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## Connecting

June 25, 2021

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For those who wonder whether it's a competitive media playing field, this photo speaks volumes as the AP-logo-adorned mic vies for sound with those of many other news orgs. This Monday, June 21, 2021 photo shows Iran's new President-elect Ebrahim Raisi during a news conference in Tehran, Iran. See story in News of Interest. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi, File)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021,

During his AP career, our colleague **Bill Foreman** served as AP's bureau chief to Taipei (1999-2004), Hong Kong (2005-2007) and Guangzhou (2007-2010). We lead with his thoughts on the demise of a free press in Hong Kong and the closing of Apple Daily newspaper.

**Jerome Delay**, AP's chief photographer in Africa, was the subject of a profile by Photojournalism News this week and we include in today's issue with what he had to say. Not much more need be said than the great quote that headlined his interview...

**Norm Abelson's** reflections in Thursday's Connecting on his wife Dina on the 20th anniversary of her death touched a chord with many of us including colleague **Wendy Davis Beard**, who called it "best obit reflection on a life partner ever" in a note to Norm that she shared with Connecting:

"THERE IS SOMETHING SO REAL IN YOUR DESCRIPTION of your late wife that goes beyond platitudes. I often feel I wish I could have known the person depicted in an obituary, but with your feature, I feel I did know her somehow. As fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors remain alive to pass on their true stories, I feel more feature films should be made about the lives lost and full hopeful lives of survivors like your wife -

with the still first-hand accounts available of people including her family, friends, students and colleagues.”

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## An extraordinary media tycoon and the rapid demise of Hong Kong’s free press

**Bill Foreman** ([Email](#)) - When I covered Hong Kong in 2005-07, I would often include a graf or two of background in my stories, explaining that although the territory was part of China, the people enjoyed freedoms that citizens in the rest of the country could only dream about. You could protest in public. The media could criticize the Communist Party. Bookstores were stocked with publications banned on the mainland.

That’s rapidly coming to an end as Beijing enforces a new national security law that severely restricts civil liberties. It has been shocking how fast the Communist leadership has used this law to ruthlessly dismantle a relatively free society. Hong Kong is rapidly becoming like the rest of China.



A big blow came this week when the pro-democracy Apple Daily, one of the city’s most popular newspapers, shut down after its top editors were arrested and its bank accounts were frozen.

For me, Apple Daily’s closing marks the end of Hong Kong’s free press. Much has been [written about this](#) already, so I thought I would share a few reflections about the paper and its owner, the self-made tycoon Jimmy Lai, who was jailed late last year.

Of all the people in the media business that I met during my 15-year AP career, I admired and respected Lai the most. He was an extraordinary man who refused to compromise his political principles for his business interests.

Lai was born in mainland China but fled to Hong Kong as a stowaway on a fishing boat when he was 12. He worked as a laborer in a textile factory and was soon promoted to manager. When he was 25, he set up his own business selling sweaters to U.S. retailers.

Lai was a genius at adopting successful business models from the West and improving on them in the hyper-competitive Hong Kong market. He founded a casual clothing chain called Giordano – which looked a lot like Gap – with hundreds of stores across

Asia. He was forced to close his shops in China because of his criticism of the Communist Party, and he eventually sold the chain.

After the bloody crackdown on the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, Lai decided to promote his pro-democracy views by opening Apple Daily. There was nothing like it in the Hong Kong market. It was as if Lai took the colorful, graphics-loaded USA Today and mated it with the punchy, raunchy British tabloids. Then he injected the product with a near-lethal dose of steroids.

There's was plenty of coverage of politics, the courts and the legislature. But there were also pages and pages of gossip, gory crime stories, paparazzi photos and racy celebrity coverage. Every day, one page of the paper featured a section with a buxom woman in a bikini.

I once spent an unforgettable Saturday afternoon with Lai and other foreign correspondents on his yacht sailing around Hong Kong, dropping anchor in various coves to swim. He had fine taste in wine and food, and I'll never forget the fantastic cheese platter he provided after our lunch.

Self educated, he loved to discuss political and economic philosophy. As we sunbathed on the deck of his boat, Lai talked about how Friederich Hayek's book *The Road to Serfdom* inspired him. And with deep disdain, he dismissed John Rawls' theory of justice, calling his books unreadable.

Lai told me that senior Communist officials made overtures to him over the years, encouraging him to tone down his political views in exchange for access to China's booming markets.

"But dealing with the Communist Party is like dealing with a bunch of gangsters," he told me. "Once you give them a little something, they own you for the rest of your life."

Now it seems Lai gave them nothing, and yet they've taken almost everything from him.

