



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - August 05, 2019

1 message

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

Mon, Aug 5, 2019 at 8:57 AM

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Connecting

August 05, 2019

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Colleagues,

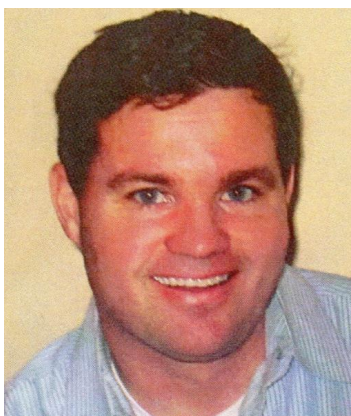
Good Monday morning on this the 5th day of August 2019,

The Connecting spotlight shines on **Peter Jackson** as the subject of today's Monday Profile - and his account of a rewarding career in just two AP bureaus during his 38-year career: Augusta, Maine, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

We come off a weekend of tragic shootings in El Paso and Dayton - and two of our Connecting colleagues, **Beth Grace** and **Adolphe Bernotas**, share their thoughts.

We are saddened to report that **Dan Even**, longtime AP newsman, correspondent and bureau chief, died on Saturday at the age of 76. We bring you his obituary that his four daughters composed for their dad. If you would like to send a note to his wife **Janice Even**, her email is - jmeven@yahoo.com

Please join me in offering condolences to our colleague **Bruce Richardson** on the death of his 57 years, **Helen**. He wrote her obituary that appears in today's issue. You can send a note to Bruce at - berichnj@aol.com



Finally, my Sunday Spotlight for my hometown newspaper (The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa) focuses on a remarkable Iowa basketball family - the Goodmans - and how they're coping with the recent death of **Tommy John Goodman**, 52, who a year earlier was voted by the Des Moines Register as one of the top 50 boys basketball players in Iowa history.

Click [here](#) to read the story. Tommy's dad **Tom Goodman** is a Connecting colleague.

Have a great week!

Paul

Connecting Profile

Peter Jackson



Renee and Peter at the beach in Maine in 2017.

ETTERS, Pa. - While many of my AP contemporaries answered the siren call of covering news in far-flung locations across the country and the globe, I found the continuity of working in only two bureaus during my 38-year career gratifying.

My parents moved around a lot. By the time I completed four years in the Air Force and graduated from Penn State with an English degree, I'd lived in more than a dozen places including Maine, Texas, New York, Alabama, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Germany.

Not long after I joined the AP's Maine capitol bureau, I discovered my affinity for digging into state politics and government - the level at which I believe citizens are in the best position to shape laws that affect them. My career as a correspondent was almost evenly divided between Augusta and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In all, I covered 11 gubernatorial election campaigns and worked the national conventions in San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia.

Back in 1978, I was two years out of college, working at a suburban Philadelphia newspaper more for the experience than my paltry paycheck, when one of the many query letters I had sent out received a reply from the late Jon Kellogg, then the

Northern New England bureau chief. Kellogg liked my clips and hired me to fill one of three full-time positions in Augusta.

Jim Longley was the first governor I had ever met. I was anchoring the Maine report on a solo weekend shift when he knocked on the bureau door and introduced himself. Longley was the nation's only independent governor at the time and a former insurance man with the gift of gab, although I cannot remember what we talked about.

Outside the statehouse, I wrote extensively about the negotiations that resulted in congressional approval of a settlement of Maine Indians' longstanding claim to 12.5 million acres - about two-thirds of the state which they said white settlers had stolen or cheated out of them. The 1980 settlement was worth \$81.5 million - cash to buy 300,000 acres and a \$27 million trust fund.

Another unusual story I covered was the 1985 commercial plane crash that killed Samantha Smith, the photogenic 10-year-old who wrote a letter to then-Soviet leader Yuri Andropov expressing her fear of a nuclear war, setting off a bilateral exchange that received international attention. Samantha had been cast in a TV series with Robert Wagner just before she and her father perished in the fiery accident not far from where they lived.



Hammering nails on a snowy day in January 2019 to frame a wall in the duplex we were building for Habitat for Humanity.

