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Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - April 25, 2016

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 25, 2016 at 9:08 AM

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Connecting

April 25, 2016

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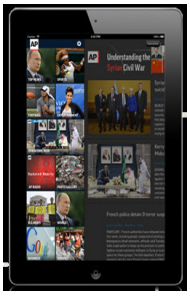

Top AP news
Top AP photos
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A toast to Dale Leach

Front row, l to r: Jamie Stengle; Susan Kissel, Kate Butler, Kirk Smith, Sue Smith, Mike Cochran, Sondra Cochran, Diana Fuentes, Dale Leach, Linda Leach, Michelle Williams, Rod Richardson, Pam Collins, Cyndy Moore, Frank Collins. Second row, l to r: Kim Johnson, Maud Beelman. Julie March, Kelly Kissel, Kia Breaux, Debbie Hiott, Terri Burke, Kelly Brown, Michael Burke, Yvonne Mintz, Dwayne Desaulniers, Patty Bedlan, Barry Bedlan, Rebecca Baltzelle, Jim Baltzelle. Third row, l to r: Bruce Scoggins, Cyndy Scoggins, Eileen Lumpkin, John Lumpkin, Frank Sargent, Katie Fairbank, Sam Moore, Paul Stevens. Back row, l to r: Jaime Serdan, Denise Serdan, Linda Franklin, Harry Weber, Tom Berman, David Wilkison, Dave Koenig. Photo by Kim Johnson Flodin, News Editor/Photos: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Friends and colleagues of **Dale Leach** gathered in Dallas over the weekend to wish him well in his upcoming retirement.

Dale, AP's Central regional director who held bureau chief positions in New Mexico, Washington State and Texas, will retire from the AP next month after a nearly 35-year career.

And he got quite a sendoff, thanks to the organizing efforts of his Dallas bureau colleagues **Pam Collins** and **Barry Bedlan**, shown here at right in leading a toast. (And a special thanks to **Kim Johnson Flodin**, Dallas news editor/photos, for providing Connecting with these photos.

We lead today's Connecting with a recap by Barry.

Here's to a great week ahead.

Paul

'Dale has that way about him'

By BARRY BEDLAN

Central Regional Director Dale Leach is retiring next month after nearly 35 years with the AP. Some of us fortunate to have worked with Dale gathered Saturday in Dallas to toast him and his lovely wife, Linda. More than 50 former and current AP colleagues as well as some past and present member editors and publishers attended a reception and dinner at the Galleria Westin. Guests traveled in from New York, Boston, Miami, Chicago, Kansas City, Nashville, Shreveport and Albuquerque (Dale's first stop as a bureau chief back in 1990) and also from elsewhere in Texas, like Houston, San Antonio and Austin.

The event included a surprise mariachi band performance, a slideshow of photos from throughout Dale's career, and the presentation of gifts like a personalized Mark Twain award, AP beer glasses, and a gift certificate to the Magnolia Market, the store in Waco operated by Chip and Joanna Gaines, stars of HGTV's "Fixer-Upper," one of Dale's favorite shows. Texas APME board member Diana Fuentes of the San Antonio Express-News told of how Dale ran into Chip Gaines once while having drinks with board members at a bar in Waco and everyone just assumed Dale and Chip were old friends. "Dale has that way about him. He will be dearly missed by all the papers in Texas," said Fuentes, who also has served with Dale on the board of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

The reception came a week after the Texas APME surprised Dale with its highest honor, the Jack Douglas Award, at its annual convention in El Paso. The award, named after the late associate editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, recognizes significant contributions to the organization and Texas journalism. Dale had been told by the Texas APME board that a member editor was set to get the award, but immediately figured out something was up when I was invited up to the podium to present the award.

Dale with colleagues (from left) Julie March, Kia Breaux and Weber.

The presentation was during a dinner in the clubhouse suite of the El Paso Chihuahuas minor league baseball team, and once I handed the award to Dale, the big screen on the stadium's main scoreboard read in bright

Dale and Barry at Texas APME

lights: "Congratulations on 35 years, Dale Leach!" (Dallas sales planner Pam Collins radioed the scoreboard operator from her dinner-table seat to have the message displayed, which illuminated part of downtown El Paso for hours that evening.)

