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Connecting - January 27, 2020

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Connecting

January 27, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 27th day of January 2020,

Today's Connecting Profile focuses on a journalist who is now into his third career - **Larry McDermott**, a colleague who with his wife **Anita Saulmon** operate a 40-acre organic farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

That is Larry's third career. The first involved 18 years with The Associated Press including chief of bureau assignments in Little Rock, Minneapolis and Detroit. He followed that with a 22-year newspaper career as editor of Booth News Service, publisher of The Bay City (MI) Times, and executive editor of the Springfield (MA) Union-News and Sunday Republican, another Advance newspaper; he later became their publisher and CEO.

Today's headlines tell the sad story of the tragic deaths of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog on Sunday in Southern California.

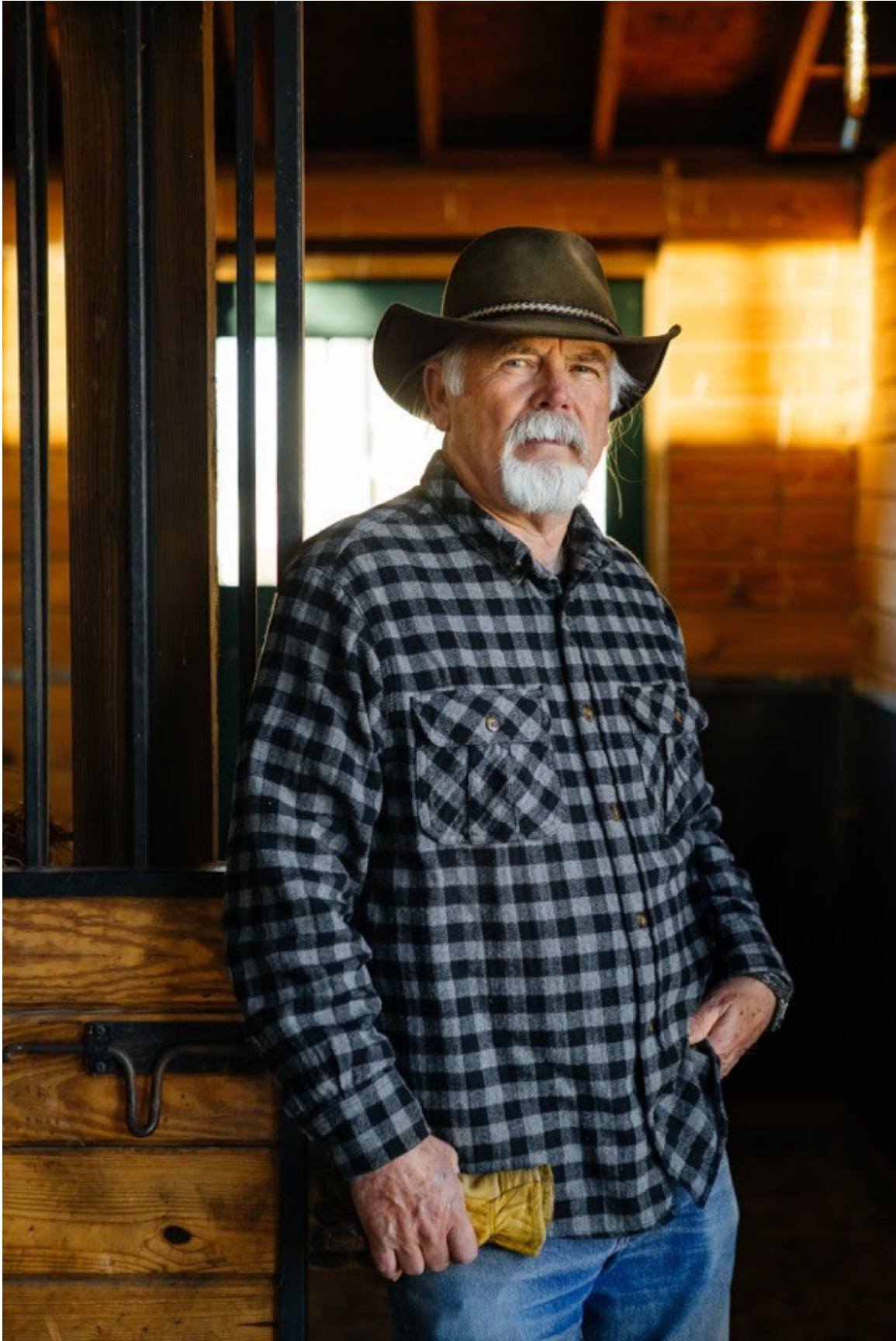
Several Connecting colleagues share their memories, through a story and photos, of Bryant. Former AP Graphics artist **Terry Cole** ([Email](#)) was so moved that she contributed two drawings of Kobe and his daughter Gianna. If you have your own memories to share, please send to me today.