*Foreman joined the AP in Kansas City (1995-97) and served on the International Desk (1997-99) before being posted as a bureau chief to Taipei (1999-2004), Hong Kong (2005-2007) and Guangzhou (2007-10). He now works in strategic communications and is the author of the forthcoming "The Years of Cycling Dangerously," a memoir about his passion for journalism, bicycles and China.*

### ***Profile of AP Africa chief photographer Jerome Delay***

**"I'm a photojournalist recording what I see with passion, empathy, truth and respect"**



By Photojournalism News

Photojournalism News: What drew you to photojournalism?

Jerome Delay: It has been so long I am not sure I remember how it all started!! I guess from a book my dad gave me as a teenager engaged in the local high school photo club, celebrating the 10 years of the Gamma agency. It looked like there were only 10 photographers working at Gamma. I told my dad "I will be the 11th!" And Then I made a life in the wires!

### **Photojournalism News: What equipment do you use? Do you have a favourite lens/camera?**

Jerome Delay: I used to look like a Christmas tree carrying 3 or 4 bodies and even more lenses when I started.. Since then, I've learned to spare my back.. for many years my kit of choice was a 5D mk1 with a 50mm 1.8. Keeping up with technology, I now travel with my trusted Sony 7R3 with two prime Zeiss lenses, a 35 and a 50. I do keep a 70/200 close by just in case.

And the Iphone12 can be a good backup..

### **Photojournalism News: What social media platforms do you use?**

Jerome Delay: I use Instagram for personal experiments. Mostly BW images dealing with cycling and airports.... Facebook to keep track of friends and let editors know what I am up too, and Twitter mostly to retweet AP news stories.

<https://www.instagram.com/jeromedelay/>

<https://twitter.com/jeromedelay>

<https://www.facebook.com/jeromedelay>

### **Photojournalism News: How do you prepare yourself before any assignment? What would you put in your camera bag for a typical task?**

Jerome Delay: As many of my colleagues, I try as much as I can to have only carry on. Which works well except when I take my bicycle along! Always a diner jacket, a tie and shoe polish. Who knows you might get an upgrade in the plane, more so it is a show or respect when meeting diplomats and dignitaries on assignment (yes, even in war zones...)

Read more [here](#).

## **Max Desfor's memories of photo scoop in Korean War POW camps**



**Frank Noel, Associated Press staff photographer and captive of the Communists in North Korea for more than a year, gets the feel of a camera for the first time since his capture. The Communists permitted a camera to be sent to Noel at prison camp No. 2 at Pyoktong on the Korean Communist side of the Yalu River. Here he is making a picture of a Communist doctor and nurse wrapping the injured hand of Pfc. Theodore Pallas of San Francisco, Calif., January 28, 1952. (AP Photo/Frank Noel, courtesy AP Corporate Archives)**

**Hal Buell ([Email](#))** - Charley Hanley's tale about Frank "Pappy" Noel's photo scoop of Americans in POW camps during the Korean War prompted memories of Max Desfor's oral history telling of the incredible stunt AP pulled during the winter of 1952-53.

Here is how Max (legendary Pulitzer-winning AP photographer who died in 2018) recalled the project in a 1997 oral history interview:

Noel, a legendary figure of World War II photo coverage and the 1943 winner of AP's first photo Pulitzer, was captured by North Koreans in November 1950. As the 1952 holiday season approached, several AP correspondents gathered at one of the tables in the Tokyo Foreign Correspondent's Club where conversation turned to possible holiday gifts they could send to Noel. Cigarettes came up, food, wool socks, whiskey, etc.

How about a camera, Max Desfor suggested? That got a laugh but, as Max reported, the more the group imbibed the better the idea sounded finally reaching the, Why

not? stage. A plan was born called "Operation Father Christmas" (Pappy Noel). AP Correspondents covering Panmunjom talks approached Communist correspondents. Hanley named them: Wilfred Burchette and Alan Wittington. A Chinese correspondent, Cu Chi Ping, was also involved. They promised to check their sources.

Weeks passed. Then came word. Yes, something could be arranged. AP photographer Bob Schutz and correspondent Bob Tuckman carried a 4x5 Speed Graphic unit complete with film, holders and flashbulbs to Panmunjom. Just how the camera was passed on is not clear. One story says it was done secretly, person to person, over a fence; another says it was left behind a shack for pickup.

During his imprisonment Pappy Noel attempted escape three time and was soon less than a favorite of his captors. He was treated harshly including weeks in solitary confinement. He reported later there was a sudden change his treatment the form of better food and better facilities. When the camera unit turned up and the assignment spelled out his improved status became clear.

