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# Connecting - September 24, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

September 24, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Our Connecting Profile focuses this Monday on our colleague **David Sedeno**, whose 10-year careers at the AP and at the Dallas Morning News were a prelude to his current position as editor of The Texas Catholic in the Diocese of Dallas.

David, who just celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the diocese, says he continues "to embrace and rely on truth and fairness that I learned throughout my years in the AP and I am happy to report that we have a bishop who wants to ensure transparency."

I commend his story to your reading attention - and look forward to hearing from you with your submissions to our newsletter.

Here's to a great week!

Paul

## Connecting profile

# David Sedeno



**David Sedeño, editor of The Texas Catholic, poses in his office on Sept. 19, 2018, with shell of the once mighty AP workhorse teletype machine in use when he started at the AP in 1984.**

## **What are you doing these days?**

In August, I celebrated my 10-year anniversary as the editor of *The Texas Catholic* and *Revista Católica*, the publications for the Diocese of Dallas, along with their related websites and social media platforms. With the crisis in the Catholic Church at the moment, and even though I work for the church, I continue to embrace and rely on truth and fairness that I learned throughout my years in the AP and I am happy to report that we have a bishop who wants to ensure transparency.

## **How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?**

In the spring of 1983, Dallas COB John Lumpkin was the speaker at the Journalism Awards Banquet at Angelo State University in San Angelo, my hometown. After hearing my name called out several times, and someone else accepting the awards on my behalf, I was told he said something like, "Who is this guy who can't even show up to pick up his own awards?" Probably a little more colorful. He was told I was working full-time on the copy desk at the *San Angelo Standard-Times* while carrying a full load. (I actually had been working there since my freshman year in college in 1979).

A few days later I received a letter from John, who, in AP fashion hedge, wrote, "... although I can't guarantee you a position, I encourage you to apply."

I took the AP test in the Dallas bureau on Aug. 22, 1983, the date significant only because Hurricane Alicia had struck the Gulf Coast a few days earlier and the bureau was still in a controlled chaos coordinating with correspondents and photographers around the state. Anne Jackson, the Dallas bureau's longtime executive assistant who already had been a second mother to countless AP staffers, must have seen me looking like that proverbial fish out of water as I watched the commotion through the glass-windowed office where I was taking the test. "It's crazy out there, but one day you'll probably be in that 'mess,'" she said.

## **What were my first days like?**

I joined the Jan. 16, 1984, along with three others and our lives continued to cross long after we all parted from the Dallas bureau.

Coming from San Angelo, where you could get across town in 15 minutes, I soon learned that not only "city life" and traffic would take a little getting used to, but also the news flow in the Dallas bureau every day. I learned much from the experienced hands of News Editor John Hotard and Broadcast Supervisor Joe Stroop (but they both who would soon leave for American Airlines). Day Supervisor Terry Leonard seemed to hand me an endless stream of little slips denoting the stories that I had to edit. That workload that required quick turnaround on the print side and the lessons on the broadcast side-writing for the ear-was the best training I ever had and have served me to this day.

## What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

From Dallas, I became Harlingen correspondent In January 1985, responsible for a line from Corpus Christi to Laredo and everything south to the Rio Grande Valley with some shared responsibilities with Mexico City for border coverage. I learned quickly the importance of making friends at newspapers, television and radio stations to tip me to developing stories. Immigration, the trials of Sanctuary Movement members charged with harboring immigrants from Central America; Spring Break at South Padre Island (not that fun, by the way); and from this perch, traveling to Mexico City as part of a team to cover the destructive earthquake in September 1985, and with it the start of a personal lifelong journey to better understand my father, who fled the Mexican Revolution in 1917 at age 17, worked 50 years in the railroad industry in Texas, but who died when I was 12 years old.

In the fall of 1986, I was named San Antonio correspondent. My coverage included covering the military and tourism, the city's top two economic generators; the NBA Spurs, coverage of Space Shuttles being transported atop 747s that stopped for refueling at Kelly AFB, the mid-point between Edwards Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral. These were a sight to see.

