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Connecting - April 09, 2018

1 message

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Mon, Apr 9, 2018 at 9:02 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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Connecting

April 09, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

During its heyday, publishing three to four issues a year, AP World chronicled the work of Associated Press staffers throughout the world. Many of us have clipped and saved stories from the magazine when we were included. It was a great way to be connected.

Our Connecting colleague **Sibby Christensen** was in charge of that work as editor from 1970 to 1984. "I was my own entire staff," she said.

Sibby contributes this Monday's Connecting self-profile in which she writes about some memorable people she worked with during her tenure. Sibby is still serving her colleagues as one of our newsletter's most diligent contributors.

Today's issue also contains memories by colleague **Peter Arnett** of **William Prochnau**, who wrote a critically acclaimed book, "Once Upon a Distant War," about a handful of skeptical reporters including Arnett whose early warnings that the United States wasn't winning in Vietnam went unheeded. Prochnau died March 28 at the age of 80.

Look forward to your contributions this week. Including your thoughts on the Denver Post and its new ownership. Thanks to the many of you who contributed articles on the matter for today's issue.

"THIS IS WITHOUT DOUBT the biggest weekend in my professional career," **Chuck Plunkett**, editorial page editor of the Denver Post, told Politico Playbook's **Michael Calderone** Sunday night. Plunkett said it has been "humbling" and "gratifying" to have Post readers and journalists around the country expressing support after its editorial urging New York hedge fund Alden Global Capital, owner of Post-parent Digital First Media, to "rethink" its strategy of newsroom cuts or sell to someone "willing to do good journalism here."

But today comes the hard part, Calderone wrote, as more than two dozen Post employees leave in the latest round of layoffs. "It's just going to suck. It's just going to be awful," said Plunkett, who joined a significantly larger Post newsroom in 2003. "For all the support we're getting, that's going to be the real test." Plunkett has kept his job, but with a colleague leaving today and another editorial writer on maternity leave, he's the only one left running the section. He expects to scale back opinion offerings from a daily schedule to a few days a week.

Paul

Monday Q-and-A: Sibby Christensen



Sibby Christensen with Nick Carter, mid-1980s

Q: What was your impression of AP when you came aboard in 1970 to edit AP World Magazine?

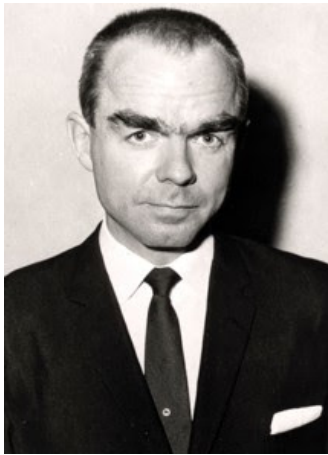
A: I'd known or had contacts with AP types for years through my work editing the Overseas Press Club's weekly Bulletin, but the reality on the ground at 50 Rockefeller Plaza was something else. I encountered characters who wouldn't be out of place in an Agatha Christie potboiler.

* A favorite was the folksy Nick Carter, who I was replacing. Nick cultivated a country bumpkin image as a carapace for his insecurities as a newsman; he started with AP as a telegrapher with no journalism background. But his southern gift of gab and love for AP and its history carried him through.

Years later when I wanted to do a magazine sketch about his life in retirement, he tried to discourage me, saying he'd been a failure. My story showed otherwise, and it included his characteristic meandering quotes. On his reluctance to revisit his old hometown in Texas: "One reason is that in those small towns, the people don't really know each other, like I thought I remembered they did...if you want the truth, I don't think they'd stand for me back there. I'd probably be run out of town before you know it." And in a hand-scrawled note he sent after the story appeared, he added:

"They'd send a posse to fetch me, exhibit me naked in a cage - and then chase me out of town. Luckily, very few people remember me there. Those who did have mostly died or gone to California."

* Then there was Saul Pett, celebrated AP writer. "Nice magazine you're doing. But don't ask me to contribute. I don't write for house organs." So guess who was byliner for the magazine's Wes Gallagher retirement piece, after I told uber-boss Conrad Fink I was looking for a "real" profile about the departing General Manager? Saul's resulting story appeared in AP World, then was picked up by several newspapers and Editor&Publisher. Paul Miller, about to retire as head of Gannett newspapers, saw the story and decided he wanted an interview, too. Pett was furious when told he was to head to Rochester to fill the request. "Now when somebody retires, instead of giving him a gold watch, they've got to give him a Saul Pett interview," he growled.



