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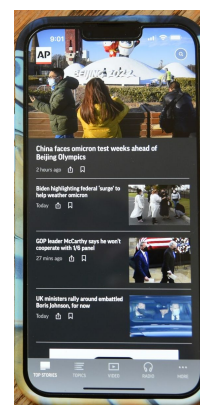
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# Connecting

Sept. 13, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Sept. 13, 2023,

We lead today's Connecting with a story from colleague **Frank Hawkins** that follows up on a series in the newsletter by **Peter Arnett** last week on the 50-year anniversary of the release of American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam.

More memories of 9/11 are shared in this issue – including a remembrance from **Mark Mittelstadt** of one of the best-known photographers in The Associated Press – the late **Marty Lederhandler**.

In Monday's issue, we provided a link to the Esquire Magazine story on The Falling Man, based on photos from 9/11 taken by AP photographer **Richard Drew**. A couple years ago, Esquire published an article – "It Became Spiritual: The Making of Esquire's 'The Falling Man.'" Click [here](#) to read. (Shared by Linda Deutsch)

Congratulations to **Oskar Garcia**, who with Sarah Goldstein and Sergio Gonzalez were named editorial directors of The Athletic, overseeing its daily North America news report. Oskar was deputy sports editor of The New York Times for the past four years,

after a 13-year career with the AP that included duties as deputy sports editor, storytelling and presentation, and assistant sports editor, East Region. He joined the AP in Los Angeles in 2006 as a reporting intern.

My Spotlight column in early September focused on a longtime friend, **Daryl Beall**, who is also a Connecting colleague – and his battle to return his life to normal after two unexplained falls – one of which nearly cost him his life. You can read the story [here](#).

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest.

Paul

## POW arrival from Hanoi in 1973 - a highly emotional, high adrenalin moment



Clark Air Base, Philippines: A happy American POW, Capt. Roland D. Kramer, Tulsa, Okla., waves sign saying 'God Bless America and Nixon' after boarding bus to hospital following his arrival here Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> (1973). Kramer was captured Jan. 19th, 1967. Photo/United Press International

**Frank Hawkins** - Peter Arnett's article last week brought back my own memories. Here is an excerpt from my memoir "Risks, Gateway Moments and Unrivaled Travel" about the event.

Peter Arnett was part of the team assembled at Clark Air Force Base outside of Manila to receive the first POWs released by Hanoi at the end of the Vietnam War. I was COB in Manila in charge of preparing for AP coverage of the event. Here's an excerpt from my memoir "*Risks, Gateway Moments and Unrivaled Travel*" about the event.

. . . . In Paris, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had negotiated a truce with the North Vietnamese. Under the terms of the agreement, American POWs held by the Communists would be released. The first group was to be picked up by American hospital planes in Hanoi and flown directly to Clark Air Force Base for initial medical treatments and debriefings before heading home to the States. The world media descended on Clark including Peter Jennings of ABC, John Palmer of NBC and our own Peter Arnett, the brash New Zealander who had won a Pulitzer Prize for the AP in Vietnam. It was estimated 160 newsmen and photographers backed by 180 technicians were on hand at the press camp in a converted clubhouse. There was a lot of organization and about two weeks of waiting for the release.

