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Connecting - April 06, 2018

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Tom Baldwin, 1947 - 2018



Cairo AP News Editor Tom Baldwin inspects a British-built Chieftain tank that Iraqi Troops had just captured in the Persian Gulf war. Baldwin visited the scene, outside a mudhut village about 50 miles into Iraqi-occupied Iran, taking care to watch where he walked. "There were mines and unexploded grenades everywhere." (1981 file photo, courtesy AP Corporate Archives)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Today's issue brings you the sad news of the death of **Tom Baldwin**, an AP correspondent in Beirut and Cairo after assignments in the Northeast that included serving in the Boston bureau as New England news editor.

Tom died Tuesday at the age of 71, and his daughter **Carly**, a journalist herself with Patch in New Jersey, wrote his obituary.

Connecting colleague **Terry Anderson** ([Email](#)) - recalled working with Tom: "Indeed, after I arrived in Beirut in June 1982, he escorted me around to get press cards, learn the situation (dangerous and confusing) and so forth. After the siege of the city ended, because his wife was expecting a baby, he swapped jobs with me, taking over as Southern Africa News Editor while I became News Editor in Beirut. He was a very good journalist and was well liked. I was saddened to hear of his passing."

If you would like to send a note of condolence to Tom's family, you can reach Carly at - Carly.baldwin@gmail.com

Have a good weekend!

Paul

Tom Baldwin achieved dream of covering some of most dramatic stories of his time

By Carly Baldwin ([Email](#))

Tom Baldwin, a former war correspondent for The Associated Press in the late '70s and '80s, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2018. He was 71.

Born on March 30, 1947, in Media, Pennsylvania, Baldwin got his start in journalism as a cub reporter for The Press of Atlantic City. From there, he was hired in the mid-1970s by the AP in their Philadelphia bureau, then transferred to the AP in New York and then to Boston, where he was New England news editor.

In 1980, Baldwin achieved a career goal: He was selected to be a foreign news correspondent for the AP. He and his wife, Toni Donina, were transferred overseas. They were based in Beirut, Lebanon and Cairo, Egypt but traveled extensively all over the Middle East and Africa.

It was Baldwin's lifelong dream to cover firsthand some of the most dramatic events of his time: He reported on the assassination of Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, the rise of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the 1982 war in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq wars. In fact, Baldwin was credited by columnist William Safire for first coining the phrase "suicide bomber," for his description of wartime terrorism that he witnessed during the 1982 Lebanese civil war.

By late 1982, war-torn Beirut had become too dangerous, and the AP transferred the couple to Johannesburg, South Africa. After all, it was Beirut in 1985 where AP journalist Terry Anderson was kidnapped by Islamic militants and held hostage for

six years.

In South Africa, Toni safely delivered their first daughter. A second daughter soon followed.

Baldwin continued working for the AP, covering the height of apartheid-era South Africa. His eyewitness accounts of racial segregation and his interviews with Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu were published in newspapers all over the world under the AP byline.

In the mid '80s, the family returned to the U.S. from overseas, residing first in Doylestown, PA and then New Hope, where they lived for 27 years and remain to this day.



Tom continued his journalism career, working for The Trentonian newspaper, the Journal of Commerce, a shipping industry newsletter, Gannett as a New Jersey Statehouse reporter and finally, the Home News-Tribune. He is the author of one book, "Big Storm, Small Ship," about riding out a hurricane on a container ship in the Atlantic.

He retired from the news business at the age of 67.

But the pinnacle of Baldwin's career was no doubt working for the AP. After his death, his eldest daughter was flipping through a well-thumbed copy of "The Wit & Wisdom of Mark Twain," his favorite author whom he often quoted. One quote had been underlined and marked by a star:

"There are only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe - only two - the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here." - Mark Twain



Tom in 2008 - he loved to sail

He was surrounded by beloved family as he left this Earth. He is predeceased by his parents, and survived by his younger brother, Christopher Baldwin, former wife Toni Donina, his daughters, Carly Baldwin and Ashleigh Baldwin, and his grandson, Eli Hanlon.

