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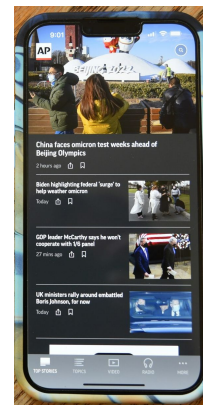
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Connecting

Oct. 11, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Oct. 11, 2023,

Our colleague [Charlie Hanley](#) shares a story about **Otto Doelling**, who died recently, that many of you might not know. It's how his byline remained Otto Doelling.

Charlie explains:

Like many others, I was saddened to learn of the loss of Otto Doelling, that superb old-school AP professional, as gracious a colleague as one could ask for (pictured here as the young Syracuse correspondent in a 1963 AP World). Others who worked with him in the trenches more closely than I (e.g., the Iranian revolution) reported yesterday on those days, and Bob Reid's reference to Otto's pondering subbing "Charles" for "Otto" reminded me of what eventuated with his byline.

When Otto took up his last reporting post, at the United Nations, Foreign Editor Nate Polowetzky (and can you think of two more different guys?) complained that the byline was "too Teutonic." (!!) He urged a switch to "O.C. Doelling." When I suggested

he'd widen his ethnic appeal by inserting an apostrophe between the O and the C, the kindly Mr. Doelling smiled at this Irishman's lame joke. He accommodated the boss, of course, and ended his reporting career as the correspondent Formerly Known As Otto.

Rest in peace, Otto Charles.

Our colleague [Susan Clark](#) also shared a memory: "I met Otto in 1973 when I started at AP as receptionist on the 7th floor. He was in World Services and I would see him every day. He was always a true mensch, a noble person, he had character, dignity and a sense of what is right. MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING."



SPEAKING OF BYLINES: Is there a story behind the byline (on stories or photos) that you used in your career? Please share.

While not my byline, I remember this story from several decades ago when an AP newswoman - on assignment for a major story in my territory - objected when I was on the desk and typed in her first and last names as her byline. She told me she used the initials of her first and middle names - and not her full first name - (i.e., J.C. Smith vs Jane Smith). Why? Because she believed member editors would drop the byline if they knew it belonged to a woman. I went with her preference, of course, but it made me sad that there might be any truth to that. But it was what she believed.

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

Paul

AP FACT CHECK

Misinformation about the Israel-Hamas war is flooding social media. Here are the facts

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the days since Hamas militants stormed into Israel on Saturday morning, a flood of videos and photos purporting to show the conflict have filled social media, making it difficult for onlookers from around the world to sort fact from fiction.

While plenty of real imagery and accounts of the ensuing carnage have emerged, they have been intermingled with users pushing false claims and misrepresenting videos from other events.

Among the fabrications, users have shared false claims that a top Israeli commander had been kidnapped, circulated a doctored White House memo purporting to show President Joe Biden announcing billions in aid for Israel, and pushed old and unrelated videos of Russian President Vladimir Putin with inaccurate English captions.

Here is a closer look at the misinformation spreading online — and the facts.

CLAIM: Nimrod Aloni, a top general in the Israeli army, was captured by Hamas militants during a deadly incursion Saturday into southern Israeli towns near the Gaza Strip.

THE FACTS: There's no truth to this claim, a spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces confirmed. Aloni was seen Sunday at a meeting of top Israeli military officials.

The erroneous claim that Aloni was one of the hostages taken by Hamas spread widely online Saturday after the militant group attacked Israel.

Read more [here](#).

Introducing 5 AI solutions for local news

By Nicole Meir

As part of its ongoing efforts to help local newsrooms identify and adopt artificial intelligence-based solutions, AP today released the results of several AI-focused projects developed with local news outlets.

The AI-powered products, which are available for any newsroom to leverage, demonstrate specific ways AI can be useful for local news organizations, including:

Automated writing of public safety incidents into the content management system of Minnesota newspaper Brainerd Dispatch. (Read the case study | Access the source code)

Publication of Spanish-language news alerts using National Weather Service data in English by the newspaper El Vocero de Puerto Rico. (Read the case study | Access the source code)

Automated transcription of recorded videos and summarization of the transcripts to create an article's initial framework at San Antonio, Texas, television station KSAT-TV. (Read the case study | Access the source code)

Sorting of news tips and coverage pitches from the public and automatically populating them into the coverage planner of Allentown, Pennsylvania, television station WFMZ-TV.

Read more [here](#).

