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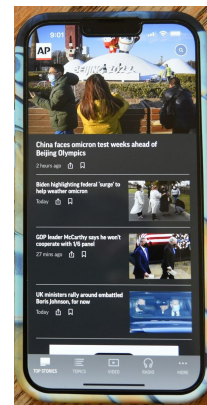
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Connecting

Oct. 3, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Oct. 3, 2023,

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 Oliver S. Gramling Awards, announced by The Associated Press on Monday in New York.

Created in 1994 to recognize AP staffers for professional excellence, the Gramling Awards are decided each year by a panel of judges from across the news cooperative.

Congratulations as well to one of AP's newest retirees - **Roland Rochet**, director of Technology Support (Americas), who served the news cooperative for 42 years. We bring you the story in today's Connecting.

The speech by colleague **Richard Drew** on being named a Fellow of the Society of Professional Journalists, carried in Monday's edition, elicited this note from colleague **Peggy Walsh**: "Richard Drew's speech was an eloquent lesson in journalism and in life."

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

Paul

AP announces winners of 2023 Oliver S. Gramling Awards

AP President/CEO Daisy Veerasingham in a note Monday to AP staff:

It is my great privilege to announce the winners of the 2023 Oliver S. Gramling Awards.

This year's winners span four continents and seven countries. They produced outstanding journalism despite difficult reporting conditions, motivated and supported their colleagues, and helped transform the way we produce the news. Most of all, each winner advanced the power of fact-based journalism.



Their work is inspiring, powerful and important.

I encourage you to meet the 2023 Gramling winners by watching this video:

<https://vimeo.com/869706626/bdbe940ee7>

The winners are:

\$10,000 Gramling Achievement Award

- **Media Asset Management team**, represented by: Mohac Bilecen, technology specialist, London; David Hoad, senior director of technology operations, London; Annette Feldman, deputy director of metadata technology, New York; Mara Madden, senior director of technology solutions, New York; Niko Price, executive producer, London; Paul Redhouse, technology manager, London; Tomislav Skaro, news manager of global video, Zagreb, Croatia; Alan Wintroub, director of development for enterprise application services, San Jose, California.

\$10,000 Gramling Spirit Awards

- **Efrem Lukatsky**, photographer, Kyiv
- **Ndeye Sene Mbengue**, news assistant, Dakar, Senegal
- **Srdjan Nedeljkovic**, video journalist, Athens
-

\$10,000 Gramling Journalism Awards

- **Yu Bing**, editorial assistant, Beijing
- **Federal Bureau of Prisons reporting team**: Mike Balsamo, news editor, Washington; Michael Sisak, reporter, New York.
- **Elliot Spagat**, correspondent, San Diego

The Gramling winners were selected by a group of judges from across the AP: Andrew Drake, deputy director for Africa newsgathering, London; Ruth Gersh, director of global product infrastructures and operations, New York; Sneha Koka, program management director, New York; Stephanie Mullen, deputy director for U.S. photography, San Francisco; Haruka Nuga, senior producer, Tokyo; Nikos Seimenakis, photo technology manager, Athens; and Danielle Wilkinson, global senior finance director, London.

Please join me in congratulating these very deserving winners of the 2023 Oliver S. Gramling Awards. We will hold a virtual celebration in their honor on Oct. 24. Please look for an invitation from InsideAP.

Roland Rochet retires after 42-year AP career



From left: Clifford Santos, Ed McCullough, Roland, Dennis Coston and Pedro Sotomayor. That's a combined 173 years of AP experience – all retired except for Cliff (Miami bureau).

RIGHT: Roland (left) with Ed McCullough.

Ed McCullough - On Saturday (Sept. 30), Roland Rochet's family and Florida friends celebrated his retirement (officially, last week at N.Y. headquarters) after 42 years with AP.



The occasion marked a beginning, hardly an end. One door closing, another beckoning. What comes next? Out of sight – or contrariwise, all around. Along with his children (2) and grandchildren (3), there were plenty of hugs and tears, laughter and cheer, and of course AP stories.

Colleagues who know him as (retired!) director-technology support (Americas) may link him with laptops, computer security, e-mail, a reassuring voice on the other end

of phone call.