Conrad Fink

* Conrad Fink, a foreign reporting veteran and an Assistant General Manager at headquarters, oversaw the motley crew that was AP's Promotion Department, which included the magazine. Rumored to be a candidate to succeed Wes Gallagher, he was terrifyingly uptight, with his deep voice, ramrod posture and beetling brows. He was demanding but backed me up when it counted. After leaving AP, he capped his career as a legendary, free-wheeling journalism professor at the University of Georgia's Grady school. By then, those eyebrows were a legend of their own. In late pictures, he could be mistaken for a "Lord of the Rings" character.

* After Myron Belkind, then London bureau chief (alternate title: Managing Director, AP Ltd.), found out I was vacationing in his territory, he insisted I visit the bureau. I got the VIP treatment, with lunch at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese and an invitation to the dedication of new AP headquarters in Norwich Street. Thereafter, each time I returned to the UK, I was expected. "It's like the birds returning to Capistrano every year," he said. "If it's May, here comes Sibby."

Q: What's on your mind these days?

A: Those "fake news" insults hurt. The real fakery may be the public's perception that news professionals are like Hildy Johnson in "The Front Page," with perhaps Stormy Daniels hidden in the rolltop desk.

We could use some positive PR, showing that legitimate news outfits build trust and credibility with a lot of outreach, grunt work, research, editing layers, and sometimes

a check-in with their legal departments. Some PSAs created by APME and RTDNA and run on their member platforms would be a good start.

Q: You're a frequent Connecting contributor. Explain.

A: Much of my working life has been in publications with a zero pay scale for contributors. That involved gently and persistently cajoling writers and photographers to provide their talent for free. So I recognize and try to support Paul Stevens's achievements in putting out this five-a-week extravaganza, now a necessity for the AP family.

Besides, it's reflexive for long-termers. You can't shut us up.

Sibby Christensen's email - sibbyc@msn.com

Remembering Tom Baldwin

'Home is the sailor, home from the sea...'

Jane Anderson (Email) - I am truly sorry to hear that Tom Baldwin has died. Tom was Associated Press news editor in the Boston bureau in the late 70s when I was sent from the Providence bureau to Washington D.C. as regional reporter for New England.

Over the years, Tom and I stayed in touch and just missed getting together several times on Block Island, Rhode Island, where I own a second home. Tom loved sailing to the island, 14 miles off the mainland.

Later, after my son was accepted at all the graduate journalism schools he applied to, I turned to Tom for advice. Thanks to his helpful words of wisdom, my son wound up choosing the Columbia J School.

Last year, when I was undergoing many weeks of intense treatment for cancer at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Tom was kind to send me private messages of good cheer.

"Home is the sailor, home from the sea...."

Worked from AP Birmingham bureau

Civil Rights Movement journalist Jim Purks remembered

THE RACE BEAT



THE PRESS, THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE,
AND THE AWAKENING OF A NATION

GENE ROBERTS
AND HANK KLIBANOFF

"A masterpiece ... The Race Beat is a riveting piece of social history that balances both its subjects brilliantly ... There has never been a better study of the importance of a free press." — The Philadelphia Inquirer



From left: Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., being interviewed by AP reporter Jim Purks during their 1966 negotiations to get the Birmingham Police Department to hire black officers.

By CINDI COX

The Albany (GA) Herald

ALBANY - Friends on Saturday fondly remembered James Harris "Jim" Purks III, a news reporter who wrote compelling accounts of the Civil Rights struggle, former press secretary for President Carter, and instrumental part of Habitat for Humanity and an Episcopal deacon.

Purks died Tuesday at the age of 82.

Gordon Zeese, like Purks a St. Paul's Episcopal Church parishioner, retired six months ago and moved to St. Simons Island. Zeese said Saturday that he clearly remembers Purks, who he met in the early 2000s, as a generous man and a man of prayer.

"We worked together for three years as mentors for an extension course from the University of the South in Tennessee," Zeese said. "He was a great guy. He served as a chaplain at Phoebe. He was a great believer in the power of prayer."

After serving as an Associated Press reporter who covered the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, Purks worked on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign before becoming his press secretary. After joining Habitat for Humanity and collaborating with Habitat founder Millard Fuller, Purks was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in December 1999, soon after serving St. Paul's and working as a chaplain at Phoebe.