Dale started his AP career in 1981 in the Columbus, Ohio, bureau and was named Ohio news editor in 1984 and assistant chief of bureau in 1988. He transferred to Albuquerque to become a bureau chief in 1990 and then became the bureau chief in Seattle in 1993. Dale has been in Dallas since 2003, first serving as bureau chief for Texas before his territory grew to include most of the Central U.S. as his role expanded to regional director.

Dale and Linda plan to move back to their native Ohio, where they both have extended family and are having a house built near Springfield.

Connecting mailbox

Prince...who knew?

Adolphe Bernotas - From the nearly endless coverage of Prince by newspapers, cartoonists, blogs, listservs, wire services, columnists, social media and specials on TV, I have learned that he had the genius, talent, compassion, wisdom, generosity, wit, courage, kindness, foresight and selflessness of Mozart, Pericles, Einstein, Solomon, Martin Luther King, St. Francis, Shakespeare, Maimonides, Mother Teresa, Aquinas, Da Vinci, Balanchine, Ghandi, Prometheus, Mandela, Buddha and the Nazarene.

Who knew?

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On those teletype bells

Doris Selig - As a teletype operator for AP we sent seven-pause-two bells for an urgent. I never knew why urgents had more bells than a bulletin's five but that's what we used. Messages, by-the-way, took four spaced-out bells. An urgent message took the seven followed by the four-spaced-out ones.

-0-

Oklahoman Paul English dies at 79

Lindel Hutson - Paul English, who spent 26 years with United Press International in Oklahoma City before moving to The Oklahoman and later the Tulsa World, has died following a long illness. He was 79.

English spent nearly his entire career reporting from the Oklahoma state Capitol, where he was known for his tenacious questioning of state officials.

He became a fixture at Capitol news conferences, always sitting to the right of the governor. English was known for refusing to let the state's chief executives avoid answering his questions.

John Greiner, a former Oklahoman colleague, said English recorded everything and played the recordings back for officials who claimed to have been misquoted.

After 26 years with UPI, English moved to The Oklahoman's Capitol Bureau, where he remained for 16 years. He finished his career with the World before retiring in 2005.

He was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 1995. He was a founding member of Freedom of Information Oklahoma. He also was a former president of the Oklahoma chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

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Expensive space!

IN BUSINESS

Boeing's growth takes off in state

As the company wraps up construction of a new $80 million, 290-square-foot building in Oklahoma City, Boeing continues to draw workers from other places — such as Seattle, Wichita and Long Beach, Calif. — to the state.

Story, PAGE 1C

Larry Hamlin - At 2.75 million dollars per square foot, that's pretty expensive real estate! And, they're going to run out of space, real fast.....

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Un-Manning?

John Willis - Thanks to Steve Graham for that funny Sue Manning memory. Having been her first supervisor as Spokane correspondent, Sue and I joked about it because the term, which was commonly used by the smaller bureaus in those days, was so apt. Perhaps she should have messaged "unManning," but in those days things were different.

AP Photo/Dolores Ochoa

Dolores Ochoa leaps into action when Ecuador earthquake strikes

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

Dolores Ochoa did not need to be informed of Ecuador's massive earthquake. Hundreds of miles from the epicenter, she felt the ground shake -- and leapt into action.

A Quito-based photographer, she would be the first staffer of an international news organization to arrive at the area most afflicted by the quake. In the following days, she slept little; every moment was devoted to keeping AP ahead in all formats. And on top of that, she shot the most ubiquitous image of a disaster that killed hundreds in that impoverished nation.

For her epic efforts, she is the winner of this week's Beat of the Week competition.

http://ti.me/1qDVZCM

Ochoa, who joined The Associated Press in 1995, was at a friend's house in Quito on Saturday evening when she felt the shake. She determined the location of the epicenter on the country's central coast, made sure all formats knew what had happened, jumped into her Toyota RAV 4x4 and set off.

A 250-mile drive that normally would take three hours took 10 hours, instead. Along the way, she called freelance photographers, asking what they had shot in the quake zone. From these stringers, she secured images from Guayaquil, where an overpass collapsed on top of cars, and from Manta -- the AP's first photos of the disaster, used the world over.

Once she arrived at the town of Pedernales, she did not stop. For days, she grabbed brief naps in her car, eating tuna and cookies she had stored there for emergencies.