I hope you have a great week!

Paul

Connecting Profile

Larry McDermott



What are you doing these days?

Farming and writing about it. My wife, Anita Saulmon, and I own and operate Hardscrabble Hollow Farm, a 40-acre organic farm located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. We use sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

The 400 blueberry and 60 blackberry bushes we planted are never sprayed with chemicals, nor are our fields where we grow hay for three horses and herd of Nubian dairy goats. We also have 100 free-range chickens and a flock of free-ranging guinea fowl that varies in size depending on the stealthiness of assorted predators.

Four dogs, mostly rescues, help keep predators at a distance, and two barn cats keep out rodents.

We are certified beekeepers and maintain anywhere from 5 to 10 hives. So that they will have plenty to forage on, we plant several acres of flowering cover crops-crimson clover, buckwheat, Austrian peas-that also enrich the soil.



Larry and Anita (Photo: Tim Robison, Our State)

We make soap from our goat milk and imbed luffas, which we also grow. I am the milker and goat tender, and I have "assisted" our does on many baby goat deliveries. Our honey is sold in local stores, and our blueberry field, which is a "U Pick," draws people from a 60-mile radius. Summer farm tours are part of our routine.

Those interested in our farm happenings can find us by clicking on our [Facebook page](#).



Anita hard at work

Everyone asks: How did you come up with your farm name? I stole it from Hugh Mulligan. It was one of his favorite words.

In my spare time, I write a weekly column about farm life and local issues for two daily newspapers published in our area, The Tryon (NC) Daily Bulletin and The Daily Courier of Forest City, N.C. Why? Because I've been writing for newspapers since I was a senior in high school. As my mother would say, "It's what I do."

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

Like Lindel Hutson, my first reporting job was at The Jonesboro Sun working for ME John Troutt Jr. while a student at Arkansas State University. Troutt loved AP and was a friend of the Little Rock bureau chief, John Robert Starr. He encouraged me to apply, and I began work as a summer intern in Little Rock immediately after graduation. I was overwhelmed by the noise of rapping Model 20 printers, chattering people, phones ringing endlessly and people shouting across the tiny room over the din of it all. I'm reminded of it now when surrounded by goats, guineas and chickens at feeding time.

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

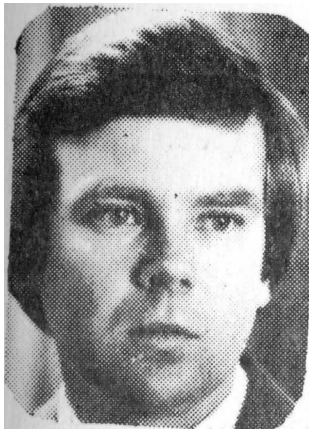
For better or worse, I was the proverbial AP gypsy.

From intern in **Little Rock**, I transferred to **Richmond** and barely had mastered the overnight shift when my draft number was called. Most of my Army tour was spent writing for the United Nations Command in Seoul, which included monthly trips to Panmunjom. I worked nights as a copy editor for The Korea Times, returning to Richmond after the Army tour.

Norfolk correspondent came next. For the first time, I was on my own, and "making the AAA wire" became my target. I covered Hurricane Bell, and my heart skipped a few beats when I was told to call Ed Dennehy on the General Desk. Mr. Dennehy, as I called him, was the engineer. He ran the railroad, and he wanted to know what the next development would be. Then he said, "Nice job" and was gone. After that I got my share of AAA wire stories.

