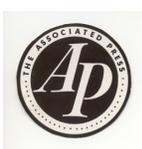


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Connecting

October 16, 2014

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Colleagues,

A "Royal'ly" good Thursday morning from Kansas City, home of the newly crowned American League champion Kansas City Royals!

Pardon the homer-ism in The Kansas City Star display above, but after all, it has been 29 years since the Royals were in the World Series. This may be my one chance before we all have to wait another 29 years - 2043, really? - before I can do this again.

As we long-suffering Royals fans await the National League champion, the Giants or the Cardinals, here are some stories of interest.

Paul

A tragedy in Marlow, Oklahoma

By Lindel Hutson

Most domestic bureau chiefs become well acquainted with their publishers and editors, and also their families.



So it was shocking to learn of the deaths of Marlow publisher John Hruby (the H is silent), his wife, Tinker, and teen-age daughter, Katherine, in their affluent Duncan home. *(John pictured at left)*

Even more stunning was the news that their son, Alan Hruby, 19, was charged Wednesday with three counts of first-degree murder, and that prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

"It was completely planned out," Stephens County District Attorney Jason Hicks said at a news conference. "This kid is an evil person."

Hruby was charged a day after police said he confessed. The prosecutor said he showed no remorse - except for being caught, The Oklahoman reported.

John's parents, Al Hruby, and wife, Janice, owned the daily Duncan Banner and were fixtures at state press meetings. A good small-town paper, and an excellent AP member, even after we stole their sports editor, Owen Canfield Jr., and hired him at AP.

Al died in 2010. Janice is one of the nicest people I've known, so the news that the family filed charges against Alan for running up \$5,000 on his grandmother's credit card was a tip that all was not well.

The Hruby's sold the Banner about 1997 when the newspaper chains came to the

state throwing big bucks at small papers. John was moved to publisher and kept the job for about two years, probably a condition of the sale.

He left the business then resurfaced a few years ago, buying the Marlow weekly and Comanche County weekly. Marlow is a small community 11 miles from Duncan.

It's also tough for the town of Duncan, population 24,500, which doesn't deserve all the bad publicity with this and the murder last year of an Australian baseball player from East Central University visiting his girlfriend. Prosecutors called the murder a ``thrill killing."

Duncan, on the old Chisholm cattle drive trail from Texas to Kansas, was the original headquarters and hometown of Halliburton, the oil field equipment conglomerate whose president was Dick Cheney before he became vice president.

The Duncan police released very few details of the murders early on. The fact that it was homicide didn't initially come from the police, creating some speculation that it might have been murder-suicide. The cause of death also was withheld.

I see more and more of this: police withholding information from the media. And it's not being challenged, one result - in my opinion - of a weakening newspaper industry. The irony is that the Al Hruby I knew would have raised holy hell with the police for withholding information on a triple homicide

After war, veteran AP reporter in Gaza says enough and moves to Malaysia

By Ron Kampeas
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON (JTA) - Ibrahim Barzak spent his childhood counting the days to weekends, when he would travel with his father to see friends in Tel Aviv, Herzliya, Ashdod and Jerusalem. For Barzak's young sons, by contrast, the names of those cities conjure malevolent exotica.



Barzak, 38, has worked for the past 22 years as a journalist in his native Gaza City, most recently as the Gaza correspondent for The Associated Press. The ethos that has guided him throughout his reporting career: a commitment to facts and reality that knows no borders.

But last month, Barzak and his family - his wife, Ghadeer al Omari, and two

sons, Hikmet, 8, and Ahmed, 6 - picked up and moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Their house in Gaza's Rimal neighborhood, which has a number of government buildings, had been flattened over the summer during Israel's most recent war with Hamas. It was the third Barzak family home destroyed, by direct or indirect airstrikes, in eight years.

The children's room in the Barzaks' Gaza City villa opened onto a garden with bushes, flowering white roses, red rhododendrons and lilacs. These days, the family's high-rise condo in a building with a pool and gym looks over the Malaysian capital's glittering skyline dominated by the Petronas Towers.

"Four stitches in my left leg," he tells me, describing what he took away from this summer's war between Israel and Hamas.

I first encountered Barzak back in 1992. I was a reporter at AP's Jerusalem bureau and he was calling in stories from Gaza.

"Two rubber bullets in the left buttock," he would typically begin. Or, "A live bullet in the head." After each intifada clash, Barzak, then a slight 16-year-old, would go hospital to hospital in Gaza noting every injury logged by the medical staff.

