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## Connecting

August 17, 2021

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Colleagues,

Hello on this Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021.

Today's Connecting brings reports of the danger facing Afghan journalists following the fall of the country to the Taliban over the weekend. Major U.S. newspapers have requested President Biden's help in evacuating Afghan journalists and their support staffs and families. Afghan journalists, particularly women, are "absolutely petrified," CNN's chief international correspondent Clarissa Ward said. Women in media in Kabul are trying to destroy traces of their identity as they brace for Taliban retribution for their last 20 years of news coverage of the region.

Ye Old Editor returns to his Connecting duties with Wednesday's edition. Thank you for all your contributions to my inbox during his and Linda's getaway.

Meantime, note that AP, in collaboration with Sterling Publishing, has released "September 11: The 9/11 Story, Aftermath and Legacy," a comprehensive look at the 9/11 terrorist attacks as told through stories and photographs from AP covering

everything from the events of that tragic day to the rebuilding of the World Trade Center and beyond.

Keep you and yours healthy and safe.

Peg

[pcoughlin@ap.org](mailto:pcoughlin@ap.org)



*Paul and Linda with friends at the Flying W Ranch, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

## ***New York Times, Washington Post, WSJ ask Biden to help evacuate Afghan colleagues***

By DAN MANGAN  
CNBC

The publishers of three major U.S. newspapers asked President Joe Biden on Monday to help Afghan colleagues of their journalists evacuate Afghanistan.

The requests from The New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal came after they pleaded with the White House to move to safety more than 200

journalists and related people affiliated with the papers who are “in danger” at the Kabul airport.

Post Publisher Fred Ryan asked National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan in an “urgent request” email to have them moved from the civilian side of Hamid Karzai International Airport “to the military side where they can be safe as they await evacuation flights.”

“They are currently in danger and need the US government to get them to safety,” Ryan wrote in the email, which he said he was writing on behalf of the three newspapers.

Ryan wrote that there are 204 journalists, support staff and family members from the three newspapers who are stuck on the civilian side of the airport.

Later Monday, Ryan, Times Publisher A.G. Sulzberger and Journal Publisher Almar Latour sent Biden a joint letter urging him to help get Afghan colleagues associated with the papers out of the country.

“For the past twenty years, brave Afghan colleagues have worked tirelessly to help The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal share news and information from the region with the global public,” the letter said.

“Now, those colleagues and their families are trapped in Kabul, their lives in peril.”

“As employers, we are looking for support for our colleagues and as journalists we’re looking for an unequivocal signal that the government will stand behind the free press,” the publishers wrote. “In that light, we ask the American government to move urgently and take three concrete steps necessary to protect their safety.”

The letter specifically asked Biden to give the Afghan colleagues “facilitated and protected access to the US-controlled airport;” “safe passage through a protected access gate to the airport;” and “facilitated air movement out of the country.”

## ***Afghan journalists 'absolutely petrified' amid Taliban takeover***

By ALEXIS BENVENISTE  
CNN Business

As Taliban forces seize control in Afghanistan, global news outlets are struggling to stay safe and continue reporting. But local journalists could be at greater risk.

The Committee to Protect Journalists has warned that Afghan journalists face extreme dangers amid the Taliban takeover. On Sunday, the militants took control of the presidential palace in Kabul after President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

Suspected Taliban fighters killed an Afghan radio station manager in Kabul last week, according to Reuters, intensifying fear among journalists in the community.

Afghan journalists, particularly women, are "absolutely petrified," CNN's chief international correspondent Clarissa Ward told CNN's chief media correspondent Brian Stelter on "Reliable Sources" Sunday.

"They've been doing bold and incredible reporting for many years, and now there's a very real fear that they might face retaliations for that or that certainly they won't be able to do their work anymore."

At least three female Afghan journalists have been murdered this year, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), while one was shot dead by a gunman in December 2020.

"RSF is deeply concerned that the troop withdrawal will create an information vacuum and that the space for journalism will dwindle or disappear entirely," said RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire last month. "It is absolutely clear that there will be no lasting peace in Afghanistan without a purposeful commitment to the protection of journalists and to press freedom from the authorities."

Many independent newsrooms in Afghanistan are "pretty much hunkered down at the moment," Ward said, adding that "there is a sense of real concern that things could get chaotic on the streets."

Although "there's no sense at the moment that Western journalists are being targeted," Ward said that her CNN crew had moved their live shot location indoors to avoid "potentially attracting a lot of attention."

Just last month, Danish Siddiqui, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Reuters photographer, was killed in clashes near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Siddiqui was the news agency's chief photographer in India, based in Mumbai.

