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Connecting

July 26, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this July 26, 2022,

A guilty plea was entered Monday by a Pennsylvania man accused of attacking police officers and an Associated Press photographer **John Minchillo** during the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

We bring you the story in today's Connecting, along with news of the appointments of **Eduardo Castillo** as AP news director for Latin America and the Caribbean and of **Mike Melia** as AP's education news editor.

And congratulations to colleague **Jonathan Lemire**, former AP White House reporter, on release today of his book, "The Big Lie." Lemire is White House bureau chief of Politico and host of MSNBC's morning news show *Way Too Early*.

Last but not least, a hearty Happy 96th Birthday to one of Connecting's most dedicated colleagues - Gene Herrick, who covered the Korean War and the Civil Rights

Movement in the South as an AP photographer among other big events of our lifetime. Here's to many more, Gene!

Here's to a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Man admits to Jan. 6 attacks on police, AP photographer

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER

A Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty on Monday to attacking police officers and an Associated Press photographer during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot on the U.S. Capitol.

In a deal with prosecutors, Alan Byerly, 55, admitted to wielding a stun gun while confronting officers who were trying to protect the Capitol from the angry mob. He also admitted to assaulting AP photographer John Minchillo, who was documenting the chaos and violence outside the building where lawmakers were meeting to certify President Joe Biden's election victory.

In exchange for pleading guilty to two charges stemming from the attacks, prosecutors agreed to drop several other charges Byerly was facing, including civil disorder. An email seeking comment was sent to his attorneys after the hearing in Washington's federal court.

Federal guidelines recommend a sentence between about three and four years behind bars, U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss said. Byerly, of Fleetwood, is scheduled to be sentenced in October.

Read more here.

A dove in honor of Marilyn Dillon



Brian Horton – An engraved dove was unveiled Monday honoring my late wife, Marilyn Dillon, on a sculpture honoring donors and patients who have contributed or been remembered with donations to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital's Center for MS at the hospital in New Brunswick, NJ.



Dillon was a patient of the MS Clinic for 13 years before her death in March of 2020.

In 2021, I published a book of photographs from the coastal region of New Jersey with all of the proceeds going to the clinic. The fundraising effort was a major gift to the program and the dove is engraved, "In Memory of Marilyn E. Dillon." The ceremony had been delayed by coronavirus restrictions. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Jonathan Lemire's 'The Big Lie' released today

Jonathan Lemire - I was there when it began.

I was a national political reporter, still new to The Associated Press' Washington bureau, when a relatively sleepy Monday morning was transformed by an incendiary claim. That allegation, coming in a seemingly offhand comment, was the first step in a harrowing journey that fueled the violence of January 6, 2021, and shaped the politics of our nation's future.

It was August 2016. It was Columbus, Ohio. It was Donald Trump. And it was then and there that Trump for the first time suggested that the upcoming general election was not going to be conducted fairly.

I quickly informed the desk that my story from Ohio was going to need to change. We had never been here before.

Trump won that election but over the next four years hijacked the Republican Party and the conservative media,

pushing them to amplify all his lies, big or small. And when 2020 arrived, they were ready to help when Trump's plan to run for re-election of the back of a booming economy was shattered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

My new book, "The Big Lie," traces the origins of Trump's assault on American democracy and how it spurred the insurrection. But it goes beyond January 6, as his lies have challenged the Biden White House and define both the 2022 and 2024 election.

My book is released today - July 26, 2022 - and is available here.

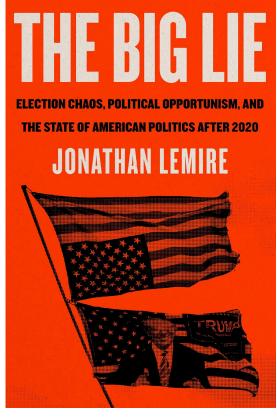
Eduardo Castillo named Latin America news director

Vice President and Head of Global News Gathering Paul Haven announced on Monday that Eduardo Castillo is now the news director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Here is his memo to staff (español abajo):

I am thrilled to announce that we have named Eduardo Castillo as news director for Latin America and the Caribbean, overseeing all formats and both the English-and Spanish-language news services in the region.

Eduardo, 46, will be the first Latino to run the region as news director since the Latin America desk was established in 2005. A graduate of the National Autonomous



University of Mexico, Eduardo is widely respected within The Associated Press and throughout Latin American journalism circles.

