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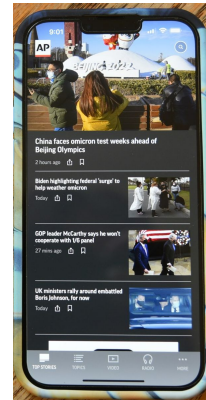
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Connecting

April 7, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this April 7, 2022,

“**Evelyn is retiring**” was the title of an email sent to AP staff Wednesday morning by **Sue Gilkey**, director of Global Employee Benefits at AP Headquarters in New York.

An AP without **Evelyn Colucci-Calvert**, many of us thought after reading the announcement? No way.

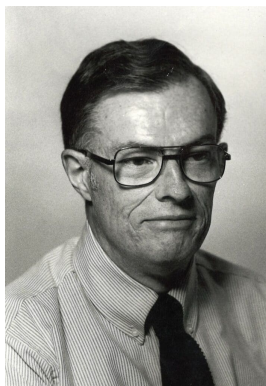
But it’s true – and the woman who for nearly 50 years has served as a senior manager in the Human Resources/Benefits department will begin her well-earned retirement on May 1.

Jessica Bruce, AP senior vice president for Human Resources and Corporate Communications, said she met Colucci-Calvert “on my first day of work at the AP, and have enjoyed every one of the nearly 25 years’ worth of workdays with her since.

“She has been incredibly dedicated and reliable. Both to her work – and to telling me the truth – whether I’ve wanted to hear it or not! I could always rely on Evelyn for wit and wisdom and it’s hard for me to imagine a day in the office without her. I wish her a wonderful and well-deserved retirement with her husband Val. Live long and prosper, Evelyn.”

We welcome your thoughts and memories of working with Evelyn, who has done a Connecting Profile that will be published Friday. In it, she tells how she hooked up with the AP while working at Gimbels and meeting **Vivian Bonatti** who worked in AP Personnel at 50 Rock.

If you’d like to drop Evelyn a note, her email – eccalvert@ap.org



Finally, I was saddened to get word Wednesday of the death of a longtime friend from the faculty of the University of Kansas’ journalism school – **Dana Leibengood**. He retired in 1989 after 29 years of service as the Director of Student Services and Associate Dean of the school.

In my years of recruiting students for AP work, Dana was an invaluable resource – as he was for all others who sought talent for their organizations. One of those he helped find a job – our daughter Jenny.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

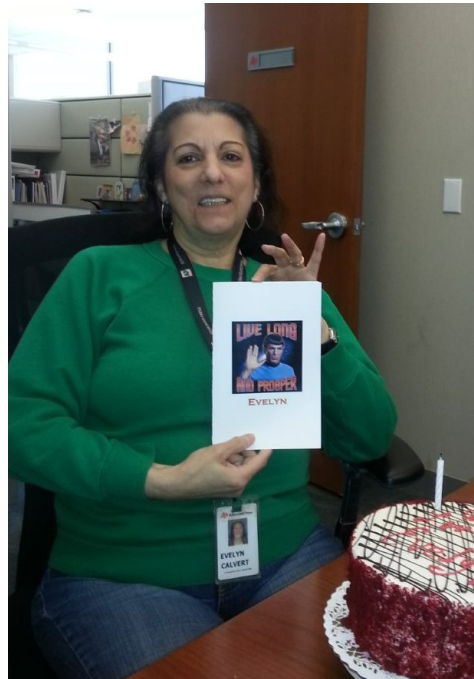
Evelyn Colucci-Calvert to retire: Her work impacted thousands of AP employees around the globe



ABOVE: From the 2018 HR Christmas party. From left: Evelyn Colucci-Calvert, Jessica Bruce, Sue Gilkey, Donneil Jackson, Dorie Holst, Ronnie Klar, John Chung and Hilda Aguste; in the front is Alison Quan.

RIGHT: Celebrating a birthday in 2015. “Of course,” Evelyn said, “they gave me a Star Trek birthday.”

