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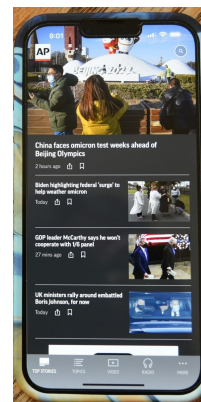
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# Connecting

July 28, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this July 28, 2022,

Memories of friends and loved ones dominate today's Connecting.

We're saddened to report that actor Tony Dow, who portrayed Wally on the hit television series "Leave It to Beaver, died Wednesday. (Some news organizations had reported his death prematurely, as noted in Wednesday's Connecting.) Click [here](#) for the wire story on his death. Dow was a good friend of one of our Connecting colleagues, **David Kennerly**, who shares some thoughts and photos in our lead story today.

**BJ Reyes** worked with the AP for 10 years before leaving for newspaper work 17 years ago, but is remembered fondly by those who worked with him in the Charleston, Detroit and Honolulu bureaus and the New York General Desk. A celebration of his life was held this past weekend and his sister **Michelle Hillmeyer** provides a report.

The death of Native American journalist **Tim Giago** sparked many fond memories for our colleague **Jim Carrier**, who shares them in a touching piece.

Someone asked me where they could find the newest book by our newly minted 96-year-old colleague **Gene Herrick**. Go to [Amazon](#) to find “The Man Who Calls Himself Jesus.”

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Remembering his friend, Tony Dow





**Tony Dow was a junior Olympic diving champion. I took this in 1968 off Catalina as he proved it by doing a double front flip off the mast of his boat. Photos/David Kennerly**

[David Kennerly](#) - Rumors of Tony Dow's death are no longer exaggerated. It was announced Tuesday (prematurely) that my friend Tony had died. Alas, I'm sorry to say that today (Wednesday) it is true.

Tony and I first met when we were on active duty in the Army in 1967 at Ft. Benjamin Harrison. We were then in the same National Guard unit in Los Angeles in 1968. Tony, known for playing Wally Cleaver on "Leave it to Beaver" from 1957-63, was one of the nicest people I've ever known. I was able to spend a few hours with him at his place two months ago, and it was an emotional reunion. We reestablished what had been a real friendship, and it was as if all those years hadn't intervened.

Tony said when I saw him that he had already lived longer than his doctors said he would, but his time finally ran out. Deepest sympathy to Tony's wife Lauren and son Chris. I took the above photos on his boat in Catalina in 1968 where he and his soon-to-be wife Carol and my then-wife Susan spent the day.

Adios Tony, you were a great one, really sad to see you go.

## A celebration of life for BJ Reyes



[Michelle Hillmeyer](#) – *sister of BJ* - This past Saturday, our family hosted a Celebration of Life to honor B.J.'s incredible life and enduring legacy. We were joined by over 40 friends on site at Penn State Univ, while more than 80 people joined via the livestream! It was an AMAZING evening full of love, laughter, tears, memories, tons of food (because that's the Filipino way)...but first and foremost it was truly a CELEBRATION. BJ surrounded himself with so many wonderful people and bringing just a small portion of them together made the night unforgettable. Thank you, BJ, for bringing all of us together. Thank you to everyone who knew and loved BJ - our family is forever grateful to you.

The entire livestream video and the wonderful slideshow tribute (created by BJ's sister-in-law Wendy) are now available to view AND download from [our livestream site](#) hosted by EventLive. Please take a look, turn up the volume, and sign the digital guestbook if you haven't already. (Note - have patience if you download the movie, it's ~6GB.)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** During his 10 years with the AP, BJ worked in the Charleston, Detroit, New York (General Desk) and Honolulu bureaus. Click [here](#) for more on his life.

## A postscript on Tim Giago's life story



[Jim Carrier](#) - I'd like to add a personal postscript to Tim Giago's life story.