Lansing correspondent pulled me into my first statehouse job. The staff already there were mostly patient with me as I struggled to understand the workings of a statehouse. It was my first cold weather assignment, so imagine how impressed I was when the governor's press secretary sent the National Guard through 30 inches of snow to pick me up at my house. There weren't as many AAA wire stories other than covering the trial of what became known as "The Burning Bed" story, later a movie.

Little Rock bureau chief followed. I was 28 and knew as much about being a COB as COC Bill Knox knew about news writing. Thanks to News and Sports Editor Harry King and Knox, I learned about meeting the demands of AP members. Knox even

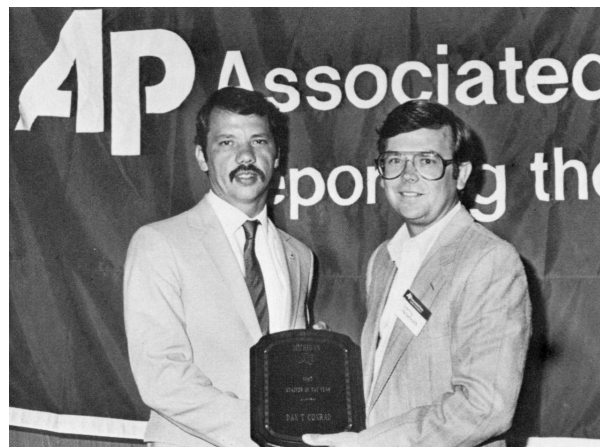


accompanied me on a few membership calls, and Harry could charm the horns off the meanest of them.

Minneapolis bureau chief meant covering Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, and I quickly learned that the Dakotas suffered a bit of the "red-headed stepchild" syndrome. The visiting AP bureau chief came equipped with an expense account, and the members out West were determined that I spend as much as I could on them. I did. I believe it was the North Dakota members who had a tradition of beginning their Sunday morning AP membership meetings with multiple rounds of Bloody Marys. On tap, as I recall.

Detroit bureau chief came next. The hard-riding Dakotans had toughened me up for the membership work in Michigan, where UPI had lured away many of our members. We got them all back thanks to the great work of a red-hot news and photo staff. They were a smart, talented, fun-loving, hard-charging team. At least one, Mark Fritz, later won a Pulitzer Prize, but they were all winners.

New York was my final stop. There I served as one of the general executives, reporting to Lou Boccardi and managing the Corporate Communications department while Kelly Smith Tunney took a leave of absence. It would be impossible to list all the terrific professionals I met, many of whom had been voices on the phone for years.



As Detroit CoB, Larry McDermott (right) presenting 1986 Michigan AP Staffer of Year award to lead technician Dan Conrad. (Photo/AP Corporate Archives)

I left AP in 1988 to become editor of Booth News Service in Lansing, Michigan. We expanded the operation a statewide service for the eight Advance Publications newspapers in the state to position them to compete with the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, which had entered a joint operating agreement.

In 1990 I became publisher of The Bay City (MI) Times, one of those eight newspapers, and in 1991 became executive editor of the Springfield (MA) Union-News and Sunday Republican, another Advance newspaper. At that time, we had a newsroom staff of 200. We added investigative reporting and enterprise writing, and the staff's great work resulted in me receiving the Yankee Quill Award, the highest honor afforded a New England Journalist.

I moved up to publisher and CEO of the newspapers in 1999 and retired from that post in 2010.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

I always felt lucky and often wondered, "Why me?"

Lucky to have spent 18 years working with so many highly professional and committed women and men doing their best work every day with hardly an ounce of recognition from the outside.

ME John Troutt Jr. and Lindel Hutson were my inspiration to leave the small-town newspaper reporting job. Richmond COB Bob Gallimore and News Editor Ed Young taught me so much about news reporting, what it means to have credibility and why it's important.

Would you do it over again?

Now? Oh, if I were young. Absolutely.

