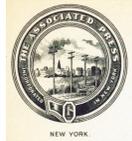

From: stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 10:18 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: CONNECTING - February 27, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

February 27, 2014



Colleagues,

Good morning! We lead off with a conversation with AP's **David Guttenfelder** by Kathy Ryan of The New York Times in the Times' 6th Floor blog:

David Guttenfelder, chief Asia photographer for The Associated Press, has received enormous attention this year for his extraordinary work on Instagram, primarily because of his shots of every day life in North Korea. Still-life pictures of playing cards and computer work stations, or a brief video of two giggling ice-cream vendors, give Guttenfelder's followers a rare look inside the Hermit Kingdom.

While on assignment for the magazine to shoot the Interoceanic Highway in South America, Guttenfelder also sent dispatches from his time there to his more than 285,000 followers on Instagram. We spoke about his working process over the phone last week.

Click here for the rest of her 6th Floor story. (Thanks to Bob Daugherty for sharing.)



AP honors Alicia Caldwell, Amy Taxin

Connecting congratulates:

AP Beat of the Week winner **Alicia Caldwell**, a Washington bureau reporter, for her worldwide beat on one of the biggest triumphs in the war on drugs. Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, head of Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel and that country's most-wanted drug dealer, had been caught.

AP Best of States winner **Amy Taxin**, newsperson in AP's Orange County bureau, for her exclusive report on the impact of the federal government shutdown on the nation's already crowded immigration courts.

Full stories can be found below.

Shawn Temple's bucket list

When she's not teaching high school classes in Somerville, N.J., Shawn Temple has

a bucket list of things she would like to do. And in the past two years, the daughter of the late AP executive **Wick Temple** and former AP Human Resources executive **Margy McCay** has been busy checking them off her seemingly never-ending list.

Shawn started her quest in June 2012 with riding a zip line, and then moved on to paddle boarding, trapeze lessons, running a 10K, grape stomping, dog sledding, rodeo riding, polar bear plunge, trampoline, driving a Zamboni, flying a helicopter, driving a Segway, learning to surf, riding a Clydesdale, riding in a blimp, attending a Chinese Tea Ceremony, and this month, in keeping with the Winter Olympic spirit - curling. Yes, that's Shawn in the photo trying out that sport at the South Plainfield Curling Club.



She explains: "I just keep doing them. I do anything but jump off of or out of anything (therefore, no bungee jumping or skydiving). It was a way to challenge myself in a different way. I was terrified to jump off of the zip line (second longest and highest in the U.S.), but I was thrilled by the idea of the challenge. Now, most people just say, "who is crazy enough to do this with me" and "Shawn Temple" comes out of their mouths. I actually have three lists-- the adventures one, food one, and travel one. I will travel

anywhere so I am just looking to visit new places. The food one I do with a group of friends who like to try new cuisines.

My favorite was the zamboni. My dad had always told me that he wanted to drive a zamboni when he retired. I used to buy him little zamboni figurines and we would go ice skating together. So, when I started my list, that was the first thing on my list. Last May, I got the chance to do it! Dad would have been smiling from ear to ear!"



Connecting wishes a Happy Birthday



to

Dave Tschantz

and

Doug Crews

Celebrate 9-8 !!!

Our Connecting colleague George Bria turns 98 on Sunday, March 2. Connecting asks that you join me in sending him a congratulatory note - send yours to me, at stevenspl@live.com, and I will pull the greetings together and get them off to him. Deadline: next Thursday, Feb. 27.

Items of Interest...

Why did the FCC want to interview journalists in the first place?

-0-

Joe Biden in winter

-0-

How Breaking News users personalized their Olympics

-0-

Revised DOJ Regs Protect "Members of the News Media," But What Does That Mean?

-0-

Boston Globe offers newspaper delivery in Florida

-0-

Forget House of Cards: Watch a real reporter sweat a politician

-0-

Former CNN anchor has arm amputated after accident

-0-

Rieder: A flurry of hoaxes bedevil the media

-0-

Should we edit digital products with the same rigor as print?

-0-

Hong Kong journalist slashed amid concerns of eroding media freedoms (Bill Beecham)

-0-

Rieder: The FCC's journalism fiasco

-0-

Where Did Press Freedom Suffer Most in 2013? Online.