Evelyn Colucci-Calvert, whose work in Human Resources at AP headquarters has impacted thousands of Associated Press employees all over the globe, is retiring May 1 after serving 49 years as a senior manager in the Benefits department.



The announcement was made to staff Wednesday by Susan Gilkey, director of Global Employee Benefits in New York.

“I’ve had the pleasure of being Evelyn’s direct manager for the past 19 years,” Gilkey said. “I have relied on her expertise, knowledge and keen eye for the details. Staff from all parts of the company have sought out her expertise. She will leave behind a legacy that is unmatched.

“As I will, many, many colleagues will miss Evelyn. Evelyn has a good heart, great stories to share and ensured that every employee’s retirement benefit was handled with utmost care.”

Colucci-Calvert has served under six general managers and CEOs throughout her 49 years, beginning with General Managers Wes Gallagher and Keith Fuller and followed by President/CEOs Lou Boccardi, Tom Curley, Gary Pruitt and Daisy Veerasingham. *(Evelyn is pictured at right with Pruitt when she received her 45-Year award in 2018.)*



“Evelyn has been a consistent reassuring presence in AP’s benefits department for almost half a century, playing a critical role in handling employee retirements,” Veerasingham, AP’s current president and CEO, told Connecting. “We will miss her greatly. Evelyn’s knowledge, expertise and, of course, her wit are appreciated by so many. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.”

“Evelyn is notorious,” Boccardi said. “No, not THAT kind of notorious.

“No, I mean notorious for the way she knew just about everybody and knew just about everything there was to know about benefits. Now that she is retiring, maybe it will be OK if I spill her secret: She treated AP people as family, and the feeling was returned. It’s not hard to see why Sue Gilkey calls her irreplaceable.”

Gilkey said: "Evelyn oversees all things pension in the U.S. and beyond. Her responsibilities include but are not limited to training colleagues and calculating pension payments for former employees and she makes it look easy. Evelyn sends her colleagues off with care.

"To quote a colleague, 'It's the end of an era!'"

Chrissie Thompson to lead Education Reporting Network

By Nicole Meir

In a memo to staff on Wednesday, Noreen Gillespie, incoming global business editor, and Lisa Gibbs, director of news partnerships, made a key announcement about the AP Education Reporting Network:

We are delighted to announce that we have selected Chrissie Thompson as AP’s director of the Education Reporting Network. In this role, she will serve as the head of a new program designed to drive accountability reporting on the lasting impacts of the pandemic on education, and lift local newsrooms’ abilities to reach their audiences with engaging education news, too.

Chrissie launched USA Today’s education team in 2018. Under her leadership, the

team has secured new grant funding and won first-place awards from the Education Writers Association and the Council on Contemporary Families. She also leads the USA Today Network education team, overseeing collaborations with about 70 local journalists. Chrissie also has experience inside the education field: She has a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Michigan.



She is a collaborative editor who understands the complexities of working in a big, complicated newsroom. She also has a record of driving journalism that puts the experience of parents, teachers and students at the center of her work by showing their human experience. She also has a powerful vision for how AP's new network can help elevate education reporting across the industry. She is energetic and empathetic, and we are confident this new program will thrive in her care.

Chrissie also brings a blend of national and local reporting experience, which will be key to the education network's success. Before joining USA Today, Chrissie worked as a politics reporter and editor for The Cincinnati Enquirer. She was named the best reporter in Ohio and was a lead editor on a project that won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting. She also covered the auto industry for the Detroit Free Press, serving as lead reporter on coverage that won a Gerald Loeb Award. And she got her start right here at AP, as an intern in the AP's Mid-Atlantic bureau.

Chrissie will be based in Spokane and will begin with us on April 25. Her first mission will be to build out the team, a project that begins right away! Please join us in welcoming Chrissie to AP and to an important project. We are thrilled to see what she will do for AP and our member newsrooms.

Noreen and Lisa

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Recalling AP's Harold Waters

[David Breslauer](#) - I was a newly hired photographer at the Fort Worth Star Telegram in 1977. It was literally my first weekend on the job and I had covered the winner of a local election. When I got back to the office, I got a call from someone identifying themselves as being Harold Waters from the AP in Dallas.

