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AP reporter Martha Mendoza works in her office at her Eastside Santa Cruz, Calif., home as she collaborates online with colleague Garance Burke after it was announced the two had won an Emmy. (Shmuel Thaler/Santa Cruz Sentinel Photo)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 25th day of September 2020.

We lead with word that Associated Press investigative reporters, in collaboration with PBS' Frontline, won an Emmy Award for their coverage of the treatment and detention of migrant children in federally-funded shelters. Congratulations **Martha Mendoza** and **Garance Burke**, and the AP investigative team led by **Ron Nixon**!

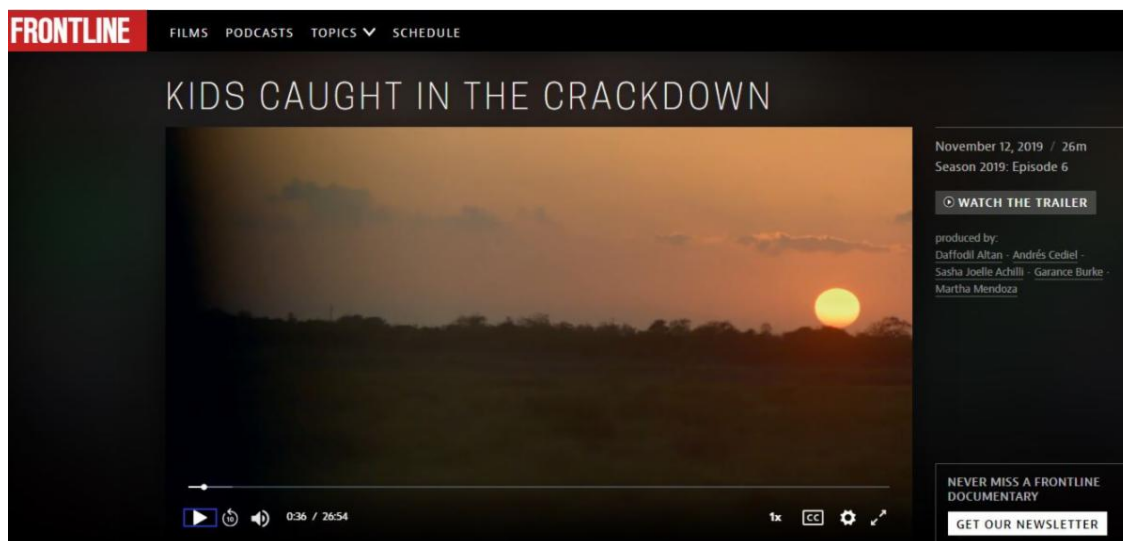
In a column for the Nieman Reports and posted here, Nixon argues that newsroom investigative teams need to be more diverse.

Also in this issue, sports writer Bob Greene recalls two of his favorite moments covering football running back and return specialist Gale Sayers. The "Kansas Comet" died Wednesday at age 77.

Connecting Editor **Paul Stevens** returns on Monday. Continue to send stories, ideas and feedback over the weekend to markmitt71@yahoo.com.

Have a great weekend! Stay safe.

- Mark Mittelstadt



AP journalists receive Emmy Award (Santa Cruz Sentinel)

SANTA CRUZ — Documentary reporting work by two investigative journalists with ties to Santa Cruz earned their team Emmy Awards this week.

With their “Kids Caught in the Crackdown” series, Associated Press reporters Martha Mendoza and Garance Burke, working in collaboration with a PBS’ Frontline team, were awarded the 41st Annual News and Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Continuing Coverage of a News Story in a Newsmagazine.

Mendoza, a Santa Cruz resident, long-time journalist and former Sentinel staffer, began collaborating last year on the project with Burke, a Santa Cruz High School graduate and San Francisco resident, in Bay Area public library conference rooms, the two women said during a joint phone interview Wednesday.

Neither said they expected to win the award, featuring a ceremony that took on a casual feeling due to being done remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic. This was not a trip to New York City, the women decked out in their glamorous finery...

The documentary, aired Nov. 12 on PBS, focused on the treatment of detention of migrant children detained inside federally-funded shelters. Burke had been reporting on the treatment and detention of migrant children for years before she was approached by Frontline representatives in the spring of 2019, she said, and later approached Mendoza, who earned a Pulitzer Prize in 2016 for her work, to team up.

