



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

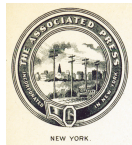
Connecting - May 10, 2019

1 message

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

Fri, May 10, 2019 at 8:38 AM

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Connecting

May 10, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 10th day of May 2019,

Today's issue brings you the latest report on the status of the AP's pension plans, following the AP annual meeting held last week in New York.

We thank **Jessica Bruce**, senior vice president and a Connecting colleague, for providing this update.

Today's issue brings you more memories of your mothers.

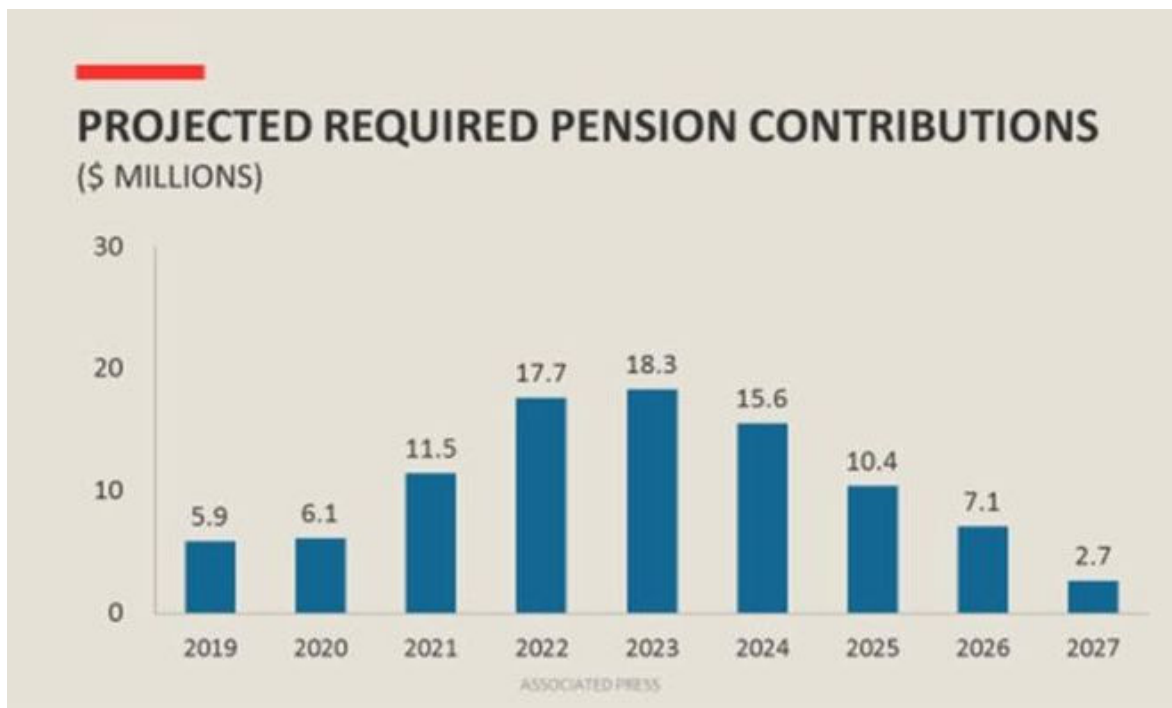
Have a great weekend, and a Happy Mother's Day on Sunday to all moms - present and past.

Paul

Status of funding of AP pension plans

Jessica Bruce - You may recall from reading earlier issues of Connecting that in 2012, due in part to the financial crisis, AP's pension plans were underfunded by approximately \$400 million. After making significant contributions well above the levels required by law, AP's pension plans are currently funded at about 88%, leaving only approximately \$90 million to be contributed in the future.

The chart below shows the projected minimum contribution requirements through 2027.



In 2018, AP contributed \$20 million to the plans and plans to continue to contribute greater amounts than required. AP expects to have the pension fully funded several

years earlier than 2027.