While colleagues from yesteryear remember as vividly as yesterday trekking up Amazon rivers to subscribers in Brazil, sleeping in tents on a shaky Port-au-Prince hillside between tremors following a massive earthquake (2010), or personally wrangling crucial AP supplies – cameras, cell phones, body armor, cash (sometimes LOTS of that) – past airport customs, military checkpoints and middle of nowhere border crossings for delivery to reporters and photographers on assignments from Mexico to Argentina, the Caribbean and datelines beyond.

I remember hiking El Avila in Caracas (I was Venezuela bureau chief, 1994-98) where Roland found to his distress that descending a mountain can be harder than walking up if your leg muscles aren't used to stopping you from falling face forward.

And riding bikes in a giant loop around Mexico City (I was regional director, Latin America, 2007-2008), by recollection about 35 miles, because we kept missing the cutoffs back to the downtown starting point.

These words are typed by an old AP hand who has known Roland for 20 years and had the good sense to run them by him for accuracy before submission to Ye Olde Editor.

Roland's life in a nutshell: Age 5, first grade in Puerto Rico. Age 11, middle school in Bridgeport, Conn. where – not speaking English – he wandered into 7th grade by mistake and was allowed to stay, thereby skipping 6th grade.

Eighth grade back in Puerto Rico. Ninth grade, Rochester, N.Y. Tenth and 11th, back in Puerto Rico. Graduation was from Crosby High School, Waterbury, Conn. after which, age 17, he joined the U.S. Navy. His mother signed the enlistment papers on his behalf.

Age 18, married. Age 24, hired by AP. During the next four decades, Roland kept floating to the top as news technology changed radically from landlines to microwave, satellite and now Internet and broadband transmission. And he taught himself Portuguese.

Quite the made-in-America success story though he would never claim that.

Roland was overcome at the reception organized by his son and daughter, Romar and Laura; and others. "I just can't say anything other than thanks," he said quietly.

His wife Frances was no more than properly effusive, and proud. "I wanted my husband to have a surprise. He deserved this and a lot more. After 49 years that I know him and 48 that I've been married to him, every day gets better."

Roland's email - r.rochet@me.com

**Bob Dvorchak awarded 2023 silver medal
for writing in history category by Military**

Writers Society of America

Bob Dvorchak has been awarded the 2023 silver medal for writing in the history category of the annual competition held by the Military Writers Society of America, a national organization of authors, poets and artists who share the common bond of military service.



His book, *The Golden Brigade: The Untold Story of the 82nd Airborne in Vietnam and Beyond*, was one of a record number of entries in this year's competition. A rigorous evaluation process scored the book as worthy of an award.

"We know you put in a great deal of work to get your book written, edited and published," said Betsy Baird, director of the MWSA awards process. "You should be proud of your accomplishment. We certainly are. MWSA is happy to add this award to your growing list of literary recognitions."

A journalist for nearly 50 years, Dvorchak said the prestigious recognition was a culmination of his writing experience.

"I am extremely honored to receive this award from a national group that recognizes, appreciates and rewards good writing. I have received various awards in the past, but this one feels like a lifetime achievement award," Dvorchak said. "This book fosters healing among soldiers and civilians alike while it preserves the individual stories of this who were sent by their country to fight in Vietnam. The story had to be worthy of my best efforts because it's about the 82nd Airborne as told by the 82nd Airborne. Nothing but excellence is acceptable for such an elite group."

MWSA's core principle is a love of the men and women who defend this country through their sacrifice and dedication. Its roots go back to 1998 when Vietnam veteran Bill McDonald started a website to publish the prose and poetry he composed while serving in Vietnam.

MWSA announced the presentation at its annual awards dinner, held on Sept. 16 in New London, Connecticut.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob entered AP service in Philadelphia, was correspondent of the Harrisburg Bureau, was correspondent of the Pittsburgh Bureau, was correspondent at-large for Pennsylvania and was a national writer at NYC headquarters.

A newspaper is...

Bob Seavey - Last week's 'A Newspaper Is ...' item reminded me of the Marshall Independent in southwestern Minnesota, where I had my first daily newspaper job

back in the early '80s. Though small, the paper under editor Bob Rummel's guidance maintained high standards and held to many of the virtues the item highlighted. It was a major help to me during my 30-year AP career.

One of my favorite things was to stop by late at night to pick up the next morning's newspaper, even before the ink dried. And it's true, the pressmen did sometimes wear funny paper hats - folded from that's night's press run.

