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## Connecting -- June 14, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

June 14, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

AP's policy on reporting on suicides was outlined in a staff memo Wednesday from **John Daniszewski** ([Email](#)), AP vice president for Standards, and we lead with his guidance in today's issue of Connecting.

That policy, he said, as spelled out in the AP Stylebook, is "to not go into detail on the methods used." He said, "There has been a robust discussion in our newsrooms about what this means - how far do we go in discussing methods of suicide by celebrities? Are we depriving readers of essential information on a story if we are too opaque?"

We also bring you information on services for our Connecting colleague **Dick Buzbee**, former editor and publisher of two Kansas dailies, who died June 6. He is the father in law of AP's executive editor **Sally Buzbee**.

A memorial service will be 1 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1602 N. Main, Hutchinson, Kansas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, in care of Elliott Mortuary, 1219 N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501.

Have a good Flag Day!

Paul

## Celebrity deaths force media to examine suicide reporting



**By DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) - The deaths of designer Kate Spade and celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain have caused media organizations to look at how they cover suicide and whether more could be done to prevent copycat killings, without neglecting the duty to report news.

Several outlets have publicized the 1-800-273-8255 suicide prevention hotline - People and Entertainment Weekly magazines are using it on their covers - and operators say the hotline has received the largest volume of calls in its history following the celebrity deaths.

The Associated Press sent guidelines to its staff this week about how suicides should be reported, including new instructions on addressing suicide notes. The Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank, also publicized advice to news leaders.

Some of the guidelines being discussed contradict the natural impulses of journalists. When some younger reporters at a major national news organization urged that the suicide hotline be publicized following last week's deaths, an editor said that it wasn't their job because "we're not social workers," said Kelly McBride, media ethicist for the Poynter Institute. She wouldn't identify the outlet.

John Daniszewski, vice president and editor at large for standards at The Associated Press, said: "Our responsibility is to keep people informed, but in a way that doesn't lead others to consider suicide."

Daniszewski's message included a reminder to staff members that a 2015 entry in the AP's influential Stylebook said not to be too specific about the methods of suicide. Reporting that both Spade and Bourdain died by hanging last week was newsworthy, but in both cases the service went too far in some versions of the stories by describing the implement used in the deaths, he said. The information was removed from subsequent versions.

Read more [here](#).

## ***How and when we report on suicides***

**June 13, 2018, by John Daniszewski**

AP policy on reporting suicides, spelled out in the AP Stylebook, is "to not go into detail on the methods used." There has been a robust discussion in our newsrooms about what this means - how far do we go in discussing methods of suicide by celebrities? Are we depriving readers of essential information on a story if we are too opaque?

We tend to be news purists in the AP. Our instinct is to publish all the news for our audience to absorb, use and act upon.

But reporting on suicide, like reporting on sexual abuse, is one of the areas in which we favor not saying all that we know.

Suicide prevention experts believe, based on experience and some studies, that the less said in the media about the methods of suicide, the less likelihood that a celebrity's death will prompt vulnerable, at-risk persons from taking their lives by that same method in the days immediately after.



**A woman takes a photo of the makeshift memorial for Anthony Bourdain outside the former Le Halles restaurant on Park Avenue, June 8 in New York. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)**

Last week, in writing of the suicides of Anthony Bourdain and Kate Spade, we reported that the deaths were by hanging. However, in some versions, we also gave out more information about the method of death than required - including what they used for the hanging. Those details were later removed.

Read more [here](#). More thoughts for consideration can be found at [this website](#).

## My first bureau chief

### Hired by Al Orton, Chicago

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - I was working at the Rockford (IL) Morning Star and Register-Republic in late 1968 when I decided it was time to look for my next job. My sports editor and mentor, Rick Talley, was leaving for another job and his advice for my next step was "try a wire service." He had worked at UPI for several years on

his way up and told me it was the best learning experience of his life and would be a great stepping stone for me.

The Rockford papers had both the AP and UPI wires and, frankly, I really didn't know the difference at that point. I called my childhood friend Barry Sweet, an AP photographer in Seattle, for guidance and he said, "Definitely AP. UPI is going through financial problems and you don't want any part of that." Good advice.

