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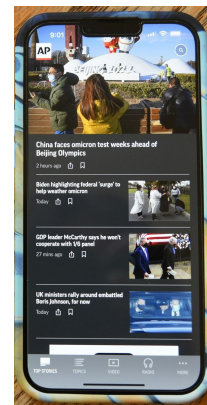
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Connecting

Sept. 12, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Sept. 12, 2023,

Memories related to the 9/11 terrorist attacks lead today's Connecting.

We begin with an account by our colleague **Brad Kalbfeld** of the great teamwork of AP's Broadcast News Center in covering the attacks. Many of our current Connecting colleagues played key roles in the coverage.

In the aftermath of the war that followed in Iraq, one of our colleagues, **Tricia English**, relates an honor bestowed on her husband, **Capt. Shawn English** - killed in action in Iraq in 2006 - by his alma mater, Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Here's to a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest.

Paul

Working in unity, AP's Broadcast News Center brought the world 9/11 in video, audio, graphics and wire copy

Brad Kalbfeld – *deputy director, managing editor of AP Broadcast from 1987 to 2008* - The Broadcast News Center covered 9/11 in video, audio, graphics, and wire copy. We provided live video positions overlooking Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and the White House for clients from around the world. Our coverage appeared on what was then known as the Global Video Wire; the Broadcast and Washington Metro wires; on All News Radio, AP Network News, and our online audio soundbite services, SoundBank and Prime Cuts; and on our television graphics service, GraphicsBank.



Within minutes of the story breaking, International Television Manager Denise Vance dispatched two camera crews in New York. We also deployed two crews from Washington and one from Miami. Our unilateral video from New York included smoke pouring out of the towers, debris on the ground and people covered in soot, plus soundbites with witnesses and victims.

Just minutes after the second plane hit the towers, Assistant Managing Editor Wally Hinde made the critical decision to break format on All News Radio – an extremely important decision under intense time pressure. He supervised our on-air programming. The BNC news anchors did an incredible job of keeping listeners (on the air and on the web) informed of fast-breaking developments. Their work in the first 53 hours of the crisis – virtually all unscripted, relaying information as it came into the newsroom, often guiding the audience through live events as they developed on the air – won RTNDA's 2002 Edward R. Murrow Award for spot news coverage.

Assistant Managing Editor Ed Tobias was the glue that held the newsroom's audio and wire coverage together, coordinating the movement of reporters and providing hands-on direction of the supervisors.

Assistant Managing Editor Barbara Worth came in from vacation and assumed direction of the national and Washington Metro wires. World Editor Mike Hammer came in from vacation – on his own – to take the chief editing position of the national Broadcast wire. World Editor Pat Fergus, on vacation in North Carolina, jumped into her car and drove back to Washington to help cover the story.

From the time the story broke until the second tower collapsed, a period of about an hour and 50 minutes, we moved 16 NewsAlerts, 11 bulletins, two urgents, six tops

and six separates.

AP GraphicsBank, under the direction of assistant managing editor Becky Krimstein, produced more than 40 images on the story -- graphics, maps, photos, and frame grabs from video -- on Sept. 11 alone.

The traffic for our web-delivered services (company-wide) was so intense that members couldn't reliably find or download material. It took a couple of hours to fix the external access issue, but we still had difficulty adding content from inside the AP network -- so we deployed staffers from home to access and update the content.

AP Radio reporter Dave Winslow watched from his apartment as the airplane crashed into the Pentagon. He immediately went live on the radio network and we sent quotes to the Washington desk for the wire. Based on Winslow's eyewitness report, we broke the fact that it was an airplane that hit the Pentagon.

Eugenio Hernandez, an APTN staffer, was on his way to work, driving on the highway adjacent to the Pentagon, when he spotted the attack. He pulled off the road, ran toward the building, and immediately approached a couple of tourists and asked if he could borrow their digital video camera. He caught immediate reaction and fire billowing from the Pentagon.

Thelma LeBrecht was the only reporter in the triage area outside the Pentagon for the first several hours following the attack. That got us interviews with the people treating the victims and an up-close view of the damage.