In the spring of 1989, I traveled to Matamoros, Mexico, with Fort Worth Correspondent Mike Cochran for the discovery of the body of a University of Texas student who disappeared during Spring Break a few weeks earlier. His remains were found on a remote ranch along with those of various others who had been killed by a drug gang as part of satanic rituals that their leader said would give them power. Because of travel logistics, we arrived on the ranch property at around dusk. There were no guards and no "Crime Scene" tape to secure the area. Cochran and I quickly went through it, both of us taking notes (a cauldron outside with partially burned chicken parts, a goat's head and horns; inside, a pentagram on the floor inside with lots of candle-and-wax-laden wine bottles around it; graffiti on the walls; out back, numerous holes that searchers dug in an effort to find other remains). It was a freaky scene that Cochran coined instantly and accurately, but that never made it into print and I still can't repeat here among friends. More importantly, in San Antonio, on my third day as correspondent, I met a public relations executive who promised to get me an interview with Henry Cisneros, at the time a popular mayor in the national spotlight. She never got me that interview, but Ellen Sterner did say yes a couple of years later when I asked her to marry me.



**San Antonio Correspondent David Sedeno gets acquainted with a resident of a monkey ranch near Dilley, Texas in 1988. Sedeno visited the ranch for a story on how Japanese snow monkeys have adapted to the brushland of south Texas. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives/Riccardo Santos)**

In the summer of 1989, a few weeks after our wedding, we were off to California after Andy Lippman hired me to lead the San Diego bureau. Again the military, business and immigration would play center stage (Dennis Georgatos was happy to handle all the sports that came our way) and I got into administration, learning to be happy at the success of others. Perhaps the most interesting assignment was standing in the hull of the former Exxon Valdez, the oil tanker that had been sent to a San Diego dry dock for refurbishing after its infamous and destructive voyage through Alaska's Prince William Sound. My daughter Mary was born in December 1990 and Andy was such a great honorary godfather to her.



**Ellen and David in 2017**

Three months later, we were on the move again; Texas was calling and I was named ACOB in early 1991. This time it was full immersion in AP administration under John Lumpkin. Success and fate would now be tied even more to the team of nearly 40 talent and experienced staffers across the state. In early 1993, during the siege at Mount Carmel in Waco between law enforcement and the followers of David Koresh, I learned that among the most important roles of an ACoB or any leader is to hope for the best and prepare for the worst, as I had been taught. My first duty in the early hours was to secure several rooms at the local Holiday Inn because it was apparent we would be there several days. It lasted 51 days. And as we, like the rest of the world, watched in horror when the compound went up in smoke I remembered that "controlled chaos" of my AP-test taking days and that Anne Jackson predicted that I would be in that "mess" some day.

And it was here in Dallas, where I learned to appreciate the selflessness of AP members and the stronghold of an organization like the Texas APME and how members and AP CoBs had built on the strength and successes of those before them, and that no matter the competitiveness of the industry, they always came together as friends and family at those APME meetings, especially at the Mike and Sondra Cochran-hosted hospitality suites.

I was named bureau chief in Albuquerque, replacing Dale Leach, in the late spring of 1993 at the same time of an outbreak of what later would be known as the hantavirus on the Navajo Indian Reservation in the Four Corners region, attributed to deer mice. It was in Albuquerque where I learned that native New Mexicans were as territorial and proud as any Texan could be. I learned about the camaraderie and special bond between AP bureau chiefs across the country. As one of the youngest AP bureau chiefs, it was enriching and a privilege to be among such a wonderful cast of men and women and learn from them. But in the late fall of 1994, with two children under 3, another one on the way and already having moved five times in nine years, it was apparent that no matter how much I loved the AP, I wanted to find a stable base for my young family. I left the AP in December 1994 for *The Dallas Morning News*. It was one of the toughest decisions and periods of my still young

journalistic life, but my wife and I decided it was the best thing for our family, and Dallas has remained our home base since then.

I worked at the DMN for 10 years, on the metro and international desks, as Mexico City bureau chief, and a roving Texas & Southwest reporter (when there actually was a hefty section devoted to those rich stories). In 2004, I joined the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* as a senior reporter at-large, then a year later became publisher of its Spanish-language publication, *Diario La Estrella*, and simultaneously joined the *Star-Telegram's* editorial board and senior management staff. In 2008, a few weeks before a round of layoffs under new owners McClatchy, I took a literal leap of faith and became editor of *The Texas Catholic* and this is where I have been.

