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Connecting - July 08, 2019

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Mon, Jul 8, 2019 at 8:52 AM

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 8th day of July 2019,

I hope you had a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend.

Our Monday profile focuses on **Karol Stonger** - an appropriate choice in light of recent stories in Connecting on the roles in AP (and most of journalism) that women once held and fought to climb from - "I was accepted more on the road than in the office" - and, on a lighter vein, our stories on Kokomo, Indiana.

Karol, a native of that central Indiana city (which as we learned last week is not the place the Beach Boys were singing about), was the first woman in the AP to hold the title of national sports writer back in the day when women were not allowed in the locker room or press box.

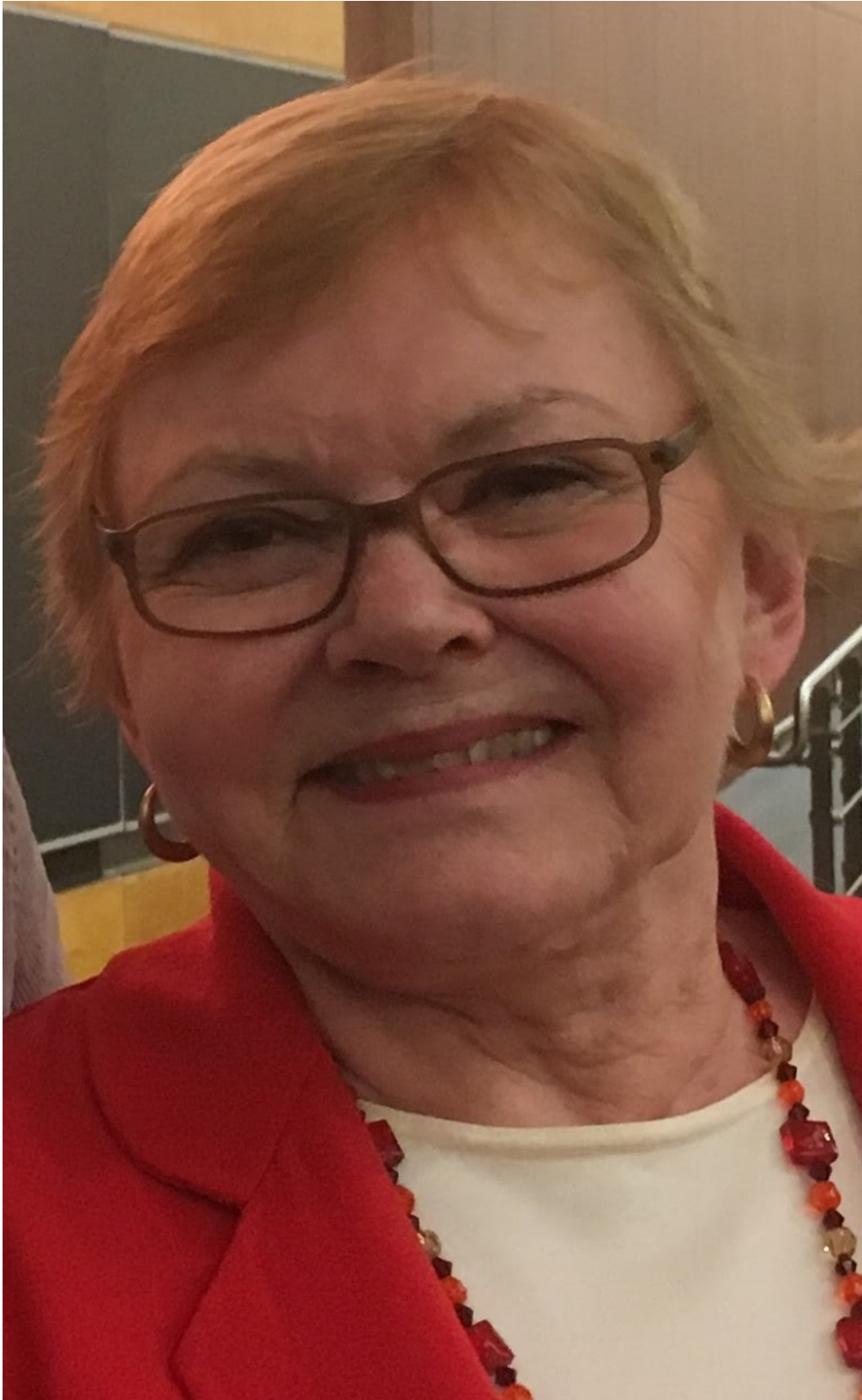
Our Connecting colleague spent her entire AP career in New York, where she has lived in the same apartment on the Upper West Side, between the Hudson River and the Museum of Natural History, for almost 50 years.

(Connecting issues this challenge: Is there anyone else out there who has lived in the same house or apartment for that length of time?)

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile
Karol Stonger



My journalism career began as a staffer on the Red & Blue, the Kokomo High School newspaper. Then at IU-Bloomington, Ernie Pyle beckoned. The J-school was

housed in a hall named for Pyle, a fellow Hoosier, IU student and a UPI war correspondent who died doing his job. Little did I imagine that one day I would walk the same halls of his contemporary, Hal Boyle, and become his friend.

What were your different past jobs in the AP?

Just out of college I was hired in 1964 by Indianapolis COB Bill Richardson as a vacation/legislative relief. Translate: How fast can you write radio splits and make old news sound new? I also helped compile Friday night basketball scores and send out weekend IHL results and farm team baseball box scores (prove 'em in your head). I got out of the office each May for the Indy 500. Did a few features (women in Indiana prisons), covered a rash of tornadoes and a murder trial of a mother who let her own children join in torturing a 16-year-old girl left in her care.



Karol Stonger sits under the back of a racing car at the Indianapolis 500 as she interviews a member of Mario Andretti's pit crew, Gary Bond of Redondo Beach, California. 1973 May. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives).

