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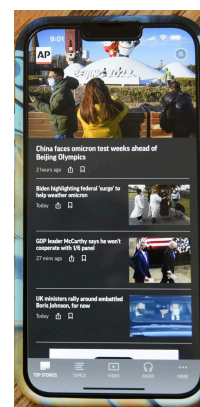
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# Connecting

April 30, 2024

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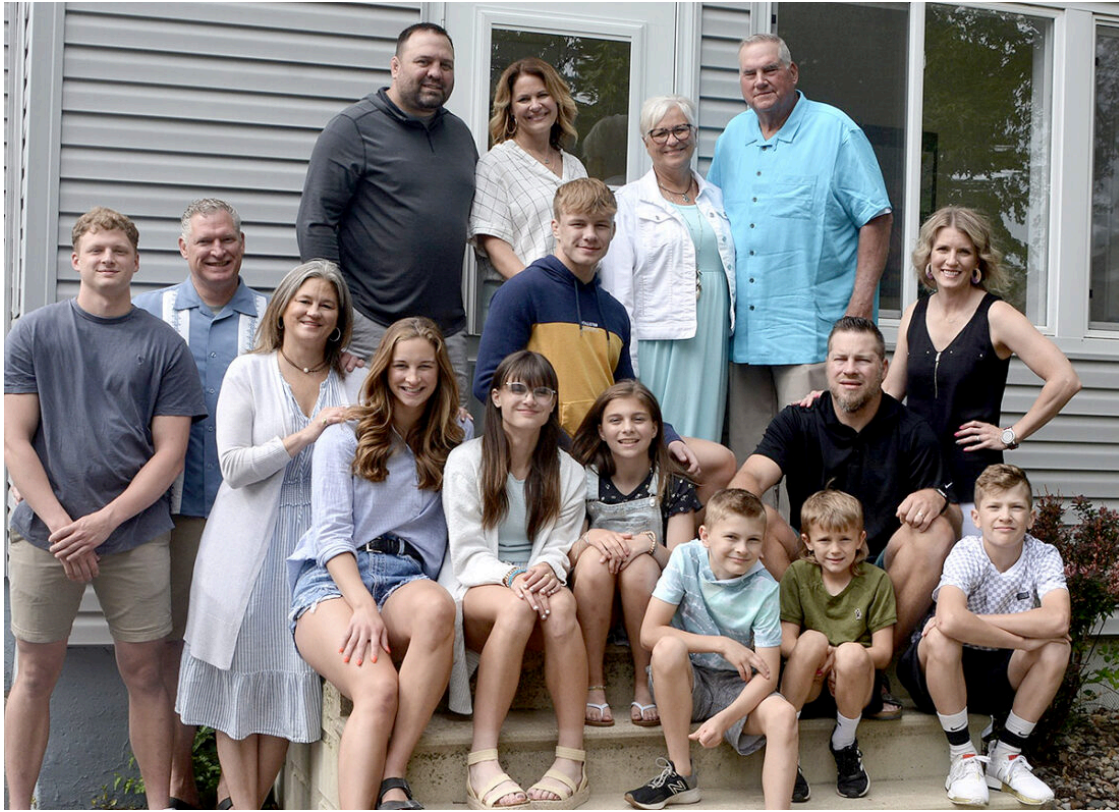
Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this April 30, 2024,

Tune in your PBS station for tonight’s episode of “Frontline”. In partnership with The Associated Press, “Frontline” looks at deaths that occurred after police used tactics like prone restraint and other “less-lethal force.” [Here](#) is a trailer. Also check out [this interactive story](#) and [database](#).

FRONTLINE and The Associated Press investigate deaths that occurred after police used tactics like prone restraint and other “less-lethal force.” The documentary and accompanying reporting draw on police records, autopsy reports and body cam footage, offering the most expansive tally of such deaths nationwide.

**Do you recall from the days** of growing up in your hometown that there always seemed to be people who made the city better?



Well, in my hometown, Fort Dodge, Iowa, one of those families was the Mosers – and I had the privilege of profiling them for my most recent column in the Messenger where I got my start in journalism 60 years ago.

Read all about them by clicking [here](#).

It begins:

Back in the late 1970s, when 27-year-old Sam Moser and his young family arrived in Fort Dodge after he was hired as an assistant football coach at Fort Dodge Senior High, no one could have guessed the dividends that hire would make for the school and the city — dividends that continue to this day.

