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Connecting

July 15, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this July 15, 2021,

We offer congratulations to our colleague **Teresa Walker**, AP sports writer in Nashville, on her induction into the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame – the first woman sports writer so honored.

But there's little time to celebrate. She's off soon to Tokyo as part of the Associated Press team covering the 2021 Summer Olympics. It will be her sixth Olympics.

That's Teresa with husband Russ Smith and son Lawson Smith at

the July 8 induction ceremony.
(Photo by Karin Miller.)

“Teresa Walker is the kind of journalist that makes things easy for her bosses,” said **Michael Giarrusso**, AP’s global sports editor. “When we try something new (sports writers shooting and editing video, sports writers using online tools to embed more visuals and social elements into key stories) she is among the first in line to learn and then starts teaching others. If plans change, or the technology doesn’t work, she rolls with the punches. She shows up at every assignment ready to take on any task that needs to be done, and she performs it quickly and efficiently. She is an excellent writer, without being wordy or flowery, and she knows how to chase the big story when it breaks in her territory.”



And this from **Oscar Dixon**, AP assistant sports editor, South Region: “Teresa is the consummate professional. She is a veteran journalist who uses the new reporting tools available to her, has embraced the way people consume information while maintaining the standards of award-winning journalism. This tremendous honor is well-deserved recognition for one of AP’s best.”

This just in...

Robert Shaw dies: Our colleague Linda Sargent shares the sad news that **Robert Shaw**, whose 42-year AP career included chief of bureau positions in Oklahoma City, Indianapolis and Little Rock, died early this morning. His daughter Erin Moore texted that “he passed peacefully at 1:53 am and has now joined my mother in heaven.” Connecting will bring you more in Friday’s edition and would welcome your memories of our colleague.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP’s Teresa Walker inducted into the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame



ABOVE: Pictured, from left, Larry Taft, The Tennessean of Nashville (2021); Maurice Patton, The Tennessean and The Daily Herald of Columbia (2021); Teresa Walker, The Associated Press (2020); Mark Wiedmer, Chattanooga Times Free Press (2020); George Starr, Cleveland Daily Banner and The Daily Post-Athenian (2021); and Tommy Bryan, The Wilson World and The Wilson Post (2020). (Photo by Karin Miller)
RIGHT: Teresa with Adam Yeomans, AP regional director/South.



LEBANON, Tennessee - AP Sports Writer Teresa Walker was officially inducted into the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame July 8 at a ceremony at Cumberland University. She is the first woman sports writer to be inducted.

Walker has worked for AP more than 30 years and covers the NFL's Tennessee Titans, the NHL's Nashville Predators, the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, Vanderbilt University and other pro and college sports in the region.

The TSWA elected her to the Hall of Fame in 2020 but the pandemic forced the organization to cancel its induction ceremony so she and other honorees were recognized at this month's event. The TSWA started the Hall of Fame in 2006.

Walker said being the first female sports writer to be inducted was a distinct honor.

“I’m very aware of June Stewart and Debby Jennings being the first women (honored for their work as athletic media relations directors at Vanderbilt and Tennessee, respectively), but being the first female sports writer inducted means the world.

“Trying to help pave the path in this state for other women means a lot.”

Adam Yeomans, AP regional director/South and former Nashville chief of bureau, has worked with Walker since he came to Nashville 16 years ago.

“The honor is richly deserved. Teresa is not only one of the best sports writers in Tennessee and the nation, she’s an outstanding representative of the AP,” he said. “I’m in awe of how she juggles the vast number of teams and sports she covers with passion and depth.”



Walker and late Tennessee COB Kent Flanagan present Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair with the AP NFL Co-MVP award in May 2004. Photo: Mike Strasinger.

A native of Homestead, Florida, Walker is a four-time Tennessee Sportswriter of the Year and won an APSE award for feature writing in 2015 for a story from the Masters. A graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in June 1987, she went to work as a news reporter for The Daily Times in Maryville. She covered one high school football game and wrote one sports column and a feature on Hoosier racing tires while mostly covering education, courts and the police beat.