“As the collaboration progressed, Garance and I would publish stories — we had one breaking story after another of kids locked up in really dangerous situations, more and more kids being harmed. Or we’d hear of sexual assaults. Really harrowing stuff,” Mendoza said. “And we would be reporting it just like text reporters, but then we would be also be gathering video and doing additional video shoots with our colleagues.”

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

To view the documentary, click on the image above or [here](#).

AP's Nixon: Investigative teams need to diversify, too (Nieman Reports)

By Ron Nixon
AP Global Investigations Editor

The killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota has created a racial reckoning for the country.



That reckoning has expanded to America's newsrooms. Across the country, journalists of color have called out their employers for the lack of diversity. News organizations have responded by creating teams of reporters to cover issues of race and inequity across the country.

In numerous cases newsrooms have also created masthead positions to coordinate coverage and increase diversity across the newsroom. These are all good first steps.

But what remains missing in these newsroom changes are concrete steps to diversify investigative teams.

Read more [here](#).



People gather outside the Supreme Court to honor the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

**Sherr: RBG as I knew her
(billmoyers.com)**



By Lynn Sherr

I don't know the precise moment when Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Ruth Bader Ginsburg stepped out of her august robes and lace collar and into the pantheon of popular culture. When this pillar of jurisprudence in the cause of women's rights turned up as an image on everything from tea towels to spandex leggings. When the first woman honored by her government to lie in state in the US Capitol, became a Hallowe'en costume for little girls. In short, when this dedicated and studious jurist became The Notorious RBG.

The good news is that she fully appreciated the transformation. Her film biographers, Julie Cohen and Betsy West, note that in 2019, when they presented her with an image of herself photoshopped onto the body of a Marvel comics superhero, "RBG giggled with glee—and...a nod of pride."

Justice as Avenger. Perfect.

None of this, of course, is news to the lawyers and feminists who have long been in awe at her pioneering success in opening doors and forging pathways for us. In fact, when I took a look at a conversation I'd had with her back in 2000, I realized how consistent and revolutionary and utterly charming she has been throughout her career.

In November 2000 I was invited by the New York City Bar Association and NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDEF), to interview RBG in front of a live audience. It was the first of a series of distinguished lectures in her name. At the time, I was still a correspondent at ABC News, and the Court was then just about to deliberate the outcome of the 2000 Bush/Gore election. So I was disappointed that we could not discuss that case, or anything else on her docket. But everything else was on the table, and looking back, I still marvel at what a superstar she has always been.

Our conversation ranged from her then-recent bout with colon cancer ("I am doing just fine") to her gratitude to President Jimmy Carter for changing the face of the federal judiciary ("a practice of including on the bench people who represent all of the United States"). From the consequences of having two women at the Supreme Court (they created "a women's bathroom equal in size to the men's") to her dismissal of Phyllis Schlafly (read that one yourself). She giggled (and honestly, I guess I didn't realize that Supreme Court justices giggled) over a newspaper headline calling her "Rude Ruth" and boasted about the t-shirt she and Sandra Day O'Connor, who preceded her, were given, in the face of inevitable but incomprehensible confusion. RBG's read, "I'm Ruth, not Sandra."

Read more [here](#).

(Note: Lynn Sherr was a reporter and feature writer for The Associated Press in New York prior to her long and distinguished career in broadcasting.)

Sayers provided greatest moments in Greene's career

By Bob Greene

In my career, including 36 years with The AP, I have covered almost every sport, including field hockey, speed skating, and others along with the usual baseball, football, basketball, hockey. But the death of Gale Sayers brought back memories of the greatest moment in sports that I have experienced.



First, a blundering aside. After Sayers ran for more than 200 yards against the Green Bay Packers, I asked him in the locker room if that was his first 200-yard rushing game since he did it against Oklahoma State when he was starring at the University of Kansas. Sayers replied that it was and every reporter in the locker room had their lead. No one else had realized that stat.

My greatest moment in sports came at Lawrence, Kan., when Sayers was playing his last home game as a Jayhawk. The opponent was Nebraska, with a packed Kansas homecoming crowd of 45,000 on hand.

The Cornhuskers scored first on a record 92-yard pass play. KU responded by driving for a tying TD. With 8:40 remaining before halftime, Nebraska scored again to take a 14-7 lead.