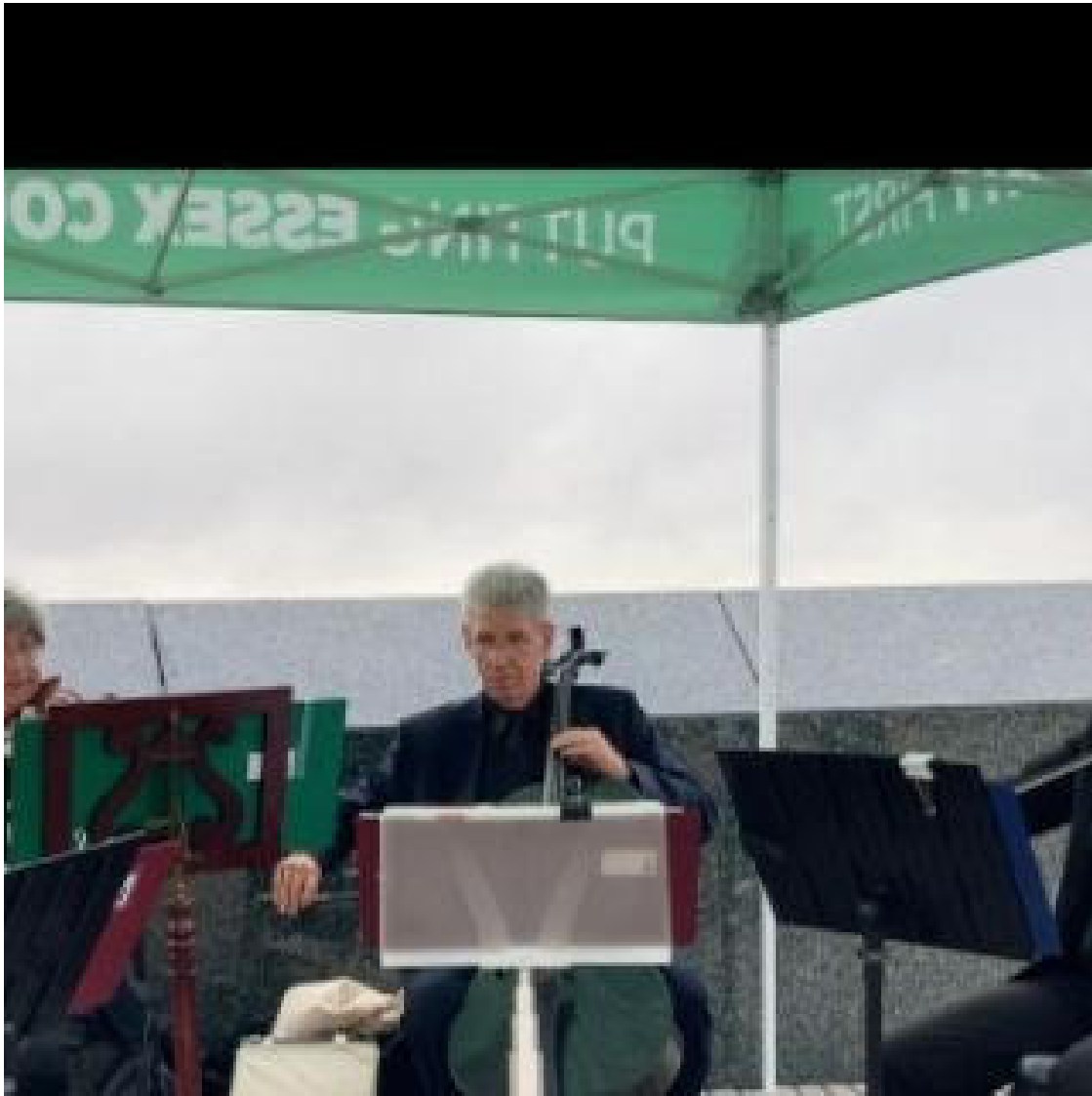
The POW arrival from Hanoi February 12, 1973, was a highly emotional, high adrenalin moment. I stood beside a Marine Corps general watching as the badly damaged men limped off the planes. Tears flowed down his face. The POWs had suffered badly at the hands of the Communist North Vietnamese with murder; beatings; broken bones, teeth and eardrums; dislocated limbs; starvation and serving of food contaminated with human and animal feces being among the hardships they faced.

I obtained the first full interview with one of the POWs, Capt. Garland D. Kramer, an F-4 pilot. He had been shot down over North Vietnam on July 12, 1966, and had spent 2,117 days in captivity. He shocked but delighted American officials at Hanoi and Clark when he pulled a handkerchief with blue lettering out of his pocket and waved it toward the cameras. "*God bless America and Nixon.*" The American officers who had flown to Hanoi to pick up the prisoners were worried that North Vietnamese officials might pull Kramer out of the lineup of 115 POWs and refuse to release him when they saw his sign. "*It was an expression of my feelings and I wanted them (the North Vietnamese) to know about it,*" Kramer told me.

