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To: stevenspl@live.com
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Connecting

October 7, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning.

[Marc Wilson](#) offers this photo of a Colorado sunset, after seeing Pete Leabo's California sunset in Monday's Connecting. Marc took this photo with his iPhone, from the front walk of his home in Loveland, Colorado. "Astounding the camera changes since we owned our weekly, and rolled rolls of film (can you imagine?)," he said.

Here are stories of interest.

Paul

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2014. There are 85 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 7, 1954, Marian Anderson became the first black singer hired by the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York. (Anderson made her Met debut in January 1955 playing the role of Ulrica in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera.")

On this date: In 1777, the second Battle of Saratoga began during the American Revolution. (British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered 10 days later.)

In 1849, author Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore at age 40.

In 1858, the fifth debate between Illinois senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place in Galesburg.

In 1929, former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall, one of the main figures of the Teapot Dome scandal, went on trial, charged with accepting a bribe from oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny. (Fall was found guilty and sentenced to a year in prison; he served nine months. Doheny was acquitted at his own trial of offering the bribe Fall was convicted of taking.)

In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and Republican opponent Richard Nixon held their second televised debate, this one in Washington.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II concluded his weeklong tour of the United States with a Mass on the Washington Mall.

In 1982, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical "Cats" opened on Broadway. (The show closed Sept. 10, 2000, after a record 7,485 performances.)

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean. (The hijackers, who killed Jewish American tourist Leon

Klinghoffer, surrendered two days after taking over the ship.)

In 1989, Hungary's Communist Party renounced Marxism in favor of democratic socialism during a party congress in Budapest.

In 1991, University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of making sexually inappropriate comments when she worked for him; Thomas denied Hill's allegations.

In 2001, the current war in Afghanistan started as the United States and Britain launched air attacks against military targets and Osama bin Laden's training camps in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney conceded that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction as they tried to shift the Iraq war debate to a new issue, arguing that Saddam was abusing a U.N. oil-for-food program. Two bombs exploded at a gathering of Sunni (SOO'-nee) Muslim radicals in Multan, Pakistan, killing some three dozen people. Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk (nor-oh-DAHM' see-AHN'-ook) abdicated because of poor health. Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek (ehl-FREE'-duh YEHL'-ih-nehk) won the Nobel Prize in literature.

Five years ago: A top Italian court overturned a law granting Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi immunity from prosecution, allowing trials for corruption and tax fraud to resume in Milan. (Berlusconi was later convicted of tax fraud relating to the purchase of TV rights to U.S. films on his Mediaset network; the corruption trial ended with a court ruling that the statute of limitations had run out.) Americans Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz and Israeli Ada Yonath won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Fashion and celebrity photographer Irving Penn died in New York at 92.

One year ago: The partial federal government shutdown lingered, rattling markets in the U.S. and overseas while a gridlocked Congress betrayed little or no urgency toward resolving the impasse. Americans James Rothman and Randy Schekman and German-born researcher Thomas Suedhof won the Nobel Prize in medicine for discoveries on how proteins and other materials are transported within cells.

Today's Birthdays: Retired South African Archbishop and Nobel Peace laureate Desmond Tutu is 83. Comedian Joy Behar is 72. Former National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.) is 71. Rock musician Kevin Godley (10cc) is 69. Actress Jill Larson is 67. Country singer Kieran Kane is 65. Singer John Mellencamp is 63. Rock musician Ricky Phillips is 63. Actress Mary Badham (Film: "To Kill a Mockingbird") is 62. Actress Christopher Norris is 61. Rock musician Tico Torres (Bon Jovi) is 61. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is 59. Gospel singer Michael W. Smith is 57. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Jayne Torvill is 57. Actor Dylan Baker is 56. Recording executive and TV personality Simon Cowell is 55. Rock musician Charlie Marinkovich (Iron Butterfly) is 55. Country singer Dale Watson is 52. Pop singer Ann Curless (Expose) is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Toni Braxton is 47. Rock singer-musician Thom Yorke (Radiohead) is 46.

Rock musician-dancer Leeroy Thornhill is 45. Actress Nicole Ari Parker is 44. Actress Allison Munn is 40. Rock singer-musician Damian Kulash is 39. Singer Taylor Hicks is 38. Actor Omar Benson Miller is 36. Electronic musician Flying Lotus (AKA Stephen Ellison) is 31. MLB player Evan Longoria is 29. Actress Holland Roden is 28. Actress Amber Stevens is 28. Actress Lulu Wilson is 9.

Connecting mailbox

[Larry Blasko](#) - Today in History is a good idea for Connecting. The only downside is realizing how many of those historical events were during your lifetime and how many you covered in one way or another.

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - I love the posting of Today in History, especially since my local newspapers have abandoned the feature.

Spain's Human TowerPhotos



AP Images:

Yesterday was the 25th Human Tower Competition in Tarragona, Spain. The tradition of building human towers or "castells" dates back to the 18th century and takes place during festivals in Catalonia, where "colles" or teams compete to build the tallest and most complicated towers.

Here is Associated Press photographer Emilio Morenatti's coverage of this year's Human Tower Competition in Spain.

Click [here](#) for more images.

Stories of interest

[Resurrecting a Disgraced Reporter: 'Kill the Messenger' Recalls a Reporter Wrongly Disgraced](#)

If someone told you today that there was strong evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency once turned a blind eye to accusations of drug dealing by operatives it worked with, it might ring some distant, skeptical bell. Did that really happen?