An AP grad's night with UPI

[Norm Abelson](#) - I really don't remember too many details, but here's how it came about. After nearly 15 years as an AP reporter, I had left to spend several years in Washington in a variety of non-civil service posts. So after Nixon's election I was out in the cold, and returned home to Concord, N.H. - jobless.

A couple of weeks before an election day, I got a call from a UPI editor saying they were shorthanded, and would I work the day for them. I still had some AP buddies, and said I wasn't comfortable competing with them. (Oh, what a young innocent I was.)

He said something like, "O. K., how about just doing color from the various headquarters?" That was just enough to assuage any feeling of discomfort. And, boy did the money come in handy.

New meaning for 'shooter'





Chris Sullivan - If you happen to be in Paris on a rainy day and want to duck in somewhere for an hour to dry out, as my wife Lucy and I did recently, consider the Musee des Arts and Metiers, a surprisingly varied and extensive showcase of French inventiveness. Besides lots of optical and measuring instruments and an extraordinary bat-like fabric airplane from the 1880s with a 20-foot-plus wingspan (looming ominously while suspended from the ceiling), there is a large section devoted to communications.

There, along with modern inventions such as satellites, you'll find early typewriters, presses, and cameras. The latter included one called the 'Fusil (or Gun) Chronophotographique,' invented by physiologist Etienne Jules Marcy in 1882 as a way to record the phases of flight in birds. Its users were 'shooters,' indeed. (Forgive the glare of the exhibit case, and my reflection.)

AP seen in Manzanita, Ore.



Elaine Thompson - Out on a vacation hike today and was happily startled to come across a beautiful plaque dedicated in 1972 to AP's Matt Kramer, a half-mile up the Cape Falcon trail in Oregon's Oswald West State Park, near Manzanita, Ore. Maybe

you've written about it before, but it was new to me and so awesome to see a fantastic public shout-out to a highly regarded journalist.

It's called the Matt Kramer Memorial and is a simple plaque overlooking one of the state's great beaches—for which he was credited in bringing to full public awareness the-then risk that all Oregon beaches might be lost to public access.

From the Discover our Coast publication of 2016,
(https://www.discoverourcoast.com/our-coast-magazine/history-heritage/the-matt-kramer-memorial/article_9b3fcb84-cd94-59f5-a4c4-1ca636da79a6.html)

On the plaque you will read: "The people of Oregon hereby express their gratitude to Matt Kramer of the Associated Press, whose clear and incisive newspaper articles were instrumental in gaining public support for passing of the 1967 Beach Bill. This landmark legislation guarantees forever the public's right to the free and uninterrupted use of one of Oregon's most popular recreation attractions, its ocean beaches."

Matt Kramer was a veteran Associated Press reporter covering the Capitol beat and the 1967 session of the Oregon Legislature. His dispatches on the early precarious fate of the "Beach Bill" that appeared in newspapers around the state helped keep the bill alive in the public eye despite the efforts of coastal legislators who wanted to kill it in committee.

It's a gem! And here's what it looks like, as well as the view from the memorial.

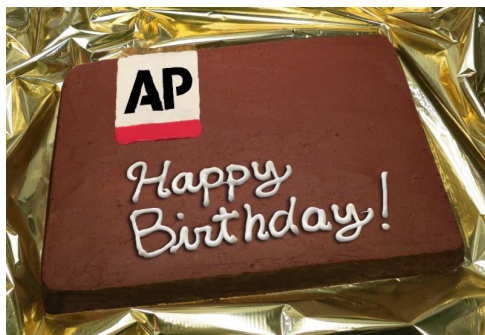
Near China border with Russia





Zhang Wanli, wife of retired AP newsman Patrick Casey, recently spent eight days traveling and taking photos near China's border with Russia in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mark Hamrick](#)

[Richard Horwitz](#)

Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

90s:

**Norm Abelson
Malcolm Barr
Henry Bradsher
Hal Buell
Joseph Carter
Albert Habhab
Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Joe McGowan
Charlie Monzella
Bob Petsche
Arlon Southall
Lou Uchitelle
Sal Veder
Doris Webster
Joe Young
Arnold Zeitlin**

80s:

**Hank Ackerman
Paul Albright
Rachel Ambrose
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Frank Aukofer
Jim Bagby
Myron Belkind
Ed Bell
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Brian Bland
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock**

William Roy Bolch Jr.

