



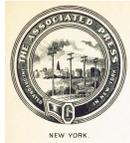
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Connecting - September 11, 2017

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Mon, Sep 11, 2017 at 8:08 AM

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Connecting

September 11, 2017



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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Florida continues to bear the brunt of Hurricane Irma and here's a reminder to click on AP Top News and AP Top Photos links in Connecting's masthead for the latest.

We feature a story by one of the AP's Florida coverage team, Tampa Correspondent **Tamara Lush**, as the storm approached her home. She just got back to Florida after being part of the AP coverage team on Hurricane Harvey in Houston.

Today is the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and we bring you a podcast with AP photographer **Richard Drew** on his iconic image of The Falling Man, a haunting photo showing a man falling from the World Trade Center towers that eventful day.

Our series on your experiences on your first day with The Associated Press continues into a third day and begins with a memory that AP regional director **Kia Breaux** of Kansas City that cut deeply but helped forge her resolve to move forward in her now-20-year, successful AP career.

Finally, in The Final Word, we learn that September 9 (this past Saturday) is the most common birth date in the United States. But there is nothing common about our lone (known) Connecting colleague who celebrates his birthday on that day. He is **Bill Hancock** ([Email](#)) - former Oklahoma newspaperman, author of a book (Riding with the Blue Moth) on the tragic death of his son, and known throughout today's sports world as executive director of the College Football Playoff.

Here's to the week ahead. Our prayers continue for the journalists covering Irma.

Paul

Anxiety, panic, work: A reporter's day with storm hours out



AP Correspondent Tamara Lush poses for a photo with her dogs, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, in a Saint Petersburg, Fla., hotel. Lush is a correspondent and multimedia journalist based in Tampa, Florida, covering the state's Gulf Coast. (AP Photo/Tamara Lush)

By TAMARA LUSH

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - Tamara Lush is the Associated Press correspondent and multimedia journalist for the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, covering Florida's Gulf Coast. She has covered 10 storms - including the recent Hurricane Harvey in Houston. She returned to St. Pete, where she's lived for seven years, to cover Irma and soon found herself among Florida's many evacuees as the storm moved west and put her home and family in danger. She's filing occasional dispatches on her experience.

STORM JUST HOURS AWAY

3 p.m. Sunday:

I feel as if the stress of this storm has taken a year off my life, and I'm sure millions of my fellow Floridians feel the same. Several times, my shoulders have been so tense that I have to remind myself to lower them away from my ears.

My husband and I snapped at each other while deciding what to bring with us. I became peevish when he told me to watch the dogs; he was annoyed when I lost the hotel key. Tensions are high, and now, we're treating each other and ourselves tenderly.

For days, we've planned, prepared and discussed scenarios of where to go during the worst of the wind and rain. And it's not as if I have a job that allows me to think about anything but the storm.

Perhaps it's because of the flooding I saw from Harvey in Houston, or the wind damage I saw back in 2004 in Punta Gorda, but with each passing hour, I second-guess my decisions. A lot of that is due to social media. I see reasonable, intelligent people leaving their homes, and wonder whether I'm doing the wrong thing by staying in a hotel.

In rational moments, I tell myself that everyone has different tolerance for risk and anxiety - although my anxiety levels are through the roof at the moment. My dog Dino can sense this, and early this morning, he threw up.

An awesome start to the day.

Read more [here](#).

Podcast: Accept the Witness-Richard Drew and "The Falling Man"



By JOHN R. HARRIS

B&H Photography

The title "The Falling Man" has been acknowledged as the name of the photograph of a man falling from the north tower of the World Trade Center during the attacks of September 11, 2001. The image depicts a lone figure falling headfirst against the backdrop of the vertical lines of the twin towers. As an image, it is a striking composition and the casual position of the man's body bisecting the two towers, has even been described as graceful. These visual elements mask the horror of its immediate context and perhaps add to the upsetting response that often accompanies this image.