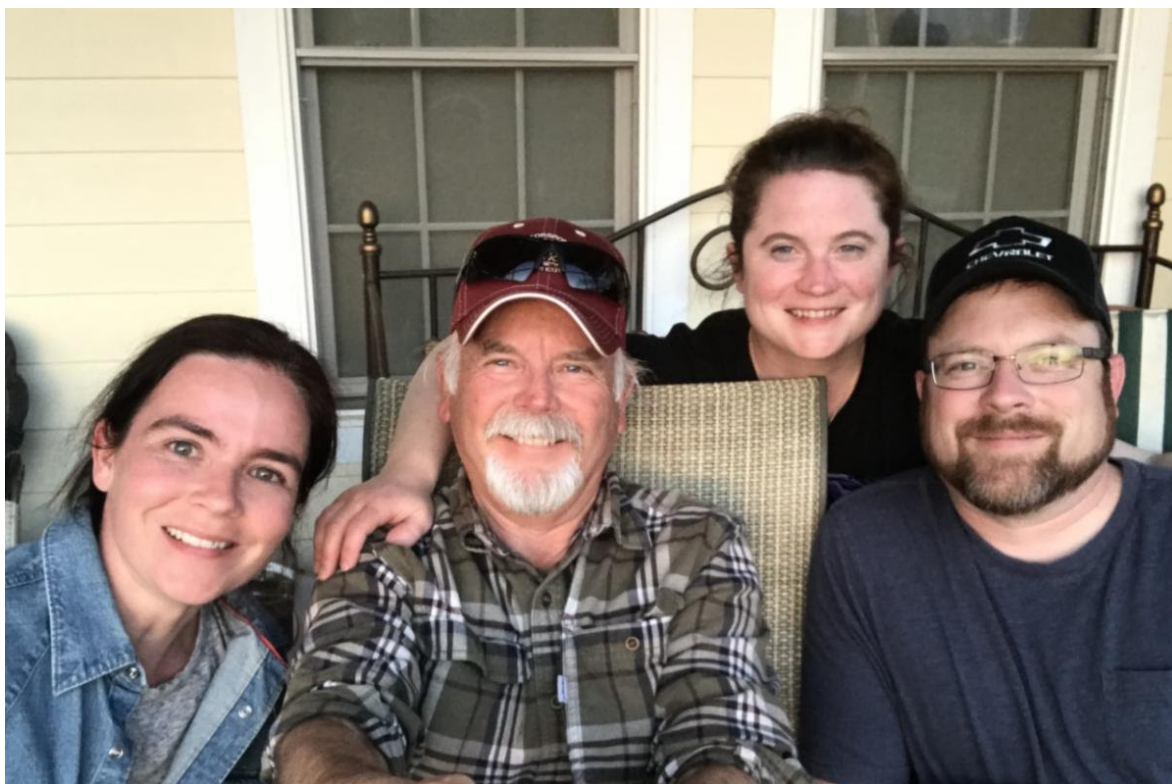
What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Trail riding our horses, fishing, milking goats.

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

Vacation? I'll have to Google that.

Names of your family members and what they do?



Larry and children: from left, Dr. Kelly Chandler, Larry, Amanda McDermott-Burr and Marshall McDermott.

Son Marshall lives in Greensboro, N.C. and is an executive with CarFax. Daughter Kelly is a geneticist doing research on the health of minority women and a policy analyst for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Her office is in her family's barn in Michigan. Amanda works in development at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

Larry McDermott's email is - lmcdermott@aol.com

Remembering Kobe Bryant

An artistic remembrance of Kobe and daughter



Artistic tribute by former AP Graphics staffer Terry Kole



Terry Cole's tribute to Kobe Bryant's daughter Gianna. "I cannot imagine losing your husband and your child on the same day," Terry said.

Kobe collided with my career twice

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - Kobe Bryant collided with my career twice.

First was in June 1996. I was the lead writer for the cover story for U.S. News & World Report magazine about the Atlanta Summer Olympics. As part of that story, I interviewed Jerry West, then the general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers. It was about him being a member of the 1960 U.S. Olympic basketball team. He did a fine interview.

I had a basketball signed by Wilt Chamberlain, among others, and asked Jerry to sign it. I also told him I'd been a member of the 1967 NAIA championship team. He signed the ball. Then he asked, "Can we go off the record?" I couldn't think of anything about the Rome Olympics that should be off the record so I said, "Sure."

He got up and closed his office door.

"We worked out a kid today who's gonna be an All-Star."

"Wow. What college?"

"He just got out of high school. His name is Kobe Bryant."

"Damn, is he named after the Japanese beef? (I'd spent 11 years in Japan as a reporter?)"