In 1996, personal and professional forces clashed - my first marriage ended in divorce and the correspondent position in Harrisburg that I had long coveted became open. Philadelphia COB George Zucker promoted me to head what was then a six-person bureau.

Harrisburg is the political vortex of Pennsylvania, the fifth most populous state with nearly 13 million residents and a \$34 billion state budget. One of the oldest states, it has a complicated history and a reputation scarred by one scandal after another.

"Public corruption is one of our ongoing traditions," John Baer, a political columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer, wrote in his 2012 book "On the Front Lines of Pennsylvania Politics."

In the wee hours of a July night in 2005, just before departing for their summer vacation, lawmakers and Gov. Ed Rendell signed huge pay raises for themselves, judges and other state officials without public review or debate. The move brought

scathing newspapers editorials across the state and raucous citizen protests featuring a 25-inflatable pink pig. The raises were repealed four months later, and several top lawmakers were later voted out of office.

More far-reaching was then-Attorney General Tom Corbett's corruption probe in the House of Representatives, which helped the Republican get elected to a single term as governor in 2010. His prosecutors won more than a dozen convictions of leaders and staffers in both parties, including prison terms for GOP Speaker John Perzel and his Democratic counterpart, Bill DeWeese. Democrats were targeted for illegally paying or receiving taxpayer-funded bonuses for campaign work, while Republicans were convicted of tapping public funds to illegally develop technology to improve their election odds.

Since I retired in 2016, I've done little formal writing, but I read three daily newspapers and regularly share lunches with my former comrades in the Harrisburg newsroom. I miss the daily repartee and the mental acuity that good reporters have.

Because of the talent and tirelessness of the two remaining AP staffers - Marc Levy and Mark Scolforo - impactful stories are still being written out of Harrisburg. I'm grateful to others who have helped me along the way, including former writing coach Barbara King, longtime Philadelphia COB Sally Hale, Northern New England COB Larry Laughlin and Philadelphia news editor Larry Rosenthal (who retired August 1). The late Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Paul Vathis was a good friend; I wrote his A-wire obituary.

I have plenty to occupy my time.

I'm a volunteer for the local Habitat for Humanity. I worked from January's muddy snow to June helping build a duplex in the city of York that is providing home ownership to low-income families willing to share in the construction. I'm now helping rehabilitate a condemned row house built before the Civil War. It's hard work for no pay, but it has its own rewards.



Most of our extended family on a trip to Disney World in 2018. Renee and I are in the right rear.

My wife Renee and I have four children and 11 grandchildren between us. Most of them live within a few miles of us and we see them frequently, most memorably on a Disney World vacation last year.

I'm also an amateur wood worker and have a basement shop where I make things like small tables and cabinetry, and I tend a small vegetable garden that specializing in cayenne peppers.

Peter Jackson's email is - peterkjackson5@gmail.com

Dan Even, veteran AP newsman and bureau chief, dies at 76

Daniel Robert Even, age 76, beloved son of Buck and Eileen Even, passed from this mortal realm on August 3, 2019, leaving behind thousands of baseball cards and old newspapers.

Dan began his journalism career as a sports stringer when he was 16 years old at the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque, Iowa. He graduated from Wahlert High School and went on to graduate from Loras College in 1965. In 1970, he moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where he began his lifelong career with The Associated Press. He began as a Sports Editor and in 1973 was named News Editor.

Dan had his first taste of crawfish when he moved his family to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1977, where he was the Capital Correspondent. He never did learn how to peel and eat crawfish; maybe that's why he was transferred to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1984, and continued his role as the Capital Correspondent. His

crawfish skills still lacking, he was named the Bureau Chief of the Albuquerque, New Mexico Associated Press office, and despite no corn fields, he and his family lived at the base of Sandia Mountains until he left on medical leave. From then on, he called Phoenix, AZ and Dubuque, IA home.



