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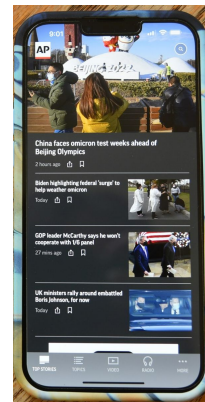
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Connecting

June 09, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this June 9, 2022,

A memorial will be held next month for **Eriberto "BJ" Reyes**, who worked with the AP in four bureaus over a 10-year span and was beloved by many. He was 50 when he died this past Jan. 15 after battles with cancer and diabetes.

His wife **Lisa Reyes** said the memorial will be held Saturday, July 23, on the grounds of the Hintz Family Alumni Center on the Penn State University campus in University Park, Pa. BJ was working as associate editor of The Penn Stater magazine at his alma mater at the time of his death. He worked in AP bureaus in Charleston, Detroit, New York (GEN) and Honolulu from 1995-2005.



Lisa said she hopes to arrange for it to be broadcast by Zoom for those unable to attend in person and that she plans to send out e-vites to those who are interested. If you would like to be on the e-vite list or have any questions, you can reach Lisa at - lisareyes808@gmail.com

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP announces inaugural LEAD class

AP President/CEO Daisy Veerasingham, in a note Wednesday to AP staff on behalf of the AP Management Committee:

We are excited to announce AP's inaugural LEAD class, a group of 25 talented, innovative and ambitious colleagues selected from a pool of over 125 applicants.

Two dozen managers from across all AP departments and many locations carefully reviewed the applications over several weeks – an experience they said was difficult, humbling and rewarding as they learned about so many talented colleagues. We sincerely thank each of you who took time to apply for the program.

The LEAD program is designed to help participants better understand how AP operates across departments and to build skills needed to inspire change, lead teams and propel innovation – all critical to helping AP thrive.

The 2022 cohort includes a rich mix of experiences from across AP, from length of service and job responsibilities to participants' backgrounds and personal journeys. They are:

- Nadia Ahmed; social media and user-generated content producer; London
- Yirmiyan Arthur; photo editor; New Delhi, India
- Cliff Brunt; sports reporter; Oklahoma City
- Julio Cortez; staff photographer; Baltimore
- Isabel DeBre; correspondent; Dubai
- Leilani de la Victoria; senior software engineer; New York
- Watcharaporn (Pun) Etcheverry; GMS acting senior events producer, Europe; Paris
- Rafaela Freitas; AP Direct content manager; London
- Emily Wang Fujiyama; video journalist; Beijing
- Haleluya Hadero; retail and technology reporter; New York

- Gary G. Hamilton; entertainment video journalist; New York
- Sarit Hand; digital archivist; New York
- Sally Ho; newsperson; Seattle
- Samya Kullab; Iraq correspondent; Baghdad
- Denis Lacerda; regional sales manager, LatAm markets; São Paulo
- Dasha Litvinova; correspondent; Moscow
- Philip Marcelo; reporter; Boston
- Aaron Morrison; national writer, race and ethnicity; New York
- Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi; photographer; Harare, Zimbabwe
- Kati Perry; data visualization developer and reporter; Washington
- Hassan Ramadan; regional sales executive, Middle East and Africa; Dubai
- Mallika Sen; newsperson; New York
- Sophia Tulp; news verification newsperson; New York
- Julia Weeks; content creation photo editor; New York
- Maye-E Wong; photojournalist; New York

We also want to thank the panel who generously gave their time to review the applications and select this year's class:

- News: Darrell Allen, Louise Bamfield, David Biller, Paul Byrne, Vineeta Deepak, Tamer Fakahany, Jaime Holguin, Maggie Hyde, Kim Johnson, Ricardo Mazalan, Jeannie Ohm, Tanja Popovic, Pia Sarkar
- Revenue: Andy Braddel, Kia Breaux, Nancy Nussbaum, Sara Trohanis
- Finance: Ellen Fegan, Kam Wong
- Technology: Geoff Haynes, Dawn McDonald
- Human Resources: Rafael Meza, Eleanor Michie
- Legal: Daisy Philbin-Sullivan

We look forward to launching the LEAD program and providing continued training and development opportunities for our staff. More information about the program is available on InsideAP.