Concerns remain high that local reporters will be targeted for retaliation by the insurgents.

"Some of these journalists and reporters know that they have a big X on their backs ... because they have been so outspoken against the Taliban," Ward said.

CNN's crews in Afghanistan are being "exceptionally cautious," Ward said, and will leave if necessary. But "for so many Afghans, that's simply not an option. They're here, they have to stay, they have to live with the consequences of this next chapter."

## ***'We see silence filled with fear': Female Afghan journalists plead for help***

By KATE BANVILLE  
The Guardian

When president Ashraf Ghani slipped out of Afghanistan with no warning, he took with him any glimpse of hope left for the nation's women – especially those who are

educated and outspoken.

Aaisha\* is that and more. As a prominent news anchor and political talk show host, she has watched her life's efforts crumble in what felt like seconds.

"For many years, I worked as a journalist ... to raise the voice of Afghans, especially Afghan women, but now our identity is being destroyed and nothing has been done by us to deserve this," Aaisha said on Monday. "In the last 24 hours, our lives have changed and we have been confined to our homes, and death threatens us at every moment."

Female Afghan journalists tell of a once free and bustling Kabul now filled with silence and fear as they destroy traces of their identity and work to avoid Taliban militants.

Aaisha is one of dozens of female Afghan journalists who have communicated with the Guardian over the past weeks, documenting the fall of their nation to share the devastation with the world. Now they fear that reporting without fear or favour will be the very thing that costs them their future.

They constantly receive death threats from the Taliban, and from others who agree that women should not be treated as equal.

Through a scratchy phone connection, Fereyba\* recalled the moment she heard that the Taliban were entering the gates of Kabul.

"I was outside of the home, and I just got a call from my brother saying 'Where are you? You have to go home right now.'

"And it was very scary.

"You cannot imagine the picture of the people and the eyes, and the faces and expressions."

Her voice choking, she said reports of women and girls being beaten, forcibly taken as wives and raped left her panicked that this could soon be her fate.

"Firstly I am worried about myself because I am a girl, and also a woman journalist," she said.

"In provinces they took some girls for themselves and used them as slaves."

Zeyba\* works for one of Afghanistan's largest media networks, which meant she and her husband and children would be shown no mercy, she said.

She said she and other journalists were frantically trying to send their identity documentation and work to embassies before destroying any trace of their existence, physically and online.

The situation in Afghanistan has prompted the Australian journalists' union to call for protection for Afghan colleagues.

In a statement, the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance said it stood with journalists in Afghanistan who were being targeted because of their work.

It urged the Australian government to include media workers in any humanitarian visa offerings.

Karen Percy, vice-president of the MEAA's media section, said Australia had a responsibility to not walk away from a military mission "without regard for the consequences".

"Journalists are targets for retribution and the situation is clearly deteriorating rapidly," she said.

"Australia has an obligation to provide refuge."

John Blaxland, professor of international security and intelligence at the Australian National University, said there was no mistaking the risk of human rights abuses facing women in the Afghan media.

"These are people who are important for the Taliban to neutralise and to take out of the equation, physically and metaphorically," he said.

"We don't know how long they have left, and it's just awful to contemplate how they've been really left high and dry under these awful circumstances.

