

**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:28 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - June 12, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

June 12, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound  
of the Teletype



## "Your chief of bureau has died"

Colleagues,

Imagine yourself working the day desk in an AP bureau when a call comes in from the State Police and the voice on the other end says: "Please sit down, I need to tell you that your chief of bureau died in a car accident."



That was a call that Connecting colleague [Rachel Ambrose](#) - then Rachel Eberle - took Sept. 30, 1966, when she was told that Indianapolis CoB **Bill Richardson** had been killed in a highway accident when his car slid into the path of a tractor-trailer truck on a rain-slickened Indiana highway - while returning to Indianapolis from a meeting of judicial and law-enforcement officers on crime publicity and a three-newspaper membership swing.

"With Bill's death, I was quickly reminded that traffic fatalities are not numbers. They are people whose vitalities are ended unexpectedly," she recalled.

To my knowledge, Richardson, who was 38 at the time of

his death, is the only AP domestic chief of bureau in recent times to die in the line of duty. He had joined the AP in Albuquerque in 1951, became bureau chief in 1958 and was appointed Indianapolis bureau chief in 1960, succeeding **Bob Johnson** who moved to Dallas as bureau chief. Johnson was one of the pallbearers, as was Indiana AP state editor **Dale Burgess** - later inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame and for whom the AP staffer of the year award in Indiana is named. Burgess wrote a book in 1966, "Just Us Hoosiers," still available on Amazon.com.

Another Connecting colleague, [Karol Stonger](#), was hired by Richardson in Indianapolis in 1964 and remembers him as "a truly neat guy with a great family. His wife was very much a part of the bureau. Bless her heart, she offered to hem a bridesmaid dress I couldn't get done before heading to a wedding in West Virginia."

Karol recalled that shortly after she and Rachel arrived in the bureau, "Bill said, 'Now tell me if I'm doing anything wrong.' Meaning female staffers were new to him. That may be true, because I was once told there were only about 50 women stateside at AP at the time. He was very supportive of me, at least, and I'm sure the rest of the staff.

"Bill assigned me to cover the field hospital at the Indy 500 in 1964 as a stringer before I was officially on board. That was the year Eddie Sachs and Dave MacDonald were killed in a fiery crash. Every casualty, alive or dead, had to come through the hospital. Back at the bureau, he looked at me and said with a smile, 'Well, you said you didn't want to work on the society pages.'"

## The media's big miss

POLITICO: It wasn't quite Dewey beats Truman - the press didn't get the story wrong. In this case, they missed it entirely.

The Washington press was shocked on Tuesday evening as House Majority Leader Eric Cantor lost in the Republican primary to political newcomer Dave Brat. Media organizations that normally brace for big primary nights hadn't and were woefully caught off guard. Fox News suddenly cut away from a pre-taped episode of "The O'Reilly Factor." On CNN, Senior Political Analyst Gloria Borger initially wasn't on camera and instead was forced to call into the set. Publications scrambled to get reporters into the field, as only a handful of media were on the ground in Virginia for primary night.



Click [here](#) to read more, including this on the AP:

Editors at The Associated Press, the wire service that much of the media relies on to call

races, said they were surprised by the outcome.

"There were a few signs ahead of time that Cantor could be in trouble, such as the attacks on his immigration positions, which AP's Erica Werner had smartly reported on before election day," AP Washington Bureau Chief **Sally Buzbee** said in an email. "As a result, AP was paying very close attention to the race and we were able to call it early. When covering elections and calling races, we take nothing for granted. That said, it was a surprise, certainly." (Shared by Paul Colford)

AND

### [Why Polling Fails: Republicans Couldn't Predict Eric Cantor's Loss](#)

Eric Cantor wasn't the only person at a loss for words on Tuesday night. His pollster, McLaughlin & Associates, found itself trying to explain the impossible - how a projected 34 percent lead for the House majority leader 12 days before the election could end up an 11-point loss on Election Day to David Brat of the Tea Party in the Virginia Republican primary. We've all been there. There isn't a pollster alive - me included - who hasn't had to take the walk of shame, hat in hand, to explain to an angry client why a predicted outcome simply didn't happen.

## **New York's Longest Run**

[Richard Pyle](#) - Reading again about the D-Day experience of the late Marty Lederhandler and his wayward pigeon triggered some other memories of this most remarkable gentleman photographer that might interest Connecting readers who may or may not have had the unique pleasure of his company.