On a day of joy for Kramer, he was hit with hard news. While he was in captivity his wife divorced him. I asked him about it. "*I've got a problem but will work it out with God's help,*" he said. He may have gotten the last laugh. When President Nixon invited the POWs to a lavish dinner at the White House three months later, Kramer showed up with Playboy magazine model Miki Garcia. He was eventually awarded a Silver Star for his bravery during captivity where he was imprisoned and tortured. It's worth noting the POWs were largely convinced they had been freed only because Nixon had turned up the pressure on the north with a heavy bombing campaign on Hanoi (codenamed Linebacker II), something that previously had been avoided during the war. Nixon called it the most difficult decision of his presidency. But he was convinced that if he did not pressure the North Vietnamese to agree to truce terms, the Democrats would have forced the country to accept defeat. I wrote that one prisoner

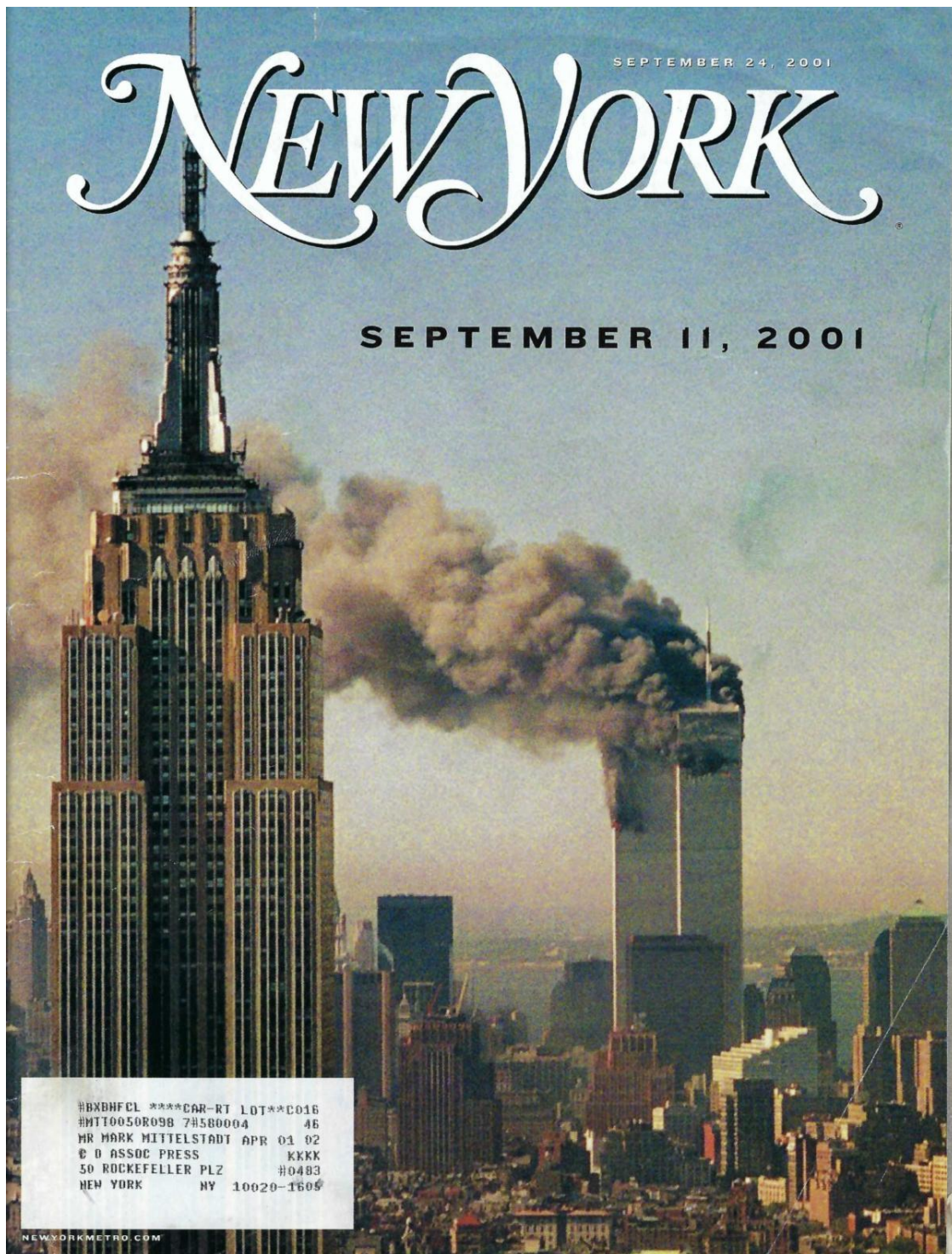
called the bombing *"The greatest show on earth. It was worth waiting a few extra years in prison because I didn't want to go home a loser."*

