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Connecting - June 24, 2019

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Connecting

June 24, 2019

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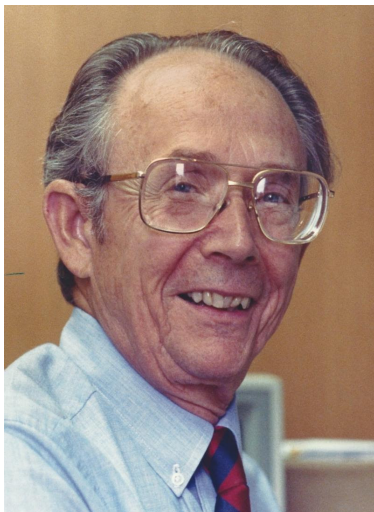
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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 24th day of June 2019,

How many people can say that during their AP careers, they helped orient and train two future AP executive editors?

That's a claim that our colleague **Mercer G. Bailey** can make as we profile the longtime AP newsman in today's issue of Connecting. Mercer was a General Desk supervisor in 1967 when New York newspaperman **Lou Boccardi** was hired as assistant to the general news editor. Mercer was assistant chief of bureau in Kansas City when **Sally Buzbee**, AP's current executive editor, moved from a Topeka temporary position to a full-time one in Kansas City.



Mercer G. Bailey

Boccardi recalled for Connecting: " 'Cheerful' wasn't a word I heard much around the General Desk when I joined it in 1967 (not one I can remember using much, either) but that's the impression of Mercer that I remember: cool, enormously competent and, somehow, managing a ready smile no matter the crisis of the moment. More personally, Mercer extended a friendly hand of welcome to me when I came aboard, an 'outsider' hired by Wes Gallagher straight onto the General Desk despite my never having done night radio in Omaha, as some complained. It didn't take long to understand why Mercer was admired for his persona and respected for his skill."

Boccardi moved up to managing editor, executive editor and in 1985 was named president and CEO of the AP, a position he held until his retirement in 2003. Mercer went on to a fine career and was forever a newsman. Example: when the skywalks at a Kansas City hotel collapsed in 1981, resulting in 114 deaths, Mercer was at a local hospital being treated for an ailment. Despite that, he interviewed some of the injured victims as they came in.



It is good to be back in your mailbox after a couple days away when my wife **Linda** and I attended the 25-Year Club reception in New York last Thursday and then drove to Washington to help longtime friends celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

We will bring you more coverage of the New York reception in Tuesday's issue. The photo above by **Diane Parker** shows **Chuck Zoeller** photographing new members of the AP 40-Year Club with President and CEO **Gary Pruitt**.

We are saddened to report the news of the death of **Terry Enfield**, the wife of our colleague, longtime Washington newsman **Merrill Hartson**. We bring you her obituary in today's edition.

Have a great day - and week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile

Mercer Bailey



Mercer Bailey with daughters Lynn (left) and Marci, taken on Father's Day 2019.

What are you doing these days?

Enjoying my retirement at Foxwood Springs retirement community in Raymore, Missouri with my wife Rosie.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

When I was about 16 years old my dad had a stroke, he was very ill. I needed to become the bread winner of the family. My cousin, Lilly Mason, worked in the AP photo department in the Atlanta bureau. She helped me secure a job as a copy boy and telemat shipper. I was also in college night school but I had virtually no experience in news, or for that matter, anything else. Some of my duties were taking ticker tape off the machine that contained stock reports and financial information. I would cut it up and give it to the reporters who were writing the stories on stocks and bonds. When I was first hired on May 23, 1943, my goal was to be a photo editor.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each.

Copy Boy and telemat shipper in Atlanta (1943-1953) - described above.



Mercer Bailey (right) among reporters covering Gov. George Wallace.

Reporter in Atlanta (1953-1963) - WWII took away a lot of the reporters so I was moved into the role of a general reporter pretty quickly in Atlanta. I believe I am one of the youngest reporters the AP has had. I worked my way up the ranks as a reporter in Atlanta covering a variety of sporting events, general news and legislative reporting in Georgia and Alabama. I was sent to Florida for a couple of months during the winters to cover the PGA golf tour. I covered several Master's Golf Tournaments as well as the Daytona 500.