It was Purks' heartfelt first-person account of the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, a heinous act that left four young black girls dead, that is still considered one of the era's must-read journalistic pieces.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

Chronicled journalists including Browne, Arnett, Faas

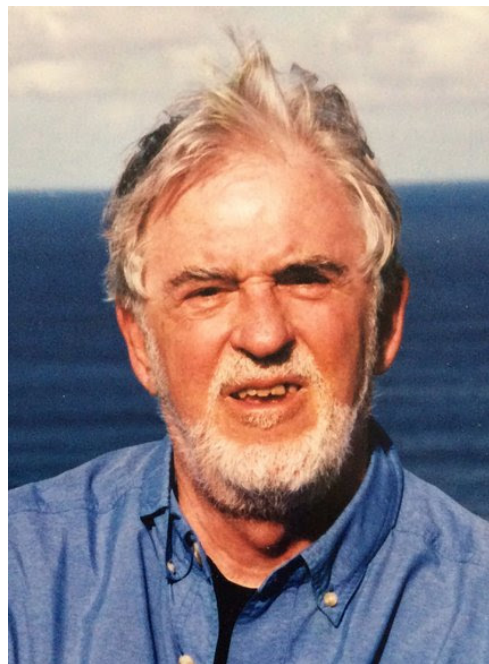
William Prochnau, Journalist and Author, Is Dead at 80

By **SAM ROBERTS**

William Prochnau, a journalist and author who wrote a critically acclaimed book, "Once Upon a Distant War," about a handful of skeptical reporters whose early warnings that the United States wasn't winning in Vietnam went unheeded, died on March 28 in his home in Washington. He was 80.

The cause was coronary artery disease, said his wife and frequent collaborator, Laura Parker, a staff writer for National Geographic magazine.

Mr. Prochnau (pronounced PROCK-now) was a reporter for The Washington Post and a contributing editor of Vanity Fair, where his article "Adventures in the Ransom Trade" was the basis for the movie "Proof of Life" (2000), a kidnapping thriller starring Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe. (Ms. Parker said the film rights paid for the "Meg Ryan Memorial Kitchen" in the couple's Washington home.)



Read more [here](#).

Peter Arnett and his conversation with Prochnau while covering the Iraqi War

Peter Arnett (Email) - The request came over the satellite phone from the CNN press office. "We've okayed that you can call Bill Prochnau when you get a chance." At another time, handling a media interview would have been routine. But this was the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, early March, 1991, five weeks into the Gulf War. American bombing and cruise missile strikes had dismantled most of Saddam Hussein's palaces, and were directed now at dismembering the rest of the government structure. I was attached to the world by a 40-kilo satellite phone from the garden of the Al Rashid Hotel in the center of the city. And Iraqi officials were always hovering nearby when I was using it.

I knew that Prochnau had reached a critical point in writing what he hoped would be the definitive account of the early news coverage of the Vietnam War. Three months earlier in a three-hour phone call from the United States to me in my base at Jerusalem, Bill said after several years of deliberation he had settled on a narrative for his book that would eventually become "Once Upon a Distant War: Young War Correspondents and the Early Vietnam Battles," a personal and professional account of the work of David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, Malcolm Browne, Horst Faas and me. He said he would need to call me again.

The skies over Baghdad were clear early afternoon as the city took a lunch break between the morning bombing onslaught and the one that began later in the afternoon. As I unwrapped the steel case of the Sat phone the chief Iraqi information official, Sadoon Al'jenabi walked across garden. In the first day or so of the war I was required to read from my censored written scripts, but I soon persuaded Sadoon to give me more room. However, he and the other "minders" remained suspicious of our phone conversations.

As I prepared to dial Bill Prochnau's New York phone number, I explained to Sadoon that my conversation would be with a fellow journalist about my early experiences in the Vietnam War. He looked at me in surprise. "What?" he said, "You're in the middle of an unjust war in Iraq and you want to talk about the Vietnam War? We gave you special permission for this phone for you to talk about OUR war." And he stomped off in irritation.

I stayed on the line with Bill for 50 minutes, and as our conversation about the Vietnam War was nearing its end I was hearing cruise missile hits on military installations south of the city, and the approaching thunder of American war planes coming much closer. I noticed that Sadoon was walking towards me, wagging his finger. Then he pointed to the sky. I must say I enjoyed that afternoon telling Bill Prochnau war stories from 30 years earlier, but another war was now demanding my immediate attention. Bill would later joke to friends that he was happy with the interview and was not concerned that he might lose the recording. "I figure that intelligence agencies around the world were listening to everything coming out of Baghdad at that time, in the middle of the war. I'm sure I could get a copy through the Freedom of Information Act."

Award-Winning Reporter Jean Lee to Lead Wilson Center's Korea Studies

Wilson Center news release:

WASHINGTON - Jean H. Lee will serve as the new Director of the Wilson Center's Hyundai Motor-Korea Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy, drawing upon her unique experiences as a Pulitzer-prize nominated journalist and expert on South and North Korea.