Dan and Janice in July

The Iowa native leaves behind his wife of 47 years, Janice Kerper Even, as well as his four daughters, Kathy Even, Julie Clancy, Terri O'Brien, and Carrie Lynne Habel. Dan taught them all everything there was to know about sports. Dan coached all four of his daughters in various sports, but his passion was always baseball, and he spent many a vacation taking his girls to different Major League Baseball stadiums, teaching them the appreciation of AM Radio on those long road trips. Who knew you could listen to an entire baseball game on the radio, static and all?

Dan's love of baseball turned into a family business, Princess Sports Cards, named after his daughters. Before his girls could read or write, they knew how to sort baseball cards and score a Major League Baseball game. He was most proud that he taught his daughters the love of America's favorite pastime and to never swing at the first pitch - wait for a strike, he would say. His sons-in-law, Danny Clancy, David O'Brien, and Todd Habel will be eternally grateful! He also leaves behind his big brother Rick and wife Debbie, and his youngest sister Jane.

Dan, a.k.a., Pop Pop, leaves behind his 13 beloved grandchildren, who he affectionately referred to as his "pals," and 4 great grandchildren. They will forever miss their trips to the library, playing Uno and Sorry but will especially miss their visits about "The Pond of Life" and his attempts to teach them patience while fishing.

Dan, who couldn't give a damn about most material things, and had zero working knowledge

of the Kardashians, took fashion cues from no one. His signature everyday look was his: plain pocketed t-shirt designed by the fashion mogul "K-Mark", most likely a blue light special, his "jorts", a.k.a., jean shorts, which he would relish knowing they are back in style, white ankle socks, worn out untied boat shoes, all perfectly paired with a St. Louis Cardinal baseball cap.

Dan had a lifelong affair with horses and his beloved St. Louis Cardinals. He would tell us he was "at the office" but we all knew that was code for being at the nearest track. You must love a man that taught his girls how to handicap a horse race, and more importantly, to save your losing tickets from the ponies because it was a tax write off.



Dan and two great-grandchildren

Dan had a love/hate relationship with tennis. I am sure if you visit the Millcreek clubhouse in Jackson, MS you will find remnants of broken tennis rackets scattered about and hanging from the trees.

Dan will be having a reunion with his parents, Buck and Eileen, and his sister, Nancy. Finally, the foursome needed for a good game of Euchre! We are certain they will have a tall glass of milk with ice in it waiting for him, or better yet, a pilsner of cold, dark beer, and all the Dr. Pepper he can drink.

Dan leaves behind a hell of a lot of stuff his family doesn't know what to do with, so if you are looking for an old RC Cola can with baseball stats, some really hard pink stick gum, and lord knows how many books, you should wait the appropriate amount of time and get in touch with the family.

Tomorrow will be fine.

Helen Richardson, wife of Bruce Richardson, dies at 81

Bruce Richardson ([Email](#)) - a retired AP Human Resources executive, lost his wife of nearly 57 years on Saturday when she passed away at a hospital in New Jersey. Helen S. Richardson, 81, was a news person too when she and Bruce met in 1961 in her hometown of Dixon, IL. Bruce had moved there from his home in Southern Illinois to become sports editor of the local afternoon paper. The following year, they eloped.

Helen was a former announcer and news reporter for WSDR radio station in Dixon and was also a correspondent for the Rockford, IL, Morning News. When she and her family moved to the East Coast in the early 1970s, she then turned her career to helping educate children and spent the next 26 years working at Voorhees School in the Old Bridge, NJ, education system before retiring in 1998. Her parents were Greek and she was very proud of her heritage.



They had two children, Terri Lynn Campbell and her husband, Jeff of Sayreville and Kelly Anne Bera and her husband, Joe, of Parlin. A son, Robert Allen, died at birth. She was Yiayia (grandmother) to Jake and Christian Campbell and to Maggie and Taylor Bera. She reveled in following the grandkids' activities and she and Bruce traveled to many parts of the country to watch sporting events the boys were involved in or theatrical accomplishments that the girls were participating in.

Helen is survived by one brother, Charles Sklavanitis and wife, Alice, in Chicago. She was a Thea (aunt) to nephew, Chuck Sklavanitis of Katy, TX, and nieces, Dianne Leonard and Julie Parisi, from the Chicago area.

