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## Connecting - August 29, 2015

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# Connecting

## August 29, 2015

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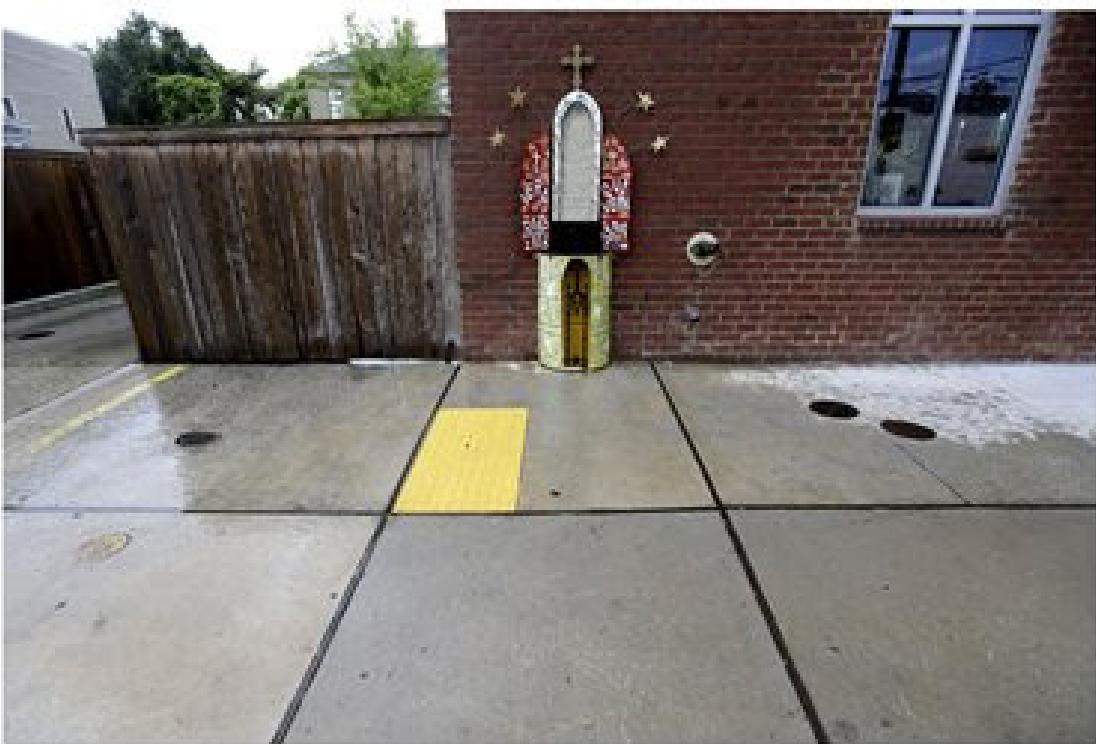
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## Remembering Katrina - 10 years later



*This combination of Sept. 4, 2005 and July 30, 2015 photos show a makeshift tomb at a New Orleans street corner, concealing a body that had been lying on the sidewalk for days in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and the same site a decade later with an artist's memorial to the woman known as Vera. Nearly 2,000 people died because of the storm, mostly in New Orleans, 80 percent of which was flooded for weeks. One million people were displaced. (AP Photo/Dave Martin, Gerald Herbert)*



**This combination of Aug. 30, 2005 and July 29, 2015 aerial photos shows downtown New Orleans and the Superdome flooded by Hurricane Katrina and the same area a decade later. Katrina's powerful winds and driving rain bore down on Louisiana on Aug. 29, 2005. The storm caused major damage to the Gulf Coast from Texas to central Florida while powering a storm surge that breached the system of levees that were built to protect New Orleans from flooding. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip, Gerald Herbert)**

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Today's Connecting leads with the news of an honor for former AP Minneapolis bureau chief **Dave Pyle** by the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

And 10 years after Katrina, we share memories from the perspective of AP journalists who covered the hurricane and the horrific devastation it caused.

Our Connecting Mailbox is full today - and that makes Ye Olde Connecting Editor smile. Keep them coming!

Have a great weekend.

Paul

## **Minnesota New Journalist award named in honor of AP's Dave Pyle**

The Minnesota Newspaper Association Board of Directors has voted to rename the organization's New Journalist award in honor of former AP Minneapolis bureau chief **Dave Pyle**, who passed away last April.



The Dave Pyle New Journalist Award will recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of journalism by a reporter, copy editor, photojournalist, editor or designer who has worked at a professional paper for two years or less. Pyle was a longtime member of the MNA's Journalism Education Committee and worked to establish the new journalist award during his time as the Minneapolis AP bureau chief.

Journalists for both weeklies and dailies are eligible to compete for the prize.

**Lisa Hills**, executive director of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, told Connecting that "Dave Pyle clearly had a passion for helping develop up-and-coming journalists. In Minnesota, he is credited with

creating and sustaining the AP Jobs Fair and the New Journalist Award.

"The AP newspaper awards contest was combined with the MNA Better Newspaper Contest many years ago. When it happened, Dave asked that MNA keep the AP New Journalist award as a category in its contest. The New Journalist Award is one of MNA's most prestigious awards. Dave personally presented the award to the winners until he left AP. Renaming the award to the Dave Pyle New Journalist Award recognizes Dave's love and commitment for the newspaper industry."

