

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting

July 19, 2021

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)  
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)  
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)  
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this July 19, 2021,

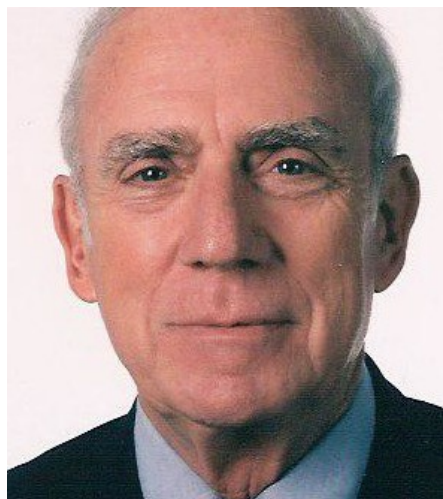
The AP's Kansas City bureau was put to the test 40 years ago when skywalks at the downtown Hyatt Hotel collapsed after support rods failed and the walkways fell, crushing party-goers on the floors below.

Our colleague **Robert Macy** was the first AP reporter on the scene, along with his wife **Melinda**, and the two were integral parts of the coverage of the tragedy that claimed 111 lives.

Bob files a remembrance of the tragedy as our lead story in today's Connecting from his home in Las Vegas, where he served as AP correspondent from 1981 to 2000. He was inducted into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2001. He and Melinda have two sons, Scott (Florida) and Brent

(Vegas), two granddaughters and a great-granddaughter.

**DEATH OF ROBERT SHAW:** Connecting brings you more memories of our colleague, who died last week. We received this note from **Walter E. Hussman**, publisher of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and a former AP director: "I remember Robert fondly. He was personable but always professional. The AP was fortunate to have him. Sincerely, Walter."



Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., this Saturday, July 24, at Smith North Little Rock Funeral Home with graveside services at Pinecrest Memorial Park in Alexander, Arkansas. Visitation will be from 6 – 8 p.m. on Friday, July 23. Robert's children Erin and Robbie plan to leave time at their father's funeral for his former colleagues to speak if they wish to do so.

Click [here](#) for a link to Robert's obituary, which includes the entire Connecting issue from last Friday covering his death and initial comments received from his colleagues. (Shared by Linda Franklin Sargent)

Have a great day and week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## 40 Years Later: Hyatt Hotel Disaster Remembered



**Robert Macy fights his way through the crowd, seeking information on the collapse of the skywalks at the Kansas City Hyatt Hotel on July 17, 1981. AP Photo/courtesy Corporate Archives.**

**Robert Macy (Email)** - Like a bad Hitchcock movie on re-run, the tragedy of the Night of the Kansas City Hyatt Hotel Skywalk disaster marked its 40th anniversary Saturday, with survivors continuing to question: "How could this have happened?" Survivors of the 111 who died share the pain and misery of the question that remains unanswered.

It seems like yesterday, driving home from the KC AP Bureau that Friday afternoon. I flipped to a news station that gave breaking news of an accident at the newly opened Hyatt Regency Hotel; I was nearly home; supper awaited with my wife, Melinda, and our son, Brent.

Bureau Chief Fred Moen was on the phone. Could I get down to the Hyatt? It sounded like the accident could be significant! I told Melinda and Brent to come along. Melinda's years as an AP Wife had taught me she was a journalistic asset in critical times. It was beginning to look like this might be one of those nights.

Arriving at the Hyatt, a cluster of emergency vehicles told me it was going to be one of those times. I checked out the triage area on the street in front of the hotel. It was scattered with injured being measured for their medical needs. At the hotel, I found a front window broken out. I slipped through and checked the interior of the spacious



lobby—dressed for an opening gala. Debris was everywhere. It appeared a bomb had exploded on site.

Melinda took a post across the street, found a cluster of witnesses who could update her with initial information. I began checking out the gutted interior of what had minutes earlier been Hyatt's latest showplace.

A worker explained that heavy walkways spanning the second, third and fourth floors fell and crushed dancers on floors below. Workers faced hours digging through tons of rubble. Scores of construction workers and medical technicians were recruited from nearby projects to aid in recovery efforts.

I obtained a worker's pass from a friend in the mayor's office and would spend the night watching recovery efforts and getting updates from recovery workers. Early fatality reports from officers at the scene indicated fatalities less than 10, then in the 20s, climbing steadily all night.