Not only did Moser perform to a level that he was inducted into the Iowa High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, but also the members of his family — his wife Sharon, daughters Julie and Jill, son Nik and their spouses — have imparted their own mark in making the city a better place to live.

Ever hear of the parlor game, the Six Degrees of Separation of Kevin Bacon? Well, try this — the Six Degrees of Separation of the Sam Moser Family. While the family doesn't have the fame of the actor, you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone in the city whose lives they've not touched — from its youngest residents to its oldest.

Sam Moser, now 72, impacted thousands of young people and many coaches in his 33 years of coaching, from his first assistant's position in Aurelia to the conclusion of his head coaching career at Fort Dodge Senior High in 2003.

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You remember your time on an AP bureau news desk when the phones were silent, the members quiet and you were left wondering just how you could put out a state report? It happened to me more than a few times in my AP career – and now as Connecting editor, it is one of those rare occasions where the Inbox is empty.

So this will be a brief read, giving you time to write up that contribution you'd always been meaning to share, to tell that story, work up that self-profile.

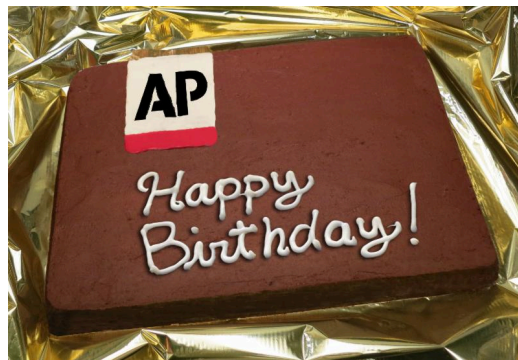
Meanwhile, this from today's Today in History evokes memories for most all of us:

**On April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.**

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

Paul

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Ben Brown](#)

[Dick Lipsey](#)

[Sarah Wilson](#)

## Stories of interest

***Shut Out: When sources won't engage with journalists*** (Poynter)

By: Fernanda Camarena and Mel Grau

*This week, Poynter is publishing installments from “Shut Out: Strategies for good journalism when sources dismiss the press,” a report from a symposium by the Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership about the growing trend of sources bypassing independent reporting.*

*You can read the full PDF of the report [here](#), or return each day for a new topic of discussion.*

The Democratic-controlled New York State Assembly lifts all its COVID protocols — except the one that lets journalists within an arm’s reach of lawmakers.

The sheriff in Daytona Beach, Florida, refuses to alert the local paper to news conferences or comment about crimes after a social media dispute over coverage.

A reporter for the nonprofit Colorado Sun is removed from an important Republican Party meeting after being told the party chair thought her reporting was unfair.

Relationships between public officials and journalists have always been fraught. There has long been a tension over how and when to make public the, well, public’s business.

But that tension has deteriorated to unabashed hostility. The result: Journalists are denied access needed to hold the powerful to account, and the public is denied information about how its money is spent or about the actions of those elected to serve.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Journalism professors call on New York Times to review Oct. 7 report*** (Washington Post)

By LAURA WAGNER

More than 50 tenured journalism professors from top universities have signed a letter calling on the New York Times to address questions about a major investigative report that described a “pattern of gender-based violence” in the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel.

The letter follows months of criticism and concerns raised by outside critics as well as some Times staffers about the credibility of its sourcing and the editorial process for the story.

The letter, signed by professors at colleges including New York University, the University of Pennsylvania, Emory and the University of Texas, asks the Times to “immediately commission a group of journalism experts to conduct a thorough and full independent review of the reporting, editing and publishing processes for this story and release a report of the findings.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady, Dennis Conrad.

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## ***The Fading Star*** (The Assembly)

by Johanna F. Still

It was a front page that forever changed Wilmington: “Toxin Taints Tapwater,” splashed in fat, black font.

Little-known likely carcinogenic contaminants had been found in the drinking water of hundreds of thousands of people. The local utility knew about it, hadn’t alerted the public, and couldn’t filter the chemicals out.

Residents later learned Chemours, a spinoff of the chemical giant DuPont, had been dumping GenX into the Cape Fear River for decades.