I wrote a letter to the personnel department of AP at the headquarters at [50 Rockefeller Plaza](#) in New York. The reply came about two weeks later. Contact the bureau chief in either Milwaukee or Chicago, whichever is more convenient, and make an appointment to take the test and do an interview.

Milwaukee was closer, but my in-laws lived in the Chicago suburb of Skokie, so I called the Chicago bureau and asked the name of the bureau chief. It was Al Orton. He got on the phone, sounding pleasant and welcoming, and we made an appointment for me to come to Chicago in January of 1969.

My wife and I drove the 90 miles to Skokie and stayed overnight with her parents. Bright and early the next morning, I picked up a newspaper and got on the train to head into the Chicago Loop and my date with destiny. On the front page of the Chicago Sun-Times was a news item surrounded by a heavy black border. The headline read: "AP On Strike For The First Time In Its Long History."

The strike had begun at midnight and now I didn't know what to do. I was a member of the Newspaper Guild in Rockford and didn't relish the idea of crossing a picket line. But I continued on to the AP office, which was then located in a high-rise office building at the corner of Randolph and LaSalle. AP was one of a number of tenants in the building, so no one knew where I was going when I, reluctantly, crossed the picket line and went in.

When I got to the office on the fourth floor, it was chaos inside. I stood in the doorway for several minutes before anyone noticed me. Finally, someone asked me what I wanted and I said, "Mr. Orton."

He walked up to me looking bemused and said, "I completely forgot you were coming. We could reschedule, but I know you came all the way from Rockford."

Mr. Orton decided to let me take the test. He gave me a stack of materials, pointed to an empty desk in the corner of the room and said, "Finish this up, leave the papers on the desk and I'll contact you when the strike is over."

I stayed around most of the day, sometimes doing a section of the test several times to get it just right. No one paid the slightest bit of attention to me and I left without saying goodbye.

I told my wife that my chances of working for AP anytime soon were probably less than zero and that I'd have to think about what might be next. We went back to Rockford the next day.

The strike, the only one in AP's long and illustrious history, last exactly one week, with the Guild making some major advances in a three-year contract.

Several days later, I was getting ready to head for work in Rockford when the phone in our apartment rang. I answered and the voice at the other end said, "Hi Mike. How soon can you come to work?"

Of course, it was Mr. Orton. I was so shocked, I never even asked about salary, not knowing I was going to take a small salary cut to begin my AP career, which started on Feb. 16, 2009.

Mr. Orton, who was a wonderful man, took a personal interest in me, often calling me into his office just to talk. I was taken off probation and given a raise to the next salary level after just four months. And, a year later, knowing that my goal was to get back into sports, Mr. Orton convinced the powers that be in New York to offer me the sports editors job in Indiana.

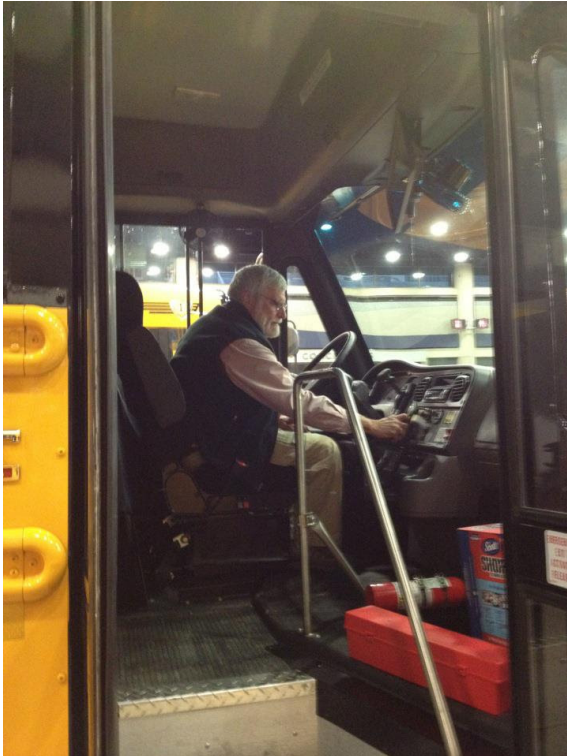
My last day in the Chicago bureau, Mr. Orton called me into his office and said, "I've taken a big chance by getting you this opportunity. I know you won't let me down ... you'd better not."

I certainly made the right choice calling Chicago.

