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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
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# Connecting

May 13, 2014



Colleagues,

Here are the latest stories of interest.

## Former AP broadcaster Dan Scanlan dies at age of 74

Connecting colleague **Brad Kalbfeld** shared the sad news of the death over the weekend of **Dan Scanlan** in Reston, Virginia.

"Dan was an original member of the AP Radio staff in the 1970s, and did a second tour at APR and AP All News Radio in the 90s," Brad said. "He was a great colleague and a talented journalist, anchoring newscasts with authority and warmth. His was one of the voices that defined the sound of AP when it first broke into radio news."



Here is an obituary that appeared in RadioWorld:

Once a familiar radio voice, notably on news from Washington, Dan Scanlan passed away over the weekend. Reportedly he died of a heart attack. He was 74.

Scanlan was in semi-retirement, working occasionally as an anchor and writer for WestwoodOne and NBC News Radio.

Over a four-decade career he had stops at WINS(AM), New York, AP Radio, Mutual Broadcasting and NBC.

In a release, WestwoodOne EVP News and Talk Bart Tessler said, "Dan was the epitome of a professional newsman, the best story teller with the best sound on and off the air, and he will be sorely missed."

Mark Knoller, CBS News, tweeted "Was my privilege to have worked with Scanlan in the early days at AP. He was a great writer, broadcaster, colleague and friend."

Click [Here](#) for a speech by Scanlan at a Mutual Broadcasting/NBC Radio reunion wherein he liberally quotes Lou Gehrig's "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of this Earth" speech.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston, Virginia, with Father Thomas Murphy officiating.

Click [here](#) for directions to both, and to leave online condolences.

## **AP announces expansion of investigative reporting efforts**

The Associated Press is deepening its commitment to investigative journalism by expanding its Washington-based investigative team, enlarging another group focused on national stories and launching a unit of international reporters to pursue in-depth projects across borders.

The teams' goals are to develop investigations around breaking news events across the globe and produce exclusive reports that expose wrongdoing and illuminate social issues.

AP's latest investment in newsgathering will yield more exclusives for all platforms. And by funneling data from some of AP's investigative projects to member news organizations and clients, it will help them produce their own exclusive local content.

"Customers, readers and viewers the world over rely on AP for fast and accurate coverage of breaking news events," said AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor **Kathleen Carroll**. "And they count on aggressive newsgathering to give them something fresh - the revelations, investigations, new angles and images that no one else has.

"That's why we continue to deepen our commitment to investigative work and are making a number of important hires and assignment changes."

## **Washington**

Joining the Washington investigative team are **Ronnie Greene** and **Jeff Horwitz**.

Greene has been a senior reporter at The Center for Public Integrity and previously was a longtime reporter and editor at the Miami Herald. He recently served as project editor for a Center series describing how the coal industry beat back miners' claims for black lung benefits, which won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. In Miami, Greene led award-winning exposes about unpunished abuses in Florida group homes, slave-like conditions in Florida's farm fields, cargo-plane crashes and public corruption in South Florida. Greene is the author of "Night Fire: Big Oil, Poison Air" and "Margie Richard's Fight To Save Her Town."

Horwitz is currently on a Knight-Bagehot fellowship at Columbia University. As a reporter for American Banker between 2009 and 2013, he wrote about banks' legal woes and the fallout from the housing crisis. He documented how shoddy record-keeping and robo-signing pervaded JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s sale of defaulted credit card debts, and exposed how banks profited from the sale of overpriced insurance. He was a 2012 Loeb Award finalist for stories exposing how banks used insurance to disguise billions of dollars of housing boom-era kickbacks.

Greene and Horwitz will join a team, led by News Editor Ted Bridis, that also includes reporters Stephen Braun, Dina Cappiello, Jack Gillum and Eileen Sullivan. The Washington team won the 2012 Pulitzer and Goldsmith prizes for investigative reporting on the New York Police

Department's intelligence programs. In May 2012, the team also broke a story about a CIA operation in Yemen to stop an airliner bomb plot by al-Qaida. That story led to the seizure of AP phone records by the U.S. Department of Justice. Protests against that action eventually led to stronger press protections under new DOJ rules put in place earlier this year.

## **U.S. investigations**

The expansion of the U.S. investigations team, which emphasizes state and local data-driven projects, will help AP's member news organizations to localize AP's national reporting.

The new team members are AP reporters **David B. Caruso** in New York, **Michael Kunzelman** in New Orleans, **Garance Burke** in San Francisco and **Holbrook Mohr** in Jackson, Mississippi. They join a team that also includes Boston-based reporter **Jeff Donn** and is led by New York-based National Investigative Editor Rick **Pienciak**.

Mohr, Kunzelman, Donn and Pienciak were part of the team whose coverage of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico earned AP the 2010 George Polk Award for Environmental Reporting and the 2011 Grantham Prize of Special Merit.