Connecting mailbox

Premature obituaries

[Marty Steinberg](#) - So Paul Vance, the man behind the “itsy bitsy teeny weeny yellow polka dot bikini,” finally died at age 92. Sadly, his death came 16 years after the AP got duped into reporting that Paul Vance had died. As the obit published Monday in The New York Times pointed out:

“The wife of a man named Paul Van Valkenburgh, who had indeed died, asserted that her husband had written ‘Itsy Bitsy’ under the name Paul Vance. The obituary, by The Associated Press, was picked up by many news outlets, including The New York Times. (Corrections ensued, and The Times published a corrective article.)”

Yes, quite embarrassing. But not as much as when the obit prep of Bob Hope accidentally got sent to the trunks instead of to an internal printout machine in 1998 before its time. Although Hope’s prep had “xxx” instead of the verb “died,” the “death” was quickly announced in Congress by Rep. Bob Stump.

Here’s the full explanation [by The Washington Post](#).

Bob “Here’s Looking at You” Hope died five years later. Thanks for the memories.

And to the real Paul Vance, “Catch a Falling Star” and R.I.P.

But wait! Do you remember when we got "Hokey Pokeyed?"

In 1996, we ran the obit of the person who had claimed to have written the “Hokey Pokey.” Larry LaPrise recorded the song in 1949. When he died, we wrote the [following beautiful obit](#).

The problem was, the song actually originated in Britain years before LaPrise recorded it. See [this article](#) for the details:

The AP has produced countless wonderfully written obits. Unfortunately, every now and then, we put our right foot right into our mouth.

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Meeting Kim Phuc



[Sean Thompson](#) – Nick Ut took this photo after introducing me to Kim Phuc outside the file room at New York headquarters.

At CNN/New York



Nick Ut and Kim Phuc at CNN/New York on Wednesday, on the day of the 50th anniversary of his historic "Napalm Girl" photo.

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Covering Queen Elizabeth II

Dave Skidmore - My recollection of meeting Queen Elizabeth was not from covering her as a journalist but as a press aide for the Federal Reserve Board.

In September 2002, I accompanied then Fed Chair Alan Greenspan and his wife, NBC's Andrea Mitchell, to the Queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland, where Greenspan received an honorary knighthood in recognition of his service to the global economy. I

was introduced to the Queen, along with everyone else in our party. I said, "Pleased to meet you, ma'am." I can't quite recall what she said in response.

However, my interaction with Prince Philip was more interesting. The Queen conferred the honorary knighthood (only British citizens are eligible for actual knighthoods) in a brief ceremony in the Balmoral library. A luncheon followed the ceremony. (At one point I noticed one of the Queen's corgi's at my feet, looking enviously at the lamb chop I was eating.) I sat next to a lady in waiting (a titled friend of the Queen's) who asked me about my interests. Toward the end of the luncheon, she introduced me to Prince Philip and noted that I enjoyed hiking. "Yes," I added brightly, "Some years ago I hiked the length of Offa's Dyke Path (a 177-mile trail running along the border between England and Wales) and I especially enjoyed it because the medieval-era rights of way allowed hikers to avoid roads by walking across farms. "Oh, a rambler (British speak for hiker)," he said, scowling. "The rights of way are all well and good so the people can get to their fields, but the ramblers have no respect for the curtilage." I had no idea what he meant. I was tempted to nod and smile, but as a former journalist I felt compelled to ask, "What's the curtilage." He explained that the curtilage was the immediate area around the farmer's house. In other words, ramblers should refrain from tromping on the farmer's petunias and peering in his windows. "Ah," I replied. "I hadn't considered the rights of way from the property owner's point of view." (Evidently Prince Philip had.)

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Remembering special moment with his father

Hal Bock - With the approach of Father's Day, I am reminded of a special moment, a life-changing moment, that I shared with my dad.