When I was promoted from Connecticut news editor to Sioux Falls (SD) correspondent in 1975, I arrived in a state with 11 daily newspapers and more than 100 weeklies – not one on the nine Indian reservations, home to 9 percent of the state's population. Two FBI agents had just been killed on the Pine Ridge reservation, two years after the 71-day Wounded Knee occupation, and drive-by reservation murders were common. None of the papers sent reporters to Pine Ridge, leaving it to the AP, largely Pierre correspondent Terry Woster and Pierre staffer Phyllis Mensing. Photographer Jim

Mone traveled from Minneapolis. The next year I became Minneapolis news editor overseeing Minnesota and the Dakotas.

In 1979 I left AP to helm the newsroom of the Rapid City (S.D.) Journal. One of my first goals was to hire a Native American reporter. I scoured the country and found fewer than six; all were employed and unwilling to come to western South Dakota. I then learned of Tim Giago, a native of the Pine Ridge reservation, who had self-published a small book of poems about his education at the Holy Rosary Indian Mission, a church-sponsored school that squelched language and traditions. While in the Navy, because he could type, he was made editor of the base paper. He'd also run a donut shop and aired a local PBS TV show on Indian topics.

He didn't want to work fulltime, so we settled on a weekly column, "Notes From Indian Country." He asked that it be in the Friday paper, which was widely read on the Pine Ridge reservation because of the TV listings. We paid him \$8.50 per column, later raised to \$10, as I recall.

The result poured gasoline on a fire. For the first time, Indians were reading about themselves in stories that did not dwell on drunks or car wrecks. He reported warts, yes, but largely provided a portrait of Native Americans with families, traditions, struggles, sports, children, elders, religion, etc. Not many months later I persuaded him to become a full-time reporter, covering the Pennington County Commission. He wanted to cover Indian news. I refused, arguing that I needed the commission covered, and that he could not be objective. That was the thinking in the early days of affirmative action - or at least was mine.

Several times Tim would storm into the newsroom after witnessing the racist attitudes of the white commissioners and quit. I would follow him out onto the fire escape and talk him into staying.

In 1981, using the collateral of a relative's 1950s Chevy, he leased a former beauty shop in Pine Ridge, bought a typesetter, and with his wife, Doris Giago, began publishing the first independent (non-tribal affiliated) Indian newspaper in the country, the Lakota Times. Photos were developed in the hair-washing sinks. He was firebombed, threatened multiple times, and carried on a long feud with both AIM and tribal chair Dick Wilson, but kept on publishing. He hired locals and trained them. At least two women, including Avis Little Eagle, went on to the launch their own native newspapers.

After divorcing Tim, Doris became a tenured journalism professor at South Dakota State University, another first. Tim's career included a Neiman Fellowship, a Mencken award, a chain of newspapers, the founding of a Native American Journalists Association, being inducted into the South Dakota newspaper hall of fame, and persuading South Dakota Gov. Mickelson to change Columbus Day to Native American Day. You can read much more about Tim's remarkably courageous and visionary life on Wiki.

Hiring Tim as the first Native American journalism voice in South Dakota is among my proudest deeds. Tim died July 24, at the age of 88 .

And here's [a piece](#) I wrote about him a few years back with a few more details.

# Tales of reporting from a phone booth (cont.)

[Amy Lignitz Harken](#) - I've enjoyed reading AP Tales from the phone booth. Here's mine:

I was working in the Denver buro in the early 90s. A major-but-long-forgotten ruling was imminent. I waited outside the court clerk's office with reporters from all the local media, and a few national reporters, too. When the clerk emerged laden with a stack of photocopies, we each grabbed a copy of the ruling and ran. We flipped through the stapled pages as we dashed across the lobby to the bank of pay phones. Grabbing the handsets, we jabbed out phone numbers (WATS lines) and started dictating ledes.

At the phone next to mine was a TV reporter. With the handset tucked between her shoulder and her ear, she riffled aimlessly through the pages, struggling to answer questions apparently asked from the other end of the line. She glanced in my direction, and said into the phone, "Never mind. The AP is here. Just use what they have. It'll be out in a minute."

