

AP Ohio Reports

June 2006

Dates to Remember

September 2006, AP Sports Workshop, [Date TBA](#)

Thank You

Ted Daniels of the **Ashland Times-Gazette** called AP with first word of a standoff in Mansfield that left three people dead. **Matt Zaleski** of **WNWO-TV**, Toledo, called with a tip that a sheriff's deputy had been shot in northwest Ohio. **Alan Baker** of **WTOL-TV** in Toledo called with first word of a chemical plant fire in Pandora. **Joe Bell** of **WKBN-AM** in Youngstown called to let the AP know that Daniel DiPiero, a missing cruise ship passenger, was from Canfield, not Augusta, as was being reported by the cruise line. **Larry Shields** of **WSAZ-TV** in Huntington, W.Va., called with first word of the crash of a motorized parachute near Portsmouth that killed the pilot and seriously injured the passenger. All win a \$20 prize for their news tips.



The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer/Joshua Gunter



Akron Beacon Journal/Karen Schiely

Ohio AP members contributed 214 photos to the wire in May, led by **The Columbus Dispatch** with 46 and **The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer** with 43. Overall, the Ohio AP moved 1,192 photos for the month.

Joshua Gunter of **The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer** won the Ohio AP Best Feature Photo award for May for his photo, above right, of the Cleveland skyline dwarfed by a storm, as seen from Edgewater Park.

Karen Schiely of the **Akron Beacon Journal** won the Ohio AP Best News Photo award for May for her photo, left, of Akron firefighters battling a blaze at the Akron Airdock. The historic airdock is the home of Pentagon-sponsored Lockheed Martin Corp. research on a \$149 million prototype of the unmanned airship.

This Just In ...

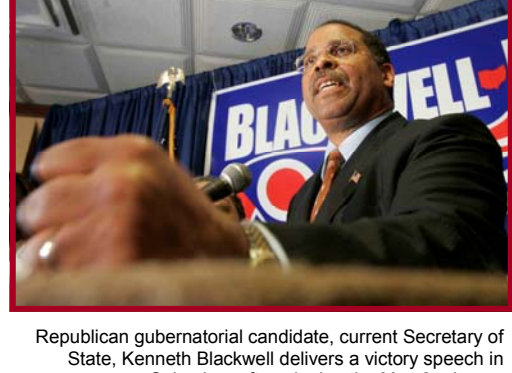
Cincinnati newsman **Terry Kinney** broke the news June 2 that the leadership of the locked-out independent union at AK Steel had endorsed affiliation with the international Machinists union. The day before, Kinney also was out front with the company's decision to impose health care charges on retirees.

Cincinnati newswoman **Lisa Cornwell** put AP ahead May 26 with news of the president's resignation at regional airline Comair, which is in a contract dispute with flight attendants.

Cleveland sports writer **Tom Withers** was several hours ahead May 25 of the Cleveland Cavaliers scheduled announcement that the team had extended the contract of coach Mike Brown.

In Washington, regional reporter **David Hammer** was the first to report that Rep. Bob Ney suddenly cut off privately funded travel for himself and his staff when his ties to lobbyist Jack Abramoff started making headlines. Hammer pored over nearly 150 paper travel logs in a Capitol office basement and created a computer database to find that Ney's staff traveled frequently, with private groups footing the bill, from 2000 to mid-2005, then stopped when the validity of a 2002 trip with Abramoff to Scotland was questioned.

Columbus newsman **Andrew Welsh-Huggins** and Cleveland newsman **Thomas J. Sheeran** combined on stories marking the anniversary of an unsolved arson that killed eight children and an adult in Cleveland. Sheeran brought readers up to date on the arson investigation and focused on the emotions of neighbors and impact on the neighborhood.



