

**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 02, 2014 7:29 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - July 2, 2014

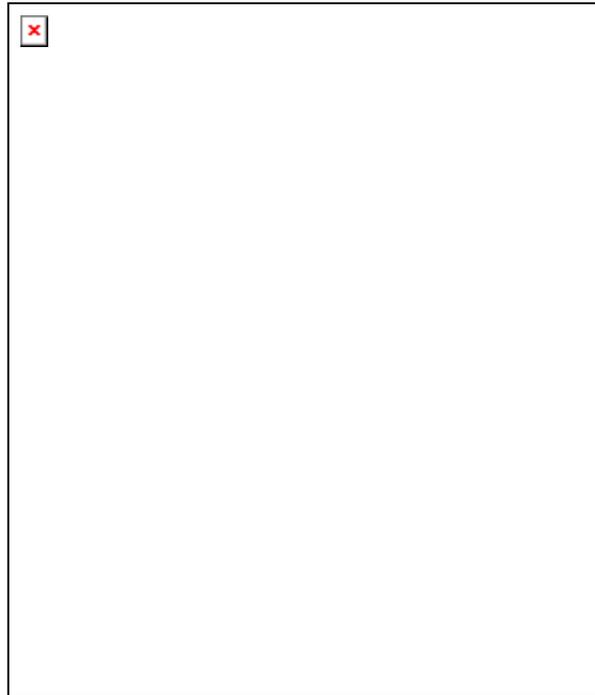
Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

July 2, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



*A lone USA supporter dressed as "Captain America"*

*sits in the stands after Belgium defeated the USA 2-1 in extra time Tuesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the World Cup in Brazil. (AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)*

Colleagues,

The Associated Press Media Editors, an association of AP member editors, on Tuesday announced its journalism excellence awards for AP staff and for member newspapers and online sites:

[AP staffers win APME awards for coverage of Oklahoma tornado, aftermath of school shootings](#)

Coverage of the Moore, Oklahoma, tornado and the aftermath of the Connecticut school shootings won awards for deadline reporting and feature writing from the Associated Press Media Editors for journalism excellence by AP staffers. The AP's investigation of the disappearance of CIA contractor Robert Levinson in Iran in 2007 - and its decision to publish the story last year - was honored in the enterprise category. Other awards:

- **Christopher Sullivan** of the Newsfeatures staff won the feature writing award for "Newtown Marches On."
- **Adam Goldman** and **Matt Apuzzo**, formerly of the Washington bureau, and editors of the AP were cited for their coverage of the Levinson disappearance.
- Four staffers were honored with the Charles Rowe Award for distinguished state reporting for coverage of the California prison system. California AP created a prison team of **Paul Elias** in San Francisco, **Gillian Flaccus** in Orange County and **Don Thompson** in Sacramento, overseen by Sacramento correspondent **Tom Verdin**.
- Photographer **Sergei Grits**, based in Belarus, won the News Single Photo award for his image of a Ukrainian demonstrator setting off a Molotov cocktail in a slingshot.
- Photographer **Jerome Delay** was honored with the News Story Photo award for his series on the fighting in the Central African Republic where he is based.
- Jerusalem photographer **Sebastian Scheiner** won the Feature Single Photo award for his image of Palestinians living in a cave after their house was demolished by Israeli authorities.
- **Rodrigo Abd**, a photographer based in Lima, Peru, was honored with the Feature Story Photo award for his story on exhumations from Peru's 1980-2000 conflict.
- **Nathan Griffiths**, **Nicholas Harbaugh**, **Kevin Viney**, **Peter Hamlin** and



**Roque Ruiz** were awarded the Best Use of Multimedia for their interactives on the U.S. health care overhaul.

- The Best in Video award was given to **Al-emrun Garjon** of New Delhi for his coverage of the collapse of a Bangladesh factory.

- **Adriana Gomez Licon** of Mexico City won the John L. Dougherty prize for exemplary work by an AP staff member who is 30 years old or younger.

*Full list of AP staff awards and judges comments [here](#).*

#### APME member awards: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel takes top honors for probe of delays in newborn screening

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's investigation of delays in newborn screening programs captured top honors in the annual Associated Press Media Editors' Journalism Excellence Awards. The newspaper's "Deadly Delays" project won in three categories - Public Service, First Amendment and the Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism. The newspaper also won the association's First Amendment Sweepstakes Award for the project, which analyzed data nationwide on screening programs designed to detect rare diseases in newborns and found delays at hospitals in testing the results, putting infants at risk. The award, sponsored by the APME Foundation, carries a \$1,000 prize. *Full list of member award-winners [here](#).*

#### AP Explore: AP looks back at 50 years of the Civil Rights Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964



On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the unanimous opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court in the matter of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, overturning its landmark ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had upheld the constitutionality of segregationist state laws under the doctrine of "separate but equal." The court's abandonment of *Plessy*

reverberated throughout the country, but by itself could not dislodge Jim Crow. Only years of social upheaval could bring about legislation as transformative as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The civil rights movement finally pressured the politicians to act - and the press served as its witnesses. With a presence in the South stretching back 90 years, The Associated Press was uniquely prepared to report it.

