

Connecting - August 13, 2015

1 message

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Thu, Aug 13, 2015 at 9:06 AM

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# Connecting

August 13, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

We lead off today's Connecting with these stories:

## ***AP - the 170-year-old startup***

Here's an intriguing proposal that The Associated Press has made for a panel discussion at next March's South by Southwest set of conferences and festivals in Austin, Texas:

The 170-Year-Old Startup: AP The Associated Press celebrates 170 years in 2016. The agency that transformed and innovated content delivery from boat to horseback to telegraph to radio to video to teletype to fax to computers to digital now finds itself transforming into mobile and social faster than any media change before. How is it surviving and becoming one of the leading edge media companies? It is now a 170-year-old startup, innovating, investing and inventing in technologies like automation, analytics, data and virtual reality. In many ways it is a model for brands and companies facing predicted death in the years ahead as millennials, apps, mobile and social media take over around the planet.

The logo for The Associated Press, consisting of the letters 'AP' in a large, bold, black serif font. Below the letters is a solid red horizontal bar.

Want to cast a vote in favor of including the proposal on the SXSW agenda for next March? You can do so through this link - <http://panelpicker.sxsw.com/vote/54092#sthash.hBAqAizj.YwErrbx3.dpuf>

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***Kent Flanagan inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame***



*From left, Michelle Williams, AP director of major accounts; Kent's brother, Gary Flanagan; Kent's wife, Janet Flanagan; Kent's cousin, Helen Murphy; Kent's sister, Kathy McCuistion; Adam Yeomans, AP South regional director. Photo by Jimmy Hart/Middle Tennessee State University.*

**By ADAM YEOMANS**  
**AP Regional Director-South, Nashville**

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Longtime Tennessee AP Chief of Bureau Kent Flanagan was inducted posthumously into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame along with eight other Tennessee journalists Tuesday.

Kent passed away in February after a long illness. He spent more than 40 years in journalism, including 21 years as bureau chief for the AP in Nashville. In 2000, he witnessed and covered the state's first execution in 40 years. In 2003 he helped found the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, a non-profit alliance of news media, citizens and professional groups that advocates for transparency in public meetings and government records.



"Kent had two goals in life," said his wife, Janet, who accepted the honor. "He wanted to be a good person and he wanted to be a good journalist. He succeeded at both."

Janet said his passions were covering the news and mentoring staffers, and he particularly enjoyed teaching aspiring journalists at Middle Tennessee State University.



About the Hall of Fame induction, she said Kent would outwardly have said, "Aw shucks." But inwardly, "he would be grinning from ear to ear."

A scholarship fund in memory of Kent has been set up with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. So far, \$2,800 has been raised toward the \$10,000 goal, which is the benchmark the foundation needs to meet before establishing an annual scholarship to award a journalism student. Donations may be made online at the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee web site at [www.cfmt.org](http://www.cfmt.org). The fund is called the Kent Flanagan Memorial Scholarship.

For a full story about the induction, click [here](#).

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## ***And those dancin' fools - Claudia DiMartino and Hal Buell***



All of their friends and colleagues know that **Claudia DiMartino** and **Hal Buell** were - and are - highly talented, accomplished photo people.

But did you know they could dance?

Click [here](#) to find out.

Shut up and dance with me! - and enjoy!

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And finally, spotted in **Poynter.org** this morning:

## ***AP secret to high seas success: shoe leather and a satellite***

The wire service used a satellite beacon signal to trace the path of a huge refrigerated cargo ship apparently loaded with slave-caught fish, then informed Indonesian authorities who seized it. This was the same 2,285-ton vessel "captured in a high-resolution satellite photo last month in Papua New Guinea showing its hold open and two fishing trawlers tethered to each side, loading fish." The AP had disclosed that the boat's catch wound up in supply chains of Wal-Mart, Sysco, Kroger and U.S. pet food companies, who all claim they condemn labor abuse. Nice work.

The AP story can be found below.

Paul

# **Shame, or the sportswriter who wouldn't talk to me**

**By BILL KONIGSBERG**  
*Bill Konigsberg Online*

As you may know, before I wrote books for teens, I was a sports writer and editor, first at ESPN and ESPN.com, and then at The Associated Press.