Pyle, a longtime bureau chief, news editor and reporter during his 33-year career with The Associated Press, died in April at the age of 61. He worked for the news cooperative in five states, most of it as bureau chief in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Iowa native joined AP as a newsman in Omaha in 1979. He later worked in Dallas and Providence, Rhode Island, before moving in 1991 to Minneapolis, where he spent the last two decades of his career and oversaw major breaking news.

## AP photographers reflect on Katrina coverage

By REBECCA SANTANA and CHEVEL JOHNSON  
**The Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - With Hurricane Katrina headed for the Gulf Coast in late August 2005, The Associated Press deployed dozens of staffers to support its New Orleans and Mississippi bureaus.

Here, three of the photographers who covered the story talk about their experiences and some of the photos that were the most meaningful to them.

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## NATIVE SON

Bill Haber and another AP photographer, the late Dave Martin, had been shooting around the city during the storm when they noticed water bubbling up from the sewers - an ominous sign of the flooding to come.

Driving out toward eastern New Orleans where they'd heard the inundation was intense, they stopped on an overpass from which they could see Canal Street. The broad avenue that helps frame the French Quarter was flooded, its distinctive palm trees flattened.

"That's when we really realized how bad it was, and we had no idea how bad it would get," he said.



Haber had a generator and a working telephone landline, so his house became a de-facto AP bureau, but it had no running water or electricity.

"The city was such a mess, we tried to get in before dark," he said.

Haber, who retired four years after the storm, is particularly proud of one photograph he took of a woman walking through chest-deep water covered in a toxic sheen - an important point to make about the dangerously poor water quality.

But Katrina wasn't just a story. For Haber, a native New Orleanian, it was personal. Many of Haber's family members lost their homes. During breaks from work he dealt with insurance companies, found a new place to live and checked on family.

The first time he left the city, he thought to himself that he wouldn't go back: "But after you get out you think about it a little bit and you realize that all your friends and co-workers are still down there slugging it out and they're sticking it out so you want to go back for them."

A decade later, he's happy with the progress the city has made and aware of the importance of the photos he and others took. At a time of so much confusion and doubt about the seriousness of the situation, the horror of the photos could not be denied.

But looking back, he said what he's most proud of are the people he worked with, colleagues who "waded through the water together."

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## MISSISSIPPI MISSION

Atlanta-based photographer John Bazemore had experienced quite a few disasters but none as haunting as Katrina.



Bazemore covered the Mississippi coast, where the heart of the storm came ashore and scraped miles of homes off the map. "You could see where the water came up and pushed them off their foundations," he said.

Bazemore arrived in Gulfport before the storm and stayed for a couple of weeks, spending much of that time alongside Jackson-based reporter Holbrook Mohr, known as Bert.

"We were living in a hotel with no running water or electricity for a while," Bazemore said. "Most of the time, we slept in our clothes in the car in the parking lot."

He went to visit the Biloxi neighborhood where his step-grandfather used to live. "It was completely gone. There were Popsicle sticks, sticking up into the air everywhere. Nothing that resembled homes, just the frames."

Bazemore recalled a ditch full of slot machines from a casino.

"When we came back later, all the machines were gone. We assume everyone in Mississippi's got one in their basement now," he said, laughing.

One day, "I had gone out earlier and shot a picture of a guy wading through the sometime chest-deep water with a dog. Both were soaked. Both looked miserable," Bazemore recalled. "He told us he lived back where it was all flooded and there was one rowboat to get 'all those ladies and children' out."

So Bazemore and Mohr waded in.

"We were in really nasty water," he said. "There was an oily film on it and you knew there was sewage and everything in the world in there."

"When we saw those women getting into that beat up old boat and the expressions on their faces, it was a situation we kind of lucked up on, but we worked hard to get into. We walked about a mile. At one point I stepped off a curb or into a hole and Bert grabbed me to keep me from going under. One of my cameras got dunked."

Bazemore said he's covered other hurricanes since Katrina and was able to experience a bird's-eye view of one forming through a flight in a Hurricane Hunter airplane.

"Katrina was the biggest story in the world," he said. "I knew New Orleans was getting the lion's share of the coverage, so I looked at it as we had to be the ones to tell it from here, from Mississippi."

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## MISERY, WRAPPED IN THE FLAG

Eric Gay, a photographer with the AP since 1986, and reporter Allen Breed got reports of flooding toward eastern New Orleans. Gay said they decided to drive over and see what the storm and subsequent flooding had done.

"We began to see houses with water at window levels and in some cases, 6 to 8 feet high," Gay said.

"There were sheriff's deputies passing us with a boat and they just started helping some of those people get out. Some of the first pictures I made were of his boat pulling up to a house and the people were stepping into the boat."



Gay remembers coming across people who just wanted help. "We could have taken a carload at a time, but we told them the best way to help them was to tell their story, share their story and fill that void."

Gay also spent significant time at the city's convention center, which was another unofficial shelter. It was there that he took a picture of an elderly woman wrapped in a towel or blanket emblazoned with the American flag. "I'm always a sucker for flags," he said. "But it wasn't only that. It was the pathos in their faces. They looked so despondent."

The woman in that picture, 89-year-old Milvirtha Knight-Hendricks, died in 2009 in Houston, where she landed following Katrina.

Gay said another photo he remembered shooting was of another older woman, Nita LaGarde, and a little girl who were being rescued. "They were holding hands," he recalled. "It was a sweet moment. Kind of uplifting despite the whole ordeal."

Gay said he was privileged to be able to tell the story of people who survived Katrina.