He joined AP in 2003 and quickly established himself as one of the top Spanish-language correspondents in the region, a tireless reporter who asks the tough questions and an elegant writer bringing context to even the most complex stories. Over those years, Eduardo was a key part of almost every important story in the region, including papal visits, hurricanes, the death of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Mexico's drug war and the brief détente between Cuba and the United States.



In 2006 he won the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) Breaking News award for his Spanish-language coverage of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on Latinos and Latin American immigrants in the U.S.

In 2015, Eduardo became acting bureau chief for Mexico and Central America, and was a lead reporter on the award-winning project "The Other Disappeared," a multiformat series about hundreds of kidnap victims who vanished in southern Mexico.

Eduardo joined the Latin America and Caribbean leadership team in 2016, serving as deputy news director for the region. Since 2019, he's been the AP's Spanish News Director, but at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic Eduardo also started supervising the region's English text report.

Since 2020, Eduardo has been co-leading the region along with Bogota-based Deputy Director Ricardo Mazalan and Asuncion-based Deputy Director Paul Byrne. Ricardo and Paul will continue on in those roles. I want to thank them for their dedication and excellent leadership through the pandemic. I know the collaboration the three of them established will continue under Eduardo.

Please join me in congratulating Eduardo and wishing him every success in this important role.

Best,

Paul

En español:

Me da mucho gusto anunciarles que hemos nombrado a Eduardo Castillo como director de noticias para América Latina y el Caribe, supervisando todos los formatos y los servicios de noticias en inglés y español en la región.

Eduardo, de 46 años, será el primer latino en dirigir la región desde que se estableció la oficina de América Latina en 2005. Graduado de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Eduardo es muy respetado en The Associated Press y en los círculos periodísticos latinoamericanos.

Se unió a la AP en 2003 y rápidamente se estableció como uno de los principales corresponsales en español de la región, un reportero incansable que hace las preguntas difíciles y que aporta el contexto necesario incluso a las historias más complejas. Durante esos años, Eduardo fue una persona clave en casi todas las historias importantes de la región, incluidas las visitas papales, los huracanes, la muerte de Hugo Chávez en Venezuela, la guerra contra las drogas en México y la breve distensión entre Cuba y Estados Unidos.

En 2006 ganó el premio de Noticia de Última Hora de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAHJ, por sus siglas en inglés) por su cobertura en español de los efectos del huracán Katrina en los latinos y los inmigrantes latinoamericanos en Estados Unidos.

En 2015, Eduardo se convirtió en jefe interino de la oficina para México y Centroamérica, y fue uno de los principales reporteros del proyecto "Los otros desaparecidos", una serie multiformato sobre cientos de víctimas de secuestro que desaparecieron en el sur de México y que obtuvo varios premios.

Eduardo se unió al equipo de liderazgo de América Latina y el Caribe en 2016 y se desempeñó como subdirector de noticias para la región. Desde 2019 ha sido el director del Servicio en Español de AP, pero al comienzo de la pandemia de COVID-19, también comenzó a supervisar el informe de texto en inglés de la región.

Desde 2020, Eduardo ha estado codirigiendo la región junto con los subdirectores Ricardo Mazalan, en Bogotá, y Paul Byrne, en Asunción. Ricardo y Paul continuarán en esos roles. Quiero agradecerles por su dedicación y excelente liderazgo durante la pandemia. Sé que la colaboración que establecieron los tres continuará bajo Eduardo.

Felicidades a Eduardo y le deseamos mucho éxito en este importante cargo.

Saludos,

Paul

Click **here** for link to this story.

Mike Melia named AP education news editor

From Noreen Gillespie, deputy managing editor, U.S. news

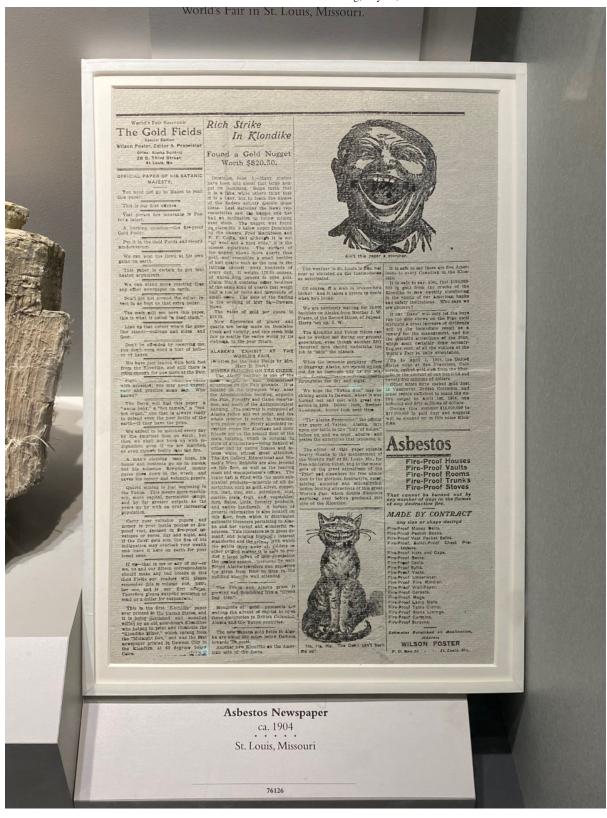
Please help me congratulate Mike Melia for his new job as AP's education news editor.