His precision never made it into copy - age and "moderately wounded" was all the person injured in the "left buttock" would get in an AP brief, if that. But I did not interrupt: Ibrahim Barzak at 16 was already a writer who intuited the awful and exacting poetry of facts. This was a natural-born journalist.

Literally. His father had been AP's man in Gaza since the 1950s. Hikmet Barzak married late in life, and Ibrahim was his oldest son.

They drove weekends to Israeli towns where Hikmet had made friends with wholesalers who supplied his stationery shop, and to Jerusalem, where they would pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and where his father had helped found the Arab Journalists Union.

"My father took me every Friday and Sunday," Barzak recalled. "I used to know who was beyond the walls, who I was sharing the land with, without thinking of occupation."

When his father died, Barzak started calling reports into AP's Jerusalem office.

"This is Hikmet's house," he would begin each call. The family, fearing loss of income, did not want to reveal that the patriarch was gone.

The AP embraced Ibrahim Barzak, sending him to Jerusalem and other capitals for training.

After PLO leader Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza in 1994, Barzak posted an official

portrait in his office, alongside an array of candid AP shots of his hero, Princess Diana. And when Arafat's reign imploded in corruption and double-dealing, Barzak's familiar baritone relayed every detail.

In 2009, he watched his home destroyed.

"The Israeli army issued a video of the bombing of the Hamas compound, which it posted on YouTube," Barzak wrote at the time. "I can see my home being destroyed, and I watch it obsessively."

It was his second house; the first was destroyed in 2006 after Hamas kidnapped Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit. (He was held for more than five years before being released.) The family used savings to purchase new homes.

This summer, the first hit on Barzak's house was preceded by a warning "knock" - an unarmed missile dropped on a building - at 9 a.m. It appears the Israeli army may have been targeting Mohammed Deif, a top Hamas terrorist whose wife lived some 500 yards away. Days later, the army hit Deif's wife's house. The army did not immediately return a request for comment.

Barzak, who had returned hours earlier from the office, awoke and helped gather the kids. He was the last to scramble down steps toward the basement; that's when the shrapnel hit his leg.

The family decamped to a relative's apartment, but Barzak kept track of his home. His bedroom was destroyed, then the kitchen and living room. And then "the stairway in our beautiful garden."

"Beautiful," a word packed with vagaries untypical of his practiced precision.

Barzak misses Gaza, the coastal strip where he was born and his family lived for centuries.

"It's very hard to leave," he said.

The Gaza of his youth, of weekend trips to Israeli cities, is gone. For one thing, travel between Gaza and Israel no longer is so freely permitted.

"My sons know nothing about who we are sharing the border with, who is across the border," Barzak said.

Shared by Bob Daugherty

Covering conflict along Turkey and Syrian border



From AP Images:

Turkey Syria Conflict Kobani, also known as Ayn Arab, and its surrounding areas, has been under assault by the Islamic State group since mid-September and is being defended by Kurdish fighters. More than 200,000 people fleeing the Islamic State militants' arrived in Turkey to find safety.

Our AP photographers are currently documenting the conflict afflicting the Turkey and Syrian border.

In the above photo, Turkish soldiers in position a few hundred meters from the border line as fighting intensified between Syrian Kurds and the militants of Islamic State around Kobani in Syria, near Suruc, Turkey, late Friday, Oct. 3, 2014. Turkey's parliament approved Thursday a motion that gives the government new powers to launch military incursions into Syria and Iraq and to allow foreign forces to use its territory for possible operations against the Islamic State group. (AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

Click [here](#) for more images.