Hired by the AP in Nashville in December 1989, Walker wrote college football and basketball games from around Tennessee by phone for the first two years. She became Tennessee sports editor in June 1992 and has covered five Olympics, four Super Bowls and one remotely via Zoom, a handful of Southeastern Conference men's and women's basketball tournaments, several NCAA Tournaments and regional finals

and the 2014 Women's Final Four in Nashville. She covered the relocation of the NFL's Houston Oilers between 1995 and 1997, taking over as beat writer upon the team's arrival in Nashville in July 1997.

Walker became one of the AP's Pro Football Writers helping cover the NFL in 2014 and is the first president of the Pro Football Writers Association's Nashville chapter. She also is a past president of the TSWA. She has covered the NHL's Nashville Predators, including the 2017 Stanley Cup Final; Vanderbilt football, men's and women's basketball and baseball; the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies and the Memphis Tigers. Walker was named the 2020 alumna of the year by the University of Tennessee School of Journalism and Electronic media.

In an interview last year with A to Z Sports in Nashville, Walker explained the vast difference of the number of women from when she first started to today. (Click [here](#) for the full story.)

"I went from being the only woman at many sporting events to now having a handful of them, and it's wonderful," she smiled. "Now I go to a Titans' practice and there are women working for TV stations and even the Titans themselves. I have been told I have been accepted as one of the guys, but it really is nice looking around and seeing women by my side."

After over 30 years of covering sports, Walker knows she made the right decision in picking her career.

"They call sports the toy store of the news department," she joked in the A to Z Sports story. "Although, I'd argue if you can be a sports writer on deadline, you can cover any news story in the world. I'm blessed I get to be paid to watch what people pay to see. I'm very proud to be a sports writer."

Teresa Walker's email - twalker@ap.org

Thanks to Sonya

Jim Carlson ([Email](#)) - Thanks to Sonya Zalubowski, my onetime Milwaukee AP colleague and longtime friend, for her urgent plea to all of us (in Wednesday's Connecting).

My wife Ellen and I try to keep the climate issue in mind in our daily lives. And we also try to keep up a drumbeat of calls and messages to elected officials and sometimes get letters printed in our newspaper, but we know more must be done.

But it gets frustrating when even the life-saving vaccines that our former president took credit for championing now are mired in political fighting and resistance to the current president's efforts to get more people vaccinated.

What Sonya witnessed firsthand hasn't hit our Wisconsin neighborhoods so far, but there have been many signs of change, so we can expect many more to come.

Just the facts

Bruce Handler ([Email](#)) - When I started with the AP in 1967 a veteran staffer in PD (Portland, OR) told me a tale (fantasy? real?) of some legendary AP writer who was said to have quipped that to have a long, successful career with the company, just end every sentence with: "...state police said Monday."

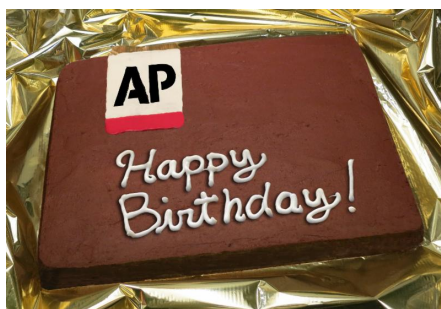
Has anyone else heard that one? At any rate, this sort of approach wouldn't get you very far in today's media environment.

Maggie's on the deer watch



Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Here is a picture that might be of interest. It shows one of our cats, Maggie May Clove looking out of the dining room door window as a deer eats some of the bird feed on our patio.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Santiago Lyon - Santiago.lyon@gmail.com

Diane Parker - dlparker79@optonline.net

And a few days late to...