It was a nearly-impossible rescue task —hundreds of elegantly party-dressed revelers, a smothering Summer night, tons of debris to move.

Hope was a scarce commodity at the Hyatt that dark night.

There were exceptions — a grandmother telling her grandson to keep up hopes as rescuers raced to reach them — buried alive: "How do we know they will get to us?" the boy asked. The grandmother consoled: "We're alive, we can feel each other. They know we're alive; they can hear us talking, beating on debris;" the grandmother told her grandson. She would be right; rescuers would reach them in time.





**AP Photos by Robert and Scott Macy**

I finally sent Melinda and Brent home, her having spent hours relaying updates from witnesses on the street to AP Night Editor Jeff Holyfield at the AP office blocks away. Son Scott brought me another camera to record rescue efforts. It would be 20 hours before I would get home. Scott, a former Marine, sat quietly at my side much of the

night, with one or the other of us slipping away on occasion for brief conversations with rescue workers taking breaks across the darkened hall.

The Hyatt disaster brought out the best in AP's talent.

\* AP's Day Staffer Debra Krajnak had just left the bureau, saw fire engines, called the office, then went back to the Hyatt and learned of the collapse of the walkways.

\* COB Moen coordinated the AP staffing.

\* Ironically, ACOB Mercer Bailey was hospitalized for a procedure in St. Luke's Hospital just a few blocks away, and interviewed some of the injured victims as they arrived for treatment.

\* Sports Editor Doug Tucker had recently interviewed Hyatt officials about unsuccessful Hyatt efforts to land the NCAA basketball tournament and had a wealth of information on the new KC resort. Tucker produced AMs and PMs on the hotel. He later went to the scene, where he produced more separates on some of the survivors and got the first report of the death toll reaching 108. The final death count was 111. Two off-duty staffers, night editor Jeff Holyfield and Mark Gaynor — were called in — Holyfield to anchor the desk and Gaynor for interviews at hospitals.

The night in the Hyatt, covering the search for survivors, has left a lasting impact on me, particularly when walking in buildings such as shopping centers that can give off eerie motions mindful of the Hyatt.

## More memories of our colleague Robert Shaw

**Jon Gambrell ([Email](#))** – *AP news director/Gulf and Iran* - I was saddened to learn of Robert Shaw's death. He hired me into my first AP post as a correspondent in Little Rock in 2006 after I plastered my resume across the cooperative in hopes of landing a job. He took a chance on me and one for which I'll be eternally grateful. He always was gracious to guests, like my father when he stopped by the bureau after driving across the country with me from Bellingham, Washington, to move there for the job. Robert expected the best from his staffers – and may have quietly photocopied and left a GQ article on how to properly knot a tie in a young staffer's mailbox to correct his chronically askew neckwear. You'll be missed, sir.

-0-

**Andy Lippman ([Email](#))** – *who Robert succeeded as Indianapolis CoB* - The AP world I worked in was often as much a family as it was a company. I often knew spouses in relationship to the relationship I had with their husbands or wives.



Robert Shaw was an example of that. I really didn't have to give him much direction when he came to Indianapolis. He saw what I had done there and he proceeded to pick up almost all of the remaining pieces of UPI properties. So, we didn't have to talk much unless he felt the need for a briefing before a visit.

What I remember best is our talks about Joyce. She had rheumatoid arthritis - the same thing I have, and she had it a lot longer. She even had gold shots at times - a practice which had been abandoned by the time I was diagnosed in 1996.

Robert was very protective of his wife, keeping her home from meetings when she was flaring or really tired, or if the weather was changing (and it changed a lot in Indiana). He told me what she was going through, and I could relate - and I also learned what I was about to face when it got worse - which it did.

She was in pain, and Robert felt that pain, but I know from hearing from his staff and members that he always tried to keep that sadness home. He was a wise man with a wonderful style of grace and a combination of humor and humility.

God bless him and his family.

-0-

**Kent Prince (Email)** - The last time I saw Robert Shaw, we were lost in north Jackson — two retired AP newsmen unable to find our motel in what seemed a maze of Mississippi streets, crisscrossing the suburban interstate, back and forth, back and forth. We debated whether to tell anybody; reporters don't get lost, certainly not in the state capital where we both used to live. But it was a great reunion and we had to share the lede. I remember the whole ridiculous search punctuated by Shaw's chuckle. We planned to renew the get-together at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. Robert the history buff had the trip high on his list. But, alas, it never happened.