"The Korean peninsula could not have a higher profile, and we are thrilled to have Jean as the new director of our Korea Center," said Congresswoman Jane Harman, Wilson Center President and CEO. "She will bring to Washington a more in-depth understanding of the dynamics that are driving North and South Korea, and help inform U.S. decision-making on an issue of incredible consequence for the United States and the world."



Jean H. Lee is a veteran foreign correspondent and expert on North Korea. She led the Associated Press news agency's coverage of the Korean Peninsula as bureau chief from 2008 to 2013. In 2011, Lee became the first American reporter granted extensive access on the ground in North Korea, and in January 2012 opened AP's Pyongyang bureau, the only U.S. text/photo news bureau in the North Korean capital. She has made dozens of extended reporting trips to North Korea, visiting farms, factories, schools, military academies and homes in the course of her exclusive reporting across the country.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Charles Hanley.

The Denver Post and its new owners

Editorial: As vultures circle, The Denver Post must be saved



This photo illustration shows the toll that layoffs and constant turnover have taken on the Denver Post staff in the five years since a photo from May 15, 2013, was taken showing 142 members of the staff.

By The Denver Post Editorial Board

At The Denver Post on Monday, more than two dozen reporters, editors, photographers, videographers, page designers, digital producers and opinion staff will walk out the door. Our marching orders are to cut a full 30 by the start of July.

These heartbreaking instructions raise the question: Does this cut, which follows so many in recent years that our ranks have shriveled from more than 250 to fewer than 100 today, represent the beginning of the end for the Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire?

The cuts, backed by our owner, the New York City hedge fund Alden Global Capital, also are a mystery, if you look at them from the point of view of those of us intent on running a serious news operation befitting the city that bears our name. Media experts locally and nationally question why our future looks so bleak, as many newspapers still enjoy double-digit profits and our management reported solid profits as recently as last year.

We call for action. Consider this editorial and this Sunday's Perspective offerings a plea to Alden - owner of Digital First Media, one of the largest newspaper chains in

the country - to rethink its business strategy across all its newspaper holdings. Consider this also a signal to our community and civic leaders that they ought to demand better. Denver deserves a newspaper owner who supports its newsroom. If Alden isn't willing to do good journalism here, it should sell The Post to owners who will.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Andy Lippman, Paul Albright, Adolphe Bernotas.

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Denver Post Rebels Against Its Hedge-Fund Ownership

By SYDNEY EMBER

The New York Times

The Denver Post is in open revolt against its owner.

Angry and frustrated journalists at the 125-year-old newspaper took the extraordinary step this weekend of publicly blasting its New York-based hedge-fund owner and making the case for its own survival in several articles that went online Friday and are scheduled to run in The Post's Sunday opinion section.

"News matters," the main headline reads. "Colo. should demand the newspaper it deserves."

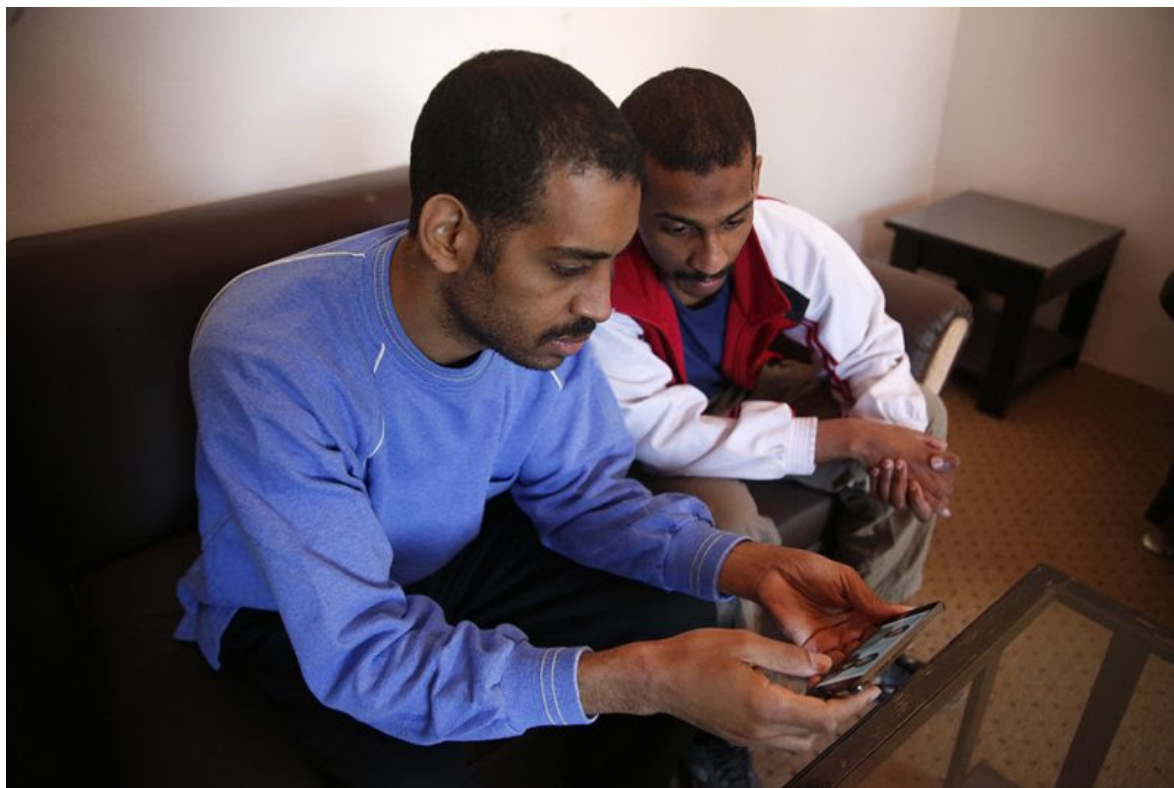
The bold tactic was born out of a dissatisfaction not uncommon in newsrooms across the country as newspapers grapple with the loss of revenue that has followed the decline of print.