She shot video, the AP's first from the epicenter. She reported for the text story in Spanish and English, and put Andes bureau chief Josh Goodman on the phone with survivors, providing material for stories and sidebars. And she shot the collapsed buildings, the survivors huddled outside under blankets.

The photo that came to epitomize the earthquake was one she took in the early morning. It shows a woman standing outside her collapsed house in Pedernales, crying. Ochoa did not have a high opinion of the image; she told Latin American regional photo editor Enric Marti that she thought it was a cliche.

Editors did not agree. The photo appeared on the front pages of The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Dallas Morning News and Britain's Guardian, among others.

For that singular shot and for so much more, Dolores Ochoa wins this week's $500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

Meg Kinnard, reporter, Columbia, South Carolina, for getting an exclusive interview with a couple who had been subject to an extremely invasive roadside search by police. The couple had filed a federal lawsuit but had remained silent until they opened up to Kinnard. Her story was carried on websites and in newspapers throughout the state. Two days later, Kinnard followed up with a story saying the federal government had opened a probe into the case.http://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2016-04-13/couple-police-search-still-humiliating-more-than-a-year-on

Ken Thomas, reporter, Washington, D.C; Nicole Winfield, reporter, Vatican; Trisha Thomas, TV producer, Rome; and Alessandra Tarantino, photographer, Rome, for being first with the news that U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders had indeed met with Pope Francis during his visit to Rome. The Vatican said in the hours before Sanders departed that the pope had no plans to meet with the Vermont senator, and Sanders' campaign did little to dispute it. But AP revealed otherwise. http://apne.ws/1qD8ZbD

Scott Smith, correspondent, Fresno, California, for being first to report a sharp increase in thefts of high-value nuts that victimized California farmers and were carried out by international crime rings. Smith negotiated with sources to exclusively obtain crime statistics showing that 31 truckloads of nuts had been stolen in 2015, more than the three previous years combined. The four-year losses totaled $7.6 million. https://www.yahoo.com/news/apnewsbreak-thieves-targeting-california-almonds-051724191.html

Tom Krisher, auto writer, Detroit, who broke the news that the government has counted 85 million potentially dangerous Takata air bag inflators on U.S. roads that have not been recalled. The story was 90 minutes ahead of Reuters and was followed by CNBC and CBS News. http://apne.ws/1YG1UlH

David Eggert, correspondent, Lansing, Michigan, for being first to report on sweeping recommendations by the governor and a committee of water experts that would give Michigan the nation's toughest lead safety rules. Eggert's story was unmatched for an hour as other news outlets covering the highly competitive Flint water story scrambled to catch up. http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/michigan-urges-toughest-lead-rules-in-us-after-flint-crisis/ar-BBrNkdP

Ron Blum, sports reporter, New York, for breaking the news that Metropolitan Opera music director James Levine, who had been struggling with Parkinson's disease, would retire. His story moved nine minutes before the press release. http://bigstory.ap.org/article/22ea6dc6a9e349779c35284e80dd4217/james-levine-retire-met-music-director-after-40-years

Richard Lardner, reporter, Washington, D.C., for obtaining an advanced copy of a report describing how the Pentagon misled lawmakers to block reforms on handling sexual assault cases. Additional reporting over several weeks produced a side of the story that had not been presented to Congress in high-profile testimony by the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/pentagon-misled-lawmakers-military-sexual-assault-cases-38474950

Martha Waggoner, reporter, Raleigh, North Carolina, for an exclusive report showing that North Carolina and 35 other states have no law or ethical standard compelling prosecutors to release information that could challenge or potentially reverse convictions they had won in court.http://morrisbroadband.net/news/read/category/AP%20Top%20News%20-%20US%

Alan Fram, reporter, Washington, D.C., for breaking the news of an internal feud pitting a key committee chairman of the Republican National Convention against top GOP officials. Fram obtained a confidential email that had been sent to 55 members of the committee. Other news organizations followed the AP the next day. Coverage of the little-noticed rules of the Republican National Convention has emerged as one of the most competitive political beats, due to the possibility of a contested convention this summer. http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation-politics/gop-official-rails-over-effort-aimed-at-nomination-rules/