He told me that he was interested in my photo from the election and explained how the paper shared photos with the AP all the time. I told him I would be happy to help. So, he walked me through the process, virtually holding my hand each step of the way.

He first instructed me to go into the print darkroom and find a special AP printing easel and make a print using that and to call him back using a phone next to the desk where the department typewriter was located.

Print in hand, I called Harold, and he told me to go into the top left drawer of that desk and get a sheet of the special caption paper for the typewriter. He told me exactly what to type (it was a bare minimum AP style caption) and had me lick and stick the caption to my print.

He told me to put him on hold and pick up the extension in the fourth darkroom with the spinning darkroom door. So I did.

Once in there, on the phone, he told me to wrap the print on the drum of the AP transmitter (pre LaserPhoto). I did, and then he said to listen for his voice on the speaker next to the transmitter. When he said "Fort Worth, go ahead final" I was to start the drum. I seem to recall it was not just a simple press of a button but involved a clutch of some sort as well. So I listened, heard his voice over the speaker and got the drum spinning and listened as the analogue beep beep came through.

Ten minutes later, and it would be the first time I had actually shared something with the AP myself. I had had other images run on the wire when I was a student at Georgia and Texas, but that meant the AP photographer had collected a print from me for distribution.

Harold was patient and clearly knew his way around "my" darkroom. It was a good feeling working with the Harold and the AP. I came to know other members of the Dallas bureau over the years, they were all professionals. I was thrilled when I was able to join my former Star Telegram colleague Ron Heflin at the AP in Dallas a few years later.

Pleased to be back in Vermont



Terry Petty - So pleased to be back in Vermont and spending time with family including sister Lana, who snapped me savoring a latte, a buttered biscuit and our conversation at the Speakeasy Cafe in Rutland.

A note of pride: I'm a seventh-generation Vermonter! My mom turned 90 last year and I was here to celebrate. I also have two sisters, nephews and cousins living in the area. I moved from Vermont in 1976. My dad, when he was alive, jokingly called me a "flatlander." When I lived in Germany, I pointed out to him I spent a lot of time in the

Alps, and when we moved to Oregon, I pointed out that Mount Hood was within view of my house.

Standout Oscar photos/coverage of the slap seen round the world



Actor Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock onstage after Rock made a joke about Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, March 27, 2022. AP PHOTO / CHRIS PIZZELLO

All-formats teamwork across desks — Entertainment, Digital News and Sports — kept AP ahead with fast, definitive coverage of the Oscars moment that shocked the world: Will Smith's slap of Chris Rock. As soon as Smith walked onto the stage and struck Rock over a joke about the actor's wife, the AP Entertainment team pivoted its coverage of the otherwise generally upbeat Academy Awards ceremony, expediting remarkable photos, text and video of the confrontation — quickly but carefully.

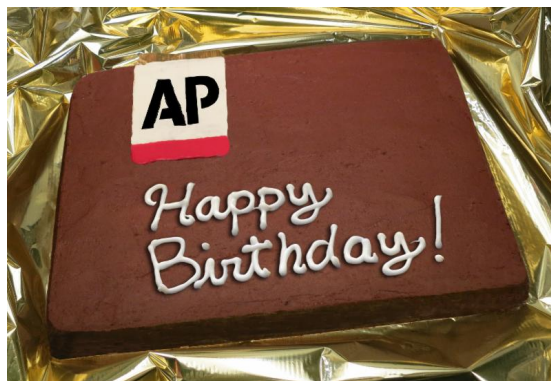
Photographer Chris Pizzello captured the scene and its immediate aftermath in images that were used across the globe. Photo editor Paula Munoz had those photos on the wire within minutes for customers and their editors.