The wake will be Monday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Old Bridge Funeral Home in Old Bridge, NJ and the funeral will be Tuesday at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, South River at 11 a.m. We ask that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Helen's name are suggested to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, at www.jdrf.org.

Your reactions to tragic weekend of gun-death shootings

Beth Grace ([Email](#)) - bureau chief in Kansas City and Albany during her 20-year AP career -

I will pray today for the victims in Dayton and El Paso.

I will pray again tomorrow for the next round of innocents mowed down by someone with a gun.

I will pray for the victims' families and for the law enforcement officers who rush in when others run out.

And then I will pray for the lawmakers.

I will pray for the elected men and women who refuse to take action.

I will pray for the lawmakers who can help stop this but consider a donation more important than a human life.

I will pray for those who think lives of those who are not white are less worthy than those who are.

I will pray for a miracle.

I will pray for a change of mind.

I will pray for a change of heart.

I will pray for action.

And then I will take action.

I will send donations to candidates who care, who think human beings are more important than a fat campaign account.

I will protest.

I will march.

I will call and write to my representatives until they beg me to stop.

And I'll keep calling and writing after that.

And then I will vote.

I will VOTE.

WE all will vote.

We will do what our lawmakers are too terrified or smug to do.

We will vote for those who not only say they love their neighbor, they act on it.

We will rise up in the only way we all can protect our neighbors and our families.

We will end this nightmare.

Donate.

Act.

Vote.

Let's fix this. Together.

-0-

Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - in a letter to editor submitted to Concord Monitor:

Editor,

Slaughter by Second Amendment apparently is such casual news that a massacre of 20 Walmart shoppers doesn't rate page 1. Except for a tease on Sunday's front page, the Texas carnage account is relegated to page 2.

What will move cowardly members of Congress, state legislatures, governors to contain gun violence and domestic white-power and lunatic terrorism? Massacres at NRA conventions? Republican and Democratic national or state party conventions? The World Series? Superbowl? Body counts higher than double digits?

Connecting mailbox

Hello out there, hello! Did teletypes affect your hearing?

Doug Tucker ([Email](#)) - I'm glad Mike Harris, my friend and LA Olympics roomie, looks back so fondly at the relentless clackety-clack-clack of those old teletype printers (Friday's Connecting). Next time we get together we'll wax nostalgic. Provided, of course, I can hear what Mike is saying. Without the hearing aids that were probably made necessary by those incredibly noisy newsroom antiques, I won't.

Several years ago I finally consulted an otologist. My wife was tired of having to repeat half of everything she said. I was tired of watching TV alone. Raising the

volume to low-grade rock concert level often drove her away to the smaller set in the bedroom, mumbling, "You need to see somebody about your hearing."

At least, it sounded to me like she was mumbling.

Tests confirmed what I already knew. Along with tinnitus, I had significant hearing loss. He asked what sort of environment had I worked in and I explained that a big chunk of my 42-year AP career was spent in a large bureau office where a dozen or more teletype machines relentlessly pounded, pounded, pounded. When I went back to get the hearing aids fitted, I played the sound of the teletype for him off the link in Connecting. He couldn't say for sure, but strongly suspected I had identified at least one major cause of my problem.

Fortunately, the Trump economy took wings and my investments afforded the means to pay for the little contraptions without selling my car. Man, are those things pricey!

But they are worth it. Once a year I go back for another hearing test and happily, there has been no additional loss. As long as things don't get worse and German engineers keep producing their little gizmos, I should be OK.

In the meantime, I would be curious to know if any other AP veterans have had a similar experience. If so, has anybody told them the teletype machines may have been a cause of their hearing loss? Hello out there...

I don't blame AP for this problem. Quite likely, other factors also contributed. I've always been grateful to AP for giving me a good job, where I had many fascinating experiences and met many wonderful people. I was amazingly lucky, got to work for two great bureau chiefs, Fred Moen and Paul Stevens, and one great news editor, Kent Zimmerman.

It would be nice, though, if I could still hear.

