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To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - August 4, 2014

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Connecting

August 4, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning, and here's to a great week ahead!

Here's a video that's worth your while to watch, from Jon Stewart's Daily Show:

Internet killed the newspaper star



Click [here](#) to watch.

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In Saturday's edition, the link in Connecting to the National Press Club awards story was not correct.

Here is the story that I tried to link to:

A night celebrating courage, talent and some of last year's top journalism

By Mark Schoeff Jr. and Will Lester

A photojournalist jailed for doing his job. Two Associated Press veterans who were attacked. A reporter in Illinois facing fines and jail time for not revealing a source. A young scholarship student announcing he's an undocumented immigrant.

All these journalists - present and future - shared the common traits of courage, talent and perseverance.

The National Press Club Journalism Awards Dinner on Wednesday, July 30, celebrated their accomplishments and some of the best journalism in the country in 2013.

One of the evening's highlights was a message from Ahmed Humaidan, a photojournalist from Bahrain in jail for his photos, who was overseas winner of the John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award. He was accused of attacking a police station, but was only photographing it at the time. He has been in jail since 2012 and was sentenced earlier this year to 10 more years in jail.

"We, the photographers in Bahrain, worked very hard to deliver the truth as it is, without disguising or overstating the events we have witnessed," Humaidan said in a statement read to the crowd at the Press Club by Nada Alwadi, a cofounder of the Bahraini Press Association.

"The action of taking pictures and sharing them with the world was very costly to me and my colleagues - journalists and photographers," he said. "But we were aware of the price of what we were doing. And we have always believed that journalism is not a crime, so we were ready for prison and prosecution."

Humaidan called for journalists in Bahrain and elsewhere to be freed and for "a media environment where no journalist or photographer will be jailed for doing their work."

The U.S. winner of the Aubuchon Press Freedom Award was Joseph Hosey, a reporter for Patch.com, a national network of local news sites. He was held in contempt of court last year by a judge in Will County, Ill., who fined him \$1,000, plus \$300 a day for every day Hosey does not disclose the name of a confidential source who provided

police reports about a double murder in Illinois. If Hosey loses the appeal, which is now pending, he faces indefinite jail time for not divulging the source.

Hosey thanked the many people who have supported him since being held in contempt, and especially his attorney.

Also at the dinner, NPC President Myron Belkind presented the President's Award to the late Anja Niedringhaus, the Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer for The Associated Press (left, in photo), and her colleague AP reporter Kathy Gannon. Niedringhaus was killed in Afghanistan on April 4 in an attack that also wounded Gannon. The President's Award is bestowed on special occasions by the club president with the approval of the Club's Board of Governors.



"Anja, who was born in Germany and began working as a photographer while at university, is recognized by her peers as one of the bravest, most talented and accomplished photojournalists of her generation. She truly believed in the need to bear witness," Belkind said. "Sadly, she lost her life doing it."

He noted that Gannon, who is from Canada, has covered the unrest in Afghanistan and Pakistan for The Associated Press for nearly three decades. And he quoted John Daniszewski, AP's vice president and senior managing editor for international news, about her expertise and dedication.

"Kathy Gannon is a brave and passionate journalist whose expertise and deep knowledge and experience of both Afghanistan and Pakistan have made her an indispensable authority on the region," according to Daniszewski.

"Anja and Kathy had worked together repeatedly in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, often focusing on the war's impact on Afghan civilians," Belkind said, with photos taken by Niedringhaus that captured the human side of war scrolling by steadily on the screen behind him. AP Political Editor David Scott accepted the awards on behalf of the wire service.

The awards dinner intersected with a prominent policy debate in Washington - immigration - when the winner of the Club's scholarship for journalism diversity announced that he is an undocumented immigrant.

"I decided to make tonight my own sort of coming out story," said Jose Valle, a graduate of First Flight High School in Kill Devil Hills, N.C. Before his public announcement, Valle said that only his guidance counselor, one friend and his family knew about his immigration status.

"I don't know why I kept it secret for so long," Valle said to the audience. "It pushed me to work hard, but it hurt me, too."

A North Carolina law requires undocumented immigrants to pay out-of-state tuition at the state's colleges and universities. Unable to afford the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Valle will start his post-secondary education at Durham Technical Community College. He said he hopes to transfer to UNC in a couple years. The club scholarship, which totals up to \$10,000 over four years, will help him embark on his college path.

The Club also presented the \$5000 Richard G. Zimmerman Scholarship to Daniel Wetter of Roseville, Calif., and the \$5,000 Dennis and Shirley Feldman Fellowship to Charles Andrew Eckert of Maspeth, N.Y. Wetter will attend George Washington University this fall to study political communications, while Eckert will be a graduate student at the Columbia University School of Journalism.