The move at The Post followed a prolonged, slow-burning rebellion at The Los Angeles Times, where journalists agitated against the paper's owner, the media company Tronc. Newsroom complaints about Tronc's leadership helped lead to the sale of the newspaper to a billionaire medical entrepreneur, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, who had been a major shareholder in Tronc.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ray Newton, Jenny Volanakis, Sibby Christensen, Richard Chady.



Lebanon-based team first to interview Islamic State detainees in Syria



Alexanda Amon Kotey, left, and El Shafee Elsheikh, who were allegedly among four British jihadis who made up a brutal Islamic State cell dubbed "The Beatles," read a news article about themselves during an interview with AP at a security center in Kobani, Syria, March 30, 2018. Their terror cell is believed to have captured, tortured and killed hostages including American, British and Japanese journalists and aid workers. AP PHOTO / HUSSEIN MALLA

An Islamic State cell notorious for beheading western hostages has become a major story line surrounding the terror group and its murderous onslaught in Syria. The arrest of members of the four-person cell - nicknamed "the Beatles" because of their

British accents - led to heightened interest among readers and AP clients about the group.

So it was big news and a major scoop for the AP when an all-formats team in Lebanon made up of reporter Sarah El Deeb, video journalist Andrea Rosa and photographer Hussein Malla obtained the first interview of two men identified as surviving members of the infamous cell. For their efforts, they earn the Beat of the Week.

Great AP scoop. Sarah El Deeb and Andrea Rosa interview two of the surviving ISIS 'Beatles' - the British cell made infamous by beheading hostages.

<https://t.co/40TREM6f8Hpic.twitter.com/Infoz4toLP>

- Barry Malone (@malonebarry) March 30, 2018

It started with El Deeb having a late-night meeting over tea with a source in which she pressed for access to foreign fighters detained by Kurdish forces in Syria. That ultimately led to the AP getting access to the detainees, who were at first reluctant to talk on the record. The Lebanon-based team kept pressing, and ultimately got them to agree to an audio interview, with photos.

The interview was a major scoop that generated huge interest and dominated headlines, particularly in Britain. It also triggered an outpouring of accolades online and from clients including major UK client ITN as well as numerous interview requests from the BBC (TV and Radio), Sky News and others. The interview and images were widely picked up in print, online and broadcast.

In the interview, the two men did not admit to any specific acts and were unapologetic, denouncing the U.S. and Britain as "hypocrites" who will not give them a fair trial.

The AP meanwhile got in touch in the United States with the mother of their best-known alleged victim, freelance journalist James Foley. Interviewed at a St. Louis airport, she called on the U.S. government and the international community to hold the men accountable "in an open trial where we can face them, and they can hear all the pain and suffering they've inflicted on the world."

For pushing to make AP the first news organization to interview two suspects alleged to have participated in some of the Islamic State's group's most notorious crimes, the team of El Deeb, Rosa and Malla share this week's Beat of the Week award.

