
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 9:34 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 8, 2014

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Connecting

December 8, 2014

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



Kenneth M Fields

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Connecting colleague **Jim Baltzelle** ([Email](#)), AP's chief of bureau in Miami, on the death of his 18-year-old daughter Molly May, who died in her sleep Saturday in St. Augustine, Florida, where she was attending college.

"Molly was a loving, funny and wonderful person," Jim told his Facebook friends. "We loved her very much."

The 72nd anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor was observed Sunday. Connecting colleague **Ken Fields** shared the photo of the USS Arizona memorial, above, that he took in 2013 and colleague **Joe McKnight** shared his own remembrances of that day in an essay below.

If you have memories of that Day of Infamy, Dec. 7, 1941, please send them along to me.

My dad, **Walter Stevens**, was the 24-year-old managing editor of the Brainerd (Minnesota) Daily Dispatch when he got the word with a phone call to his apartment, and he and the staff rushed down to the paper to publish a special Sunday edition. Several months later, he was in the Army and headed toward nearly three years of combat as an artillery officer in North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, France and finally Germany - his family's native country.

Paul

American photojournalist, South African teacher killed in rescue attempt

SANAA, Yemen (AP) - An American photojournalist and a South African teacher were killed Saturday during a high-risk, U.S.-led raid to free them from al-Qaida militants in Yemen, a turbulent Arab country that is a centerpiece of U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region.



The raid before dawn was the second rescue attempt in as many weeks to free Luke Somers, a 33-year-old freelance photographer and editor kidnapped just over a year ago in Yemen's capital. (*He is shown at left.*)

South African Pierre Korkie, abducted 18 months ago with his wife in the

city of Tazi, also was killed by militants as U.S. forces descended upon the militants' compound in southern Yemen. A South African aid group trying to negotiate Korkie's release said he was a day from freedom after a deal late last month that included a "facilitation fee" to the kidnappers. The relief organization had told Korkie's wife that "the wait is almost over."

President Barack Obama said he ordered the raid because Somers was believed to be in "imminent danger." The president, in a statement, condemned Somers' killing as a "barbaric murder," but did not mention the 56-year-old Korkie by name, offering condolences to the family of "a non-U.S. citizen hostage." The South African government said it was informed that Korkie died during the mission by American special forces.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Survivors recall Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) - For the first time since the war, Alvis Taylor returned to Pearl Harbor and recalled the surprise Japanese air attack that plunged America into World War II.



He was serving as an Army medic when the Dec. 7, 1941 attack began. His superiors, who were doctors, rushed to hospitals to care for the wounded. He went to Pearl Harbor, about 18 miles south of his Army post at Schofield Barracks, with dozens of ambulances.

"I remember everything that happened that day," the 90-year-old Davenport, Iowa, resident said.

Taylor decided to return to Pearl Harbor for the first time since the war because the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America paid for him and his wife to make the trip.

He was among about 50 survivors of the attack and some 2,500 others who gathered Saturday on the 72nd anniversary of the Japanese air raid.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Memories of that day of that day

Connecting colleague **Joe McKnight ([Email](#))** shares this memory from that Day of Infamy:

My dad, a World War I Navy veteran of troop transport service, had re-enlisted in the Navy the previous summer and was stationed at Pensacola (Florida) Naval Air Station. Mom and my sister had spent that morning in church. I slept in after working overnight at the Selma (Ala.) Times-Journal, (composing room, mailing room, delivering a newspaper route). Mom was preparing lunch when the lady who rented two rooms from her ran into our sitting room and blurted "They bombed Pearl Harbor."

At age 16, I had only bare knowledge that Pearl Harbor was in the Pacific, but we quickly learned more particulars. The announcement delayed lunch only briefly, but it did become the dominant topic of conversation as we picked up particulars from the radio. About 2 p.m., Times-Journal Circulation Manager Roy Moore called and asked me to sell an "Extra" of the newspaper that would be printed about 7 p.m. I agreed. Then someone from the church called to say a special early evening service would begin at 6 p.m.