New York General Desk (1963-1968) at 50 Rockefeller Plaza- a lot of organizing and delegating. Overseeing national sports news. Calling the shots and assigning people around the country on assignments. Even though I enjoyed my position very much in New York and found it very fulfilling I knew I didn't want to raise my family there.



A New York farewell gathering for Mercer Bailey when he left the General Desk to become St. Louis correspondent. Among those in the photo are general news editor Sam Blackman (far left), Ralph Roden, Jack Cappon, Sam Mindell, Herb Barker, Chuck Welsh and Lou Boccardi (partially hidden second from right).

St. Louis Correspondent (1968-1970) - Assigning coverage to other reporters in eastern Missouri and the Metro East area of Illinois.

Kansas City Assistant Chief of Bureau (1970-1990) I was happy to come to the Kansas City Bureau as it was a bigger bureau and had wider coverage - with correspondencies in Wichita, Topeka, Jefferson City and St. Louis. Some of my responsibilities were making sure there was adequate coverage of general news and sports news. Assigning staffers of coverage. A lot of training. Editing copy.



Mercer gets a hug from Jack Cappon, longtime AP friend, with daughter Lynn at left and Chief of Bureau Paul Stevens at right.

Would you do it all over again-or what would you change?

I was pretty well satisfied with my career. During my AP career I got to see and do a lot of things. I enjoyed most of it.

What is your favorite hobby or activity?

Prior to moving to the Foxwood Spring (two years in August) we lived at Lake Winnebago, Missouri. I enjoyed the lake life...boating, fishing, and relaxing on our deck, and having family over. Now I would say reading and playing solitaire on my iPad are my hobbies.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

I used to enjoy going to Colorado with my first wife, Jeanne and my girls then with Rosie later in my life. Rosie and I also had a wonderful trip to Australia several years ago.

What was your most enjoyable event to cover?

The Master's. It is the biggest golf tournament there is, I enjoyed the caliber of players and the beauty of the golf course.



Mercer and his wife Rosie with their grandchildren: from left, Alison Kruse, Katie Walker, Austin Kruse, Lauren Walker, Jason Nickles.

Names of your family members and what they do?

Rosie - my wife...keeps me in line!

Marci Bailey-daughter
 Lynn Kruse-daughter (husband Kevin)
 Steve Walker-stepson
 Leanne Barry-stepdaughter (husband Jim)
 David Walker- stepson (wife Mary)

Grandchildren: Alison-25, Austin-23, Jason-25, Lauren-23 and Katie-17. Everyone lives, works, or goes to school in the Kansas City area other than Alison who is living in Manhattan in NYC. She ironically works not too far from where her Papa worked at 50 Rock so many years ago.

(I married Jeanne in August of 1957; she passed away April 1997. Marcia was born in 1960, Lynn in 1963. I married Rosie in May 1992.

Mercer Bailey's email is - mer26rose35@comcast.net

Connecting mailbox

Theresa 'Terry' Enfield, wife of AP veteran Merrill Hartson, dies at 68

Theresa Joanne Enfield, a pillar of her church and Best Friend Forever to countless admirers, died peacefully Friday at Holy Cross Hospital, encircled by her family.



She was known for her many commitments in faith to her beloved St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Hyattsville, Md., where she was a Eucharistic minister, and had also served variously over the years as president of the Parish Council, head of a feeding-the-poor program and overseer of the weekly coffee-and-donuts klatch known as Fellowship. In 2011, Enfield was a recipient of the Manifesting the Kingdom for Dedicated Service by the Archdiocese of Washington, presented to her at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Known as 'Terry' to her family, friends and even newfound acquaintances, she cut the same making friends-inspiring colleagues swath through her more than 30 years as office manager at the Kleinfeld, Kaplan and Becker, a law firm in Washington, D.C., and was still working there at the time of her death.