#### Behind the scenes of AP's coverage of world's largest sports event

As the excitement of the World Cup unfolds across Brazil, AP journalists are covering the action in text, video and photos for an array of customers around the world. "The AP journalists and technicians on the ground have been unflagging in their mission to tell the whole story of this tournament," said AP Vice President and Managing Editor **Lou Ferrara**.

### AP's Zoll: Hobby Lobby ruling puts Green family in crosshairs

**David Green** felt like the black sheep of his family. His five other siblings had followed their preacher father into church work; David went into retail. But as his business successes mounted, he found his religious calling: using the financial might from his Hobby Lobby arts and crafts chain as an engine for evangelism.

### More on AP's robot reporters: next stop sports?

AP's plan to automate stories about earnings reports is designed to make life easier for human journalists, not to replace them, AP Managing Editor **Lou Ferrara** said. "What I'm trying to get out of is the data processing business. I can't have journalists spending a ton of time data processing stuff. Instead I need them reporting."

## **AP Mailbag**

### **With all these pranksters, how did the news get covered?**

**Charles Bennett** \_ My very first assignment for AP was an explosion in a poultry processing plant in South Georgia. Unfortunately I arrived late on the scene; no fire trucks, ambulances or on lookers. A cold scene; but I wanted to have something to show. I'm scoping the area and I see one of the survivors; a scraggly and dazed chicken wondering around the debris. It is on top of the rubble and I scramble up with a wide angle to show the chicken in the foreground and the wreckage behind. It made a decent frame with some play. About three days later I received a note from **Tom Dilustro** congratulating me with a curious last line; you can't see the nail at all.

What the hell does that mean?

After much research I found out. Seems there was a flood and when the shooter got there he saw the perfect photo; a rooster floating by on a plank. By the time he was set up the plank had reached the bank and the rooster was dismounting. No problem he sets the chicken back on the board and relaunches it. The chicken jumps off and he places it back. This scene kept repeating; chicken on, chicken off. The shooter is not to

be denied this possible Pulitzer, he goes to his car and removes a few tools. Gathers the chicken and the board and proceeds to nail the chicken's foot/claw to the board. Presto; the perfect flood copy.

**Doug Tucker** \_ The best prank ever was the time **Craig Horst** and I tricked **Tim Curran** into one of the worst moments of his life.

The week before, Tim and his two young sons had been driving around Lawrence on a football afternoon and stopped at the stadium, which was undergoing a massive renovation. As Tim rather sheepishly told us, he and his boys had simply parked on the street and walked right in - no ticket-taker in sight - and enjoyed a free game.

So I got a sheet of athletic director Bob Frederick's stationery and an official university envelope and Craig and I composed a letter that began, as I recall, "Mr. Curran, our security cameras observed last week you and two members of your family surreptitiously gaining entrance to a Kansas sporting event without paying the required admission fee."

When the very official-looking envelope arrived a couple of days later and Tim began to read, everyone in the office watched out of the corner of their eye. All worked ceased. The second graf said something about the university facing severe budget shortages and that Bob was being urged to ask the district attorney's office to make an example of him and file criminal charges.

Little beads of sweat seemed to appear on Tim's forehead. Then when the next graf said, "As I told my good friend **Lou Bocard** (sic), I am especially disappointed that an AP man would set such a bad example for his sons," beads of sweat seemed to turn into droplets of blood.

Then he came to the P.S., which mentioned several people who had told Bob that, frankly, they were not at all surprised the disreputable Tim Curran would sneak around and do bad things. Let's just say these people shall go unnamed. But suffice to say they were individuals Tim did not hold in high regard, and that **Bob Frederick** could never have heard of them.

Finally, Tim looked up and gazed around the room, a hint of chagrined relief crossing his face. The entire office erupted in laughter.

Tim, always a good sport, still has the letter and laughed as hard as anyone.