AP**BEST OF THE STATES**

AP Exclusive: Confidential toxicology report details Prince overdose



Prince performs during the halftime show at Super Bowl XLI in Miami, Feb. 4, 2007. A confidential toxicology report obtained by AP nearly two years after Prince died from a drug overdose reveals that the musician had "exceedingly high" levels of the opioid fentanyl in his system. AP PHOTO / CHRIS O'MEARA

It's been nearly two years since Prince's sudden death in 2016 from a drug overdose, but the story is far from over for Minneapolis reporter Amy Forliti. She has closely tracked the criminal investigation into his death ever since, cultivating law enforcement sources, prosecutors, defense attorneys, medical experts - anyone who could help her break developments along the way, including the possibility of criminal charges.

#Prince We knew he died of fentanyl overdose. Now, some detail about the level of drug in his system. <https://t.co/FYiLamGbVp>

- Amy Forliti (@AmyForliti) March 27, 2018

A medical examiner in June 2016 had cited an accidental overdose of fentanyl as the cause of Prince's death, but that scant one-page report provided almost no other detail on the autopsy or what was in Prince's blood. Forliti had pursued a copy of the autopsy and toxicology report ever since from multiple sources. She finally obtained the confidential toxicology report on March 26.

Forliti talked to three experts not involved in the case who analyzed blood and liver readings in the report and characterized them as "exceedingly high" - as one expert put it, they were very high even for a chronic pain patient. The report's new detail was of heightened interest as the two-year anniversary of Prince's death approached, with still no word on any charges in his death. The details were something no other media could match.

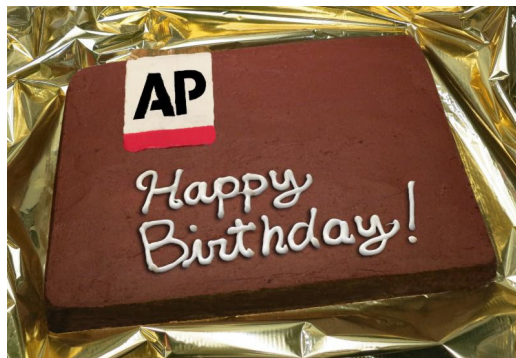
Forliti's exclusive report led the Minneapolis Star Tribune's website for hours and made the printed paper, a rarity for a story on which they compete with AP. Other play included ABC, NBC, CBS, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio and many more. CNN referenced the story on-air and on its website with credit to AP.

Forliti has closely tracked the criminal investigation into Prince's death, cultivating sources who could help her break developments along the way.

Some material in the case is under a protective order, and Forliti's story prompted questions from officials. It also led the county medical examiner to release a statement saying her office had put out all the public information they could on the case. Two days after her AP story ran, a Carver County judge who had been weighing a request from Prince's heirs to see investigative material approved it - but only via an extremely restrictive process to eliminate potential leaks.

For relentlessly working her sources to break news on a long-simmering story, Amy Forliti wins this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Len Iwanski - len_iwanski@msn.com

Mary Sandok - mrsandok@msn.com

Stories of interest

How Trump thrives in 'news deserts' (Politico)

By SHAWN MUSGRAVE and MATTHEW NUSSBAUM

President Donald Trump's attacks on the mainstream media may be rooted in statistical reality: An extensive review of subscription data and election results shows that Trump outperformed the previous Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, in counties with the lowest numbers of news subscribers, but didn't do nearly as well in areas with heavier circulation.

POLITICO's findings - which put Trump's escalating attacks on the media in a new context - were drawn from a comparison of election results and subscription information from the Alliance for Audited Media, an industry group that verifies print and digital circulation for advertisers. The findings cover more than 1,000 mainstream news publications in more than 2,900 counties out of 3,100 nationwide from every state except Alaska, which does not hold elections at the county level.

The results show a clear correlation between low subscription rates and Trump's success in the 2016 election, both against Hillary Clinton and when compared to Romney in 2012. Those links were statistically significant even when accounting for other factors that likely influenced voter choices, such as college education and employment, suggesting that the decline of local media sources by itself may have played a role in the election results.

That gives new force to the widely voiced concerns of news-industry professionals and academicians about Trump's ability to make bold assertions about crime rates, unemployment and other verifiable facts without any independent checks. Those concerns, which initially were raised during the campaign, were largely based on anecdotes and observations. POLITICO's analysis suggests that Trump did, indeed, do worse overall in places where independent media could check his claims.

Read more [here](#).

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Newt Wallace, 'world's oldest paperboy,' dies at 98 in Winters (Sacramento Bee)



Newt Wallace in 2015. Photo/Renée C. Byer The Sacramento Bee

BY HUDSON SANGREE

Newt Wallace, who bought the Winters Express newspaper in 1947, met with President John F. Kennedy in the White House and worked at the Express for more

than 70 years, died on Easter at age 98.