AP pension funds are invested in stocks and bonds through index funds. As they were last year, the investments are allocated 50% to stocks and 50% to bonds. As the plan's funded level increases, the proportion of assets in stocks decline and the proportion in bonds increases. With this investment strategy coupled with the AP's accelerated funding plan, the pension should be fully funded several years earlier than the above chart indicates, provided of course that the financial markets remain steady and interest rates do not decline much from their current levels.

If you have questions about your pension benefit with the AP, please reach out to **Sue Gilkey**, AP's Global Director of Employee Benefits at sgilkey@ap.org, or at (212) 621-1727.

Memories of our mothers

Vahe Gregorian ([Email](#)) - In the "fess up category," with Mother's Day ahead, thought I'd share this story that I included in something I wrote about her as she was in her final weeks last year ...

In the early 1990s for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, I went to Lincoln, Nebraska, to write a profile on then-Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and made reference to the "31-foot Chinook salmon on his wall."

Trouble is, it was a 31-inch salmon, something I didn't realize I'd miswritten until a few weeks later.

Somehow, the article had made it into my mother's hands in New York, and she sent it back to me with the ridiculous mistake circled in red and wrote ... "Some Fish!"

Click [here](#) for the story I wrote back then.

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Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - My mother, Rose, was a frugal woman with a strong work ethic, which probably was the result of growing up in Chicago during the Depression

and World War II. I like to think that I, too, had the same traits, both valuable for a journalist, because of the example she set.

She quit school after the eighth grade and got a fake birth certificate that aged her a few years so she could go to work to help support her mother, laid-off father and two sisters, one older and the other younger. She cleaned houses and then got various factory jobs including a wartime stint in a plant that made plumbing for submarines.

In 1945, she married my father, Stanley, although she usually called him Gary after the northern Indiana city where he was born and where they met. I came along the next year and was followed by two sisters. Mom, though, continued working most of her life, usually on the night shift so she could look after us kids during the day while my father worked for the gas company. For a time she was a baker in the test kitchen for a cake mix maker but spent most of her working life in a Johnson & Johnson plant helping make bandages.

Besides work, she and my father were deeply involved in church activities and a fraternal benefit organization.

Her income enabled me and my sisters to have a relatively comfortable life growing up and helped put us through college. My father was an easy-going sort, so Mom was the family disciplinarian, setting me straight when I veered off the straight and narrow.

She made up for her limited education by being an avid reader, mostly of newspapers and magazines. In retirement she was a big fan of quiz shows such as Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, often getting the right answers before the contestants could chime in. One of the last things we did together in her final days was watch Jeopardy. She passed away at 94 in December 2015.

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Beth Harpaz (Email) - The Connecting story by Norm Abelson on questions he should have asked his mother was thought-provoking and touching. I wonder how many of us who went into journalism were set on that path in some ways by mothers who loved to read and write and tell stories. My mom was a stay-at-home mom in the '60s and '70s (they called them housewives then) with few external outlets for her talents and creativity, but she read poetry aloud to me from as far back as I can remember, and before I was old enough to write things myself, she wrote down what I dictated and handed it back to me.

Connecting mailbox

Condolences to Doug Crews on death of his mother

Our condolences go out to Connecting colleague Doug Crews, longtime Missouri Press Association executive director, on the death of his mother, Carmen.

Her funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 17, at the Ralph O. Jones Funeral Home in Odessa, Missouri, with visitation prior to the service.

Doug's email is - dcrows@socket.net

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The AP is everywhere - even on restaurant walls



Doug Kienitz (Email) - While wife Sandie and I were dining at a nearby restaurant in Georgetown, Texas, we noticed a big frame clipping of Nolan Ryan and his feat of striking out 5,000 batters. It occurred at a game in 1989 in Dallas.

The author of that piece was Denne Freeman, our Texas AP sports writer for decades. The framed pix was right above our table. Denne just lives up the road some 70 miles; I have alerted him that he needs to visit and dine on some catfish.

His email response: "At 42 Nolan was humming the seed at 96. Thanks for the remembrance."