### **Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?**

People go through life thinking about the "what ifs" and, yes, I did that early on in my career. I got into journalism in high school because I wanted to become a better writer to get into law school and have everything that you're supposed to have as a lawyer. I was the second youngest of 10 children, only the second to graduate from college, and economic success was top of mind in high school. I never made it to law school because I was convinced that what I was doing as a journalist was making a difference, somewhere. As reporters, we are taught, encouraged and learn to embrace the role of cynics in search of the truth. In the past few years, as I've matured, as I've seen my children grow, especially as I held my littlest one in my arms after heart surgery and watch her take her last breath, I learned the importance of a stable and supportive community, even as I have learned more about my Catholic faith and the truth. I have accepted that everything that I have done before has prepared me for my current role and that this is where I am supposed to be.

### **What's your favorite hobby or activity?**

We live about a half-mile from White Rock Lake in east Dallas and there are biking and hiking trails, so Ellen and I do that, sometimes together, many times on our own. Growing up, the center of my life was around my mom's kitchen. We were poor, but there was always food and it brought countless family and friends together. Four of my nephews are classically trained chefs and my brother owns two Texas BBQ restaurants in the DFW area. So being in the kitchen is in the Sedeño boys' genes. As such, when Ellen and I redesigned our house a few years ago, we incorporated a chef's kitchen into the mix. I do a lot of Mexican dishes, but experiment with many other food combinations, so if you're ever in Dallas--*mi casa es tu casa*.

### **What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?**

It was with my daughter Mary. It was in the summer of 2008, prior to her starting her senior year in high school and me accepting my new job at *The Texas Catholic*. Having spent one school year in Mexico City, when I was the DMN bureau chief there, Mary had wanted to return to Mexico one day; so she asked it for her senior trip. To make a long story short, we flew into Mexico City, drove to the town that my father was born, met family, and recorded memories. Then as best we could, we



traveled the same roads of my father from the state of Michoacán in Mexico's interior to Piedras Negras, across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass, Texas. Along the way, we listened to English and Spanish music, snacked on saltines and ham, met a group of real *vaqueros* and a shepherd along the way, and talked about my father's life as I knew it, my own life and my hopes and dreams for her. Many times as I was driving our red Dodge Avenger, I looked over to the passenger seat to get a glimpse of my sleeping 17-year-old, realizing that she was the same age that my father was when he made his journey **to** the United States. Hers was a little easier, but if he had not left, he either would have been conscripted by the military or the revolutionaries in their bitter civil war. So, if we really think about the "what ifs," then my father not coming to the United States in 1917 is screaming at me. My life could have been completely different, if at all.

### **Names of your family members and what they do?**

Ellen and I have been married 29 years and she is a marketing consultant for a luxury real estate company in Dallas. Mary got married earlier this year and is living and working in Kansas City; my son David, who graduated from LSU a couple of years ago, has worked in the sports and political consulting business and lives in Dallas; and my other son Patrick graduated from the University of Texas at Austin business school and is preparing to move to New York City to continue his work in finance.

### **What's next on the horizon?**

Even after nearly 40 years as a journalist, I am nowhere near retirement, but I believe I am where I am supposed to be. As I look back on my journalistic career thus far, I consider myself very lucky to be able to witness and record history. I've interviewed my share of the famous and infamous; the wealthy and the downtrodden; the inspiring and those I had to endure; the hopefuls and the narcissists. I never considered myself a crafty or creative writer, but I learned early the importance of "getting it first, but first getting it right." I never got to be imbedded in war zones in Central America or anywhere in the world that I pined for when watching "The Year of Living Dangerously" but I did get to sit next to and interview Mexican President Vicente Fox aboard the Mexican version of Air Force One. I never got to travel the globe like Mort Rosenblum, but I did feel like a rock star in 1985 when Mexico City Bureau Chief Eloy Aguilar stopped in Harlingen to pick up Special Correspondent Jules Loh (on assignment in South Texas at the time) and me so that we could travel back with him to Mexico City to cover the earthquake.

I've never won a Pulitzer or many major awards, but I am quite content knowing that among the first awards that I never collected helped open the door to a beautiful, wonderful world of places and people, including my wife, and to experiences that a boy from West Texas dreamed could only happen to people who didn't look anything like him. The truth? I believe someone has always been watching out for me.