Marty retired in 2003 after 66 years, still the AP record for longevity on the job, and died in 2010, age 92.

The "Longest Run" profile was published in 2001 after Marty announced his intent to retire, and details were later reprised in his AP obituary.

I'd known Marty casually for years, but when the NY bureau and NY photos were combined into one unit around 2000, we found ourselves in adjoining cubicles, and became close friends.

He told non-stop stories from a career in which he seemed to be always jogging alongside history. Every photo, every subject, had a famous or noteworthy name, and a tale to tell.



In one interview, I asked Marty whether he had forgotten to mention any important person he had photographed. He thought for a moment, then exclaimed, ``Winston Churchill!"

After he told me that story, I was really glad I had asked.

-0-

**By RICHARD PYLE**  
**Associated Press Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) \_ When people talk about a new smash hit on Broadway or a record winning streak at Yankee Stadium, Marty Lederhandler just smiles.

Nobody's had a longer run in New York than he has.

But the man who photographed mayors from Fiorello La Guardia to Rudy Giuliani, hit Utah Beach on D-Day, and accompanied Nelson and Happy Rockefeller on their Venezuelan honeymoon, is hanging up his cameras at The Associated Press after 66 years on the job.

Lederhandler, who turned 84 on Nov. 23, retires at the end of the year. "It's time to go, and give someone else a chance to do the things I've done," he says.

No chance of that.

The Gotham native leaves a celluloid legacy second to none - fires, murders, parades, sports events and plane crashes; every president from Herbert Hoover (retired) to Bill Clinton; royals, actors, crooks, spies, athletes, cultural icons and most top world leaders of the past half-century.

He photographed Marilyn Monroe in husband-playwright Arthur Miller's Manhattan apartment, but missed the famous shot of her skirt billowing over a sidewalk grating during filming of the ``The Seven-Year Itch." Out of position, he explained.

Invited to meet a famous guest at Bernard Baruch's apartment, photographers found Winston Churchill, just returned from delivering his famed ``Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Mo., seated in a plush chair, brandy in hand. Marty recalled that as he knelt and aimed his camera, Churchill growled, ``Don't shoot 'til you see the whites of their eyes."

He was standing beside Fidel Castro at the United Nations when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev strode up and gave the Cuban leader a bear hug. Prevented by the crush of bodies from reaching his color camera, Lederhandler got the picture only in black and white. But only he got it.

During that 15th General Assembly meeting in 1960 - awash in famous heads of state from Nehru to Tito - Lederhandler developed an affinity for covering the world body.

"Without his consummate skill and untiring professionalism, many great moments in the history of the United Nations would have gone unrecorded," Secretary-General Kofi Annan told AP in a recent letter.

Lederhandler joined AP full-time in March 1936 (he'd started part-time the year before) and spent the next 6 1/2 decades looking at life through a camera lens. At some point he began setting a new record for job longevity every day, a sort of journalistic version of Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak.

To say he's seen it all may be an exaggeration, but not by much.

Haile Selassie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth II, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Elizabeth Taylor, Carl Sandburg, Douglas MacArthur, Bertrand Russell, Groucho Marx, Malcolm X, Liberace, Yasser Arafat, Frank Sinatra, Frank Costello, Aristotle Onassis, Anwar Sadat, Van Cliburn, James Cagney, the Beatles, Sophia Loren, Nelson Mandela, Muhammad Ali and Luciano Pavarotti are a sampling of people freeze-framed by Lederhandler's lens.

Marty and an older brother, Harry, got into cameras as a teen-age hobby during the Depression, and went to work at AP as \$12 a week photo messengers, learning the craft in their spare time with a Speed Graphic they bought together.

Marty figured out how to double his income by using a tunnel to deliver photos to the Daily News a few blocks away, pocketing his cab allowance. But just running photo errands was heady stuff for a 17-year-old boy.

"Everything was exciting, and I got caught up in it," Lederhandler says. "New York was the center of the world."

Drafted by the Army in 1940, Lederhandler earned lieutenant's bars in Officer Candidate School and became leader of a six-man Signal Corps combat photo team.

On June 6, 1944, he landed on Utah Beach with the 4th Infantry Division, lugging his cameras and two caged pigeons to fly the film back to England. His second pigeon fluttered into the sky, turned east instead of west, and vanished.