Her commitments to church and work notwithstanding, Enfield found plenty of time to dote on her two grandchildren, the straws that stirred her drink.

Enfield was born in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 26, 1951, and graduated from St. John Baptist de la Salle Catholic School in 1965. She was a graduate of Northwestern High School in Prince Georges County, Md., and subsequently obtained a bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Brian Enfield, and her parents, Nicholas and Sara Marmo, who had immigrated years earlier to the United States from Italy.

She is survived by her daughter, Kelly Veronica Gordon, and son-in-law Michael J. Gordon of Lewes, Del., her son, Craig Anthony Enfield, and daughter-in-law Amber Thompson Enfield of Laurel, Md., husband Merrill J. Hartson, along with two brothers, Victor Marmo and Louis Marmo, and their wives, respectively, Regina Marmo and Irene Marmo. She is also survived by her nephew Anthony Marmo and his wife Margaret, niece Angela Italia and her husband Andrew, niece Nicole Rydzewski and her husband Joe, nephew David Marmo and his wife Michelle, and niece Christina Marmo, along with grandson Nicholas Jack Gordon and granddaughter Jace Charlotte Enfield.

A viewing will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 27 at Gasch's Funeral Home, [4739 Baltimore, Ave, Hyattsville, Md.](#), and a funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. June 28 at St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 5205 43rd Ave., Hyattsville, Md.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation and St. Jerome's Catholic Church.

Merrill Hartson's email is - jrdhartson@peoplepc.com

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Secretary of Defense nominee is nephew of AP's legendary newsman George Esper



FILE - In this April 2, 2019, file photo, Secretary of the Army Mark Esper speaks during a House Armed Services Committee budget hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. President Donald Trump on June 18, named Esper as acting Defense Secretary. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Mark Esper, President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense, is the nephew of George Esper, the tenacious Associated Press correspondent who refused to leave his post in the last days of the Vietnam War, remaining behind to cover the fall of Saigon. George Esper died in 2012 at the age of 79.

Valerie Komor shared this tie with Connecting via Managing Editor Brian Carovillano, who learned the news from Washington deputy managing editor Elizabeth Kennedy who confirmed it in a NIRC search.

A [story](#) on the wire Friday by AP's Eric Tucker led:

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump's pick for new defense secretary is an Army veteran who served in the first Iraq war and also has experience as a national security adviser on Capitol Hill as well as a defense industry lobbyist.

Trump announced Friday that he would nominate Mark Esper to lead the Pentagon. Trump had already named Esper, his current Army secretary, to lead the Defense Department on an acting basis, starting Sunday.

"I know Mark, and have no doubt he will do a fantastic job!" the president tweeted Tuesday.

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His father faced grim duty during flu epidemic of 1918-19

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - All of the recent publicity given the anniversary of D-Day brought back to my mind stories my dad told me about his very difficult duties because of the worldwide flu epidemic in 1918 and 1919-the time of World War I.

My dad, Joe Sr., had left the family farm in southeastern Nebraska and joined the Army. Because he had attended a private (not government) military academy, he was immediately commissioned as an officer. He was posted to Fort Riley, Kansas.

As it turned out, one of the first cases of flu in the United States was reported at Fort Riley on March 4, 1918.

The flu killed between 50 and 100 million people worldwide or one of every 18 people! Some reports available on the internet give a much higher figure!

Some published reports said military bases were especially vulnerable to the flu because of close quarters the servicemen had.

As the flu spread in its devastating way, it killed many American servicemen in Europe. Some reports say the United States army lost more men to flu than to World War I combat! The deceased servicemen were sent to military bases near their homes. So my dad's duties became fixing up the dead servicemen's coffins, providing a U.S. flag, and then leading a group of enlisted men to take the deceased serviceman to his hometown and take part in the burial.

He told me a number of times as I was growing up that he would have preferred to have been in combat.