-0-

Ugandan activist on tabloid list of LGBT citizens: 'they are using us to make sales' (Bob Daugherty)

-0-

Killing journalists got easier on the world's front lines (Bill Beecham)

-0-

Some New Art From 'Calvin & Hobbes' Creator

-0-

Radio industry digital revenue up 15 percent in 2013

AP Beat of the Week

Colleagues,

Washington reporter Alicia Caldwell was spending a leisurely weekend morning at home when her cell phone buzzed. The long-time law enforcement source on the other end first apologized for bothering her on a day off _ and then coughed up the news that would give Caldwell and The Associated Press a spectacular worldwide beat on one of the biggest triumphs in the war on drugs. Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, head of Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel and that country's most-wanted drug dealer, had been caught.

The Beat of the Week scoop, the result of years of source-building over coffee, lunches and after-work drinks, set in motion a multinational team effort that would put the AP out front not for a minute or an hour until other media caught up, but for an entire news cycle. On this story, as one senior editor put it, the AP beat the world all day.

It happened not just because of savvy source development; nimble work on the ground in Mexico and Washington, combined with years of background reporting and solid preparation, allowed the AP to go beyond the initial beat and quickly produce an all-formats package laden with context and gripping details.

Within minutes of getting the call, Caldwell was on the phone with Washington news editor Ted Bridis, and the coordination began between that bureau, the Nerve Center in New York and Mexico City, where Latin America Editor Marjorie Miller and Chief of Bureau Katherine Corcoran swung a host of others into action.

As Washington moved the APNewsAlert _ a full 47 minutes before The Washington Post _ Corcoran and LatAm desk editor Alejandro Manrique worked quickly from home while Mexico City News Editor Eduardo Castillo extricated himself from a mandatory vehicle smog check and reporter Michael Weissenstein made his way back to town from a hike. Newswoman Adriana Gomez headed to Sinaloa, and newsman Mark Stevenson, along with a TV crew and photographer Eduardo Verdugo, went straight to the military base where Guzman was being taken.

Once again, AP's practice of prewriting an obituary paid off. Corcoran turned to Guzman's prepared obit _ written and updated many times over 13 years after he escaped a Mexican prison and vowed not to be recaptured alive _ and she and Mexico City editor Jack Chang got it out with a news lead.

With a stringer in Mazatlan, where Guzman was caught, a reserve of knowledge and everyone working their sources, AP's stories got more detailed. Caldwell, Corcoran, Weissenstein, Stevenson and San Diego correspondent Elliot Spagat pieced together a thorough account of the police operations and arrests that finally led to Guzman. Through the weekend, Caldwell's sources kept providing new details about Guzman's flight to elude capture and a description of his final

minutes of freedom.

To top it off, at the military base, Verdugo got the money picture of "El Chapo": a full view of the drug lord _ head bowed, arms cuffed behind his back _ while other photographers managed only a profile shot.

The photo went everywhere, as did AP's text story. For hours Mexican media were unable to match it.

"Yesterday," Miller would later tell the team, "was one of those days when you made us all proud to work for the AP."

Caldwell made it possible.

She was singled out for her work by her AP managers and even her competitors. Jonathan Levin, the Mexican markets reporter for Bloomberg, praised Caldwell and AP for "a HUGE scoop today on Chapo arrest." Damien Cave, the New York Times correspondent, congratulated Caldwell for the beat and noted that Mexico's news outlets were all crediting AP for the exclusive. The Washington Post ran AP's story prominently on its website.

A veteran of reporting on Mexico's drug wars as AP's former El Paso correspondent, Caldwell now covers U.S. homeland security and American policies on immigration, drugs and guns from Washington. She prides herself on source development, and it was the result of a trusted relationship based on respect for her expertise on the drug war that led to the break on Guzman's capture. In fact, after the weekend story of the cartel arrest swelled into a major exclusive for AP, her source joked with her: "That lunch paid off, didn't it?"