Broadcast's New York regional reporter, Warren Levinson, was at the BNC for video training when the planes went into the WTC. He rented a car and drove to New York, where he got a change of clothes and went straight to Ground Zero. He was soon joined by our Miami regional reporter, Tony Winton, who had also been in D.C. for video training. Winton later got former president Bill Clinton on camera, confirming he had authorized the killing of Osama bin Laden in 1998.

Broadcast White House correspondent Mark Smith was with President Bush in Florida when the planes struck. Mark wasn't the radio pool reporter for the return trip to Washington, so while the president flew to various air bases across the country, he was able to do live reporting from Longboat Key, Fla. He, along with other network and agency reporters, ended up taking a 19-hour bus ride back to Washington. He was back in time to cover Bush's visit to Ground Zero later in the week.

Our Broadcast Services operation (known today as Global Media Services) leveraged our newsgathering infrastructure to serve video clients from around the world. Its revenues helped offset the cost of live video coverage of the story. Serving clients on 9/11 was an extraordinarily complex operation: There was an overwhelming demand for services, there could be no conflicts in satellite windows, every service had to have an itemized record of what was done and when (so we could send an invoice), and it all had to run on time. Most important, it had to be coordinated with our news desks in Washington and London so they had transmission and editing facilities when they needed them.

We had satellite trucks strategically placed around New York Harbor and did a total of about 50 live shots per day from positions overlooking Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and the White House, as well as the New York APTN bureau and the BNC newsroom. The amazing team that handled this, under Denise's direction, included Broadcast Services Production Manager Chris Cowman, who supervised operation of the New York uplink trucks; Commercial Productions Production Manager June Appell and New York Bureau Manager Roger Raiford, who supervised all of the work done from the New York bureau; and Broadcast Services Production Coordinator Gail Connor, who carried the main burden of scheduling the Pentagon truck, the live-shot position on the Chamber of Commerce building overlooking the White House, and the BNC live shots.

It was an incredibly complex operation and perhaps the best part was that everyone shared with everyone else. If we saw something on a video monitor in master control we made sure radio and the wires knew about it. Live radio reports were relayed to the wires and the television producers. Tips from Metro reporters were relayed to the national desks. Information from the A-wire and Broadcast wire was shared with every desk. Video shot by a radio reporter made it to the international video clients.

As shocking and frightening as the events of 9/11 were, I ended it, as I drove home long after dark, with a sense of pride that the entire Broadcast team, producing written, spoken, and visual reports, had worked in unity to cover the historic day for our members and clients around the world.

Memories from 9/11

[Joe Galu](#) - 9/11 produced feelings of horror, paralysis and frustration. As a newsman, I wanted to know more. I still want to know much more about the plane that hit the Pentagon. Too bad their passion for secrecy got in the way of letting Americans and the world see what happened. There are still many stories yet to be written about the takeover of the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania -- like the way they VOTED before deciding to attack the terrorists.

I could go on for pages, but how did four sold-out flights take off with handfuls of passengers and mostly empty seats without setting off alarms? Shouldn't the first nearly empty plane have set off some kind of alert? Maybe buying all the available seats with gym bags full of cash should have alerted somebody to something odd.

The number of failures within the airline industry was astounding and tragic.

I still feel rage at the thought.

-0-

[Michael Weinfeld](#) - My wife, Tia Mayer, turned correspondent on 9/11.

I was working at AP Broadcast in Washington, DC that morning. As Entertainment Editor, I was watching the "Today" show while planning my day when I saw the first

plane hit. Like most, I thought it was a terrible accident. When the second plane hit, I knew that was no accident. I was recruited to help the news desk.

Tia's mother was in town for a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. They were the last one's allowed past the gate that morning before the cemetery went on lockdown.

I knew Arlington overlooked the Pentagon, so when the third plane crashed, I asked Tia to find a spot and tell us what she saw. She climbed a hill and could see everything that was happening. She did live shots for AP Radio while her descriptions were transcribed for the Broadcast Wire.