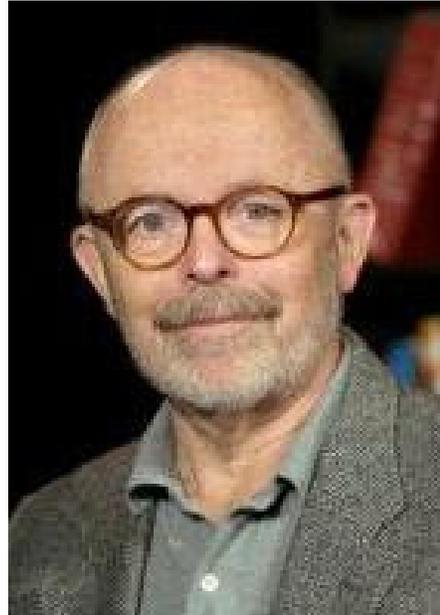
Unlike other photographs from that day, this image does not explicitly depict carnage and destruction, but it is this image that has been often singled-out as too disturbing to view, too galling to publish. In fact, the image was published by many newspapers on the day following the attacks and was received with such recoil that editors were called to apologize for its inclusion and almost immediately, it fell under a shroud of obscurity, which in the sixteen years since 9/11, has been slowly lifted.

On today's episode of the B&H Photography Podcast, we welcome veteran Associated Press photojournalist Richard Drew who took this now iconic photograph. We talk with Drew about his experiences on September 11, 2001, about media self-censorship and about how this photo, which is simultaneously peaceful and deeply painful, had been received, rejected and perhaps now, accepted as part

of the whole story and a symbol of all that was lost that day.

Read more and listen to podcast [here](#).

Connecting series:
My first day with The Associated Press



I was mistaken for cleaning lady on first day of work at AP. Talk about a deflating experience

Kia Breaux ([Email](#)) - I was mistaken for the cleaning lady on my first day at work for AP 20 years ago.

I was preparing to take a break after several hours of training for what was then called the "news production" shift in the Kansas City bureau. As an entry-level newswoman, I was learning to pick up stories from members and rewrite them for filing on the wire, etc. My trainer, the day supervisor, explained the snack and dining options near the bureau and told me where to find vending machines, etc.

Back then, the closest soda machine to the newsroom only sold Coke products. Those of us who preferred Pepsi products had to venture down a couple of halls and around a few corners to the AP's Technology department to quench our thirst.

As I was walking down one of those halls, I slipped and nearly fell on something spilled on the floor. I turned a corner and notified the first person I saw about the spill. I suggested he have someone clean it up so no one got hurt. The man, an AP employee, looked me up and down and asked, "Aren't you with B and G Maintenance?" That was the name of the company that cleaned the building at the time.

I was stunned. I stood speechless for a few seconds before I formally introduced myself as the new reporter in the newsroom.

I remember going into the bathroom to collect myself before going back to the newsroom. Talk about a deflating experience. I was a recent graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism - the world's first, and what many consider to be the world's best journalism school - and had completed internships for some of the most respected news organizations in the country, including The Wall Street Journal. I was on cloud nine having landed my dream job as a journalist for The Associated Press, only to be mistaken on my very first day as the cleaning lady. This presumably was because of my skin color.

I was the only black person who worked in the newsroom at that time, and apparently the only black people folks were used to seeing on the AP's floor in the building were those on the cleaning crew.

I didn't let that awkward encounter on my first day discourage me or skew my opinion of the AP. I'm proud to say the young woman who was thought to be the cleaning lady became the first black bureau chief in Kansas City and now, as one of six regional directors nationwide, one of the highest-ranking black women working at AP.

Since my first day in 1997, I've had the opportunity to travel and work throughout the country alongside amazingly talented journalists. For the past 12 years, I've worked in sales and business development, helping AP members and customers grow their business and find new sources of revenue. I wouldn't trade my time at AP for anything.

I've made close friends and I have been developed and mentored by strong leaders such as Paul Stevens, who hired and promoted me based on my credentials.