Mohr and Kunzelman helped expose problems with the U.S. government's J-1 visa program, after which the State Department made major changes to the program. Caruso has done extensive reporting on how 9/11 first responders suing New York City had exaggerated or falsified medical claims. Donn was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist for National Reporting for his series on the deteriorating state of the nation's nuclear power plants. Burke has written data-driven accountability stories on the environment, health care and food policy that have helped to spur government action in Washington and Sacramento.

## **International**

International investigations, such as AP's revelation of a "Cuban Twitter," designed by the U.S. government to topple the communist government in Cuba, are being led by Washington-based editor **Trish Wilson**, who oversees four reporters as well as other watchdog efforts around the world. The new team includes **Frank Bajak**, based in Lima, Peru; **Erika Kinetz** in Shanghai; **Richard Lardner** in Washington; and **Raphael Satter** in London.

Bajak joined AP in 1982 and has reported from nearly two dozen countries on three continents. As chief of Andean News since 2006,

Bajak has led coverage of Colombia's drug wars, the rise of the left in South America and Venezuela under Hugo Chavez.

Kinetz has reported from Myanmar and India, where her investigation into a leading microfinance company's cover-up of borrower suicides prompted the government to press for prosecutions. She was also part of a team that won a 2014 National Headliner Award for stories showing how the U.S. let its sanctions languish as it wooed Myanmar's ruling generals.

Lardner, who joined AP in 2007, has written extensively on the military and national security, including wartime fraud and waste in Iraq and Afghanistan, weapons programs, cybersecurity and private security contractors. He was part of the award-winning AP team that covered the first shootings at Fort Hood, Texas.

Satter focuses on cybersecurity, has covered the Climategate emails, WikiLeaks disclosures and Britain's tabloid phone hacking scandal.  
(Shared by Paul Colford)

## **New Associated Press guidelines: Keep it brief**

**By Paul Farhi, Washington Post**

This is a short news article about how news articles are becoming shorter.

The world's largest independent news organization, the Associated Press, for one, has told its journalists to cut the fat - and keep their stories between 300 and 500 words, a length in which this story (301 words) would easily fit.

That's 500 words, max, on just about every one of the 2,000 or so stories AP journalists report each day, from ballgames to bomb blasts to the latest political skulduggery.

Exceptions: AP has told its reporters that the top one or two stories in each state may run between 500 and 700 words, and the top global stories of the day may be a practically Faulknerian 700-plus words. Reporters in AP's newly expanded investigative unit will be permitted to bust the limits.

Why? The news service says many of its members - 15,000 or so newspapers, Web sites, and radio and TV stations around the world - lack the staff to trim stories to fit their shrinking news holes. What's more, AP says, readers can get turned off by longer stories, especially on mobile devices, an increasingly popular way for people to get the day's

news.

"We need to be more disciplined about what needs to be said," Kathleen Carroll, AP's executive editor, said in a (short) interview. "We don't do enough distilling and honing, and we end up making our readers do more work."

AP's wire-service rival, Reuters, instructed its reporters to keep stories under 500 words, according to a memo obtained last week by the [Web site Talking Biz News](#). The memo outlining the policy ran to nearly 1,200 words.

Yes, speed and brevity are more valuable than ever in the digital age. But this raises another question: As stories get shorter, do readers end up missing something impor (sic)

(Shared by Jim Lagier)

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**The Post's Eric Wemple** also writes about the new policy in his opinion blog on the news media, and it includes the full memo on the changes from AP Managing Editor for U.S. News **Brian Carovillano**. Click [here](#) for the blog.

## Connecting mailbox

### Craft Brewers, Finding a Better Seat at the Bar

There's a great moment in Steve Hindy's shaggy little history of the craft beer industry, "The Craft Beer Revolution," in which Jim Koch, the sharp-elbowed maker of Samuel Adams, loses his temper at the author, himself a brewer of note.

It comes after a 1993 industry meeting in which Mr. Hindy and others circulated a petition that questioned Mr. Koch's marketing claims. As Mr. Hindy describes it, Mr. Koch accuses him of trying to subvert his business, shouting at him over and over and using far more colorful language than I am allowed to relate here.



**Claude Erbsen**, who shared, notes that Hindy is a former AP staffer and

Beirut-based foreign correspondent who is now the head of the Brooklyn Lager brewery.

Click [here](#) for the story.

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### **Covering executions**

[Joe Frazier](#) - I covered two electric chair executions for AP in Georgia in the 1980s. Nasty stuff. Guest No. 2, who dressed out at about 320 pounds, asked for, and got, a half gallon of butter pecan ice cream for his last meal. Guest No. 2 said in his final words that the head of the pardons and paroles board could kiss his ass. I used it for the breaking AMs cycle. Dayside wrote it thru to "delete obscenity" or similar. I digress. It was when UPI was coughing up serious blood, and as I was phoning in the lead to the Atlanta bureau the staffer the whoops sent came up to me and said, in effect, ``Hey Joe, what do you think the lead should be?" I'm not making this up. Joe Frazier AP-1972-2009, now in Yachats, Oregon.