I might add that when World War II broke out, my dad went down to the army recruiting office in Worland, WY. (My dad was editor of the Worland daily). He told the recruiters he wanted to get back into service and they did some checking and

said with his rank and all they would send him to Pearl Harbor. The hitch was he could not take his family with him. So he went back to work at the newspaper. The war did result in him being transferred. The editor of the daily in Rock Springs (a larger city than Worland) quit and joined the Army. The management of the chain of Wyoming papers then transferred my dad to Rock Springs as editor.

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A last word on a dog and his Blizzard

Cindy Saul ([Email](#)) - Richard (Weiss) should E: Share the Blizzard with Chloe, before they get back on the road, of course.

Kiichiro Sato, Foster Klug named to leadership posts in Asia



This combination photo shows Foster Klug, left, news director for Japan, the Koreas, Australia and the South Pacific, and Kiichiro Sato, newly appointed Asia deputy for storytelling and photography. Klug, AP's bureau chief in Seoul, South Korea, is being promoted to news director for Japan, the Koreas, Australia and the South Pacific. Sato has been named deputy news director for storytelling and photography, rounding out a leadership team directing video, text and photo coverage across the Asia-Pacific region.

(Lee Jinman, Paul Sakuma via AP)

BANGKOK (AP) - The Associated Press is bolstering its coverage of Asia by naming an experienced photo editor and a seasoned foreign correspondent to key leadership posts in Tokyo.

Kiichiro Sato has been named deputy news director for storytelling and photography, rounding out a leadership team directing video, text and photo coverage across the Asia-Pacific region. Sato will work in close coordination with two other Asia deputies based at the news agency's regional headquarters in Bangkok.

Foster Klug, AP's bureau chief in Seoul, South Korea, is being promoted to news director for Japan, the Koreas, Australia and the South Pacific.

In this newly created role, Klug will lead coverage of efforts by North and South Korea to improve ties amid a long-running standoff over the North's nuclear and missile ambitions, and will oversee AP's bureau in Pyongyang. He will also direct coverage of Japan as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympics, and manage staff in AP's Australia and New Zealand bureaus who cover those countries and other Pacific island nations.

Sato and Klug will report to Adam Schreck, the Asia-Pacific news director, who announced the appointments Thursday.

"Foster and Kii have years of experience handling big, breaking stories and guiding teams to produce top-notch journalism," Schreck said. "We're confident they can help take AP's Asia report to new heights."

Read more [here](#).

AP names Sally Stapleton to manage new global religion team

NEW YORK (AP) - Sally Stapleton, an award-winning editor, photojournalist and newsroom leader, has been tapped to direct global religion coverage for The Associated Press, overseeing a new team that will report on faith and its influence throughout the world.

The appointment was announced Friday by Sarah Nordgren, AP's deputy managing editor for sports, business, entertainment, health, science and religion.

As global religion editor, Stapleton will lead a team funded by a \$4.9 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to the Religious News Foundation. The AP will work with Religion News Service and The Conversation to improve understanding of developments in the world of faith and analyze their significance.

Stapleton, 61, was managing editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 2017 until April of this year and led that newsroom's transformation to a digital-first operation. The staff of the Post-Gazette received the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News Reporting for its coverage of the Tree of Life synagogue hate-crime massacre.