**David Sedeno's email address - [davidsedeno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidsedeno@sbcglobal.net)**

# Mike Green's career has taken him across the globe



AP Photo/Kiicharo Sato

In the photo above, Chicago photographer Michael Green, right, waits for receiving Stud Terkel Award for Public Narrative on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, in Chicago. At left is Central Desk photo editor Bob Graves and retired AP photographer Charles Bennett. Here's more on Mike, a new Connecting colleague, and his career that shows just why he was so honored:

**Michael Spencer Green** ([Email](#)) is a Chicago-based photojournalist for The Associated Press.

His multi-decade career -- both at the AP and the Detroit News, as well as several other newspapers in Michigan -- has taken him across the globe, on the campaign trail, onto any number of sports fields and into the eye of multiple natural disasters.

Through it all, Green has developed a reputation for documenting the most human of moments, even in difficult circumstances - and for treating the subjects of his work with great care and respect.



"It is no exaggeration to say that Mike treats every assignment as if it were the most important," says Martha Irvine, a longtime AP colleague who has worked with Green on many assignments, including several projects in Illinois and the Chicago area in the last two decades.

A native of Michigan, Green began his journalism career as a teen as a photographer for the Ludington Daily News. His father, whom Green lost when he was just 8 years old, had worked in the advertising department at the paper and also had an interest in photography. So Mike thought pursuing a photography career would be a good way to keep some kind of connection with his dad.

Green, known for his humor and ability to tell a good story, jokes that his first assignment editor at the paper was a trash can because he'd pull out press releases that his slightly elder colleagues had thrown away - and then use them as a chance to learn and show what he could do.

He went on to study photojournalism at Lansing Community College and Central Michigan University, where he was later inducted into the CMU Journalism Hall of Fame in 2008.

In her nomination of Green for the Studs Terkel Award, Stephanie Himango, a former NBC Network News producer, now at CBS, wrote, "Laser-focused, (Mike) sees hearts first. He gleans character and courage before measuring appearance or status."

Robert Kozloff, a former photo editor at the AP and the Chicago Tribune, added, "Michael Green ... takes us with him on assignments and we are treated to the most intimate and personal tales of his subjects."

For his part, Green talks about the "great responsibility" he has always felt when documenting people's lives - especially those of everyday people who may never have encountered the media.

## **Cedric Parker was all that and more**



**Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - Cedric Parker was all that and more. Thanks to Bob O'Meara and Arthur Max for their remembrances. While a student at UW-Madison I worked for AP, which had a desk in the Cap Times newsroom just a few feet from Cedric, a madcap even as the years wore on and a fierce supporter of workers, unions, and fun. During an AP strike he thoughtfully sabotaged the AP PhotoFax receiver. Here is a photo I made, probably 1966, of Cedric, bosun's whistle at the ready.

## Mark Mittelstadt to be honored in his Iowa hometown

**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from Iowa Central Community College in his hometown of Fort Dodge, Iowa, for his outstanding achievements and lifetime career with The Associated Press. [The announcement](#) was made Sunday in The Messenger of Fort Dodge, and Mark offered these comments:

Iowa Central Community College is a special place. For many, it offers additional time and space after high school to figure out who we are and what we want to do with the rest of our lives.

For me, it became a turning point. I learned that I was not to be an engineer. Under the auspices and mentoring of a special ICCC English instructor, Donald Fish, I developed an interest in writing and journalism. It was a passion that took me to employment with newspapers in Iowa and ultimately a 29-year career with The Associated Press news service.

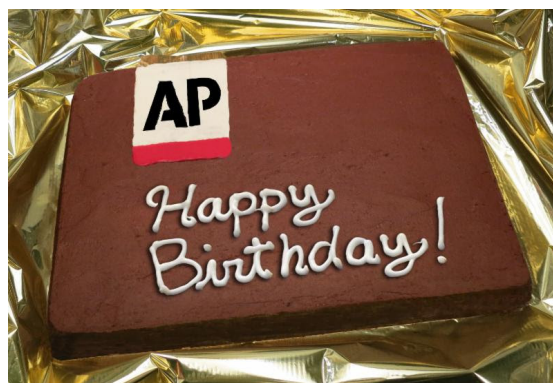
The road took me to Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Des Moines, Albuquerque, Newark and Trenton, N.J., and ultimately to New York City. During the last nine years I served as executive director of two AP-related editor organizations, a role that ventured to great cities including Washington, D.C., Dallas, San Jose, Louisville, Phoenix, San Antonio, Milwaukee, Baltimore and Las Vegas. Our executive committee met personally with then Mexico President Vicente Fox as well as the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, and to Havana, where we met with numerous Cuban officials (regrettably, not Fidel.)