Ed Breen

David Briscoe

Ben Brown

Charles Bruce

Ford Burkhart

Harry Cabluck

Sibby Christensen

Shirley Christian

Norm Clarke

Steve Crowley

Don Dashiell

Bob Daugherty

Linda Deutsch

Mike Doan

Bob Dobkin

Otto Doelling

Phil Dopoulos

Bob Dubill

Harry Dunphy

John Eagan

Claude Erbsen

Mike Feinsilber

Dodi Fromson

Joe Galu

Bill Gillen

Steve Graham

Bob Greene

Jerry Harkavy

Paul Harrington

Mike Harris

Chick Harrity

Merrill Hartson

Frank Hawkins

Monte Hayes

Jerry Jackson

Spencer Jones

Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude
Edie Lederer
Carl Leubsdorf
Jim Limbach
Bruce Lowitt
David Liu
Jim Luther
Larry Margasak
John Marlow
Dave Mazarella
Chuck McFadden
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Karren Mills
Peggy Mooney
Bill Morrissey
Harry Moskos
Ron Mulnix
Bruce Nathan
Greg Nokes
Larry Paladino
Jay Perkins
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Mort Rosenblum
Frank Russell
Denis Searles
Richard Shafer
Susanne Shaw
Mike Short
Victor Simpson
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats

Karol Stronger
Barry Sweet
Mark Thayer
Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jeffrey Ulbrich
Jack Walker
Mike Waller
Bob Walsh
Dean Wariner
Don Waters
Lew Wheaton
Jeff Williams
Byron Yake
Johnny Yost
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

Philadelphia journalist who advocated for homeless and LGBTQ+ communities shot and killed at home (AP)

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A journalist and advocate who rose from homelessness and addiction to serve as a spokesperson for Philadelphia’s most vulnerable was shot and killed at his home early Monday, police said.

Josh Kruger, 39, was shot seven times at about 1:30 a.m. and collapsed in the street after seeking help, police said. He was pronounced dead at a hospital a short time later. Police believe the door to his Point Breeze home was unlocked or the shooter knew how to get in, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. No arrests have been made and no weapons have been recovered, they said.

Authorities haven’t spoken publicly about the circumstances surrounding the killing.

“Josh cared deeply about our city and its residents, which was evident both in his public service and in his writing. His intelligence, creativity, passion, and wit shone bright in everything that he did — and his light was dimmed much too soon,” Mayor Jim Kenney said in a statement.

Kruger handled social media for the mayor and communications for the Office of Homeless Services from about 2016 to 2021. He left city government to focus on writing projects for news outlets and progressive causes.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Kansas police chief who led raid on small weekly newspaper has resigned, official says (AP)

BY JOHN HANNA, MARK VANCLEAVE AND SUMMER BALLENTINE

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The police chief who led an August raid on a small weekly newspaper in central Kansas resigned Monday, just days after he was suspended from his post and following the release of body camera video of the raid showing an officer searching the desk of a reporter investigating the chief's past.

Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody's resignation was confirmed to The Associated Press both by Mayor Dave Mayfield and City Council member Ruth Herbel, following an announcement by Mayfield at Monday's council meeting. Mayfield had suspended Cody on Thursday for reasons that have not been made public. In a text message Monday night to the AP, he said he couldn't answer questions about the chief's resignation "as it is a personnel matter."

Cody stepped down weeks after a local prosecutor said that there wasn't sufficient evidence to justify the search of the Marion County Record or searches at the same time of the publisher's home and Herbel's home.

The search of the newspaper put Marion, a town of 1,900 residents some 150 miles (240 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City, at the center of a fierce national debate over press freedoms and cast an international spotlight on Cody and his tactics. Cody faces one federal lawsuit, and others are expected.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Few Americans say conservatives can speak freely on college campuses, an AP-NORC/UChicago poll shows (AP)

BY COLLIN BINKLEY, JOCELYN GECKER AND EMILY SWANSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans view college campuses as far friendlier to liberals than to conservatives when it comes to free speech, with adults across the political spectrum seeing less tolerance for those on the right, according to a new poll.

Overall, 47% of adults say liberals have “a lot” of freedom to express their views on college campuses, while just 20% said the same of conservatives, according to polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the University of Chicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression.