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Meeting up with valued World Services friend and family



Claude Erbsen ([Email](#)) - While in the Seattle area a few weeks ago my son Michael and I drove out to Bothell, WA, to visit retired General Executive Otto Doelling and his wife Ingrid. Otto was at my side for many years at World Services in New York, and before that served in Bonn, as Chief of Middle East Services, and at the United Nations among other postings. (Photo by Marco Doelling, Otto's son who at one point worked at AP Graphics at 50 Rock)

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Call sign of Naval aviator emulated by Tom Cruise was 'Bozo'

Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - The Stars and Stripes piece in Friday's Connecting on the new "Top Gun" movie brought back memories of my interview in 1986 with one of the stars of the original film. No, it wasn't Tom Cruise or Kelly McGillis (she would have been my choice, if I had one). It was Lt. Cmdr. Lloyd Abel. He was one of two real Navy pilots who flew F-14 Tomcat fighters for the action scenes. I interviewed him at Pensacola Naval Air Station, where he was transferred after shooting the movie at Miramar Naval Air Station in California.

Abel said he'd never heard of Cruise before being given the movie assignment so he rented one of the then-young actor's other films, "Risky Business," so he'd at least be able to recognize him. He also took Cruise up for a ride in an F-14 (they all were two-seaters) so he could get a firsthand look at what real aviators do. Abel said the Navy suspended safety rules on altitude and distance that planes are supposed to stay apart during simulated dogfights so all the swirling aircraft could remain in camera range. His toughest maneuver was taking off from an aircraft carrier and then keeping the rear-facing camera in the jet aimed at the ship as he flew straight up. His favorite flying scene, of course, was buzzing the control tower, another rule-breaker.

My favorite part of his story, though, was what I put in the lede:

The fictional hot-shot Navy pilot who was the hero of the movie "Top Gun" earned his "Maverick" nickname with some unorthodox and unauthorized flying. But much of the actual flying for the film was done by a real naval aviator who answers to the less-heroic call sign of "Bozo" and who never wavered from carefully choreographed flight paths.

Abel said he got his nickname early in his career when his canopy stuck shut after he'd gotten his flight suit caught in it. He said no one needed to tell the pilots not to veer off script because "we knew the first crunch of an airplane would bring a lot of havoc."

I can't wait to find out who was in the cockpit for the new movie. Maybe Ronald McDonald or Krusty or Clarabell (only us baby boomers probably recognize that one).

Best of the Week

Only on AP: Intimate, compelling all-formats coverage of Congo's deadly Ebola outbreak



Health workers wearing protective suits tend to an Ebola victim inside an isolation tent in Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo, July 13, 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a world health emergency, with more than 1,700 deaths in eastern Congo as the virus spread in areas too dangerous for health teams to access. (AP PHOTO / JEROME DELAY)

It's a story so dangerous that the journalists who covered it are still checking to make sure they're not infected with one of the world's most lethal diseases. Yet the work of AP's all-formats journalists helped tell intimate stories about the second-worst Ebola outbreak in history.

The team had been planning since April to report on the outbreak in Congo, a journey complicated not only by the risks of exposure to the disease but also the threat of attacks by rebel groups in the area. Their story took on even greater urgency when during their trip, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a world health emergency.

AP's team - Johannesburg Chief Photographer Jerome Delay, West Africa Bureau Chief Krista Larson, Istanbul video journalist Bram Janssen and eastern Congo stringer Al-Hadji Kudra Maliro - turned out a series of quickly-produced but compelling stories from the epicenter of the outbreak, where distrust for health workers and an experimental vaccine runs high, and death robs children of their parents.

The package vividly told the story of the last moments of Mussa Kathembo, one of the more than 1,700 people killed by the disease, and the crew who carefully buried him. Videos showed workers administering the experimental vaccine that has shown promise of stemming the virus' spread, including the story of an older woman who reasoned she needed the shot because at her age, she was vulnerable "like a child."