Meanwhile, our daughter was in Fort Collins, attending Colorado State University. She was frantic and called me to make sure we were all right. While I was able to reassure her somewhat, she called back when there were reports that another plane was heading for either the Capitol or the White House. She knew the BNC was only blocks away. Luckily, those reports turned out to be false, as the passengers on that plane revolted and caused it to crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

An outdoor space of community and respite – to honor a fallen hero



Tricia English (5th from left) with those in the ROTC program at Wright State with her husband Shawn from 1997-1999.

Tricia English - The Captain Shawn English Champion Garden at Wright State University.

An outdoor space of community and respite. Built in the spirit of connection and championing, for ourselves and each other.

The people who imagined this space and turned that idea into this... a special breed of human beings.

Shawn entered this school with little confidence about his academic abilities. He graduated from this school with the competence that he could do anything he set his mind to. He went on to earn a master's degree and complete one of the military's most challenging programs to become a Dive Officer.

He had those who championed for him, and he became a champion for others.

Shawn, I hope you felt the magic moving through the day. Nearly 17 years later and your impact still ripples.

Thank you to all who created this space and those that shared in this special day. Grateful.

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Shawn L. English Obituary

Shawn L. English returned home for a short leave last month and visited his son Nathan's elementary school class. "He stressed to them how fortunate we are to be living in America, with the freedoms we have," said his brother-in-law Todd Daily. He also told them how much simple things, such as soccer balls, meant to Iraqi kids. The class pledged to collect as many as they could and send them to him when he got back to Iraq. English, 35, of Westerville, Ohio, was killed Dec. 3 (2006) by a roadside bomb in Baghdad. He graduated Wright State University in 1999 and was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood. Capt. Nathan Surrey considered English his best friend, someone he instantly bonded with when they met for Army management training in Missouri. "We just clicked," Surrey said. "We were fanatical Ohio State fans, we loved sports, just our ideas on life. Our personalities were the same." He served in an armored cavalry unit during the first Gulf War, later joined a Ranger battalion and became an Army deep-sea diver in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Tricia, and two other sons, Noah, 5, and Austin, 3. (**UPDATE NOTE:** Tricia reports that two sons are now working, Nathan in Tampa and Noah in Nashville, and Austin is a 3rd (sophomore) at VMI.)

Homage to a great image

U.S. Government Makes Official Visit to Vietnam After 50 Years



Neal Ulevich - Jeff Danziger's cartoon dated 9/11 pays well deserved homage to Hugh Van Es' memorable image of the 1975 Saigon evacuation. (President Biden completed a two-day trip to Vietnam on Monday.)

Associated Press warns that AP Stylebook data breach led to phishing attack

By Lawrence Abrams
(BleepingComputer)

The Associated Press is warning of a data breach impacting AP Stylebook customers where the attackers used the stolen data to conduct targeted phishing attacks.

The AP Stylebook is a commonly used guide on grammar, punctuation, and writing style for journalists, magazines, and newsrooms worldwide.

This week, the Associated Press warns that an old third-party-managed AP Stylebook site that was no longer in use was hacked between July 16 and July 22, 2023, allowing the data for 224 customers to be stolen.

The stolen information includes a customer's name, email address, street address, city, state, zip code, phone number, and User ID. For customers who entered tax-exempt IDs, such as a Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number, those IDs were stolen as well.

