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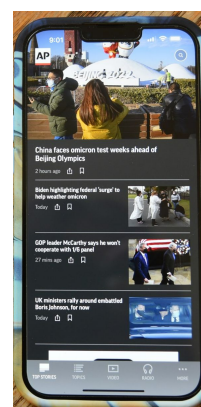
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Connecting

July 6, 2023

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Colleagues:

Good Thursday morning on this July 6, 2023.

"The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off." Abe Lemons

Although Paul and Linda are spending a long weekend with family in California, Ye Old Editor still is connected to Connecting, forwarding your email contributions.

What desk staffer doesn't remember talking with retired GEN's Polly Anderson day-to-day or, particularly, when it came to obits and preparedness?

"Polly was a long-time late PM's national editor and also tackled organizing obit preparedness," writes Stephanie Nano, a Connecting colleague and AP's assistant health and science editor in New York. "She was famous for cajoling staffers to take on one of the people on her list. We're still using preparedness that she handled - and sometimes wrote - before she retired when the then national desk was dissolved and replaced by the regional desks."

Stephanie notes Polly's birthday is tomorrow, Friday, July 7, and that Polly's niece is asking folks to share memories she can share with Polly. Send your greetings to:

Polly Anderson
c/o Arden Courts
Promedica Memory Care Community
13800 Bon Secours Dr.
Midlothian, VA 23114

Meantime, Executive Editor Julie Pace has outlined AP's 2023 second quarter milestones and highlights. Read the details below.

Have a healthy and happy day.

Peg
pcoughlin@ap.org

AP's Second-Quarter Milestones: APNews website, global text editing desk

From AP Executive Editor [Julie Pace](#): The second quarter of 2023 has been filled with big milestones in News, including the launch of our new APNews website and the opening of the global text editing desk – two projects aimed at modernizing our news report for customers and digital audiences. We also saw powerful and groundbreaking AP journalism honored at the highest levels, including the Pulitzer Prizes and the Peabody Awards.

Among the Q2 highlights:

- AP was at its best as two of the biggest breaking stories of the year unfolded – the missing Titan submersible and the Wagner revolt in Russia. Teams across the globe pulled together on both stories, ensuring we were competitive on breaking developments, ahead of the curve on interesting angles, and prioritizing storytelling techniques that resonate with digital audiences. Our coverage across formats topped the list of customer downloads, and led to monster digital traffic – including a one-day peak of 10.7 million pageviews on APNews, our best day of the year.
- When the next big story breaks, we'll have a new website to show off our world class coverage. The revamped [APNews.com](#) site serves as great showcase for our global, fact-based and independent news report, and will be a key tool for increasing audience engagement. We'll launch a new mobile app in the fall. I'm really appreciative of the time staff across News have put into a variety of trainings to help us make the most of the new site. As with any new site launch, there are still some kinks to work through. Please flag any issues or feedback in the #APNewsPlatform Slack channel.
- Another digital milestone in Q2 was the relaunch of our flagship Morning Wire newsletter, run by newsletter editor Amy Langfield and newsletter writer Sarah

Naffa. We also launched the AP News Alerts newsletter, which helps ensure our audiences are on top of the biggest breaking stories. The sign-up page for our full suite of newsletters can be found [here](#).

- Our global text editing desk is now fully operational o streamline and add more consistency to news production, make better use of our global footprint, and provide more opportunities for growth and advancement to production staff. The text desk follows in the footsteps of the global photo editing desk, which has been operating successfully for the past year.
- We also took a big step forward in improving our competitiveness on the weekends, with global weekend editor Andy Meldrum and deputy global weekend editor Balint Szlanko starting their new roles, in New York and London respectively. Their work, in collaboration with the Nerve Center, is already resulting in stronger weekend planning and faster responsiveness on breaking news.
- Thanks to contributions from video staff around the world, we've significantly increased the speed and scope of our production of Consumer Ready (CR) videos. The response from both customers and our digital audience has been extremely positive. We're currently on track to shatter last year's CR record of 31,000 customer downloads. And APNews metrics show that when we have video linked, the audience stays with a story longer – and is more likely to view other stories on the site. This is a great example of where the interests of our customers and our own digital audience align.
- It was another banner quarter for AP journalism awards, including the awarding of two Pulitzer Prizes for our work in Ukraine – one in the prestigious Public Service category and another in Breaking News Photography. AP reporter Michelle Smith was awarded a Peabody Award for her collaboration with PBS Frontline on a documentary on political extremism in the U.S. And photographers Eranga Jayawardena and Rafiq Maqbool won the Excellence in Photography prize in the Society of Publishers in Asia awards for their powerful coverage of last year's unrest in Sri Lanka. Eranga and Rafiq were also honored as Pulitzer finalists this year.

AP lunch bunch

[Dave Tomlin](#) - Last Saturday July 1, Pam and I, and our adopted daughter Lizzy had breakfast in Maplewood, NJ, with Margy McCay and Wick Temple's daughter Shawn Temple Wilson, her husband, NJ Superior Court Judge Rob Wilson, and their daughter Ryan Rose Wilson.



Dining out with editors

[Michael Weinfeld](#) - Reacting to Reed Saxon's cartoon submission about editors dining out, my wife & I both spotted this mistake on a menu in Westcliffe, Colorado.