The Press Club crowd gave Valle one of the longest standing ovations of the evening. And Valle's speech lingered throughout the evening. Other award winners mentioned him when they were at the podium.

"Thank you to Jose for speaking out and sharing his story," said Tim Murphy, a reporter at Mother Jones, who won the Angele Gingras Humor Award.

Jen Judson, a reporter with Inside the Army who won the Newsletter Journalism Award, said that she wants to see Valle return to the Club's Awards dinner as a winner in one of the categories.

"Jose, I hope to see you up here one day," Judson said.

The war to end all wars:

The Associated Press covers the greatest story of the era - part of the continuing series of special reports from the AP Corporate Archives



The Associated Press had covered war before, but not since the Napoleonic wars a century earlier had so many armies battled to so great an extent.

This was the Great War, called "the European War" or "the World War" by contemporaries. Ten million combatants would die before it ended with Germany's defeat on Nov. 11, 1918. Its bloody battlegrounds, the Somme, Verdun, the Marne, and others, still epitomize apparently pointless human sacrifice. Those who survived the trenches of the Western Front believed civilization could never again sink so low.

The greatest story of the era was also the most difficult to report. Very soon, it became clear that news of military movements would be subject to rigorous and often capricious censorship. British censorship was unreasonably tight. It did not relax until officials realized that suppressing so much information about the war weakened the public support needed to wage it.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Paul Colford.

AP reveals another U.S. scheme to stir dissent in Cuba

Connecting colleague **Paul Colford** contributes:

You will remember an Associated Press investigation from last April that revealed a secret U.S. effort to set up a Twitter-like platform in Cuba designed to undermine the Communist government: <http://bit.ly/ULEfoH>

In an investigation that moved on the wire early today (Monday), AP has revealed yet another failed U.S. scheme to stir up dissent in Cuba:

US sent Latin youth undercover in anti-Cuba ploy

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fernando Murillo was typical of the young Latin Americans deployed to Cuba by a U.S. agency to work undercover. He had little training in the dangers of clandestine operations - or how to evade one of the world's most sophisticated counter-intelligence services.



Their assignment was to recruit young Cubans to anti-government activism, which they did under the guise of civic programs, including an HIV prevention workshop. Murillo was instructed to check in every 48 hours and was provided with a set of security codes. "I have a headache," for instance, meant the Costa Rican thought the Cubans were watching him and the mission should be suspended.

Over at least two years, the U.S. Agency for International Development - best known for overseeing billions of dollars in U.S. humanitarian aid - sent nearly a dozen neophytes from Venezuela, Costa Rica and Peru to gin up opposition in Cuba. The danger was apparent to USAID, if not to the young operatives: A USAID contractor, American Alan Gross, had just been hauled away to a Cuban jail for smuggling in sensitive technology. He remains there still.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting mailbox

Charles Tasnadi: man of patience, humility, quiet dignity

Richard Pyle: Former AP Washington photographer Bob Daugherty's tribute to his late colleague Charles Tasnadi prompts this recollection of the man I always thought of as the Gentleman With A Camera. Not that other AP shooters I worked with in Washington DC or elsewhere were necessarily lacking in civility, but even in the most chaotic scrum - what Hugh Mulligan called "a push of photographers" - Tasnadi would never be mistaken for a paparazzo.

Charles and I were in Cuba together in 1977, covering the historic restoration of limited US-Cuba diplomatic ties that had been negotiated on a previous visit by Sen. Frank Church (which I also covered). Talk about diplomacy - Charlie was better at that than some State Dept types I have met, and it was clear from the get-go that, as Bob says, the Cubans loved him.



He had brought with him to Havana a package of 8 x 10 prints he'd made of Castro on a previous trip but took in stride the fact that Fidel, for political reasons, had purposely made himself scarce during the new American attache's arrival and wasn't there to receive the photos either.

In addition to covering the reopening of the old US embassy for the first time since 1959, we spent one whole afternoon at the home of the world-famous Cuban ballerina Alicia Alonso. There was no interview involved, just photos, and I wouldn't have known what to ask her anyway. So my role was just to sit back in that cavernous, theater-like room and watch Charlie do his job. He worked carefully, from all angles in available light, and capturing the star's arrogant elegance. Or the reverse - it works either way.

Tasnadi also told me, over a meal, the story that Bob mentioned, of his daring escape as a refugee from communist Hungary to the west, to South America and ultimately to the United States. Maybe only Charlie could recount such a harrowing tale and remain utterly modest in the telling.