That really happened. As part of their insurgency against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, some of the C.I.A.-backed contras made money through drug smuggling, transgressions noted in a little-noticed 1988 Senate subcommittee report.

Gary Webb, a journalist at The San Jose Mercury News, thought it was a far-fetched story to begin with, but in 1995 and 1996, he dug in and produced a deeply reported and deeply flawed three-part series called "Dark Alliance."

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[Is Vice's Documentary on ISIS Illegal?](#) (Marcus Eliason)



By now, you may have already seen Vice News's extraordinary documentary "The Islamic State." (As of this writing, it's been viewed on YouTube more than 3 million times and counting since mid-August.) Vice boasts that "reporter Medyan Dairieh spent three weeks embedded with the Islamic State, gaining unprecedented access to the group in Iraq and Syria as the first and only journalist to document its inner workings."

Dairieh's access is indeed unprecedented, and the product is gripping. He is shown traveling with ISIS fighters, interviewing Muslims who migrated to the caliphate, speaking with prisoners in an ISIS jail who proclaim their repentance

and gratitude to the caliphate, and bouncing around the Syrian city of Raqqa in the jeep of the new "morals police" (hisba), who are also, in the video at least, met with the profuse gratitude of the locals. It is a journalistic score that would make any ambitious reporter or news organization envious, and a feat now almost impossible for Western journalists after the executions of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

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[James Risen: Obama hates the press](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

New York Times reporter James Risen said Sunday that none of the current leak investigations would be happening if President Barack Obama did not hate the media so much, the Morning Sentinel of Maine reports.

"I don't think any of this would be happening under the Obama administration if Obama didn't want to do it," Risen said at Colby College in Maine after he received the Elijah Parish Lovejoy award for journalism. "I think Obama hates the press. I think he doesn't like the press and he hates leaks."

Risen could face jail time for refusing to reveal his sources about a failed CIA operation, though Attorney General Eric Holder and Obama have indicated Risen will not go to jail.

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[Letter to Readers: The values a good newspaper teaches](#)

A lot of memories fade over the years, but a warm image from my childhood still clear in my head is being sprawled out on the living room floor with the color comics spread out in front of me.

I grew up in a large family, and the newspaper ritual was particularly acute after church on Sundays.

We passed sections of the newspapers between us. I say newspapers plural because while Mom and Dad had their brand loyalties, on Sundays, we got all of them.

Newspapers were the place I started to read. Later, I'd add comic books and Little Golden Books and then children's fiction.

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[Canada's Postmedia buys Sun Media newspapers](#) (Bob Daugherty)

TORONTO (AP) - Canadian newspaper publisher Postmedia Network Canada

Corp. announced Monday that it is buying 175 newspapers and publications in a major consolidation of print media in Canada.

It is paying 316 million Canadian dollars (\$283 million) to Quebecor Media Inc. for Sun Media Corp.'s English-language operations. That includes the Sun chain of daily newspapers in Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary and Sun's digital platforms.

Postmedia already has one of Canada's largest chains of daily newspapers including the National Post and dailies in Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver. It has been losing millions in recent quarters.

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[14 women in the media make Fortune's list of influential Twitter users](#)

Fortune published a list of the "55 most influential women on Twitter," on Monday. In it, Caroline Fairchild, Colleen Leahey and Jennifer Reingold include 14 women in the media. Here they are, in no particular order, with a recent tweet from each.

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[Turner Broadcasting to cut staff by 10 percent; CNN to shed 300 jobs](#)

Turner Broadcasting, the parent company of CNN, TBS, TNT and several other channels, plans to cut its total workforce by 10 percent in the weeks ahead, eliminating nearly 1,500 positions, sources at the company confirmed Monday.

CNN alone will shed 8 percent of its staff, resulting in the elimination of roughly 300 jobs either through buyouts or layoffs, the sources said. The cuts will affect all CNN channels, including domestic, international and HLN.

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[LA Times: OC Register Owner Aaron Kushner Owes Us \\$3.5 Million, And We Want it NOW](#)

The gloves are off between the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register owner Aaron Kushner over him owing them millions of dollars for distributing his paper--and it looks like it just might end up in court.

As we reported in September, the Times decided to stop distributing the now-defunct Los Angeles Register and the OC edition because of the unpaid bills. The subsequent new carriers caused chaos in OC this past weekend, with tens of thousands of phone calls, hundreds of angry Facebook posts, and untold

emails. Today, in response to a Weekly query about the tussle, the Times spelled out in exacting detail their claims against Kushner: that he owes them at least \$3.5 million in unpaid bills, that the Kush is violating the contract that he had with the Times by having the Register distributed by another carrier, and that they want their money--or else.

The Final Word

Office stands, bald-headed, in solidarity



By Dana Coffield
The Denver Post

There are so many bald people in my office - more today than when I left on Friday.

Some are bald for fashion or out of resignation to the inevitability of genetics and age.

Another dozen - men and women - shaved their heads over the weekend in solidarity with a colleague whose chic blonde hair was stolen by chemo.

She maintained the illusion of a mane with wigs and hats for a few weeks before giving up what was left to the clippers. She was scared of being bald - maybe more scared of bald than chemo.

You can tell she feels the love and support of our co-workers, laughing as they streamed in this morning. "You didn't have to do that," she said again and again.

And they shouldn't have to.

Click [here](#) to read more.

In above photo, Denver Post photographer John Leyba shows his newly shaved head at the Denver Broncos game Sunday.

Paul Stevens
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