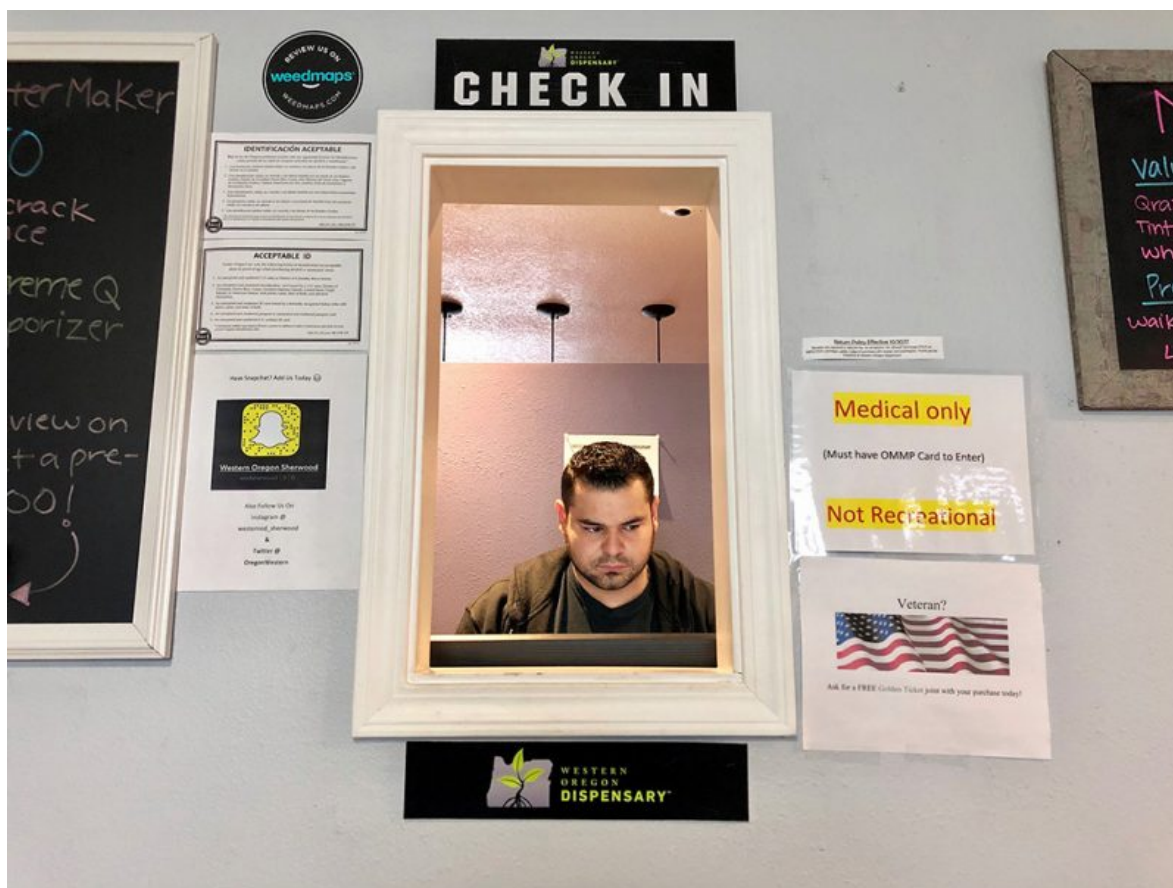


Sally Stapleton

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

Best of the Week

AP analysis: Legal sales of recreational pot impact medical marijuana users



Roberto Gonzalez, general manager of Western Oregon Dispensary in Sherwood, Ore., waits for customers, April 8, 2019. The dispensary is one of two medical-only marijuana dispensaries left in Oregon, down from 400 such facilities before recreational pot was legalized. An AP analysis found that existing medical marijuana programs take a hit when states legalize cannabis for all adults. AP Photo / Gillian Flaccus

As states that permit sales of only medical marijuana transition to legalizing recreational use of pot, Portland reporter Gillian Flaccus noticed a trend in Oregon: most medical pot dispensaries were closing. She asked why, and what were the effects on patients?

Teaming with Los Angeles-based data reporter Angel Kastanis, the AP set out to answer that question. Kastanis had spent six months compiling a first-of-its-kind national data set on medical marijuana patients, and Flaccus used it to produce an exclusive all-formats package showing that when states legalize pot for all, medical marijuana patients often are left with fewer, and costlier, options.

Kastanis and Flaccus are members of AP's marijuana beat team, formed last year to cover the exploding cannabis industry. Two-thirds of the states now have legal medical marijuana and that segment of the overall cannabis market generates billions in revenue. But hard data on patients using medical marijuana has been

difficult to find because states have inconsistent record-keeping requirements and practices.

To build a national database, Kastanis reached out to the individual states and Washington, D.C., to get the latest numbers on how many patients were enrolled in medical marijuana programs. It quickly turned into a larger project, aimed at getting historical counts and demographic information to track trends.

It's "incredibly useful to see this [data] all in one place, and I can already tell it'll be a helpful resource for years to come."