Eyes for an Eye

[Mort Rosenblum](#) - PARIS — When the unthinkable burst onto TV screens Saturday, I flashed back to Hebron in 1996. My AP dispatch began: “After four deadly days, Jews and Arabs have forced down the lid on Pandora’s Box, but few Palestinians speak of the ‘peace process’ without a sneer or a sigh.”

And now this.

Reporters who have watched Holy Land horror over generations were stunned, like everyone else, at Hamas’ cruel coordinated onslaught that caught Israeli intelligence off guard. But few were surprised that smoldering hatreds had finally flamed into a likely unwinnable war.

A thundering artillery prelude killed 700 men, women and children in Gaza by Tuesday as the death toll in Israel reached 900. Armored columns amassed at the border to roll in.

Israel might cripple Hamas, but the fallout could be worse. Across the world, people are befuddled by contradictory sources, mistaken impressions and unshakeable bias at opposing extremes. The threat of Middle East war — and spiking antisemitism — is hard to exaggerate.

The need to fight back hard unites fractious Israeli parties. But in Washington, self-serving Republicans and a speaker-less House hamstring a road-tested president who pledges support to a close ally while trying to push it toward lasting coexistence with Palestine.

Read more [here](#).

More Journajive

[Ken Herman](#) - Please tell Mr. Bernotas that I, too, hear "pundint" when some people try to say "pundit."

I also sometimes detect a disappearing 'l' in "vulnerable." Sounds like it's coming out as "vunerable." Wonder if the venerable Mr. Benotas has detected that.

Could be wrong. Maybe we all need a group appointment at the audiologist.

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[Jim Luther](#) - Responding to Adolphe Bernotas, “pudent” for “pundit” is as grating to the ear as the misuse of “I,” as in “She gave it to my mother and I.” Will TV and movie scriptwriters ever learn?

Remembering Dennis D'Agostino



NY_KnicksPR
@NY_KnicksPR



In loving memory of our team historian,
Dennis D'Agostino, who served 36 years
with the New York Knickerbockers



Twitter feed of New York Knicks public relations on Dennis, whose career included AP New York Sports. Click [here](#) for his obituary story in Sports Illustrated.

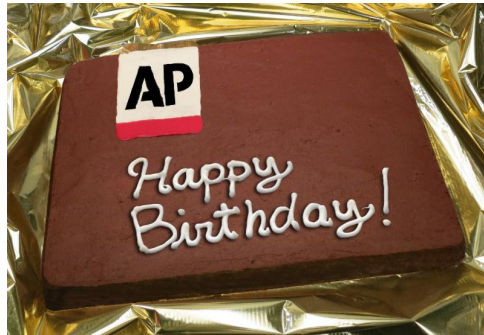
A summit meeting: New Hampshire, old friends



Cecilia White - I recently visited with George and Cathy Garties, close friends of some 40 years, since George and I worked together in the AP/LA bureau. Over the years, after Los Angeles, we have caught up with them in NYC, Phoenix, Chicago, Austin and, now, their new home in Manchester, N.H. Always great hosts, Cathy and George once again spoiled us with new adventures, including a trip to the state's beautiful White Mountains. Seen here, George and I take a sun-dappled break at about 4,000 feet – no, we didn't hike it! (although George, a mountain goat of a hiker, probably could

have). We hitched a ride to the top in the nation's first aerial tramway, on Cannon Mountain. A wonderful reunion with two endearing and enduring AP friends.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bill Newill](#)

Stories of interest

Washington Post will offer buyouts to cut staff by 240 (Washington Post)

By Will Sommer and Elahe Izadi

The Washington Post announced plans Tuesday to offer voluntary buyouts to its staff, in an effort to reduce head count by 240.

In an email to staff, interim CEO Patty Stonesifer wrote that The Post's subscription, traffic and advertising projections over the past two years had been "overly optimistic" and that the company is looking for ways "to return our business to a healthier place in the coming year."

The Post currently employs about 2,500 people across the entire company. A staff meeting is planned for 10 a.m. Wednesday to discuss the buyouts, which will be offered to employees in specific jobs and departments.

"The urgent need to invest in our top growth priorities brought us to the difficult conclusion that we need to adjust our cost structure now," Stonesifer wrote.

Stonesifer added that the buyouts are being offered in hopes of "averting more difficult actions such as layoffs — a situation we are united in trying to avoid."

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

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Five former journalists on why they left the industry

(Nieman Lab)

By LAURA ENTIS

Shortly after graduating with a master's in journalism from New York University in 2011, Marni Chan, 39, landed a job as a culture editor at Mic, then a buzzy digital publication. As someone who'd loved writing since she was a kid, the role was a culmination of her childhood, professional, and academic ambitions. "It was the dream," she says.