Well enough, but I wanted out of Indiana. I talked with Keith Fuller during a bureau visit and the head of personnel soon offered me a spot on the Financial News desk in New York in 1967. I decided early on it was not a good fit, so I was assigned to an office on the fifth floor where AP books were conceived, written and sent off to the printer. I also was offered a correspondent post in Atlantic City, but I wanted to stay in NYC.

After a couple of years in Books I was asked to join AP Sports where I became the first female with the

title of national sports writer. My main job was to take the jargon out of the copy and make stories more readable and more appealing to the myriad women who suffered weekend sports TV fatigue via their mates. I also was to write player features and sidebars for both cycles. Among my assignments: major LPGA and PGA events, the U.S. Tennis Open and three Olympics games. For what it's worth, I was the first woman to crack the all-male barrier to the Masters' writers' tent. I also was the first woman writer with an all-access pass to the Indy 500. This was before women won the right to the press box and the locker room. I loved the journey, but I was accepted more on the road than in the office.



**Karol in 1970
(AP Photo/Dan Grossi)**

After seven years in Sports, General News Editor Jack Cappon asked me to join his fold. Computers were about to write "30" to punched copy, and Jack and his Sunday Features writers were still tethered to the typewriter. So I back-read copy and moved APN into the electronic age via General Desk computers. I took leave in late summer of '78 to birth a son, Luc. I returned to APN later than I had promised and quit soon after to become a full-time mom. Jack was gracious through it all.

Eleven years later I came back to AP, this time to the mailed features pages under Dan Perkes. If I contributed nothing else, I revived regular AP coverage of U.S.

fashion shows that had languished for a decade or so. Seasonal shows in designer showrooms for a select group of publications were the norm, and I had to reestablish AP as a worthy player. It wasn't long before fashion and celebrity together exploded into an extravaganza known as Fashion Week that could not be ignored.

I eventually left AP for greener pastures in the fast-growing [dot.com](#) world. But like many in the field, prospects dimmed and I retired.

Would I do it all over again?

My J-school adviser warned that I was in for a lot of heavy lifting if I joined AP. Would I do it over? Surely, with caveats. For starters, I don't know a damn thing about the mechanics and the equipment of today's media. An AP note pad and pen or my Smith-Corona portable, and sometimes a battery-operated tape-recorder, met my needs. Interviews would be one-on-one, in person, without distractions of cameras, recorders and video. No email interviews. They deprive follow-up questions and deny the ability to observe the interviewee. Multi-tasking was not so much of an issue in my 25 (nearly) years as a reporter and editor.

I have few regrets and many happy memories. Among them are the many wonderful people who helped me through the years. I have probably a dozen strong editors to

thank. But two who stand out are Bob Price and Howard Heyn, two long-time editors of note in line bureaus who were moved to AP Books, allowing them to showcase their talents without pressure.

What are you doing these days?

I don't do anything really constructive these days. I love antiques auctions. I've made some superficial changes in my apartment and am trying to clear out some of the accumulation that is the bane of anyone living in the same place for 50 years. My son,



Karol with son Luc in 2016

Luc, graduated with a BA from Pomona College and an MBA from Columbia University. He's single (college debts to repay) and works on the media side of advertising in New York. I've raised two Poodles with love and outlived them both. Now I'm in the throes of finding a rescue, which isn't easy if you have specific needs (young adult hypoallergenic female.) What I've been reading about the explosion of rescue units via auctions of breeder dogs and their progeny is dismaying.

Travel is mostly domestic. But of what I've seen I'm a fan of Santa Fe and the Southwest. And of Venice. May climate change be reversed, or at least harnessed,

beginning in my lifetime. Fortunately, my space in the city is not subject to flooding. At least not yet. So I plan to hunker down.

Karol Stonger's email is - karol.stonger@gmail.com

Behind the headlines

On the California earthquakes

Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - All was fine here in Palm Springs. We were playing pickleball (of course) Friday evening when one of my buds yelled "earthquake"! We stopped the game, laid on the court to get a better feel for it, and looked up to see the court lights swaying back and forth. As a quake novice, I'm learning this was a long one, lasting almost 40 seconds, and it was more rolling than anything sudden. This one was 7.1, epicenter 180 miles north of here.

The day before, I was putting a coffee cup into my microwave oven, which is above the stove. As I am looking up, I started feeling dizzy. For a moment I couldn't figure out why, then I looked into the living room and saw a hanging lamp swinging back and forth. That was a 6.4, epicenter 170 miles to the north.

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Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - former Los Angeles bureau chief and ever the newsman, phoned the AP with firsthand reaction when he experienced the quakes while reading his paper in the backyard with trusty dog Atticus at his side. He was quoted in the AP story on the quake:

Andrew Lippman, who lives in suburban South Pasadena, was sitting outside and reading the paper when Friday's quake hit.

"It just started getting stronger and stronger, and I looked into my house and the lamp started to sway. I could see power lines swaying," he said. "This one seemed 45 (seconds)... I'm still straightening pictures."

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Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - I have lived in Southern California for some 50 years and thus have become a veteran of several major earthquakes. My first was the Feb. 9, 1971, Sylmar earthquake (magnitude 6.6) , still the most terrifying I can recall because it struck Los Angeles directly and caused enormous damage and deaths. Also, as a recent transplant from New Jersey, I did not know what was

happening. It's also memorable because it occurred during the Manson trial on the day that Susan Atkins testified to murdering Sharon Tate. I remember my friend and colleague, New York Daily News reporter Theo Wilson, who was staying at a hotel for the trial, calling me and exclaiming, "I think the astronauts just landed on the Hilton." Yes, the astronauts were in outer space too.

In later years, other quakes struck outside the city and we felt aftershocks. Still pretty scary. The Northridge Quake of 1994 was another killer - 6.8. I remember being terrified.

But the twin earthquakes of last week were different. The Fourth of July quake struck while I was in bed. I heard the whole house rattling. Then it stopped. Then it started again. Two sharp jolts. I waited. Was this The Big One?