I'm sure there was some exciting news story or some funny "ah-ha moment" my first day at AP, but I only remember being mistaken for part of the cleaning crew. AP has made some progress in the area of diversity since then, but there is more work to be done.

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No moments of drama on first day of what became 50-year career

Harry Dunphy (Email) - *who retired last year after a 50-year career* - There were no dramatic moments during my first day in the Denver bureau in September 1966.

My assignment was night rewrite and included such fixtures as undated Colorado highway fatalities.

I reported to the AP office in the Rocky Mountain News building where our AMs operation was located.

There was a broadcast editor opposite me so I did not have to do radio splits at the start.

I was fortunate to benefit from the experience of two veterans, Ernie Aslin (sp?) who was filing the wire, Frank Pitman and some teletype operators, who would say, "are you sure about this" or "that doesn't sound right."

When my shift was over at 12:30 a.m I packed up a small file box and tape that Ernie had wound up and made a 10-minute walk to the Denver Post where the bureau proper was located to set things up for the dayside. Nolan "Boots" Norgaard was COB.

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How impressed was I observing JFK coverage? I stuck around for 40 years

Hal Bock (Email) - I don't remember my first day, but I sure remember my 19th.

I started work on Nov. 3, 1963. Nineteen days later, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. I came to work that night knowing that the sports department was not going to be normal. I was amazed by the scene, the buzz of activity, the professionalism displayed all over the newsroom as The AP covered every aspect of what was the biggest story of the century.

I played no role in it other than a phone call to the Boston bureau to begin assembling JFK's involvement in sports, a distinctly minor sidebar. But I remember how exciting it was to watch the operation of the world's largest news gathering

organization attacking this story. It was a journalism laboratory for me and I soaked it all in.

How impressed was I? I stuck around for 40 years.

Connecting mailbox

Jim Carrier 'useless in bureau'? Not a chance

Tom Kent ([Email](#)) - I was agape reading Jim Carrier's post (Connecting, Sept. 7) about his first day at the AP in Connecticut. Jim said, "I was useless in the bureau."

Jim's first day was June 7, 1971. I joined AP, in Connecticut, almost exactly a year later. Never would I have guessed that Jim, our unflappable broadcast editor and one of the nicest people I ever met, had ever been "useless," anywhere!

Reading his story, it's obvious to me now why Jim had a particular sympathy for bureau staffers just starting out. He was always a treasury of help and understanding as new staffers struggled to learn the ropes of Connecticut and AP.

-0-

A memory of Noel Yancey rekindled by Putzel story

Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - I loved seeing that warm, wonderful picture of Noel and Frances Yancey that accompanied Michael Putzel's piece about the sunrise shift in the Raleigh bureau (see Friday Connecting). But what really triggered memories was Putzel's mention that Noel lived many years beyond his 1979 retirement.

By the time I got to Raleigh in late 1976, Noel was assigned to the statehouse, sharing AP's cubicle there with a much younger staffer named David Nelson.

David came back to the bureau one afternoon and took me aside to tell me he was deeply worried about Noel's health. David said Noel was under so much stress that he sometimes sat shaking in front of his CRT unable to write. He begged me to get COB John Lumpkin or news editor Dallas Lee to do something.

"One of these days he's going to just keel over dead and it'll be their fault," he said.

I did speak to Dallas about it. I'm not sure how he followed up, but Noel continued to cover the legislature.

I thought no more about David's grim prediction until a few weeks later when it was David himself who keeled over dead. The cause was congestive heart failure. We were all shocked, nobody more than I was. He was a good newsman, family man and friend.

The Yanceys continued to be the life of AP Raleigh social functions. You can tell from the picture what a hot sketch Frances was. I learned the hard way never to stand next to a swimming pool when she was anywhere nearby.