In theory, at least. In reality, "it was a nightmare." Chan was responsible for posting 12 to 15 articles a day, many of them about politics. (It was the run-up to the 2012 election.) In addition to writing her own stories, she oversaw an ad hoc team of freelancers, many of whom lacked previous reporting experience and whom she was supposed to edit with only the lightest touch. Errors were frequent, she said, but leadership didn't care. "Everything was about hit counts," Chan says. "It was just eyeballs, eyeballs, eyeballs."

The job paid in the mid \$40,000 range and didn't include health benefits. Chan suspected she had hypothyroidism, a chronic condition that slows down the metabolism, and the lack of health coverage ended up being the breaking point.

One of Chan's friends worked at a PR agency that needed a writer. In 2013, Chan applied and got the job, which paid double her Mic salary and came with good health coverage. Today, she makes \$120,000 a year at her PR job.

"For a long time, the part of me that's very hard on myself felt like I had failed at being a real writer, whatever that means," Chan says. "But the part of me that's older now is really at peace with it. I wanted other things in life."

Many journalists have surveyed their profession's collapsing foundation and reached similar conclusions. All together, the media landscape is sparser than it was 20, 10, or even a couple years ago. For journalists on the ground, this has made it increasingly difficult to find a staff position, not to mention keep one. Even those lucky enough to hold onto a job aren't always able to make enough money to pay the bills, particularly in cities with high costs of living like New York and San Francisco.

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

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Newsrooms on the Run: What happens to journalism when journalists work and meet remotely instead of together? (LNI)

by MARK CARO | LOCALNEWSINI

The classic newspaper newsroom maintains a powerful mystique among journalists and non-journalists alike. You need not have set foot in one to conjure up vivid images of reporters working the phones, banging on typewriters or computer keyboards, smoking cigarettes (in the olden days) or chugging coffee and barking at colleagues while trying to nail down The Story.

The grit, hard work and ink-stained glamor are tangible in movies such as “The Front Page” (originally a play), “His Girl Friday” (originally “The Front Page”) and “Calling Northside 777” through “All the President’s Men,” “Spotlight” and “She Said,” as well as Aaron Sorkin’s short-lived HBO series about a cable news network titled, yes, “The Newsroom.”

Even if real-life newsrooms aren’t as rife with drama as their on-screen counterparts, these workplaces remain distinct in the way they gather reporters, editors, photographers, designers and more to produce the news on tight deadlines. This is pressurized work done collectively (multiple departments must collaborate to create timely reports) and individually (there’s nothing between you and that blank page or screen when the story must get written). The newsroom is where it happens.

Or happened.

Through a combination of technological advances, economic conditions, workforce reductions and a pandemic that has conditioned many people to work at home, the newsroom is a changed, often-diminished setting. Some companies have sold their buildings and relocated, downsized and/or eliminated their newsrooms. Some have set up hybrid workplaces where staffers sometimes come in and sometimes work remotely, with meetings routinely conducted over Slack, Zoom or some other virtual host. Some newsrooms exist as co-working spaces where reporters no longer have assigned desks. Some outlets no longer have newsrooms at all.

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

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CNN Boss Mark Thompson to Staff: Network Is ‘Nowhere Near Ready for the Future’ (Wall Street Journal)

By Isabella Simonetti

CNN Chief Executive Mark Thompson told staff that the network needs to step up its digital game, saying conventional TV “can no longer define us,” and said its journalists shouldn’t be distracted by debates about balance or false equivalency.

Speaking to employees in a video message on Monday, his first official day at CNN, Thompson said he would draw on his earlier experience as CEO of the New York Times to modernize the network.

“For most people under retirement age, the first place they turn for news is their phones, not their TVs. And news players who can’t or won’t respond to that

revolution risk losing their audience and their business,” Thompson said.

He said CNN needs to act swiftly, and that despite some progress, such as the recent launch of CNN Max—a collection of programming from the network on the Max streaming service—“this company is still nowhere near ready for the future.”

“TV is vital and there’s urgent work to do there, especially as we rebuild prime time. But TV is also too dominant at CNN and digital too marginal,” Thompson said.

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

The Final Word

The 1948 baseball photo with a radical message of acceptance (Washington Post)



By Frederic J. Frommer

Like Jackie Robinson before him, Larry Doby — the first Black player in baseball’s American League — endured racist taunts from fans and opposing players, discrimination in hotels and restaurants and even hostility from his teammates. For Doby, a World Series embrace with a White teammate was an antidote to that torrent of abuse.