Exposed, captioned film turned up and was secretly passed to Schutz who hand carried the film to Tokyo. A messaged to NY advised that Father Christmas was on the way.

The pictures were an immense success. Major headlines, page layouts and strips of the first photos were published as well as followup photos from Noel. Scores of pictures from various camps flowed in. Competitive agencies demanded the pictures be pooled, but that never happened. The Military was angry and said AP gave the enemy a propaganda tool. Meanwhile families were pleased to know at least some of their loved one known as missing in action were alive.

Pappy Noel was released in prisoner exchanges in August 1953. He worked for a while in New York. He was an early mentor to me But Pappy was born to be a photographer, not an editor. He was transferred to Florida in 1958 where he photographed politics until he retired.

## Connecting mailbox

*Emilio Morenatti reunites with couple in Pulitzer-winning photo*





(AP Connections) - Nearly a year after making their picture, AP Chief Photographer for Spain Emilio Morenatti reconnected with the elderly couple whom he photographed kissing through a plastic sheet during the pandemic. The image captures the couple's embrace after 100 days without seeing each other.

Morenatti is seen presenting 82-year-old Agustina Cañamero and 85-year-old Pascual Pérez with the photograph, which is part of the collection for which he won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography. The reunion was captured on video by Barcelona-based video journalist Renata Brito.

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***He's gotten good mileage from 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirt***



**Dorothy Abernathy** ([Email](#)) - As we celebrate AP's 175th anniversary, I thought you'd be interested in knowing that my husband, Duncan, is still getting mileage out of his 150th anniversary T-shirt. It has held up quite well!

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***Connecting sky shot - Myrtle Beach***



Sunset at Myrtle Beach where we have been vacationing. Photo captured June 14 by Guy Palmiotto.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



John Heilprin - [heilprin@gmail.com](mailto:heilprin@gmail.com)

Robert Naylor - [robert.naylor@verizon.net](mailto:robert.naylor@verizon.net)

Cecilia White - [whitecx@earthlink.net](mailto:whitecx@earthlink.net)

*On Saturday to...*

Joe Coleman - [josecole@indiana.edu](mailto:josecole@indiana.edu)

*On Sunday to...*

Andy Alexander - [andyalexander1@me.com](mailto:andyalexander1@me.com)

John Daniszewski - [jdanziszewski@ap.org](mailto:jdanziszewski@ap.org)

Mike Holmes - [imikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:imikeholmes@cox.net)

Ed Williams - [edwilliams4@icloud.com](mailto:edwilliams4@icloud.com)

## Stories of interest

### *Fears for future of American journalism as hedge funds flex power* (Guardian)

By EDWARD HELMORE

As the pandemic recedes in the United States, few businesses may emerge so transformed as local and regional newspapers.

More than 70 local newsrooms have closed over the past 15 months, with hundreds of media jobs lost, as the already difficult financial conditions in the industry intensified during the crisis. By some estimates, a staggering 2,100 local newspapers, or one in four, have closed in the US since 2005.

But into the carnage a new breed of owner has emerged: one that has industry veterans and media observers deeply worried about the future of journalism in America and its ability to act as part of a functioning democracy.

According to a recent analysis, hedge funds or private equity firms now control half of US daily newspapers, including some of the largest newspaper groups in the country: Tribune, McClatchy and MediaNews Group.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sonya Zalubowski.

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### *US takes down Iran-linked news sites, alleges disinformation* (AP)

By ISABEL DEBRE and ERIC TUCKER

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — American authorities seized a range of Iran's state-linked news website domains they accused of spreading disinformation, the U.S. Justice Department said Tuesday, a move that appeared to be a far-reaching crackdown on Iranian media amid heightened tensions between the two countries.

The Justice Department said 33 of the seized websites were used by the Iranian Islamic Radio and Television Union, which was singled out by the U.S. government last October for what officials described as efforts to spread disinformation and sow discord among American voters ahead of the 2020 presidential election. T

The U.S. says three other seized websites were operated by the Iraqi Shiite paramilitary group, Kata'ib Hizballah, which more than a decade ago was designated a foreign terrorist organization. The group is separate from the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group whose news websites remained operational.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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## ***County to pay \$280K to journalists tear-gassed in Ferguson*** (AP)

By JIM SALTER

Three journalists with Al Jazeera who were tear-gassed during a protest in Ferguson, Missouri, after Michael Brown's death in 2014 have settled a lawsuit with the county whose SWAT team fired the tear gas.

St. Charles County agreed to pay \$280,000, according to the law firm Lathrop GPM, which represented the journalists.