Jerry said, "I dunno, but he's gonna be an All-Star."

After that, West traded Vlade Divacs from the Lakers to get Kobe.

The second collision with Kobe and my career occurred during the 2003-04 Lakers season. Kobe was accused of sexual assault in July 2003 of a 19-year-old hotel employee in Vail, Colo.

People Magazine asked me, a freelancer then, to cover the basketball part of the story. Others covered the legal stuff in Vail and the entertainment dimension.

As a basketball junkie, this was like throwing me into the briar patch. I got a press pass from John Black, the Lakers PR guy. I started going to Lakers practices and games, sitting in press seats.

There was one restriction: the press could only ask about basketball - not the trial.

So I went into the locker room after many Lakers games. That was the season that NBA legends Karl Malone and Gary Payton joined the team to try to win a championship. I stood with my lame-ass reporter's notebook while beat writers yelled their questions. I stayed out of it. They were on deadlines.

I dug the byplay among the players after wins. Once Shaquille O'Neal and Payton got into a shouting match across the locker room about whose Hummer was more purple (one of the two Lakers colors): "Yours be magenta!" "Yours be mauve!"

I looked over the media horde and took notes People Magazine would never use. After the beat writers moved to others in the locker room, Kobe started for the safe space the team arranged for him.

"Hey," I said. At 6'3" and older than most of the beat writers, I kind of stood out. "I understand we've got a birthday to celebrate tomorrow," He stopped, turned around and said, "Hey, thanks."

People Magazine had tipped me off that May 4 was his wife Vanessa's birthday.

As a basketball player, coach and follower, my feelings are mixed. Would I ever like to play with him? No. He was too selfish. As a basketball player, he had the best jump shot ever - letting it go at the top of his leap and from his Mamba-like fingers.

One of my former players, Daniel Smith, now a highly successful AAU coach, just reminded me that Coach Eldridge Ezpeleta and I took the San Pedro High School team which we coached to a Lakers practice in 1997. The kids loved watching Kobe. We got to the LA high school finals that year.

I am so sorry for his loss for his family.

Rest in Jump Shots.

In his younger days



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant struggles for a rebound with a Golden State Warriors player on Thursday, March 9, 2000, in Oakland, Calif. AP photo by colleague Susan Ragan, who noted, "I remember when Kobe first came into the league and he would lie down on the baseboard during the game with his head right at my feet. I could hardly shoot because his face was so beautiful."

AP was there...of course!

Scott Charton (Email) - CNN's Brian Stelter posted quotes from a CNN interview conducted in December with Jim Lehrer, in which the newsman recalled coming up as a newspaperman in Texas more than 60 years ago: "We were the watchdogs...We went to the country courthouse, to the state legislature, to the White House and

everything in between on behalf of the public. We watched what happened and kept our eyes out for lies and malfeasance. Suddenly that purpose is being challenged in such a way in which we are still reacting to it."

Lehrer's death coincided with a friend coming across an April 1996 clip from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It was a Sunday feature item about the AP keeping an eye on Missouri legislators meeting in a late-night floor session:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (St. Louis, Missouri) · Mon, Apr 22, 1996 · Page 22

Session Keeps Lawmakers And One Journalist Late

On Tuesday, the House met on generally noncontroversial "consent" bills until after 11 p.m. When the last bill was heard, Rep. Wayne Crump, D-Potosi, stood up on the House floor and said, "Mr. Speaker, I want everyone here to note . . . that at 11:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, there is not one member of the press up there!" He pointed up to the House press gallery.

Whereupon, Associated Press Correspondent Scott Charton emerged in the gallery and waved to the legislators below. Charton got a round of applause from Republicans and Democrats.

Terry Ganey

For my part, I was in the rear of the House Press Gallery in an old-fashioned wooden phone booth, a slightly quieter place to keep one ear on the floor proceedings while calling in a late lead or broadcast item to Kansas City.

I know AP staffs have contracted and redeployed, but even then it was not easy to spread staff across all of the news of the day. But AP was committed to being the watchdog of last resort when a legislative chamber had a voting majority assembled. Not every floor session produced news. But you weren't eager to get a call from a member, or the General Desk, asking why AP wasn't on top of some craziness that was snuck into a bill, only to blow up later. Just knowing someone was watching may have helped curb mischief, or worse.