Republican gubernatorial candidate, current Secretary of State, Kenneth Blackwell delivers a victory speech in Columbus after winning the May 2 primary. (AP Photo/Kichiro Sato)

Welsh-Huggins collected Ohio Department of Health data on fire deaths by race of victim. As it became clear that blacks died at a higher proportion than other races, he worked with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, finding out that blacks die in fires at more than twice the rate of whites.

AP Baghdad photographer **Khalid Mohammed** fired off two frames of a U.S. soldier taking away an old photograph of a heavily-armed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in military pose, next to the photo of a dead Zarqawi. The juxtaposition made Mohammed's image the only one that captured both elements of the Zarqawi story in a single frame. Khalid's picture dominated by far the front pages of virtually every newspaper in the U.S. and around the world.

Tipped by a source, St. Louis business writer **Chris Leonard** put a spotlight on finance reports revealing curious donations to the gubernatorial campaign of Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon. Leonard traced the donations, made by pass-through fundraising committees, back to utility company Ameren Corp. -- a company under investigation by Nixon's office for its alleged role in the devastating collapse of an eastern Missouri reservoir. After AP's exclusive, Nixon came under pressure to remove himself from the Ameren investigation. Three days later Nixon announced he would return the money.

Jennifer Loven of Washington and **Andrew Selsky** of San Juan, Puerto Rico, teamed to break word of the suicides of three inmates at Guantanamo Bay. Selsky got a tip from a group representing Guantanamo inmates that three prisoners might have died at their own hands. Selsky passed the tip to Washington and Loven, an experienced White House reporter, quickly hit paydirt with two trusted sources, one of whom told her that President Bush had been briefed. **Lita Baldor** gave a big assist, racing to the Pentagon to nail down details of how the men died.

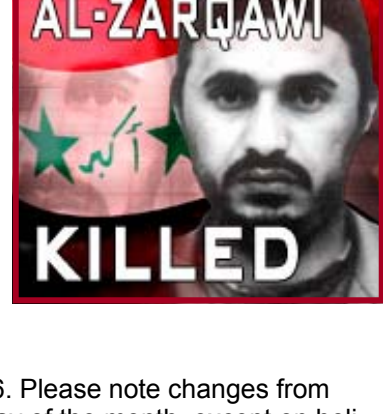
Gene Johnson of Seattle used a tip from a source to uncover a longstanding but ethically and legally questionable practice. In an exclusive story, he found that drug defendants in a Washington county on the Canadian border were being allowed to essentially buy down their felony charges to misdemeanors by making big contributions to a drug fund. Johnson began rooting through court files, where he found the lead anecdote: a case in which one defendant who could pay was allowed to plead to a misdemeanor, while another who couldn't come up with the cash had to take the felony rap. Johnson later made several more trips north to score key interviews, and used a public disclosure request to obtain a list of cases that involved payments to the drug fund.

What's New at Your AP

Products - Services

Online Video Network

An example of how Online Video Network could make your website more immediate is the recent coverage on the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. AP also provided a thumbnail graphic that members could put on their home or world news page, to link directly to the video. Check out the Zarqawi link at: <http://video.ap.org/v/en-ap/v.htm?f=FLPET&q=120784d0-e0b4-4b50-a67f-eca3165fe793&p=&t=s60>



For more information about the Online Video Network, please contact Ohio Bureau Chief **Eva Parziale** (eparziale@ap.org) or Assistant Bureau Chief **Nancy Nussbaum** (nussbaum@ap.org) at 614-885-2727.

Special Editions

The most recent AP Special Editions package, on the Outdoors, moved June 6. Please note changes from some earlier schedules to reflect that Special Editions move on the first Tuesday of the month, except on holidays. Here's the schedule for the rest of the year: July 11 - Back to School; Aug. 1 - Parenting; Sept. 12 - Cars; Oct. 3 - Philanthropy/Volunteering; Nov. 7 - Holidays; Dec. 5 - Weddings. Contact **Julia Rubin** at jrubin@ap.org or 212-621-7199 for questions about stories. For graphics, 212-621-1905. For story reruns, call the Service Desk at 800-838-4616.