A month later Marty's unit found German newspapers in an abandoned command post near Cherbourg. "One of my photos was on the front page. The caption was just propaganda, but the German editors duly credited the shot to 'U.S.A. reporter, Lt. Lederhandler.'"

Lederhandler celebrated the liberation of Paris in a "three-day Mardi Gras" with fellow war correspondents Ernie Pyle and Ernest Hemingway, among others, and took part in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium.

The ex-soldier returned to France for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, walking now-quiet Utah Beach and visiting villages he had last seen in 1944.

A man of sly wit, Lederhandler seems to have an anecdote for every picture and constantly surprises colleagues with stories they've never heard before.

He arrived at work one day in 1998 with an envelope containing old black-and-white photos of Adolf Hitler and other top Nazis, scorched around the edges.

The pictures, he explained, had been sent to New York by AP's Berlin bureau in May, 1937 - on the dirigible Hindenburg. Two weeks after the airship exploded and burned on landing at Lakehurst, N.J., the package was delivered to AP.

The photo desk made pictures of the fire-damaged pictures, but when the editor in charge showed no interest in keeping them, 19-year-old Lederhandler had the presence of mind to take them home. Years later, they served as a unique historic centerpiece for for AP's 150th anniversary observance.

Lederhandler's first AP photo was an artsy 1936 shot of George Washington Bridge cables "taken from such an angle that you can't tell if you're looking up or down," he says. But he may be best remembered for one of his last.

When the World Trade Center was attacked on Sept. 11, Lederhandler crossed the street from AP's Rockefeller Center office, took an elevator to the Rainbow Room on the 65th floor of the GE building and photographed the blazing towers in the distance, with the Empire State Building in the foreground, like a stately guardian of the wounded city.



That iconic picture, called by some critics the quintessential image of that day, made the cover of New York magazine and the cover of "Sept. 11, 2001," a best-selling book published by the magazine.

In an odd way, Lederhandler says, the terrorist strikes helped him decide to retire. "Twice is more than enough," he said, referring to the 1993 bombing of the twin towers and the Sept. 11 attacks by hijacked jetliners.

Lederhandler's career paralleled the march of technology from heavy, cumbersome Speed Graphics to high-speed film and motor-driven 35-mm cameras - and recently, to digital cameras.

"The old equipment was limited and more difficult," he says. "You could only carry eight to ten plate holders - 16 to 20 pictures. You had to wait for the moment, even anticipate the moment, and compensate for a tiny delay between the button and the shutter. But you learned to do all that."

The old-style cameras also encouraged a decorum seen rarely at a present-day show opening or a police station "perp walk," he says.

"Not only did press photographers wear suits, ties and hats, everybody had the same lenses, and we had to stand back eight or 10 feet. There was some jostling, but no radio and TV microphones - nothing like the pushing and shoving you see today."

Lederhandler's own perp walks included famed bank robber Willie Sutton and Soviet atom spy Ethel Rosenberg, whom he pictured leaving a federal courthouse after her conviction and arriving later at Sing Sing prison, where she and her husband Julius were executed in 1953.

One of Lederhandler's favorite photo scoops didn't even come from his camera.

When photographers were barred from taking pictures of the reclusive Charles Lindbergh at an aeronautics industry dinner, Lederhandler paid a hotel photographer \$10 for an enlarged image of the Lone Eagle from a group shot.

In 1963, he scooped the competition by buying a seat on the Pan Am flight that was taking New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and his bride, Happy, on their honeymoon.

"Other photographers were at the airport to get the departure, and were shocked when I walked past them and got aboard," Lederhandler says.

"I was able to make pictures of the Rockefellers on the plane and when they got off in Caracas. My film went straight back to Miami on the first flight, and the arrival picture made Page 1 of the Daily News, while the New York departure shots were on inside pages."

Lederhandler was invited to the Rockefeller ranch, where he spent the next two days following the newlyweds with his camera as they rode horses and dined with guests.

In retirement, Lederhandler says, he wants to travel - he is a cruise ship aficionado - do occasional free-lance jobs and serve as a consultant to AP's photo staff.

"For 66 years I've been saying, 'I'm with the Associated Press.' I never want to stop saying that," Lederhandler said.

End Adv for Weekend Editions, Dec. 15-16

## News of the AP

### ONA launches project to 'build your own ethics code'

The Online News Association today launched a 'build your own ethics code' project to help "news organisations, small start-ups and individual bloggers" create their own code of ethics.