When it stopped, I immediately asked Alexa (my bedside gadget) to tune in KNX News radio. I quickly learned there had been a major quake out in the Mojave desert, probably a 6.6 (later downgraded to 6.4). That's big, but very far away from Los Angeles. I followed reports but felt secure in that there had been only minor damage and no deaths at the epicenter in Ridgecrest. Now, we could go about our 4th of July celebrations and just expect a few aftershocks.

Wrong. On Friday night, July 5, I was in my third-floor home office, chatting on the phone with my AP New York colleague Edie Lederer when the shaking began again.

"I think we're having an aftershock," I said. Then as it gained power and continued for about 45 seconds, I began hyperventilating and said, "No, I think this is a real earthquake! I've got to go!" Of course, by the time I moved to duck for cover, it was over.

I signed onto Facebook immediately and within seconds I knew I was right. This was the real thing and it was bigger than the first - 7.1. I called a few friends to make sure they were OK and then began communicating with my Facebook family. Friends were signing in from everywhere. Was I OK? Yes, I was but I continued to be spooked. I turned on TV and there was the most comforting voice all of us wait for - Cal Tech scientist Dr. Lucy Jones, our own earthquake guru who manages to explain everything calmly and clearly. She said the first shaker apparently had been a "foreshock" preceding the main event. Very unusual, even to her. Reports of severe damage were coming in from journalists already in Ridgecrest.

Friday night I barely slept a wink, weighing my plans. I considered sleeping in my clothes (but didn't). I cancelled an appointment for Saturday and at dawn finally fell asleep. Now I realize that this was the first earthquake in which I could turn to digital companions - Alexa and Facebook - to make me feel I was not alone.

U.S. women's soccer victory has a special meaning



The United States women's national team celebrates after winning the World Cup final against the Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France, on Sunday, July 7. Alessandra Tarantino/AP Photo



United States' Megan Rapinoe holds the trophy celebrating at the end of the Women's World Cup final soccer match between US and The Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France, Sunday, July 7, 2019. The US defeated the Netherlands 2-0. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Kris Beardsley ([Email](#)) - I cried with joy today because the women of the U.S. soccer team are winners, I also cried because they are our nation's treasures. On the field, they are gold medal earners and the envy of all women soccer players. Off the field, they are legends - as they have been using their stardom and platform to become agents of change.

These women are fighting for equal pay, equal rights, and fair treatment. They are encouraging women - including young girls - to use their voice and to not be afraid to do so. They are speaking out against double standards, encouraging women to celebrate after scoring goals, and inspiring women to be outwardly proud of their accomplishments as much, or even more so, as men.

I connect with these women today not only because I was once a champion, albeit on a far smaller stage, but because the cause for which they identify with is

larger than themselves. And this is what motivates me and encourages me to be hopeful for the future. And to shed a tear or two, as perhaps, I may have also helped lead the way.

Soccer was a lifeline for me. It was one of the few places where I felt confident and absolutely accepted. It grew me - to be a team player, a hustler, a goalkeeper, a team captain, a most valuable player, and a leader.

My high school team - Central Bucks West - won two championships. Despite having to play on cow grazing fields because the school wouldn't let us use the boys' soccer stadium, my team succeeded, becoming state champions in 1988 during the first year girls' high school soccer was ever played in Pennsylvania.



Kris Beardsley

Soccer got me to college on a free ride. My dream was to play in Division One, so I applied to several top soccer schools. When the United States Military Academy at West Point's goalkeeper coach saw me at the Women and Girls in Soccer (WAGS) tournament in DC in the summer of 1988, he offered me a spot on the team. And, during my first year - notably, my plebe year - I became one of the youngest players to earn the MVP award.

So today was special for me, as it was for many other women soccer players. I'm two years shy of 50, and every year, except for 1991 when I was training at West Point, I've eagerly watched the FIFA World Cup Women's finals.

I remember watching Brandi Chastain score the winning penalty shot against China in 1999 and pull her shirt off in her iconic - and controversial - display of celebration. In 2015, I watched with envy as Abby Wambach kissed her wife after the US won the gold against Japan.

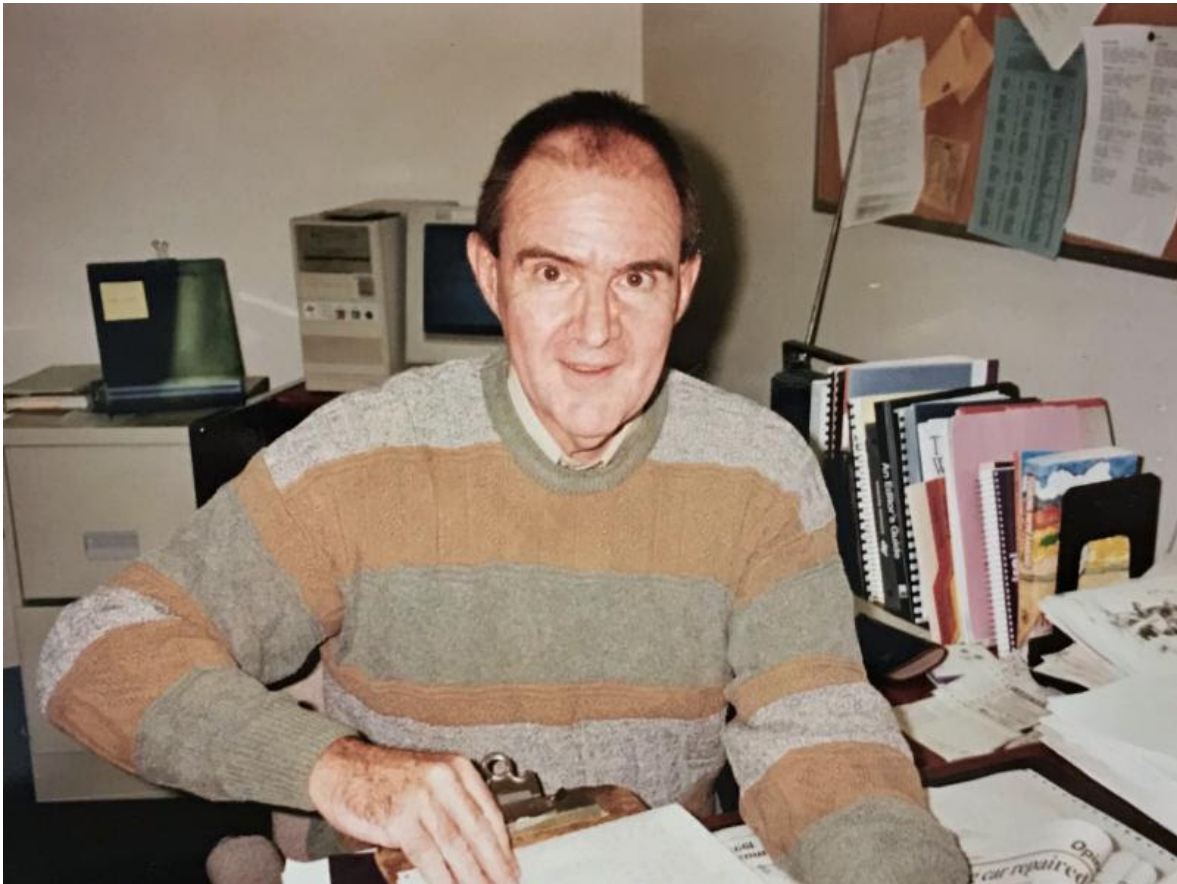
And, yes today, I gave myself a headache by crying my eyes out once again.

