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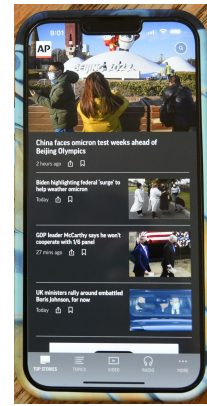
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Connecting

Sept. 27, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Sept. 27, 2023,

I had lunch recently at a favorite restaurant in Kansas City's Union Station (Pierpont's) with two people I was lucky enough to work with and mentor during my AP days in our bureau - which is directly across the street.

[Kia Breaux](#) is an AP regional director and former Kansas City chief of bureau, and [Andale Gross](#) is the new managing editor of The Kansas City Star after a fine career with AP that included news editor of AP's Race and Ethnicity team.

Both are University of Missouri journalism grads who didn't seem to mind my choice of shirts (Rock Chalk!). Maybe because they were too polite to say so. Or maybe because all three of us are native Missourians - Andale from Moberly, Kia from Kansas City, me from Excelsior Springs.

Most importantly, both of these uber-talented people give me hope for the future of journalism.

Are you reaching a significant birthday decade? Like those ending in 0? If so, play the Connecting Decades Game - where were you in life at each decade of your time on the planet. **Mark Mittelstadt** is the latest to do so...

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

Paul

A warm 'chapeau!' to Andrew Selsky

Cecilia White - With Andrew Selsky's retirement this week, I want to extend a warm "bravo" to him for his highly accomplished AP career of four decades. I had the pleasure of – all too briefly – working with Andrew in the 1980s in the AP/Los Angeles bureau. I could sense then an insatiable wanderlust, and knew that he was destined for foreign assignments. And, oh my, he certainly did cover many corners of the world (see 9/6/2023 "Connecting")! You have done yourself, and certainly the AP, proud, Andrew. Felicidades and Saludos!

AP or UPI machine? ... and wire orders

Dennis Ferraro – Is that an AP or UPI machine?

I'm siding with Jerry Cipriano. I too "acquired" a nameplate from an old AP teletype and after zooming in on the nameplate in Tim Marsh's picture it does seem to be similar.

Enlarging that section of the photo reminded me of the Jimmy Stewart movie Call Northside 777.

Without going into the plot of the movie the climatic ending involves transmitting, with the AP's assistance, a wirephoto of an enlarged newspaper masthead.

Might be worth catching when it's on TCM.

However, seeing that M19 brings back memories of my early days with the AP.

One of my early responsibilities was to issue "wire orders".

Instructions to the field to make service starts or changes to the members. This was initially done via an M19, perforator, patch panel, and a toggle switch wired to the network. The toggle switch was thrown to transmit instructions to AT&T to add the location to one of the many terrestrial circuits that were the backbone of moving copy and pictures to our membership.

Instructions would be sent to the COC at the local bureau, CTS (Kansas City), and East Brunswick/Cranbury - East Brunswick for the equipment needed, CTS for engineering, and the bureau for the final step of site visit to the member.

Antiquated now, but so is the SAT system that followed.

Hard to believe that was close to 50 years ago.

Turning 70 – and playing Connecting's decades game



Mark Mittelstadt - Sept. 25, 1953 - born to Marilyn and Ray Mittelstadt, Lutheran Hospital, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

At 10, I was in fifth grade at Hawley School in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and delivering my hometown newspaper.

At 20, I was in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

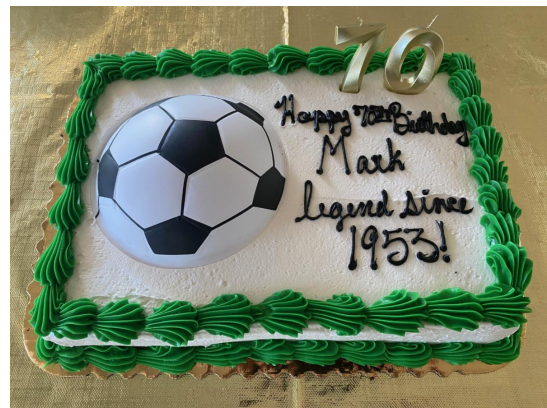
At 30, I was news editor for AP in Des Moines and proud father of a young son.

At 40, I was bureau chief in New Jersey and proud father of two sons.

At 50, I was a news executive assigned as executive director of Associated Press Managing Editors.

At 60, I had retired and was writing stories on contract for various magazines, including AARP, Referee and maritime publications.