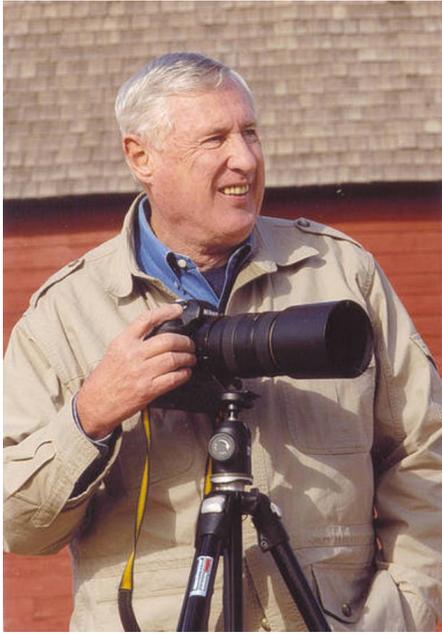
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Oklahoman's Jim Argo dies - 'one of most helpful, cooperative AP members I have known'

Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) - Jim Argo was chief photographer for The Oklahoman for many years. He was one of the most helpful and cooperative members I ever knew in my 38 years with AP.

He taught his photographers to always make sure the AP was covered. No matter what the event, we knew Jim would be there to lend a hand to AP.

During the massive tornado outbreak of 1999, Jim had pictures to the AP while the storms were still on the ground. The same type of cooperation with the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995 and many other events too numerous to mention.



He was a technology innovator. Thanks to Jim, The Oklahoman was among the first large papers to embrace AP's electronic darkroom and digital photography.

[Click here](#) for a link to his obituary.

-0-

The LA riots - 25 years later





Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - LA Riots 25 years later, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Nick Ut (left) meets the subject of his iconic image done during the LA Riots after the Rodney King verdict. Craig Marks was found and the two met for the first time at the same spot where the photo was made, the old Parker Center LAPD headquarters, exchanging images and catching up on 25 years of living. - with Nick Ut and Craig Marks. Photo by Raul Roa.

From Texas to Florida, toxic sites risk flooding

PBS NewsHour

HARI SREENIVASAN, PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND ANCHOR: Just two weeks ago, a line of reporting came out of Houston warning of the environmental dangers lurking at EPA Superfund toxic waste sites and what could happen after a catastrophic storm and flood.

Well, those sites are not limited to Houston. They're in Florida, as well.

Jason Dearen of "The Associated Press" has been on the same story the last couple of weeks and joins me now from Miami.

Jason, give us an idea of how many superfund sites are possibly affected by Irma?

JASON DEAREN, REPORTER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: Well, there are more than 50 superfund sites in Florida alone. In Miami, we have identified with the help of a 2012 EPA internal study, as well as an external study done by two researchers from American University, which of those sites are actually in the flood plain, so the most prone to flooding. And, since Wednesday, I visited six of those sites to see, you know, kind of how they appeared before the storm and what was being done, if anything, to prepare them for the expected storm surges, flooding and winds.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

Christine Todd Whitman: How Not to Run the E.P.A.

The New York Times - Opinion

I have been worried about how the Environmental Protection Agency would be run ever since President Trump appointed Scott Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, to oversee it. The past few months have confirmed my fears. The agency created by a Republican president 47 years ago to protect the environment and public health may end up doing neither under Mr. Pruitt's direction.

As a Republican appointed by President George W. Bush to run the agency, I can hardly be written off as part of the liberal resistance to the new administration. But the evidence is abundant of the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science.

The E.P.A.'s recent attack on a reporter for The Associated Press and the installation of a political appointee to ferret out grants containing "the double C-word" are only the latest manifestations of my fears, which mounted with Mr. Pruitt's swift and legally questionable repeals of E.P.A. regulations - actions that pose real and lasting threats to the nation's land, air, water and public health.