Richard Keltner - rkeltner2001@hotmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Mark Hoffman - mark.hoffman@jrn.com

Stories of interest

Feds charge 4 in Iran plot to kidnap activist in US, others (AP)



FILE - In this July 13, 2005, file photo, outgoing reformist Iranian President Mohammad Khatami talks on the phone with the mother of female journalist Masih Alinejad, right, after meeting with journalists in Tehran, Iran. Prosecutors in the U.S. alleged Tuesday, July 13, 2021, that Iran planned to kidnap Alinejad, famous for her campaign against the Islamic Republic's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, for women. Iran did not immediately comment on the allegation Wednesday, July 14, 2021. (AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakhshian, File)

By DEEPTI HAJELA and LARRY NEUMEISTER

NEW YORK (AP) — An Iranian intelligence officer and three alleged members of an Iranian intelligence network have been charged in Manhattan with plotting to kidnap a prominent Iranian opposition activist and writer in exile and take her back to Tehran, authorities said Tuesday.

An indictment in Manhattan federal court alleges that the plot was part of a wider plan to lure three individuals in Canada and a fifth person in the United Kingdom to Iran. Victims were also targeted in the United Arab Emirates, authorities said.

The identities of the alleged victims were not released but Brooklyn-based Masih Alinejad confirmed that authorities had told her she was among the targeted victims.

“I knew that this is the nature of the Islamic Republic, you know, kidnapping people, arresting people, torturing people, killing people. But I couldn’t believe it that this is going to happen to me in United States of America,” Alinejad told The Associated Press.

Read more [here](#).

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Iran foreign ministry: Iran kidnap plot is 'imaginary story' (AP)

By DEEPTI HAJELA and LARRY NEUMEISTER

NEW YORK (AP) — An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Wednesday that accusations by U.S. authorities that Iran is plotting to kidnap Iranians abroad who criticize the country are “baseless and ridiculous.”

The spokesperson, Saeed Khatibzadeh, was quoted by Iran’s semiofficial ISNA news agency a day after U.S. federal authorities in New York announced criminal charges against four Iranian intelligence operatives.

The authorities, quoting from an indictment, say the individuals plotted to kidnap a prominent Iranian opposition activist and writer in exile from her Brooklyn residence and take her to Tehran.

Khatibzadeh derided the plot as “Hollywood-style scenarios” and “baseless and ridiculous” accusations unworthy of a response.

“Making such an imaginary story is not unlikely by the U.S. Its entire short history is full of assassination, kidnapping and sabotage in other countries,” Khatibzadeh said.

Read more [here](#).

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How Tucker Carlson became the voice of White grievance (Washington Post)

By Michael Kranish

Tucker Carlson huddled in a low-ceilinged dungeon that had served as a holding pen for Africans bound for enslavement in the United States. It was a July day in 2003 in Ghana, and Carlson stood alongside some of America’s most prominent civil rights leaders.

The conservative commentator, who at the time co-hosted the CNN show “Crossfire,” walked through the memorial, where a guide told how the shackled Africans who did not perish during the voyage were sold as human chattel in America.

The civil rights leaders prayed, cried and sang “We Shall Overcome.” They peered toward the sea from the Door of No Return. But Carlson seemed strangely detached, according to two of the civil rights leaders who were present.

“When we got to the castle and the dungeon, it had an emotional impact on all of us, as Africans in America,” said the Rev. Albert Sampson, a former associate of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Then there was what he called “the tragedy of Carlson.”

“He did not cry,” Sampson told The Washington Post in his first interview about the encounter. “He did not have any intellectual response. He didn’t give any verbal response. It was a total detachment from the reality of the event.”

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

The Final Word



"Bad news, its curiosity"

Shared by Merrill Hartson



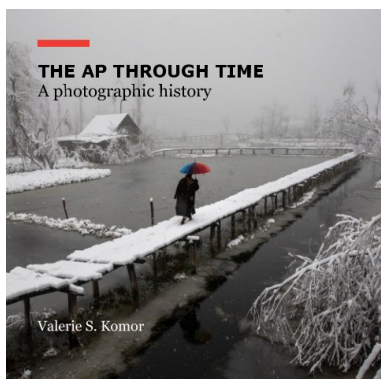
Celebrating AP's 175th

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 is temporarily down and will be reinstated in Connecting soon.

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 - July 15, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 15, the 196th day of 2021. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 15, 1834, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished more than 3 1/2 centuries after its creation.

On this date:

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union. Manitoba entered confederation as the fifth Canadian province.