This current dream team - who's accepted the torch from every US Women's National Soccer team who's played before - did not fail to disappoint. With Megan Rapinoe and her purple hair rallying the team to victory with steadfast penalty shots. And, Alex Morgan, full of grit and resilience, who kept on fighting to win the ball and score game after game, even though she was a primary target of attack for the opposing team.

Thank you, US Women's National Soccer team.

(Kris Beardsley is the goddaughter of Linda and Paul Stevens and lives in Washington, D.C.)

Veteran AP newsman, author Richard Benke dies



By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - Veteran journalist and author Richard Benke is being remembered for never wavering from the challenges of chasing a good story and for

his dedication to accuracy during a career that spanned decades in newsrooms in California and New Mexico.

Benke died June 18 of Parkinson's-related dementia at an assisted care facility in Nevada, his family said. He was one day shy of his 77th birthday.

His passion for reporting and editing was born from an early love of writing. After growing up in Southern California, he majored in creative writing at Northwestern University before returning to work at the Pasadena Star-News.

He was hired by The Associated Press in 1975, starting what would be a long career with the news organization that saw him cover everything from breaking news in Los Angeles to illegal immigration along the New Mexico border.

He was tenacious with a knack for writing some of the finest leads, all while under the pressure that came along with working for a wire service, said Matt Mygatt, who worked with Benke in the Albuquerque bureau.

"He epitomized the AP, demanding absolute accuracy and speed in writing a story," Mygatt said. "He was like a junkyard dog - he wouldn't let go of a story until he had every detail and it was flawlessly written."

In Albuquerque and Los Angeles, Benke's status as a veteran newsman meant he was first in line for breaking in young reporters. He was known for setting the bar high.

Read more [here](#).

Learning from the maestro...

Chuck Lewis ([Email](#)) - I had transferred to the LA bureau from WDC and was settling into the general desk next to Dick Benke to get my brain around the flow of copy in Southern California. Clearly, he was the maestro and I had a lot to learn.

The AP bureau in Los Angeles was located on the rickety second floor of Los Angeles Herald Examiner's newsprint warehouse, across the street from the newspaper's main building, noted for its artistry and statuary.

Suddenly, KA-BOOM! The bureau shook and swayed at the noise. I looked at my tutor next to me, wonderment in my eyes.. Could it be, on my first day in SoCAL?

Dick didn't even look up from his computer screen or remove the pencil he was chewing on and mumbled, "Oh, that was about a 3.3."

Wowsers! A shaker on my first day at work in Los Angeles! I had read up on recent seismic events in Southern California and knew that folks were a bit nervous in the aftermath of the 1971 Sylmar quake that killed more than 60 people. News editor Steve Loeper had written a detailed bureau guide on how the staff should proceed when a big temblor hit. Earthquakes were in the air.

I grabbed a phone to share the bulletin with my old chums back in DC, keeping an eye and ear peeled to see how my new California colleagues would handle the story. But I didn't get very far until Dick let the cat out of the bag: "Put the phone down. That commotion was merely a roll of newsprint rolling off a delivery truck and into the paper warehouse."

Smirks and snickers round the newsroom. The newbie had been had!

Connecting mailbox

Remembering a historic day with Ed Shearer

Norm Clarke (Email) - The recent death of Ed Shearer brought back memories of the day we were assigned to Hank Aaron's bid to tie or break Babe Ruth's legendary home run record of 714 in the opener of the 1974 baseball season.

From our front-row press box seats at Riverfront Stadium, I was handling the lead and Ed, the AP's veteran sports ace from the Atlanta bureau, was in charge of calling New York Sports each time Aaron came to the plate. On that day, no story in sports was bigger, and The AP and United Press International wanted bragging rights to which wire service giant was first with the story.

Ed was to relay what Aaron did in each at-bat. If Aaron hit a home run, a New York Sports staffer would press a button on a computer and the news flash would go out to The AP's 1,500 members, in the U.S. and abroad.

I had met Ed the day before at Riverfront. He suggested we have a couple adult beverages that night, on the eve of the opener, to go over our duties.

After a couple beers, you felt like you knew Ed your entire life. He was a pro's pro, a southern gentleman and a joy to be around.

I was one year removed from Montana. No pressure, right? It was my biggest test and I was in that role because of AP sports editor Wick Temple's faith in me.