For nabbing an exclusive that allowed the AP to showcase its breadth, collaboration and coordination, Caldwell wins this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_ Yuras Karmanau, newsman, Minsk; Maria Danilova, correspondent, Kiev, and Dalton Bennett, videojournalist, Dubai, for first-hand reporting on the bloodbath in the streets of the Ukrainian capital and the political turmoil and protests that led to the flight of President Viktor Yanukovich. They were part of the all-formats team covering the spiral of historic changes for the former Soviet nation now seeking its place between Russia and Europe. Karmanau, who has been assigned to Kiev for much of the last three months, could see and hear the demonstrators from his hotel room, and he used that as his base for a riveting first-person account of the bloodiest day in Ukraine's post-Soviet history. "I heard a strange clanking sound this morning in my hotel room overlooking the Ukrainian capital's main square," his tale began. "I carefully opened the balcony door and looked down. A bullet from a sniper rifle was on the floor of the balcony. Apparently it had ricocheted off the rail." Danilova and Bennett were the first to tell the story of a

young volunteer medic whose tweet "I'm dying" went viral after she was shot in the neck. She survived, and Danilova and Bennett tracked her down as she came out of surgery.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-reporter-witnesses-carnage-ukrainian-capital> and <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ukraine-protester-tweeted-after-being-shot-neck>.

_ Amy Taxin, newswoman, Orange County, Calif., for an exclusive report on the impact of the federal government shutdown on the nation's crowded immigration courts. Taxin revealed that 37,000 hearings had been postponed. And the shutdown did not just delay hearings by a few weeks, but sent the cases to the back of the line. Immigrants who had been waiting years for a hearing now have to wait another year, maybe two. The delays prevented immigrants seeking green cards and asylum from traveling abroad to visit family, or bringing relatives to the U.S., and postponed deportation for those with weak cases.

<http://bit.ly/1bGA45o>

_ Kelvin M. Chan, video journalist, Hong Kong, for tenacious work getting the first interview with the wife of Australian missionary John Short, who has been detained in North Korea. "I know he is courageous and he is in God's hands," Karen Short said. Reuters TV did not get to her until the next day.

<https://vimeo.com/87262925>

_ Steve Karnowski, newsman, Minneapolis, for reporting that a deal had been reached to avert a so-called "medical deportation" that would have returned a comatose Pakistani exchange student from a Minnesota hospital to his native country.

<http://www.philstar.com/world/2014/02/20/1292534/brother-pakistani-can-stay-us-medical-care>

_ Matthew Brown, correspondent, Billings, Mont., and Joan Lowy, transportation writer, Washington, for first word on voluntary measures that railroads will take to cut down the danger of accidents from volatile materials. AP's story moved well ahead of the official announcement, and was of high interest given a string of explosive derailments, including the 2013 derailment that killed 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/apnewsbreak-railroads-confront-crude-safety>

_ Justin Pritchard, newsman, Los Angeles, for exclusive reporting on the killing of four members of the tiny Cedarville Rancheria Indian tribe by the ousted chairwoman. Because of the location, in one of the remotest areas of California, information about a potential motive was hard to get. Working 650 miles away in Los Angeles, Pritchard got a scoop no one else matched: The shooter had been under federal investigation for allegedly embezzling at least \$50,000 from the tribe.

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/AP-source-Tribal-killing-suspect-target-of-probe0inhp>

_ Jim Kuhnhenh, White House reporter, Washington, for reporting exclusively that President Obama was abandoning austerity efforts to hold the line on spending and no longer would support proposals to curtail increases in Social Security and other benefit programs. Kuhnhenh was 15 minutes ahead of his closest competitor and set off a blizzard of questions at the daily White House press briefing.
<http://b.globe.com/1msfZ4c>

_ Jeff Amy, newsman, Jackson, Miss., for revealing that the unexpected resignation of the president of Alcorn State University came after auditors raised alarming questions about spending practices that apparently violated state law, and investigators turned up a key aide's questionable relationships with an entertainment promoter. Amy tapped sources inside the Mississippi College Board and documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.
<http://wapo.st/1cHAAhQ>

_ Kathy Gannon, special correspondent, Afghanistan/Pakistan, for a trifecta of stories: on secret U.S. mediation with the Taliban to win release of its only soldier held in Afghanistan; on a new, previously unknown breakaway faction of the Taliban ready to talk peace; and the first reporting of the Taliban's decision to suspend mediation with the U.S., ending the best chance yet of securing Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's release.
<http://world.time.com/2014/02/19/taliban-say-they-discussed-prison-swap-with-u-s/>
[http://hosted2.ap.org/CAANR/6f7a0ea421cb4c1787f191ba89e97f89/Article 2014-02-23-AS-Afghanistan-Prisoner-Swap/id-5a6bff87b6a3404281c86ff9667ae0f1](http://hosted2.ap.org/CAANR/6f7a0ea421cb4c1787f191ba89e97f89/Article%202014-02-23-AS-Afghanistan-Prisoner-Swap/id-5a6bff87b6a3404281c86ff9667ae0f1)
<http://news.yahoo.com/afghan-taliban-shot-dead-pakistan-39-northwest-183645498.html>