In 1910, the term "Alzheimer's disease" was used to describe a progressive form of presenile dementia in the book "Clinical Psychiatry" by German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin, who credited the work of his colleague, Alois (al-WAH') Alzheimer, in identifying the condition.

In 1913, Augustus Bacon, D-Ga., became the first person elected to the U.S. Senate under the terms of the recently ratified 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for popular election of senators.

In 1916, Boeing Co., originally known as Pacific Aero Products Co., was founded in Seattle.

In 1918, the Second Battle of the Marne, resulting in an Allied victory, began during World War I.

In 1975, three American astronauts blasted off aboard an Apollo spaceship hours after two Soviet cosmonauts were launched aboard a Soyuz spacecraft for a mission that included a linkup of the two ships in orbit.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, California, by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnapers were caught.)

In 1985, a visibly gaunt Rock Hudson appeared at a news conference with frequent co-star Doris Day (it was later revealed Hudson was suffering from AIDS).

In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace (ver-SAH'-chay), 50, was shot dead outside his Miami Beach home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan (koo-NAN'-an), 27, was found dead eight days later, a suicide. (Investigators believed Cunanan killed four other people before Versace in a cross-country rampage that began the previous March.)

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, an American who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to two felonies in a deal sparing him life in prison.

In 2018, President Donald Trump arrived in Finland for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Earlier, in an interview with CBS News, Trump named the European Union as a top adversary of the United States.

In 2019, avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields Jr. was sentenced to life in prison plus 419 years for killing one and injuring dozens of others when he

deliberately drove his car into a crowd of anti-racism protesters during a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Ten years ago: Rupert Murdoch accepted the resignation of The Wall Street Journal's publisher, Les Hinton, and the chief of his British operations, Rebekah Brooks, as the once-defiant media mogul struggled to control an escalating phone hacking scandal. Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony announced they were breaking up after seven years of marriage.

Five years ago: Donald Trump chose Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, an experienced politician with deep Washington connections, as his running mate.

One year ago: George Floyd's family filed a lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis and the four police officers charged in his death, alleging the officers violated Floyd's rights when they restrained him and that the city allowed a culture of excessive force, racism and impunity to flourish in its police force. (The city would agree to pay \$27 million to settle the lawsuit in March 2021.) As coronavirus cases surged to record levels in the Los Angeles area, organizers canceled the 2021 New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena for the first time in 75 years. Walmart became the largest retailer to require customers to wear face coverings at all of its stores. Thousands of auto racing fans gathered at Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee for a NASCAR All-Star race, the nation's largest sporting event since the pandemic began; it was won by Chase Elliott.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Patrick Wayne is 82. R&B singer Millie Jackson is 77. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Moby Grape) is 76. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 75. Rock musician Artimus Pyle is 73. Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, is 71. Actor Celia Imrie is 69. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 69. Rock singer-musician David Pack is 69. Rock musician Marky Ramone is 69. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 65. Country singer-songwriter Mac McAnally is 64. Model Kim Alexis is 61. Actor Willie Aames is 61. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 60. Actor Lolita Davidovich is 60. Actor Shari Headley is 58. Actor Brigitte Nielsen is 58. Rock musician Jason Bonham is 55. Actor Amanda Foreman is 55. R&B singer Stokley (Mint Condition) is 54. Actor-comedian Eddie Griffin is 53. Actor Reggie Hayes is 52. Actor-screenwriter Jim Rash is 50. Rock musician John Dolmayan is 49. Actor Scott Foley is 49. Actor Brian Austin Green is 48. Rapper Jim Jones is 45. Actor Diane Kruger is 45. Actor Lana Parrilla (LAH'-nuh pa-REE'-uh) is 44. Rock musician Ray Toro (My Chemical Romance) is 44. Actor Laura Benanti is 42. Actor Travis Fimmel is 42. Actor Taylor Kinney is 40. Actor-singer Tristan "Mack" Wilds is 32. Actor Medalion Rahimi is 29. Actor Iain Armitage (TV: "Big Little Lies" "Young Sheldon") is 13.

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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