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***Hired by Ed Staats, Albany***

**Marc Humbert (Email)** - Like Paul Stevens, my AP career began thanks to Ed Staats - an obvious visionary willing to take a chance that a school bus driver could become an AP newsman.



**Marc Humbert, school bus driver**

It was 1976 and I was in the process of finishing up a college degree that I had begun work on at Hobart College back in 1963 and took a break from in 1966 after I declined the college's invitation to return for a summer school. Feeling that I had wasted enough of my parents' money, consumed probably more beer than I should have and gotten a great education from beyond the ivy-covered walls, I set out to make my way in life.

By 1976, having failed (twice) to write the Great American Novel, my wife and I were back in the states after a sojourn in Europe. We had two young kids. I was working on completing that college degree by, among other things, taking a journalism class at the State University of New York at Albany. I was putting food on the table by driving a school bus.

It was during that journalism class that my professor and former Albany Knickerbocker News reporter Bill Rowley took me aside and asked a simple question: "Why aren't you still in journalism?" I had no good answer, but told him I did miss it. "Put a resume together and go and see people," he said. I agreed.

Fortunately, the building that housed Hearst's Times Union and Knickerbocker News papers in Albany was also home to The Associated Press' upstate New York control bureau. I took a chance and walked into the office, introduced myself to the wonderful Dawn Force (Ed's administrative assistant), produced my resume and asked if I could see the bureau chief. She had me take a seat. Dawn returned in a few minutes and asked if I could possibly return the next day to see Ed Staats, the bureau chief. I did. We talked. He hired me as a legislative reliefer. And, early the next year, when Peter Slocum left to head up the AP's state capital office in Augusta, Maine, Ed brought me formally into the AP family where I would practice the craft for the next 30-plus years.

Ed later told me that he had been fascinated by my resume and the fact that I was driving a school bus. And, while he said he really wanted to talk to me, he had a firm rule that job applicants had to make an appointment. So, we waited a day. Then, we had the long talk about my past work at Gannett's The Saratogian newspaper in Saratoga Springs and my good fortune of having gotten hired there in the year that the legendary Gannett News Service Washington bureau's star, Bill Ringle, decided

to see if he wanted to run a newspaper. He was the paper's ME. He trained me and then went back to the news service.

So thanks go to Ringle, Rowley, Staats, Chris McKnight (the Albany news editor who trained me), Sam Boyle (a friend and mentor) and Lou Boccardi (who always had my back). They were great journalists who helped a guy learn the craft.

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## ***Hired by Bill Richardson, Indianapolis***

**Karol Stonger** ([Email](#)) - Indianapolis COB Bill Richardson took a chance on me in 1964 after I graduated from Indiana University. I had worked for the Indiana High School Journalism Institute in my final semester. There, I met a couple of state newspaper MEs who were guest lecturers. So I had good referrals from them as well as from j-school professors, including Chairman John Stempel.

Richardson, on advice from said MEs and IU folks, invited me to come in to chat. OK, let's take the writing test. Did fine with the writing but failed miserably on a True-False test. I had misread the instructions and put the correct answers in the wrong columns. He hired me anyway.

Bill was just the sweetest person one could ever work for. His wife was also a dear. She invited me to the house for an emergency hemming of a bridesmaid's dress, and she and Bill invited the staff into their home with some frequency. Alas, Bill died in 1966, driving home in a downpour from a member visit. He left his wife and four sons--and an unfortunate void in AP management.

## **Connecting new-member profile - Steve Wilson**

**Steve Wilson** ([Email](#)) - I followed in the footsteps of my father, Robert C. Wilson, who worked for the AP in Syracuse and New York City before being sent overseas to London and Paris as a war correspondent (where he wrote a harrowing first-person account after parachuting out of a burning plane shot down behind German lines in 1945).



My own AP career spanned five decades and six AP bureaus. As a student at Tufts University, my first big break came when I spent the summer of 1977 running quotes at Red Sox games at Fenway Park for legendary Boston AP sports writer Dave O'Hara. The next year, I landed a summer relief position in the Boston bureau. And upon graduation from Tufts in 1979, I was hired full-time in the Miami bureau, covering hurricanes, the Mariel boatlift and the Miami race riots. I returned to the Boston bureau for two years, then did a stint on the World Desk in New York before being posted to New Delhi in late 1983. I covered the Golden Temple siege, the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the Bhopal gas leak, and wrote a first-person account of being on a plane hijacked by 10 Sikh militants (we were released after a 20-hour ordeal). Next came five years in the Rome bureau, mainly covering the Vatican and Pope John Paul II.