But my favorite Tasnadi vignette from that trip is how he managed to send Wirephotos from Havana to the AP in New York. It required him to explain repeatedly to the hotel's switchboard operators that each transmission would mean seven minutes (or whatever it was) of a high-pitched tone on the line, and, por favor, señoras and señoritas, do not break into the call, as it does not mean something is wrong. It seemed that no matter how often or patiently he pleaded, his case, there was some lady who didn't understand, and he'd have to start the transmission again. Sometimes a photo had to be resent twice or even three times, he said.

It was the only time in eight years in WX that I worked an assignment alone with Charles Tasnadi. We became friends, and I found him to be a man of such patience, humility and quiet dignity that I wondered, after I got to know him, whether he was fully appreciated by others at AP and in the Washington press corps.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Walt Tabak](#)

[Ben Curtis](#)

Stories of interest

[A Web Guerrilla Breaking News From the Jungle](#)



RIO DE JANEIRO - On approaching Glenn Greenwald's home office high in the jungle-encrusted mountains above Rio de Janeiro, all is tranquil, bucolic even. A gurgling stream at the entrance frames the idyll.

And then the dogs notice the incursion. They bark, yap and yowl, and while it's less "Heart of Darkness" than "101 Dalmatians," the sheer volume is mind-erasing. Should we be surprised that the house of Mr. Greenwald, the legendarily combative privacy and national security reporter, is surrounded by loud, barking defenders - or that they are actually pussycats once you get to know them, as is their rescuer?

The visit to Mr. Greenwald's jungle redoubt about 15 minutes from the beaches of Rio last week was notable for its contradictions. He is among the most wired journalists on earth, but he lives and works in Brazil, a country with a notoriously flaky Internet infrastructure.

He may have launched the lightning bolt of the Edward Snowden revelations from this house, but when it rains - which is often - the power fails.

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['You Don't Really Know Us,' Chicago Kids Tell News Media](#) (Latrice Davis/Facebook)

Tired of seeing their neighborhood portrayed in news reports as a desolate and violent place, fifth-graders in Chicago's South Shore area wrote what their teacher calls a "counternarrative." Their op-ed for The Chicago Tribune includes this line: "This isn't Chi-raq. This is home. This is us."

The students attend the Bradwell School of Excellence in South Shore. They wrote their essay collaboratively, taking the best parts of what they wanted to say. In one section they spoke directly to reporters who drop in to report on a shooting, telling them, "but you don't really know us."

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Learning from Richard Nixon (Scott Charton)



Forty years after he slunk out of office, Richard M. Nixon retains the capacity to astonish and disgust.

Just when you thought you could no longer be shocked by Nixon's willingness to abuse power, his seething resentments and paranoia and his florid anti-Semitism, another round of tapes emerges.

To listen to them - I highly recommend HBO's new "Nixon by Nixon: In His Own Words" - is to be reminded, again, of the 37th president's unrelenting self-absorption. The question is always about what is best for Nixon, never what is best for the country; his willingness to hijack the machinery of government to assure his success shows no bounds.

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Scripps and Journal is just the latest in a series of mega broadcast mergers

There is an underlying fact that makes the Scripps and Journal deal make sense: Broadcasting is still profitable. Second quarter earnings have been strong and topped last year's numbers.

Wall Street loves broadcasting, and bigger broadcast companies do better than smaller ones these days. Bigger companies have more leverage to negotiate retransmission deals with cable companies. Once this deal is approved, Scripps will be the powerhouse owner of ABC stations, which gives the company leverage to influence the network. Scripps stock hit five-year highs Thursday in response to the news that the company was spinning off its newspapers from the broadcast and online properties.

AND

Scripps, Journal had two long-ago chances to merge

It took 132 years, but Milwaukee's newspaper and the Scripps company might finally seal a deal.



An arrangement announced Wednesday would merge the broadcast operations of Journal Communications and E.W. Scripps, and spin off the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Scripps' newspapers into a new publicly traded company, Journal Media Group. The company would be based in Milwaukee; the Journal Sentinel would be the flagship.

This is the latest chapter in the saga of 178 years of Milwaukee newspaper journalism, and it comes 136 years since E.W. Scripps borrowed \$10,000 to start his Penny Press in Cleveland.

"In so many ways, this is an ideal marriage," said Bill Burleigh, retired chairman of the E.W. Scripps Co. who earned his journalism degree at Marquette University in 1957.

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[CNN Anchor Lashes Out At Fox: 'You Willfully Ignorant F**ksticks'](#)

CNN anchor Bill Weir lashed out at an arm of Fox News on Wednesday after it posted a tweet mocking Al Gore's efforts to combat global warming, calling the writers "willfully ignorant f**ksticks."