## AP in action: from Washington



AP Reporter Chris Megerian, right, speaks with Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., at a rally to urge President Joe Biden to cancel student debt near the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

# Mears family says final goodbye to the AP Washington bureau

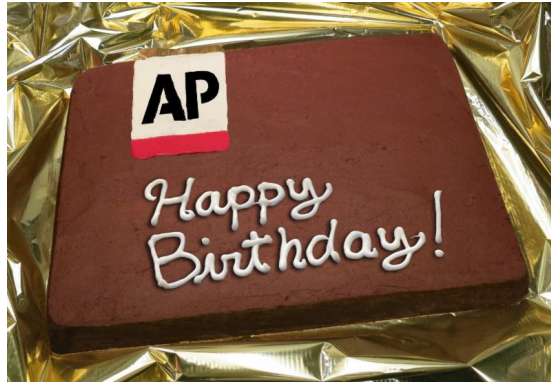


[Susan Mears Wiemer](#) - Here are two of Dad's (Walter Mears) grandkids at his second home, the AP Washington bureau. It's our final goodbye as we leave DC. They are



Tristan Alexander Wiemer and Brynne Adelaide Wiemer. My father was named after his grandfather Walter Alexander Mears. Tristan's middle name is in honor of his grandfather Walter R. Mears and his affection for his grandfather. My son is a blond likeness of my dad.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jackie Hallifax](#)

[Mark Huffman](#)

[Paul Bowker](#)

[Jim Suhr](#)

## Stories of interest

***Ex-CNN anchor Chris Cuomo returning with online, cable shows*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven months after being fired by CNN, Chris Cuomo is emerging publicly with a new podcast and plans to host a prime-time television show again starting this fall on NewsNation.

Cuomo made the latter announcement Tuesday on NewsNation, a fledgling cable news outlet created by Nexstar Communications in 2020 to replace WGN America. He was interviewed by Dan Abrams, who hosts a prime-time show there.

“I’ve been jealous of you while I’ve been away, out watching and I want to help,” Cuomo told Abrams. “I want to find a way to help people.”

NewsNation said Wednesday that Alexandra “Dusty” Cohen, who spent 20 years behind the scenes at “The View,” will be Cuomo’s executive producer. No show name, time slot or premiere date has been announced.

Cuomo, once CNN’s most popular prime-time personality, was fired in December after the network said he wasn’t forthcoming about the extent to which he was helping his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, try to weather a sexual harassment scandal.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***DeSantis spokeswoman Christina Pushaw makes sure reporters feel the burn*** (Washington Post)

By PAUL FARHI

When Florida Republicans held their annual conference last week, party leaders decided to bar a large swath of the press corps from the event. While the hosts declined to discuss their reasoning, one unelected official applauded it.

“My message to [journalists] is to try crying about it,” tweeted Christina Pushaw, whose job as spokeswoman for Gov. Ron DeSantis is to communicate with reporters. “Then go to kickboxing and have a margarita.”

The derisive tone was typical of Pushaw, 31, a state employee who earns \$120,000 a year. In the 14 months since joining DeSantis’s staff, she has transformed the typically button-down role of gubernatorial press secretary into something like a running public brawl — with Twitter as her blunt-force weapon. Her usual targets: Democrats, the news media and anyone else she deems insufficiently supportive of DeSantis’s agenda and her own conservative politics.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell.

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## ***Fox News snubbed Trump’s speech, in what’s becoming a pattern.*** (New York Times)

By Jeremy W. Peters

When former President Donald J. Trump spoke to a friendly crowd on Tuesday in his first visit to Washington since leaving office, he was covered extensively by a range of news outlets, both mainstream ones and those more sympathetic to him.

There was one notable outlier: Fox News.

The network, which helped make Mr. Trump a force on the American right, devoted little airtime to his speech. It did not broadcast his remarks live — and hasn't done so for most of his rallies over the past year.

But it did go live with a competing speech that former Vice President Mike Pence delivered the same day, at a hotel less than a mile away. For roughly 17 minutes on Tuesday afternoon, Fox viewers heard Mr. Pence uninterrupted.