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

AP**BEAT OF THE WEEK**

Toxic waste sites flooded; AP on the scene ahead of EPA



A barbed-wire fence encircles the Highlands Acid Pit, flooded by the nearby San Jacinto River in Highlands, Texas, Aug. 31, 2017, as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Floodwaters engulfed at least seven highly contaminated toxic waste sites near Houston, raising concerns that the pollution might spread. AP PHOTO / JASON DEAREN

Hurricane Harvey inundated homes, flooded freeways and swamped entire neighborhoods. Florida-based reporter Jason Dearen, who was deployed to Houston to help cover the disaster, knew there might be something else submerged beneath the turbid floodwaters. Superfund sites, some of the nation's most contaminated places, are scattered along the low-lying Gulf coastline, including in the Houston area.

Dearen had been trying to obtain a copy of a federal study about the risks of flooding at those sites from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but had been stonewalled for two weeks. Harvey's destruction provided new urgency to his request. For help, he reached out to Washington investigative reporter Michael Biesecker, a fellow member of the AP's environmental beat team. Through creative

reporting that relied on data, collaboration and Dearen's newfound skills as a boat man, they became the first journalists to report on the extent of flooding at contaminated waste sites in and around Houston. The observations by Dearen and freelance 360-video producer Claudia Prat raised concerns that some of the decades-old toxic stew left over from the oil, gas and chemical industries may have mixed with floodwaters. They also were on the ground - and on the water - before the EPA's own inspectors. For their efforts, Dearen, Biesecker and Prat win Beat of the Week.

EPA says Superfund sites around Houston aren't accessible to its personnel. @AP got to 7 by boat, vehicle, on foot <https://t.co/oTeqOw8c6X>

- Julie Pace (@jpaceDC) September 2, 2017

Biesecker got to work after speaking with Dearen about the existence of the risk study and the EPA's failure to respond to requests for a copy. He emailed and called the agency multiple times, finally escalating the query from the press office to senior political officials at EPA, pressing them to explain why it was being withheld. After four days, the agency released the document. It included a spreadsheet of Superfund sites with codes that corresponded to flood risk. Biesecker analyzed the data and compared it against state data on Superfund sites in the region. After determining which sites were near Houston and in flood zones, he sent the links to Dearen's phone, directing him to specific locations using Google Maps.

Dearen had the information. But now what? How to get to the sites in a region still mostly underwater? As it happened, the AP had purchased an aluminum boat after Hurricane Katrina more than a decade ago. It had been stored in Dallas, unused, ever since but now it was brought to Houston. Dearen was there just after the 5-horsepower outboard motor was taken out of its box. Following a quick tutorial from AP's technical staff, which supplied him with gas, oil, oars and life vests, he set off to find the first of the sites, the Highlands Acid Pit. His rented U-Haul truck unable to navigate the muddy roads, Dearen recruited locals who hitched the boat trailer to their all-terrain vehicle and then launched the craft in the middle of a flooded street appropriately named Clear Lake Road.

He and Prat recruited another local man to help guide them through the town and to the acid pit, which had been filled in the 1950s with toxic sludge and sulfuric acid from oil and gas operations. As they headed toward the pit, Dearen said they tried to keep the boat in the center of identifiable streets so they wouldn't strike anything below. "Driving a boat in a place where a boat isn't supposed to be, I was a little scared," he said. "The San Jacinto River was flowing very, very fast and there was no way we should be anywhere near it with that little boat and that little motor, so I didn't want to go down a path and get sucked into the current."

Visit the Highlands Acid Pit, a contaminated Superfund site that #Harvey left underwater, in a #360video. Our story: <https://t.co/RIMLiJvBNmpic>.
twitter.com/hAf1NaMJZH

- The Associated Press (@AP) September 2, 2017

The teamwork paid off. Ahead was the Highlands Acid Pit, behind a barbed wire fence that was almost entirely under water and a partially submerged No Trespassing sign. Utility poles stood in the background, the currents from high floodwaters rushing around them. Dearen and Prat took pictures and 360-degree video, and interviewed residents worried that the water might be washing contaminants throughout the town. One 62-year-old man recounted being told how dogs running through the pit in years past had the acid "eat the pads off their feet."