## Remembering 9/11 in string quartet



**Marty Steinberg** - Twenty-two years later, I played in a string quartet at the annual Essex County, New Jersey, 9/11 memorial service. The memorial site is on a hill with a view of Ground Zero about 15 miles away. I've been playing at this service for about eight years. This year's speakers included Reps. Mikey Sherrill, Donald Payne and Sen. Bob Menéndez. Click [here](#) for video.

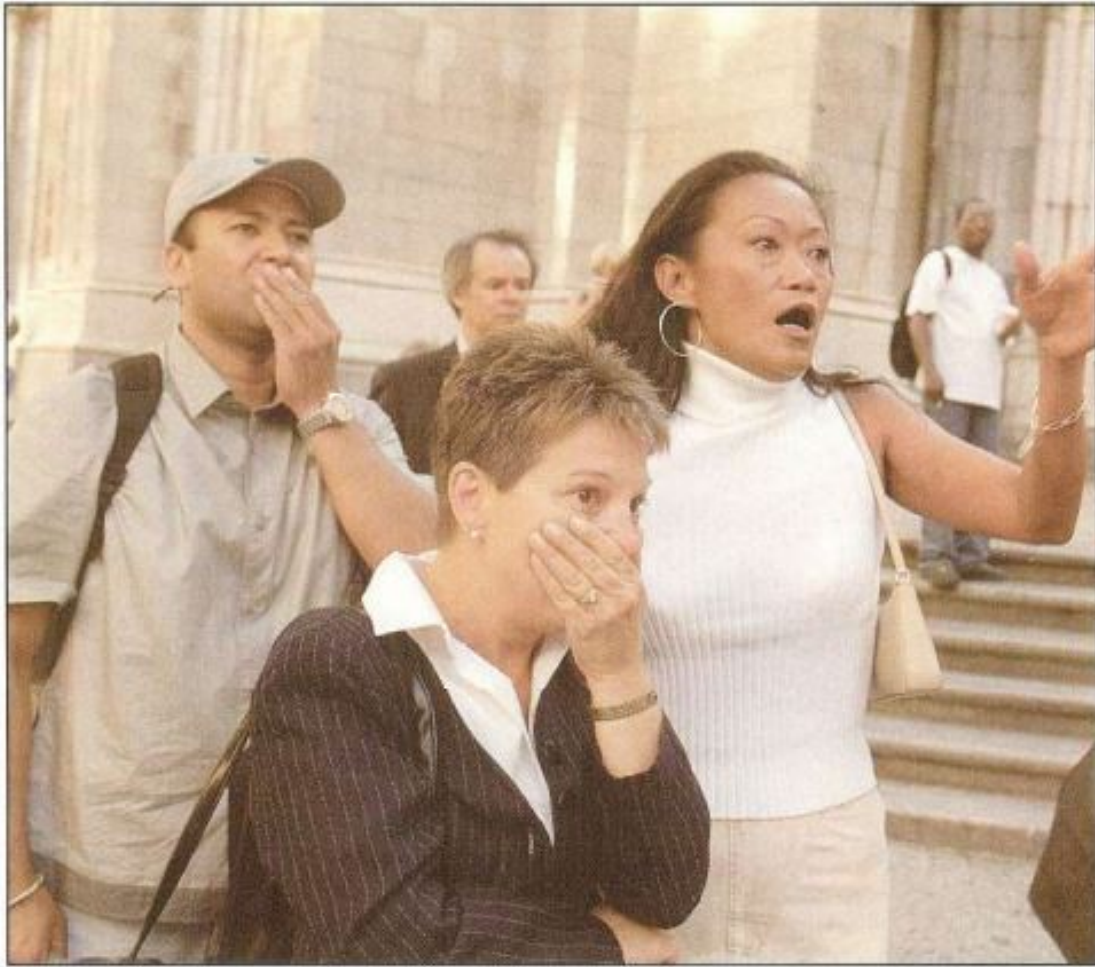
## Marty Lederhandler and Sept. 11



**Mark Mittelstadt** - It was endearing to open Monday's Connecting and see Marty Lederhandler's sweeping view of the Manhattan skyline with the Empire State Building in the foreground and the burning World Trade Center towers in the distance.