"It's my job to reflect what's there. Katrina was a once in a lifetime event. I've been back to do other hurricanes and just this spring I covered major flooding in South Texas. That was just horrific stuff, but it wasn't as widespread as Katrina."

"Katrina is a story that sticks with you."

Click [here](#) for the link to this story.

## **Katrina memories from Cliff Schiappa**



**Detroit AP staff photographer Paul Sancya sleeps Saturday night, Sept. 10, 2005, on the roof of one of AP's motor homes that was part of the massive press compound lined up along the trolley tracks down the middle of Canal Street. All the illuminated areas were lit by generator power as the surrounding buildings were all in darkness.**

**Cliff Schiappa** - Reading and hearing of the mayhem that was awaiting my arrival in New Orleans as part of the first relief team of AP photographers to cover the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I told a friend at my Chorus in Kansas City which songs to sing at my funeral, "just in case." Ten years later, I can thankfully say that no songs were sung, and frankly, that request now sounds rather silly. But the stories certainly were ominous.

As part of the replacement team, staff photographers **Anne Heisenfelt** of Minneapolis and **Paul Sancya** of Detroit and myself had the luxury of making plans for our trip over a three-day period as opposed to the first responders such as **Bill Haber** who lived the nightmare from the moment the wind started blowing in his hometown, or the late South Regional Photo Editor **Dave Martin** who without hesitation brought his talent, street-smarts and keen knowledge of logistics to the scene during the height of the storm.

Heisenfelt, Sancya and I met at the rental car counter at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston on September 7th where we picked up the largest SUVs in their inventory, and made a point of



***Surrounded by a darkened city, Dave Scott, AP's North Carolina News Editor at the time, edits Hurricane Katrina copy on a laptop on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2005 in front of one of AP's motor homes parked on Canal Street.***

we zig-zagged through empty surface streets littered with debris, passing un-manned roadblocks and sweet-talking our way past National Guardsmen until we drove down Canal Street to a scene that could possibly be mistaken for an RV and Camping Show. Trailers and motorhomes were parked for blocks down the center median where the trolley tracks run along Canal Street, serving as workspace and living space for journalists from around the world.

Our expectation of confusion quickly vanished when we saw the setup of AP workspace created by incredibly resourceful technicians where many writers, photographers, editors and technicians were working to maintain the flow of information to the outside world. Some chose to work outdoors in the infamous August heat and humidity, others within the air conditioned comfort of a motorhome powered by onboard generators.

The AP compound consisted of five or six motorhomes located right in front of the Sheraton Hotel. AP was the first to locate mobile workspace on Canal Street and that location was chosen because the Hotel, guarded by Blackwater personnel, served as the headquarters of the National Guard. In the early days of Katrina, access to security was a very smart consideration. In later days, the Hotel also served as a temporary oasis by providing a hotel room to AP staffers to use the showers and to admire the clean white fluffy bedding.

Over the next day or so, Dave Martin would transfer his knowledge of logistics to me: contact info for the guy who empties the holding tanks, the guy who delivers water (never confuse those two!), or fuel for the generators. How to track the amount of grey water versus black water in the motor home. How to turn off and re-start the generators, how to use the sat phones that cost a dollar per minute (or was it \$10 per minute?).

accepting the Loss Damage Waiver, which was not AP policy. Our first stop was a Wal-Mart to fill the shopping list that Martin had sent us. That list included shopping cartloads of food and supplies that one would expect for a group of people stranded in a murky mess, cut off from stores and utilities: batteries, canned vegetables, bandages, extension cords, and of course three gallons of peanut oil, all resulting in a cash register receipt over four feet long.

We hit the road for New Orleans, knowing where we needed to go, but unsure how we would get there. As we entered the city

Who was the dependable National Guard P.R. contact, how to get past road blocks, how to reach AP staffers based at Bill Haber's home, how to trailer the john boat, how to avoid hitting cars when parking that trailer. The information dump was intense, with Dave recalling all the facts from his head and I scribbling furiously to keep up.

And of course there were photos to be made in the field by AP's best photographers, edited at the trailers, and transmitted to New York for the world to witness a modern day urban meltdown.

At the risk of omitting many names, the photographers who were making some amazing photos under terribly difficult situations during the ten days I was there included Heisenfelt, Sancya, Martin, Haber, Ric Francis of Los Angeles, Rick Bowmer of Portland, Stephen Senne of Boston, and the late Anja Niedringhaus of Germany.

The hustle of all the comings and goings at the press compound during the day was in direct contrast to the eerie quiet of a city at night that had no power. I took a nighttime walk along the darkened streets and as I passed each empty storefront, the light and sounds of generators radiating from Canal Street faded, and I found myself feeling very isolated, with dark hulking masses of buildings rising up around me, but little sense of where I was.

As the disaster that was Katrina continued on for many more weeks and months, additional AP staffers arrived with more supplies, a fresh perspective and passion for sharing what they witnessed. For those who called New Orleans home, there was no escaping the tragedy, yet they showed up for work everyday to tell the stories of other people's losses.

And for those who knew Dave Martin, they know why three gallons of peanut oil was on the shopping list. The night before Martin left for home, he set up his deep fryers on the trolley tracks and cooked three large turkeys for all the AP staffers as well as any police or National Guard who wandered by. Despite the hardship of the assignment, Martin knew how to keep his colleagues in good humor and their stomachs full.

## ***Katrina memories from Bill Kaczor***

**Bill Kaczor** - Somewhat ironically, the 2005 National Hurricane Conference was held in New Orleans five months before Katrina struck ten years ago.