- Marijuana beat team journalist, The Boston Globe

Kastanis submitted dozens of formal records requests, combed published program reports and other available public documents, and searched media reports. In some cases, states no longer had access to historical data, so she used website snapshots from The Internet Archive to obtain official PDF documents that had been replaced by the most recent program statistics.

While Kastanis did her work, Flaccus was hearing anecdotes in Oregon - one of the first states with a legal recreational market - that the medical industry was cratering. Patients who used marijuana to ease pain and address other ills felt abandoned. The data reinforced what she was hearing: Nearly two-thirds of Oregon patients had given up their medical cards and the number of retail shops dedicated to medical pot fell from 400 to two after recreational legalization. And prices were going up as a result of competition from recreational pot.

Flaccus traveled the state for two months gathering video and interviews from medical pot growers, processors and dispensaries. After many failed attempts, she found an elderly cancer patient willing to talk on camera about his struggles affording products. She shot and produced the video and took photos, while also writing full-length and abridged versions of the story.

Before the package moved in advance, Kastanis, Flaccus and marijuana team leader Frank Baker in Los Angeles held a conference call with AP data customers to discuss the data and the reporting that would go with it.

Two other team members - medical reporter Carla K. Johnson in Seattle and West Desk editor Katie Oyan - made major contributions to the package. Johnson authored a medical marijuana fact-vs.-fiction sidebar while Oyan edited the stories and developed a presentation plan that included a series of GIFs for Twitter, stacking the story and featuring it in the AP marijuana hub.

Flaccus' story was one of the most popular on AP with strong reader engagement. The Boston Globe created its own marijuana beat team last year and one of its members sent an email thanking AP for the data, calling it "incredibly useful to see

this all in one place, and I can already tell it'll be a helpful resource for years to come."

Indeed, the data set is just a foundation. As more states enter the market and compile information Kastanis plans to update the data twice a year, allowing AP and its subscribing data customers to track trends in this burgeoning industry at the state, region and national level.

For making the AP the go-to source for data trends on medical marijuana and shining a light on the unexpected negative consequences for patients of legalizing recreational pot use, Flaccus and Kastanis earn AP's Best of the Week honors.

Best of the States

25 years after unresolved killings, O.J. Simpson tells AP: 'life is fine'



O.J. Simpson poses in the garden of his Las Vegas-area home, June 3, 2019. In an exclusive interview, Simpson would not discuss the 1994 killings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ron Goldman, telling the AP that he and his children are living in "a no-negative zone" and only focusing on positive things. Photo courtesy Didier

J. Fabien via AP

The approach of the 25th anniversary of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman brought renewed attention in O.J. Simpson and the "Trial of the Century" that produced his acquittal and frayed the country along racial lines.

Two weeks before the June 12 anniversary, special correspondent Linda Deutsch was summoned from retirement to try to coax an interview from the fallen football star. She doubted he would talk since he hadn't submitted to an interview since being released from a Nevada prison in 2017 after serving nine years for robbery and kidnapping.

But if anybody could get Simpson to talk, it's Deutsch. She was the only reporter he called after his acquittal in 1995 - he thanked her for fair coverage of the trial - and she spoke with him off and on over the years, though he never responded to Deutsch's requests while he was imprisoned.

Last year, while visiting Las Vegas where Simpson now lives, Deutsch saw him and asked for a post-prison interview. He turned her down. But Deutsch tried again, this time by phone. The conversation began with him complaining that members of the media were hounding him and his family and that he didn't want to talk. Deutsch reminded him that if he spoke to her, it would be all he would have to say because AP's story would reach all media.

Simpson relented, and while he wouldn't discuss the crime or anything else in the past, he provided a glimpse into a life now very much outside the public eye.

He said he and his children are living in "a no-negative zone" and only focusing on positive things. He loves living in Las Vegas, plays golf almost every day, has two new knees and gets endless requests for selfies when he goes out. All-in-all, he said, "life is fine," a quote that stung any who believed he got away with murder.