The St. Louis suburb of Ferguson became a focal point for the racial injustice movement after 18-year-old Brown, who was Black, was fatally shot by a white police officer during a street confrontation on Aug. 9, 2014. The officer, Darren Wilson, was not charged with a crime but resigned in November 2014.

The shooting led to months of protests that drew media from around the world. The Al Jazeera America journalists — correspondent Ash-har Quraishi, producer Marla Cichowski and photojournalist Sam Winslade — were preparing for a live broadcast when the St. Charles County SWAT team officers fired tear gas toward them. Those officers were among several from the St. Louis region who were brought to Ferguson during the demonstrations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.



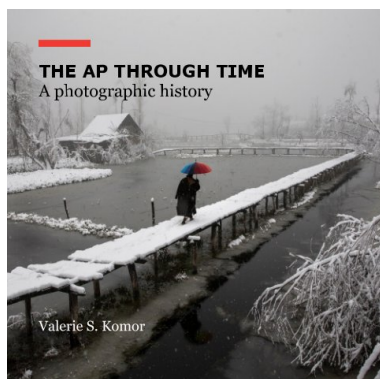
## Ccelebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos. The site can be reached by clicking [here](#).

## AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

## AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

# Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



## Today in History - June 25, 2021



### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 25, the 176th day of 2021. There are 189 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 25, 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that recitation of a state-sponsored prayer in New York State public schools was unconstitutional.

**On this date:**

In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1876, Lt. Col. Colonel George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

In 1942, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was designated Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Some 1,000 British Royal Air Force bombers raided Bremen, Germany.

In 1947, "The Diary of a Young Girl," the personal journal of Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.

In 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, implicating top administration officials, including President Richard Nixon as well as himself, in the Watergate scandal and cover-up.

In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that male-only draft registration was constitutional.

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its first "right-to-die" decision, ruled that family members could be barred from ending the lives of persistently comatose relatives who had not made their wishes known conclusively.

In 1996, a truck bomb killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds at a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

In 2003, the Recording Industry Association of America threatened to sue hundreds of individual computer users who were illegally sharing music files online.

In 2009, death claimed Michael Jackson, the "King of Pop," in Los Angeles at age 50 and actor Farrah Fawcett in Santa Monica, California, at age 62.

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld nationwide tax subsidies under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in a 6-3 ruling that preserved health insurance for millions of Americans.

Ten years ago: A suicide car bomber blasted a small clinic in eastern Afghanistan, causing the building to collapse and killing some three dozen people.

Five years ago: Pope Francis visited Armenia, where he recognized the Ottoman-era slaughter of Armenians as a genocide, prompting a harsh rebuttal from Turkey.

One year ago: Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said the state would "pause" its aggressive reopening as it dealt with a surge in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations. A government watchdog found that nearly 1.1 million relief payments totaling some



\$1.4 billion in the government's coronavirus aid program went to dead people. Two U.S. warships, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS San Jacinto, notched their 161st consecutive day at sea, breaking the previous Navy record, as ships were ordered to avoid port visits because of the coronavirus. Restaurant chain Chuck E. Cheese filed for bankruptcy protection. Disney said it would recast its "Splash Mountain" theme park ride to remove its ties to "Song of the South," a 1946 movie that many viewed as racist. The Grammy-winning country group The Dixie Chicks dropped the word Dixie from its name. Census Bureau figures showed that for the first time, nonwhites and Hispanics were a majority of people under age 16 in 2019.

Today's Birthdays: Actor June Lockhart is 96. Civil rights activist James Meredith is 88. R&B singer Eddie Floyd is 84. Actor Barbara Montgomery is 82. Actor Mary Beth Peil (peel) is 81. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed is 79. Singer Carly Simon is 76. Rock musician Ian McDonald (Foreigner; King Crimson) is 75. Actor-comedian Jimmie Walker is 74. Actor-director Michael Lembeck is 73. Rock singer Tim Finn is 69. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is 67. Rock musician David Paich (Toto) is 67. Actor Michael Sabatino is 66. Actor-writer-director Ricky Gervais (jer-VAYZ') is 60. Actor John Benjamin Hickey is 58. Actor Erica Gimpel is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo (dih-KEHM'-bay moo-TAHM'-boh) is 55. Rapper-producer Richie Rich is 54. Actor Angela Kinsey is 50. Rock musician Mike Kroeger (KROO'-gur) (Nickelback) is 49. Rock musician Mario Calire is 47. Actor Linda Cardellini is 46. Actor Busy Philipps is 42. Jazz musician Joey Alexander is 18.

## 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**

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