As the Pensacola correspondent, I was dispatched to New Orleans to cover the conference because hurricane interest was high in Florida. The Sunshine State just had been ravaged by four hurricanes in 2004 including Ivan, which devastated Pensacola, and as fate would



**Rescue workers break into a home to check on any possible survivors on Monday, Sept. 12, 2005 in New Orleans. (AP Photo by Ric Francis)**

have Florida would be visited by four more storms in 2005. I was welcomed with open arms by the New Orleans bureau and can't say enough about those folks and how well they handled what they later went through.

One of the top stories that emerged from the conference prophetically focused on criticism of the federal government's ability to cope with hurricanes and other disasters. Emergency managers and other attending applauded former FEMA Director James Lee Witt when he said the placement of his old agency under the Department of Homeland Security was a mistake because its emphasis on natural disasters had been reduced. Another subject was the vulnerability of New Orleans including predictions of flooding that could last for months.

When Katrina struck I covered the Pensacola Naval Air Station's role as a key staging base for the rescue and recovery effort, including interviews with helicopter crews that helped save survivors. The Navy offered me and several other reporters a chopper ride to a ship serving as headquarters for the effort, but after waiting on the tarmac all suited up and ready to go we were turned away at the last minute to make room for vitally needed supplies. Finally, on Sept. 4, six days into the disaster, I got a ride on a Navy rescue helicopter. After flying 200 miles to New Orleans we refueled at the air station there and set out to pick up survivors and drop bottled water to those who didn't want to leave their flooded homes.

By then, though, most of the survivors had been rescued and the crew members were frustrated by the lack of action. My crew was beaten to one rescue by another helicopter before joining a line of hovering choppers waiting for a turn to land at a school that had become the only island in a flooded neighborhood. There was only enough dry land for one chopper to land at a time. We picked up five adults and three children and flew them to the airport. One of the crew had lived in New Orleans as a child and spotted his former home and those of family members, all with water up to their roofs, but he said his relatives had safely evacuated.

Finally, the crew found another group had to be winched aboard one at a time, including a dog, while the helicopter hovered over another dry spot too small to land on. Thirteen hours after taking off were back in Pensacola. Oddly, I haven't been back to New Orleans since then although I'd previously been a frequent visitor. My wife, Judy, went to graduate school at Loyola University and then there was Hurricane Andrew, but that's another story. I hope to get back again soon.

## ***Temporary AP bureau at Baton Rouge Advocate***



**Larry Hamlin helps set up a satellite dish on the roof of the Baton Rouge Advocate for the AP temporary bureau located there. Bureau operation is shown in photo below.**



# Connecting mailbox

## ***'I get paid to find out what you think'***

**Mike Holmes** - On the Jorge Ramos question, his contention really bothers me.

Years ago, when I was in the Des Moines bureau and covering Gov. Robert Ray, he would often meet with reporters in a relaxed way, sitting around a conference table in his office. Tom Witosky, then with the Des Moines Tribune, asked about a difficult issue one day, and Ray said, "I don't know. What do you think?"

"I don't get paid to think," Tom replied. "I get paid to find out what you think."

That philosophy has always worked for me.

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## ***Ending sentence with a preposition***

**G.G. LaBelle** - Catching up with Connecting after vacation and noted Robert Weller's rendering of the Churchill quote on ending a sentence with a preposition. There are several versions of the quote but none end with the preposition "with" - as Robert had it. Here's one version:

Ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put.

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## ***Today's front page of the day: Inside WDBJ***

The front page of The Roanoke Times newspaper from Friday, August 28, 2015. The page features several headlines and images. At the top left is a colorful illustration of a Native American figure. To its right, the text reads "Exhibits in extra Indigenous folk artistry". Next to that is a photo of a young man and the headline "Amazing recovery" with the subtext "Cave Spring senior safety battles back from leukemia". To the right of that is a "sports" category. The main title "THE ROANOKE TIMES" is prominently displayed in large, bold letters. Below the main title, the date "FRIDAY August 28, 2015" and website "roanoke.com" are visible. The price "ROANOKE, VIRGINIA \$1.00" is also present. A small caption "SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE SHOOTING" is located near the bottom left.



| Shooter  
had long  
history of  
rebukes



WDBJ (Channel 7) news morning anchor Kimberly McBroon gets a hug from visiting anchor Steve Grant (left) as meteorologist Leo Hirsbrunner reflects after their early morning newscast, Thursday. Reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward were killed during a live broadcast Wednesday.



Alison Parker



Adam Ward

# 'They're not here anymore'

The 115 employees of WDBJ (Channel 7) are pulling together after two colleagues were killed Wednesday, the most devastating event in the TV station's history.

By Ralph Barber Jr.  
ralph.barber@roanoke.com | 981-3338

Leo Hirsbrunner arrived at work early Thursday, prompting himself: "I wonder if I would keep it together."

The murder of two of his WDBJ (Channel 7) colleagues on live television numbed him. Wednesday day. He clogged through his weather forecasts during the noon news, maintaining his composure as the realization was still sinking in that reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward had died from gunshot wounds.

"There were shock, there were tears, but I just kept pushing through," said Hirsbrunner, a 15-year weatherman for the "Morning" and noon newscasts on WDBJ.

However, when he pulled into the employee parking lot before 3 a.m. Thursday, he saw something he could not bear: Parker's and Ward's vehicles parked side-by-side where they had left them the day before. Hirsbrunner burst into tears.

"That's when it hits you," he said. "They're not here anymore."