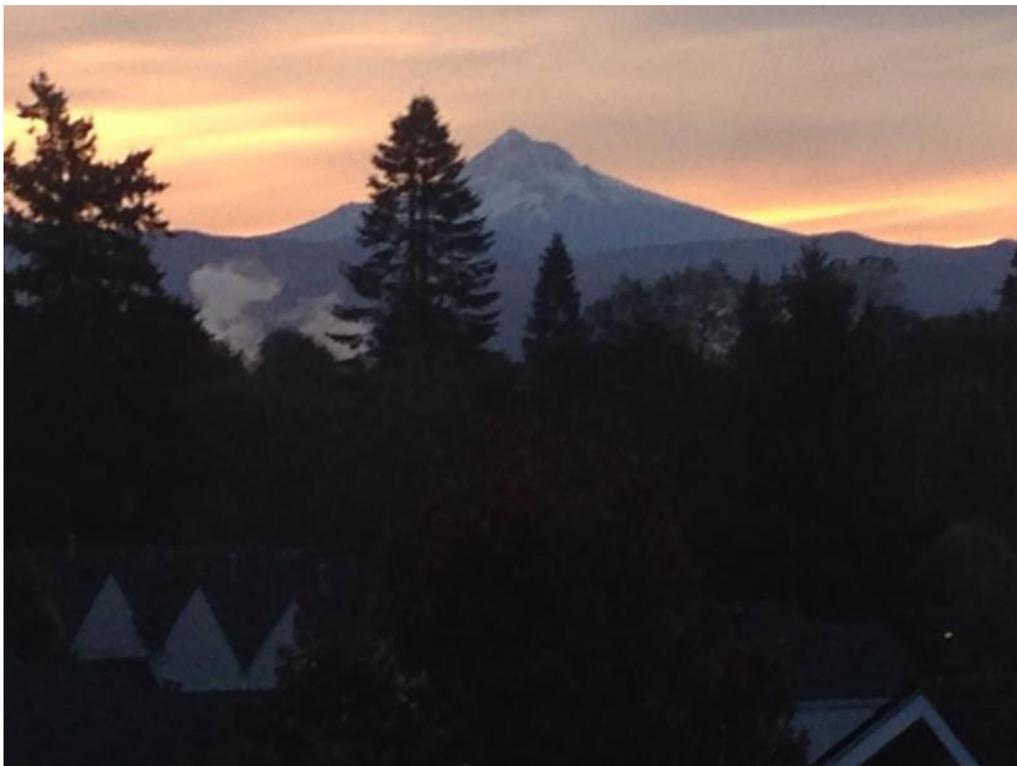
Connecting mailbox

Moved by first interview with Kathy Gannon

[Myron Belkind](#) - president of the National Press Club, and retired AP journalist:

Congratulations on the Royals advancing to the World Series. As happy as that news is for you, I know you, like all other friends of Kathy Gannon, were very pleased to read her comments - and see her in the video - in her first interview with David Crary since the April 4 tragedy. It was so moving to hear her great tribute to Anja Niedringhaus. The National Press Club was honored to pay tribute to both Kathy and Anja by bestowing on them the National Press Club's President's Award last July 30 for their courage in pursuit of the highest standards of journalism under the most difficult of circumstances. Typical of that courage is Kathy's determination to return to the front lines and report again from Afghanistan.

Connecting sky shot - Mount Hood, Washington State



[Sally Hale](#) - This Mount Hood shot is the view from our condo in Camas, Wash., across the Columbia River from Portland. I was visiting my son, Jamie, who is the events reporter for The Oregonian/OregonLive.com. Rick and I plan to kick Jamie and his roommates out of the condo when we retire in a few years!

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Origin of NA designation

[Ken Fields](#) - While working in Indianapolis I was told that the 'NA' bureau code was selected from the last two letters of Indiana.

Welcome to Connecting



[Bill Hanna](#) - former AP Pierre staffer, now executive editor of the Mesabi (MN) Daily News,

[Bob Dubill](#) - former New Jersey AP bureau chief and his wife, [Mary Gordon Dubill](#), AP Newark veteran. Chris Connell, who recruited them to Connecting, said Bob retired a few years back after a long run as executive editor of USA Today. "They are season's ticket holders at Nats' games alongside Carl Leubsdorf, and I forwarded yesterday's installment to them with Carl's great anecdote about prognosticating the 1972 presidential election.

Stories of interest

[White House pool reporters test own news distribution system](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

White House journalists are creating an alternative system for distributing their media "pool" reports in response to the Obama administration's involvement in approving and disapproving certain content in official reports.

A small group of reporters initiated an online forum this month in which they shared "pool" information among themselves, without White House involvement. The forum was set up by the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA), which negotiates with the White House's press staff over access for journalists.

-0-

CNN Defends New Slogan

Satire from The New Yorker:

NEW YORK (The Borowitz Report)-The president of CNN Worldwide, Jeff Zucker, attempted on Wednesday to defuse the brewing controversy over his decision to change the network's official slogan from "The Most Trusted Name in News" to "Holy Crap, We're All Gonna Die."

"This exciting new slogan is just one piece of our over-all rebranding strategy," Zucker said. "Going forward, we want CNN to be synonymous with the threat of imminent death."

He added that the network expected to see strong ratings growth as a result of having the words "Holy Crap, We're All Gonna Die" on-screen twenty-four hours a day.

Part of Zucker's new strategy was on display during Tuesday's edition of the network's signature program, "The Situation Room," in which a visibly ill-at-ease Wolf Blitzer appeared dressed as The Grim Reaper.