For text, film writer Jake Coyle worked to quickly update the mainbar story; it moved with one of Pizzello's photos just four minutes after the APNewsAlert. Coyle continued to update the mainbar during the show, taking color reporting from fellow film writer Lindsey Bahr, who was watching the scene unfold in the Dolby Theatre as a parade of

stars like Denzel Washington, Bradley Cooper and Tyler Perry counseled and consoled Smith.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Brian Burnes](#)

[Juliet Williams](#)

Stories of interest

Total Number of U.S. Statehouse Reporters Rises, but Fewer Are on the Beat Full Time (Pew Research)

BY ELISA SHEARER, KATERINA EVA MATSA, AMY MITCHELL, MARK JURKOWITZ, KIRSTEN WORDEN AND NAOMI FORMAN-KATZ

From voting rights and redistricting to abortion and public education, state capitols across the United States are at the epicenter of the nation's key public policy debates. This has been especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic, as state capitol buildings became ground zero in the debate over mask and vaccine mandates and other pandemic policies.

A new Pew Research Center study finds that the total number of reporters assigned to the 50 state capitols to inform citizens about legislative and administrative activity has increased by 11% since 2014, the last time this study was conducted. The gain comes largely from two main developments: new nonprofit news outlets that are employing statehouse reporters, and a shift to more part-time statehouse reporting.

Indeed, although the total number of statehouse reporters has increased, fewer reporters are now covering state governments full time. Out of the 1,761 statehouse

reporters identified by this study, just under half (850, or 48%) report on the statehouse full time. This means that they are assigned to the state's capitol building to cover the news there on a full-time basis – either year-round or during the legislative session – reporting on everything from legislative activity to the governor's office to individual state agencies. Being fully devoted to this coverage often provides the greatest opportunity to engage with the statehouse and produce stories that go beyond the basic contours of daily news. The remaining 911 statehouse reporters either cover the beat part time, are students/interns (whether at a university-run news service or at another news outlet) or are other supporting staff.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

U.S. statehouse reporters by state

A new Pew Research Center study finds there were 1,761 journalists assigned to U.S. state capitol buildings as of late 2021 and early 2022. The number of reporters covering the statehouse varies widely from state to state, with some capitols filled with dozens of full-time reporters and others hosting only four or five. As in the Center's 2014 study of statehouse reporting, the number of full-time statehouse reporters in a state is closely related to the size of the state's population and legislative session length. State-by-state data is available below in a sortable database.

You can also read the full report, which provides a detailed accounting of the nation's statehouse press corps and how it has changed since 2014.

Read more [here](#).

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Seeing Bucha atrocities is turning point for media, viewers (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS News reporter Debora Patta has covered conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, and the aftermath of terrorist attacks in Europe. She has seen violence and death at close range before. But the atrocities she witnessed in Bucha, Ukraine this week stood out, and overwhelmed her.

"We need to be disturbed by these pictures," Patta said on "CBS Mornings," after describing what she and other journalists witnessed in the outskirts of Kyiv.

The war changed this week from a media perspective, which is how most people outside of Ukraine experience it.

Before, events had been seen primarily from a slight distance — fiery explosions caught on camera or drone-eyed views of burned-out buildings. Now, with the Ukrainian army retaking control of villages near Kyiv that had been brutalized by

Russian soldiers, journalists are capturing the aftermath of horrific violence at close range — of dead bodies bound, tortured and burned.

Read more [here](#).

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Turkey suspends trial of Saudi suspects in Khashoggi killing (AP)

By AYSE WIETING and SUZAN FRASER

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Turkish court ruled Thursday to suspend the trial in absentia of 26 Saudis accused in the gruesome killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and for the case to be transferred to Saudi Arabia.

Khashoggi, a United States resident who wrote critically about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed on Oct. 2, 2018, at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. He had gone into the consulate for an appointment to collect documents required for him to marry his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz. He never emerged from the building.

Turkish officials alleged that Khashoggi was killed and then dismembered with a bone saw inside the consulate by a team of Saudi agents sent to Istanbul. The group included a forensic doctor, intelligence and security officers and individuals who worked for the crown prince's office. His remains have not been found.

Read more [here](#).