Over the next two days, Dearen went to six more Superfund sites, this time by driving or hiking. All had been flooded at least several feet deep. In Crosby, where floodwaters reached 15 feet and pulled houses off their foundation, he interviewed half a dozen residents who said they hadn't realized the potential danger posed by two nearby Superfund sites. The last site Dearen visited, Patrick Bayou on the Houston Shipping Channel, smelled strongly of chemicals, forcing Dearen to leave quickly. Before he did, he noticed something that seemed unnatural: fish jumping out of the water constantly.

Brave AP journalists surveyed flooded Superfund sites; @EPA can't dispute facts, attacks coverage as 'misleading' <https://t.co/t2wmEzHGpGpic>.
twitter.com/l8NNs2mX78

- Ted Bridis (@tbridis) September 3, 2017

"AP's exclusive story was the result of on the ground reporting at Superfund sites ... as well as AP's strong knowledge of these sites and EPA practices. We object to the EPA's attempts to discredit that reporting by suggesting it was completed solely from 'the comforts of Washington' and stand by the work of both journalists who jointly reported and wrote the story." - Executive Editor Sally Buzbee

AP's story provoked an angry press release from the EPA, which said the report unfairly implied that the agency was not being responsive to the disaster. It singled out Biesecker personally, for "reporting from the comfort of Washington," but failed to mention Dearen, whose byline also was on the story and who had been at the sites at great personal risk. Inadvertently, however, the EPA confirmed the AP's findings - that at least seven Superfund sites were flooded and that the agency's investigators had yet to visit them in person.

Dearen said the story's success holds lessons for journalists: "It all goes back to the basics. If you want to get the story, just go there. You can't do it by phone or with data alone."

For pressing to obtain information on Superfund sites in the Houston area at risk from floods and then visiting them to witness the effects of Hurricane Harvey, Dearen, Biesecker and Prat share this week's \$500 prize.



AP Exclusive: Fewer carrying flood insurance despite the risk



A Houston neighborhood near Addicks Reservoir is flooded by rain from Hurricane Harvey, Aug. 29, 2017. Houston's population is growing quickly, but when Harvey hit there were far fewer homes and other properties in the area with flood insurance than just five years ago, according to an Associated Press investigation. AP PHOTO / DAVID J. PHILLIP

Floodwaters from Harvey were still rising in the Houston area and AP's responsibilities to thoroughly cover breaking news developments across the region

hadn't diminished, but already there was an appetite for investigative reporting on the disaster. An AP team from across the company quickly mobilized.

Among the early efforts was a package of stories, data, photos and an interactive revealing that fewer Americans, in the Houston area and nationally, were buying flood insurance than just five years ago, despite serious risks from flooding. Those decisions meant storm victims who chose not to pay premiums of about \$500 per year but suffered tens of thousands in flood damage would have to draw on savings or go into debt - or perhaps be forced to sell their homes. Presciently, the piece examining the drop in flood insurance nationally focused on remarkable declines that AP discovered in south Florida, just as Hurricane Irma was starting to worry residents there. For example, a homeowner who reporter Terry Spencer interviewed in Plantation, Florida, paid to renew her flood insurance days after seeing the devastating images of flooding in Houston, after initially deciding to drop her flood insurance because no hurricanes had struck there lately.

A sharp decline in flood insurance policies means many Houston area residents have no financial backup. <https://t.co/8T6HnMpsKS>

- The Associated Press (@AP) August 30, 2017

The stories relied on federal data analyzed by Meghan Hoyer and reporting from Business writers Bernard Condon and Ken Sweet in New York as well as staff writers Spencer in south Florida, Michael Kunzelman in Baton Rouge and Jeff Donn in Boston, with an interactive national map of flood insurance policies by Maureen Linke in Washington. The stories were coordinated by Washington investigative editor Ted Bridis, working with Texas news editor Maud Beelman and Central regional editor Tom Berman.

The aggressive reporting helped AP land the first post-Harvey interview with the director of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

Hoyer analyzed current data on flood insurance policies, combined with 2012 data AP had previously obtained by now-New York news editor David Caruso, who wrote extensively about the subject years ago after Hurricane Sandy. Caruso still had the older data and gave a copy to Hoyer for a five-year comparison.

