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Connecting

June 30, 2021

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AP Generations: Bud, Phil and Joe Weydert

Bud Weydert ([Email](#)) - I started with AP as a technician on July 28, 1974. I was subsequently appointed an Assistant Chief of Communications in Philadelphia, Chief of Communications for New Jersey and the New York State area surrounding New York City including Long Island, Technical Services Manager in East Brunswick and Communications Executive in New York City under Dave Bowen. I then worked as Staff Executive under Dick Atkins and as Deputy Director of Communications, Director of Communications Operations and Director of Special Events under John Reid.



I left after exactly 35 years with AP on July 27, 2009.

My brother Phil was hired as a temporary technician for the ATEX installation at 50 Rock in April 1982. He subsequently became a regular technician for the NYC shop and

then was appointed an Operations Manager in the Glass House. Phil left AP in late 1986 to work for the New York Times News Service.

My brother Joe was hired as a temporary utilityman for vacation relief in East Brunswick in June 1982. That position was regularized in the fall of that same year. He subsequently took the AP's technician test in 1990 and became a technician in Kansas City Communications. He remained there until AP did a reduction of the technician staff, and he elected to be affected. He had about 23 years with AP. Joe died in 2013 at the age of 49.



Connecting mailbox

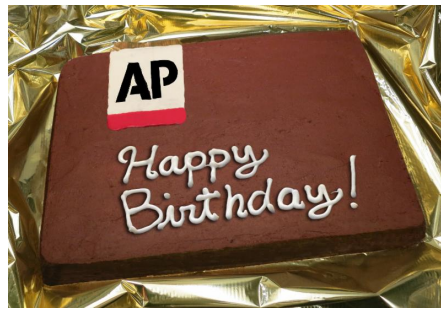
Malcom Ritter ([email](#))

This iPhone snapshot recently made me an award-winning photographer.

An organization called Trees for a Change, which raises money to plant trees in burnt sections of national forests, has an annual tree photo contest. My image won the "autumn" division.

The prize was a gift certificate for having trees planted in someone's name, so I used it plus some cash for a project in the Angeles National Forest, which is in the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles. The new trees have now been planted on behalf of my wife and me, our two sons and their wives, our granddaughter, and our younger son's golden retriever.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Paul Cheung - pcheung630@gmail.com

Kent Zimmerman - ksshawnee555@att.net

Stories of interest

Russia targets investigative journalists

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian authorities on Tuesday morning raided the apartments of several investigative journalists and their family members, a move that comes amid mounting pressure on Russia's independent media outlets.

Police searched the apartments of Roman Badanin, chief editor of the Proekt investigative online outlet, and Maria Zholobova, one of its journalists. Officers also raided the home of the parents of Badanin's deputy, Mikhail Rubin. Rubin was detained near Zholobova's residential building and brought to his parents' apartment.

Proekt said in its account in the Telegram messaging app that the raids occurred after the outlet promised to release an investigation into Russia's interior minister, Vladimir Kolokoltsev, and his alleged wealth. The outlet published the story shortly after the searches started.

Proekt later said that the raids stemmed from a defamation case over a 2017 documentary Badanin and Zholobova worked on for the independent TV channel Dozhd, about a St. Petersburg businessman with alleged ties to organized crime.

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

News crew held up at gunpoint

(New York Post)

By Tamar Lapin

A Bay Area television news crew was held up at gunpoint while interviewing Oakland's director of violence prevention — just hours after the city's police chief warned of surging crime.

Two armed robbers tried to snatch a camera from the NBC Bay Area journalists as they filmed outside City Hall on Monday at around 3 p.m., the Oakland Police Department said in a statement.

A scuffle ensued and a private security guard — who was contracted by the news agency — pulled out a gun and told the suspects to scam.

The would-be robbers fled without the camera and no one was hurt, police said.

The brazen stick-up attempt took place during an interview with Guillermo Cespedes, head of the city's Department of Violence Prevention, according to cops.

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

State of the News Media (Project)

(Pew Research Center)

Since 2004, Pew Research Center has issued an annual report on key audience and economic indicators for a variety of sectors within the U.S. news media industry.

These data speak to the shifting ways in which Americans seek out news and information, how news organizations get their revenue, and the resources available to American journalists as they seek to inform the public about important events of the day. The press is sometimes called the fourth branch of government, but in the U.S., it's also very much a business – one whose ability to serve the public is dependent on its ability to attract eyeballs and dollars.