"That's a work in progress," Zucker said about Blitzer's makeover. "But once Wolf gets comfortable swinging that scythe, he's going to be amazing."

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[The Journalist and the Emperor](#)

By Norihiro Kato, Op-Ed Contributor, New York Times



TOKYO - Early last month, a quarter century after Emperor Hirohito's death in 1989, Japan's Imperial Household Agency released the official record of his life. The 61 volumes contain a great wealth of previously unavailable material and some fascinating trivia: Who knew that the imperial family has been exchanging Christmas presents since at least 1907? The Japanese media have been digging in.

I haven't waded through the books, but scholars are already noting that they studiously avoid addressing Hirohito's part in Japan's actions leading up to and during World War II.

A couple of weeks ago, the historian Herbert Bix wrote in an op-ed for this paper that he had received an email from "an employee at one of Japan's largest newspapers" asking him to comment on an embargoed excerpt from the record of Hirohito's life. "But there was a condition," Bix explained. "I could not discuss Hirohito's 'role and responsibility' in World War II." And so Bix refused, he said. Some 70 years after the end of the war, the subject is considered taboo in Japan's mainstream media.

AP Beat of the Week

As Thomas Eric Duncan slipped toward death last week at a Dallas hospital, AP scrambled to uncover what happened during the Ebola-infected man's first ER visit and why he was discharged so quickly, putting untold others at risk. Few answers were coming from Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital or from government officials, who all cited patient privacy.

There was, however, a real-time account that could answer these crucial questions and more, accurately and fully: Duncan's medical records.

These documents logged by doctors and nurses would run to some 1,450 pages _ and AP Fort Worth correspondent Emily Schmall managed to obtain them all. Detailing every step and misstep of Duncan's treatment, they were a window into a terrifying medical mystery, a coup of reporting _ and this week's Beat of the Week.

In the end, AP's exclusive and widely used stories based on these records relied on the seamless efforts of an ad hoc team, notably including Shawn Chen, Central region interactive editor, who, as he put it, "played traffic cop" in getting the mountains of documents into an accessible electronic form and distributed to other reporters to comb through and take notes.

Still, the key in the lock was Schmall's gaining access to the records _ three thick stacks, held together with rubber bands. How did she do it?

Schmall has been deeply involved in Ebola coverage. In fact, she shared Beat of the Week recognition last week for her part in reporting in Texas and Liberia that produced many scoops. Back-to-back honors in the contest are rare: The last consecutive wins came in February 2013.

Schmall's backstory is also relevant. "I worked in 2011 from Monrovia, Liberia, as the country director of the NGO New Narratives, a journalism mentorship program," Schmall notes. She mentioned this Liberia connection again and again during interviews about Duncan, who came to Texas from that West African nation at the center of the Ebola outbreak. It helped her gain access to the Liberian community around Dallas, and helped build trust with Duncan's family when they arrived from North Carolina.

"In particular, I developed a rapport with Duncan's nephew, Josephus Weeks, in reminiscing about nightclubs and restaurants in Monrovia," she says. "I got his number and stayed in close touch with him, sometimes just sending a text with the question, 'How are things going?'"

It was in one of those followups that he mentioned requesting his uncle's medical records.

A day later, last Wednesday, Duncan was dead. Distraught and angry, his family members soon left to return his grieving mother to North Carolina. The reams of medical records went with them.

Schmall reached Weeks by phone as he drove, and after conveying her sympathies she made a request that Texas editor Maud Beelman had approved: If the family would agree to let AP see the records, Schmall would meet them in North Carolina. The family had no objection. Schmall caught a Thursday morning flight from Dallas.

But how to process the blizzard of records? Many quickly pitched in. Holbrook Mohr, on loan from the investigative team, researched the best model of multisheet document scanner, and Charlotte's Skip Foreman coordinated its purchase and delivery to Schmall at the Charlotte airport.

AP techs got her computer set up with the scanner software, and from Chicago, Chen talked Schmall through testing before she headed to the family's home in Kannapolis, North Carolina.

Duncan's sister escorted Schmall to the kitchen table where for the next six hours she scanned the records in batches and sent them on to Chen, using her phone as an Internet hotspot. All the while, she conversed with tearful relatives and at one point shared Liberian pepper soup.

The documents went to a Dropbox account where Chen quality-checked them, migrated them into the secure APDocs system for access by designated AP reporters around the country, and "played traffic cop for any questions or messages that the reporters had."