\* All names have been changed

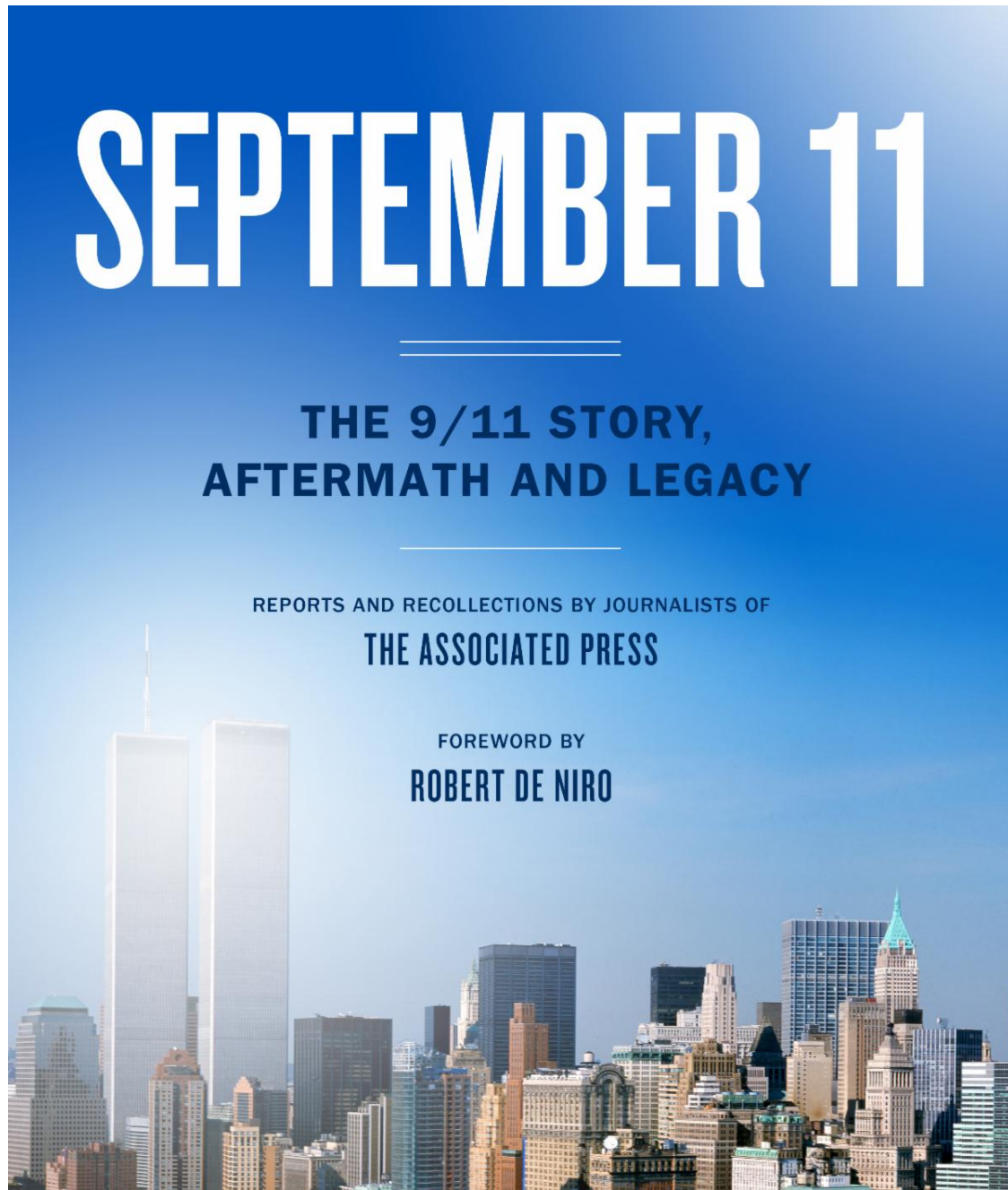


*Hundreds of people run alongside a U.S. Air Force C-17 transport plane, some climbing on the plane, as it moves down a runway of the international airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Aug. 16, 2021. Thousands of Afghans have rushed onto the tarmac at the airport, some so desperate to escape the Taliban capture of their*



*country that they held onto the American military jet as it took off and plunged to death. (Verified UGC via AP)*

## AP releases book marking 20th anniversary of 9/11



In collaboration with Sterling Publishing, "September 11: The 9/11 Story, Aftermath and Legacy," is a comprehensive look at the 9/11 terrorist attacks as told through stories and photographs from AP covering everything from the events of that tragic day to the rebuilding of the World Trade Center and beyond.

The volume includes breaking news reports and in-depth investigative pieces from the AP archives, ranging from AP's wall-to-wall reporting on Sept. 11, 2001; coverage of the rescue efforts and aftermath; the world's reaction and subsequent U.S. military operations; and the rebuilding of downtown New York.

"With this project, we set out to bring to life AP's gripping coverage of that seismic day 20 years ago," said AP Director of Programming Peter Costanzo. "'September 11' tells the many stories of 9/11—not only of the unprecedented horror of that morning, but also of the inspiring resilience and hope of the human spirit that followed."

The book features a foreword by actor Robert De Niro.

"September 11: The 9/11 Story, Aftermath and Legacy," is available now online and in hardcover wherever books are sold.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Larry Heinzerling remembered*

Robert Wielaard ([email](#)) - Larry Heinzerling was a remarkable colleague, a New York "suit" who totally understood the needs and operating conditions of bureaus abroad.

In my Brussels days, the key to coverage of the EU and NATO was having local, multilingual staff. For too long in AP, the term "local hire" was an unfortunate euphemism for second-class citizens. I always sensed Larry agreed with me.