AP's Buzbee apologizes

Ugandan climate activist cropped out of photo taken with her white peers



Climate activists Vanessa Nakate, Luisa Neubauer, Greta Thunberg, Isabelle Axelsson and Loukina Tille, from left, arrive for a news conference in Davos. The AP news agency apologized for earlier publishing an image with Nakate cropped out.

♥ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez liked
Vanessa Nakate @vanessa_vash · 1d



You didn't just erase a photo

You erased a continent

But I am stronger than ever



1,155 35K 157K

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

(CNN) The Associated Press news agency (AP) has apologized after cropping a Ugandan climate activist from a photograph where she had posed with her white peers after a press conference in Davos, Switzerland.

Climate activist Vanessa Nakate said she was invited to attend a youth climate science event. When news coverage of the event emerged, she noticed she had been cropped out of a photograph, where she appeared alongside activists Greta Thunberg, Isabelle Axelsson, Luisa Neubauer and Loukina Tille.

"This is the first time in my life that I understood the definition of the word racism," Nakate said in a video statement released online.

Nakate confronted AP about the incident on Twitter, writing "Why did you remove me from the photo? I was part of the group!"

In a video statement published online, Nakate said: "I see the photos and I clearly see how I was cropped out of the photos.

"My message was left out, and my photo was left out as well," she said.

"You didn't just erase a photo. You erased a continent. But I am stronger than ever," Nakate said later on Twitter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Sally Buzbee's response:

In a note to AP staff late Friday, AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee said:

I wanted to let you know that we put out this statement from me tonight about a photo we moved today from the World Economic Forum at Davos.

"We regret publishing a photo this morning that cropped out Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate, the only person of color in the photo. As a news organization, we care deeply about accurately representing the world that we cover. We train our journalists to be sensitive to issues of inclusion and omission. We have spoken internally with our journalists and we will learn from this error in judgment."

As this statement notes, we want to ensure that our journalism accurately represents the world and its diversity. Even when journalists do not intend to cause pain, omissions or lack of inclusion can render people invisible and unimportant. We are in the process of rolling out a new training to help our staff broaden its perspectives and make our storytelling more inclusive. There is a session for US news leaders next week. We have had many internal conversations today that will undoubtedly carry into the following weeks. We will learn from this error in judgement as we move forward.

I and other senior news leaders want to make sure you know that you can always reach out to us with any concerns around diversity, inclusion and bias. I know many of you may want to discuss this and I will be checking email this weekend if you want to talk.

And her Twitter response to Vanessa Nakate:



Sally Buzbee ✓
@SallyBuzbee

Vanessa, on behalf of the AP, I want to say how sorry I am that we cropped that photo and removed you from it. It was a mistake that we realize silenced your voice, and we apologize. We will all work hard to learn from this. [@vanessa_vash](#)

4:36 PM · Jan 26, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Pointing out error in CJR story on famed wartime photo

Chris Carola ([Email](#)) - Being a longtime WWII buff, I have to point out something the Columbia Journalism Review got wrong in its story on the famous wartime photo of the three dead American servicemen on a New Guinea beach (in last Friday's Connecting). The caption of the photo accompanying the story says the fallen were Marines. The New Guinea ground campaign was mostly a U.S. Army operation, under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The dead Americans were actually soldiers (AP Stylebook says: "Do not describe Marines as soldiers, which is generally associated with the Army.").

I was also interested to see the Today In History item about AP's Joseph Morton being executed on Jan. 24, 1945 by the Nazis. Morton was captured a few weeks earlier after joining a mission operated by the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (precursor to the CIA). The OSS agents he was with were also executed. According to former UPI correspondent Ray Moseley's 2017 book "Reporting War," Morton was the only correspondent executed by Axis powers during WWII.

During my 31-year career as reporter with the AP's Albany, N.Y., bureau, I interviewed scores of WWII veterans, including two members of the OSS. One was an Italian-American sailor from New York City whose behind-the-lines missions took him to Italy, where he once was teamed up with a former Major League Baseball player-turned-

OSS agent named Moe Berg. Berg's story was told in a book titled "The Catcher Was a Spy," which was made into a movie a few years ago. The other OSS veteran I interviewed was an agent who was sent behind German lines in France. Told by his OSS superiors to seek out a certain Italian church official if the Nazis were on his tail, the agent did just that, and the priest saved his life. That church official later became Pope John XXIII (who was canonized in 2014).