(Photo by Maureen Powers)

I am indeed honored to be nominated for Iowa Central's Distinguished Alumni Award, and humbled to be selected.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Linda Deutsch - [lcdeutsch@yahoo.com](mailto:lcdeutsch@yahoo.com)

Robert Shaw - [rlshaw06@comcast.net](mailto:rlshaw06@comcast.net)

# Welcome to Connecting



Mike Green - [msgreen@ap.org](mailto:msgreen@ap.org)

## Welcome to Best of the Week

Colleagues,

This officially marks a rebirth of sorts for our weekly global staff contest, which celebrates some of the best work from around the AP world.

This week's winner celebrates a great team effort by colleagues in Latin America and beyond, as well as a really productive partnership with two other news organizations. It's creative and insightful work that breaks news and includes great visual journalism and innovative presentation. It rose to the top of an impressive field of entries.

Today, and each Friday going forward, the weekly winner is revealed at the Global News Meeting at 9:15 a.m. ET, which all AP staff are invited to attend.

Please join me in congratulating this week's honorees.

***Brian Carovillano, Managing Editor, The Associated Press***

## AP and partners document Puerto Rico hurricane deaths



**Maria Gonzalez Munoz, right, and Juan Manuel Gonzalez pose in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sept. 4, 2018, with an image of Jesus surrounded by photos of Maria's late sister Ramona, taken during her illness and funeral. Ramona, a disabled, 59-year-old who suffered from a degenerative brain disease, died a month after Hurricane Maria from sepsis, caused, says her family, by an untreated bedsore. Maria spent the month after the storm caring for her sister in her blacked-out home. AP Photo / Ramon Espinosa**

Since the early days after Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, 2017, the debate over the death toll has raged. Initial reports that fewer than 100 people had died were seized upon by the Trump administration, but they belied the scope of the devastation. The storm left the island without electricity for months, hospitals and other key infrastructure shuttered, roads unpassable and pharmacies closed.

In June, Caribbean News Director Mike Weissenstein in Havana forged a partnership with Puerto Rico's Center for Investigative Journalism (known by its Spanish initials CPI) and U.S.-based news site Quartz to undertake the most comprehensive list to date of Puerto Ricans who died in the wake of the storm.

For the project, Weissenstein, San Juan newswoman Danica Coto, Washington-based data journalist Larry Fenn, New York-based reporter Claudia Torrens, Miami-based reporter Gisela Salomon, Washington-based reporters Luis Alonso and Ben Fox, as well as senior Havana-based producer Chris Gillette, Havana photographer Ramon Espinosa, Santo Domingo reporter Ezequiel Lopez Blanco, Mexico-based digital producer Dario Lopez and enterprise editor Raghuram Vadarevu, based in Phoenix, share the Best of the Week award.



Telling the stories, one by one in multiple formats, of the 487 deaths documented in the project.

Over three months, AP staff across the U.S. and the Caribbean dedicated long hours to the project. Fenn worked with our partners to match hundreds of tips to a database of death certificates released after a lawsuit by the CPI against the Puerto Rican government. Torrens, Alonso and Fox, who was then a Caribbean-focused news manager in Miami, worked with the team interviewing hundreds of families with a questionnaire based on the criteria the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention use to determine if a death is indirectly disaster related.

Gillette and Espinosa joined reporters interviewing victims' families and authorities in Puerto Rico to produce a multiformat piece that linked deaths to government inaction and poor decision-making. Lopez turned the work into a wrenching online video and Vadarevu produced a series of features that gave the work a vibrant presence online. Lopez Blanco spent days on the unromantic but essential task of copy-editing hundreds of accounts of victims' final days.

Those results were to be published on the anniversary of the storm, but when President Donald Trump tweeted that only dozens died, and reports of thousands of people dead were politically motivated false news, the partners launched a 24-hour rush to get the project out online. One day after the president's remarks, the AP and its partners published text stories, an interactive database, websites in English and Spanish and compelling photos and video telling, one by one, the stories of the 487 deaths documented in the project.

The collaboration made AP part owner of one of the most important pieces of data in the debate over the death toll in Hurricane Maria, and was widely cited in TV, websites and in print around the world. One of the Washington Post's lead Puerto Rico reporters tweeted: "THIS is a big deal." And Walter Robinson, former head of the Boston Globe's "Spotlight" investigative team commented: "What extraordinary, painstaking, thorough reporting ... Wow!"