Denne and I connect a couple times a year, taking on any challenging golf course that is available. We both just played in the annual media day event at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, home of the PGA Tour in a couple weeks. That is one event that we truly enjoy, mingling again with members of the media that are still active.

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First fawn of the season



Bill Schiffmann (Email) - Here's our first fawn of the season, being welcomed by our pooch Shiner. Our little town of Lago Vista, Texas, is host to hundreds of white tails and we usually have half a dozen pushed through our fence by their moms to keep them safe from coyotes.

Associated Press Team Wins Asia Society Osborn Elliott Prize for 'China Clamps Down' series

NEW YORK, NY; May 8, 2019-Asia Society announced Thursday that an Associated Press team has won the 2019 Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia. In a series of stories titled "China Clamps Down," the team explored how China's ruling Community Party is asserting itself over its population in the Xinjiang region of Western China, and what this has meant for religious liberty, privacy, and minorities. The Associated Press stories documented increased social control under Chinese President Xi Jinping. Their reporters risked detention to report from the far corners of the country, and probe its evolving architecture of repression.

Lead reporters on the series were Yanan Wang and Dake Kang, working with a team that included Ng Han Guan, Gerry Shih, Erika Kinetz, Martha Mendoza, Emily Wang, Sam McNeil, Leteris Pitarakis, and Brian Skoloff.

The independent jury that awards the "Oz Prize" said: "The Associated Press spotlighted the human cost of Beijing's use of technology, state power, and regressive social controls to clamp down on minority groups and certain religions. Despite tight state controls and surveillance, the AP reporters showed ingenuity, courage, and persistence in documenting the existence of detention camps and brutal family-separation policies for Muslim citizens of western China."

Read more [here](#).

One by one, D-Day memories fade as war's witnesses die



In this photo taken on Thursday May 8, 2014, Bernard Dargols poses during an interview with the Associated Press at his home in La Garenne-Colombes, outside Paris. Dargols waded onto Omaha Beach in June 1944 as an American soldier to help liberate France from Nazis who persecuted his Jewish family. At 98, Dargols died last week. An ever-smaller number of D-Day veterans will take part in June 6, 2019 ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of history's largest amphibian invasion. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena, File)

By ANGELA CHARLTON

PARIS (AP) - One more funeral, one less witness to the world's worst war.

Bernard Dargols lived almost long enough to join the celebrations next month marking 75 years since the D-Day, 75 years since he waded onto Omaha Beach as an American soldier to help liberate France from the Nazis who persecuted his Jewish family.

Just shy of his 99th birthday, Dargols died last week. To the strains of his beloved American jazz, he was laid to rest Thursday at France's most famous cemetery, Pere Lachaise.

An ever-smaller number of veterans will stand on Normandy's shores on June 6 for D-Day's 75th anniversary. Many will salute fallen comrades from their wheelchairs.

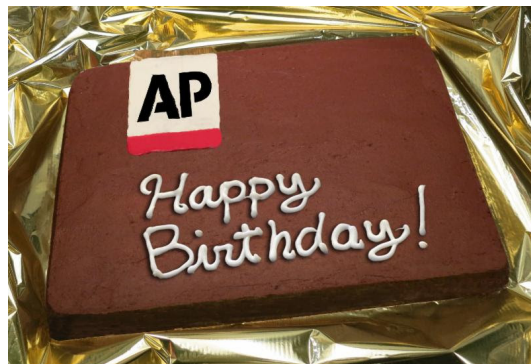
As each year passes, more firsthand witnesses to history are gone.

Four weeks from now, U.S. President Donald Trump and other world leaders will pay homage to the more than 2 million American, British, Canadian and other Allied forces involved in the D-Day operation on June 6, 1944, and the ensuing battle for Normandy that helped pave the way for Hitler's defeat.

Dargols outlived most of them, and knew the importance of sustaining their memory.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Joe Yeninas - jobarla@aol.com

On Saturday to...

Hal Bock - hbock@optonline.com

Craig Klugman - cklugman2@comcast.net

On Sunday to...