Best of the Week

AP reporting reveals nonstop chaos in overburdened immigration courtrooms



A detainee talks on the phone at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga., Nov. 15, 2019. With phones that sometimes don't work or are expensive, detained immigrants find it difficult to see or even speak to lawyers who live far away, and they have no access to email or fax according to a Southern Poverty Law Center attorney. Communications often have to be sent by mail, slowing the processes of collecting documentation, filling out forms in English and getting documents translated and notarized, all contributing to the courts' backlog of immigration cases. AP PHOTO / DAVID GOLDMAN

With subject-matter expertise and a national footprint, The Associated Press produced an inside look at U.S. immigration courts - an overlooked, broken system where judges make potentially life-altering decisions every day under a crushing backlog of more than 1 million cases.

Led by reporters Amy Taxin, based in Southern California, and New York's Deepti Hajela, the AP harnessed its vast geographic reach and expertise on the topic of immigration to deliver a striking, all-formats examination of the nation's beleaguered immigration court system.

The idea for the story started with Taxin proposing that AP journalists fan out across the U.S. to illustrate chaos in the nation's immigration courts, which are plagued by a 1 million case backlog that has grown worse under President Donald Trump's crackdowns at the border.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP travels to the edge of America for start of the 2020 census in tiny Alaska town



Lizzie Chimiugak, 90, is photographed at her home in Toksook Bay, Alaska, Jan. 20, 2020. Chimiugak was scheduled to be the first person counted in the 2020 U.S. Census the following day. Speaking in the Yup'ik language of Yugtun, she said, "They're considering me as an elder, and they're asking me questions I'm trying my best to give answers to, or

to talk about what it means to be an elder." AP PHOTO / GREGORY BULL

On the edge of America, the U.S. Census started in a tiny Alaska town on the Bering Sea. Toksook Bay, population 661, is only reachable by plane, and isn't an easy place to live, much less report. The temperatures hover around zero, and daylight is scarce this time of year.

Alaska news editor Mark Thiessen and San Diego photographer Greg Bull traveled 500 and 4,200 miles, respectively, to get to the windswept community, several days before census officials and most media showed up. The census always starts in rural Alaska out of tradition and necessity: the ground is still frozen, which allows easier access before the spring melt makes many areas inaccessible to travel and residents scatter to subsistence hunting and fishing grounds.

Thiessen spent months preparing, planning flights, arranging lodging (there are no hotels, so they slept on a classroom floor), planning meals (frozen burritos, to avoid paying \$5 for Campbell's soup), and making connections in the community. His planning and knowledge of the travails of rural Alaska travel paid off: Many news organizations didn't make it because the weather got much worse after Thiessen and Bull arrived.

Read more [here](#).

Welcome to Connecting



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Stories of interest

Study finds journalists hold strongly to professional identity, even when forced to leave the field (University of Kansas)

By **MIKE KRINGS**

LAWRENCE - When meeting someone for the first time, people often ask, "What do you do for a living?" The question implies what work one performs is one of the most essential aspects of a person's identity. But how would one answer if forced to leave their chosen field? A University of Kansas professor conducted one of the first studies to explore how journalists view the media landscape and their sense of identity once they left the profession.

American print journalism has been slashing jobs at a frantic pace for more than a decade. Scott Reinardy, professor of journalism at KU, has written about how surviving layoffs has affected journalists, and he was approached to research what it has meant for those who had to leave due to layoffs, buyouts, newspapers closing or other reasons. He co-wrote a study that surveyed about 350 former journalists about leaving print media and what it meant to their professional identities, views of media since their departure, physical, emotional and financial effects the move made, and how their work changed.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin, Malcolm Ritter, Paul Albright.

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U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided (Pew)

As the U.S. enters a heated 2020 presidential election year, a new Pew Research Center report finds that Republicans and Democrats place their trust in two nearly inverse news media environments.

Overall, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents view many heavily relied on sources across a range of platforms as untrustworthy. At the same time, Democrats and independents who lean Democratic see most of those sources as credible and rely on them to a far greater degree, according to the survey of 12,043 U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019, on Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel.