Virtually all of Associated Press jumped into action moments after the first jetliner slammed into the WTC's North Tower. As detailed in the company publication AP World and the Associated Press Managing Editors' quarterly magazine APME News, and Brad Kalbfeld's account Tuesday on work of the Broadcast News Center, there were many outstanding examples of individual work and bravery, particularly as the towers collapsed. One that always stood out to me was Marty's work to get two of the most widely used images from that terrible morning.

Marty was in his early 80s and walked with a limp. In his 65th year with the company in 2001, he had the experience and innate ability to get where he needed to be to get the shot.



AP PHOTO/MARTY LEDERHANDLER

Dispatched to get crowd reaction, Marty walked a block to St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he snapped photos of stunned onlookers looking down Fifth Avenue to the horrific scene unfolding nearly seven miles away. He then headed back to the office but entered 30 Rockefeller Plaza across the street and went to the Rainbow Room. From private event space on the 65th floor he took the widely used image of smoke billowing from the WTC towers and the untouched Empire State Building in the foreground.

The symbolism of that photo could not be lost on New Yorkers. The first building in the world to contain more than 100 floors, the Empire State Building -- completed during the Great Depression in 1931 -- was the tallest building until the World Trade Center was completed in 1972. Contrary to Donald Trump's claim, it again became New York City's tallest building when the WTC towers were destroyed. It remained so until 2012 when One World Trade Center was completed.

Marty's photo was widely used, not only in spot news coverage Sept. 11 but in days and weeks later. It was the cover of the Sept. 24, 2001, New York magazine.

# Life in Beijing returning to normal



**Patrick Casey** - Daily life has largely returned to normal in Beijing now that strict measures to control the coronavirus pandemic here ended in late December. People are back at work in their offices and are flooding the city's restaurants, theaters, concert halls, sporting events and shopping malls as well. They're also traveling again.

My wife, Zhang Wanli, recently returned from an eight-day photo workshop about 4,700 meters up in the mountains near Lanzhou in northwest China. You can see some of her shots here at [our web site](#) Wanli's trip marked the first time either one of us had left our neighborhood since December 2019 because of the pandemic. I'm going to take a fast train next month to Chongqing, a sprawling city of 31 million people in southwest China, to do some black-and-white street photography.

Meanwhile, Photo and Video, a Beijing photography magazine, included an interview and some of my shots in its latest edition. Wanli says it's a nice story. I don't know. It was written in Chinese and has me working for CNN instead of the AP.

## Raging on aging

[Norm Abelson](#) – I'm getting pretty damn tired of all this stuff about age.

Joe Biden, known for his foreign policy chops, circling the globe while doing as pretty fair job of handling the myriad of national problems, Being selected by the voters, time and again, most recently as president. Giving a lifetime to the public service. Sorry, too old.

Nancy Pelosi, arguably one of the greatest House Speakers in history, still full of passion and love of country, decides to run again. Sorry, too old.

And so it goes, on and on, filling op ed columns churned out by elitist know-it-alls, and also the spinning out of endless polls, that so often are so wrong. Hey, I've got news for you: Only one Entity knows who will last how long, and in what condition - and He ain't telling.

Not that I haven't got signs. I walk a bit slower, after pushing myself up out of the easy chair with an audible "Oy!" The items on my menu seem to get softer and less tasty. My pill bottles fill a good portion of the shelf. Short-term memory loss shows up from time to time.

It could be said that maybe I'm too ancient to have the audacity to write for Connecting. After all, I'm a good bit older than Joe, Nancy, Ye Olde Editor and most of you reading this. But I've made my decision based on my early years' relationship with Isaac Peekel. He was my great grandfather who lived to 87, and even to the end taught me, befriended me, loved me and instilled in me values that animate my life to this day.