Back in the 1970s, Robert landed as Jackson correspondent assigned to more or less liberate the bureau from the New Orleans umbrella. Although Mississippi remained under auspices of the NU bureau chief, Shaw didn't have enough staff, let alone enough resources, even desk space, to cut the news completely loose. The overflow never stopped, dictation, copy relay, and shared staff. Through an odd loophole in the contract, we would couple temporary jobs, starting in New Orleans for a few weeks, then in Jackson for a stint as vacation relief, with new hands getting proper seasoning under Shaw. The graduates made up a stellar list, many of whom have posted memories of Shaw on this bulletin board on this sad occasion.



When Shaw retired, we combed stacks of files looking for something to tease him about. Nothing embarrassing, much less incriminating, was there — an indication of the operation he ran. About the closest thing we could find was his and my frantic scramble to figure out how to spell Lynyrd Skynyrd. I can still hear that chuckle...

-0-

**Jim Reindl (Email)** - I succeeded Robert as CoB in Indianapolis. He was very gracious in helping me with the transition. But my enduring memory is of the first time I played in the DC Open during Indy 500 weekend. I cannot describe my golf skills because I don't have any. Nor did I apparently understand golf etiquette. Robert and his foursome were still on the green when I unleashed one of my patented 'whack-and-track' approach shots. The ball banged Robert squarely on the shoulder and kind of rolled down his arm. Outside of startling him, no harm occurred except to my ego. "Gracious" isn't my first choice of words to describe his initial reaction but all ended well. He was a sport.

-0-

**Brian Skoloff (Email)** - It was a very sad day learning of Robert's passing. He meant a lot to me.

Robert was a true gentleman, an old-school journalist as talented as they come, a kind man with character and charisma and just an all-around great human being. He was my first bureau chief at The Associated Press back in 2000 and quickly became my mentor and friend, a relationship that remained over the next 20 years. We'd share cocktails at least once a week at the Embassy Suites bar near the office in Little Rock where he taught me how to enjoy a good scotch, as well as how to be the best person and journalist I could be. He was always so proud to see the people he hired move up and on. He cared deeply for those who worked for him and saw their wins as his accomplishments. I just absolutely love the man and I wouldn't be the person or journalist I am today had our paths not crossed. RIP, my good friend. May you rest in peace now and be with your wife. You will be terribly missed in this life but you've left a mark on so many that your legacy will live on forever.

-0-

**David Speer (Email)** - Robert Shaw was my first boss in the AP. He was correspondent in Jackson, Mississippi, when I went to Little Rock to take the AP test and told the bureau chief there that I'd go just about anywhere in the country to join the AP, except I didn't want to go to Mississippi.

Guess what?

I only lasted about a year in Jackson, but I have enough Shaw stories to fill a book.

Like when he sent me to get on the campaign bus of then-presidential candidate Ronald Reagan who was making a stop at the Neshoba County Fair. "But Robert, I don't have a credential. They're not going to let me on that bus." "We need someone on that bus. Get on the bus." I got on the bus. Uncredentialed.



And then there was the night (I usually worked the nights. Didn't we all?) when the techs were installing a computer in Jackson. We had been working off the computer in New Orleans and we were getting our own mainframe in Jackson. I was assured that all my PMs stories were stored in the mainframe in New Orleans and I would have them to send out by the time the cycle opened. Shaw showed back up about midnight to "make sure everything worked." Or to check on me. The computer came up. I could send, etc. But no PMs report. The transfer link wasn't working. The members had to have a PMs report, though. So Shaw and I started typing from the printouts that I had made. We typed and sent as fast as we could, Shaw typing twice as fast as I was. About the time the sun came up and we finished retyping the report, the transfer line opened and I got my whole PMs cycle back. Shaw said: "The one we sent was better. I fixed your typos."