These divides are even more pronounced between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats.

Read more [here](#).

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NPR journalist answers Trump, invites him for interview after president questions why media organization exists (Newsweek)

By **JASON LEMON**

Journalist Steve Inskeep, who hosts Morning Edition and Up First on National Public Radio, answered Donald Trump and invited him for an interview after the president questioned why the publicly-funded media organization exists.

Trump's question came after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo did a tense interview with NPR journalist Mary Louise Kelly about the administration's policies toward Iran and Ukraine. Pompeo cut off the interview early and then reportedly scolded Louise without going off the record. According to Kelly, Pompeo used the F-word and asked her: "Do you think Americans care about Ukraine?"

Pompeo later accused Kelly of lying, saying that she had told him the interaction was off the record. However, he did not deny saying the things Kelly claimed he said. NPR and Kelly have denied the secretary of state's assertion that the conversation was off the record.

Trump's criticism of NPR came after Mark Levin, a staunch supporter of the president and a Fox News host, attacked the media organization.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Related from The Washington Post:

[Pompeo accuses NPR reporter of lying, calls news media 'unhinged'](#)

Today in History - January 27, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2020. There are 339 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 27, 1981, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran at the White House.

On this date:

In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1832, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who wrote "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" under the pen name Lewis Carroll, was born in Cheshire, England.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft.

In 1972, "Queen of Gospel" Mahalia Jackson, 60, died in Evergreen Park, Ill.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1984, singer Michael Jackson suffered serious burns to his scalp when pyrotechnics set his hair on fire during the filming of a Pepsi-Cola TV commercial at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

In 1998, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on NBC's "Today" show, charged the sexual misconduct allegations against her husband, President Bill Clinton, were the work of a "vast right-wing conspiracy."

In 2001, Jennifer Capriati upset three-time winner Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-3 to win the Australian Open title and her first Grand Slam tournament championship.

In 2003, the Bush administration dismissed Iraq's response to U.N. disarmament demands as inadequate. Meanwhile, chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix charged that Iraq had never genuinely accepted U.N. resolutions demanding its disarmament and warned that "cooperation on substance" was necessary for a peaceful solution.

Ten years ago: Acknowledging that "change has not come fast enough," President Barack Obama vowed in his State of the Union address to get jobless millions back to work while fighting for ambitious overhauls of health care, energy and education. Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the iPad tablet computer during a presentation in San Francisco. J.D. Salinger, the reclusive author of "The Catcher in the Rye," died in Cornish, New Hampshire, at age 91. Actress Zelda Rubinstein died in Los Angeles at age 76.

Five years ago: European leaders gathered in Poland to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet liberation the Auschwitz death camp; amid tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin stayed away, sending his chief of staff instead. A National Weather Service forecaster apologized for predicting that the area from New York to Philadelphia would see a foot or two of snow. Instead, the storm moved farther east and piled more than 2 feet of snow on parts of New England.

One year ago: "Black Panther" took the top prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, topping the leading Oscar nominees "Roma" and "The Favourite." Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) overwhelmed Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 to win a record seventh Australian Open championship and a third consecutive Grand Slam title.

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Cromwell is 80. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 74. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 72. Latin singer-songwriter Djavan is 71. Chief U.S. Justice John Roberts is 65. Country singer Cheryl White is 65. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 65. Actress Mimi Rogers is 64. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 63. Actress Susanna Thompson is 62. Political and sports commentator Keith Olbermann is 61. Rock singer Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 59. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 59. Actress Tamlyn Tomita is 57. Actress Bridget Fonda is 56. Actor Alan Cumming is 55. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 52. Rock singer Mike Patton is 52. Rapper Tricky is 52. Rock musician Michael Kulas (James) is 51. Actor-comedian Patton Oswalt is 51. Actor Josh Randall is 48. Country singer Kevin Denney is 42. Tennis player Marat Safin is 40. Neo-soul musician Andrew Lee (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 34. Rock musician Matt Sanchez (American Authors) is 34. Actor Braeden Lemasters is 24.

Thought for Today: "The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself." [-] Wallace Stevens, American poet and author (1879-1955).

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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