By the time I got to The Associated Press, I was already openly gay, having come out at ESPN.com in an article entitled "Sports World Still a Struggle for Gays" back in 2001. I made no effort to conceal my sexual orientation, and at the AP in New York, where I worked, it didn't seem to be a big issue. When Esera Tuaolo came out, I got the interview. When there was an article about gays in sports, I was the point person. It was fine.

There was, however, one guy. He was a longtime sports writer, and I worked with him for three years, often just a seat or two away from him where all the sports editors sat.



I won't name him, as it doesn't matter. And this isn't about shaming him. It's about exploring my own shame.

I worked with him for more than three years, and in that time, he never said a word to me.

That included when we worked on a project together. That included when he was the supervisor and I was one of his editors. That included when I was doling out baseball stories, and he was one of the editors.

Not one word.

I actually tried to deal with this in a proactive way. When I realized that he was refusing to speak to me, I asked him if there was something I'd done. I can't imagine there had been, as I hadn't done anything to him that I knew about. He didn't respond. I spoke to my supervisor about it, and she mused that perhaps it was because I was a new guy. But I watched others come in after me, and he talked to them just fine.

It didn't take that long for me to realize what this was about.

I was an openly gay man.

Could this have been a leap? Could it be incorrect?

Sure.

Was it a leap? Was it wrong?

Probably not. I am a generally likable guy. I don't have a particularly offensive personality. I was good at my job. There wasn't too much else it could have been.

Looking back now, I see how I reacted to it.

I tried really hard to get him to like me. I attempted to help him out more than necessary, and I made sure I was always very agreeable. I laughed at his jokes.

And on the inside, I bled. I believed, at some level, that there was something wrong with me, that this was about me.

I must have. Because I recall thinking thoughts like, "If only I was a little more masculine, maybe I could win his respect."

In *Openly Straight*, I wrote about the difference between guilt and shame. Guilt is about things you've done. Shame is about what you are. When you feel shame, you are feeling that there is something intrinsically bad about you. Shame is toxic. Nothing good comes from feeling shame about who you are. Plenty good can come from feeling guilty about bad behavior. You can change that. Wanting to change who you are to please someone else is not a good thing.

I realize now that I carried that shame. I let it inside me, and I believed it. Even though I'd been out for years and years, a part of me was still ashamed of being gay.

It's easy to do in this culture. There are so many ways to get hurt, and so many ways to attribute the behavior of others as being about us. There's no human being in the world, I don't believe, who has not experienced some degree of shame about something.

I'm older now, and I've begun to work on my shame, and developing what Brene Brown calls "Shame resilience." It's so important to be able to withstand feelings of shame, and among the tactics I'm learning to use is to realize what is about me, and what is about the other person.

Today I understand. I have nothing to apologize for. I am a gay man. I can no more change that than I can change my eye color. There is nothing wrong about being a gay man. Anyone who thinks there is has their own issues that have nothing to do with me. I am a good person. I work hard to help others. I love and am loved. I am not a piece of shit, which is pretty much how I felt when I first started to come to terms with being gay. And sometimes those feelings seeped through in my adult years. Coming out is a lifelong process, and I never had any role model to show me how to do it. Now I try to be a role model for others.

I do wonder what's up with that sports writer. What happened to him to make him develop whatever feelings he had that made it so that he would ignore a colleague for three years. I have never ignored a person I worked with for three days, so to do so for three years it must have been a lot. He's a human being. I am no better than him; he is no better than me. We just have different stories. I admit I don't really like him because of the way he treated me, but that doesn't lessen the fact that he has as much a right to his story as I have to mine.

I just wonder. But I guess it's better to wonder about what's up with him than it is to focus on what's wrong with me. Because there's plenty wrong with me, but none of it has to do with my sexual orientation.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story and Bill's blog. Shared by Cliff Schiappa.