And then there was the time the day after the 1980 election when the U.S. Senate flipped from Democratic to Republican control. I was feeling very proud of myself that I had gotten Sen. Thad Cochran (who Shaw insisted on calling "Thud") on the phone in his Washington office. During the interview, Cochran had told me something to the effect of "I'm sitting here with the list of Senate committee appointments and it's like flipping through the Sears-Roebuck catalog." Shaw, always ready with the pin to pop my balloon, said, "Sure, you got Cochran. Now get Stennis." What Robert "forgot" to tell me was that Sen. John C. Stennis had one day a year of media "accountability" where he talked to reporters. So, naively, I called Stennis' office in DC. "He's at home in Mississippi with Mrs. Stennis, who's ill." So I called around to members to see if anyone had a home number. One did. "Hello?" "Sen. Stennis?" "Yes, who is this?" I identified myself as a reporter from the AP, but before the senator could hang up on me, I added, "How's Mrs. Stennis?" He told me. We chatted for a minute. I slipped in a question about the flip of the Senate from D to R and he told me he'd been through a switch before - both ways - and he and Thad would work together for the good of our great state. I started to clean up my shaky typing. Robert walked up behind me. "You got that Cochran reaction done yet?" The rest of the bureau, the other three in the room, leaned in to listen. They knew what Shaw had done, setting me an impossible task. "I'm just adding in the Stennis quotes." "What? How?" "You told me to talk to Stennis. I talked to him." Terry or Ron or maybe Mr. Saggus - between laughing - told me about Stennis and his not talking to reporters who just called him up. I had been afraid that Shaw would fire me or something if I didn't get both sides.

I'll miss you, Robert. But I'll never forget you.

## **Jim Polk – Emmy/Pulitzer winner and former AP newsman – dies at 83**

James Ray Polk "Jim" (Age 83) Of Marietta, GA went to his eternal resting place on Thursday, July 15, 2021, peacefully while at his residence.

Jim was born September 12, 1937, to the late Oeta and Raymond Polk in Oaktown, IN. At the age of eight he wrote about sports for the local paper, the Oaktown Press. After three years in the United States Navy, he

attended Indiana University Bloomington and received his bachelors; a degree in government in 1964. He worked as a political staff writer for the Bloomington-based Herald-Telephone and received the American Political Science Award.



He moved to the Associated Press in 1962, and later joined the Washington Star in 1971. James R. Polk was an American journalist, known for his investigative reporting and coverage of American political corruption and fraud. Over the course of his career, he has covered the Raymond Donovan investigations, the Bert Lance controversy, the Abscam scandal, and the financial dealings of John Zaccaro, husband of 1984 Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro.

Polk won several journalism awards: George Polk Award, an Emmy, and the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting. He was also the co-founder of Investigative Reporters and Editors that was headquartered in New Jersey. Among his many accomplishments he also was employed by NBC from 1975-1992 as an investigative reporter, this was when he covered the Abscam, and racketeering case against Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, and the Iran-Contra Affair; in 1992 he joined CNN as Senior Documentary Producer, during his time at CNN James was awarded the Emmy earlier mentioned. In 1994 James was entered into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame (ijhf.org). Not only was James a well accomplished journalist and investigator, he still made time to put his family first as well as his colleagues.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carl P. Leubsdorf.

## More on attribution mania

**Claude Erbsen (Email)** - A couple of decades ago, before I retired, I was taking my son to Atlanta for a World Series game (I leave it to baseball fans to figure out when that might have been) when our plane had a sudden decompression. Oxygen masks flew down from their overhead hiding places, the pilot put the plane into a steep dive, and cabin crew screamed "put on your masks!" Some passengers screamed in panic, but everything was done by the book, and it was all over in a couple of minutes.

Once we had reached a safe altitude the pilot leveled off and on we went to Atlanta and a quick landing since the pilot had declared an emergency.

It wasn't an earthshaking story, but once we reached the ground, I headed for a phone booth and called the AX bureau. I introduced myself and dictated a couple of eyewitness grafs. Later, I could find no evidence of the story, or rather brief, having run even on the state wire. I checked with AX, and learned they had spiked it because neither the airport nor the carrier had confirmed it. So much for faith in a fellow staffer's eyewitness report.

## AP 175th Anniversary Polos

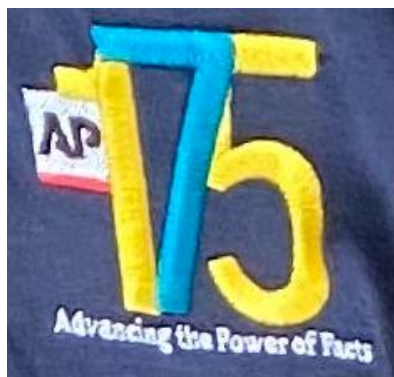
AP is offering a variety of 175th anniversary merchandise, but one item that isn't available and that many staffers like is a Polo shirt.