Ask the Editor

What's the correct way to write a swear word in a quote without being vulgar or offensive? Should an exclamation point go after the name of the Web entity Yahoo? Do punctuation marks always go inside of end quotes? The AP Stylebook covers many grammatical, punctuation and usage issues that crop up daily in the typical newsroom. But not all. For example, does "mentee" mean the same thing as "protégé"? Or is it "girls basketball game" or "girls' basketball game?" Is it "ya'll" or "y'all"? For difficult usages or fine points not covered by the Stylebook, AP now has a Web site -- "Ask the Editor" (http://www.apstylebook.com/ask_editor.php) -- allowing busy editors to look up answers to recent style questions or to ask ones of their own. **Norm Goldstein**, editor of the AP Stylebook, maintains the site and answers questions submitted from around the country. Bookmark the site in your browser or look for it on the left navigation bar of the APME home page.

Hosted asap Site Enhanced

AP has launched a new design for the Web site used by subscribers to the hosted version of asap, AP's service aimed at 18- to 34-year-olds. The design offers visual improvements, increased functionality and wider options for Web site visitors to access the content for this important demographic. And the redesign creates a new 468 X 60 ad space at the very top of the home page that belongs to subscribers who link in any way to asap. Take a look at: <http://asap.ap.org>.



The site has also launched its first true blog, called "The Slug," written by asap's pop-culture guru, Derrik J. Lang.

To see it, you can go to: <http://asapblogs.typepad.com/theslug/>. Lang says it will "taste pop culture for you -- just in case it's been poisoned." The blog will updated several times a day on most days, and will draw on Lang's own original reporting and existing AP-wide content.

"Expect it to be lively, snarky and smart, and to troll all corners of the mass-culture juggernaut. Expect it to have real reporting, real insight -- and be real obnoxious now and then," said Ted Anthony, asap editor.

AP Update

Blogging AP

AP has a new agreement with Technorati Inc., the leading search engine for blog postings, that will provide modules that allow users to navigate to blogs that cite AP stories. The Technorati modules will be available along with the original AP stories on 440 member Web sites served by AP Hosted CustomNews, which uses AP servers to display AP content on member sites. CustomNews subscribers will also see a box featuring the "Top Five Most Blogged About" AP stories. Web sites that keep AP content on their own servers are not part of the program and sites with AP hosted content may opt out of it.

AP & Topix.net

Under a new deal between AP and Technorati Inc., Web site visitors will be sent directly to the sites of newspapers when stories in the AP report are based primarily on material from those newspapers. Topix.net is controlled by Gannett Co., Knight Ridder Inc. and Tribune Co. Topix.net will display a link to the original story on which an AP dispatch was based -- as it appears on the Web site of the newspaper that contributed it to begin with. "The whole notion here is to spotlight those who are real content creators and not make news such a generic commodity on the Web," said **Jane Seagrave**, AP's vice president of new media. The arrangement will run for 15 months.



Barbaro is held by jockey Edgar Prado after injuring his leg at the start of the 131st running of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. Prado, one of the nation's leading riders, has been praised for reacting quickly to bring Barbaro to a halt and likely saving his life. The jockey insists the horse deserves credit, too. (AP Photo/Al Behrman)

Online Video Network Revenue Update

The AP issued its first round of revenue credits for the Online Video Network to members in June. The royalty payments, for traffic driven by member sites to the network, are reflected as a credit in member assessments. Credits in this first round vary from hundreds of dollars to a few cents. Revenue share is based on streams (when a site visitor clicks to see a video) not ads served -- so AP and members still get paid for streams if there are no ads on the network for some period of time. On national video content, OVN members get paid 20 percent, with an expected average \$20 to \$25 CPM. AP is sending monthly traffic reports to the OVN e-mail alert group that members gave us when they signed up. As we ramp up, we expect to be sending members weekly and daily traffic reports.