At 4:55 a.m., five minutes before they went on the air, Hirsbrunner and longtime "Morning" anchorwoman Kimberly McBroon hugged and cried.

"We can do this," Hirsbrunner said. "We can do this."

They wept openly during Thursday morning's broadcast, especially when they set aside time to remember their slain co-workers and friends. The crew observed a moment of



Morgan Donnelly, formerly of WSL (Channel 10) who is now at Harrisburg's WHSV, hugs Karen Lottus, WDBJ (Channel 7) weekend sports anchor.

See WDBJ, 8

## Parker's father: I'm on a mission

Andy Parker plans to band together with others affected by gun violence to formulate a plan.

By Alida Pettska  
alida.pettska@roanoke.com  
981-3239

Andy Parker's morning started at 5:30 a.m. Thursday, the reporter asked the inevitable question: Tell us about your daughter. What made Alison so

special?

But again and again, Parker fought back the tears.

"It's what I've got to do," he said. "This is my new mission in life, and I'm doing it for Alison."

Alison Parker, a 24-year-old reporter for WDBJ (Channel 7), and Adam Ward, a 27-year-old cameraman, were gunned down early Wednesday morn-

ing in an on-air attack that has stunned the community.

The shooter, a troubled man who was fired from the TV station more than two years ago, died later that day of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Shortly before, he reportedly faxed a large-filled manifesto

See PARKER, 9



Andy Parker  
Father of Alison Parker, who was killed Wednesday in a shooting at Smith Mountain Lake.

See GUN, 6

**MORE  
INSIDE**



Shooting victim  
Vicki Gardner, in good condition, faces additional surgery.  
Page 7

Photo of Roanoke's  
Sherman Lea Jr. goes  
viral; mistakenly  
identified as shooter.  
Page 7

Search warrant  
reveals evidence  
of killer's carefully  
planned attack.  
Page 8

■ Shootings make for tough media decisions. Page 6  
■ Competing stations pitch in to help WDBJ cover news of the shooting.  
Page 7



COMING SUNDAY A NEW PUZZLE | ADULT LIFE WITH AUTISM A two-part series

Each year thousands of young Virginians with autism graduate from high school. They enter an adult world where they must fight for jobs and a chance to live independently, often without any help from the state. A two-part Roanoke Times series Sunday and Monday explores what happens to children who age — but don't truly grow up.

Bridge - Extra 6 | Crossword - Extra 6 | Lottery - Virginia 1 | Obituaries - Virginia 2 | TV Listings - Extra 2



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**Bob Daugherty** shares Poynter's front page of the day comes from The Roanoke Times in Roanoke, Virginia. Like it did on Thursday, the Times devoted the entire front to the murders of local journalists Alison Parker and Adam Ward. The lead story takes readers into the newsroom, how people at the station learned of the shootings and what it has been like to carry on after the two were killed on live television. Other stories on the page focus on the shooter, how he got his weapon and how Parker's father, Andy Parker, is pushing for gun control.

"You look at this, you look at Newtown, you look at the movie theater shooter," he said. "How many times does this have to happen before we take action as a country and the

Vester Flanagan's workplace file chronicles increasingly tense encounters.

By Duncan Adams  
and Neil Harvey  
The Roanoke Times

Vester Lee Flanagan II submitted his application Feb. 22, 2012, to be a Roanoke TV news reporter.

Thirteen days later, he got the job.



Vester Lee Flanagan II

"We greatly look forward to having you join [WDBJ (Channel 7)] and become a member of our team," read a March 6, 2012, letter from the station.

It promised Flanagan — who lived in Vallejo, California, and worked under the name Bryce Williams — about \$36,000 a year, plus \$500 in travel expenses to

See WORKPLACE, 9

 Visit roanoke.com to see video from WDBJ's afternoon news conference.

## Killer's gun was bought legally

Flanagan underwent a background check before the sale.

By Laurence Hammack  
laurence.hammack@roanoke.com  
981-3239

A disgruntled ex-television reporter legally purchased a Glock 9 mm pistol not long before he used it to kill two former colleagues at WDBJ (Channel 7), a federal official said Thursday.

Vester Lee Flanagan II bought the gun in July from a federally licensed gun dealer in Virginia, according to Tom Faison, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives. Faison declined to identify the dealer.

politicians grow some backbone and stop being lackeys of the NRA?"

Click [here](#) for a link to the page.

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## ***Mail Storm***

**Paul Shane** - Your blurb "Reply-All Email Catastrophe" brings a too faint memory about a mail storm at AP while I was managing the company's email system.

An AP employee covering a World Cup somewhere in South America was also an enthusiastic soccer fan and began sending game results to huge AP distribution lists such as AllSports and AllPhotos. Many recipients were not soccer fans and did not like getting the many emails. At least one recipient sent an angry reply-all response saying that Americans did not care for soccer and that most Americans favored REAL football.

What followed was what I called a mail storm of replies-to-all to replies-to-all that brought our VAX email servers to their knees. I tried my own reply-all to ask users to stop with all the replies-all which triggered another series of replies-all. With the system so slow, other AP users started sending emailed complaints. Oh, the horror of it all. It took all day for the backlog to clear and the system to become usable again.

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## ***Trump and Fox***

**Michael Feldman** - I do not see much difference in what he did in this Trump press conference and what Fox does to general public. Fox is the TV news for the Republican Party. Cable and the Internet makes this all possible. Jefferson vs the Whigs was just as bad. This is nothing new. We and public have to deal with and read and watch and make our own judgements. AP and UPI are the journalism I also try to do. We had racist photographers in the years before 1980, but I never saw that in their images, competition took care of that.