Jamie Stengle, reporter, Dallas, and Paul J. Weber, reporter, Austin, for exclusively obtaining court records giving details about the troubled upbringing of the teenager charged with killing a University of Texas student. http://abcn.ws/1SiwbZr

Jack Gillum, reporter, Washington, D.C., for constant watchdog reporting that finally produced results from a two-year-old Freedom of Information Act request. Gillum wanted to know how the government planned to manage its response after the AP revealed its secret Cuba Twitter program. The answer: Hide behind the government's reputation for being excruciatingly slow and delay releasing any pertinent documents. http://www.

detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2016/04/13/us-records-access-slow-track/83015752/

(Shared by Valerie Komor, Brian Carovillano)

Welcome to Connecting

Sam Moore - srmoore@ap.org

Stories of interest

This may be the best analogy in the history of journalism
(Poynter)

Awarding Pulitzer Prizes to writers from the New Yorker has opened up a can of words.

Magazine writing is just different from its newspaper cousin. There are many reasons, of course, perhaps the greatest of which is the width of the columns. Wider columns inspire longer paragraphs, which can make magazine stories seem more discursive. There are many great short bits in magazines, but the stories tend to be longer, the leads indirect, the nut graphs turned into nut zones.

From this moment on, it will be tougher for newspaper feature writers and critics to

compete with the nation's best magazines, but that's a good thing.

Click here to read more. Shared by Susana Hayward

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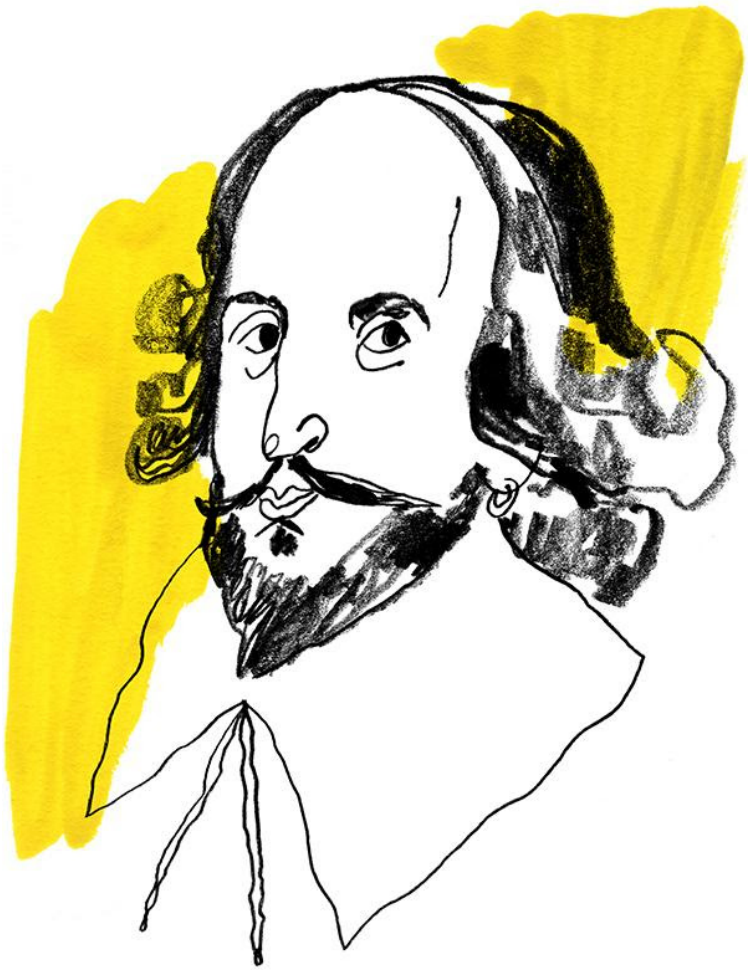
William Shakespeare, Playwright and Poet, Is Dead at 52 (New York Times)



By LOUIS BAYARD

On this date - April 23, 1616 - the creator of "Hamlet," "Macbeth" and "Romeo and Juliet" left the beauty of this world. To us, he bequeathed his tragedies and comedies, his sonnets and verse, which would survive 400 years.

Click here for a link to this story. Shared by Sibby Christensen, who notes: "In the news business, long obit notices about notable people are prepared in advance and called

'preparedness.' Working backward, this might be called "repaired-ness." Also hilarious."