**John Kuglin** \_ When I was COB in Helena I invited Executive Editor **Bill Ahearn** to speak to our APME. In those Camelot days of little paperwork I was happy in my work. There was a large turnout of editors

and publishers from across the state as Bill began to speak. "I'd like to begin with an announcement," Bill began. "John Kuglin has been COB in Helena for a long time and he's finally getting a deserved promotion. John doesn't know this, but we're posting him to Newark." I looked at Bill, who didn't crack a smile. The head of our APME, Missoulian Editor **Brad Hurd**, sprang to his feet, and asked everyone to join him in applauding my promotion. There was too much applause, and I thought, "They really want to get rid of me." Of course, this was another one of Bill's pranks. Over the years, especially near the end of his tenure at AP, Bill was fond of calling COBs, disguising his voice, and complaining about some aspect of the state report. I think Bill enjoyed this almost as much as eating a practically raw steak, his favorite food on the road, and woe to the COB who took Bill to a Chinese restaurant.

*Willing to 'fess up to past AP hijinks? Send them to [Mark Mittelstadt](#).*

### **More fiddling around**

Meanwhile, former Minnesota Chief of Bureau **Dave Pyle** contributed this following the discussion in Tuesday's Connecting on violins and fiddles: "What's the difference between a violin and a fiddle? No one minds if you spill beer on a fiddle."

## **Items of interest**

[Is Reuters enabling ISIL and are they working with sympathizers again?](#)

(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

... (O)nce again, Reuters has been coming up with sensational and exclusive imagery that its competitors lack. If there is no shortage of videos and screen grabs of ISIS in action, an organization turning heads not just for military momentum and its cinematic and social media propaganda acumen, Reuters has been the only outlet -- once again, though unnamed stringers, related to the militant's capture and control of the city of Mosul over the past three weeks -- to procure exclusive images. As I mentioned, nobody has this kind of access. Most of the news agency photos being published of actual ISIS fighters (with a few exceptions stated below) are being pulled from either Twitter sites run by Isis or from jihadi-related Twitter posts. The question is, how is Reuters getting these pictures? And more significantly, has Reuters been enabling ISIL over the past three weeks in exchange for access?

-0-

[Tales of two newspapers, one rising, one falling](#)

On the East Coast, The Washington Post is in the midst of a revival that

could return the storied newspaper to its former status as a serious competitor to The New York Times for national and international news. On the West Coast, the Orange County Register is rapidly sinking into the pit from which it had only recently crawled.

-0-

#### Matt Apuzzo's tips for investigating powerful institutions

Several tipsheets were released at last week's Investigative Reporters & Editors conference. Here is one provided by former AP and now New York Times reporter **Matt Apuzzo**.

-0-

#### Mike Pride named new administrator of Pulitzer Prizes

**Mike Pride** is the new administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, Columbia University announced Tuesday. Pride, the former editor of the Concord Monitor "led his small New Hampshire newspaper to national prominence and served as co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board," according to the press release.



#### Timeline: Sig Gissler, Pulitzer administrator 2002-2014

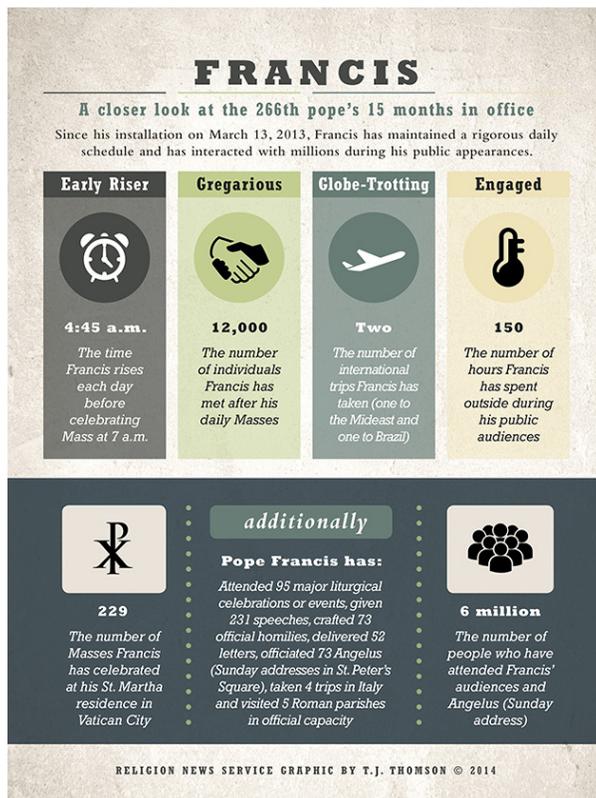
**Sig Gissler** announced his retirement as administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes in January. He served in the position since 2002. Here's a look back at Poynter's archives on Gissler and the Pulitzers during his time.