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## ***On campus suicides and the Virginia shootings***

**Rochelle Hines** - When I worked at the University of Oklahoma student newspaper, several students committed suicide over a period of four to five days. We published a story about the first death, but after a second one occurred a few days later, our staff debated whether we should report on suicides. I thought it was important to do a story with comment from psychologists and a reminder to everyone about on-campus counseling services, but our editorial supervisor and other editors argued that reporting

on suicides might push a susceptible student take his or hers own life. I think there were four or five in all (this was back in the mid-80s), and after the second or third one, we stopped reporting on them. The deaths ceased.

In that case, not drawing attention to student suicides may have been the right thing to do. But the Virginia killings were an act of violence, and I think we are compelled to tell that story with the names of the victims and the perpetrator, as painful as it is. Of course, we should be respectful to the families of both, but our duty is to report the news. The Washington Post had an interesting piece about mass shootings that detailed what the killers all had in common and why the United States is more prone to this type of violence than other nations. In covering these events, journalists must tell people what happened, but perhaps the focus should be on the epidemic of bloodshed in our country and not on any one perpetrator.

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### ***Focus on the shiniest sound bite***

**Peggy Walsh** - While I think journalists should not be advocates and should report the facts just like we were taught at the AP, I am troubled by some of the presidential election coverage, especially on television. (Social media is another animal!)

The focus is on the shiniest sound bite, little or no fact checking. As is always the case in elections, candidates promise things they can't deliver without a working Congress. But this crop is particularly devoid of specifics & able to dodge questions about them. I'd rather hear or read a piece on specifics of any of Trump's plans followed by fact-checking on the feasibility than see a clip on whether his hair is real. This applies to all the candidates. The nature of media and the electorate has changed. I hate to sound like an old fogey but report, press for specifics and fact check we did. And there are voters who would welcome more of that now. I know there are journalists out there who are doing just that. There should be more of them and we all should hope that more of the voting public is open to reading or hearing ALL of the information not just partisan garbage that reinforces narrow beliefs.

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### ***Linda Deutsch to appear tonight on ReelZ***

**Linda Deutsch** - I don't know if you post heads-up notices on TV appearances. Just in case - tonight at 9 p.m. in all time zones I will be featured on a cable series on the ReelZ channel called, "Murder Made Me Famous," discussing the Menendez Brothers murders. I'm not the only AP person to appear on this series. Last Week, Brian Skoloff was featured discussing the Jodie Arias case on which he wrote a book.

**AP**

## BEAT OF THE WEEK

It was a scoop that read like a chapter of a John LeCarre novel.

**George Jahn** in Vienna had been cultivating a key source during the lengthy Iran nuclear negotiations. After the deal was signed in July, the man dropped off the radar but resurfaced recently. He was tight-lipped but said he had something to discuss. He proposed meeting Jahn in one of Vienna's coffeehouses.



At the last minute, though, he moved the meeting to another coffeehouse 20 minutes away, a place that didn't have cameras. Jahn met the source and after they changed tables three times to ensure privacy, he delivered the payoff:

It was the text of the secret deal between the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran over its past work on developing a nuclear weapon at the Parchin military site.

The source allowed Jahn to transcribe the one-page document. But the question remained: Was it real?

Jahn showed it to two other officials with firsthand knowledge of the deal and promised them he wouldn't press them for details but wanted to determine if it was genuine. In separate meetings, the officials said it was. Meanwhile, in Washington, Bradley Klapper checked with a U.S. official who didn't dispute the authenticity of the document and discussed it with familiarity and detail.

As soon as it was out, Jahn's story reverberated across Washington and beyond.

Members of Congress had been demanding the Obama administration share the details of the IAEA-Iran agreement with them as they consider the broader Iran nuclear deal. But U.S. officials insisted while they were familiar with the IAEA's arrangement they weren't a party to it and didn't have the document.

The IAEA chief, who'd testified before Congress in closed session, apparently hadn't divulged this detail that Jahn reported: The IAEA was going to allow Iran to inspect its own military base and tell the UN agency what it had found about its own research.

Opponents of the broader Iran deal argued such an arrangement raised doubts about the Obama administration's claims that that agreement was built on a stringent inspections regime with no room for "trust me." Some were livid, saying they "had to get details of the deal from The Associated Press" instead of administration officials.

The White House issued a statement that it trusted the IAEA to do its job. It did not dispute the veracity of the story. The Monday after the story moved, White House press secretary Josh Earnest confirmed the report publicly.

The story sparked an intense debate on Twitter. It pitted backers of the larger Iran deal, who worried that Jahn's report could cost support in a vote in Congress next month on a resolution of disapproval, against opponents who took the story as proof that even the broader deal had inadequate safeguards. The Twitter debate included conspiracy theories, speculation about the sources, and accusations that Jahn's document was fake, despite its solid authentication.

The debate was so intense, that Vox.com, The Daily Beast and the Washington Examiner all wrote pieces about the scoop and the surrounding controversy.

Jahn's story appeared on seven front pages, and the Wall Street Journal has written two editorials about the "bombshell from The Associated Press." The story also was on the front of Yahoo and MSNBC's websites. <http://dpo.st/1lgSHGA>

For his cultivation of a source that resulted in a major exclusive, Jahn earns the Beat of the Week and its \$500 prize.