So I'm going to vote for Joe, cheer for Nancy, pass along Grandpa Peekel's wisdom to my grandkids, and continue to do what I do for as long as I can. And don't tell me I'm too old for that.

## Sentimental journey - remembering college days and that first job

[Paul Bowker](#) - I made my trip to Kansas City over Labor Day Weekend, where KC Star retiree Steve Paul just happened to be at the same Royals game I attended. And once that was over, I made the short trip to Lawrence, Kansas, a day later and had lunch with one of former KU profs, Mike Kautsch, the former dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism. Mike biked 2 or 3 miles to see me. Wow. I felt guilty climbing back into my Honda Civic. This was my first trip to KU since 1982.



A trip to KC always touches the heart. Remember your college days and your first job. It hits pretty hard. Wanting to be an adventurous sports editor, after I left the Star in the mid-1980s for The Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., another Cap Cities paper at the time, I wound up in terrific newspaper places such as The News Journal in Wilmington, Delaware; The Herald in Rock Hill, South Carolina; Times-Union in Jacksonville, Florida; The Gazette in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Kalamazoo Gazette in Michigan; and another Wilmington stop, at the Star-News in North Carolina. Of those, two newspaper buildings might still exist. Yikes.

Such a different world these days, working remotely out of my home for Team USA/Red Line Editorial and the weekly Kalona (Iowa) News.

## Patrick Mahomes learns value of a comma

[From the Huffington Post:](#)

By Ron Dicker

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes on Monday wrote that he hated Aaron Rodgers after the brand-new New York Jets quarterback went down with a suspected Achilles injury.

But it was a forgotten comma, not a distorted sense of rivalry, that made Mahomes do it.

"Hate that man," Mahomes tweeted on X, the former Twitter. "Praying for the best."

Of course, Mahomes was one stroke of punctuation away from his true sentiments and he fixed the sentence to "Hate that, man."

"Knew I was going to need that edit button on here one of these days," Mahomes tweeted when realizing his mistake.

## Migration stop



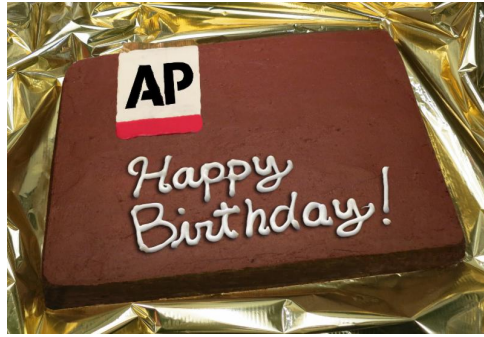
**James Carlson** - A dragonfly rested for a while early this morning on Friday before continuing on its southward migration. When we got back from a walk, it was gone on its way.

## Majesty of Niagara Falls by day, night



Photos shared by [Joyce Rosenberg](#)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[David Beard](#)

[C.J. Jackson](#)

[Carol Riha](#)

## Stories of interest

### *Opinion Women in journalism pass another milestone* (Washington Post)

By Andrea Mitchell

*Andrea Mitchell is NBC News's chief foreign affairs correspondent and chief Washington correspondent. She is also the anchor of "Andrea Mitchell Reports" on MSNBC.*

On Sept. 17, another milestone will be passed for women journalists. Kristen Welker is set to become the 13th moderator of "Meet the Press," the longest-running show on American television. For the first time, every Sunday public affairs program will be moderated or co-moderated by a woman as Welker joins Dana Bash, Shannon Bream, Margaret Brennan, Jen Psaki and Martha Raddatz at the helms for their respective networks.

Not that long ago, "woman journalist" was almost an oxymoron, especially in broadcast news. When I applied for my first job, at an all-news radio station in Philadelphia in 1967, I was told the newsroom was no place for women. I talked them into hiring me for the overnight shift, where I'd be less "disruptive." I was so grateful to get my foot in the door, I hardly noticed my job title: "copyboy."