The judges could not agree more, and for their months of hard work, the all-format team from Latin America and the United States wins the inaugural Best of the Week competition.

***AP Best of the States:***  
**Abuse scandal hits Texas diocese as cardinal meets with pope**



**Cardinal Daniel DiNardo listens to a speaker during a Mass to repent clergy sexual abuse and to pray for molestation victims, June 14, 2017, in Indianapolis. As he was preparing to meet with the pope in September 2018, DiNardo was accused of failing to act on charges of sexual abuse against a priest in his Texas archdiocese, the AP revealed. AP Photo / Darron Cummings**

Houston-based reporter Nomaan Merchant broke important news about the role of an influential American cardinal in an abuse scandal in his home diocese, just as the cardinal was meeting with Pope Francis to discuss reforms to address clergy abuse.

Merchant exclusively tracked down two accusers who allege a priest in the Houston archdiocese had abused them - and that church leaders, including Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, subsequently did little to nothing to keep him out of the ministry and away from children.

The allegations were significant on their own given the current abuse crisis roiling the Catholic church. But they were made even more newsworthy in that they implicated DiNardo just as he met with the pope to discuss the church's handling of sex abuse cases. DiNardo, the head of the U.S. conference of bishops, has been outspoken in his calls for reform, but the accusers said they personally complained to him about the priest and believed they were brushed off.

Merchant did not stop there with his reporting. He astutely went to weekend Mass at the priest's church, learning that church leaders had told parishioners the priest was

not at services because he was "at a retreat." Two days later, he was arrested.

The AP story moved the day after the priest was arrested and on the eve of DiNardo's visit with the pope at the Vatican. The AP reporting made an immediate splash, with Houston TV stations running the story and the Houston Chronicle giving Merchant's exclusive a prominent mention in its breaking story on the priest's arrest. The story was the talk of the Vatican gathering in Rome and was widely shared by Catholic news publications, influential religion writers and the Religion News Service. Merchant also went on Houston Public Media to talk about the scoop.

For his efforts, Merchant wins this week's Best of States.

## Stories of interest

### ***101 Ways To Thwart A Reporter In Pyongyang*** (NPR)



**All Things Considered host Mary Louise Kelly (right) records a standup with producer Becky Sullivan at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang ahead of a military parade marking the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding. Photo: David Guttenfelder for NPR**

By **MARY LOUISE KELLY**

If, on a recent Wednesday morning, you had happened to find yourself in the cavernous lobby of Pyongyang's Yanggakdo Hotel, you might have witnessed the following exchange, between a pleasant-looking North Korean man and an exasperated-looking American news team.

"You must be tired," says Mr. Kim. "You will want to rest at the hotel this morning."

Nope, we're good. Ready when you are.

"Well, I am tired."

Mr. Kim is the guide assigned to us by North Korea's Foreign Ministry. We are charged \$75 per day for his services, and they are not optional. (I'm using his last name only here, because he did not want to be quoted in any official capacity or appear to be speaking for the North Korean government.) He's been glued to my side from the moment we cleared passport control at Pyongyang airport six days earlier, acting as an interpreter, a fixer, a bridge between our worlds - and a stunningly efficient one-man journalism prevention service.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Arnold Zeitlin.

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***When The Times Kept Female Reporters  
Upstairs*** (New York Times)



**Times journalists at work in 1958, including Patricia Peterson, a fashion editor, behind the telephone; and Carrie Donovan, at right, a fashion reporter. Credit: The New York Times Company Archives**

### **By Amanda Svachula**

Times Insider delivers behind-the-scenes insights into how news, features and opinion come together at The New York Times.

Hanging near the offices of the top editors of The New York Times is a photo from 1958 featuring several women arranged around a desk. The women are sitting in an office of the ninth floor, away from the main newsroom, where they all worked for "Food, Fashions, Family, Furnishings" - the women's news section in those days.

"We were in some dark little corner of the Times," said Phyllis Levin, now 97, who said she started working at the paper in the mid-1950s, first writing for fashion, alongside those in the picture, and later writing about parenting. Later she became a biographer of the first ladies Abigail Adams and Edith Wilson. "We respected one another," she said. "I just admired them all, and they were wonderful women who could've been anywhere on the paper, and eventually were."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Ed Meek requests his name be removed from Ole Miss journalism school*** (Clarion-Ledger)

By **BRACEY HARRIS**

Ed Meek has asked University of Mississippi officials to remove his name from the journalism school there after significant backlash to a controversial Facebook post many deemed to be racist that he made earlier in the week.