Adam Yeomans, AP's regional director for the South, has taken care of that. He recently ordered Polos for AP staffers in the South, a few members and retirees, other AP fans. You can see Ye Olde Connecting Editor beaming in the photo with his shirt.

Now you have the opportunity to order one of these limited-edition shirts emblazoned with the AP's 175th anniversary logo.

The cost is \$30 per shirt, including shipping. Adult sizes are S, M, L, XL and XXL. The Navy Blue shirts are a 50/50 blend and tend to run a little large.

If you'd like to order one, please email Adam Yeomans at [adamyemans@yahoo.com](mailto:adamyemans@yahoo.com) with your name, phone number, home address, and the size(s) and quantity by July 30.



Adam says he will collect payment once the shirts are ready for shipping. He's trying to cover his cost; if there's anything left, he says he will donate it to the AP Employee Relief Fund.

A caveat:

Depending on the response, the order may need to be limited. If there are not enough orders, he may not be able to submit it.

## Back to the Real World

**Mort Rosenblum (Email)** -In French, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is a pretty close translation: "La Légende de Sleepy Hollow." Rip Van Winkle is, simply enough, Rip Van Winkle (pronounced "Reep," with the R somewhere back in the throat). And the 20 months I've been gone, back in Arizona, seem like 20 years. Much of France is still its old immovable feast. But that is changing fast in a harrowing new world out here beyond America's insulating oceans. Covid, climate, conflict -and that's only the C's. I'll get to that soon, resuming Mort Reports as soon as I finish a stashed bottle of Côte



Rotie and a non-counterfeit Cuban Montecristo No. 4 cigar. This is just a catchup after a long Facebook-free transition back to reality.

The 25-hour trip from Tucson to Nice, via Atlanta and Paris, was predictably eventful. But given everyone's tales of travel woes these days, no big deal. (Tip if coming to France: unless you have to go Paris, change planes at Roissy airport through the Correspondance - Transfer -- exit. We got stamped in immediately by a bored dude who didn't ask for the last-minute Covid test we had stood on our heads to get in Tucson. Paris arrivals were backed up halfway to the tarmac).



On the long haul, the only catastrophe was the cat's, who went from catatonic to caterwauling somewhere over Portugal. Streak was a trooper, zonked out on meds I may try myself next time. But feline bladders have their limits. The short version: a mad scramble to remove his big blue carryon from the overhead bin, extract his portable poo-box and do whatever he and Jeannette managed in the aft head. The longer version involves multiple discomfited fellow travelers.

Wild Olives is now more fitting a name than intended. Weeds grew like crazy; fruit trees gave up the ghost. It's astonishing how much havoc a pack of thirsty sangliers can wreak during long months of drought. In Provence, people are pretty phlegmatic about la peste, and vaccine resistance is high. At the Draguignan market, André the cheese guy counted out bills for a customer's change, coughed into his fingers, and then handed me a sample slice of his prized tomme de Savoie. At every stand, shoppers pawed the tomatoes and prodded peaches. But hey.

I made a quick trip to Paris to rescue Almeria, my wooden boat at the Concorde. Friends kept her afloat, but it's time to spiff up the old girl and take her out dancing. Most Parisians mask up. But the metro is jammed beyond description; you can close your eyes and imagine those pathogens high-fiving over all the targets of opportunity. Heedless tourists swarm like wasps, sideswiping pedestrians on electric scooters, and jam the usual sites. Ah, but the back streets. Simone at the Costa da Amalfi made me tagliolini with summer truffles (PM me for the address, but if you post it on Trip Destroyer I'll hunt you down). And it's strawberry season.

Now that I'm back on the road, I'll intersperse Mort Reports with paying work and cut back on FB. Follow me to see occasional posts, if so moved, and sign up for free emails at [mortreport.org](http://mortreport.org). And please make sure people you care about take this Covid shit seriously. It is getting scary out here.



# Letter from Sally Buzbee to Post subscribers

Dear Washington Post subscribers,

I couldn't be more excited to serve as executive editor of The Washington Post. I came here because of the respect I have for the institution and its people. Over the last month, I've spent time meeting and learning from my new colleagues, and it has been a pleasure putting faces to the names of the journalists we rely on for news that impacts our lives and everyday decisions. Their collective curiosity, vigor, and passion for this important work is palpable and inspiring, and it is a privilege to play a role in sharing their expertise with you.