And they found the uplifting tale of Claude Mabowa Sasi, an infected man intent on fulfilling his mother's wish that he attend college. But entrance exams are only offered once a year in Congo, and Mabowa remained quarantined. Workers found a solution: A school official proctored the exams with a window separating them, Mabowa's written answers recorded with a paper and pencil that were later burned.

Readers, and editors, around the world took notice. The New York Times put one of Delay's photos on the front page of its Saturday edition and used the story about Mabowa, while The Washington Post turned his images into a stunning photo gallery. Janssen's videos proved popular, with one filed on the day of WHO declared the health emergency becoming the second most-used video of the day. Die Welt devoted two pages to Delay's photos.

The story carried great personal risk. When Janssen needed someone to sign a release form, Larson lent her notebook. Realizing that the signer could be infectious, she avoided touching those pages for the three hours that the virus could be transferable. The team later learned the man tested positive for Ebola.

As a precaution, the team continues to monitor their temperatures regularly to ensure they do not show signs of the disease. Exposure remains a constant concern for Kudra, who lives in Beni, where the team did much of its recent reporting.

When Larson lent her notebook to a man who might be infected, she avoided touching those pages for the three hours that the virus could be transferable. He later tested positive.

For careful planning and execution of compelling text, video and photographs that brought the frightening outbreak to a deeply personal level, Larson, Delay, Janssen and Kudra win AP's Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

A century after hundreds of black killings, AP explores the enduring

impact of 'Red Summer'



A victim is stoned and bludgeoned under a corner of a house during the race riots in Chicago, in 1919. Hundreds of African Americans died at the hands of white mobs in cities and towns around the country during "Red Summer," as the summer of 1919 came to be known, although little is remembered nationally about this summer of violence 100 years later. (CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM / JUN FUJITA COLLECTION VIA AP)

While conducting research for another potential project, Jesse J. Holland, Washington-based race and ethnicity reporter, read about the upcoming anniversary of the "Red Summer" of 1919 and noticed a startling fact: Few people seemed to know that more than 200 African Americans died at the hands of white rioters across the country 100 years ago.

The series of riots - a stream of violence that stretched from February to October that year - eluded history books and was largely off everyone's radar.

Holland presented the information to the larger team, and the project took flight. With members of the AP's beat team strategically scattered across the U.S., the project was an opportunity to leverage AP resources and capitalize on all formats.

The team looked at some the cities where the damage was so deep it left an imprint for many generations. Elaine, Arkansas, a small town nestled in the Mississippi Delta, never recovered and was in the throes of a dispute about the placement of its

memorial. The Central desk dispatched Chicago video journalist Noreen Nasir, who challenged herself by not only producing the video and photo content but also writing a powerful text story from Elaine. She also took on a story about the effect that Chicago's riot had on that city, which remains segregated and hasn't shaken the cloud of mistrust that hangs over the police department. And in Madison, Wisconsin, Nasir tracked down 107-year-old Juanita Mitchell who shared her memories of the Chicago violence on camera.

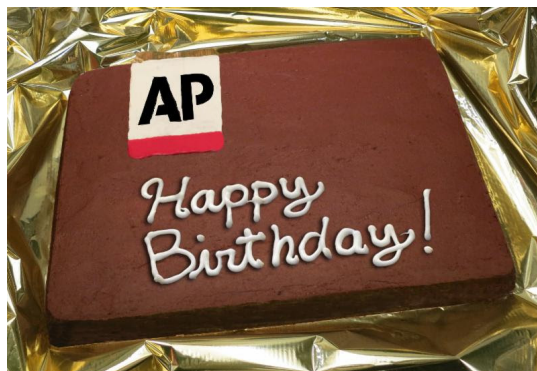
Meanwhile, Albuquerque, New Mexico-based reporter Russell Contreras found a little-known story that served as a precursor to Red Summer: the slaughter of 5,000 Mexican Americans from 1910 to 1920 near the Texas-Mexico border. Contreras worked with AP's research team to locate a descendant of survivors of the 1918 massacre. He teamed up with El Paso staffer Cedar Attanasio, who shot photos and video to tell Arlinda Valencia's story. Then editors coordinated with Boston video journalist Rodrique Ngowi, who interviewed Monica Muñoz Martinez, the author of "The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas," and an American studies professor at Brown University.