## **AP enterprise helps Indonesia navy nab cargo ship loaded with slave-caught fish**



***Thai-owned cargo ship Silver Sea 2 is anchored off an Indonesian Navy base in Sabang, Aceh province, Indonesia, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015. A massive refrigerated cargo ship believed to be loaded with slave-caught fish was seized by Indonesia's navy and brought to shore after The Associated Press informed authorities that it had entered the country's waters, officials said Thursday. (AP Photo/Syahrul Rizal)***

**By MARGIE MASON  
The Associated Press**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - A massive refrigerated cargo ship believed to be loaded with slave-caught fish was seized by Indonesia's navy and brought to shore Thursday, officials said, after The Associated Press informed authorities it had entered the country's waters.

The Thai-owned Silver Sea 2 was located late Wednesday and escorted about 80 miles (130 kilometers) to a naval base in Sabang on the Indonesian archipelago's northwestern tip, said Col. Sujatmiko, the local naval chief.

The AP used a satellite beacon signal to trace its path from Papua New Guinea waters, where it was also being sought, into neighboring Indonesia. The navy then spent a week trying to catch it. The ship was close to leaving Indonesian waters by the time it was finally seized.

"I'm so overwhelmed with happiness," said Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti, adding it was difficult to find because the boat's signal had a delay. "It was almost impossible, but we did it."

The Silver Sea 2 is the same 2,285-ton vessel captured in a high-resolution satellite photo last month in Papua New Guinea showing its hold open and two fishing trawlers tethered to each side, loading fish. The smaller wooden vessels were identified by analysts as the

ones that fled the remote Indonesian island village of Benjina earlier this year, crewed by enslaved men from poor Southeast Asian countries who are routinely beaten and forced to work nearly nonstop with little or no pay.

An AP investigation revealed their catch reached the supply chains of major U.S. food sellers, such as Wal-Mart, Sysco and Kroger, and American pet food companies, including Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. The businesses have all said they strongly condemn labor abuse and vowed to take steps to prevent it.

Pudjiastuti freed hundreds of men earlier this year after the AP exposed they were trapped - including some locked in a cage - on Benjina. But 34 boats loaded with slaves escaped before authorities arrived. They remain missing. Seven arrests have been made in Indonesia and two in Thailand related to the case.

An official at Silver Sea Reefer Co., which owns several refrigerated cargo ships in Thailand, on Thursday denied that the Silver Sea 2 had been seized, and said its business was not connected to human trafficking.

"We have received numerous calls from Thai agencies ... asking about this and basically we said we have never done anything like it," company manager Venus Pornpasert said. He added that all of the ships' crews are Thai nationals and certified by the International Maritime Organization.

The Indonesian navy has so far declined to comment on the crew found aboard the captured vessel.

Late last year, AP journalists saw slave-caught fish in Benjina being loaded onto another reefer owned by Silver Sea.

Pudjiastuti, who put a moratorium on all foreign boats last year to crack down on rampant poaching, said the Silver Sea 2 captain will be questioned, and an investigation will be launched into suspected human trafficking, transport of illegally caught fish and transshipment, which involves offloading fish at sea. It allows fishermen to work for months without returning to port, making it easier for their captains to exploit them.

"Indonesia's action here is significant as it demonstrates a commitment to enforcing the actions of vessels within their waters, regardless of whether they are fishing illegally or trafficking labor," said Tobias Aguirre, executive director of California-based nonprofit Fishwise, which advocates for sustainable, slave-free seafood.

Authorities in Papua New Guinea had also been searching for the boat. They instead seized another Thai-owned fish cargo ship, the Blissful Reefer, two weeks ago. Two trafficked Burmese and six Cambodians were found on board.

Workers who recently returned home to Myanmar after being enslaved on one of the trawlers that fled to Papua New Guinea said they regularly loaded fish onto Silver Sea cargo ships, which ferry the catch back to Thailand, where it was processed and fed into the country's \$7 billion annual seafood export business.

The industry depends on the labor of poor people from its own country and migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who are often sold, kidnapped and tricked onto trawlers.

In addition, Burmese slaves rescued from Benjina, who were among hundreds interviewed by AP in person or in writing, said they were trafficked in Thailand and brought to fish in Indonesia aboard the Silver Sea 2 with no way to return home.

Indonesian police also are investigating trafficking claims involving 45 Burmese fishermen who were rescued from a Jakarta hotel last week. Arie Dharmanto, who heads the anti-human trafficking unit of the National Police, said the men had fake documents identifying themselves as Thai, and that officials from two Indonesian companies have been questioned about their role.