AP launched the Online Video Network March 1 with 450 members and 45 million UVs. We've since grown to 1,100 sites and 76 million UVs, and we're adding members every day. We expect the credits to grow substantially as the network grows and as site visitors develop the habit of turning to our member sites for video. Good promotion on the home page and linking from stories on the site are key traffic drivers. We've summarized some of the best practices in a document called "Driving Clicks." If you'd like a copy, contact **Melissa Curry** at mcurry@ap.org or 614-885-2727.

Industry News

Member News

The **Akron Beacon Journal**, once the flagship of **Knight Ridder**, was sold for \$165 million to Sound Publishing Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of Black Press Ltd., based in Victoria, British Columbia. Black Press has 1,700 employees and publishes more than 100 dailies and weeklies, including the **Honolulu Star-Bulletin** in Hawaii.

The (Steubenville) Herald-Star celebrated its 200th anniversary in June, making it one of the nation's oldest newspapers. William Lowry and John Miller started The Western Herald weekly newspaper in 1806, when Ohio was just 3 years old. It merged with the Steubenville Star in 1897 to become the Herald-Star. The paper is owned by Nutting Newspapers.

Joe Shaheen has been promoted to managing editor, from sports editor, of **The (Massillon) Independent**. He succeeded **Jeremy Yohe**. Yohe's photo editor **Chris Easterling** was named sports editor and photographer **Kevin Whitlock** was appointed photo editor.

Deb Zwez has been named publisher of **The (St. Marys) Evening Leader**. Zwez was most recently publisher of The Community Post, a weekly newspaper, and has worked at **The Wapakoneta Daily News** and **The Daily Chief-Union** in Upper Sandusky. She succeeds **Tina Waterman**.

AP News



Rachel Hoag has joined the Columbus AP as a legislative relief staffer. Hoag is a former intern from the Jerusalem AP bureau. She holds a master's degree in journalism from Ohio University and is a 2004 graduate of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C. She has interned at **The Medina Gazette** and **Akron Beacon Journal** and worked at **The Laurinburg (N.C.) Exchange**.

Matthew Reed has joined the Columbus AP as a summer intern. Reed holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and a bachelor's in English Literature from St. Mary's College in Moraga, Calif. Reed spent four years at **The Cambodia Daily** as a reporter and copy editor. He also has freelanced for **Wired News**, **Silicon Valley** and **The Silicon Alley Biz Ink**. Prior to moving to Cambodia, he was a writer and editor at **The Hotline**, an Internet publication in Washington, D.C.



Reed

Meredith Heagney has joined the Columbus AP as a disability relief staffer. Heagney has interned at **The Co-Green Sentinel-Tribune** and **The (Toledo) Blade**. She also has worked as a sports freelancer for **The (Bowling Green) Dispatch**. Most recently, as vice president of her school's Society of Professional Journalists chapter, she oversaw a public records audit of all public, four-year colleges in Ohio.

Mary Byrne has been appointed deputy sports editor for the AP, based in New York City. Byrne, Olympic editor of **USA Today**, succeeds **Ben Walker**, who will return to a national writing assignment. While at USA Today, Byrne planned coverage for the Athens and Turin Olympic Games. Prior to that, she was deputy sports editor at the **Miami Herald**.

The vital role of online news will be featured when the national **APME** holds its annual conference in New Orleans Oct. 25-28 at the Astor Crowne Plaza. The first full day of the conference, "Multimedia Day," features sessions on reaching traditional audiences online, finding new young readers there and claiming influence on the Internet. Other sessions will include online innovations from around the world; what goes in a journalist's digital toolbox; tips for improving newspaper Web sites; and the online story of Katrina. For more information on the conference and the hotel go to www.apme.com.

Need national industry news? The latest edition of AP's weekly Industry News is available online at <http://www.ap.org/pages/indnews/>

Questions? Comments? Contact Melissa Curry at mcurry@ap.org, or call (800) 762-4841 or (614) 885-2727.