I've spent my career pursuing the facts, seeking out stories of significance, and holding the powerful to account. To lead the biggest newsroom in The Washington Post's history is an incredible honor for me. But to also join The Washington Post at this moment in history feels like the beginning of a journey we are embarking on together. The world is ever changing, yet our commitment to you and to the profession I love, is not. We will continue to deliver the quality journalism that you have come to expect, reporting relevant and meaningful information and analysis in ways that are most accessible and convenient to you.

We'll work daily to ensure the growing, diverse range of voices in our newsroom is heard and reflected, and that we are diligently finding and telling the stories that spotlight the experiences of our diverse readers.

As you may have read, we're expanding our global footprint, meaning you'll have access to even more real-time coverage. Establishing breaking-news hubs in Europe and Asia gives us the ability to cover live events as they are unfolding around the globe, so you can depend on us for timely news reports at any hour, whether in Australia or on Capitol Hill.

We're combining our legacy of deeply sourced, fact-based, investigative journalism with cutting-edge digital innovation, keeping us at the forefront of journalism's future so that you are both informed and delighted. You can look forward to more award-winning video and audio storytelling and insightful, beautiful and immersive graphic presentations.

The most important thing I want to share is that we'll always have a relentless focus on you, our valued readers. There is so much ahead. I am thrilled to be part of The Washington Post's future and hope you are, too.

**Sally Buzbee**  
Executive Editor

Shared by Dennis Conrad, Sibby Christensen, Ric Brack, Bill Kole, Linda Deutsch.

***Best of the Week***

# Only on AP: Heartrending images capture children across the globe who lost parents to COVID



## AP Photo/Anupan Nath

Rarely does AP's Best of the Week award go to an editor. But this week — a particularly strong one for AP with multiple exclusives that could have won on most weeks — the honor is truly deserved by New York-based Top Stories Hub photo editor Alyssa Goodman. Goodman was the driving force behind "Kids Left Behind," an extraordinarily moving photo package that takes an intimate look at children who have lost parents to the pandemic.

The project, which moved several days after the world topped 4 million dead, was the brainchild of Goodman and New Delhi-based chief photographer Manish Swarup. Goodman worked with photographers around the globe to find many of the subjects, then get permission to photograph and interview them — no easy feat when children are involved.

And what stories they found. An 8-year-old girl in Soweto, South Africa, pining for the father she lost to the disease, a 10-year old in India who lost both parents in a matter of weeks, a young family in the Philippines that has fallen on hard times since husband and father Arthur Navales died in April and a California 13-year-old performing the song she composed for her father's funeral, on the guitar he gave her for Christmas, days before he died.

Read more [here](#).

## *Best of the States*

# AP takes immersive look as drought puts 'flatlining' Great Salt Lake at historic risk



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

As the western U.S. finds itself in the grips of one of the worst droughts in recent history, the AP West region staff has delved into every aspect of the drought's impact across the region. In one of the hardest-hit areas, Salt Lake City-based AP photographer Rick Bowmer, reporter Lindsay Whitehurst and interim news editor Brady McCombs documented that Utah's Great Salt Lake is headed toward historically low water levels.

Reporting ahead of other news outlets, the AP delivered an in-depth, visually rich all-formats package that showed readers how the dying lake, nearly the size of Delaware, is negatively impacting people and wildlife and is a harbinger of worrisome drought-related consequences ahead.

The team reported how decades of drought and water diversion in the booming region is affecting the nesting spot of pelicans forcing sailors to hoist their boats from shallow waters and exposing dry lakebed that could send arsenic-laced dust into the air that millions breathe.

Read more [here](#).

# Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas - Plus a bonus event!

You are invited to attend the Sept. 18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Co-hosts are Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

Please register by Aug. 2. Pay your own way. All events are casual attire.

Registration list: (will be updated):

- Amanda Barnett
- Joei Bohr & Mark Woolsey
- Sally Carpenter Hale & Rick Hale
- Pam & Frank Collins
- Schuyler Dixon
- Stephen & Andrea Hawkins
- Diana & Paul Heidgerd
- Mike Holmes
- Brent Kallestad
- Charles & Barbara Richards
- Rod Richardson & Kia Breaux Richardson
- David & Ellen Sedeño
- Kelley Shannon
- Ed & Barbara Staats
- Jamie Stengle
- Terry Wallace & Liz Eaton

Group events include a Tex-Mex dinner Saturday night, Sept. 18, and going to the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19, at retractable-roof Globe Life Field in Arlington. Baseball tickets are \$45 each and must be reserved in advance via Diana. Hotel information is below.