Donations can be made in Baldwin's honor to the Buzzards Bay Coalition, which protects the water quality in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, where he loved to sail. Here is a link to the coalition - <http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/>

Memories of Tom Baldwin

What I liked about Tom Baldwin: His old-fashioned lust for a good story

Mike Short (Email) - What I liked best about Tom, who was news editor in Boston when I arrived in 1978, was his old fashioned lust for a good story. Once I was deep

in the boondocks on vacation for a couple of days and out of touch with the world. When I got to a phone, asked how things were going, Tom replied heartily, "Well, I just spent several thousand dollars of your budget to send a reporter to Mexico." What could I say but, "Great idea!" I've forgotten what the story was, but the enthusiastic impulse stuck with me.

After Tom left the AP we stayed in touch. He continued to write and he self-published a book. When there were fears on Millenium Eve that computers would crash, and soon after that airplanes in flight, he told me he planned to be on a commercial airliner as the clock struck midnight. I don't know whether he sold anybody on that idea.

When he asked me for a job reference, I called his potential boss, whom I knew slightly as an intelligent publisher working for a skinflint chain. If you're looking for a "newsroom manager," I said, somebody who really understands the budget and corporate life, forget it. But if you want somebody who can inspire young staffers by promising them that if they grind out the routine dreck he'll find a way to let them go after something really good, he's your man. Tom got the job, but I suspect he wasn't there long. Even then, newsroom economics were not kind to journalists who cared about the story first and the cost later, if at all.

(Michael Short was AP chief of bureau in the Boston bureau.)

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Tom was 'one of the larger figures in my life'

Mike McPhee ([Email](#)) - Tom Baldwin was my news editor in the Boston bureau in the late '70s into the '80s.

He was an enigma who will always remain one of the larger figures in my life.

He was a terrific newsman, pushing and probing to find the hidden meaning of a story, the "what's it mean to the readers?" angle and where's the folo for tomorrow? Dealing with his edginess, I learned solid, meaningful reporting, to go beyond the names and quotes down to the core of many stories.



Baldwin in 1977

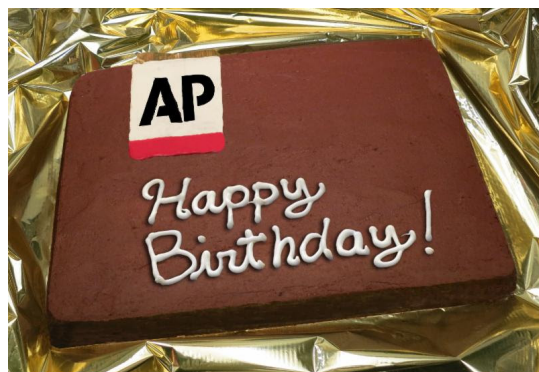
The buro had some heavy hitters - George Esper had just returned from years in Vietnam, Nikki Finke was sharpening her aggressions that would lift her to the top of the pile of Hollywood's gossip mongers. And the streets were rich for news-Mike Dukakis was governor, Kevin White mayor, Ted Kennedy was in the Senate and Tip O'Neil was House Speaker. Mobster Whitey Bulger's Summer Hill Gang was shooting up anyone in their way at the same time that brother, Billy Bulger, was president of the Massachusetts senate. There was Bobby Orr, Larry Bird, Carl Yastrzemski. There was corruption, blatant racism and the Blizzard of '78 that gave Boston its worst drubbing ever. The news never quit.

Baldwin's news instincts were terrific and accurate; although his dealings with the staff could get pretty rough at times. Regardless, it was an exciting time; Baldwin had our backs and the daily reports came out strong and accurate. I'll never forget it.

Tom and I became close friends, on and off (that enigma thing), until he died. We bought wooden sailboats and fixed them up, cooked dinners, drank and laughed and cried and carried on. Those years are powerful in my memory, and I will always remember Tom Baldwin.