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Associated Press writers Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, Martha Mendoza in Santa Cruz, California, and Nattasuda Anusonadisai in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Walt Tabak - a good and thoughtful man*

**Robert Shaw** - After retiring as chief of communications in Indianapolis, Walt Tabak remained a popular figure among AP's Indiana members - and not just because of the secret-recipe Bloody Marys he provided on Sunday morning to cap state AP member conventions.

In retirement, Walt and his wife Dot continued to attend and enjoy those twice-a-year meetings, mingling with friends from over the years who held Walt in high esteem for his dedication to serving them.

As I made it around Indiana after becoming chief of bureau in Indy in 1989, I found that it seemed everyone had a special story to tell about what Walt had done to keep their AP service humming, often in trying circumstances.

That included the time Walt drove out in threatening weather to help a newspaper 150 miles away and, on his return home, ran into a blizzard that trapped him and other motorists for hours in a rural roadside eatery.

Walt and Dot and my wife Joyce and I became good friends and we visited often during my almost eight years in Indianapolis.

Walt was a good and thoughtful man and - with Dot -- made an enjoyable Indiana assignment even better for Joyce and me.

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## ***Dave Goldberg - best writer I ever hired***

**Bob Haring** - Wednesday's item on Dave Goldberg brought back a flood of memories. I hired him when I was in Newark. He was friend of Victor Simpson, a great editor and wire handler who I inherited when I took over bureau but who I had quickly made into the day news editor. He told me about Goldberg, who then was working at the Record in Hackensack, I believe in their Rockland County, N.Y., bureau. I hired him almost entirely on Simpson's recommendation and perhaps a brief interview. I quickly made him Jersey sports editor because of his interest, then later moved him to the capital bureau in Trenton. He was incredible. He could write a story, file the wire and carry on a conversation, all at the same time. He was in many ways the best writer I ever hired. I made him Trenton correspondent when I moved Bob Dubill from that spot to Newark as state editor. He was not only a wonderful worker and employee, but was a great man.

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## ***AP Spouse Series - Saved by Karen!***

**Doug Fisher** - The story about the drive by Walt Tabak (whom I knew from my days in Indiana media) to Evansville with his wife rekindled an idea for "AP Auxiliary" stories, as I've called them, and then Chuck McFadden beat me to it with his call and a story similar to my own. So ...

I was transferring from being managing correspondent in Providence to news editor in Columbia. In typical AP fashion, I was to work through Friday covering the Legislature in JO, then drive south for two days and show up bright and early on Monday in Columbia. My wife, Karen Rodman, who had been a real trouper in following me from Columbus to Dayton to Providence (not to mention other moves in my earlier broadcast and newspaper jobs) was staying behind till our oldest son got out of elementary school.

The R.I. legislature was famous for not meeting till afternoon and then going into the evening. This was bill cross-over day, so, of course, things went all night with multiple cases of political skullduggery to try to follow. As I remember, I stumbled home about 3 a.m., got up around 10, threw some boxes and a suitcase in the back of our old Buick, kissed Karen (yeah, it was April 12, our anniversary, and there were snow flurries to boot), and drove off.

I checked into a Virginia hotel about 2 a.m., got the infernal wake-up call about 7 and called home. Well, Karen said, it's been an interesting morning.

For more than a year after the collapse of the state's credit union insurer, officials had been seeking a top executive on criminal charges. About 4 a.m., Karen said, Boston, JO's control bureau, called, looking for me. Police had arrested the guy and I needed to head to state police HQ for an early morning news conference. Apparently the desk didn't know I had headed south.

Karen told the staffer. "What do we do?" was the response. So she heads to the kitchen for the staff/stringer list hanging from the fridge. She gives the Boston caller the contact info for the woman temporarily replacing me and heads back to bed.

Fifteen minutes later, the phone rings. Boston again. "We can't get hold of her. What do we do?"

So she heads back out to the kitchen, grabs the list and starts dictating coverage: "OK, call this staffer. He's closest to state police headquarters and can make the news conference. You'll probably want this photo stringer too. This person's done a lot of the coverage with Doug, so he can do the backgrounder. This person is supposed to open the office today, so bring them in early." Etc.