Republicans perceive a stronger bias on campuses against conservatives, but Democrats see a difference too — about 4 in 10 Democrats say liberals can speak their minds freely on campuses, while about 3 in 10 Democrats say conservatives can do so.

“If you’re a Republican or lean Republican, you’re unabashedly wrong, they shut you down,” said Rhonda Baker, 60, of Goldsboro, North Carolina, who voted for former President Donald Trump and has a son in college. “If they hold a rally, it’s: ‘The MAGA’s coming through.’ It’s: ‘The KKK is coming through.’”

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

-0-

Democracy depends on newspapers, and the big threat is outside metro areas, newspaper chain executive warns (Rural Blog)

By Al Cross

Director emeritus, Institute for Rural Journalism, University of Kentucky

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The future of democracy depends on newspapers, and “The greatest threat to democracy is in the small towns and cities of America,” the top news executive of one of the country's largest newspaper chains said Saturday in accepting the Society of Professional Journalists’ top award.

William Ketter, CNHI’s senior vice president for news, was awarded the Wells Key for service to SPJ, of which he has been a member for 62 years, since he was a student at the University of North Dakota.

“Newspapers and democracy go hand in glove,” said Ketter, who guided the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune of Massachusetts to the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting and was president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in 1995.

“Democracy is dying. It is absolutely dying,” Ketter declared, saying that school boards and local governments are being taken over by “far right” activists, largely unchallenged. He said many local newspapers, weakened by the loss of advertising and circulation, can’t handle “some of the anti-press attitudes that are being fostered in America.”

Read more [here](#).

-0-

While many small-town newspapers are vanishing, these Coloradans are working to keep local news alive (Colorado Sun)

Kevin Simpson and Jennifer Brown

Only hours after the news broke in June that the Pueblo printing plant she relied on would soon shut down, abandoning dozens of Colorado newspapers, Betsy Barnett, owner of the weekly Kiowa County Independent on the Eastern Plains, launched a search-and-rescue mission to save her newspaper.

What she'd planned as a leisurely road trip from her home in Eads to visit her son in Oklahoma City now urgently veered off the planned route to make a stop in Liberal, Kansas, a little more than three hours into the drive. The town of nearly 20,000 hugging the Oklahoma border has something that Barnett realized that she, and her roughly 900 print subscribers, desperately needed: a printing press that could produce the paper when the Pueblo facility ceased operations in August.

Rolling into Liberal, she met up with Earl Watt, who publishes the local, thrice-weekly Leader & Times, and toured the printing plant that already churns out small newspapers for publishers in four states — Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado in addition to Kansas, with the prospect of printing another in New Mexico.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Weinfeld, with this note: "This is a great article about what happened when the Pueblo Chieftain went belly up in Colorado. The article, though, doesn't mention the paper I volunteer for, "Our Community News" in Monument, CO which was also printed by the Chieftain. We had to scramble finding a new printer because our paper is an unusual size. We were saved by the Denver Post which is now printing 23,480 copies of our monthly paper, the only known all-volunteer paper in the country."

-0-

Marvin Newman, sports and street photographer, dies at 95 (Art Daily)

by Richard Sandomir

NEW YORK, NY.- Marvin Newman, a renowned photographer who brought a quirky, artistic eye to capturing shadows on a Chicago main street, people in front of shuttered storefronts on Coney Island in New York City, and athletes in competition, including Pittsburgh Pirate Bill Mazeroski smashing the 1960 World Series-winning home run, died Sept. 13 at his home in Jersey City, New Jersey. He was 95.

His son, Harrison, confirmed the death.

Newman, whose pictures were published in magazines such as Sports Illustrated, Life, Look, Smithsonian, Esquire and Newsweek, was adept in many ways, as a street

photographer, a portraitist, an expert at capturing sports action and a creator of inventive images.

In 1951, while he was studying for his master's degree in photography at the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, he watched passersby on Michigan Avenue creating ghostlike shadows.

"I photographed the people coming at me," he told The New York Times in 2016. A child wheeling a little stroller. A mother and daughter holding hands. Nuns. A dog. Four women whose figures seemed to be billowing in the wind.

They looked otherworldly.

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

The Final Word



Bill Witt - You go ahead, Sweet Girl – I'll catch up.

(Bella – 2008-2023)

Today in History – Oct. 3, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 2023. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 3, 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.

On this date:

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again."

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. Army troops cracked the Siegfried Line north of Aachen, Germany.