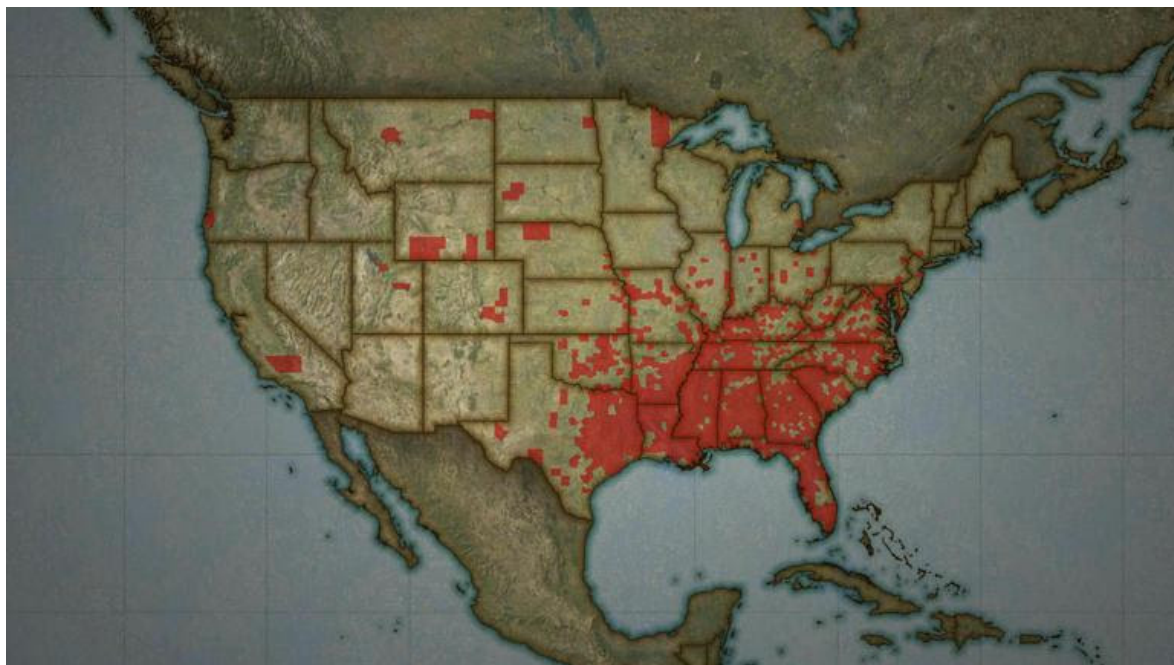
Wallace called himself the "world's oldest paperboy" as he continued to deliver papers well into his 90s. Ripley's Believe It or Not recognized his claim three years ago, and the New York Times covered the nonagenarian newsboy.

"He was known to like Olympia beer and cheap Scotch, which he claimed led to his long life," his son Charley Wallace wrote in this week's Express, which largely paid homage to Newt. Cigars, fried okra and fatty steaks were among his father's other favorites, he said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Greg Sells.

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Why 60 Minutes aired photos of lynchings in report by Oprah (CBS News)



The Equal Justice Initiative found evidence of more than 4,000 lynchings in states throughout the country.

By Brit McCandless Farmer

Wes Johnson was about 18 years old when he was murdered in a cotton field in southern Alabama. It was 1937, and according to newspaper reports at the time, a mob of men had dragged him from his jail cell before he could stand trial for the charge against him: assaulting a white woman. Today, only one photograph is known to exist of Johnson, a single picture to preserve his image for posterity-his lifeless body hanging from a tree.

Bryan Stevenson wants to honor the legacy of Johnson, and thousands like him, with a new memorial for victims of lynching in America. Stevenson is a lawyer and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a non-profit organization that investigates the lynchings of African Americans. To commemorate the victims whose cases they've examined, the organization recently bought six acres of land in Montgomery, Alabama and constructed a memorial.

This week on 60 Minutes, Oprah Winfrey gets an early look at the memorial, which will open to the public on April 26. The memorial contains 805 steel markers, one for each county where lynchings occurred for more than 70 years following the Civil War. The markers are suspended in air to evoke the horror of being hanged.

To tell that story on 60 Minutes, Winfrey and a team of producers felt it was important to show historical photos of lynchings, images that are likely to disturb many viewers. In an interview with 60 Minutes Overtime, Denise Schrier Cetta, the producer of the story, and Jeff Fager, the executive producer of the broadcast, explain their decision to air such upsetting photographs.