Mike has spent years covering education part time as a reporter and editor. He co-led the previous version of the education team, while bringing his steady, calm and good-natured leadership to AP's Connecticut coverage, and often to its New York report as well. He has a deep knowledge of education data, a broad grasp of trends and a personal drive to center students' voices and elevate equity issues. I'm thrilled that he'll be devoting his full time to this topic.

Mike is fluent in Spanish and formerly served as a correspondent in Puerto Rico – assets to our team's efforts to reach diverse audiences. He's skilled in collaborating across the AP's wide network and with nonprofit education newsrooms.

Mike starts his new job today, reporting to me, and will continue to be based in Hartford. Right now, he's with our AP contingent at the ongoing Education Writers Association conference, and when he gets home, he'll turn his attention to helping launch our back-to-school coverage.

Newspaper made of asbestos



<u>Chris Connell</u> - Visiting the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, we came across this oddity in the display of rocks and mineral: a 1904 newspaper made of asbestos!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Mike Hendricks

Gene Herrick

Mark Scolforo

Stories of interest

Ohio rape shows how a story can spread faster than facts (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — It took only four paragraphs in a regional newspaper to ignite a media conflagration over abortion that in two weeks engulfed President Joe Biden, the partisan press and some of the country's top news organizations.

In the center of it all: a 10-year-old rape victim, identity unknown, suddenly thrown into a political fight on one of the country's most contentious issues.

The Wall Street Journal and Washington Post both clarified or corrected stories after an Ohio man was charged on Wednesday with raping the girl, who traveled to Indiana for an abortion last month.

The case first came to light in a July 1 article in The Indianapolis Star about patients heading to Indiana for abortion services because of more restrictive laws in surrounding states, following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade. The piece began with an anecdote about an Indianapolis doctor asked by an Ohio colleague to help the girl, who was past the stage of pregnancy where she could get a legal abortion in Ohio.

Read more here.

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Is Murdoch tiring of Trump? Mogul's print titles dump the ex-president (Guardian)

By EDWARD HELMORE

Rupert Murdoch, hitherto one of Donald Trump's most loyal media messengers, appears to have turned on the former president.

Donald Trump looks on during a rally ahead of Arizona primary elections.

US media circles were rocked this weekend after the New York Post issued an excoriating editorial indictment of Trump's failure to stop the attack on the US Capitol on 6 January 2021.

The editorial, in a tabloid owned by Murdoch since 1976, began: "As his followers stormed the Capitol, calling for his vice-president to be hanged, President Donald Trump sat in his private dining room, watching TV, doing nothing. For three hours, seven minutes."

Trump's only focus, the Post said, was to block the peaceful transfer of power.

Read more **here**. Shared by Lindel Hutson.

-0-

Francesca Chambers brings her passion for journalism to her new role as USA TODAY's White House correspondent (Editor and Publisher)

Bob Sillick | for Editor & Publisher

A degree in journalism might take the aspiring journalist far, but it's a lifelong passion for journalism that led Francesca Chambers to recently be named White House correspondent by Gannett for USA TODAY. She shared the roots of that passion in a late-May 2022 webinar with Mike Blinder, host of E&P Reports and publisher of Editor & Publisher.

"I was always interested in journalism as a child. I created a little newsletter about my household and my neighbors," Chambers said. "That interest became a passion in middle and high school, where excellent teachers encouraged me to follow my passion. It allowed me to become the co-editor of my high school newspaper and set me on a course to attend and graduate from the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Kansas."

Chambers followed the advice she shares with journalism students today by taking an entry-level job as a web editor directly from college. This initial and valuable learning experience in the profession started her on the path to the White House.