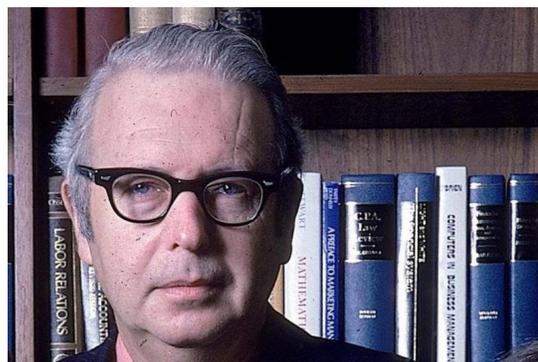
Armed with its marching orders, Boston set up coverage, Karen went back to bed till I called, and I headed back down Interstate 95 knowing all was well.

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## ***Remembering WSJ's Frederick Taylor***

**Mike Tharp** - remembering Frederick Taylor on the death, at age 87, on Monday of the former Wall Street Journal executive editor who spent more than 30 years at the paper and was known for fiercely defending journalism and his staffers:

He was ME when Ken Slocum hired me in Dallas in 1972. He was ME when Steve Sansweet, from the LA bureau, and I went to Honduras in 1975 to do a folo on the Column 6 story about United Brands bribing the Honduran president. We hustled for three days, filed and figured we should get out of Tegucigalpa when the story ran on Friday. So we flew up to San Pedro Sulu to see Mayan ruins. At the airport, though, the Honduran papers had Second-Coming headlines about Lopez-Arrelanos (the prez) suing Wall Street Journal for 'calumnia.' We went to a hotel, Steve called Bill Blundell, I called Slocum and both told us to call Taylor. We did. He



said we were the only 'attachable assets' Dow Jones had in country and to 'get the hell out on the first plane.' Back to the airport. First flight was to Miami. We looked at each other. Second flight was New Orleans. We booked the second flight, then held up newspapers while we waited to go through customs. We were more afraid of Taylor, if we got busted after missing the first flight. We made it out. In 1976 Fred sent me to Tokyo to replace Norm Pearlstine. A year later, he came to visit. Kanabayashi-san, my partner, and I took him to meet all the suits in Tokyo, then to the fanciest restaurants in town. We'd drop him at the Okura Hotel and be at the office by 8 a.m. In he'd saunter around 11 asking where we were going for lunch. We finally realized he just wanted to hang out and have fun. So we did. Ellen Graham (a longtime Page One editor) speaks of him being forward-thinking. In 1974 I spent a month on the Page One desk. Just so happened that my leder on the changing corporate attitude toward gay employees was gonna run while I was there. I wrote the hed. Taylor called me in. 'So they call themselves gay?' he asked. I told him they did. "Wa'al, you can use gay in a quote or title. Otherwise, call 'em homosexuals." But he ran the story--the first major national one to deal with that subject. (I also wrote the profile about Rich Clarkson in 1976 which prompted Taylor's sidebar comment about 'the best thing about not having photographs is not having to have photographers.' Clarkson still has that quote framed on his office wall.) Fred Taylor was a huge influence on me--and on the Journal at large.

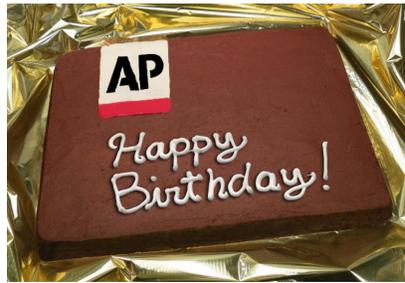
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## ***Confessing your sins after you've retired***

**Mike Doan** - It is great to be able to confess your sins after you have retired. Once, in the San Francisco bureau, I was opening the mail in 1971, and the first letter was from Bernadine Dohrn of the Weather Underground, claiming responsibility for a bombing. I quickly called the police and went on to the second letter from a man implying that he was going to kill the president of South Korea, who was visiting San Francisco at that time. I decided the writer was nuts and I had had enough exciting letters for one day, so I put it in the pile of papers we used for source material.