By 1972, women were among the reporters covering the race for the White House. But Timothy Crouse's rousing book about the traveling political press corps was titled "The Boys on the Bus." It was simply assumed that the news business was an all-male, all-White domain. That was true even when a woman was the boss. In her 1997 memoir, "Personal History," Katharine Graham, the powerful former publisher of The

Post, recalled that the Gridiron Club (founded in 1885) and the National Press Club (founded in 1908) were among “many unenlightened, regressive sanctuaries of male supremacy” in the nation’s capital.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion | Newsroom AI guidelines ‘lack teeth,’ study finds*** (Poynter)

**By: Alex Mahadevan, Ren LaForme and Amaris Castillo**

I’ve started three recent workshops on artificial intelligence with the same question: “Who do you serve: The audience or the bottom line?”

And as newsrooms roll out guidelines for AI use, it’s troubling to see few are incorporating audience feedback or plans to enforce the rules.

That’s according to a working paper from the University of Oxford Internet Institute, in which researchers compared AI guidance at dozens of newsrooms. The research, which hasn’t been peer-reviewed, highlights weaknesses in the burgeoning editorial policies — which are strikingly similar across 12 countries.

Despite the diversity of countries and contexts, a surprising degree of uniformity exists between these guidelines — not so much in the way they are structured and formulated but in how news organizations have decided to regulate the technology and ensure that it is used ethically.

Among 52 newsrooms, researchers looked at policies at:

The BBC  
The CBC  
Der Spiegel  
Reuters  
The Associated Press

“First, while serving audiences was often mentioned, (soliciting) audience feedback on guidelines or engaging audiences on AI use was conspicuously absent — an interesting facet amidst industry discussions stressing the need for greater audience engagement,” the paper reads.

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

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## ***Pulitzer Prize Board Amending Citizenship Requirement in Books, Drama and Music*** (Pulitzer)

New York, NY (September 12, 2023) — The Pulitzer Prize Board has decided to expand eligibility for the Books, Drama and Music awards beyond the current U.S. citizenship requirement to include permanent residents of the United States and those who have made the United States their longtime primary home.

The amended criteria will go into effect beginning with the 2025 awards cycle, which opens in the spring of 2024.

When newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer established The Pulitzer Prizes in 1917, he endowed them with a distinctly American character. In his will, the Hungarian immigrant outlined his plan for annual awards for an “American novel,” an “original American play,” “the best history of the United States,” and “the best American biography.”

Over the decades, the number of awards has grown to eight categories in Books, Drama and Music, and 15 categories in Journalism. Until now, eligibility to enter the Books, Drama and Music categories was limited to U.S. citizens.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***E&P's 20 Over 50 - Our 2023 class of honorees is committed to truth, local and sustainability in our industry*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Robin Blinder | Editor & Publisher**

In each of the last two years, we have announced our “15 Over 50” salute. However, again this year, the nominees have been so deserving that we expanded the group to include “20 Over 50.” We were excited about our robust response and the stellar individuals we salute. They range in age from 51 to 75. Some have spent most of their career in news with one organization, and others have progressed through several positions across organizations.

The 20 news media professionals you’ll meet were nominated for their strong work ethic, transformational mindsets, commitment to journalistic and publishing excellence and ability to lead during challenging times. They are optimistic about the future and proud to be part of guiding the next generation forward. We know their passion for this industry will shine through their profiles.

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

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## ***Ex-NFL Media journalist sues the league, alleging long-standing institutional discrimination*** (AP)

BY JOHN WAWROW

A former NFL Media journalist is accusing the league of refusing to address what he calls long-standing institutional discrimination and said his contract was not renewed because he repeatedly voiced concerns regarding equity and racial injustice.

In making his allegations in a discrimination and retaliation lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court in New York City, Jim Trotter also cited Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and Buffalo Bills owner Terry Pegula as making racially insensitive comments. Trotter said the concerns he raised with league executives, including NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, regarding those comments and the lack of diversity among NFL Media employees fell on deaf ears.

“The NFL has claimed it wants to be held accountable regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. I tried to do so, and it cost me my job,” Trotter said in a statement released by his law firm, Wigdor. “I’m filing this lawsuit because I can’t complain about things that are wrong if I’m unwilling to fight for what is right.”