How did I get there? In the mid-1960s, when I was sports editor of the Helena (Mont.) Independent-Record, Wick was Helena-AP's youthful chief of bureau. One night over cocktails on Last Chance Gulch, Helena's main street, Wick planted the seed: I should start thinking about working for The AP, he said.

For years I dreamed of breaking big stories for The AP. Thanks to Paul Freeman, Helena chief of bureau, and Bill Winter, who ran that Cincinnati-AP office, I had my big chance on April 4, 1974.

A couple hours before the first pitch, Ed and I were walking toward the press box elevator to check in with New York Sports. Suddenly, Aaron's familiar face appeared in the corridor, amid dozens of media hoping to get any pre-game tidbits from the slugger on what could be a historic day.

Aaron, dressed in street clothes, smiled when he saw Ed. Aaron stopped and they exchanged quick pleasantries before Hank turned serious. "Time to go to war," he said, before excusing himself.

He seemed downright cool for a guy at the epicenter of a major controversy. The Braves had wanted to hold Aaron out of the first three games of the season in Cincinnati, so the record homers might come in Atlanta in the next series. But baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn ruled that wasn't going to happen.

Speculation raged over whether Aaron might go through the motions so he save it for the home crowd.

Aaron ended the suspense quickly. As the Braves put two runners on base against Reds' Jack Billingham, a jolt of electricity surged through a capacity crowd of 52,000 at Riverfront Stadium at the sight of Aaron in the on-deck circle.

Shearer dialed New York Sports.

On his first swing of the season (the count was three balls and a called strike -- Aaron ripped into a Billingham fast ball.

"Oh my God," Shearer sputtered into the phone. "I think it's out of here."

The line drive shot went over Pete Rose's head in right-center field and cleared the fence.

Full disclosure: I nearly missed the big moment. When Aaron was in the on-deck circle, my stomach was in full swirl. Something was amiss and it wasn't just nerves. My allergies were so bad, I had made the mistake of taking an allergy pill an hour earlier, on top of an upset stomach. I dashed to the press box restroom. I'll spare you the details. When I staggered back to my seat, fortunately for me, Aaron was still at bat. A pitch or two later, history was made. I've never forgotten how close I came to missing it.

The Reds rallied to win, 7-6, in the ninth, but the score was anti-climactic. Hank Aaron had drawn even with Babe Ruth and would break the record four days later in Atlanta, Ed's home base.

I was happy for Ed when Aaron got No. 715. Covering two events of that magnitude was a rare double for any sportswriter.

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Learning not to seek quotes in middle of doubleheader

Peter Mattiace ([Email](#)) - Mark Huffman's Tommy Lasorda story (in last Thursday's Connecting) reminded me of an early major-league assignment as Pittsburgh correspondent. I was filling in for Al Robinson for a doubleheader, which, of course, meant covering Chuck Tanner, the nicest and most optimistic guy in baseball.

I knew nothing about locker-room protocol, except that I saw all the reporters rush to Tanner's office for quotes right after a game. So, after the Pirates dropped the first game miserably, I ran straight to Tanner's office between games, only to be stopped short by a quiet room and just Tanner and the trainer looking at me blankly. as if to say, "What do you want?" I guessed reporters didn't go there mid-doubleheader.

I was pretty embarrassed and mumbled, "I, ah, just wanted to know if you could say something optimistic about THAT game." The nicest guy in baseball didn't like that. Still, I waited until after the second game, another loss, and returned to Tanner's office, this time burying myself among the other reporters. It didn't fool Tanner. He immediately stopped mid-sentence and pointed at me:

He said, "...And I want to talk to YOU!" I said, "I know, I'm here to apologize." After I did, he let bygones be bygones, often shaking my hand and saying hello when just passing by, even during doubleheaders.

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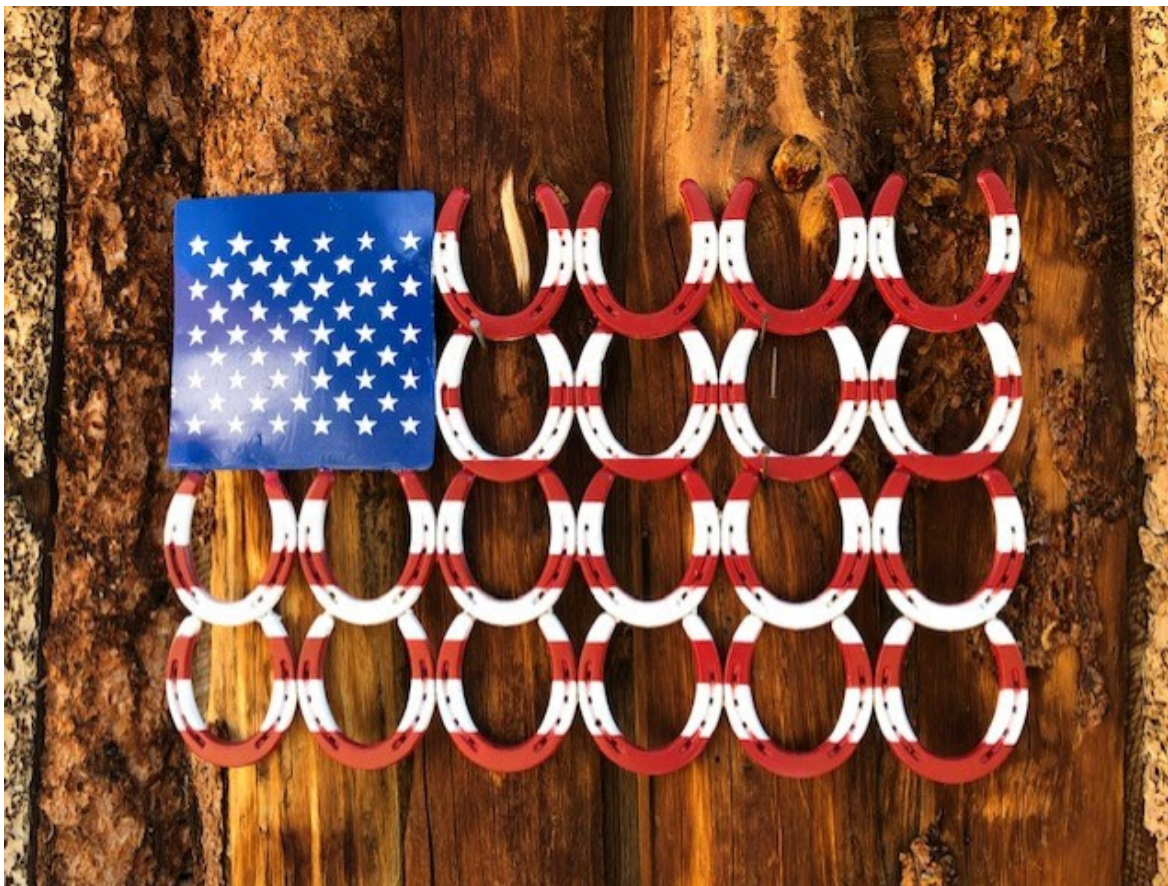
Connecting sky shot - near Loveland, Colorado