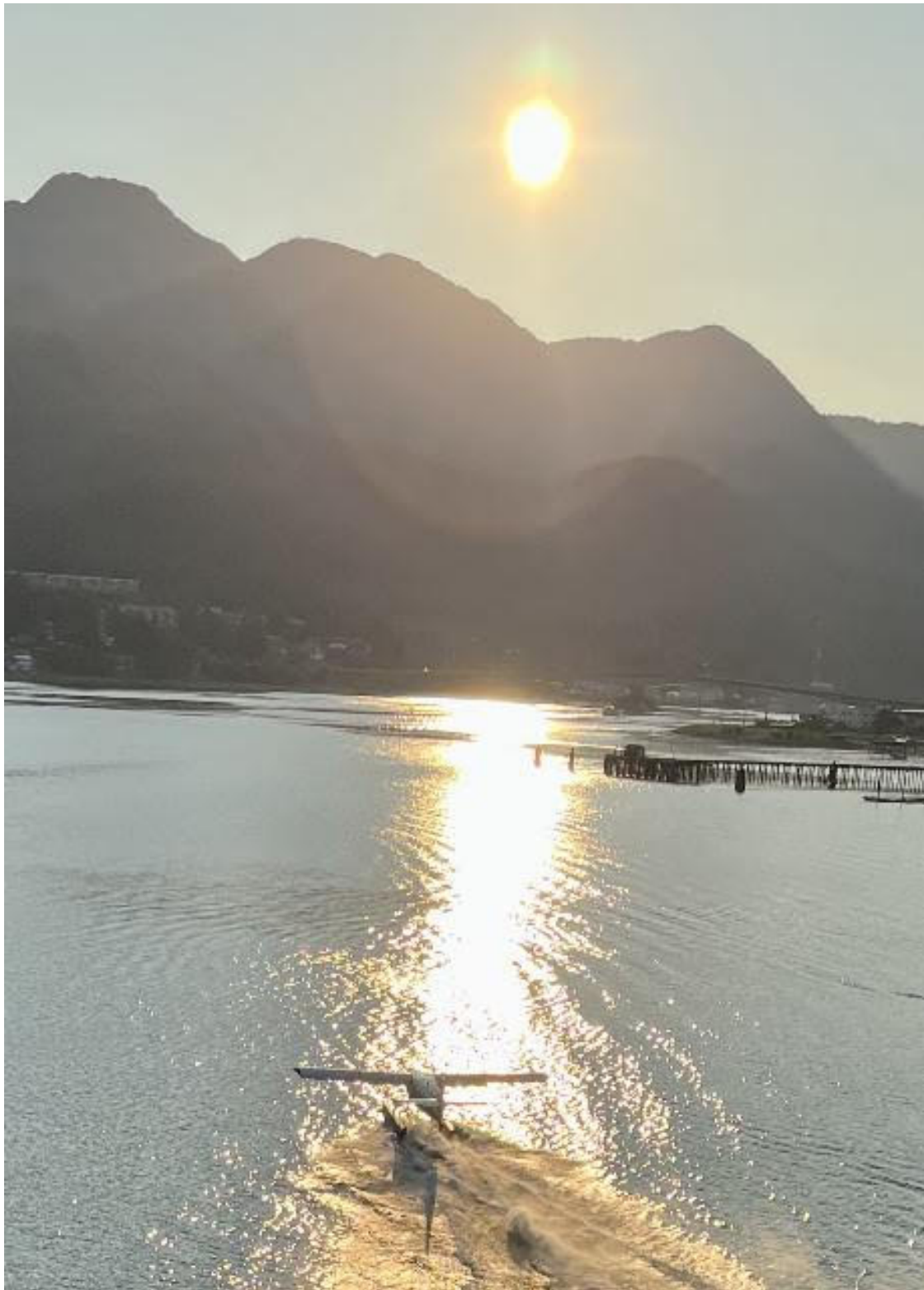
The AP says they first learned of the possible data breach on July 20, 2023, after AP Stylebook customers reported receiving phishing emails stating they needed to update their credit card information.

After learning of the phishing attack, the AP took the old site and phishing offline to prevent further attacks.

At the end of July, the company began alerting AP Stylebook customers of the phishing attacks, warning that the emails came from 'support@getscore.my[.]id' with a subject similar to "Regarding AP Stylebook Order no. 07/20/2023 06:48:20 am."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

Connecting sky shots

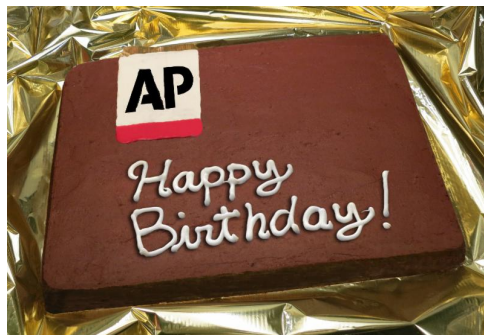


Norm Clarke - A pontoon plane taking off on a sun-splashed runway at dusk during our Alaskan cruise in August.