At 70, I'm refereeing soccer and hoping my body holds up!



More on the Revivalists

[Dan Sewell](#) - Dave Lubeski's post Tuesday about The Revivalists, the New Orleans band that has its roots in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, came after I was thinking about their second encore in Saturday night's show in frontman David Shaw's hometown of Hamilton, Ohio (near my former hometown): it was [Tom Petty's "Refugee."](#)

I know David wasn't born yet when that song was released in 1980, so it was an interesting choice. And any time I hear that song, I remember covering the Mariel boatlift from Cuba to Key West that year that brought 125,000 Cubans.

One time late at night, a Coast Guard cutter just off Key West blasted "Refugee" across the Gulf.

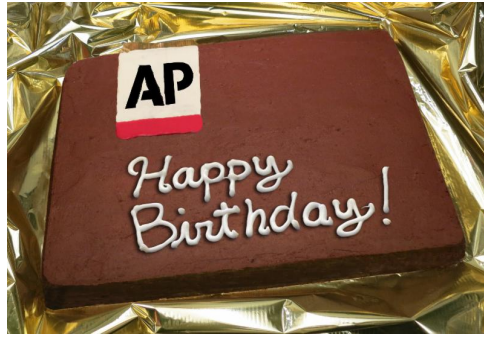
It added some humor for the crew after another long day of helping refugees reach shore safely.

Man's best friend, delivered by dog



Sundae delivers the Columbia Missourian to the home offices of **Matt Barba**, editor for Missouri Press Association, and Amber Barba, who insists she still get the printed edition, even if it does end up a little soggy sometimes.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Herb Hemming](#)

[Joe Kay](#)

[Margaret Lillard](#)

[Lyle Price](#)

Stories of interest

Black Americans' Experiences With News (Pew Research Center)

Black Americans see a range of problems with how Black people are covered in the news, and few are hopeful that will change in the foreseeable future, according to a new Pew Research Center survey of nearly 5,000 Black adults.

On several questions, Black Americans are far more likely to view news coverage of Black people in a negative rather than positive light:

Almost two-thirds of Black adults (63%) say news about Black people is often more negative than news about other racial and ethnic groups; 28% say it is about equal and 7% say it is often more positive.

57% say the news only covers certain segments of Black communities, compared with just 9% who say it covers a wide variety of Black people.

Half say coverage is often missing important information, while only 9% say it often reports the full story.

43% say the coverage largely stereotypes Black people, far higher than the 11% who say it largely does not stereotype. An additional 43% say both of these things happen about equally.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Global Newsroom Teams Will Harness AI to Counter Misinformation (ICFJ)

International Center for Journalists

Eight newsroom teams from the U.S and around the world will develop products and processes that harness AI to amplify truth and combat mis- and disinformation, as part of ICFJ's Leap Innovation Lab kicking off this week.

ICFJ's Leap Innovation Lab chose the teams from almost 400 applicants based on their potential to use AI to create prototypes to counter manipulated content. Proposals range from tools to track the origin and flow of disinformation across platforms, to automating verification and responses to user queries about dubious claims. At the end of the program, the teams with the most innovative solutions will receive funding to further develop their ideas into real-world tools.

"AI tools have become incredibly powerful and accessible – both for bad actors and for good," said Maggie Farley, ICFJ's senior director of innovation. "We're challenging these teams to leverage AI to safeguard integrity and trust in news."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa will open the program, talking about how disinformation is the "atom bomb of our information ecosystem" and ways to actively address it. NYU professor Meredith Broussard will work with teams on how to keep bias out of training models.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

The Hollywood writers strike is over after guild leaders approve contract with studios (AP)

BY ANDREW DALTON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leaders of the screenwriters union declared their nearly five-month-old strike over Tuesday after board members approved a contract agreement with studios, bringing Hollywood at least partly back from a historic halt in production.

The governing boards of the eastern and western branches of the Writers Guild of America and their joint negotiating committee all voted to accept the deal, and afterward declared that the strike would be over and writers would be free to work starting at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Late-night talk shows — the first to go dark when writers walked out on May 2 — are likely the first shows that will resume.

The writers still have to vote to ratify the contract themselves, but lifting the strike will allow them to work during that process, the Writers Guild told members in an email.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Illustration by Pulitzer Prize-winning Buffalo News cartoonist Adam Zyglis. Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History – Sept. 27, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2023. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 27, 1996, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, a band of former seminary students, drove the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of Kabul, captured the capital and executed former leader Najibullah.