Made up of a series of Google Docs, the project is freely accessible to all but is still in a crowdsourcing stage, inviting journalists and editors to comment and make suggestions.

"No single ethics code can reflect the needs of everyone in our widely varied profession," said Tom Kent, standards editor and deputy managing editor of the Associated Press, in an introduction to the document.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt

### Reporting the MH370 Disappearance: Lessons Learned

The disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 will certainly go down as one of the great aviation mysteries of our time. With so much left unanswered and still to be reported, how well have newsrooms across Asia handled the story so far?

A panel of journalists who covered the disappearance as it unfolded offered their take on that question at the June 7-8 New.Now.Next. Media Conference held at the University of Hong Kong.

For starters, not many had anticipated the story would last so long, and few expected the story to take so many twists and turns and still be unresolved three months after the initial report of the plane's



disappearance.

"We had seen coverage of plane disasters before. So the first few hours were dedicated to setting up what was thought to be a plane crash story, with a plan that we would kick into the usual stories on survivors and any wreckage. After five hours, we realized this was something unusual," said Ted Anthony, Asia-Pacific News Director for AP, at left in the photo above.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Paul Colford

### **All right on the night? World Cup stadium a worry**

Alarming, seemingly lax security at and around the Itaquerao allowed an Associated Press reporter to wander freely this week through unfinished and empty rooms, electrical rooms and uncompleted executive suites. Exposed wires and unfitted lights hung from ceilings. Corridors and other areas smelling strongly of plaster, paint and glue were clogged with uninstalled furniture and fittings, piled up crates of catering equipment and construction materials waiting to be carted away.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## **Connecting mailbox**

### **Responses to Writing The AP President after passing probation**

[Charles Bennett](#) - Mr Gallagher was on tour of all the local bureaus in the early 70's in an effort to get in touch with the individuals. He was in the Atlanta bureau and was touring with the COB when Gallagher ask if there were any new faces. There was one who was working the radio desk. Gallagher approached and asked to speak to him. The man replied , "Not now, I am busy." Gallagher asked if he knew who he was. The man never raised his eyes and said, no. Gallagher then asked what his aspirations were with AP. The man was still looking down and replied "Right now it is to get out this god-damned radio split". Saying no more Gallagher walked away and told the COB to give the man a raise.

[Joe Edwards](#) - In my letter to Wes Gallagher in 1970, I mentioned that I once stole six bases in a baseball game.

He wrote back, "Did the catcher have a broken arm?"

Joe Edwards, AP Nashville, 1970-2012

[Hal Bock](#) - I remember my 6-month letter very well. But instead of sending it to Wes Gallagher, I was told to submit it to sports editor Ted Smits. I don't recall the contents but Smits panned it and it never made it out of the sports department. Come to think of it, neither did I. I had been a summer relief hire in 1960 and 1962 before being hired in 1963. I referred in the letter to being happy to be a ``permanent'' employee. Smits

thought that would be overstating my status. I guess, in the long run --40 years worth -- I was right and he was wrong.

## **Women and Wyoming**

[Joe McGowan](#) - With all the talk about Jill Abramson being ousted and a lot of talk about women not having opportunities, I thought I would tell about Wyoming, my home state and one I am proud of. As you know, it is known as the Equality State. Wyoming was the first state to elect a woman governor. She was Nellie Tayloe (cq) Ross, who served 1925-27. Then she became director of the U.S. Mint from 1933-53. She died Dec. 19, 1977 at age 101!

Fast forward to my time in journalism at U. of Wyoming 1948-52. I got a job working nights as sports editor of the Laramie Morning Bulletin. My boss, the editor, was Betty Eagle, not only a woman BUT a full blooded Native American!

And now in 2014, the president of Wyoming Press Assn. is Anne McGowan (a friend but not a relative), Vice President of the weekly Lander Journal.

Wyoming has nine dailies. Of them, 3 have women publishers, and 3 have women editors. A look at the list of weeklies indicated the percentage of women publishers or editors would be even higher.

## **Connecting's D-Day edition**

[Ben Brown](#) - Add me to those that felt Mark Mittelstadt did a great job on the D Day edition. Great work.



## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**

To

[Ed Staats](#)

[Scott Charton](#)

## **More stories of interest**

### [The Newsonomics of Time Inc.'s Anxious Spin](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

As it enters new life as a new company, Time Inc. seems to have become a piñata for media watchers. The more iconic they are, it seems, the more they're fair game, for everything from second-guessing to satire. Certainly, Time Inc. cooperated in that game over the last two decades, from Pathfinder's early follies to Laura Lang's undistinguished tenure - the company seems to have tried on more business models than almost any other. Throughout it all, its culture and structure - which served it so well through decades of riches - survived.

-0-

### [2014 Trends in Newsrooms: The 10 Trends That the News Business Can't Afford to Ignore](#) (Carol Riha)

The need to urgently shield investigative journalism in the post-Edward Snowden era is the burning issue in newsrooms globally, according to the World Editors Forum's Trends in Newsrooms 2014 report, launched this week. The report was released at a gathering of more than 1,000 media professionals in Turin, Italy, at the annual World Newspaper Congress. Based on interviews with more than 30 editors in a dozen countries, the Paris-based World Editors Forum has identified the top trends in newsrooms in 2014 as:

-0-

### [Jean Enersen ending 42 years as Seattle's KING 5 news anchor](#)

Jean Enersen, nicknamed "The Franchise" in local television news circles, is retiring from the anchor desk Friday after 46 years at KING 5. Enersen, who will turn 70 on Monday, certainly can claim to be the most popular TV news personality in the Northwest.

-0-

### [Reuters Institute: News organizations face second wave](#)

Many traditional news companies are struggling with a second wave of digital innovation that threatens to sweep away the relationships they have enjoyed with readers and viewers for a century or more

-0-

### [Media seeks Senate vote on shield law](#)

In the wake of the Supreme Court's refusal to take up a case involving a New York Times reporters refusal to identify his sources, a coalition of more than 70 news organizations and press freedom groups is urging the Senate to take prompt action to pass a shield law that would make it easier for journalists to protect their sources.

-0-

### Why the Orange County Register's bold experiment hit the skids

Aaron Kushner's massive investment in The Orange County Register—one I argued a year ago was "the most interesting-and important-experiment in journalism right now"—has gone all pear-shaped. The Register is laying off or buying out up to 100 journalists from its massively expanded newsroom and reducing page counts by a quarter, "to align our cost structure with what we now know we can achieve in revenue growth," Kushner wrote last week in an email to the newsroom.

-0-

### Unlocking mobile revenue and audience: New ideas and best practices

We have thoroughly entered the age of mobile news. People are shifting so rapidly to smartphones and tablets, various data suggest, that mobile devices in the last year became the primary platforms for news. With that comes a whole new level of uncertainty and opportunity for news publishers.

-0-

### World Press Trends: Print and digital together increasing newspaper audiences

Print and digital combined are increasing audiences for newspapers globally, but digital revenues are not keeping pace, posing a risk for newspaper businesses and the societies they serve, the annual World Press Trends survey released Monday by the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) reveals.

## **Beat of the Week**

When news broke that the Taliban had released Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in exchange for five prisoners held by the United States, the revelation unleashed far more questions than answers. Among them: Might Bergdahl face punishment for the circumstances of his disappearance from his post? How did the negotiations for his release go down? And what was the real reason that the Obama administration decided to go forward with the swap, without informing Congress?

Again and again, the AP got the answers -- thanks to the indefatigable trio of Lita Baldor, Deb Riechmann and Ken Dilanian in Washington.

Baldor had the first beat, when Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey called her to say that Bergdahl's conduct might be investigated, and that the officer could face charges. He also said that Bergdahl's pending promotion to staff sergeant was not automatic.

Dempsey did not call Baldor by chance. She had been cultivating him as a source for some time, agreeing to travel with him on official trips that might not have generated headlines but did allow her to spend time with the military's top officer. She also convinced him that AP could be relied upon to tell stories fairly and accurately.

The White House's treatment of Bergdahl as a returning hero rankled some in the ranks, given the doubts about how he left his post. Dempsey wanted to quell the unrest, so he called Baldor, who was traveling in Europe with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

When the alert moved, Baldor emailed her editor from the plane: "All the other reporters are swearing at me." They would be left with a far blander quote on the general's Facebook page, and Baldor's story would sweep the play.

Riechmann, meanwhile, was searching for someone who could speak authoritatively about how the negotiations for Bergdahl's release transpired.