John Epperson ([Email](#)) - Mammatus clouds which sometime spawn tornadoes, fill the sky in northern Colorado near city of Loveland on Fourth of July, last Thursday night. Severe thunderstorm warnings and tornado watches were called by NWS for most the holiday evening.

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4th of July flag & a side of history



Norm Clarke ([Email](#)) - My wife Cara and I are at her mother's ranch near Westcliffe, Colorado. I thought this horseshoe flag on the horse barn was a fitting post for the 4th of July. My dad, Charlie Clarke, was among the early homesteaders and horsemen on Cherry Creek, northeast of my hometown of Terry, Montana from 1914 to 1939. At one point, he rounded up 500 horses near the Terry Badlands at one point and sold them to the U.S. government during WWI. Many thousands of Montana horses gave their lives on the European battlefields, some of them descendants of horses that came north from Texas on the great trail drives. The flag was created by a Colorado artist. Westcliffe is known for its horse ranches.

Best of the Week

Searing photo of migrant drownings launches all-formats AP coverage across borders



The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his nearly 2-year-old daughter Valeria lie on the bank of the Rio Grande in Matamoros, Tamaulipas state, Mexico, June 24, 2019, after they drowned trying to cross the river to Brownsville, Texas. AP editors spotted the photo by freelance reporter Julia Le Duc and decided to make it the centerpiece of all-formats coverage on the victims, their family, and the circumstances of their death in the unfolding border crisis. AP Photo / Julia Le Duc

When New York photo editor Pablo Salinas alerted colleagues to the image of a drowned father and daughter from El Salvador lying face-down in the Rio Grande

after they tried to cross into Texas, it was clear it captured, like few other images, the dangers faced by migrants and asylum-seekers trying to make it to the United States.

AP's much-applauded decision to acquire and publish that image, showing the stark and often-hidden reality of migrants dying by the hundreds each year along the U.S. border, showcased AP's significant role in shaping the news agenda.

It also stands as a lesson for AP staff with several important takeaways, highlighting the role of editors to find, gather and acquire important images for AP's global audience, the role of AP's Top Stories Hub to coordinate and amplify news stories, and the value of rapid response by journalists in the region to verify, report and provide context for any news-making picture.

Finally, it showed how the thoughtful implementation of AP's standards across all platforms and social media can allow AP to stand out.

It all started when Salinas first spotted the arresting image taken by freelance reporter Julia Le Duc on the website of La Jornada, the Mexican newspaper that originally published it. A Salvadoran man, Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez - frustrated because the family was unable to present themselves to U.S. authorities and request asylum - attempted to swim his family across the river on Sunday, June

23, with his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria. Father and daughter were caught by the strong current, their bodies found the next day. Le Duc's photo showed them face down in the water along a grassy riverbank, his black shirt hiked to his chest and the tiny girl tucked inside. Her slender arm lay draped over his neck, suggesting they clung to each other in their final moments.

Salinas pointed out the photo to Alyssa Goodman, a top stories photo specialist, who brought it to attention of Director of Photography David Ake. Ake knew that there was still an important standards discussion to be had among senior managers about publishing it, but he asked Goodman to pursue licensing immediately.

Goodman contacted the AP's regional photo desk in Mexico City to reach out to La Jornada, where the editor promised to share it the following day once the paper had run it in print. Eduardo Verdugo, chief photographer for Mexico and Central America, persuaded La Jornada to send it to him that same day just to have it ready, and to provide it to AP exclusively. He also got contact information for Le Duc, then he, along with Mexico City photographer Rebecca Blackwell and senior video producer Alexis Triboulard, asked her for rights to other photographs as well as video images.

In New York, Managing Editor Brian Carovillano and Vice President for Standards John Daniszewski conferred Tuesday morning on the image with photo leaders, Goodman and top stories director Paul Haven. They agreed that it was a valuable and moving image with high newsworthiness, and that the AP needed to not just run

the photo but make it the centerpiece of strong all-format coverage. The photo was the story, and we needed text and video coverage around it that explained how the migrants' bodies got there. AP decided the photo and story would appear on AP's own public-facing platforms, [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) and the AP mobile app.

For members and customers, the image was sent "online-out," meaning editors of those organizations could decide individually whether to publish it.

AP also considered how to handle the photo on social media, deciding not to publish it directly on Facebook but opting to move the image on Twitter, a place where people deliberately go for open debate and even sharp elbows. Unlike Facebook, Twitter does not provide a way to de-emphasize or black out a sensitive photo.