On this date:

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1825, the first locomotive to haul a passenger train was operated by George Stephenson in England.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1928, the United States said it was recognizing the Nationalist Chinese government.

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1956, Olympic track and field gold medalist and Hall of Fame golfer Babe Didrikson Zaharias died in Galveston, Texas, at age 45.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In 1979, Congress gave its final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons, and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture.

In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the "Contract with America," a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

In 1999, Sen. John McCain of Arizona officially opened his campaign for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, the same day former Vice President Dan Quayle dropped his White House bid.

In 2012, NFL referees returned to the field after a tentative deal with the league ended a lockout.

In 2013, President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani spoke by telephone, the first conversation between American and Iranian leaders in more than 30 years.

In 2017, Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner died at the age of 91.

In 2018, during a day-long hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Christine Blasey Ford said she was "100 percent" certain that she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh when they were teenagers, and Kavanaugh then told senators that he was "100 percent certain" he had done no such thing.

In 2021, R&B superstar R. Kelly was convicted in a sex trafficking trial in New York, after decades of avoiding criminal responsibility for numerous allegations of misconduct with young women and children.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kathleen Nolan is 90. Actor Claude Jarman Jr. is 89. Author Barbara Howar is 89. Singer-musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 80. Actor Liz Torres is 76. Actor A Martinez is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 74. Actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa is 73. Actor/opera singer Anthony Laciura is 72. Singer and actor Shaun Cassidy is 65. Comedian Marc Maron is 60. Rock singer Stephan (STEE'-fan) Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 59. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz is 57. Actor Patrick Muldoon is 55. Singer Mark Calderon is 53. Actor Amanda Detmer is 52. Actor Gwyneth Paltrow is 51. Actor Indira Varma is 50. Rock singer Brad Arnold (3 Doors Down) is 45. Christian rock musician Grant Brandell (Underoath) is 42. Actor Anna Camp is 41. Rapper Lil' Wayne is 41. Singer Avril Lavigne (AV'-rihl la-VEEN') is 39. Bluegrass singer/musician Sierra Hull is 32. Actor Sam Lerner is 31. Actor Ames McNamara is 15.

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.

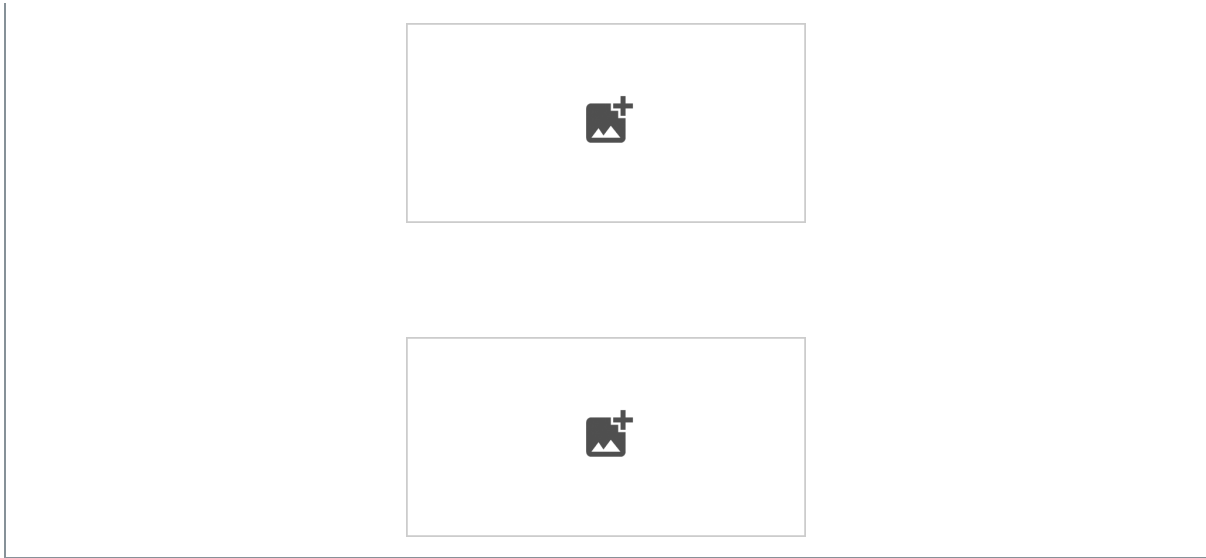
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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