(Mike McPhee worked in the AP Boston bureau from 1976-81 and finished his career at The Denver Post, where he covered the JonBenet Ramsey murder and the Columbine High School shooting, for which the staff was awarded the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Kia Breaux - kbreaux@ap.org

Mike Tharp - bucktharp33@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Thelma LeBrecht - clt862mcalway@gmail.com

Bob Manning - bmanning2439@gmail.com

Fred Sweets - fsweets@stlamerican.com

Stories of interest

"Thank God you're not in newspapers": Local TV is doing way better than you'd think, a new report suggests (Nieman)

By LAURA HAZARD OWEN

Local TV news does not feel exciting. It feels old-fashioned, and there's plenty of research to support that viewpoint: The percentage of Americans that gets news from TV is decreasing, Pew shows, and those who do get news there are old. My age bracket associates local TV news primarily with the Will Ferrell film Anchorman. Younger people may find it even less relevant.

But we should not be underestimating local TV news, suggests a giant new report from the Knight Foundation - especially as a source of online news outside the largest markets. "No other existing news medium appears to have more advantages right now than local TV news," write the authors of the big five-part report, which was released Thursday morning. Knight is paying increasing attention to local TV news; earlier this year, it provided \$2.6 million to five organizations working on local TV news projects. (Knight is also a funder of Nieman Lab.)

Read more [here](#).

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The Perfect Watchdog For The Trump Era Is A Journalist In West Virginia - And Rob Byers is out of a job. (Huffington Post)



By Jason Cherkis

Two days after graduating from West Virginia University in 1991, Rob Byers joined the Charleston Gazette as a full-time reporter in the state's capital. He and his girlfriend had just put down a security deposit and first month's rent on a house. He was flat broke but felt lucky to have landed a job at the state's premier daily, one filled with a newsroom of reporters and editors who worked hard to live up to the paper's righteous motto, "Sustained Outrage."

Although Byers wasn't from the state, he had grown up the son of a coal miner in southwestern Pennsylvania. He was raised in a house on a gravel road and knew his share of economic misfortune and tragedy. When Byers was in college, his father, having gone West in search of work after his mine was shut down, was shot in the back of the head and killed, apparently by a hitchhiker. Kinship with the people Byers covered came naturally. After a few years at the Gazette, he began a long series traveling West Virginia seeking out stories in its forgotten hollows. He and a photographer ended up crisscrossing the state for 120 weeks.

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

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Stuck in Third Place, Should CNN Abandon Its "Food Fight" Formula? (Hollywood Reporter)

By JEREMY BARR

Despite its down-the-middle news brand, the network trails rivals Fox News and MSNBC in viewers and weathers daily attacks from the White House as critics bemoan a "clash model" of staging partisan debates that's now "outmoded."

The panel went from tense to overheated. During a debate held by anchor Don Lemon on Feb. 6, CNN contributor and former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli told his colleague, Republican strategist Ana Navarro, that he was "sick and tired of listening to your shrill voice in my ears." Lemon, looking defeated, pleaded four times to his arguing panelists, "One at a time, please." The exchange wasn't the only time that Cuccinelli, representing a pro-Trump perspective, got into hot water for on-air remarks. On Aug. 14, during a panel about clashes in Charlottesville, Va., he told liberal contributor Symone Sanders to "just shut up for a minute."

These blow-ups, while uncomfortable to watch for some viewers, are increasingly part of the CNN brand. The network has seen its star rise during the first 15 months

of Donald Trump's presidency, but it has largely adhered to the same formula that brought it big ratings, big profits (to the tune of an estimated \$1.1 billion in profit last year) and a healthy dose of criticism during the run-up to the 2016 presidential election. That means regularly staging "food fights" (in the words of one veteran television executive) that go viral but don't necessarily make viewers more informed, people inside and outside the company say.

Read more [here](#).

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Chuck Lewis, a Pioneer of Nonprofit News, Wins Coveted IF Stone Award (Nonprofit Quarterly)

The Neiman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University announced today that Chuck Lewis is this year's winner of the I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence. Good on Chuck Lewis for winning that particular honor.



As many readers know, I.F. Stone was a self-described radical journalist whose work spanned the New Deal, World War II, McCarthyism, the Cold War, Israel/Palestine, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and beyond. He was loudly independent and is best remembered for his self-published I.F. Stone's Weekly, which at its peak had a circulation of about 70,000. Stone had a fierce independence, which he guarded jealously.