## **Welcome to Connecting**



[Joyce Dehli](#) - Lee Enterprises vice president for news. Before joining Lee's corporate staff in Davenport, Iowa, Dehli was managing editor of the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison, where she earlier had held a variety of editing and reporting positions. Also in her career, she reported for the Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times in Louisville, Ky. She served as a Poynter Ethics Fellow in 2002 and as co-chair of Lee's Seminars for Assigning Editors in 2003. She has trained journalists in computer-assisted reporting and was an invited speaker at a National Institute on Computer-Assisted Reporting national conference. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Marquette University in Milwaukee and a master's degree in English literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

[Bryan Jones](#) - editor, Missouri Press Association, Columbia, since March. Previously, Jones worked for Vernon Publishing, Inc., as managing editor of The Versailles Leader-Statesman, the Morgan County Press in Stover, and the Highway Five Beacon, a free shopper. He had been with Vernon Publishing since 2004. Jones has a B.A. degree in communication studies from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. His weekly editorial, "Nickels and Sense," was recognized in 2012 by the MPA and in 2009 and 2010 by the National Newspaper Association. He published his first children's book, "Somebody Stole My Yawn!," in 2009. His one-act play "It All ADS up!" was a winner in the Ozark Writers' Guild play-writing contest. The romantic comedy is set in a small-town newspaper office in the 1940s.

## Stories of interest

### [Ron Fournier, Tim Geithner, And The Perils Of Relying On Book Excerpts](#) (Bill Beecham)

National Journal's Ron Fournier illustrated in his latest column why it's a bad idea to rely on excerpts from a book for one's commentary rather than actually reading it. In 2011, a "grand bargain" to lower the long-term debt by \$4 trillion by cutting entitlement spending and raising taxes fizzled when Republicans pulled out of negotiations. Some pundits, including Fournier, counter-intuitively blamed Obama for Republican refusal to support any bill that increased taxes.

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### [No hesitation for networks airing Sam reaction](#)

NEW YORK (AP) - The handsome football player gets drafted by an NFL team, plants an emotional kiss on his sweetheart and gives sportscasts a feel-good video clip. It's a scene that plays out for dozens of draft picks. But when a sobbing Michael Sam celebrated his selection by the St.

Louis Rams by hugging and kissing his partner, another man, it made real and physical that an openly gay athlete had taken an unprecedented step toward an NFL career. For some, the reaction was joy. For others, there was dismay or even anger. For the networks that carried and repeatedly aired the scene, it was business as usual.

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### **Hunger-striking Al-Jazeera journalist is near to death**

Jailed Al-Jazeera journalist Abdullah el-Shamy, who has been on hunger strike in Egypt for more than 100 days, is near to death according to his doctor.

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### **Why is The Washington Post holding a live event in Boston?**

In a well-appointed banquet hall at the Westin Boston Waterfront, a balding, disturbingly energetic man in a red bow tie is holding forth on baby boomers, technology, and aging. "We are not young, but we are youthful," enthuses Joseph Coughlin, director of the MIT AgeLab. A bit later: "And by the way, we never talk about the F-word when it comes to aging: fun!" Well, I suppose.

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### **Washington Post Has Hired 50 Staffers In 2014 Amid Bezos-Funded Expansion**

NEW YORK -- The Washington Post reached a milestone Monday that would've seemed unthinkable amid the succession of newsroom buyouts in recent years: 50 new hires in 2014. "No, you haven't been imagining it: There ARE lots of new faces around the newsroom," senior editor Tracy Grant wrote in a memo obtained by The Huffington Post. "In fact, this month we will mark our 50th new hire so far this year. Yep, you read that right."

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### **Still Talking About It: 'Where Are the Women?'**

Some facts, according to a recent Women's Media Center study:

- \* At the nation's 10 most widely circulated newspapers, men had 63 percent of the bylines, nearly two for every one for a woman.
- \* Among those papers, The Times had the biggest gender gap - with 69 percent of bylines going to men.

- \* Women are far more likely to cover health and lifestyle news. They're less likely to cover crime, justice and world politics.
- \* At three major papers, including The Times, and four newspaper syndicates, male opinion-page writers outnumber female writers four to one.

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### The Unbearable Whiteness of Liberal Media

On the staff of The American Prospect, I'm the only member of an ethnic minority. That's not because I bring all the variety the magazine needs, or because the editors don't think diversity is valuable. Everyone on the masthead of this liberal publication is committed to being inclusive-not just of racial and ethnic minorities but of women; gays, lesbians, and transgender people; and the poor.

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