When I was eight years old --a very long time ago -- my father decided it was time to take me to a baseball game. We journeyed on three busses from the East Bronx across the city to the tip of Manhattan for a game at the Polo Grounds. We entered the stadium, and I was floored by the vastness of the place. I had never seen so much green grass, so many seats, the lights atop the roof. I didn't know where to look first.

Then I noticed this structure hanging off the second deck behind home plate. I asked my father, "What's that?"

"Oh, that's the press box," he said. "That's where the sportswriters sit."

Now I was intrigued. I asked him who these sportswriters were.

"They cover the games," he said. "They come here every day and they write about the games. That's their job."

My eight-year-old brain almost exploded. "That's their job? To watch baseball games and write about them? That's their job?"

He chuckled at my reaction. He had worked hard every day of his life. And now he had helped me discover a craft that did not require heavy lifting.

“That's what I want to do!!!” I shouted. “I want to be a sportswriter!!!”

Because of my father and mother, I was able to achieve that dream and did it for 40 years at the world's largest newsgathering agency. I am eternally thankful to my parents and The AP.

Stories of interest

“CLUSTERF--K”: INSIDE THE WASHINGTON POST’S SOCIAL MEDIA MELTDOWN (Vanity Fair)

By CHARLOTTE KLEIN

On Tuesday afternoon, Washington Post reporter Josh Dawsey tweeted that he was “proud” to work at the paper, a place “filled with many terrific people who are smart and collegial.” Four minutes later, reporter Rosalind Helderman, too, tweeted that she was “proud” to work at the Post, which is “always striving to be better than it was yesterday.” Six minutes later, another reporter, Amy Gardner, tweeted how she was “proud” to work at the paper, followed by other top journalists at the publication, such as Matt Viser, Carol Leonnig, and Dan Balz.

The public outpouring of Post pride—which I’m told political reporters were urging one another to take part in—followed executive editor Sally Buzbee’s memo reiterating workplace policies and promoting collegiality among staff. The memo dropped following a few days at the Post that have been, as one reporter described it, a “clusterfuck.” Dave Weigel, a national political correspondent, is, as of Monday, suspended without pay for the next month after retweeting a sexist tweet last week, which he then promptly unshared and apologized for after a colleague called him out both on the company Slack and publicly. Hours after news of Weigel’s suspension broke Monday, that colleague, political reporter Felicia Sonmez, was urging the paper to take action against a different colleague, Jose Del Real, who on Saturday took aim at Sonmez for “the cruelty you regularly unleash against colleagues.” (He made this point after commending Sonmez for “your bravery in sharing your story,” adding, “I support your fight against retribution for doing so.”)

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

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Gannett is scuttling daily editorial pages at its regional papers (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Gannett has decided that the time for a traditional editorial page has come and gone. Beginning in the spring and accelerating this month, the 250-title chain is cutting back

opinion pages to a few days a week while refocusing what opinion is still published to community dialogue.

The change is evolutionary, Amalie Nash, senior vice president for local news and audience development, told me in an interview. Experimental approaches in the same vein at papers like The Tennessean and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel date back as far as five years.

A series of reader surveys and a task force of editors have persuaded her and other executives to recommend a new chain-wide pattern as part of Gannett's push to make digital content its focus.

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

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NPR names Juana Summers co-host of 'All Things Considered' (NPR)

JACQUELINE GANUN

NPR has named its veteran reporter Juana Summers as the newest host for its flagship afternoon news program All Things Considered.

Summers is now a correspondent covering race, justice and politics for the network. Starting June 27, she will fill the hosting position left vacant by Audie Cornish, who departed NPR for CNN in January.

In an interview, Summers, who is Black, said she hopes to further expand All Things Considered's reach to new and diverse audiences. She aims to reach more people whose experiences are not typically represented in the media and empower them to tell their stories on air. She also said she hopes to do more in digital spaces to reach younger audiences.

"One of the things that I'm the most excited about is that every day I get to sit in that seat and be a stand-in for a smart, curious listener who cares deeply about issues and the world around them," Summers said.

Read more [here](#).