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The Mainstream Media's Big Disconnect: Why They Don't Get Middle America (BillMoyers.com)

To their everlasting discredit, most of the MSM Big Feet, which is what the late journalist Richard Ben Cramer labeled the self-important, pontificating political reporters and pundits who dominate our press, got it all wrong about Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

That is no small thing when you consider those two are the big stories this campaign season. It's like a weatherman missing a Category Five hurricane. Of course, if a weatherman had blown that call, he probably would be fired. With pundits, getting it wrong never seems to matter.

To their credit, a few of those Big Feet have fessed up to their errors. *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, one of the most contrite, admitted that he realized he had been living in a bubble and had to get out in the country a bit more - "change the way I do my job," is how he put it - to understand the American psyche.

Click here to read more. Shared by Susana Hayward.

Today in History - April 25, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 25, the 116th day of 2016. There are 250 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 25, 1816, Romantic poet Lord Byron, beset by financial problems and personal turmoil (including a failed marriage), left his native England at age 28, never to return. (Byron died eight years later in Greece.)

On this date:

In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemueller contained the first recorded use of the term "America," in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci (vehs-POO'-chee).

In 1792, highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier became the first person under French law to be executed by the guillotine.

In 1862, during the Civil War, a Union fleet commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut captured the city of New Orleans.

In 1901, New York Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell, Jr. signed an automobile registration bill which imposed a 15 mph speed limit on highways.

In 1915, during World War I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli (guh-LIHP'-uh-lee) Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.

In 1944, the United Negro College Fund was founded.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe (EL'-beh) River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses. Delegates from some 50 countries gathered in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.

In 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to shipping.

In 1964, vandals sawed off the head of the "Little Mermaid" statue in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In 1974, the "Carnation Revolution" took place in Portugal as a bloodless military coup toppled the Estado Novo regime.

In 1983, 10-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine, received a reply from Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov to a letter she'd written expressing concern about possible nuclear war; Andropov reassured Samantha that the Soviet Union did not want war, and he invited her to visit his country, a trip Samantha made in July.

In 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed in orbit from the space shuttle Discovery. (It was discovered that the telescope's primary mirror was flawed, requiring the installation of corrective components to achieve optimal focus.)

Ten years ago: In a video posted on the Internet, al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (AH'-boo MOO'-sahb ahl-zahr-KOW'-ee) swore allegiance to Osama bin Laden and said any government formed in Iraq would be merely a "stooge." President George W. Bush ordered a temporary suspension of environmental rules for gasoline, making it easier for refiners to meet demand.

Five years ago: President Bashar Assad of Syria sent the military into the southern city of Daraa, where an anti-government uprising had begun the previous month.

One year ago: A magnitude-7.8 earthquake in Nepal killed more than 8,200 people. Families of soldiers, leaders and visitors gathered in Turkey near former battlefields, honoring thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who fought in the Gallipoli campaign of World War I on the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated British-led invasion. Italy celebrated the 70th anniversary of a partisan uprising against the Nazis and their Fascist allies near the end of World War II.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Al Pacino is 76. Ballroom dance judge Len Goodman (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 72. Rock musician Stu Cook (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 71. Singer Bjorn Ulvaeus (BYORN ul-VAY'-us) (ABBA) is 71. Actress Talia Shire is 71. Actor Jeffrey DeMunn is 69. Rock musician Steve Ferrone (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 66. Country singer-songwriter Rob Crosby is 62. Actor Hank Azaria is 52. Rock singer Andy Bell (Erasure) is 52. Rock musician Eric Avery is 51. Country musician Rory Feek (Joey + Rory) is 51. TV personality Jane Clayson is 49. Actress Renee Zellweger is 47. Actress Gina Torres is 47. Actor Jason Lee is 46. Actor Jason Wiles is 46. Actress Emily Bergl is 41. Actor Jonathan Angel is 39. Actress Marguerite Moreau is 39. Singer Jacob Underwood is 36. Actress Melonie Diaz is 32. Actress Sara Paxton is 28. Actress Allisyn Ashley Arm is 20.

Thought for Today: "I think it is all a matter of love: the more you love a memory, the stronger and stranger it is." - Vladimir Nabokov, Russian-born author (1899-1977).

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.

- "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.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

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

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Constant Contact

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