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - Sept. 13, 2023**



**By The Associated Press**

**Today is Wednesday, Sept. 13, the 256th day of 2023. There are 109 days left in the year.**

**Today’s Highlight in History:**

On Sept. 13, 1971, a four-day inmates’ rebellion at the Attica Correctional Facility in western New York ended as police and guards stormed the prison; the ordeal and final

assault claimed the lives of 32 inmates and 11 hostages.

**On this date:**

In 1788, the Congress of the Confederation authorized the first national election, and declared New York City the temporary national capital.

In 1803, Commodore John Barry, considered by many the father of the American Navy, died in Philadelphia.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British naval forces began bombarding Fort McHenry in Baltimore but were driven back by American defenders in a battle that lasted until the following morning.

In 1948, Republican Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was elected to the U.S. Senate; she became the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

In 1962, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett rejected the U.S. Supreme Court's order for the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a Black student, declaring in a televised address, "We will not drink from the cup of genocide."

In 1993, at the White House, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat shook hands after signing an accord granting limited Palestinian autonomy.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur died at a Las Vegas hospital six days after he was wounded in a drive-by shooting; he was 25.

In 1997, a funeral was held in Calcutta, India, for Nobel peace laureate Mother Teresa.

In 1998, former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace died in Montgomery at age 79.

In 2001, two days after the 9/11 terror attacks, the first few jetliners returned to the nation's skies, but several major airports remained closed and others opened only briefly. President George W. Bush visited injured Pentagon workers and said he would carry the nation's prayers to New York.

In 2008, rescue crews ventured out to pluck people from their homes in an all-out search for thousands of Texans who had stubbornly stayed behind overnight to face Hurricane Ike.

In 2010, Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic to win his first U.S. Open title and complete a career Grand Slam.

In 2021, school began for about a million New York City public school students in the nation's largest experiment of in-person learning during the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2022, Ken Starr, a former federal appellate judge and a prominent attorney whose criminal investigation of Bill Clinton led to the president's impeachment, died at age 76.



Today's Birthdays: Actor Barbara Bain is 92. Actor Eileen Fulton (TV: "As the World Turns") is 90. Rock singer David Clayton-Thomas (Blood, Sweat & Tears) is 82. Actor Jacqueline Bisset is 79. Singer Peter Cetera is 79. Actor Christine Estabrook is 73. Actor Jean Smart is 72. Singer Randy Jones (The Village People) is 71. Record producer Don Was is 71. Actor Isaiah Whitlock Jr. is 69. Actor-comedian Geri Jewell is 67. Country singer Bobbie Cryner is 62. Rock singer-musician Dave Mustaine (Megadeth) is 62. Radio-TV personality Tavis Smiley is 59. Rock musician Zak Starkey is 58. Actor/comedian Jeff Ross is 58. Actor Louis Mandylor is 57. Olympic gold medal runner Michael Johnson is 56. Rock musician Stephen Perkins is 56. Actor Roger Howarth is 55. Actor Dominic Fumusa is 54. Actor Louise Lombard is 53. Former tennis player Goran Ivanisevic (ee-van-EE'-seh-vihch) is 52. Country singer Aaron Benward (Blue County) is 50. Country musician Joe Don Rooney (Rascal Flatts) is 48. Actor Scott Vickaryous is 48. Singer Fiona Apple is 46. Actor Ben Savage is 43. Rock singer Niall Horan (One Direction) is 30. Actor Mitch Holleman is 28. Actor Lili Reinhart (TV: "Riverdale") 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!

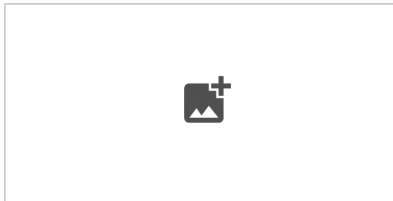
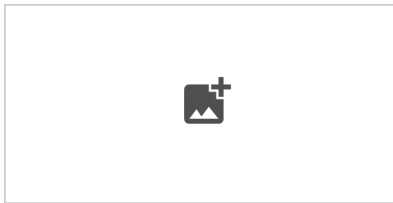
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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