Nebraska's defense was fantastic, holding Sayers, one of the nation's top running backs, to a college career-low 27 yards. But, with four minutes left in the game, Kansas had the ball and was driving. It was their last chance to score.

On third down with KU at the Nebraska 49, Sayers, who had flanked out, sprinted downfield, got behind the Nebraska defense and KU quarterback Bobby Skahan, a left-hander, threw a perfect pass. Sayers grabbed the ball at the Nebraska 15 and, as he gathered it into his body, his knee came up and knocked the ball loose. Incomplete pass.

Sayers turned, his head bowed, and walked slowly to the Kansas bench. But the homecoming crowd of 45,000 stood and gave their two-time All-American a thunderous applause, thanking the Omaha, Neb., native for his three years of highlight-film performances and plenty of thrills.

It was the crowd's response that gave this KU alum, sitting this day in the press box, his most cherished moment in sports.

Volunteers needed to counsel high school students on writing college admission essays

Martha Mendoza, AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning (and as of this week also an Emmy Award winner) National Writer, is seeking volunteers from Connecting's readership to help high school students learn how to write college admission essays.

"In my community there is no college counseling offered for high school students," she said. "So every year I get a group of local writers together to host a College Essay Writing Workshop. In one day, we help high school seniors write a 350-650 word

personal essay that becomes part of their college application. We've gotten hundreds and hundreds of local kids through their essays over the years."

Due to COVID closures the workshop is overwhelmed with students, Mendoza explained. More writing mentors are needed as the project goes online. Students range from farmworkers to surfers. "They've been COVID-19 locked down and wildfire evacuated this year and need some support in being creative and reflective," she said.

The workshop will run Oct. 17-28. Four Zoom meetings will take place over 10 days between a trained writing mentor and the student. Mentors will review students' writing via phone and Google docs.

Training will take place on two separate dates to provide information on navigating not only the support process for working with students and their essays but also the online arena. Mentors will use the platform that best suits their needs.

The workshop has created a Google Form for registering online to participate: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuHcHUBA5YIRp6sJbw_SJ2lOZX095SV2YG0vOjt3hNz9VeZQ/viewform

This [letter](#) provides more information about the workshop.

"Students need help this year more than ever," Mendoza said. "The pandemic has created uncertainty for everyone and students need caring, solid adults in their camp."

For more information, contact Martha at 831-240-5495 or mmendoza@ap.org

Former AP sports writer Harry King signs off a career full of memories

Harry King, former Little Rock news editor and then AP sports writer before being hired by an Arkansas Razorback news and information site, reflects on his lengthy career. In his final column for WholeHogSports.com, he talks about switching from reporter to writing columns, and the many memories of more than 55 years on the job, 35 with AP.

Read King's final column [here](#).

Also, Hawgs Illustrated publisher and executive editor Clay Henry on King's competitive [side](#).

Connecting mailbox

Laura Sellers was APME's 'den mother'

Mark Baldwin ([Email](#)) _ It goes without saying that Laura Sellers was a journalism leader and provided much of the glue that made the APME board cohesive and productive (Wednesday and Thursday Connecting). But her greatest gift was for

friendship. She drew each of us in and never let us go. She made us feel part of the APME family from day one and made sure everyone's contribution was valued. It made you want to work for the group. That was a terrific gift to the organization and to us individually.

In a sense, Laura was our den mother (which is not to minimize the contributions or AP liaisons Sally Jacobsen or Sarah Nordgren or Paula Froke). Whenever she was in the room, you knew the party was about to start. What a delight.

As I looked at the names on the emails that have flown back and forth today, I realized that some of those folks are among my favorite people in the world. We'll be friends for life, even amid the inevitable retirements and advancing age. Laura made it so.

Chris Peck ([Email](#)) _ Fun, creative colleague. A shock that she is gone.

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The World Desk overnight

Gregory Nokes ([Email](#)) _ A surprising number of highlights during my 18 months on the World Desk overnight in the late 1960s, not the least of which were the post-midnight calls from a certain senior executive wanting to settle a barroom bet: "Where was the Alliance for Progress signed?," he asked. "Punta del Este in Uruguay," I replied. "Right," he said. I never did learn who won the bet.