At the time of the standards discussion, Haven went to work encouraging his top stories desk and Latin America to dig into reporting about it vigorously - who the victims were, how they died and the context around their deaths. The story accompanying the image increased its power. Peter Orsi, acting news director for Mexico and Central America, anchored the text story from Mexico City with contributions from the field.

In San Martin, El Salvador, the all-formats crew of correspondent Marcos Alemán, David Barraza and Salvador Melendez tracked down the drowned man's mother the

day the photograph was published and confirmed details of how he and the girl died, including that she had thrown herself in the water and they were swept away by the current when he tried to save her. They also covered Martínez's widow as she returned to El Salvador from Mexico, and produced a profile of Altavista, the humble bedroom community in San Martín where Martínez and his daughter lived.

In Matamoros, Blackwell and Mexico City colleagues, reporter Chris Sherman and videographer Gerardo Carrillo, interviewed immigration officials and migrants camped out at the river who have been waiting months in some cases to claim asylum - including a woman who had met the family hours before the ill-fated crossing and described them as "scared," with "panic on their faces." The team also staked out the funeral home where they captured images of the widow and the bodies being loaded for transport overland and ultimately back home to El Salvador.

The impact of the photo and story would be hard to overstate. The initial photos generated some 1,800 downloads, while the video scored more than 1,000. The story of the drownings generated more than 500,000 pageviews within 24 hours.

From Pope Francis to Democratic presidential candidates during the debate, expressions of sadness and outrage were swift. The New York Times ran the photo prominently on the front page of its print edition, following up with a story about why it decided to publish it. (AP also distributed its own explanation in a blog.)

There was some scattered criticism of AP's decision to distribute the picture. It was not however shared by Martínez's grieving mother, who felt it showed her son in a positive light.

"It fills me with tenderness," Rosa Ramírez said of the photo. "You can see how he protected her," she continued. "They died in each other's arms."

For an outstanding multinational effort in finding, recognizing and acquiring Le Duc's tragic and important image, and presenting it to AP's worldwide audience with context and sensitivity, Salinas, Alemán, Verdugo, Blackwell, Sherman, Carrillo and Orsi share AP's Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

AP: Smoke from US wildfires boosting health risk for millions



People wear masks while walking through San Francisco's Financial District in smoky air drifting south from a wildfire, Nov. 9, 2018. AP reported that a broad swath of the West, including more than 300 counties with tens of millions of people, is subject to the effects of wildfire smoke, and connecting scientists' projections with health problems already hitting vulnerable populations. AP Photo / Eric Risberg

After last year's deadly wildfires in California brought weeks of sooty skies to cities along the West Coast, the AP decided to take a closer look into the broader impacts of the massive smoke plumes.

Billings, Montana, correspondent and environment team member Matthew Brown teamed with Denver video journalist P. Solomon Banda to produce an all-formats

report on the growing public health threat from wildfire smoke.

Brown was able to draw from a growing body of research that points to where smoke impacts will be worst - a broad swath of the West that includes more than 300 counties with tens of millions of people.

By talking with doctors and health experts in communities inundated with smoke last year, he was able to connect the scientists' projections with health problems already hitting vulnerable populations.

He also tracked down a San Francisco family whose children have breathing problems. The family described their unsuccessful efforts to find protective masks and an adequate air filter to shield the children from smoke produced by a fire about 150 miles away, and how they temporarily fled the city in search of clean air.

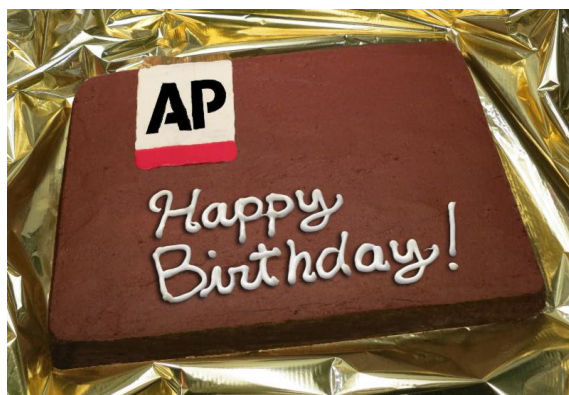
Banda interviewed scientists and a health official in Colorado while video journalist Terry Chea in San Francisco interviewed the family. The package also featured photos by Eric Risberg in San Francisco and Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska.

The report was a hit with customers, landing on 15 front pages in the West, including the The Mercury News, the Marin Independent Journal and The Denver

Post, while the video saw numerous downloads.

For diligent reporting that provided a deeper look into how wildfires affect communities throughout the region, Brown and Banda earn this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Norm Clarke - normclarke@me.com

Stories of interest

Opinion: Newspapers remain faithful watchdogs of American democracy (Colorado Springs

Gazette)

By David Ramsey

Max Bentley, crusading editor, devised a superb idea to cleanse Houston of the Ku Klux Klan in the early 1920s.

He sent an undercover reporter to Klan meetings, and the reporter covered the proceedings the same way he covered gatherings of the City Council. The difference? City Council members never scheduled cross burnings.

The reporter named names in the Houston Chronicle, exposing prominent citizens. Residents were rescued by warnings of scheduled beatings. Mass outrage against the Klan ensued.

The cornered Klan threatened mayhem to the Chronicle, but Bentley and staff continued their courageous, relentless crusade. The undercover reporter's identity remained a forever secret.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Opinion: A Reporter for Whom 'Burn in Hell' Meant a Job Well Done (New York Times)

By Dan Barry

KINGSTON, R.I. - Where the black hearse had stopped, the honor guard began: nearly 60 journalists standing in silent formation outside a church on a rural New England road. On another morning we might be enemy combatants, but here we stood in solidarity, representing television stations, radio outlets, newspapers. The media.

One of ours had died. Jim Taricani had been a Rhode Island television reporter so formidable that Providence Journal reporters like me would dread six o'clock each night, for fear of another Taricani scoop about the scandal du jour in Pawtucket, Woonsocket or the State House. He was 69 when he died late last month, and had been contending with health problems for as long as most of us had known him.