Vaughn Hagerty, a former StarNews city editor then working as a freelancer, gave his old paper the story of a lifetime with his 2017 scoop on GenX. The story about how a type of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as forever chemicals, got into Wilmington’s water supply prompted hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure investments and several ongoing lawsuits.

Hagerty couldn’t have written that story as an overburdened staff reporter, he said at a 2022 conference. “It isn’t because I’m special,” he said. “It really is because I had time.”

The StarNews, the state’s oldest continuous daily newspaper, covered the complicated topic aggressively in the months that followed. But that vigor has since waned—for PFAS and a number of other serious issues facing the region.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Media freedom ‘perilously close to breaking point’ in several EU countries*** (Guardian)

Media freedom is declining across the EU and “perilously close to breaking point” in several countries, a leading civil liberties network has said, highlighting widespread threats against journalists and attacks on the independence of public broadcasters.

The Berlin-based Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties) said in its annual media freedom report, compiled with 37 rights groups in 19 countries, that alarming trends identified previously persisted in 2023 – although new EU-wide legislation could offer hope of improvement.



“Media freedom is clearly in steady decline across the EU – in many countries as a result of deliberate harm or neglect by national governments,” said Eva Simon, the senior advocacy officer at Liberties.

“Declining media freedom goes hand in hand with a decline in the rule of law. There’s a close correlation between the two. This is the playbook of authoritarian regimes.” She said new EU media legislation “has potential” but must be properly implemented.

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

## The Final Word



Shared by Doug Pizac.

## Today in History – April 30, 2024



Today is Tuesday, April 30, the 121st day of 2024. There are 245 days left in the year.

### Today’s Highlight in History:

On April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

### On this date:

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, after staying at the controls in a successful effort to save the passengers.

In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler took his own life, as did his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a resolution officially confirming the name of Hoover Dam, which had also come to be known as "Boulder Dam."

In 1958, Britain's Life Peerages Act 1958 allowed women to become members of the House of Lords.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon announced the U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

In 1983, blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters died in Westmont, Illinois, at age 68.

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man, convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, was given a suspended sentence.)

In 2004, Arabs expressed outrage at graphic photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated by U.S. military police; President George W. Bush condemned the mistreatment of prisoners, saying "that's not the way we do things in America."

In 2021, Disneyland reopened its gates after a 13-month closure caused by the coronavirus; capacity was limited for the reopening, and only California residents were allowed in.

In 2022, Naomi Judd, the Kentucky-born singer of the Grammy-winning duo The Judds and mother of Wynonna and Ashley Judd, died at age 76.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Willie Nelson is 91. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is 78. Movie director Allan Arkush is 76. Actor Perry King is 76. Singer Merrill Osmond is 71. Movie director Jane Campion is 70. Movie director Lars von Trier is 68. Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is 65. Actor Paul Gross is 65. Basketball Hall

of Famer Isiah Thomas is 63. Actor Adrian Pasdar is 59. Rock singer J.R. Richards (Dishwalla) is 57. Rapper Turbo B (Snap) is 57. Rock musician Clark Vogeler (Toadies) is 55. Rock musician Chris Henderson (3 Doors Down) is 53. Country singer Carolyn Dawn Johnson is 54. Actor Lisa Dean Ryan is 53. R&B singer Akon is 52. R&B singer Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees) is 51. Actor Johnny Galecki is 49. Actor Sam Heughan is 44. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 43. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 42. Actor Kirsten Dunst is 42. Actor Dianna Agron is 38. Country singer Brandon Lancaster is 35. Rapper/producer Travis Scott is 33. Today is Tuesday, April 30, the 121st day of 2024. There are 245 days left in the year.

## Got a photo or story 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.

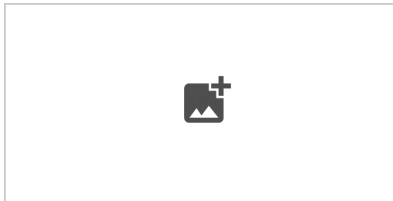
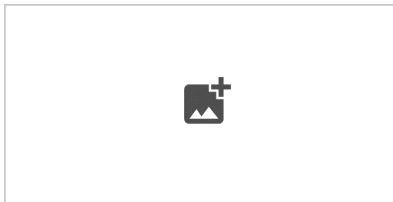
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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