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Eric Boehlert, Media Critic and Writer, Dies at 57 (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

Eric Boehlert, a veteran journalist who was a fierce critic of right-wing misinformation and hypocrisy in the news media, died on Monday in New Jersey. He was 57.

Mr. Boehlert was struck by a New Jersey Transit train while riding his bicycle near the Watchung Avenue station in Montclair. His death was confirmed by his wife, Tracy Breslin.

A frequent commentator on television and radio, as well as a prolific writer, Mr. Boehlert never shied away from searing critiques of what he saw as bias in the mainstream press and the circular impact of media on politics.

After more than a decade as a senior fellow at Media Matters for America, a left-leaning media monitoring group, Mr. Boehlert had in recent years started his own

newsletter, Press Run, as a vehicle for his commentary.

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

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KREM-INAL! Anonymous 'leaks nearly a MILLION Russian state network emails' in major attack on Kremlin propaganda machine (The U.S. Sun)

Charlotte Edwards

HACKING group Anonymous claims to have leaked more than 900,000 Russian state network emails in a major attack.

The email addresses are associated with Russia's largest media corporation, that has been accused of spreading propaganda.

The media company is known as the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (VGTRK).

VGTRK has been accused of spreading false information about the Ukraine war by multiple other media outlets and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The leaked emails have been shared with a journalist organization called the Distributed Denial of Secrets (DDoSecrets).

All the emails have also been also made public.

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

Today in History - April 7, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 7, the 97th day of 2022. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 7, 1984, the Census Bureau reported Los Angeles had overtaken Chicago as the nation's "second city" in terms of population.

On this date:

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1915, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as "Lady Day," was born in Philadelphia.

In 1922, the Teapot Dome scandal had its beginnings as Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall signed a secret deal to lease U.S. Navy petroleum reserves in Wyoming and California to his friends, oilmen Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny, in exchange for cash gifts.

In 1945, during World War II, American planes intercepted and effectively destroyed a Japanese fleet, which included the battleship Yamato, that was headed to Okinawa on a suicide mission.

In 1949, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific" opened on Broadway.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, "You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly." (This became known as the "domino theory," although Eisenhower did not use that term.)

In 1957, shortly after midnight, the last of New York's electric trolleys completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

In 1959, a referendum in Oklahoma repealed the state's ban on alcoholic beverages.

In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In 2020, acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly resigned after lambasting the officer he'd fired as the captain of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which had been stricken by a coronavirus outbreak; James McPherson was appointed as acting Navy secretary.

Ten years ago: A massive avalanche engulfed a Pakistani military complex in a mountain battleground close to the Indian border; all 140 people on the base died. CBS newsman Mike Wallace, 93, died in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump concluded his two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, saying he had developed an "outstanding" relationship with the Chinese leader. Gov. Jerry Brown declared an end to California's historic drought emergency imposed in 2014.

One year ago: Former NFL player Phillip Adams fatally shot six people in Rock Hill, South Carolina, including a prominent doctor, his wife and their two grandchildren, before killing himself. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said investigators found that golfer Tiger Woods had been driving at more than 80 miles an hour – nearly twice the posted speed limit – when he lost control of an SUV in February; the wreck left Woods seriously injured. Anne Beatts, a groundbreaking comedy writer who was on the original staff of "Saturday Night Live," died at her California home at 74.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Bobby Bare is 87. R&B singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 85. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 84. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 83. Actor Roberta Shore is 79. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 75. Singer John Oates is 74. Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is 73. Singer Janis Ian is 71. Country musician John Ditttrich is 71. Actor Jackie Chan is 68. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett is 68. Actor Russell Crowe is 58. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 58. Actor Bill Bellamy is 57. Rock musician Dave "Yorkie" Palmer (Space) is 57. Rock musician Charlie Hall (The War on Drugs) is 48. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 47. Actor Heather Burns is 47. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 47. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 46. Retired baseball infielder Adrian Beltre is 43. Actor Sian Clifford is 40. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 37. Christian rock singer Tauren Wells is 36. Actor Ed Speleers is 34.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and

Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

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:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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