Kristen Hare - khare@poynter.org

Welcome to Connecting



Kusumasari Ayuningtyas - kusumasariayu@gmail.com

Stories of interest

"Teach Schmidt a lesson': Did the Department of Justice give the Mueller letter to the Post to screw the Times?" (Vanity Fair)

By JOE POMPEO

It was a familiar one-two in the age of Trump. On Tuesday, the day before Attorney General William Barr's Senate testimony, The Washington Post published a staggering scoop, one that's driven the news ever since: Robert Mueller had written a letter to Barr complaining that his initial summary of the Mueller report "did not fully capture the context, nature, and substance" of the special counsel's work.

Minutes later, The New York Times published a story with almost precisely the same reporting. "I felt a flashback to the days of 2017 and 2018 when the Times and the Post published dueling scoops the way fighters trade blows," CNN's Brian Stelter remarked in his newsletter that night.

The Times and the Post are both well sourced and are often in pursuit of the same stories. In this instance, however, the Times has been left with the distinct

impression that the Department of Justice intentionally screwed it by helping its competitor get the scoop. "We'll certainly be more cautious going forward when we deal with D.O.J.," a Times reporter familiar with the matter told me. (A D.O.J. official likewise told me the department will do the same when dealing with the Times.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Arnold Zeitlin.

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How one reporter got the Sandra Bland cell phone video (CJR)

By JUSTIN RAY

IN JUNE 2017, BRIAN COLLISTER was a lead investigative reporter for KXAN, a Nexstar-owned NBC affiliate in Austin, Texas. He had covered Sandra Bland's 2015 traffic stop in Waller County, an incident that sparked protests across the US and calls for increased police accountability. After all the open cases around the incident had wrapped up, he decided to file a records request to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

"When a huge story happens like this, you can't get records usually until all civil and legal cases are closed," Collister says. "So, mark your calendar with monthly reminders to check status. When all is closed, fire off open records requests for everything and you may get a great scoop."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Here's to 'Here's the deal' writing (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

For a few generations of journalists, there's journalism before the internet and journalism after. And for a subset of us, there's this moment when we realized that the latter requires a different kind of writing.

For The Cleveland Plain Dealer's Doug Lesmerises, that moment came when he started blogging in the late '90s. The sports reporter has taken that approach ever since in his writing, with his podcast and now with a new texting experiment the Plain Dealer is trying out.

Sending text messages to readers might feel intimidating. But for Lesmerises, it was natural, and I think that's because of the way he views how he writes.

"I kind of think of it as 'Here's the deal,' writing," Lesmerises explained when we talked about Project Text last week.

I asked him to elaborate.

Read more [here](#).

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Latino News Media Map (CUNY)

The Latino News Media Map is an interactive map and directory of over 600 Latino news media outlets in the United States and Puerto Rico and a companion to the "State of the Latino News Media Report" by the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY that will go live in June 2019.

Our goal is to map the existing Latino media landscape and fill a void by providing free public access to data on Latino news outlets across the country.

Identifying every news outlet serving the Latino community in the U.S. is an ambitious goal, particularly for an industry still experiencing major digital disruption and innovation. Admittedly, our directory is not a comprehensive or conclusive one, but rather a robust effort to create a valuable journalism database that we hope our communities will contribute to in the days, months and years ahead. It is only with the public's collaboration that our directory can accurately reflect the ever-changing Latino media landscape in real time.

Read more [here](#).

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Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press names Reuters Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler chairman

By JENN TOPPER

On Tuesday, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press named Reuters Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler as its newest chairman. Adler succeeds David Boardman, Dean of the Klein College of Communication at Temple University.

The Reporters Committee also named Margaret Low, senior vice president of The Atlantic and President AtlanticLIVE as vice chair.

"I'm honored to be named chairman of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press," said Adler. "The Reporters Committee's work providing journalists with access to legal representation and support is of critical importance as press freedom increasingly comes under threat. I look forward to continuing my work with RCFP to protect the First Amendment rights of journalists and to expand legal resources available to state and local press across the country."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 10, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 10, the 130th day of 2019. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first black president.