Doby, who made his major league debut in July 1947, less than three months after Robinson broke Major League Baseball’s color barrier, had a breakout season the next year, leading the Cleveland Indians to the AL pennant. In Game 4 of the 1948 World Series — 75 years ago Monday — his 425-foot solo homer to right-center proved to be the difference in a 2-1 victory over the Boston Braves and their ace, 24-game winner Johnny Sain. After the game, Doby threw his arm around winning pitcher Steve

Gromek in the clubhouse, and the men embraced, cheek-to-cheek, exuberant smiles etched on their faces.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer took a photo of that moment, which the Associated Press transmitted to newspapers across the country — the 1940s version of an image going viral. Many Americans saw it as a symbol of progress at a time when Black players were barely tolerated, while others recoiled from it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad. Fred Frommer is a Connecting colleague.

Today in History - Oct. 11, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2023. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 11, 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a “high-tech lynching.”

On this date:

In 1614, the New Netherland Co. was formed by a group of merchants from Amsterdam and Hoorn to set up fur trading in North America.

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1884, future first lady Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students segregated into their own school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra (shih-RAH'), Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard.

In 1984, Challenger astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space as she and fellow Mission Specialist David C. Leestma spent 3 1/2 hours outside the shuttle.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks in Reykjavik, Iceland, concerning arms control and human rights.

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter was named the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it had finished pumping out the New Orleans metropolitan area, which was flooded by Hurricane Katrina six weeks earlier and then was swamped again by Hurricane Rita.

In 2006, the charge of treason was used for the first time in the U.S. war on terrorism, filed against Adam Yehiye Gadahn (ah-DAHM' YEH'-heh-yuh guh-DAHN'), also known as "Azzam the American," who'd appeared in propaganda videos for al-Qaida.

In 2014, customs and health officials began taking the temperatures of passengers arriving at New York's Kennedy International Airport from three West African countries in a stepped-up screening effort meant to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus.

In 2017, the Boy Scouts of America announced that it would admit girls into the Cub Scouts starting in 2018 and establish a new program for older girls based on the Boy Scout curriculum, allowing them to aspire to the Eagle Scout rank.

In 2020, LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Miami Heat to win the NBA finals in six games as the NBA wrapped up a season that sent players to a "bubble" at Walt Disney World in Florida for three months because of the pandemic.

In 2021, Jon Gruden resigned as coach of the Las Vegas Raiders following reports about messages he wrote years earlier that used offensive terms to refer to Blacks, gays and women.

In 2022, NASA announced that a spacecraft that plowed into a small, harmless asteroid millions of miles away succeeded in shifting its orbit, a test aimed at fending off any more dangerous asteroids in the future.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is 96. Actor Amitabh Bachchan is 81. Country singer Gene Watson is 80. Singer Daryl Hall (Hall and Oates) is 77. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is 73. Actor-director Catlin Adams is 73. Country singer Paulette Carlson is 72. Original MTV VJ Mark Goodman is 71. Actor David Morse is 70. Actor Stephen Spinella is 67. Actor-writer-comedian Dawn French is 66. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Steve Young is 62. Actor Joan Cusack is 61. Rock musician Scott Johnson (Gin Blossoms) is 61. Comedy writer and TV host Michael J. Nelson is 59. Actor Sean Patrick Flanery is 58. Actor Lennie James is 58. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Chris Spielman is 58. Country singer-songwriter Todd Snider is 57. Actor-comedian Artie Lange is 56. Actor Jane Krakowski is 55. Actor Andrea Navedo is 54. Actor Constance Zimmer is 53. Rapper MC Lyte is 53.

Bluegrass musician Leigh Gibson (The Gibson Brothers) is 52. Figure skater Kyoko Ina is 51. Actor Darien Sills-Evans is 49. Actor/writer Nat Faxon is 48. Actor Emily Deschanel is 47. Actor Matt Bomer is 46. Actor Trevor Donovan is 45. Actor Robert Christopher Riley is 43. Actor Michelle Trachtenberg is 38. Actor Lucy Griffiths is 37. Golfer Michelle Wie is 34. Rapper Cardi B is 31.

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.

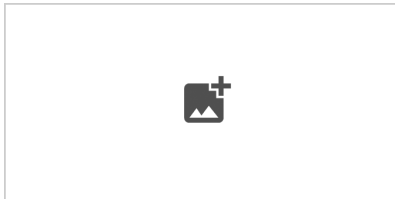
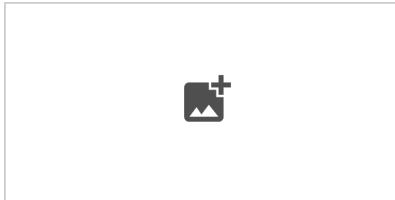
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

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