A big challenge early in the project was quickly to find homeowners in the Houston area who could be reached by phone, were willing to talk about their flood insurance and also knew whether their home was flooded. Donn was working from his home office in Plymouth, Mass., but his daughter and her boyfriend have both lived in Houston. He asked them to round up potential sources through their phone and social-media networks. Within a couple hours, Donn had contact information for more hurricane-area homeowners than he had time to interview, including a flooded-

out homeowner without insurance. One of the best interviews, in the end, was the cousin of a friend of a friend of Donn's daughter.

Spencer found Floridians who had changed their minds about dropping flood insurance because of Harvey by posting a note on his city's NextDoor.com page. He got several responses within minutes. Kunzelman asked a former city official in Central, Louisiana, to post a message on a Facebook group for residents affected by last summer's historic flooding. Within two hours, he got calls from several people who didn't have flood insurance when the storm hit last August.

Linke built an interactive map that allowed users to lookup their county and retrieve all the flood coverage information for their area.

The stories got significant use and play across all AP's customers, print, radio and broadcast. MSNBC referenced our story directly in a segment on Wednesday. KCRW did a radio segment on the story, with an interview with Sweet.

Reporters - want the flood insurance coverage data for your area? The @AP data team is providing it to members <https://t.co/5QENF7qQ9t>

- Meghan Hoyer (@MeghanHoyer) September 1, 2017

With Hoyer's work, AP was also able to localize the data so member customers could look at flood insurance trends in their communities. Our data distribution led to local stories in San Francisco and Jacksonville, among others, and a follow-up in USA TODAY. The Philadelphia Inquirer said it plans a story in coming weeks based on AP's data.

The AP package was one of many high points of exceptional cross-format collaboration by AP's on-the-ground staff working under difficult conditions in Houston, as well as by AP's staff throughout Texas, on the Central Desk and beyond.

For their efforts that produced exclusive content with relevance to national and local media, Hoyer, Spencer, Kunzelman, Sweet, Condon, Donn and Linke will share this week's \$300 prize.

Stories of interest

As Irma's Winds Rise, So Does a Debate Over TV Storm Reporting (New York Times)



A television news crew waded into a flooded street in Miami during Hurricane Irma. AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee

By SOPAN DEB

Early Sunday morning, Bill Weir, a veteran CNN correspondent, was talking to the anchor Chris Cuomo in the middle of a live shot in Key Largo, Fla. He could barely stand up straight in the lashing winds of Hurricane Irma. At one point, he was nearly blown over by a gust.

As video of the incident spread on social media, criticism mounted. "Why do these news networks feel the need to put these reporters out there?" read one tweet. Another said: "This is not safe. Lead by example."

Others pointed out that reporters were standing in conditions that they were advising residents to stay out of. Even Mr. Cuomo acknowledged the criticism: "There is a strong argument to be made that standing in a storm is not a smart thing to do."

Read more [here](#).

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Two-thirds of Americans are now getting news from social media (Recode)

By **KURT WAGNER**

With a social media-obsessed president in the White House, more Americans than ever are getting news from social platforms like Facebook, Twitter and even Snapchat.

More than two-thirds of American adults - 67 percent, to be exact - "get at least some of their news on social media," according to new data released Thursday by Pew Research Center. That's up from 62 percent of American adults in 2016.

Surprisingly, many of those new social media news consumers are not millennials. Pew found that 55 percent of Americans 50 or older reported getting news on social media sites, up from 45 percent in 2016.

As far as the platforms go, Facebook still dominates: Forty-five percent of all American adults say they get some news from Facebook. YouTube is the next on the list, with 18 percent of U.S. adults getting news there. Eleven percent of U.S. adults get news from Twitter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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The Final Word

This Is the Most Common Birthday (Time)

Sharing your birthday with someone else you know can be fun - or stressful. You might get double the party, but chances are you'll have to share the spotlight.