When California voters agreed to close a tax exemption for corporations in 2012, lawmakers promised the move would generate billions, make schools more energy efficient and create 11,000 jobs annually.

While schools praised the program, Sacramento summer intern **Julia Horowitz** found that no one had kept an accurate accounting of the projects. They could only point to 1,700 jobs and the oversight board had never met, making it hard to assess the politicians' promises.

To start, Horowitz called nearly a dozen school districts. All reported they were excited to start spending the money and pointed to lists of planned projects. But her mentor, Sacramento reporter Judy Lin, urged her to keep pushing: How many projects were completed? How many jobs were created? How much energy has been saved? No one could say.



Horowitz then spent weeks requesting records, combing through documents, interviewing proponents and calling school districts to evaluate results. The state Energy Commission was tracking the dollars approved, while the state Department of Education was tracking dollars delivered.

Horowitz encountered a maze of state bureaucracy, but she persevered.

The official charts and figures presented a cheery picture, and schools were generally excited about getting the money. But by cross-referencing the various data and thinking critically, Horowitz cut through the rosy projections and was able to report that little has been accomplished so far. Most of the funds had gone to planning.

Horowitz did all of this while juggling daily assignments, and she finished the project while working a BNS shift in the San Francisco bureau.

Her story prompted at least nine newspaper editorials, including one in the Wall Street Journal.

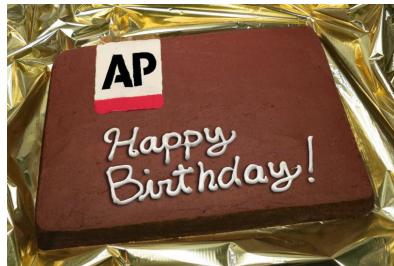
The campaign for the measure had been led by Tom Steyer, a billionaire investor who gave \$74 million to Democratic campaigns nationwide last year, and the leader of the state Senate, Kevin de Leon.

AP's story came as the duo are promoting another green energy program for California. Lawmakers from both parties immediately called for greater oversight, and the first meeting of the board was announced within days.

For cutting through bureaucracy and uncovering government waste, all while juggling her other duties as a summer intern, Horowitz wins this week's \$300 Best of the States award.

(Beat of Week and Best of States shared by Valerie Komor.)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Barry Bedlan** ([Email](#))

**Kristi Chew** ([Email](#))

**Jeff Rowe** ([Email](#))

# Welcome to Connecting



**Lisa Hills** ([Email](#))

**James Palmer** ([Email](#))

## Stories of interest

**In New Orleans, a journalistic experiment with unclear results** (Washington Post)

NEW ORLEANS - Nearly three years on, Tom Lowenburg still regards the transformation of his hometown newspaper the way a jilted lover would regard his ex - with a mixture of nostalgia, bitterness and regret.

"They chose to decimate their publication," says Lowenburg, a local bookstore owner who grew up here. "News is important to a community, especially this one. And they made a decision not to be a viable newspaper."

Hurricane Katrina dealt a staggering blow to New Orleans 10 years ago this week. A far lesser, but still lingering, punch came in late 2012 when Advance Publications, the owner of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, launched a bold strategy to arrest the paper's financial free fall. With the swiftness of a cloudburst, Advance laid off 200 employees, including about 15percent of the news staff, and reduced publication of the daily paper to Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Henceforth, Advance declared, the Picayune would emphasize its Web site, NOLA.com.

All at once, New Orleans, a city that celebrates tradition and quirkiness in about equal measure, became the largest in the United States without a daily newspaper. It also became an inadvertent test market for the future of journalism, at least the kind that newspapers have provided readers for centuries. Advance's strategy has drawn the attention of publishers around the world, all of whom have the same question: Is this the

way to ensure that newspapers survive in the digital age?

The answer still isn't clear.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Scott Charton.

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### **If we watch the Virginia TV shooting is the suspected shooter 'winning'? (Los Angeles Times)**

To watch or not to watch.

Early Wednesday morning, reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward were shot to death during a live interview for WDBJ-TV, a CBS affiliate based in Roanoke, Va. In less than an hour, clips of the event were on YouTube.

It soon developed that the suspected shooter, Vester Flanagan, a former reporter for WDBJ, appeared to have recorded the shooting himself, posted it on Facebook and then tweeted about it using his on-air name, Bryce Williams. Flanagan shot himself while being chased by police and later died.

The Twitter and Facebook accounts were quickly suspended, and YouTube took down the videos, but the disturbing images continued to circulate, prompting an equally widespread "Don't Watch" campaign.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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### **Robert De Niro to NYT reporter: 'Ya got the part, kid' (Poynter)**

Ya got the part, kid."

It's safe to say few journalists have rarely heard those words, at least not from Robert De Niro.

But that's the case for New York Times reporter Diana Henriques, author of a book about Bernie Madoff's notorious Ponzi scheme, "The Wizard of Lies." She took a buyout from the newspaper in 2011 but still writes for it.

HBO is adapting her book, with De Niro starring as Madoff, and she auditioned with him several months ago, Chris Roush reports for Talking Biz News.

...In June, and he grilled her for two hours about his mannerisms, his laugh, his sense of humor, and his relative closeness to his two sons.

De Niro and his casting director liked how it went well enough to ask her back the next day

to read a scene with him. According to the journalist:

The next day, De Niro met us in the same small office. We sat knee to knee; he had a script to follow, I was relying on memory. But about a minute into a 5-minute scene, he seemed to just drop out of his own head and into Bernie's. It was a surreal, goosebumpy moment - and he's barely started on building his characterization!