Bur the most memorable experiences were the occasional early morning golf outings. The late Charles Green, and someone else (possibly the late Dick Pyle), would leave work at the end of the overnight shift and take the subway (F train) to Forest Hills where one of us had parked a car and then drive to a nearby golf course for a round of golf. This was surely healthier than the other option, which was early morning drinks with Green and Pyle at a nearby bar (name forgotten).

Good memories with good people.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Mark Mittelstadt – markmitt71@yahoo.com

Jay Perkins - jrperk42@me.com

Wayne Slater – wslater1066@yahoo.com

On Sunday to...

Claudia Counts - ccounts@nyc.rr.com

Herb Hemming - herb@ojaimail.net

Joe Kay – jkay@ap.org

Lyle Price – lyleprice7@comcast.net

Stories of interest

Facebook to reject political ads that prematurely claim election victory (NBC News)

Facebook said Wednesday it would not allow people to run ads on its services that declare victory in the November election before news organizations have declared a winner.

“Facebook will be rejecting political ads that claim victory before the results of the 2020 election have been declared,” company spokesman Andy Stone said in a tweet.

The tech company has been fine-tuning its rules for what politicians, campaigns and potentially others can say on Facebook out of concern that people could try to manipulate its online social network to spread false information or sow unrest.

Facebook has said it has signed partnerships with the Reuters news agency and with the National Election Pool, a consortium of news organizations including NBC News, to determine winners in the election.

Susan Rice, former national security adviser in the Obama White House, is among the people who have expressed concern that President Donald Trump could claim victory wrongly and prematurely.

Read more [here](#).

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Hong Kong journalists protest new accreditation rules (AP)

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's professional journalism association on Thursday protested new rules restricting who can provide press coverage during demonstrations, saying the government has no right to determine who is or isn't a reporter.

The rules outlined in a Tuesday letter from police have been criticized as a further erosion of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's once robust press freedoms since Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law in June that has had a chilling effect on political speech.

Only journalists registered with the Government News and Media Information Service or members of "internationally recognized and reputable" foreign media outlets will be recognized as journalists during protests, according to the police letter.

That appears to undercut the authority of the Hong Kong Journalists Association and Hong Kong Press Photographers Association to vet candidates for membership and issue press cards, placing that right solely in the hands of government officials, as is the case in mainland China.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Harold Evans dies at 92; crusading newspaperman with a second act (The New York Times)

Harold Evans, the crusading British newspaperman who was forced out as editor of The Times of London by Rupert Murdoch in 1982 and reinvented himself in the United States as a publisher, author and literary luminary, died on Wednesday night in New York City. He was 92.

His wife, the editor Tina Brown, confirmed his death in a statement. She told Reuters, where Mr. Evans had been editor at large, that the cause was congestive heart failure.

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

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Journalists can help people tell their own stories by talking less, listening more (Nieman Reports)

American journalists are chronicling a nation in turmoil. The strife centers around inequality and is fueled by our inability to understand each other. We are a country of factions that has not figured out how to work together for an equitable society.

At the root of this problem is race.

We stand at another pivotal moment of our national identity. Once again, people of color, particularly Black people, have been driven to act by the constant assault of systemic, brutal, confrontational racism that threatens our present, our future, and our very survival. The Black Lives Matter action may be new, but the frustration, call to action, and anger that action represents are not. Throughout our turbulent history, these issues have been consistently covered by journalists, but we must recognize that journalism, as it is currently practiced, contributes to the problem.

Read more [here](#).

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Top Chicago Sun-Times editor leaving to lead local start-up (Chicago Sun-Times)

Chris Fusco, the top editor at the Chicago Sun-Times for the past three years, said Wednesday he is leaving the publication to begin work at a media startup in California that aims to rejuvenate local news.



Fusco will become the founding executive editor at Lookout Local, a venture of media analyst and writer Ken Doctor. Starting in October, he will work in Santa Cruz, California, where Doctor is testing a digital model for journalism he hopes to bring to markets lacking traditional news sources.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

So a journalist walks into a pandemic... (Poynter)

Stephanie Hayes' last day as an editor at the Tampa Bay Times was March 13.



She and her husband had a dream vacation to take, then she was coming back to start a new role – humor columnist.