Among those upset was Kim Goldman, Ron's sister, who was interviewed by Los Angeles reporter John Rogers. "Yeah, I hear he's living the life of Riley out there in Las Vegas, being treated like a king," Goldman said sarcastically.

After a protracted back-and-forth, and help from Los Angeles photo editor Reed Saxon, Deutsch also obtained two exclusive photos of Simpson at his home. They showed him looking happy and more youthful than when the public last saw him in prison garb. They were part of a gallery assembled by Saxon. Deutsch also sat for an on-camera interview that was the underpinning for a video piece by Los Angeles video journalist Krysta Fauria.

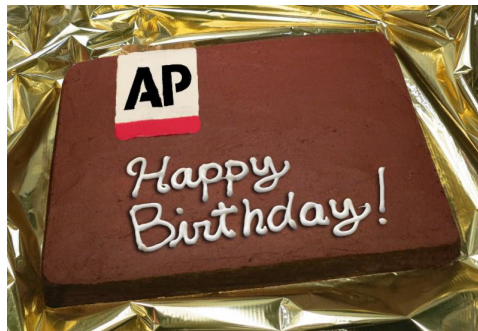
Deutsch's story was the centerpiece of a package that included Rogers' story about Kim Goldman's life since her brother's murder, a where-are-they-now glance on the

key players in the Simpson case - also by Rogers - and a story by Philadelphia law enforcement reporter Maryclaire Dale about the impact of the Simpson case in raising awareness of domestic violence.

Deutsch's interview story was the day's top-read AP story online with strong engagement. She was also sought for interviews by many media outlets, including KABC in Los Angeles and NBC's "Today" show, which did its own piece that included AP's exclusive photos of Simpson.

For a timely, exclusive interview with a man who remains the focus of intense public interest, Linda Deutsch receives AP's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Cynthia Rawitch - cynthia.rawitch@csun.edu

Stories of interest

Trump threatens reporter with prison time during interview (Washington Post)

By Colby Itkowitz

President Trump, in an interview this week and on Twitter on Friday morning, again suggested criminal action against American journalists.

During a sit-down interview with Time magazine, Trump showed the reporters a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. When a photographer tried to snap a photograph of the letter, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told him he couldn't.

Later in the interview, the subject turned to special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's report on Russian interference in the 2016 campaign, and a reporter asked about sworn testimony that Trump tried to limit the investigation to only "future election meddling."

Rather than answer, Trump lashed out about the photographer's attempt to take a shot of the letter from Kim, according to a transcript of the interview that Time released Thursday night.

"Well, you can go to prison, instead, because if you use, if you use the photograph you took of the letter that I gave you..." Trump started.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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New England newspaper owner fights to save local journalism



In this Thursday, April 11, 2019 photo, copies of The Berkshire Eagle newspaper are placed in a machine before being bundled for distribution, in Pittsfield, Mass. The paper now features a new 12-page lifestyle section for Sunday editions, a reconstituted editorial board, a new monthly magazine, and the newspaper print edition is wider. That level of expansion is stunning in an era where U.S. newspaper newsroom employment has shrunk by nearly half over the past 15 years. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

By ALEXANDRA OLSON

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (AP) - The Berkshire Eagle has an expanded investigative team. There's a new 12-page lifestyle section for the Eagle's Sunday editions. There's a new monthly magazine focusing on the area's culinary and natural charms. There is an advisory board that includes cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Pulitzer-winning writer Elizabeth Kolbert.

The newspaper is wider, its paper thicker. There's even a second daily crossword puzzle.

A hiring flurry, driven by new owners, has brought more than 50 new jobs to the western Massachusetts daily and its three sister papers in Vermont. The idea: Investing in the newsroom will translate into more paying readers.

It's a leap of faith at a time of relentlessly bad news for the local news industry: Newsroom employment down by nearly half over the past 15 years. Waves of

layoffs continuing to hit both traditional newspaper chains and digital news startups. Some cities and towns so denuded of coverage that they're described as "news deserts ."