Bonus Reunion Event! Friday night, Sept. 17:

David and Ellen Sedeño of Dallas have graciously offered a suggestion (for reunion early arrivals or those who live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) -- join them for dinner Friday night at their family's BBQ restaurant, located about 15 minutes north of the reunion hotel.

Meat U Anywhere BBQ  
919 W. Northwest Highway  
Grapevine, Texas 76051  
817-251-1227

Meat U Anywhere

Time: 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 17. BYOB.

Please RSVP to hosts David & Ellen: [david@meatuanywhere.com](mailto:david@meatuanywhere.com)

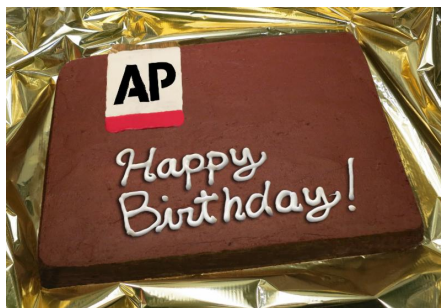


Group hotel:

SpringHill Suites Dallas DFW Airport South/CentrePort, rates \$109-\$114 per night, plus taxes & fees. Available Sept. 15-20 for AP Reunion group. Register by Aug. 2 to get the discounted AP Reunion rate.

See you in September!

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



A day late to 70<sup>th</sup> celebrator Carolyn Carlson -  
[ccatlanta@bellsouth.net](mailto:ccatlanta@bellsouth.net)

## Welcome to Connecting



David Crary - [Crary@ap.org](mailto:Crary@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

*Probe: Journalists, activists among firm's spyware targets* (AP)

By FRANK BAJAK

BOSTON (AP) — An investigation by a global media consortium based on leaked targeting data provides further evidence that military-grade malware from Israel-based NSO Group, the world's most infamous hacker-for-hire outfit, is being used to spy on journalists, human rights activists and political dissidents.

From a list of more than 50,000 cellphone numbers obtained by the Paris-based journalism nonprofit Forbidden Stories and the human rights group Amnesty International and shared with 16 news organizations, journalists were able to identify more than 1,000 individuals in 50 countries who were allegedly selected by NSO clients for potential surveillance.

They include 189 journalists, more than 600 politicians and government officials, at least 65 business executives, 85 human rights activists and several heads of state, according to The Washington Post, a consortium member. The journalists work for organizations including The Associated Press, Reuters, CNN, The Wall Street Journal, Le Monde and The Financial Times.

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

-0-

## ***Plenty at stake for NBC as COVID Olympics opening looms*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — If all goes well for NBC Universal over the next several weeks, Americans will be buzzing about the Olympic performances of Simone Biles, Gabby Thomas, Kevin Durant or some unexpected star.

The year-delayed Tokyo Olympics officially opens with NBC's telecast of the opening ceremony on July 23 — live in the morning and with an edited version in prime time.

The Olympics arrive dripping in bad vibes, amid a COVID-19 state of emergency in Japan. The majority of Japanese citizens are unvaccinated against the virus and most wish the Olympics weren't taking place this summer. Most events will occur in near-empty venues. Star sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson was kicked off the U.S. team after a positive marijuana test, and the U.S. men's basketball team suffered embarrassing exhibition losses to Nigeria and Australia.

Yet once the competition begins, NBC is banking on a COVID-weary United States to embrace the Games.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

## *Greetings From a Dormant Newsroom* (New York Times)



A few employees are beginning to return to The Times's headquarters, but the atmosphere is still far from normal. Credit...Earl Wilson/The New York Times

By David Vecsey

*Times Insider* explains who we are and what we do, and delivers behind-the-scenes insights into how our journalism comes together.

It's quiet. Too quiet.

I'm in a gigantic newsroom in a 52-story tower in the busiest neighborhood of one of the busiest cities in the world and ... nothing. Not a sound. A sweeping look around reveals a barren landscape of empty desks and empty seats. A glance over the railings reveals two more floors in a similar state of nothingness.