_ Hussein Malla, photographer, Beirut, for quick and courageous work when two massive explosions ripped through his neighborhood, blowing out the windows in his apartment in southern Beirut. Stepping over broken glass, Malla collected his cameras and rushed out. It took him less than five minutes to reach the scene of the twin suicide blasts near the Iranian cultural center where he took the first dramatic pictures of the fire and bodies on the ground. In between taking pictures, he called the office to dictate crucial details and color from the scene and then switched to video, shooting two minutes of powerful footage for APTN that was used in its entirety. <http://wapo.st/1h1WG0e>
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/beirut-explosion-suicide-blast-near-iranian-cultural-center-n33346>

_ Nataliya Vasilyeva, newswoman, Moscow; Morry Gash, photographer, Milwaukee; and Victoria Buravchenko and Dimitri Kozlov, APTN, Moscow, for their report on the brief detention and then beating of Pussy Riot punk group members in Sochi during the Olympics. Vasilyeva was first to confirm from a source that members were detained. The next day, she got word of a protest. AP rolled in with all formats, resulting in exclusive photos from Gash and video from Kozlov and

Buravchenko that showed Pussy Riot members being pepper-sprayed, whipped and beaten by Cossacks.

<http://tinyurl.com/m96saxy>

<http://tinyurl.com/ka5yn2f>

<http://tinyurl.com/m57c84z>

<http://tinyurl.com/kmmkqyt>

Mike Oreskes

-0-

AP Best of the States

Colleagues,

When it comes to obtaining public information, refusing to take "no" for an answer is standard practice for AP reporters. One way around official roadblocks is savvy use of freedom of information requests.

The decision to file a FOIA is just a first step. To get the bottom of a story that government officials don't want you to uncover, crafting the request skillfully is key and persistence is essential.

That is what Amy Taxin, newsperson in Orange County, Calif., showed in her exclusive report on the impact of the federal government shutdown on the nation's already crowded immigration courts.

After writing a spot story about the immigration courts' closure during the fall shutdown, Taxin sought data on the impact. She was told nothing was available. A source, however, told her a large number of cases had been shelved. So she filed an FOIA request with the federal agency that oversees the country's immigration courts.

She then kept the pressure on for weeks to get a response. She also called more than a dozen lawyers to find immigrants willing to discuss the effect of the shutdown on their cases _ no easy task since they feared speaking out could upset the government officials seeking to deport them.

Taxin's scoop (<http://goo.gl/OMIs5E>) revealed that the shutdown meant that 37,000 hearings had been postponed, and not just for a few weeks. The closing of the courts pushed the delayed cases to the back of the line. Immigrants who had been waiting years for a hearing now have to wait another year, maybe two. The delays prevent immigrants seeking green cards and asylum from traveling abroad to visit family or bringing relatives to the U.S., and postponed deportation for those with weak cases.

The story highlighted the effects of the backlogged immigration system on the

courts, the broader law enforcement system and individual lives. Taxin used the hard-won data to establish the facts, she explored the impact directly with immigrants waiting for their days in court and then went further to document the situation by interviewing a judge presiding over the backlog that added to an already huge lineup of cases.

"You have this very delicately balanced system. Now we have this added dysfunction to cope with on top of that," said Immigration Judge Dana Leigh. "I just think the ripple effect is going to be continuing for a while."

Getting information from immigration courts can be an exercise in frustration; even FOIA requests face significant delays. Taxin found what she was looking for by casting a wide net. She sought any documents, reports or memos addressing the effects of the shutdown. The information she was looking for was included in an email Chief Immigration Judge Brian O'Leary sent to staff. She didn't get those documents, though, until she had spent two months peppering officials to fulfill her request.

For what West Editor Traci Carl cited as "a great example of how to use FOIA requests to break news," Taxin is awarded this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Mike Oreskes

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215