Lewis, of course, is known as the founder of the Center for Public Integrity and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, but he has also been an energetic and influential advocate of the development of nonprofit news sites in the wake of mainstream media divesting themselves of their investigative reporters. In that role, he has encouraged the now familiar but then almost-unheard-of collaborations between major media outlets and nonprofit news sites.

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

The Final Word

Koby Levin: I am leaving a wonderful job. May it never disappear. (Joplin Globe)

By KOBY LEVIN

CARTHAGE, Mo. - My previous column in praise of newspapers ended with the promise to show up to City Council meetings. It seemed like the right thing to say as the Carthage Press laid off reporters and cut back its print schedule. Every town needs at least one resident journalist, and I wanted readers to know they had that in me, come what may.

But no longer. The Press has outlasted me. After 18 months of writing about Carthage, this will be my last column. I've taken a job as an education journalist in Detroit.

Please don't think I'm flying north for cooler climes. Leaving the Globe isn't easy, not least because of the connections I've made in Carthage.

I got a chance to relive many of those relationships a few weeks ago, when I rounded up my favorite pieces for an anniversary column. The stories themselves were pretty interesting, but lately my thoughts have turned to what they meant to people.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - April 6, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 6, the 96th day of 2018. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1968, 41 people were killed by two consecutive natural gas explosions at a sporting goods store in downtown Richmond, Indiana.

On this date:

In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, the United States entered World War I as the House joined the Senate in approving a declaration of war against Germany that was then signed by President

Woodrow Wilson.

In 1943, "Le Petit Prince" (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-Exupery was first published by Reynal & Hitchcock of New York.

In 1954, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., responding to CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow's broadside against him on "See It Now," said in remarks filmed for the program that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into geosynchronous orbit.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1988, Tirza Porat, a 15-year-old Israeli girl, was killed in a West Bank melee. (Although Arabs were initially blamed, the army concluded Tirza had been accidentally shot by a Jewish settler.)

In 1998, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 9,000 points for the first time, ending the day at 9,033.23. Country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.

In 2014, actor Mickey Rooney, 93, died in North Hollywood.

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, speaking at a private fundraiser in San Francisco, spoke of voters in Pennsylvania's Rust Belt communities who "cling to guns or religion" because of bitterness about their economic lot; Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton seized on the comment, calling it "elitist." President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, meeting at the Black Sea resort of Sochi, failed to overcome sharp differences over a U.S. missile defense system as they closed their seven-year relationship.

Five years ago: Iran and six world powers failed to reach agreement during talks in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on how to reduce fears that Tehran might use its nuclear technology to make weapons. Militants killed six Americans, including diplomat Anne Smedinghoff, 25, and an Afghan doctor in a pair of attacks in Afghanistan, the deadliest day for the United States in the war in eight months.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) opened a two-day summit at Trump's Florida beach resort. The National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, hosted a centennial observance of the day the U.S. entered the global conflict. Don Rickles, the big-mouthed, bald-headed "Mr. Warmth" whose verbal assaults endeared him to audiences and peers and made him the acknowledged grandmaster of insult comedy, died at his Beverly Hills home at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 90. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 89. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 81. Actor Roy Thinnes is 80. Movie director Barry Levinson is 76. Actor John Ratzenberger is 71. Actress Patrika Darbo is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven is 67. Actress Marilu Henner is 66. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 65. Actor Michael Rooker is 63. Former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., is 62. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 58. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 53. Actress Ari Meyers is 49. Actor Paul Rudd is 49. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 46. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO' lap-uh-LAN'-en) is 45. Actor Zach Braff is 43. Actor Joel Garland is 43. Actress Candace Cameron Bure (buhr-RAY') is 42. Actor Teddy Sears is 41. Jazz and rhythm-and-blues musician Robert Glasper is 40. Actress Eliza Coupe is 37. Folk singer-musician Kenneth Pattengale (Milk Carton Kids) is 36. Actor Bret Harrison is 36. Actor Charlie McDermott is 28.

Thought for Today: "If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing." - Anatole France, French author and critic (1844-1924).

Got a story or photos 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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.



- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

- **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.

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

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