I got a phone call that night from a staffer asking if I had acted on that letter. Well, no. So he called the police, and security was strengthened for the South Korean president, and a big fuss was made out of it. But the president wasn't harmed. So I was right. Uh, I guess.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

Mike Hendricks ([Email](#))

Deb Peterson ([Email](#))

Ed Tobias ([Email](#))

## Stories of interest

**Al Roker: The Tragic History of Early Weather Forecasting** ([Time.com](#))



This exclusive excerpt from Al Roker's upcoming book about the Great Gulf Hurricane of 1900 explains how the science of weather forecasting came to be:

Meteorology hasn't always been as exact a science as it is today—as Al Roker well knows. His upcoming book, *The Storm of the Century*, is a narrative account of the hurricane that devastated Galveston, Tex., in September of 1900, essentially destroying a city in one single day. One of the many figures who populates the story of unprecedented disaster is Isaac Cline, the chief meteorologist for Galveston. The turn of the century was an exciting time to be in meteorology: it seemed that, as Roker writes, "nature's terrors would succumb to the superior intelligence of the human race." Galveston proved that theory

wrong, even though Cline was well versed in the most advanced weather science of his day, which Roker explains in the exclusive excerpt below:

While the science of forecasting was becoming, in Cline's day, a modern and objective one, much of the technology on which it depended was ancient. Of the big three, the anemometer used the oldest technology. Four fine, metal, hemispherical cups, their bowls set vertically against the wind, caught air flow. Because each cup was fixed to one of the four posts of a thin, square metal cross, lying horizontally, and because the cross's crux was fixed to a vertical pole, when wind pushed the cups, they made the whole cross rotate.

It made revolutions around the pole. In Cline's day, the pole was connected to a sensor with a dial read-out display. The number of revolutions the cross made per minute—clocked by the sensor, transferred by the turnings of the wheels, and displayed on the dial—indicated a proportion of the wind's speed in miles per hour. Rotating cups, wheels, and a dial: the anemometer was fully mechanical, with no reliance on electricity.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Kodak's First Digital Moment** (New York Times)

Imagine a world where photography is a slow process that is impossible to master without years of study or apprenticeship. A world without iPhones or Instagram, where one company reigned supreme. Such a world existed in 1973, when Steven Sasson, a young engineer, went to work for Eastman Kodak.

Two years later he invented digital photography and made the first digital camera.

Mr. Sasson, all of 24 years old, invented the process that allows us to make photos with our phones, send images around the world in seconds and share them with millions of people. The same process completely disrupted the industry that was dominated by his Rochester employer and set off a decade of complaints by professional photographers fretting over the ruination of their profession.

It started out innocently enough.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Doug Pizac.

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### **Detroit newspaper wins appeal over getting federal mug shots** (AP)



DETROIT (AP) - The government must release mug shots of federal criminal defendants in Michigan and three other states, an appeals panel said Wednesday in a clash over privacy and public records.

A three-judge panel at a federal appeals court said it must follow a 1996 decision that released photos to the Detroit Free Press in a similar dispute. Nonetheless, it also encouraged the U.S. Justice Department to keep fighting.

The panel suggested the government should ask the full 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to take a new look at the 1996 precedent, especially in the Internet age.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## **From disappearing contracts to invasion of Chinese brands, wireless is changing** (USA Today)



NEW YORK - Take a look at your smartphone. It's likely an iPhone or Samsung Galaxy and you're probably tied to it with a two-year contract - and assume you always will be.

Change is constant in technology of course, but when you get around to buying that next phone, which might be sooner than you think, you'll find a very different market.

Here's a snapshot of the shifting landscape.

Traditional two-year contracts are yesterday's news: Verizon Wireless' announcement last week that it was killing upfront phone subsidies and eliminating two-year contracts helps codify a trend that began back 2013 when T-Mobile killed such contracts as part of its Un-Carrier marketing strategy.