By Friday morning, a story under the bylines of Schmall, Mohr and Dallas newsman Nomaan Merchant told the world that not only had the hospital missed information that Duncan had come from Africa, but his fever had spiked to 103 (noted with an exclamation point in one chart) before the hospital discharged him.

The AP remains the only news organization to have the medical records, forcing others to run our story or quote heavily from it. Front-page play spanned from Tacoma to Norfolk, Cleveland to Memphis, and across Texas.

Schmall recorded an exclusive audio interview with Weeks, who said he believed race had played a role in his uncle's care; the family declined requests to go on camera. A followup narrative of Duncan's last days, by Schmall, Medical Writer Luran Neergaard and National Writer Allen Breed (who also shot photos), got wide play. Other stories, too, have flowed from the records' data.

And for Schmall, all of that was just part of a busy weekend _ which also included the wedding of one of her dearest friends. She was due in Washington on Friday but made it on Saturday, ahead of the ceremony. Again, credit smart planning. Before grabbing her spur-of-the-moment North Carolina flight, she "shoved my dress for the

wedding and a pair of heels into my carry-on luggage" _ along with notebooks full of Ebola reporting.

For astutely obtaining and mining a trove of primary source material to break news on an intensely competitive story, Schmall and Chen share this week's \$500 prize.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

- On Oct. 16, 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on Harpers Ferry in western Virginia. (Ten of Brown's men were killed and five escaped. Brown and six followers were captured; all were executed.)
- In 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.
- In 1934, Chinese Communists, under siege by the Nationalists, began their "long march" lasting a year from southeastern to northwestern China.
- In 1939, the comedy "The Man Who Came to Dinner," by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, opened on Broadway.
- In 1962, President John F. Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.
- In 1964, China set off its first atomic bomb, codenamed "596," on the Lop Nur Test Ground. Harold Wilson of the Labour Party assumed office as prime minister of Britain, succeeding Conservative Sir Alec Douglas-Home.
- In 1969, the New York Mets capped their miracle season by winning the World Series, defeating the Baltimore Orioles, 5-3, in Game 5 played at Shea Stadium.
- In 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.
- In 1984, Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of non-violent struggle for racial equality in South Africa.
- In 1987, a 58-½-hour drama in Midland, ended happily as rescuers freed Jessica McClure, an 18-month-old girl trapped in an abandoned well.
- In 1991, a deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, as George Hennard opened fire at a Luby's Cafeteria, killing 23 people before taking his own life.
- In 1999, a New York Air National Guard plane rescued Dr. Jerri Nielsen from a South Pole research center after she'd spent five months isolated by the Antarctic

winter.

Today's birthdays: Actress **Angela Lansbury** is 89. Author **Gunter Grass** is 87. Actor-producer **Tony Anthony** is 77. Actor **Barry Corbin** is 74. Sportscaster **Tim McCarver** is 73. Rock musician **C.F. Turner** (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 71. Actress **Suzanne Somers** is 68. Rock singer-musician **Bob Weir** is 67. Producer-director **David Zucker** is 67. Record company executive **Jim Ed Norman** is 66. Actor **Daniel Gerroll** is 63. Actor **Morgan Stevens** is 63. Actress **Martha Smith** is 62. Comedian-actor **Andy Kindler** is 58. Actor-director **Tim Robbins** is 56. Actor-musician **Gary Kemp** is 55. Singer-musician **Bob Mould** is 54. Actor **Randy Vasquez** is 53. Rock musician **Flea** (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 52. Actor **Todd Stashwick** is 46. Jazz musician **Roy Hargrove** is 45. Actress **Terri J. Vaughn** is 45. Singer **Wendy Wilson** (Wilson Phillips) is 45. Rapper **B-Rock** (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 43. Rock singer **Chad Gray** (Mudvayne) is 43. Actor **Paul Sparks** is 43. Actress **Kellie Martin** is 39. Singer **John Mayer** is 37. Actor **Jeremy Jackson** is 34. Actress **Caterina Scorsone** is 34. Actress **Brea Grant** is 33.

The Final Word

Spelling error identified on new Ernie Pyle sculpture

Media School administrators were made aware Wednesday morning of a misspelling emblazoned in the new bronze sculpture of famed WWII reporter Ernie Pyle.

The word "correspondent," as seen on a patch on the left shoulder of the bronze sculpture, is incorrectly spelled. It currently reads "U.S. War Corespondent."



The error went undetected for almost a week until an IU alumnus visiting campus noticed the misspelling upon inspecting the sculpture and informed administrators.

Click [here](#) to continue reading. Shared by Bob Daugherty



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