I played a tiny role in helping Larry seek the release of AP's Chief Middle East correspondent, Terry Anderson, who had been kidnapped by a Shiite Muslim group in Beirut in 1985. I took Larry and Peggy Say, Anderson's sister, and her husband to get EU officials and politicians to speak out for Anderson's release.

Frankly, it was on one of those trips that Larry shocked me.

Before going to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, he showed up at the hotel breakfast table with a jar of Jiffy peanut butter. I said: "Larry, what's with you? Jiffy? Dutch peanut butter puts Jiffy to shame! It's more solid, more tasty and comes in creamy, chunky and crunchy versions." Larry remained a Jiffy fan. And peanut butter became a running joke between us. And now it is a sweet memory to me.

Arnold Zeitlin ([email](#)) - I'll always remember Larry as that brilliant young fellow who come to us in Lagos when I was West Africa correspondent for AP, Ann. He was interning for the summer between courses at Ohio State (if I remember the school correctly). He slept on a couch in the little AP office that was part of our residence on Keffi Street.

But he didn't stay too long in Lagos. He traveled widely that summer throughout West Africa, collecting stories. He was the second link to the Heinzerling family. His dad, Lynn, picked up and helped me when as a slightly bewildered young correspondent I stopped in London, where he was news editor, on my way with my family to take up my first assignment abroad in Lagos.



It has been my privilege to follow Larry's career after that summer when he was always kind to ask after son Jide and our two daughters. I'll miss him. In sympathy,

## ***Afghanistanism***

Paul Albright ([email](#)) - Check the link for the definition as it relates to journalists.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Afghanistanism>

Definition of Afghanistanism:

The practice (as by a journalist) of concentrating on problems in distant parts of the world while ignoring controversial local issues.

## ***Great perspective from Mort Rosenblum***

W.C. Wertz ([email](#)) - Thanks for including the Mort Rosenblum column in (yesterday's) "Connecting." Great perspective on the sad situation in Afghanistan. So many sad situations throughout the world, including many here in the U.S.

With the best of intentions and the deepest of pocketbooks, we cannot "fix" them all. Somehow "we the people" need to do a better job of choosing leaders who will set aside personal gain and political advantage to build consensus on the efforts that will do the most good for the most people.

Paying attention to good reporting from correspondents who are not pursuing personal/political/ideological agendas will help.

# **Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas**

## ***AP 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts now available/order online!***

**NOTE:** Organizers are monitoring pandemic concerns and urging all participants to be fully vaccinated. Plans continue, at this time, for the AP Connecting Regional Reunion to be held as originally scheduled next month.

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The deadline to register for the Sept. 17-18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area has been extended to Monday, Aug. 23.

About 70 people have already registered for the event co-hosted by Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

**NEW:** AP 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts (men's sizes only) are now available to order online & wear during the September gathering. Cost: \$20 apiece,

includes mailing & handling. Please order by Sept. 3.

\_ Click on this link: <https://associatedpress175.spiritsale.com> Check out the example of the T-shirt, front & back, with AP 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. One color only – gray.

\_ Select the T-shirt size(s), the number you wish to order and add to cart.

\_ Click on cart, fill out shipping information and click again to place your order. You will receive an initial email with your order confirmation.

\_ You will later receive a second email, upon completion of the order, for you to pay via a secure credit-card link. The T-shirts will be delivered by U.S. Postal Service.

### ***Reunion Weekend/Schedule:***

\_ Pay your own way for events Saturday night, Sept. 18 (Tex-Mex group dinner) and the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19. The all-you-can-eat seats at the game are \$45 each and reservations must be made in advance via Diana. Please order game tickets by Friday, Aug. 20.

\_ A bonus BBQ dinner event, hosted by David & Ellen Sedeño, is scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 17. Please also register in advance for this gathering.

\_ Details on the group hotel, confirming your place at all three events and ordering/online an AP 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirt are in the registration form. Email Diana: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Richard Menzl - [rmencil@earthlink.net](mailto:rmencil@earthlink.net)

## Stories of interest

# Chris Cuomo breaks silence on brother's scandal, admits to urging gov to resign

By KENNETH GARGER  
New York Post

Chris Cuomo on Monday night finally broke his on-air silence about his brother's sexual harassment scandal and subsequent resignation — claiming network rules

prevented him from covering the groundbreaking news.

"I never covered my brother's troubles because I obviously have conflict, and there are rules at CNN about that," Cuomo said at the end of his 9 p.m. show.

"My position has never changed. I never misled anyone about the information I was delivering or not delivering on this program."

The CNN host's comments come after he spent the last week on vacation as his brother, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, announced his resignation following a damning official report by state Attorney General Letitia James that concluded he sexually harassed several women.