Over the years, the Center's approach to these indicators has evolved along with the industry, carefully considering the metrics, sectors and format in which the data appear. Instead of a single summary report, our approach is to roll out a series of fact sheets showcasing the most important current and historical data points for each sector – in an easy-to-digest format – a few at a time.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage.



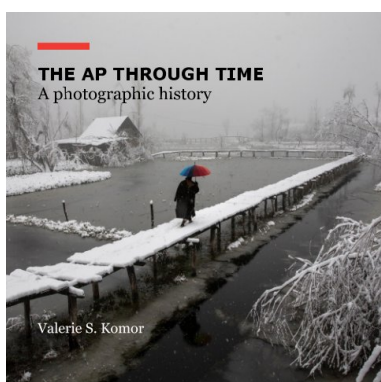
Celebrating AP's 175th

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 30, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 30, the 181st day of 2021. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1971, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that the government could not prevent The New York Times or The Washington Post from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

On this date:

In 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

In 1908, the Tunguska Event took place in Russia as an asteroid exploded above Siberia, leaving 800 square miles of scorched or blown-down trees.

In 1917, singer, actor and activist Lena Horne was born in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1918, labor activist and socialist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in Cleveland, charged under the Espionage Act of 1917 for a speech he'd made two weeks earlier

denouncing U.S. involvement in World War I. (Debs was sentenced to prison and disenfranchised for life.)

In 1934, Adolf Hitler launched his “blood purge” of political and military rivals in Germany in what came to be known as “The Night of the Long Knives.”

In 1958, the U.S. Senate passed the Alaska statehood bill by a vote of 64-20.

In 1971, a Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead of asphyxiation inside their capsule after it had returned to Earth.

In 1982, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution expired, having failed to receive the required number of ratifications for its adoption, despite having its seven-year deadline extended by three years.

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held 17 days.

In 1986, the Supreme Court, in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, ruled 5-4 that states could outlaw homosexual acts between consenting adults (however, the nation’s highest court effectively reversed this decision in 2003 in *Lawrence v. Texas*).

In 2009, American soldier Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan, and was later confirmed to have been captured by insurgents. (Bergdahl was released on May 31, 2014 in exchange for five Taliban detainees.)

In 2013, 19 elite firefighters known as members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots were killed battling a wildfire northwest of Phoenix after a change in wind direction pushed the flames back toward their position.

Ten years ago: The U.N.-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon issued an indictment naming four suspects in the assassination of Lebanon’s former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (rah-FEEK’ hah-REER’-ee), including a high-ranking Hezbollah militant linked to the 1983 truck bombings at the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait. Conservative TV commentator Glenn Beck said goodbye to Fox News Channel, airing his final show before going into business for himself.

Five years ago: Saying it was the right thing to do, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that transgender people would be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces. President Barack Obama signed a rescue package for financially strapped Puerto Rico, which was facing more than \$70 billion in debt and a major payment due the next day. Rodrigo Duterte (doo-TEHR’-tay) was sworn as president of the Philippines.

One year ago: An international disaster relief organization reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 among migrants in a tent encampment of asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border. Sen. Lamar Alexander, a Tennessee Republican, bluntly called on President Donald Trump to start wearing a mask, at least some of the time, to set a good example. Trump came under growing pressure to respond to allegations that Russia had offered bounties for killing U.S. troops in Afghanistan; the White House

said the allegations hadn't been confirmed. Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signed a landmark bill retiring the last state flag bearing the Confederate battle emblem. Boston's arts commission voted unanimously to remove a statue depicting a freed slave kneeling at Abraham Lincoln's feet. Baseball's minor leagues canceled their season because of the pandemic; more than half of the 160 teams were said to be in danger of failing.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lea Massari is 88. Actor Nancy Dussault (doo-SOH') is 85. Songwriter Tony Hatch is 82. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 77. Actor Leonard Whiting is 71. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 70. Actor David Garrison is 69. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 68. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 65. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 62. Actor Deirdre Lovejoy is 59. Actor Rupert Graves is 58. Former boxer Mike Tyson is 55. Actor Peter Outerbridge is 55. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 52. Actor-comedian Tony Rock (TV: "Living Biblically") is 52. Actor Brian Bloom is 51. Actor Monica Potter is 50. Actor Molly Parker is 49. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 42. Actor Tom Burke is 40. Actor Lizzy Caplan is 39. Actor Susannah Flood is 39. Rock musician James Adam Shelley (American Authors) is 38. Country singer Cole Swindell is 38. R&B singer Fantasia is 37. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 36. Actor Sean Marquette (TV: "The Goldbergs") is 33.

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

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