Read more **here**.

The Final Word



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Today in History – July 26, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 26, the 207th day of 2022. There are 158 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 26, 2016, Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be nominated for president by a major political party at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

On this date:

In 1775, the Continental Congress established a Post Office and appointed Benjamin Franklin its Postmaster-General.

In 1847, the western African country of Liberia, founded by freed American slaves, declared its independence.

In 1863, Sam Houston, former president of the Republic of Texas, died in Huntsville at age 70.

In 1945, the Potsdam Declaration warned Imperial Japan to unconditionally surrender, or face "prompt and utter destruction." Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's prime minister after his Conservatives were soundly defeated by the Labour Party; Clement Attlee succeeded him.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act, which reorganized America's armed forces as the National Military Establishment and created the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1953, Fidel Castro began his revolt against Fulgencio Batista (fool-HEN'-see-oh bah-TEES'-tah) with an unsuccessful attack on an army barracks in eastern Cuba. (Castro ousted Batista in 1959.)

In 1956, the Italian liner Andrea Doria sank off New England, some 11 hours after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm; at least 51 people died, from both vessels.

In 1971, Apollo 15 was launched from Cape Kennedy on America's fourth successful manned mission to the moon.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 2002, the Republican-led House voted, 295-132, to create an enormous Homeland Security Department in the biggest government reorganization in decades.

In 2013, Ariel Castro, the man who'd imprisoned three women in his Cleveland home, subjecting them to a decade of rapes and beatings, pleaded guilty to 937 counts in a deal to avoid the death penalty. (Castro later committed suicide in prison.)

In 2020, a processional with the casket of the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, where Lewis and other civil rights marchers were beaten 55 years earlier. Authorities declared a riot in Portland, Oregon, after protesters breached a fence surrounding the city's federal courthouse; thousands had gathered for another night of protests over the killing of George Floyd and the presence of federal agents.

Ten years ago: The White House said President Barack Obama would not push for stricter gun laws, one day after his impassioned remarks about the need to keep assault weapons off the streets. With the Olympics Games as a backdrop, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney held a day of meetings with Britain's most powerful people; however, Romney rankled his hosts with comments he'd made upon his arrival calling London's problems with the games' preparation "disconcerting."

Five years ago: President Donald Trump announced on Twitter that he would not "accept or allow" transgender people to serve in the U.S. military. (After a legal battle, the Defense Department approved a policy requiring most individuals to serve in their birth gender; that policy was reversed by the Biden administration, which allowed transgender people who met military standards to enlist and serve openly in their self-identified gender.) A thrill ride broke apart at the Ohio State Fair, killing an 18-year-old high school student and injuring seven others. Actor June Foray, the voice of Rocky the Flying Squirrel and hundreds of other cartoon characters, died in a Los Angeles hospital at the age of 99.

One year ago: Caeleb Dressel won his first of five gold medals in swimming at the Tokyo Olympics by leading the United States to victory in the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay. California and New York City announced that they would require all government employees to get the coronavirus vaccine or face weekly COVID-19 testing. A relative reported that the final victim of the condo collapse in Florida had been identified, more than a month after the catastrophe that claimed 98 lives.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Colbert is 91. Actor-singer Darlene Love is 81. Singer Brenton Wood is 81. Rock star Mick Jagger is 79. Movie director Peter Hyams is 79. Actor Helen Mirren is 77. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Queen) is 73. Actor Susan George is 72. Olympic gold medal figure skater Dorothy Hamill is 66. Actor Nana Visitor is 65. Actor Kevin Spacey is 63. Rock singer Gary Cherone is 61. Actor Sandra Bullock is 58. Actor-comedian Danny Woodburn is 58. Rock singer Jim Lindberg (Pennywise) is 57. Actor Jeremy Piven is 57. Rapper-reggae singer Wayne Wonder is 56. Actor Jason Statham (STAY'-thum) is 55. Actor Cress Williams is 52. TV host Chris Harrison is 51. Actor Kate Beckinsale is 49. Actor Gary Owen is 49. Rock musician Dan Konopka (OK Go) is 48. Gospel/Contemporary Christian singer Rebecca St. James is 45. Actor Eve Myles is 44. Actor Juliet Rylance is 43. Actor Monica Raymund is 36. Actor Caitlin Gerard is 34. Actor Francia Raisa is 34. Actor Bianca Santos is 32. Actor-singer Taylor Momsen is 29. Actor Elizabeth Gillies is 29.

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 selfprofile 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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