The series ultimately included four text stories, some hard-to-find historical photos, freshly shot videos and a map to show the bloodshed. All content was displayed on a hub on APNews.com.

The AP was largely alone in this coverage, with several national outlets using the content, including NPR, CNN, PBS and USA Today. The initial tweet was AP's top for the day, with 3,952 clicks and 2,236 retweets. Engagement by readers and viewers was strong throughout, and the project received a nod from Ellen McGirt in Fortune's "raceAhead" newsletter.

For taking a little-known event and turning it into a dynamic all-formats project with powerful historic and present-day context that no other news outlet could match, Attanasio, Contreras, Holland, Nasir and Ngowi win this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Dawn Kitchell - dawnkitchell@gmail.com

James Rowley - rowleyjim9@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Jane Curtis - kittykurtis@msn.com

Bobby Ross - bobby.ross@christianchronicle.org

Mark Scolforo - markscol@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

The media's by-the-numbers coverage of gun massacres must change (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

Sadly, we in the news media know just how to do it.

When a mass shooting happens, even when it happens twice in a 24-hour period - even when the death toll soars into the dozens - we reflexively spring into action. We describe the horror of what happened, we profile the shooter, we tell about the victims' lives, we get reaction from public officials.

It's difficult, gut-wrenching work for those journalists who are on the scene.

And then there's the next one. And the next one.

If journalism is supposed to be a positive force in society - and we know it can be - this is doing no good. Nothing changes. If anything, the pace of these tragedies is on the rise, as Saturday's El Paso massacre, so quickly followed by the one Sunday near Dayton, Ohio, seemed to prove.

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

-0-

Newsonomics: The GateHouse/Gannett newspaper megamerger could be announced as soon as tomorrow (Monday) morning (Nieman)

By **KEN DOCTOR**

Barring last-minute complications, the merger of America's two largest newspaper chains, GateHouse Media and Gannett, could be announced as early as Monday morning, multiple confidential industry sources close to the transaction have told me. The parties aim to make that announcement before the stock market opens, which would put it about 24 hours before both companies are scheduled to report their less-than-stellar Q2 2019 earnings.

As bankers finalize valuations and as both boards meet by phone this weekend, the timing could be pushed back another day or so - and though it seems unlikely, there's always a chance it could be further delayed. But those involved believe it'll be a done deal by morning.

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

-0-

A reporter says the White House suspended his credentials in an 'attempt to stifle the free press' (Washington Post)

By Michael Brice-Saddler

Brian Karem, the chief White House correspondent for Playboy magazine, said Friday that his press pass is being suspended for 30 days in what he called an "anti-First Amendment move."

The suspension will begin Monday, Karem said. In an interview late Friday, he said the White House told him the suspension was related to his actions in the Rose Garden nearly a month ago, where he infamously sparred with former White House aide Sebastian Gorka.

The White House wrote that Karem "failed to abide by basic norms of decorum and order" on July 11, Karem said. The letter further suggested that Karem had been rude to Gorka - "a guest of the president."

But Karem told The Washington Post he thinks the move was retaliation by the White House for his tough questioning of President Trump. He said his attorney will appeal the suspension Monday.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

THE LAST EDITION

A Future Without the Front Page (New York Times)



Credit: Chloe Cushman

What happens when the presses stop rolling? Who will tell the stories of touchdowns scored, heroes honored and neighbors lost? We asked news industry innovators to share their visions for what comes next, and what fills the void.

The most aggressive response to the collapse of local journalism has come from hundreds of upstart news outlets that have formed over the last 15 years. We asked several industry innovators - three founders of local digital operations, and the architects of a program aimed at bringing legacy newsrooms into the digital era - to share their visions of what local news can look like without a local newspaper.

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

Today in History - August 5, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 5, the 217th day of 2019. There are 148 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 5, 1962, actress Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from "acute barbiturate poisoning."

On this date:

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the National Labor Board, which was later replaced with the National Labor Relations Board.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the 200-meter dash at the Berlin Olympics, collecting the third of his four gold medals.