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Publishing Photos of Dead Children Could Backfire (Atlantic)

By JOHN TEMPLE

What can the press do to help stop mass shootings? This question haunts many journalists who struggle through the ritualistic cycle of news coverage that has

become all too familiar after a massacre. Publishing photographs showing the grisly sight of slaughtered children is the latest answer from those seeking to move the public and politicians to act.

The former dean of UC Berkeley's graduate school of journalism, Ed Wasserman, argues that media, for reasons of taste and decency, have unthinkingly been "withholding from the public the pictures of the dead," a practice he thinks should change. The former Seattle Times executive editor David Boardman, now the dean of Temple University's journalism school, agrees, but adds that this should be done only "with the permission of a surviving parent."

The reality, based on my experience, is not quite so simple.

There is no question that we can point to photographs that have changed public opinion. Nick Ut, the Associated Press photographer whose extraordinary "Napalm Girl" photo helped build support for ending the Vietnam War, recently wrote a powerful piece in The Washington Post, headlined "A Single Photo Can Change the World. I Know Because I Took One That Did." I believe he's right.

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

The Final Word

Oldsters Alert - Did we once speak this language?



Fender skirts



Today in History - June 9, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 9, the 160th day of 2022. There are 205 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 9, 2004, the body of Ronald Reagan arrived in Washington to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda before the 40th president's funeral.

On this date:

In 1732, James Oglethorpe received a charter from Britain's King George II to found the colony of Georgia.

In 1870, author Charles Dickens died in Gad's Hill Place, England.

In 1915, guitarist, songwriter and inventor Les Paul was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

In 1940, during World War II, Norway decided to surrender to the Nazis, effective at midnight.

In 1954, during the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., asking: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

In 1969, the Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren.

In 1972, heavy rains triggered record flooding in the Black Hills of South Dakota; the resulting disaster left at least 238 people dead and \$164 million in damage.

In 1978, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints struck down a 148-year-old policy of excluding black men from the Mormon priesthood.

In 1983, Britain's Conservatives, led by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, won a decisive election victory.

In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

In 1993, the science-fiction film "Jurassic Park," directed by Steven Spielberg, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 2020, hundreds of mourners packed a Houston church for the funeral of George Floyd, a Black man whose death during a Minneapolis arrest inspired a worldwide reckoning over racial injustice.

Ten years ago: Spain became the fourth and largest country to ask Europe to rescue its failing banks (however, the bailout was averted). Maria Sharapova (shah-rah-POH'-vah) won the French Open, defeating Sara Errani 6-3, 6-2 to complete the career Grand Slam.

Five years ago: Punching back a day after his fired FBI director's damaging testimony, President Donald Trump accused James Comey of lying to Congress and said he was "100 percent" willing to testify under oath about their conversations. Actor Adam West, TV's "Batman," died in Los Angeles at age 88.

One year ago: The sponsor of the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline said it was pulling the plug on the contentious project after Canadian officials failed to persuade the Biden administration to reverse its cancellation of the company's permit; the partially built line was intended to transport crude from the oil sand fields of western Canada to Nebraska. The White House dropped executive orders from the Trump era that were intended to ban the popular apps TikTok and WeChat; officials said there would be a new review aimed at identifying national security risks with software applications tied to China.

Today's Birthdays: Media analyst Marvin Kalb is 92. Sports commentator Dick Vitale is 83. Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin is 83. Rock musician Mick Box (Uriah Heep) is 75. Retired MLB All-Star Dave Parker is 71. Film composer James Newton Howard is 71. Mystery author Patricia Cornwell is 66. Actor Michael J. Fox is 61. Writer-producer Aaron Sorkin is 61. Actor Johnny Depp is 59. Actor Gloria Reuben is 58. Gospel singer-actress Tamela Mann is 56. Rock musician Dean Felber (Hootie & the Blowfish) is 55. Rock musician Dean Dinning is 55. Musician Ed Simons is 52. Actor Keesha Sharp is 49. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) is 47. Actor Michaela Conlin is 44. Actor Natalie Portman is 41. Actor Mae Whitman is 34. Actor Lucien Laviscount is 30.

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.**

Paul Stevens
 Editor, Connecting newsletter
 paulstevens46@gmail.com