In 1951, the New York Giants captured the National League pennant by a score of 5-4 as Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers in the "shot heard 'round the world."

In 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," also starring Mary Tyler Moore, made its debut on CBS.

In 1970, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established under the Department of Commerce.

In 1974, Frank Robinson was named major league baseball's first Black manager as he hired by the Cleveland Indians.

In 1981, Irish nationalists at the Maze Prison near Belfast, Northern Ireland, ended seven months of hunger strikes that had claimed 10 lives.

In 1990, West Germany and East Germany ended 45 years of postwar division, declaring the creation of a reunified country.

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.

In 2003, a tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of duo “Siegfried & Roy” during a performance in Las Vegas, leaving the superstar illusionist in critical condition on his 59th birthday.

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was granted parole in July 2017 and released from prison in October of that year.)

In 2011, an Italian appeals court freed Amanda Knox of Seattle after four years in prison, tossing murder convictions against Knox and an ex-boyfriend in the stabbing of their British roommate, Meredith Kercher.

In 2012, Mitt Romney sparred with President Barack Obama on the economy and domestic issues in their first campaign debate.

In 2013, a smugglers’ ship packed with African migrants sank off the coast of a southern Italian island, killing more than 365 people.

In 2017, Yahoo announced that the largest data breach in history had affected all 3 billion accounts on its service, not the 1 billion it had revealed earlier.

Today’s Birthdays: Composer Steve Reich is 87. Rock and roll star Chubby Checker is 82. Actor Alan Rachins is 81. Former Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is 80. Singer Lindsey Buckingham is 74. Jazz musician Ronnie Laws is 73. Blues singer Keb’ Mo’ is 72. Former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley is 69. Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton is 69. Actor Hart Bochner is 67. Actor Peter Frechette is 67. World Golf Hall of Famer Fred Couples is 64. Actor-comedian Greg Proops is 64. Actor Jack Wagner is 64. Actor/musician Marcus Giamatti is 62. Rock musician Tommy Lee is 61. Actor Clive Owen is 59. Actor Janel Moloney is 54. Singer Gwen Stefani (No Doubt) is 54. Pop singer Kevin Richardson (Backstreet Boys) is 52. Rock singer G. Love is 51. Actor Keiko Agena is 50. Actor Neve Campbell is 50. Actor Lena Headey is 50. Singer India.Arie Simpson is 48. Rapper Talib Kweli is 48. Actor Alanna Ubach is 48. Actor Seann (cq) William Scott is 47. Actor Shannyn Sossamon is 45. Rock musician Josh Klinghoffer is 44. Actor Seth Gabel is 42. Actor Erik Von Detten is 41. Actor Tessa Thompson is 40. Country singer Drake White is 40. Actor Meagan Holder is 39. Actor Christopher Marquette is 39. Actor-singer Ashlee Simpson is 39. Rapper A\$AP Rocky is 35. Actor Alicia Vikander is 35. Actor Noah Schnapp (TV: “Stranger Things”) is 19.

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.

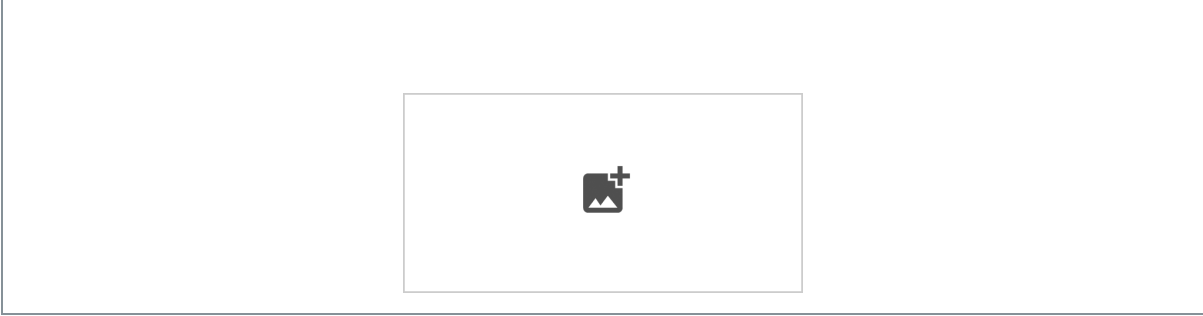
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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