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[How mass layoffs in 2013 changed the lives of former Plain Dealer staffers](#)

On July 31, 2013, after the layoff calls came, some of the current and now-former staff of The Plain Dealer got together for drinks at Market Garden Brewery in Cleveland. Newsrooms around the country called in and bought drinks for those gathered - \$4,933 worth of drinks, Eric Sandy reported the next day for Cleveland Scene.

That day, more than 50 people had been laid off from The Plain Dealer.

"We drank for free all night," John Horton remembered.

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[Boston Globe to offer voluntary buyouts](#) (Bob Daugherty)

The Boston Globe will offer voluntary buyouts to an unspecified number of employees in the next few days, according to emails obtained by Poynter.

"There's no set number we're trying to achieve. Most significantly, it's not meant as a cost-cutting exercise in the newsroom. In fact, when all is said and done, I don't expect staffing levels here to change much, if at all," Globe Editor Brian McGrory wrote.

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[New York Times Slams Its Own Pulitzer-Prize Winning Photographer In Gaza](#)

If you have ever wondered why the New York Times photo coverage from Gaza has almost exclusively consisted of dead and bleeding Palestinian children in Shifa Hospital, with nary a Hamas gunman or missile launch from a school or a mosque to fill out the narrative of events on the ground, the newspaper of record has an astonishing answer: Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Tyler Hicks really sucks at his job.

For anyone who knows anything about photojournalism, the Times's answer raises some very serious questions about the sanity of the people who are running the newspaper, as well as the paper's loyalty to one of the greatest photographers of his era who has put his life at risk for the newspaper time and time again in global hot spots and conflict zones.

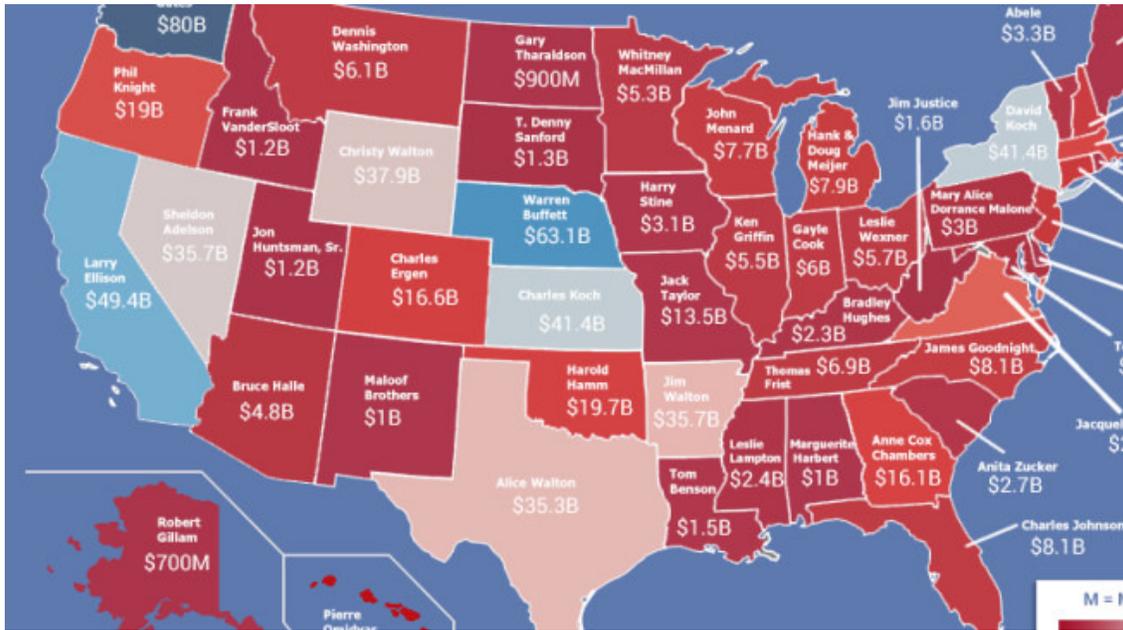
And finally...

[See Who The Wealthiest Individual Is In Every State \(MAP\)](#)

A new interactive map displays the wealthiest person in every state.

The map, at movoto.com, does a state-by-state breakdown of the richest people in each state across the country.

The way each wealthy individual got rich varies, movoto.com notes. In some cases they earned their fortunes through entrepreneurship, others are heirs or heiresses or widows, movoto.com notes, citing Forbes Celebrity Net Worth figures. About half are founders of companies.



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