Jim Taricani in 2004.

**Photo/Victoria
Arocho/Associated Press**

Now came the pause just before the gray-gloved pallbearers present the coffin to the white-robed priest - when death sheds its last vestige of abstraction. And in that solemn stillness, a man standing on the quiet road shouted a full-throated expletive that included the choice:

"Burn in hell!"

None of the journalists ran to confront him. After all, he had merely exercised his freedom of speech. A few of us even imagined how Mr. Taricani might have relished the boorish disruption of somber ritual.

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

The Final Word

Your ZIP Code Might Determine How Long You Live -and the Difference Could Be Decades (Time)

BY JAMIE DUCHARME AND ELIJAH WOLFSON

Predicting lifespan isn't an exact science. U.S. life expectancy is currently estimated at 78.6 years, but that one number doesn't tell the whole story. Genes, gender, lifestyle and luck all play an important part, but it's impossible to know exactly how much and in what proportion each ingredient influences a person's longevity.

The single best predictor, though, might not be one of these factors at all. A growing body of evidence suggests it may be a person's zip code that holds the most information about how long they'll live. Researchers from the New York University School of Medicine recently used data from NYU Langone Health's City Health Dashboard to find that 56 of the U.S.' 500 largest cities are home to people who can expect to live at least 20 fewer years than those in other neighborhoods, even if they're just blocks or miles away.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 8, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 8, the 189th day of 2019. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 8, 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.)

On this date:

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

In 1911, cowgirl "Two-Gun Nan" Aspinwall became the first woman to make a solo trip by horse across the United States, arriving in New York 10 months after departing San Francisco.

In 1947, demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1965, Canadian Pacific Air Lines Flight 21, a Douglas DC-6B, crashed in British Columbia after the tail separated from the fuselage; all 52 people on board were killed in what authorities said was the result of an apparent bombing.

In 1972, the Nixon administration announced a deal to sell \$750 million in grain to the Soviet Union. (However, the Soviets were also engaged in secretly buying subsidized American grain, resulting in what critics dubbed "The Great Grain Robbery.")

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford announced he would seek a second term of office.

In 1986, Kurt Waldheim was inaugurated as president of Austria despite controversy over his alleged ties to Nazi war crimes. Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, widely regarded as father of the nuclear navy, died in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

In 2000, Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 7-6 (3) for her first Grand Slam title, becoming the first black female champion at Wimbledon since Althea Gibson in 1957-58.

In 2011, former first lady Betty Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93. Atlantis thundered into orbit on a cargo run that would close out the three-decade U.S. space shuttle program.

In 2017, at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, world powers lined up against President Donald Trump on climate change, reaffirming their support for international efforts to fight global warming. On trade, the U.S. and international partners endorsed open markets while acknowledging that countries had a right to put up barriers to block unfair practices. After their first face-to-face meeting, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he thought Trump believed his denials of Russian meddling in the U.S. presidential vote.

Ten years ago: Group of Eight leaders, including President Barack Obama, pledged to dramatically cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as they met in L'Aquila, Italy.

South Korea blamed North Korea for cyberattacks targeting its websites as well as those in the U.S.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama appealed to Congress for \$3.7 billion in emergency spending to deal with the immigration crisis on the nation's southern border, where unaccompanied children were showing up by the thousands (Republican lawmakers rejected the request). Washington became the second state to allow people to buy marijuana legally in the U.S. without a doctor's note. Germany handed Brazil its heaviest World Cup loss ever with a 7-1 rout in the semifinals that stunned the host nation.

One year ago: A woman who was poisoned in southwest England died, eight days after she may have touched a contaminated item containing the same type of military-grade nerve agent used to poison a former Russian spy and his daughter in the area in March. Divers rescued four of the 12 boys who'd been trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand with their soccer coach for more than two weeks. (The remaining eight boys and their coach were rescued over the next two days.) Actor and singer Tab Hunter died at the age of 86.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Steve Lawrence is 84. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 75. Rock musician Jaimoe Johanson is 75. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 73. Actress Kim Darby is 72. Actress Jonelle Allen is 71. Children's performer Raffi is 71. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 70. Actress Anjelica Huston is 68. Writer Anna Quindlen is 67. Actor Kevin Bacon is 61. Actor Robert Knepper is 60. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 58. Country singer Toby Keith is 58. Rock musician Graham Jones (Haircut 100) is 58. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 57. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 57. Actor Rocky Carroll is 56. Actor Corey Parker is 54. Actor Lee Tergesen is 54. Actor Michael B. Silver is 52. Actor Billy Crudup is 51. Actor Michael Weatherly is 51. Singer Beck is 49. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 49. Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is 46. Actress Kathleen Robertson is 46. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 44. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEE'-loh vehn-tih-MEEL'-yuh) is 42. Rock musician Tavis Werts is 42. Singer Ben Jelen (YEL'-in) is 40. Actor Lance Gross is 38. Actress Sophia Bush is 37. Rock musician Jamie Cook (Arctic Monkeys) is 34. Actor Jake McDorman is 33. Actress Maya Hawke is 21. Actor Jaden Smith is 21.

Thought for Today: "History must stay open, it is all humanity." - William Carlos Williams, American author and poet (1883-1963).

Connecting calendar



July 27 - Services for **Ed Shearer**, a longtime AP sportswriter, will be held Saturday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, 4795 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: **Lazarus Ministries**, 2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. The family said that so we can thank you, please have acknowledgments sent to: 130 Kimberly Rd, Canton, GA 30115. A family contact is Sheri Browne - sheribrowne@att.net

August 6 - A scattering of ashes for former AP Concord and Indianapolis bureau chief **Dave Swearingen**, who died in 2018, will be held Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Reid State Park, 375 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548. Those attending should meet at the Todd's Point Parking lot and will head over to Half Mile Beach. While there is no formal service, brief remarks will be made. Dave's son Tim can be reached at timswearingen71@gmail.com

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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