We finished the scene, looks were exchanged among Levinson, Chenoweth and De Niro. After a bit of vague chit-chat, I got blunt (not an investigative reporter for nothing!) So, I said, what's the decision? DeNiro gave me his patented smirk: "Ya got the part, kid."

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

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## The Mission By Joseph Pulitzer In 1945 (Gateway Journalism Review)



By ROY MALONE

It was 70 years ago that Joseph Pulitzer, editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, reported from Europe that the holocaust was far worse than the American public had been told. He came back to Missouri to launch an information project to disclose the extent of the Nazi

atrocities.

He was stunned to view the two German death camps that he visited - Buchenwald and Dachau. "The brutal fiendishness of these operations defies description," he wrote.

At the time, Pulitzer was revered as one of the best newspaper editors in the nation. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch earned nine Pulitzer Prizes during his 44-year tenure as publisher and editor. He was the son of the famous Joseph Pulitzer who had founded the Post-Dispatch in 1878 and also the Pulitzer Prizes in journalism.

This second Pulitzer was one of 18 editors from newspapers and magazines who were invited by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to view the evidence of the death camps. He said that before going he was aware of the controversy that existed between those decrying the killing of Jewish citizens and those who called it just propaganda and denied that Germany could have done something so horrible.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Scott Charton.

## The Final Word

*A platform like this may get you places...*

1922

*New Road and Precinct Map Showing*

WHERE — TO — **VOTE FOR**

# My Platform

---

- Good Roads
- A Budgeted Road Fund
- Economy
- A Day's Work For a Day's Pay
- Fewer Automobiles and More Work for County Employees



**Harry S. Truman**  
Democratic Candidate for  
JUDGE, EASTERN DISTRICT  
Jackson County

**Harry S. Truman**

# Today in History - August 29, 2015

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Saturday, August 29, the 241st day of 2015. There are 124 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

## **On this date:**

In 1533, the last Incan King of Peru, Atahualpa (ah-tuh-WAHL'-puh), was executed on orders of Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, Alexandria, Virginia, formally surrendered to British military forces, which occupied the city until September 3.

In 1864, the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan for president, opened in Chicago.

In 1877, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Brigham Young, died in Salt Lake City, Utah, at age 76.

In 1915, Academy Award-winning actress **Ingrid Bergman** was born in Stockholm, Sweden. (Bergman died in London on this date in 1982 at age 67.)

In 1935, the film "Top Hat," starring **Fred Astaire** and Ginger Rogers, premiered at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

In 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division marched down the Champs Elysees (shahms ay-lee-ZAY') in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

In 1958, pop superstar **Michael Jackson** was born in Gary, Indiana.

In 1964, Roy Orbison's single "Oh, Pretty Woman" was released on the Monument label.

In 1965, Gemini 5, carrying astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles "Pete" Conrad, splashed down in the Atlantic after 8 days in space.

In 1975, Irish statesman Eamon de Valera (AY'-muhn dehv-uh-LEHR'-uh) died near Dublin at age 92.

In 1987, Academy Award-winning actor Lee Marvin died in Tucson, Arizona, at age 63.

Ten years ago: Economist Jude Wanniski, who advocated tax cuts as economic stimulus and was credited with coining the term "supply-side economics," died in Morristown, New Jersey, at age 69.

Five years ago: Five years after Hurricane Katrina's wrath, President Barack Obama sought to reassure disaster-weary Gulf Coast residents during a speech at Xavier University that he would not abandon their cause. "Mad Men" received its third consecutive Emmy Award for best drama series; "Modern Family" won for best comedy series. The United States' five-year reign as Little League World Series champions ended as Tokyo defeated Waipahu, Hawaii, 4-1. Brian McCann hit a game-winning homer with help from video replay, giving the Atlanta Braves a stunning 7-6 victory over the Florida Marlins; it was the first time a game ended using a video review.

One year ago: A federal judge threw out new Texas abortion restrictions that would have effectively closed more than a dozen clinics statewide in a victory for opponents of tough new anti-abortion laws sweeping across the U.S. (The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals later ruled that Texas could fully implement the abortion law, but the Supreme Court later said the clinics should be allowed to operate, pending appeal.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty Lynn (TV: "The Andy Griffith Show") is 89. Movie director William Friedkin is 80. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is 79. Actor Elliott Gould is 77. Movie director Joel Schumacher is 76. TV personality Robin Leach is 74. Actress Deborah Van Valkenburgh is 63. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew is 60. Dancer-choreographer Mark Morris is 59. Country musician Dan Truman (Diamond Rio) is 59. Actress Rebecca DeMornay is 56. Singer Me'Shell NdegeOcello (n-DAY'-gay-OH'-chehl-oh) is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Carl Martin (Shai) is 45. Actress Carla Gugino is 44. Rock musician Kyle Cook (Matchbox Twenty) is 40. Actor John Hensley is 38. Rock musician David Desrosiers (Simple Plan) is 35. Rapper A+ is 33. Actress Jennifer Landon is 32. Actor Jeffrey Licon is 30. Actress-singer Lea Michele is 29. Actress Nicole Gale Anderson is 25. Rock singer Liam Payne (One Direction) is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "Be yourself. The world worships the original." - Ingrid Bergman (1915-1982).

## Got a story to share?

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:

**- 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.
- **"My boo boos - 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?
- **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.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job

or profession.

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

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