[Hank Ackerman](#) - Fog drifts down the French Broad River in front of cloud-topped Mt. Pisgah in this view southwest from The Inn at Biltmore Estate, the 8,000 acre estate of the George Vanderbilt family outside Asheville, NC.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Dale Leach](#)

[Bill Vogrin](#)

Stories of interest

'IT'S FUN TO BE ALIVE' 13 Older Photographers Show Us Their Work — and Themselves (New York Times)

For some, aging equals invisibility. For others, freedom. We asked 13 renowned photographers to show us the people, places and times that make them feel seen. They turned the camera on themselves, their loved ones, a pet rabbit. It's a different lens on growing old.

"Almost all of my close friends are artists. It's an easier community to navigate. No dress code, not much pressure to be beautiful at any cost. Here it is honorable to age and survive without fear.

We shall be seen for our work — art and otherwise. One's best baked pie or perhaps prized breed of rabbit."

PEGGY LEVISON NOLAN, 79

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Opinion I don't write about polls. You shouldn't bother with them, either. (Washington Post)

By Jennifer Rubin

You might have noticed that I studiously have avoided dissecting the avalanche of 2024 polls. I don't plan on deviating from this approach — at least not until mid-2024. And you should consider ignoring the nonstop flood of polling and the rickety analysis dependent on it. Here are five reasons we should all go on a poll-free political diet for at least six months:

First, the polling field is broken. Or, if you listen to pollsters' complaints, it is consistently misapplied and misinterpreted. Polls didn't come within shouting distance of the right result in either 2016 or 2020. And they misled voters about the fictitious red wave in 2022. Whatever the reasons — call blocking, excessive hang-ups, incorrect modeling of likely voters — even polls taken much closer to elections have consistently turned out to be far off base. The fixation on low-cost, horse-race coverage might satisfy the political media's desire to project insider expertise or to appear neutral (hey, it's the voters who say these things!), but there is no excuse to recycle highly suspect information from sources known to be flawed.

Second, voters tell us utterly contradictory things. Around 60 percent tell pollsters that four-time-indicted former president Donald Trump should drop out. But then nearly half say they'll vote for him. Which is it? There is a hefty amount of research that what voters say they want doesn't align with how they vote. Whether it is gas prices or the war in Ukraine or the candidates themselves, respondents often give contradictory answers, suggesting they either don't understand the question, don't really know what they think or respond based on tribal loyalty.

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

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Photographer Who Was Hit at Football Game Dies After Life Support is Turned Off (PetaPixel)

By MATT GROWCOOT

High school football photographer Linda Gregory has died after an accident during a game she was covering caused her to hit her head.

Her husband Mel confirmed the sad news after it had been reported that Linda was on life support with “little hope left” after the incident in Kansas on Monday night.

Further details of what happened have come to light during the junior varsity game between Wichita Northwest High School and Bishop Carroll High School.

Two players were engaged in a block that carried on out of bounds where they collided with Linda. The photographer had her camera trained somewhere else on the field and noticed the players coming toward her very late. After she fell backward and hit her head on the concrete apron, the players immediately stopped to help her as the medics were called over within seconds.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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A journalist's very personal project helps guide family members who've lost loved ones to violence (Poynter)

By: Omar Gallaga

In May, Justin Baxley was one of several dozen presenters at a closing summit for the Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellowship. Like the others, he'd worked on an innovation project, something meant to improve a journalist's newsroom, community or simply create great content that could move the needle on readership or viewership.

When Baxley presented his innovation project, titled More Than A Number, it became clear that the project was very, very personal. The project aimed to make it easier and more humane for families of homicide victims to engage with local media. Some in the room who didn't know the project's origin were stunned when they found out Baxley's motivation: In 2017, his father Michael Baxley was murdered in his home. The last slide of the presentation included a photo of Michael Baxley holding his young son, Justin, in his arms.