Stories of interest

Cameraman at Yankees Stadium injured by wild throw from shortstop

By BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A cameraman was injured Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium and taken to the hospital after he was hit in the head by a wild throw from Baltimore Orioles rookie shortstop Gunnar Henderson.

Positioned right next to the New York Yankees' dugout on the first-base side, Pete Stengel of YES Network was struck by a hurried throw from Henderson, who fired high to first as he tried to complete a double play in the fifth inning.

After the game, YES said Stengel was conscious and undergoing tests in the hospital. No further updates were expected from the network Wednesday night. Read more [here](#).

Shared by [Doug Pizak](#)

Putin ally appointed to head Russia's TASS news agency

By REUTERS

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin's former election spokesman has been appointed to run the state news agency TASS, according to a government order published on Wednesday.

The Kremlin has tightened its control over the media since the start of the Ukraine war, forcing the closure of leading independent news outlets and designating many journalists and publications as "foreign agents".

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed an order dismissing Sergei Mikhailov as general director of TASS and appointing Andrei Kondrashov in his place. Mikhailov had served as general director since 2012. Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Shared by [Len Iwanski](#)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Peg Coughlin](#)

[Ron Fournier](#)

[Angie Wagner](#)

Today in History - July 6, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 6, the 187th day of 2023. There are 178 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 6, 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

On this date:

In 1483, England's King Richard III was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1854, the first official meeting of the Republican Party took place in Jackson, Michigan.

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1933, the first All-Star baseball game was played at Chicago's Comiskey Park; the American League defeated the National League, 4-2.

In 1942, Anne Frank, her parents and sister entered a "secret annex" in an Amsterdam building where they were later joined by four other people; they hid from Nazi occupiers for two years before being discovered and arrested.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order establishing the Medal of Freedom.

In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform.

In 2015, Pope Francis received a hero's welcome in Guayaquil, Ecuador's biggest city, as he celebrated the first public Mass of his South American tour.

In 2016, Philando Castile, a Black elementary school cafeteria worker, was killed during a traffic stop in the St. Paul suburb of Falcon Heights by Officer Jeronimo Yanez. (Yanez was later acquitted on a charge of second-degree manslaughter.)

In 2020, the Trump administration formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the World Health Organization; President Donald Trump had criticized the WHO's response to the coronavirus pandemic. (The pullout was later halted by President Joe Biden's administration.)

Ten years ago: A runaway train carrying crude oil derailed in eastern Quebec, igniting fires and explosions that destroyed much of the town of Lac-Mégantic and killed 47 people. An Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 from Seoul, South Korea, crashed while landing at San Francisco International Airport; of the 307 people on board Flight 214, three Chinese teens were killed. A solar-powered aircraft, the Solar Impulse, completed the final leg of a history-making cross-country flight, gliding to a smooth stop at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Marion Bartoli won her first major title, defeating Sabine Lisicki 6-1, 6-4 in the Wimbledon final. Jimmie Johnson became the first driver in 31 years to sweep Daytona International Speedway.

Five years ago: The United States and China imposed tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods in what Beijing called the "biggest trade war in economic history." Japan's Justice Ministry confirmed that six followers of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult had been hanged along with its leader, Shoko Asahara; they had been convicted of crimes including a 1995 sarin gas attack that killed 13 people and sickened thousands of others on the Tokyo subway system. A former Thai navy SEAL died while diving in flooded cave passageways to deliver supplies to 12 schoolboys and their soccer coach who'd been trapped for nearly two weeks.

One year ago: Authorities said a man charged with killing seven people at an Independence Day parade confessed to police that he unleashed a hail of bullets from a rooftop in suburban Chicago and then fled to the Madison, Wisconsin, area, where he contemplated shooting up an event there. The gunman instead turned back to Illinois, where he was arrested. A police officer armed with a rifle watched the gunman in the Uvalde elementary school massacre walk toward the campus but did not fire while waiting for permission from a supervisor to shoot, according to a newly released sweeping critique of the tactical response to the tragedy six weeks earlier.

Today's Birthdays: The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is 88. Singer Gene Chandler is 83. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 83. Actor Burt Ward is 78. Former President George W. Bush is 77. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 77. Actor Fred Dryer is 77. Actor Shelley Hack is 76. Actor Nathalie Baye is 75. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 72. Actor Allyce Beasley is 72. Rock musician John Bazz (The Blasters) is 71. Actor Grant Goodeve is 71. Retired MLB All-Star Willie Randolph is 69. Jazz musician Rick Braun is 68. Actor Casey Sander is 68. Country musician John Jorgenson is 67. Former first daughter Susan Ford Bales is 66. Hockey player and coach Ron Duguay is 66. Actor-writer Jennifer Saunders is 65. Rock musician John Keeble (Spandau Ballet) is 64. Actor Pip Torrens is 63. Actor Brian Posehn is 57. Actor Robb Derringer is 56. Political reporter/moderator John Dickerson is 55. Actor Brian Van Holt is 54. Rapper Inspectah Deck (Wu-Tang Clan) is 53. TV host Josh Elliott is 52. Rapper 50 Cent is 48. Actors Tia and Tamera Mowry (MOHR'-ee) are 45. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart is 44. Actor Eva Green is 43. Actor Gregory Smith is 40. Rock musician Chris "Woody" Wood (Bastille) is 38. Rock singer Kate Nash is 36. Actor Jeremy Suarez is 33. San Diego Padres infielder Manny Machado is 31. NBA star Zion Williamson is 23.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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

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