Contract pricing hasn't completely disappeared - at least not yet - and you can still purchase subsidized phones. But AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint and Verizon are pushing consumers towards installment billing options that have you buying or leasing phones outright. Of course, you could be paying off that phone over the next two years.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## **The Final Word**

***Ebooks are changing the way we read, and the way novelists write***



## The Guardian

If you hand me the original paperback edition of Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* I can, quickly and without too much scrabbling, find you the page where the hero loses the girl. My disappointment on his behalf has lingered physically on that page for the past 20 years. Likewise, in Vasily Grossman's *Life and Fate*, there is a long section where a platoon of the Red Army defends "House 6/1", establishing a temporary zone of political freedom there. For me, this freedom seems to live in that chunk of pages. If I look at the book end-on, I can see, roughly, where House 6/1 exists.

Yet with the coming of ebooks, the world of the physical book, read so many times that your imagination can "inhabit" individual pages, is dying. I'm not the only person in my circle who has stopped buying new books in anything other than digital form, and even the cherished books described above are now re-read, when I need to, on Kindle.

Click [here](#) to read more.

# Today in History - August 13, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, August 13, the 225th day of 2015. There are 140 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On August 13, 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors; within days, the Communist authorities began building a wall that would stand for the next 28 years.

## On this date:

In 1624, King Louis XIII of France appointed Cardinal Richelieu (ree-shuh-LYOO') his first minister.

In 1792, French revolutionaries imprisoned the royal family.

In 1846, the American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1923, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was again elected Speaker of Turkey's Grand Assembly.

In 1934, the satirical comic strip "Li'l Abner," created by Al Capp, made its debut.

In 1946, author H.G. Wells, 79, died in London.

In 1960, the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite took place with the help of Echo 1. The **Central African Republic** became totally independent of French rule.

In 1979, Lou Brock of the St. Louis Cardinals became the 14th player in major league baseball history to reach the 3,000th career hit plateau as his team defeated the Chicago Cubs, 3-2.

In 1981, in a ceremony at his California ranch, President Ronald Reagan signed a historic package of tax and budget reductions.

In 1989, searchers in Ethiopia found the wreckage of a plane which had disappeared almost a week earlier while carrying Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 other people - there were no survivors.

In 1995, Baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle died at a Dallas hospital of rapidly spreading liver cancer; he was 63.

Ten years ago: The Pentagon said for the second time since the Iraq war began that it was replacing body armor for U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, citing a need for better protection. Former **New Zealand** Prime Minister David Lange died in Auckland at age 63.

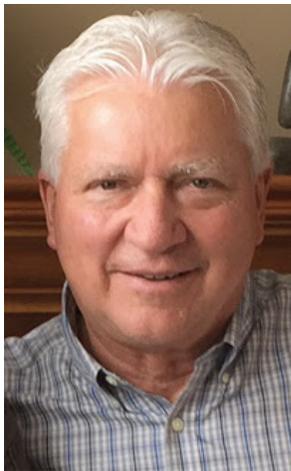
Five years ago: Weighing in for the first time on a controversy gripping New York City and the nation, President Barack Obama endorsed allowing a mosque near ground zero, telling a White House dinner celebrating the Islamic holy month of Ramadan that the country's founding principles demanded no less. Veteran NBC newsman Edwin Newman died in Oxford, England, at age 91.

One year ago: Six people - including Associated Press video journalist Simone Camilli - were killed when leftover ordnance believed to have been dropped in an Israeli airstrike blew up in the Gaza Strip. Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos died when the small plane that was carrying him and several campaign officials plunged into a residential neighborhood in the port city of Santos.

Today's Birthdays: Former Cuban President **Fidel Castro** is 89. Actor Pat Harrington is 86. Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 82. Actor Kevin Tighe is 71. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is 69. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 67. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 66. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 66. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 60. Movie director Paul Greengrass is 60. Actor Danny Bonaduce is 56. TV weatherman Sam Champion is 54. Actress Dawnn (correct) Lewis is 54. Actor John Slattery is 53. Actress Debi Mazar is 51. Actress Quinn Cummings is 48. Actress Seana Kofoed is 45. Country singer Andy Griggs is 42. Actor Gregory Fitoussi is 39. Country musician Mike Melancon (Emerson Drive) is 37. Actress Kathryn Fiore is 36. Pop-rock singer James Morrison is 31. Actress Lennon Stella is 16.

*Thought for Today: "People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges." - Joseph Fort Newton, American clergyman (1876-1950).*

## Got a story to share?



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:

- **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.
- **"My boo boos - 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?
- **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.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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