This weekend, millions of Americans may have that feeling when the country's most popular birth date comes around. Birth data shows that Sept. 9 is the most common birthday in the U.S., and September is the busiest month for births overall.

There have been several reported data sets that offer a picture of which days and months are the most common for births. Researchers at Harvard University examined births between 1973 and 1999, and found that the most common birth date for those years was Sept. 16, the New York Times reported in 2006.

But more recently, Matt Stiles at The Daily Viz created a visualization based on data FiveThirtyEight compiled on births from 1994 to 2014, and that's where the updated date of Sept. 9 comes from. The data is from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Social Security Administration.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 11, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2017. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida hijackers seized control of four jetliners, sending two of the planes into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1297, Scottish rebels led by William Wallace and Andrew Moray defeated English troops in the Battle of Stirling Bridge during the First War of Scottish Independence.

In 1714, the forces of King Philip V of Spain overcame Catalan defenders to end the 13-month-long Siege of Barcelona during the War of the Spanish Succession.

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1857, the Mountain Meadows Massacre took place in present-day southern Utah as a 120-member Arkansas immigrant party was slaughtered by Mormon militiamen aided by Paiute Indians.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC; Miss California, Lee Meriwether, was crowned the winner.

In 1967, the comedy-variety program "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered on CBS.

In 1974, Eastern Airlines Flight 212, a DC-9, crashed while attempting to land in Charlotte, North Carolina, killing 72 of the 82 people on board.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds cracked career hit number 4,192 off Eric Show (rhymes with "how") of the San Diego Padres, eclipsing the record held by Ty Cobb. (The Reds won the game, 2-0).

In 1997, Scots voted to create their own Parliament after 290 years of union with England.

Ten years ago: A new Osama bin Laden videotape was released on the sixth anniversary of 9/11; in it, the al-Qaida leader's voice is heard commemorating one of the suicide hijackers and calling on young Muslims to follow his example by martyring themselves in attacks. China signed an agreement to prohibit the use of lead paint on toys exported to the United States.

Five years ago: A mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney toned down the campaign rhetoric and pulled negative ads amid commemorations of the 9/11 attacks, saying it was not a day for politics.

One year ago: The U.S. marked the 15th anniversary of 9/11 with the solemn roll call of the dead at ground zero. Hillary Clinton abruptly left after feeling "overheated," according to her campaign, and hours later her doctor disclosed that the Democratic presidential nominee had pneumonia. Stan Wawrinka wore Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) down and beat the defending champion 6-7 (1), 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 for his first U.S. Open title and third Grand Slam trophy overall. Savvy Shields of Arkansas was crowned Miss America 2017 at the pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, is 93. Actor Earl Holliman is 89. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 78. Movie director Brian De Palma is 77. Singer-actress-dancer Lola Falana is 75. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 74. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 72. Actor Phillip Alford is 69. Actress Amy Madigan is 67. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 64. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 64. Actor Reed Birney is 63. Singer-songwriter Diane Warren is 61. Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson is 60. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 60. Actor Scott Patterson is 59. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 59. Actress Roxann Dawson is 59. Actor John Hawkes is 58. Actress Anne Ramsay is 57. Actress Virginia Madsen is 56. Actress Kristy McNichol is 55. Musician-composer Moby is 52. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 52. Business

reporter Maria Bartiromo is 50. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 50. Rock musician Bart Van Der Zeeuw is 49. Actress Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 47. Actress Laura Wright is 47. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 46. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 46. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 42. Rapper Mr. Black is 40. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 40. Rapper Ludacris is 40. Rock singer Ben Lee is 39. Actor Ryan Slattery is 39. Actress Ariana Richards is 38. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady Antebellum) is 36. Actress Elizabeth Henstridge is 30. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 30. Actress Mackenzie Aladjem is 16.

Thought for Today: "I have seen gross intolerance shown in support of tolerance." - Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet and author (1772-1834).

Got a story or photos 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:

- **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?

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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