Chris Cuomo had faced scrutiny for failing to address the governor's spiraling scandal and for his role advising his brother after the sexual harassment claims surfaced earlier this year.

On Monday night, he downplayed the conversations he had with his sibling during that time as simply brotherly advice.

Read more [here](#).

## New research shows how journalists can connect with conservatives, right-leaning audiences

BY LYNN WALSH  
Trusting News

At Trusting News, rather than accepting distrust in journalism, we work to better understand it so we can help journalists actively earn trust. We believe healthy democracies depend on civic dialogue and a shared set of facts. We also believe local news can play an especially important role in bridging conversations across political divides.

With this in mind, we conducted research with the Center for Media Engagement to better understand the societal and psychological forces that influence polarization and perceptions of news.

The research suggests journalists can help bridge the divide between the news media and conservative, right-leaning audiences by listening and building relationships with conservatives in their community, avoiding catch-all labels and over-generalizations, focusing on facts, correcting mistakes and paying attention to the political beliefs and backgrounds of newsroom staff.

Read more [here](#).



## Celebrating AP's 175th

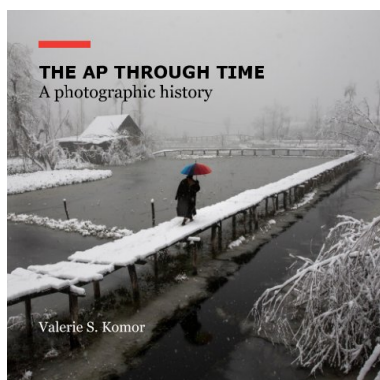
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [here](#).

## AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New

Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

## AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

# Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



## Today in History - Aug. 16, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2021. There are 136 days left in the year.



**Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 17, 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

**On this date:**

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

In 1863, federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1942, during World War II, U.S. 8th Air Force bombers attacked German forces in Rouen, France. U.S. Marines raided a Japanese seaplane base on Makin Island. In 1964, Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa was sentenced in Chicago to five years in federal prison for defrauding his union's pension fund. (Hoffa was released in 1971 after President Richard Nixon commuted his sentence for this conviction and jury tampering.)

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1983, lyricist Ira Gershwin died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 86.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide.

In 1988, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel (RAY'-fehl) were killed in a mysterious plane crash.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton gave grand jury testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House concerning his relationship with Monica Lewinsky; he then delivered a TV address in which he denied previously committing perjury, admitted his relationship with Lewinsky was "wrong," and criticized Kenneth Starr's investigation.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

In 2017, a van plowed through pedestrians along a packed promenade in the Spanish city of Barcelona, killing 13 people and injuring 120. (A 14th victim died later from injuries.) Another man was stabbed to death in a carjacking that night as the van driver made his getaway, and a woman died early the next day in a vehicle-and-knife attack in a nearby coastal town. (Six suspects in the attack were shot dead by police, two more died when a bomb workshop exploded.)

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Beijing to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

Five years ago: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced a shake-up of his campaign leadership, naming Steve Bannon of the conservative Breitbart News website as chief executive officer and promoting pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager. Caster Semenya of South Africa made her debut at the Rio Olympics amid questions about how track and field can deal with hyperandrogenic women; Semenya qualified for the 800 semifinals, an event she won three days later. Movie director Arthur Hiller ("Love Story") died in Los Angeles at age 92.

One year ago: As Democrats opened their virtual national convention, Michelle Obama delivered a passionate condemnation of President Donald Trump, saying he was "clearly in over his head." Texas joined New York, New Jersey and California as states with at least 10,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths; about 80 percent of the Texas deaths were reported since June 1, after the state embarked on one of the fastest reopenings in the country. The University of North Carolina said it was switching all undergraduate classes to remote learning after the coronavirus spread in the first week since classes began. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Adern delayed the country's elections by four weeks because of a coronavirus outbreak in Auckland.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 95. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 80. Actor Robert DeNiro is 78. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 75. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 74. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 72. Actor Robert Joy is 70. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 69. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 68. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 66. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 66. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 64. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 63. Author Jonathan Franzen is 62. Actor Sean Penn is 61. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 60. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 59. Singer Maria McKee is 57. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 56. Rock musician Jill Cuniff (kuh-NIHF') is 55. Actor David Conrad is 54. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 52. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 52. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 51. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 50. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 47. Actor Bryton James is 35. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 33. Actor Austin Butler is 30. Actor Taissa Farmiga is 27. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 26.

## 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.**

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"