"I don't think the story exists without those photos," Fager says. News executives have a tendency to self-censor too much, he says, out of concern that viewers will be turned off. For him, the decision to show the photos was about reporting important facts about a little-known but important chapter of history.

Read more [here](#).

Final Word





Photos by Todd Tilson/PA Turnpike Commission

So 2 Goats Were Stuck On A Beam Under A Bridge ... (NPR)

By MARC SILVER

Goats and Soda, NPR

From time to time, readers ask us, "How did your blog get its name?"

It's a longish story (here is the full explanation). In a nutshell, goats are a useful animal in the lower-income countries we cover. They can contribute to the income and the nutrition of a family.

We've also learned from talking to goat specialists that goats are curious and independent animals - true to the spirit of our blog, if we might humblebrag.

And because goats are in our DNA, we figure we have license to cover interesting stories about goats.

Read more here.

Today in History - April 9, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 9, the 99th day of 2018. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 9, 1968, funeral services, private and public, were held for Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Morehouse College in Atlanta, five days after the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1682, French explorer Robert de La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Basin for France.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1913, the first game was played at Ebbets Field, the newly built home of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost to the Philadelphia Phillies, 1-0.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. after being denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine and American defenders on Bataan surrendered to Japanese troops, who forced the prisoners into what became known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1977, Spain's Communist Party was legalized by Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez.

In 1979, officials declared an end to the crisis involving the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania, 12 days after a partial core meltdown.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1988, pro-Iranian Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim hijackers who had seized a Kuwait Airways jetliner on April 5 killed one of their hostages as the plane sat on the ground in Larnaca, Cyprus.

In 1998, the National Prisoner of War Museum opened in Andersonville, Georgia, the site of the infamous Civil War prison camp.

In 2003, jubilant Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, beheading a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad and embracing American troops as liberators.

Ten years ago: America's war commander in Iraq faced Congress for a second day; Army Gen. David Petraeus told lawmakers he was unlikely to endorse any fresh buildup of troops even if security in the country were to deteriorate. The Olympic

torch was rerouted away from thousands of demonstrators and spectators who had crowded San Francisco's waterfront to witness the flame's symbolic journey to the Beijing Games during its only North American stop.

Five years ago: Thirteen people were shot to death during a pre-dawn, house-to-house rampage in the Serbian village of Velika Ivanca; authorities identified the gunman as a 60-year-old veteran of the Balkan wars who took his own life. Fourteen people were injured by a knife-wielding attacker at Lone Star College in Cypress, Texas; a suspect was later sentenced to 48 years in prison. Connecticut's women's basketball team won its eighth NCAA championship with a 93-60 rout of Louisville at New Orleans Arena.

One year ago: Dr. David Dao, a passenger on a United Express flight about to take off for Louisville, Kentucky, was dragged off the plane by security officers at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to make room for four airline employees; the incident was captured on video that went viral. (United reached a settlement with Dao.) Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 43 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage. Sergio Garcia beat Justin Rose in a sudden-death playoff at the Masters for his first major. Russell Westbrook broke Oscar Robertson's 56-year-old record with his 42nd triple-double of the season, then he broke the Denver Nuggets' hearts with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, giving the Oklahoma City Thunder a 106-105 victory.

Today's Birthdays: Satirical songwriter and mathematician Tom Lehrer is 90. Naturalist Jim Fowler is 88. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 85. Actress Michael Learned is 79. Country singer Margo Smith is 76. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 65. Actor Dennis Quaid is 64. Comedian Jimmy Tingle is 63. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 59. Talk show host Joe Scarborough is 55. Actress-sports reporter Lisa Guerrero is 54. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey is 54. Actor Mark Pellegrino is 53. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 53. Actress Cynthia Nixon is 52. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 49. TV personality Sunny Anderson is 43. Rock singer Gerard Way (My Chemical Romance) is 41. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 39. Rock musician Albert Hammond Jr. (The Strokes) is 38. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 38. Actor Ryan Northcott is 38. Actor Arlen Escarpeta is 37. Actor Jay Baruchel is 36. Actress Annie Funke is 33. Actor Jordan Masterson is 32. Actress Leighton Meester is 32. Actor-singer Jesse McCartney is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jazmine Sullivan is 31. Actress Kristen Stewart is 28. Actress Elle Fanning is 20. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright is 19. Classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho (ee-VAYN'-koh) is 18.

Thought for Today: "The amount of satisfaction you get from life depends largely on your own ingenuity, self-sufficiency, and resourcefulness. People who wait around for life to supply their satisfaction usually find boredom instead." - William C. Menninger, American scientist, physician, engineer (1899-1966).

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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