Such is life on a recent Thursday night at The New York Times, where I, and a few other intrepid souls, have started to resurface after over a year of working from home. On most Thursdays on the fourth floor, I see a few colleagues from the Print Hub, the department responsible for producing the daily print newspaper. On the third floor, there are two or three senior editors. Walking around, you spot a few faces. But not many.

"There were a couple of days early on when you saw practically no one," said Mark Getzfred, a senior editor, who said he returned to the office full time in May for a change of scenery and to give his wife a little elbow room at home.

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



## Celebrating AP's 175th

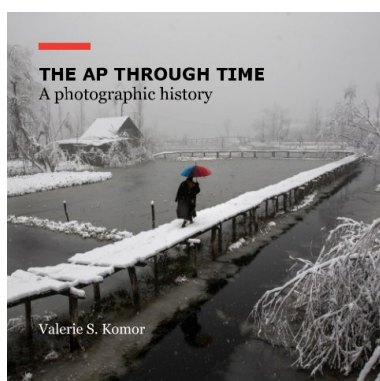
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.

Click [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 - July 19, 2021



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, July 19, the 200th day of 2021. There are 165 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 19, 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

**On this date:**

In 1848, a pioneering women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, New York.

In 1943, Allied air forces raided Rome during World War II, the same day Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met in Feltre in northern Italy.

In 1961, TWA became the first airline to begin showing regularly scheduled in-flight movies as it presented "By Love Possessed" to first-class passengers on a flight from New York to Los Angeles.

In 1975, the Apollo and Soyuz space capsules that were linked in orbit for two days separated.

In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

In 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which sustained the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

In 1990, baseball's all-time hits leader, Pete Rose, was sentenced in Cincinnati to five months in prison for tax evasion.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue."

In 2005, President George W. Bush announced his choice of federal appeals court judge John G. Roberts Jr. to replace Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. (Roberts ended up succeeding Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who died in Sept. 2005; Samuel Alito followed O'Connor.)

In 2006, prosecutors reported that Chicago police beat, kicked, shocked or otherwise tortured scores of Black suspects from the 1970s to the early 1990s to try to extract confessions from them.

In 2007, "Mad Men," a cable TV series about a New York advertising agency, premiered on AMC.

In 2014, a New York City police officer (Daniel Pantaleo) involved in the arrest of Eric Garner, who died in custody two days earlier after being placed in an apparent chokehold, was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty. (Pantaleo was fired in August 2019.) Actor James Garner, 86, died in Los Angeles.

Ten years ago: Summoned by British lawmakers to answer for a phone hacking and bribery scandal at one of his tabloids, media mogul Rupert Murdoch told a

parliamentary committee hearing he was humbled and ashamed, but accepted no responsibility for wrongdoing.

Five years ago: Republicans meeting in Cleveland nominated Donald Trump as their presidential standard-bearer; in brief videotaped remarks, Trump thanked the delegates, saying: "This is a movement, but we have to go all the way." Writer-director Garry Marshall, 81, whose deft touch with comedy and romance led to a string of TV hits that included "Happy Days" and "Laverne & Shirley" and the box-office successes "Pretty Woman" and "Runaway Bride," died in Burbank, California.

One year ago: President Donald Trump refused to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming election, telling Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday" that it was too early to make any such guarantee. U.S. House leaders said they were "alarmed" by the tactics used by federal agents against protesters in Portland, Oregon and other cities; the mayor of Portland said the presence of the agents was worsening tensions in the city, which had seen nearly two months of nightly protests since the death of George Floyd. The Bahamas said it would ban travelers from the United States; a surge in coronavirus infections had followed the islands' reopening to international tourism.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Helen Gallagher is 95. Country singer Sue Thompson is 95. Singer Vikki Carr is 81. Blues singer-musician Little Freddie King is 81. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 77. Actor George Dzundza is 76. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 75. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ilie Nastase is 75. Rock musician Brian May is 74. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 74. Actor Beverly Archer is 73. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 70. Actor Peter Barton is 65. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 61. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 61. Actor Campbell Scott is 60. Actor Anthony Edwards is 59. Actor Clea Lewis is 56. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 56. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 50. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 50. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 47. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 45. Actor Erin Cummings is 44. TV chef Marcela Valladolid is 43. Actor Chris Sullivan ("This is Us") is 41. Actor Jared Padalecki is 39. Actor Trai Byers is 38. Actor Kaitlin Doubleday ("Nashville") is 37. Actor/comedian Dustin Ybarra is 35. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 31.

## 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**

