the Mediterranean.

Five years ago: At a memorial in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, congressional leaders saluted the late Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain as a model of service in war and peace and “one of the bravest souls our nation has ever produced.” Aretha Franklin, the “Queen of Soul,” was laid to rest after an eight-hour funeral at a Detroit church, where guests included Bill and Hillary Clinton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson. Serena Williams scored her most lopsided victory ever against her sister Venus, winning a third-round match at the U.S. Open, 6-1, 6-2.

One year ago: The U.S. said it had determined that Russia was suffering “severe manpower shortages” in its six-month-old war with Ukraine. A U.S. official said Russia was looking to address the shortage in part by compelling soldiers wounded earlier in war to return to combat, and by recruiting personnel from private security companies and even recruiting from prisons. The U.S. authorized its first update to COVID-19 vaccines, booster doses that targeted the most common omicron strain of the virus. Bed Bath & Beyond said it would shutter stores and lay off workers in a bid to turn around its beleaguered business.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Jack Thompson is 83. Violinist Itzhak Perlman is 78. Singer Van Morrison is 78. Rock musician Rudolf Schenker (The Scorpions) is 75. Actor Richard Gere is 74. Actor Stephen Henderson is 74. Olympic gold medal track and field

athlete Edwin Moses is 68. Rock singer Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze) is 66. Rock musician Gina Schock (The Go-Go's) is 66. Singer Tony DeFranco (The DeFranco Family) is 64. R&B musician Larry Waddell (Mint Condition) is 60. Actor Jaime P. Gomez is 58. Rock musician Jeff Russo (Tonic) is 54. Singer-composer Deborah Gibson is 53. Actor Zack Ward is 53. Golfer Padraig (PAH'-drig) Harrington is 52. Actor Chris Tucker is 51. Actor Sara Ramirez is 48. R&B singer Tamara (Trina & Tamara) is 46.

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.

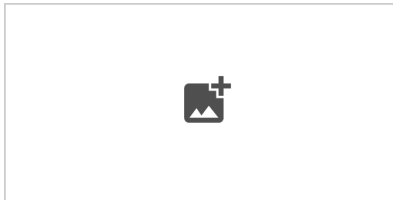
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



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

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!