Many tears were shed in the room, but that wasn't the reason More Than A Number tied for a first-place prize as a top project for the fellowship. The project sought to change the way local newsrooms engage with the families of crime victims; when it

happened to him, Justin Baxley said he didn't speak to reporters; he ignored repeated requests for comment. He couldn't handle it and wasn't ready to tell his father's story.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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Arizona's newspaper and broadcast associations merge into Arizona Media Association. (Editor and Publisher)

Episode 204 of "E&P Reports" - A Vodcast series hosted by Mike Blinder

Lisa Simpson, the former executive director of Arizona Newspapers Association, and Chris Kline, the former president/ CEO of Arizona Broadcasters Association, have known each other for years since they both lobby on issues that affect their association's members similarly. The major difference between the two is Lisa's members are from newspapers, and Chris' are broadcasters.

But in a world where more and more media content is being shared and consumed on the same devices by the same audiences, to some, it seems archaic and a bit outdated to define a news media company primarily by its legacy platform of delivery (such as a press or transmitter). Moreover, most agree that a broadcaster and a legacy news company compete less with each other for ad dollars, where both lose the lion's share of local media revenue to big tech companies like Google and Meta/ Facebook.

Add to that how corporate media empires have grouped more and more local outlets under common ownership, depleting association membership numbers. It seemed only logical to these two state media leaders that merging resources would be a logical way to strengthen the support provided to both association memberships.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

Today in History - Sept. 12, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2023. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 2013, Voyager 1, launched 36 years earlier, became the first man-made spacecraft ever to leave the solar system.

On this date:

In 1913, Olympic legend Jesse Owens was born in Oakville, Alabama.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Cooper v. Aaron*, unanimously ruled that Arkansas officials who were resisting public school desegregation orders could not disregard the high court's rulings.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its Luna 2 space probe, which made a crash landing on the moon. The TV Western series "Bonanza" premiered on NBC.

In 1962, in a speech at Rice University in Houston, President John F. Kennedy reaffirmed his support for the manned space program, declaring: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

In 1977, South African Black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko, 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1995, the Belarusian military shot down a hydrogen balloon during an international race, killing its two American pilots, John Stuart-Jervis and Alan Fraenckel.

In 2001, stunned rescue workers continued to search for bodies in the World Trade Center's smoking rubble a day after a terrorist attack that shut down the financial capital, badly damaged the Pentagon and left thousands dead. President George W. Bush, branding the attacks in New York and Washington "acts of war," spoke of "a monumental struggle of good versus evil" and said that "good will prevail."

In 2003, in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, U.S. forces mistakenly opened fire on vehicles carrying police, killing eight of them.

In 2005, Federal Emergency Management Agency director Mike Brown resigned, three days after losing his onsite command of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

In 2008, a Metrolink commuter train struck a freight train head-on in Los Angeles, killing 25 people.

In 2011, Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal to win his first U.S. Open championship.

In 2021, Max Scherzer of the Los Angeles Dodgers became the 19th pitcher in major league history with 3,000 career strikeouts.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Linda Gray is 83. Singer Maria Muldaur is 81. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 72. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 71. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 71. Former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 67. Actor Rachel Ward is 66. Actor Amy Yasbeck is 61. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 57. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 57. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 56. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 55. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 54. Actor-singer Will Chase is 53. Actor Josh Hopkins is 53. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 49. Actor Lauren Stamile (stuh-MEE'-lay) is 47. Rapper 2 Chainz is 46. Actor Kelly Jenrette is 45. Actor Ben McKenzie is 45. Singer Ruben Studdard is 45. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 43. Singer-actor Jennifer Hudson is 42. Actor Alfie Allen is 37. Actor Emmy Rossum is 37. Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman is 34. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 30. Actor Colin Ford is 27.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. Past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Central Region vice president based in Kansas City.

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!

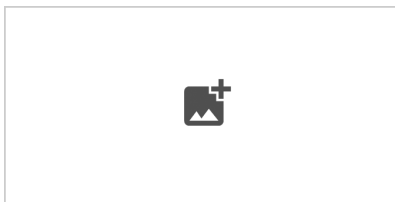
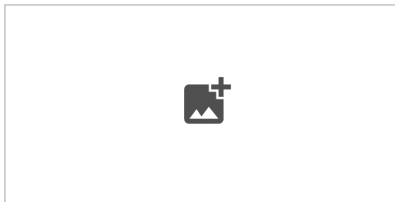
Here are some suggestions:

- **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.



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

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