You know what happened next. In addition to coping with the quickly closing world, Hayes had to figure out how to do her new job.

“I was like, oh my God, what am I going to do?” Hayes said. “I can’t start a humor column in the middle of a pandemic. This is nuts.”

Read here [more](#).

Today in History - September 25, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 25, the 269th day of 2020. There are 97 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 25, 1957, nine Black students who'd been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

On this date:

In 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

In 1904, a New York City police officer ordered a female automobile passenger on Fifth Avenue to stop smoking a cigarette. (A male companion was arrested and later fined \$2 for "abusing" the officer.)

In 1911, ground was broken for Boston's Fenway Park.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY').

In 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable officially went into service with a three-way ceremonial call between New York, Ottawa and London.

In 1962, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in round one to win the world heavyweight title at Comiskey Park in Chicago.

In 1974, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Tommy John underwent an experimental graft reconstruction of the ulnar collateral ligament in the elbow of his throwing arm to repair a career-ending injury; the procedure, which proved successful, is now referred to as "Tommy John surgery."

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over San Diego.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1992, NASA's Mars Observer blasted off on a \$980 million mission to the red planet (the probe disappeared just before entering Martian orbit in August 1993).

In 2016, golf legend Arnold Palmer, 87, died in Pittsburgh. Jose Fernandez, 24, ace right-hander for the Miami Marlins, was killed in a boating accident with two friends off Miami Beach.

In 2018, Bill Cosby was sentenced to three to 10 years in state prison for drugging and molesting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home. President Donald Trump denounced the "ideology of globalism" and praised his own administration's achievements in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly that drew headshakes and even laughter from fellow world leaders.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, in his weekly radio and Internet address, said the Republicans' plan to slash taxes and cut spending if the GOP were to retake the House in November was no more than "an echo of a disastrous decade we can't afford to relive." Three crew members, including American astronaut Tracy Caldwell-Dyson, touched down safely, although a day late, in Kazakhstan aboard their Soyuz capsule following a six-month stay aboard the International Space Station.

Five years ago: House Speaker John Boehner abruptly announced his resignation. President Barack Obama laid out a fresh threat of sanctions for economic espionage emanating from China, even as he and President Xi Jinping pledged their countries would not conduct or support such hacking. During a visit to New York City, Pope Francis offered comfort to 9/11 victims' families at ground zero, warnings to world leaders at the United Nations and encouragement to schoolchildren in Harlem. International leaders at the United Nations approved an ambitious 15-year plan to tackle the world's biggest problems, from eradicating poverty to preserving the planet.

One year ago: The White House released a rough transcript of President Donald Trump's July 25 call with Volodymyr Zelenskiy, confirming that Trump had pushed Ukraine's leader to work with Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General William Barr to investigate Joe Biden and his son. Members of Congress were able for the first time to review the secret whistleblower complaint involving Trump that had triggered an impeachment effort in the House.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Barbara Walters is 91. Folk singer Ian Tyson is 87. Polka bandleader Jimmy Sturr is 79. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is 77. Actor Josh Taylor is 77. Actor Robert Walden is 77. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 76. Model Cheryl Tiegs is 73. Actor Mimi Kennedy is 72. Movie director Pedro Almodovar is 71. Actor-director Anson Williams is 71. Actor Mark Hamill is 69. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo is 69. Actor Colin Fries is 68. Actor Michael Madsen is 62. Actor Heather Locklear is 59. Actor Aida Turturro is 58. Actor Tate Donovan is 57. TV personality Keely Shaye Smith is 57. Actor Maria Doyle Kennedy is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen is 55. Actor Jason Flemyng is 54. Actor Will Smith is 52. Actor Hal Sparks is 51. Actor Catherine Zeta-Jones is 51. Rock musician Mike Luce (Drowning Pool) is 49. Actor Bridgette Wilson-Sampras is 47. Actor Clea DuVall is 43. Actor Robbie Jones is 43. Actor Joel David Moore is 43. Actor Chris Owen is 40. Rapper T. I. is 40. Actor Van Hansis is 39. Actor Lee Norris is 39. Actor/rapper

Donald Glover (AKA Childish Gambino) is 37. Actor Zach Woods is 36. Actor Jordan Gavaris is 31. Olympic silver medal figure skater Mao Asada is 30. Actor Emmy Clarke is 29.

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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