The longest phase of my AP career was spent in London, where I served as European Sports Editor and Olympic beat writer from 1991 to 2017. I had the privilege of covering 15 summer and winter Olympic Games and won the APSE Sports Writer of the Year and Story of the Year awards for coverage of the Salt Lake City bid scandal.

After AP, I did a stint as communications director of the International Tennis Federation. I am currently a freelancer and consultant, still based in London, and a proud father of Peter, 22, and Alexandra 16. I still cling to my roots in Washington D.C. and my lifelong (mostly suffering) devotion to the Redskins.

## **AP Investigation: Local fish isn't always local**



**Fishmongers prepare orders for buyers at the New Fulton Fish Market in New York on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. The nine-acre refrigerated warehouse just outside Manhattan is the second-largest facility of its kind worldwide, moving millions of pounds of seafood each night, much of it flown in fresh from across the globe. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)**

**By ROBIN MCDOWELL, MARGIE MASON and MARTHA MENDOZA**

MONTAUK, N.Y. (AP) - Even after winter storms left East Coast harbors thick with ice, some of the country's top chefs and trendy restaurants were offering sushi-grade tuna supposedly pulled in fresh off the coast of New York.

But it was just an illusion. No tuna was landing there. The fish had long since migrated to warmer waters.

In a global industry plagued by fraud and deceit, conscientious consumers are increasingly paying top dollar for what they believe is local, sustainably caught seafood. But even in this fast-growing niche market, companies can hide behind murky supply chains that make it difficult to determine where any given fish comes from. That's where national distributor Sea To Table stepped in, guaranteeing its products were wild and directly traceable to a U.S. dock - and sometimes the very boat that brought it in.

However, an Associated Press investigation found the company was linked to some of the same practices it vowed to fight. Preliminary DNA tests suggested some of its yellowfin tuna likely came from the other side of the world, and reporters traced the

company's supply chain to migrant fishermen in foreign waters who described labor abuses, poaching and the slaughter of sharks, whales and dolphins.

The New York-based distributor was also offering species in other parts of the country that were illegal to catch, out of season and farmed.

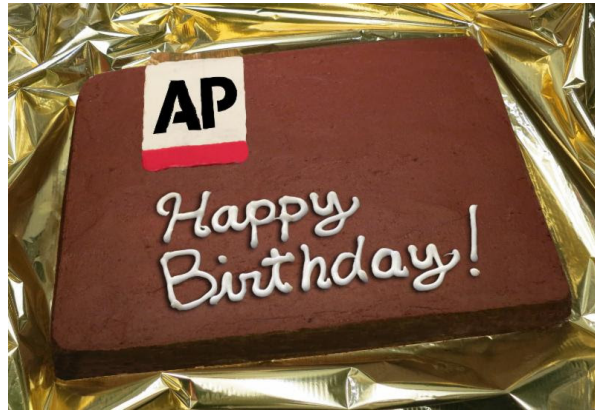
Read more [here](#).

## Photo of the day



People look at a local newspaper reporting the meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump at a subway station in Pyongyang, North Korea on Wednesday. | Minoru Iwasaki/Kyodo News via AP

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Dave Gwizdowski - [dgwizdowski@ap.org](mailto:dgwizdowski@ap.org)

Bill Handy - [bhmedill@gmail.com](mailto:bhmedill@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### *Trump tags US media as nation's 'biggest enemy' after summit*

By KEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump challenged skeptical media coverage of his historic summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Wednesday, declaring that "Fake News" is the nation's "biggest enemy."

The president's tweet, delivered a few hours after Air Force One touched down outside Washington, was reminiscent of his February 2017 Twitter rebuke in which he called several leading news outlets "the enemy of the American people."

Trump has sought to portray his unprecedented meeting with Kim as a significant accomplishment that has made the world less vulnerable to the North's nuclear arsenal. Critics say that his agreement with the North lacks specific restraints on Kim's government and that he offered to end joint military exercises with South Korea with little in return.