She called a staffer she knew in the State Department's Afghanistan-Pakistan office, and told him that she had been making calls all day. She lamented that while she had a lot of information, she felt she was still an arm's length away from learning how things actually happened. She shared some of the wildest pieces of information she'd collected. Wouldn't it be better to write what really happened, rather than to repeat misinformation from people who tried to sound like they knew what they were talking about?

Privately, she was betting that a negotiator, still on a high from the talks, would want to tell his story.

The staffer called back. He might be able to get one of the negotiators to talk to her, but he was just back from Doha and was still jet-lagged. He asked if Riechmann would mind if he arranged a conference call because other reporters had asked, too. No dice, said Riechmann. This was her story; she had been writing pieces about Bergdahl for the past few months, and had been covering the story for years. A conference call would allow her only one or two questions. Not good enough.

Still, Riechmann was almost resigned to a group call when the staffer called back again and said she could talk, alone, with one of the State Department negotiators who had been in Doha for 11 days, working the deal until the last minute when Bergdahl walked free. He provided extraordinary detail about the talks -- how U.S. negotiators were holed up in one room, Taliban negotiators in another, with Qatari intermediaries running back and forth. No other news organization matched her story until week's end.

Then there was Dilanian, in his third week of work at the AP, [setting](#) out Wednesday morning to find out what U.S. officials had said when they briefed senators and their top aides the night before. He made a round of calls to sources, focusing on a claim by authorities that they had to act fast without informing Congress because of Bergdahl's declining health, an assertion that seemed more questionable by the day.

Key sources told Dilanian that the briefers offered a new reason for their haste and secretiveness: Intelligence indicating the Taliban would kill Bergdahl if the talks fell through, or even leaked.

Suddenly, some of the cryptic statements Hagel and others had made about threats to his safety made sense. Obama administration officials wouldn't confirm, but they didn't wave the AP off. A defense official told Baldor there was no direct or overt threat. After the story moved, the NSC put out a statement essentially confirming it, though it would not go on the record about the details.

Maine Sen. Angus King, though, confirmed the story, telling Dilanian that "only the AP" got the story right.

For their tireless reporting on a story of national import -- one that begs for clarity -- Baldor, Riechmann and Dilanian share this week's \$500 prize.

**Mike Oreskes**

## **Best of the States**

When Delaware officials ordered the immediate shutdown of a bridge on Interstate 495 because its tilting columns presented a potential threat to drivers, correspondent Randall Chase and Mid-Atlantic News Editor Amanda Kell knew they had a major story on their hands. The route, which parallels busy I-95 between Philadelphia and Baltimore, was closed because columns supporting a bridge had tilted dramatically and an estimated 90,000 drivers a day were being diverted onto the busier highway.

Chase and Kell, working in close concert with staff on the South Regional Desk, produced a week of insightful coverage that pushed authorities to justify their response to the crisis, pressed them to re-examine how the state inspects its infrastructure and beat the competition at the same time. The key to AP's aggressive coverage across text, photo and video formats and its drumbeat of scoops was the stable of sources that Chase has accrued during his 13 years of coverage for AP in Delaware.

By often working late into each night and by arranging interviews with officials in advance of scheduled news conferences, Chase ensured AP was first to name the contractor responsible for dumping a massive pile of dirt under the bridge, which officials were blaming for the tilting columns. After days of pressing officials for their plans, Chase also broke the news that all bridges in Delaware would be inspected by the state and that Delaware will add examinations of the ground under bridges to its future inspections. His extensive interview with the engineer who discovered the tilting columns also led to a story that questioned the urgency of the state's response and of its own official timeline, which until that point said the transportation department had been warned of the issue on a Friday, when in fact it had been warned a day earlier. AP also was first with an acknowledgement from the state transportation agency chief that his department could have moved more quickly to examine the bridge after the engineer contacted officials.

Chase's work landed in outlets including MSN and The Philadelphia Inquirer and AP was credited by The Washington Post, National Public Radio and Tribune Co.

For aggressive coverage and working sources on a major story in his state, Randall Chase wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

The judges were also impressed with the work of San Diego Correspondent Elliot Spagat, who confirmed that the federal government was holding hundreds of unaccompanied immigrant children for an indefinite period at a facility in Nogales, Arizona, that wasn't designed to hold people for more than a few hours at a time.

**Brian Carovillano**

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Paul Stevens  
Connecting newsletter  
[stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) by [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215