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

Today in History - June 24, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 24, the 175th day of 2019. There are 190 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 24, 1983, the space shuttle Challenger - carrying America's first woman in space, Sally K. Ride - coasted to a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

On this date:

In 1497, the first recorded sighting of North America by a European took place as explorer John Cabot spotted land, probably in present-day Canada.

In 1807, a grand jury in Richmond, Virginia, indicted former Vice President Aaron Burr on charges of treason and high misdemeanor (he was later acquitted).

In 1908, Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 71.

In 1947, what's regarded as the first modern UFO sighting took place as private pilot Kenneth Arnold, an Idaho businessman, reported seeing nine silvery objects flying in a "weaving formation" near Mount Rainier in Washington.

In 1948, Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the western allies to organize the Berlin Airlift. The Republican National Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, nominated New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey for president.

In 1957, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Roth v. United States*, ruled 6-3 that obscene materials were not protected by the First Amendment.

In 1964, AT&T inaugurated commercial "Picturephone" service between New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. (the service, however, never caught on).

In 1968, "Resurrection City," a shantytown constructed as part of the Poor People's March on Washington, D.C., was closed down by authorities.

In 1975, 113 people were killed when Eastern Airlines Flight 66, a Boeing 727 carrying 124 people, crashed while attempting to land during a thunderstorm at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

In 1992, the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, strengthened its 30-year ban on officially sponsored worship in public schools, prohibiting prayer as a part of graduation ceremonies.

In 1997, the U.S. Air Force released a report on the so-called "Roswell Incident," suggesting the "alien bodies" that witnesses reported seeing in 1947 were actually life-sized dummies. Actor Brian Keith was found dead in his Malibu home, an apparent suicide; he was 75.

In 2004, federal investigators questioned President George W. Bush for more than an hour in connection with the news leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity.

Ten years ago: South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford admitted he had secretly flown to Argentina to visit a woman with whom he was having an affair, and said he would resign as head of the Republican Governors Association. Ed Thomas, the football coach of Aplington-Parkersburg High School in Iowa for 34 years, was gunned down by former player Mark Becker. (Becker was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

Five years ago: Mississippi Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, a mainstream conservative with more than 40 years' of congressional experience, narrowly turned back a primary challenge from state Sen. Chris McDaniel, a tea party favorite. Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby won his second Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player at the league's postseason awards ceremony. Character actor Eli Wallach, 98, died in New York.

One year ago: President Donald Trump compared people entering the U.S. from Mexico to invaders and said they should be immediately sent back without appearing before a judge. Women in Saudi Arabia were able to drive for the first time, as the world's last remaining ban on female drivers was lifted.

Today's Birthdays: Rock singer Arthur Brown is 77. Actress Michele Lee is 77. Actor-director Georg Stanford Brown is 76. Rock musician Jeff Beck is 75. Rock singer Colin Blunstone (The Zombies) is 74. Musician Mick Fleetwood is 72. Actor Peter Weller is 72. Rock musician John Illsley (Dire Straits) is 70. Actress Nancy Allen is 69. Reggae singer Derrick Simpson (Black Uhuru) is 69. Actor Joe Penny is 63. Reggae singer Astro (UB40) is 62. Singer-musician Andy McCluskey (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 60. Rhythm and blues/pop singer-songwriter Siedah (sy-EE'-dah) Garrett is 59. Actor Iain Glen is 58. Rock singer Curt Smith is 58. Actress Danielle Spencer is 54. Actress Sherry Stringfield is 52. Singer Glenn Medeiros is 49. Actress Carla Gallo is 44. Actor Amir Talai (TV: "LA to Vegas") is 42. Actress-producer Mindy Kaling is 40. Actress Minka Kelly is 39. Actress Vanessa Ray is 38. Actor Justin Hires is 34. Actress Candice Patton is 34. Actress Kaitlin Cullum is 33. Singer Solange Knowles is 33. Actor Max Ehrich is 28. Actress Beanie Feldstein is 26.

Thought for Today: "All are lunatics, but he who can analyze his delusions is called a philosopher." - Ambrose Bierce, American author (born this date in 1842, disappeared in 1914.)

Connecting calendar



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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