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

## The Final Word

### *What It Means to See America in Person* (New York Times)

By Ross Douthat  
Opinion Columnist

BIGFORK, Mont. — I'm writing these words early in a darkened motel room, 2,460 miles from home, eight hours east of Seattle and 45 minutes south of Glacier National Park. Around me five other people are still asleep: My wife and four children, crowded onto queen-size beds, an air mattress and a pack-and-play. These have been our conditions for the last 16 nights, which we have spent claiming an important American birthright: The westward migration via minivan, the great cross-country drive.

In "The Hunt for Red October," that classic of late-Cold War Americana, one of the defecting Soviet submarine officers, played by Sam Neill, rhapsodizes about his future as a free American — living in Montana with a pickup truck or "possibly even a 'recreational vehicle,'" and driving "from state to state" with "no papers." Late in the movie, the character takes a bullet, and dying, murmurs: "I would like to have seen Montana."

Whatever defects exist in our child rearing, our children have now at least seen Montana — and before that, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota and so backward through the Midwest to our distant hobbit homeland of Connecticut. By the time you read this, assuming I'm not recruited into a survivalist group somewhere north of Coeur d'Alene, they will have seen Idaho and Washington as well.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History – July 28, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 28, the 209th day of 2022. There are 156 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On July 28, 1945, the U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2. A U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

### On this date:

In 1609, the English ship Sea Venture, commanded by Adm. Sir George Somers, ran ashore on Bermuda, where the passengers and crew founded a colony.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing, which had limited people to one pound of coffee every five weeks since it began in Nov. 1942.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost immediately."

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1995, a jury in Union, South Carolina, rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in 2024).

In 2015, it was announced that Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Naval intelligence analyst who had spent nearly three decades in prison for spying for Israel, had been granted parole.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia, where she cast herself as a unifier for divided times as well as an experienced leader steeled for a volatile world while aggressively challenging Republican Donald Trump's ability to lead.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire at a popular garlic festival in Gilroy, California, killing three people, including a six-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, and wounding 17 others before taking his own life.

In 2020, President Donald Trump issued a stout defense of the disproved use of a malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, to treat COVID-19, hours after social media companies took down videos shared by Trump, his son and others promoting its use; Trump also retweeted several attacks on the credibility of Dr. Anthony Fauci, a leading member of the White House coronavirus task force.

Ten years ago: Syria's government launched an offensive to retake rebel-held neighborhoods in the nation's commercial hub of Aleppo. At the London Olympics, Chinese swimmer Ye Shiwen set the first world record, winning the women's 400-meter individual medley in 4:28.43. Ryan Lochte of the U.S. won the men's 400-meter individual medley in 4:05.18.

Five years ago: The Senate voted 51-49 to reject Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's last-ditch effort to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul with a trimmed-down bill; John McCain, who was about to begin treatments for a brain tumor, joined two other GOP senators in voting against the repeal effort. President Donald Trump announced he was appointing Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly to be his chief of staff. Defrocked priest Paul Shanley, who was at the center of Boston's Roman Catholic clergy sex abuse scandal, was released from prison at the age of 86.

One year ago: The Senate voted to begin work on a nearly \$1 trillion national infrastructure plan after the White House and a bipartisan group of senators agreed on major provisions of the package, a key part of President Joe Biden's agenda. New guidance from the federal government calling for even vaccinated people to wear masks indoors in parts of the country set off a cascade of mask rules across the nation as cities, states, schools and businesses raced to restore mandates and others pushed back against the guidelines. The Texas blues rock trio ZZ Top announced that long-bearded bassist Dusty Hill had died at age 72.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 91. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 81. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 79. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 77. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 76. Actor Linda Kelsey is 76. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 75. Actor Sally Struthers is 75. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 73. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 68. Former CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 65. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 61. Actor Michael Hayden is 59. Actor Lori Loughlin is 58. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 57. Former hockey player Garth Snow is 53. Actor Elizabeth Berkley is 50. Singer Afroman is 48.

Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 46. Actor John David Washington is 38. Actor Jon Michael Hill is 37. Actor Dustin Milligan is 37. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 36. Rapper Soulja Boy is 32. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd (TV: "The X Factor") is 29. Golfer Nelly Korda is 24.

## 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**