In 1953, Operation Big Switch began as remaining prisoners taken during the Korean War were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1961, the amusement park Six Flags Over Texas had its official grand opening day in Arlington.

In 1962, South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested on charges of leaving the country without a passport and inciting workers to strike; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment.

In 1964, U.S. Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. became the first American flier to be shot down and captured by North Vietnam; he was held prisoner until February 1973.

In 1967, the U.S. space probe Mariner 7 flew by Mars, sending back photographs and scientific data.

In 1974, the White House released transcripts of subpoenaed tape recordings showing that President Richard Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, had discussed a plan in June 1972 to use the CIA to thwart the FBI's Watergate investigation; revelation of the tape sparked Nixon's resignation.

In 1981, the federal government began firing air traffic controllers who had gone out on strike.

In 1991, Democratic congressional leaders formally launched an investigation into whether the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign had secretly conspired with Iran to delay release of American hostages until after the presidential election, thereby preventing an "October surprise" that supposedly would have benefited President Jimmy Carter. (A task force later concluded there was "no credible evidence" of such a deal.)

In 2002, the coral-encrusted gun turret of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor was raised from the floor of the Atlantic, nearly 140 years after the historic warship sank during a storm.

Ten years ago: Journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee arrived in Burbank, California, for a tearful reunion with their families after a flight from North Korea, where they'd been held for 4 1/2 months until former President Bill Clinton helped secure their release. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) was sworn in for a second term as Iran's president.

Five years ago: U.S. Maj. Gen. Harold Greene was shot to death near Kabul in one of the bloodiest insider attacks in the long Afghanistan war; the gunman, dressed as an Afghan soldier, turned on allied troops, wounding about 15, including a German general and two Afghan generals. American aid worker Nancy Writebol, infected with Ebola while in Liberia, arrived in Atlanta, joining Dr. Kent Brantly, a fellow

patient being given an experimental treatment. (Both recovered.) The San Antonio Spurs hired WNBA star Becky Hammon as an assistant coach, making her the first woman to join an NBA coaching staff.

One year ago: President Donald Trump tweeted that a 2016 meeting at Trump Tower involving his son and a lawyer with Kremlin connections had been aimed at collecting information about his opponent, an apparent change from an earlier assertion that the meeting "primarily" dealt with adoption of Russian children. Authorities in Venezuela detained six people suspected of using drones packed with explosives in a failed bid to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro. Actress Charlotte Rae, best known as the housemother on the long-running sitcom "The Facts of Life," died at her Los Angeles home at the age of 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Saxon is 83. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Roman Gabriel is 79. Country songwriter Bobby Braddock is 79. Actress Loni Anderson is 74. Actress Erika Slezak is 73. Rock singer Rick Derringer is 72. Actress Holly Palance is 69. Pop singer Samantha Sang is 68. Rock musician Eddie Ojeda (Twisted Sister) is 64. Actress-singer Maureen McCormick is 63. Rock musician Pat Smear is 60. Author David Baldacci is 59. Actress Tawney Kitaen is 58. Actress Janet McTeer is 58. Country musician Mark O'Connor is 58. Basketball Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing is 57. Actor Mark Strong is 56. Director-screenwriter James Gunn is 53. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 53. Country singer Terri Clark is 51. Actress Stephanie Szostak is 48. Retired MLB All-Star John Olerud is 51. Rock musician Eicca Toppinen (EYE'-kah TAH'-pihn-nehn) (Apocalyptica) is 44. Country musician Will Sellers (Old Dominion) is 41. Actor Jesse Williams is 39. Actor Brendon Ryan Barrett is 33. Actress Meegan Warner (TV: "TURN: Washington's Spies") is 28. Actress/singer Olivia Holt is 22. Actor Albert Tsai is 15. Actor Devin Trey Campbell is 11.

Thought for Today: "We are all snobs of the Infinite, parvenus of the Eternal." - James Gibbons Huneker, American author and critic (1860-1921).

Connecting calendar



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.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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