The president tweeted after returning from his Singapore summit that "the Fake News, especially NBC and CNN," are "fighting hard to downplay the deal with North Korea." He added: "500 days ago they would have 'begged' for this deal-looked like war would break out."

"Our Country's biggest enemy is the Fake News so easily promulgated by fools!" Trump tweeted.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Alabama town bans media, out-of-towners from meetings***

PAINT ROCK, Ala. (AP) - A tiny Alabama town is trying to ban the media and out-of-towners from its council meetings.

The Jackson County Sentinel reported that the town of Paint Rock issued written rules earlier this year that prohibit media members and non-residents from attending Town Council meetings without prior approval of the members.

The rules also prohibit anyone from recording meetings and state that posting "any Town minutes, email to council members, financial statements, etc., to ANY unauthorized media source is strictly forbidden."

Mayor Brenda Fisk, quoted in an editorial in the newspaper, said: "What goes on in Paint Rock is the business of the people who live in Paint Rock."

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - June 14, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 14, the 165th day of 2018. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 14, 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States.

### On this date:

In 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created.

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the design of the original American flag.

In 1801, former American Revolutionary War general and notorious turncoat Benedict Arnold, 60, died in London.

In 1928, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, nominated Herbert Hoover for president on the first ballot.

In 1934, Max Baer defeated Primo Carnera with an 11th round TKO to win the world heavyweight boxing championship in Long Island City, New York.

In 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis began transporting prisoners to the Auschwitz (OWSH'-vitz) concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1968, Dr. Benjamin Spock and three other peace activists were convicted in Boston of conspiring to encourage young men to evade the draft during the Vietnam War. (The verdicts were later overturned by an appeals court.) The Iron Butterfly single "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" was released by Atco Records.

In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered a ban on domestic use of the pesticide DDT, to take effect at year's end.

In 1982, Argentine forces surrendered to British troops on the disputed Falkland Islands.

In 1985, the 17-day hijack ordeal of TWA Flight 847 began as a pair of Lebanese Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim extremists seized the jetliner shortly after takeoff from Athens, Greece.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: Iran rejected a six-nation offer of incentives to stop enriching uranium, prompting President George W. Bush and French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sar-koh-ZEE') to jointly warn Tehran anew during a news conference in Paris against proceeding toward a nuclear bomb.

Five years ago: The Associated Press reported that Minnesota resident Michael Karkoc (KAHR'-kahts), 94, had been a top commander of a Nazi SS-led unit accused of burning villages filled with women and children, then lied to American immigration officials to get into the United States after World War II. (Polish authorities are currently seeking to extradite Karkoc, now 99 years old; Germany shelved its investigation after deciding Karkoc was unfit to stand trial. Karkoc's family denies he was involved in any war crimes.) Major League Baseball came down hard on the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks, handing out

eight suspensions and a dozen fines as punishment for a bench-clearing brawl on June 11.

One year ago: A rifle-wielding gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, wounding House Whip Steve Scalise (skuh-LEES') and several others; the assailant died in a battle with police. Fire ripped through the 24-story Grenfell Tower in West London, killing 71 people.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marla Gibbs is 87. House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., is 79. Country-rock musician Spooner Oldham is 75. Rock singer Rod Argent (The Zombies; Argent) is 73. President Donald Trump is 72. Singer Janet Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 72. Rock musician Barry Melton is 71. Rock musician Alan White (Yes) is 69. Actor Eddie Mekka is 66. Actor Will Patton is 64. Olympic gold medal speed skater Eric Heiden (HY'-dun) is 60. Jazz musician Marcus Miller is 59. Singer Boy George is 57. Rock musician Chris DeGarmo is 55. Actress Traylor Howard is 52. Actress Yasmine Bleeth is 50. Actor Faizon Love is 50. Actor Stephen Wallem is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Steffi Graf is 49. Actor Sullivan Stapleton is 41. Screenwriter Diablo Cody is 40. Actor Lawrence Saint-Victor is 36. Actor Torrance Coombs is 35. Actor J.R. Martinez is 35. Actor-singer Kevin McHale is 30. Actress Lucy Hale is 29. Pop singer Jesy Nelson (Little Mix) is 27. Country singer Joel Crouse is 26. Actor Daryl Sabara is 26.

**Thought for Today: "The flag is the embodiment not of sentiment, but of history." - President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924).**

## 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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