Meek's decision came the same day that Meek School of Journalism and New Media faculty members asked him to make such a request.

Meek released a two-paragraph statement via the journalism school. It read:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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## ***Opinion: We Need More Enemies of the People*** (New York Times)



**Jerry Dhonau, left, was among journalists who helped shield a 15-year-old student, Elizabeth Eckford, from a hostile white crowd in 1957 near Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. Credit: Democrat-Gazette photo**

**By David Margolick**

*Mr. Margolick is the author of "Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock."*

The obituary for Jerry Dhonau in The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette last month contained all of the usual information. He was 83 years old and lived in Little Rock and Albuquerque. He'd had a long career in journalism. Survivors included a wife, a daughter and a granddaughter.

But it also contained a forgotten slice of history.

When a racist mob surrounded 15-year-old Elizabeth Eckford near Little Rock Central High School on the morning of Sept. 4, 1957, he and a few other journalists - armed with only their notebooks, pencils and cameras - had protected her.

Yet the article omitted a crucial fact about Mr. Dhonau: To some back then, he was a card-carrying enemy of the people.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman.

## The Final Word

### ***Rob Curley: Never mess up the crossword puzzles, a wise editor once said***

By **ROB CURLEY**

**Editor, The Spokesman-Review, Spokane**

It was one of those conversations that meant more and more to me as I grew older.

About 15 years ago, I was talking with a longtime newspaper executive whom I really respected. He was a former editor who worked his way up and through many newsrooms across the country to eventually get to lead his own paper.

He was smart and practical and funny. He cussed a little too much, which I kind of liked. There was a lot to be learned from him and I wasn't going to waste the chance to ask about the things you can only learn by working at all levels of a newspaper over several decades.

There was this one thing he said - almost in passing - that made a big impression.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

# Today in History - September 24, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2018. There are 98 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

### On this date:

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

In 1896, author F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1968, the TV news magazine "60 Minutes" premiered on CBS; the undercover police drama "The Mod Squad" premiered on ABC.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics - but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1991, kidnappers in Lebanon freed British hostage Jack Mann after holding him captive for more than two years. Children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zul), better known as Dr. Seuss, died in La Jolla, Calif., at age 87.

In 1996, the United States and 70 other countries became the first to sign a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations - including the United States - to ratify it.)

In 2007, United Auto Workers walked off the job at General Motors plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976; a tentative pact ended the walkout two days later.

Ten years ago: Officials reopened Galveston, Texas, to residents who were warned about Hurricane Ike's debris and disruption of utilities. Japanese lawmakers elected Taro Aso, leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, prime minister.



Five years ago: President Barack Obama and new Iranian President Hasan Rouhani appeared separately before the U.N. General Assembly, with both leaders speaking up for improved relations and a resumption of stalled nuclear talks, but giving no ground on long-held positions that had scuttled previous attempts to break the impasse. Kenya's president proclaimed victory over the terrorists who'd stormed a Nairobi mall following a bloody four-day siege in which dozens of civilians were killed. A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake rocked southwest Pakistan, killing at least 376 people. Tea party conservative Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, began an old-style filibuster lasting nearly 22 hours over President Barack Obama's health care law.

One year ago: More than 200 NFL players kneeled or sat during the national anthem after President Donald Trump criticized the players' protests in a speech and a series of tweets. Trump signed a proclamation to replace his expiring travel ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority countries; citizens from eight countries would now face new restrictions on entry to the country. German Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term in office, but voters weakened her conservatives and a nationalist, anti-migrant party surged into Germany's parliament.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 79. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 78. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 76. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 76. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 73. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 72. Actor Gordon Clapp is 70. Actress Harriet Walter is 68. Songwriter Holly Knight is 62. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 66. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 60. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent is 56. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 56. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 49. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 49. Actress Megan Ward is 49. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 47. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 43. Actor Ian Bohen is 42. Actor Justin Bruening is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 36. Actor Erik Stocklin is 36. Actor Grey Damon is 31. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 30. Actor Ben Platt is 25.

**Thought for Today: "There was never a nation great until it came to the knowledge that it had nowhere in the world to go for help." - Charles Dudley Warner, American author and editor (1829-1900).**

## 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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