On this date:

In 1611, Sir Thomas Dale arrived in the Virginia Colony, where, as deputy governor, he instituted harsh measures to restore order.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union forces in Irwinville, Georgia.

In 1869, a golden spike was driven in Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was named acting director of the Bureau of Investigation (later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI).

In 1933, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In 1940, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

In 1963, the Rolling Stones recorded their first single for Decca Records in London, covering Chuck Berry's "Come On" (which ended up being redone) and "I Want to Be Loved" by Willie Dixon.

In 1968, the "Night of the Barricades" began in Paris' Latin Quarter as tens of thousands of student protesters erected obstacles against riot police; in the pre-dawn hours of May 11, the police moved in, resulting in violent clashes that left hundreds of people injured. Preliminary peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam began in the French capital.

In 1975, Sony began selling its Betamax home videocassette recorder in Japan.

In 1994, the state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

In 1996, two Marine helicopters collided in the dark and crashed in a swamp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during a U.S.-British training exercise, killing 14 people.

In 2013, the Internal Revenue Service apologized for what it acknowledged was "inappropriate" targeting of conservative political groups during the 2012 election to see if they were violating their tax-exempt status. U.S government scientists said worldwide levels of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas blamed for global warming, had hit a milestone, reaching an amount never before encountered by humans.

Ten years ago: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made a surprise one-day visit to Baghdad to discuss U.S.-Iraqi economic relations with the prime minister. Pope Benedict XVI urged Middle East Christians to persevere in their faith as 20,000 people filled a Jordanian sports stadium where the pontiff celebrated the first open-air Mass of his Holy Land pilgrimage. Russia defended its gold medal at the World Hockey Championships in Bern, Switzerland, beating Canada 2-1 in a rematch of the previous year's final.

Five years ago: First lady Michelle Obama, delivering the weekly presidential radio and internet address in her husband's place, decried the kidnapping of scores of

Nigerian schoolgirls by the group Boko Haram. Arkansas began issuing same-sex marriage licenses a day after a judge lifted a ban on such unions. Michael Sam was picked by the St. Louis Rams in the seventh round of the NFL draft, becoming the first openly gay player drafted by a pro football team.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that he would meet in Singapore with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on June 12; the announcement came hours after Trump hosted a welcome-home for three Americans who had been held by Kim's government.

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 86. Rhythm-and-blues singer Henry Fambrough (The Spinners) is 81. Actor David Clennon is 76. Writer-producer-director Jim Abrahams is 75. Singer Donovan is 73. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 73. Singer Dave Mason is 73. Actor Mike Hagerty is 65. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 64. Actor Bruce Penhall is 62. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., is 61. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 61. Actress Victoria Rowell is 60. Rock singer Bono (BAH'-noh) (U2) is 59. Former Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is 59. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 58. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 56. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks is 56. Model Linda Evangelista is 54. Rapper Young MC is 52. Actor Erik Palladino is 51. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 51. Actor Lenny Venito is 50. Actor Dallas Roberts is 49. Actress Leslie Stefanson is 48. Actor-singer Todd Lowe is 47. Country musician David Wallace (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 47. Actress Andrea Anders is 44. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 44. Rock musician Jesse Vest is 42. Actor Kenan Thompson is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jason Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 39. Rock musician Joey Zehr (The Click Five) is 36. Singer Ashley Poole (Dream) is 34. Actress Odette Annable is 34. Actress Lindsey Shaw is 30. Actress Lauren Potter is 29. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 24.

Thought for Today: "When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway." - Erma Bombeck, American humorist (1927-1996).

Connecting calendar



May 15 - New Hampshire-Maine and environs AP-UPI-Journo lunch, Wednesday, May 15, noon, Longhorn restaurant, Concord, N.H. Contact: Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)).

June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, [200 Liberty Street, New York, NY](#). RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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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