-0-

#### Jim Brady's new digital news adventure

**Jim Brady** has had no shortage of interesting adventures in digital journalism. He served as executive editor of WashingtonPost.com. He was the founder and general manager of TBD.com, a much-ballyhooed digital news operation covering the Washington, D.C., area. He was editor-in-chief of the newspaper chain Digital First Media, where he was deeply involved with Project Thunderdome, an ambitious attempt to provide coordinated content for the group's 75 papers and their digital operations.

-0-



Religion News Service graphic: Pope Francis by the numbers

While many of his younger Italian brethren might still be sleeping, Rome's 77-year-old bishop is up at 4:45 a.m., and ready for another 15-hour day. Though he only has one fully functioning lung, he has maintained a rigorous and demanding schedule during his first 15 months of office, according to the Italian daily La Stampa, which published some interesting statistics on the pope that were confirmed by the Vatican. Since his March 2013 installation Mass, **Pope Francis** has drawn some 6 million attendees to his audiences and Angelus, his Sunday morning address in St. Peter's Square. He has celebrated 229 daily Masses at his St. Martha residence in Vatican City and has interacted with 12,000-some individuals who have attended.

-0-

National Press Club panel: News orgs must focus on creating, hiring more female leaders

Top editors addressed the barriers women face in achieving leadership positions in journalism and how to overcome them at a panel discussion Monday at the National Press Club. Women account for more than a third of women in journalism, but less than a quarter hold leadership roles, the Poynter Institute's **Jill Geisler** told the group. Geisler, who moderated the event, said the data for the Women's Media Center also shows that women in leadership earn 25 percent less than their male

counterparts.

-0-

Skepticism on White House immigration claim draws laughter from press corps

White House press secretary **Josh Earnest's** assertion that political considerations played no role in President Barack Obama's decision to go it alone on immigration wasn't believable to one reporter, whose skepticism prompted laughter from colleagues during Tuesday's briefing.



-0-

Pew: Americans tuning out coverage of Iraq

The Pew Research Center reported that one-fourth of Americans are paying attention to the tumult and violence in Iraq, even as America's involvement in the situation begins to grow. The report, which was based on a survey of 1,002 adults from June 26 to 29, shows that a slightly larger proportion of Americans (29 percent) are more interested in the problems afflicting the country's veterans hospitals than they are the strife in Iraq. It also notes that interest in the recent spate of Supreme Court decisions (15 percent) is lower than the interest in the World Cup (17 percent).

-0-

Tribune, Deseret News bosses: There are no plans to close The Trib  
(Shared by Bill Beecham)

Neither The Salt Lake Tribune's corporate owners nor top managers at the rival Deseret News have any plans to close The Tribune - "not this week, this month, this year, or ever." Executives for both companies filed sworn statements late Monday aimed at countering a federal lawsuit that accuses them of crafting a business pact for running Salt Lake City's daily papers that critics say is unfair, puts The Tribune's finances at a severe disadvantage and should be reversed.

-0-

Silicon Valley tech-like amenities in HuffPost DC newsroom (Shared by Scott Charton)

Looking for a newsroom environment with a fully stocked kitchen, beers on tap, meditation room, nap room, AND yoga studio? Probably not gonna happen. Unless you work at the DC bureau of The Huffington Post!

-0-

### Buttry: A manual for unbolting the newsrooms from print culture and processes

From the outset of Project Unbolt, a key goal was to produce a manual for other newsrooms to follow. As I prepare to leave Digital First Media, here is that manual, my recommendations for newsrooms to unbolt from the processes and culture of print. Our work on the project has not been as extensive as I had hoped, but I think we have produced a valid plan for accelerating the digital transformation of newsrooms. I hope my colleagues will continue the work and continue blogging about it.

### Camera, film survive 70 years buried in World War II bunker: what they revealed

Captain Mark D. Anderson of the United States Navy and historian Jean Muller were searching for artifacts from The Battle of the Bulge in the mountainsides of Luxembourg when their metal detector alerted them to something just under their feet. Below Anderson and Muller was a foxhole that was dug during the crucial World War II battle and in it they found the belongings of an American soldier.



-0-

### 29 is the magic number when it comes to BuzzFeed "listicles"

Are you more likely to click on "27 Cats That Just Can't Handle It" or "35 Things You Will Never See Again In Your Life"? Betaworks' chief data scientist **Gilad Lotan** looked at about 10,000 BuzzFeed listicles published over a three-month period to determine which listicle length had the highest "audience score," a Betaworks metric that he writes "measures the quality of the users interacting with a piece of content" and "helps us identify content that is performing well before it becomes heavily shared or very visible."

-29-

Mark Mittelstadt  
Connecting newsletter  
[markmittelstadt@yahoo.com](mailto:markmittelstadt@yahoo.com)

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) by [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215