So, dressed in a white shirt, tie and jacket, I rode my bike to church for the service, but left early to go to the newspaper office. The presses were running when I got there. Moore was giving all willing carriers 50 newspapers apiece to sell, mostly out in residential areas. He asked me and a couple of other carriers to wait, then gave us each 50 copies of the newspaper and said he would drive us out to Craig Army Air Base, which provided advanced training to Army Air Corps pilots just before they were commissioned as second lieutenants, given pilots wings and sent on to other assignments. (It became the U.S. Air Force in 1946.) Guards at the base entrance quickly waved us onto the base and we circulated among barracks of military personnel. I walked through a barracks of aviation cadets who quickly bought the newspapers for 25 cents each. One young cadet left a lasting impression. He took a newspaper and gave me a \$10.00

bill. I started fumbling for change and he said: "Keep it. Money won't be any good to me now."

AP Teletype a family thing for the Buzbees

Dick Buzbee ([Email](#)) is a longtime friend of Ye Olde Connecting Editor from Dick's days as a Kansas publisher and recently joined the Connecting family. Dick, by the way, is the father in law of AP's Washington Chief of Bureau **Sally Buzbee** and doting grandfather to Sally and husband John's two girls.

A few weeks ago, when Connecting published a story on the old AP Teletypes, Dick forwarded the newsletter to his son, **Bill Buzbee** ([Email](#)), who is somewhat of a Teletype aficionado from the days when Bill would visit his father's office at the Olathe (Kansas) Daily News and marvel over the sound of the AP Teletype clacking away adjacent to his father's desk.



"I used to hang out at the old Olathe paper in the late 60's and just watch the teletype machine go," Bill said. "I never forgot the sound, and 15 or so years ago I set out to find one and bring it back to life. Thanks to help from some other Teletype enthusiasts, I was successful - and also created software to drive the Teletype machine via computer. The program I wrote would scrape 'AP Today in History' from web sites, reformat it, and send it to the machine for printing."

Click [here](#) for an early test run that Bill developed, with commentary in the background by his daughter Maia, who was 5 1/2 at the time it was recorded. In the video, I love this exchange between Maia and her dad:

"What are you printing, daddy?" she asks, as the Teletype chugs along.

"Well, it's printing Today in History from The Associated Press, September 28, 2003," replied Bill.

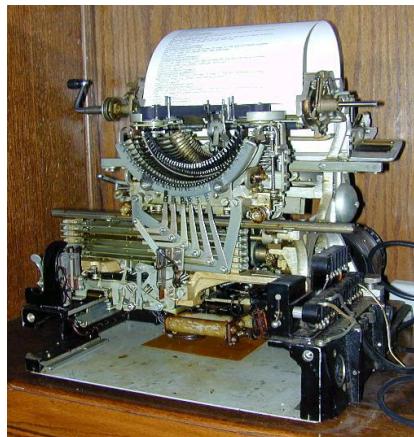
A pause, and then Maia asks, "But, how do they know what today's history

is?"

Replied Bill, "Well, Today in History is actually about things that happened on this date in years past."

No more questions from Maia - who no doubt had a somewhat puzzled look on her face.

Maia is now 16 and is pictured above with the AP Teletype that still graces their home in Half Moon Bay, California.



A few years ago, Bill created a video with higher resolution and overlays describing the parts of the machine. Click [here](#) to view.

Dick recalls that "the most poignant thing about the old teletype machine was the profound silence in the newsroom when it was gone, when we made that first step to the computer age by shifting to offset printing and the newfangled Friden machines back in the '70s."

Connecting mailbox

Mark Hamrick ([Email](#)) - This was a big week of transitions for two former AP Radio staffers, **Candy Crowley** and **Wendell Goler**, both of whom successfully moved to television years ago. It is worth noting both also fared well in the (cable) television world, which I'd argue doesn't always apply the same rigorous journalism standards/ethics that are standard fare for the AP. As one who spent decades working in broadcast, I am not one to bash it with one broad brushstroke. Having said that, I'm also not a fan of the rush to embrace audiences by intentionally "narrow casting" and setting up an echo chamber effect where viewers risk only having their attitudes reinforced while perhaps learning very little.

Both Wendell and Candy had remarkably long runs in their respective shops at different locations along the political spectrum. Both deserve high praise for their objectivity and fairness despite how some of their respective colleagues manage (or fail to manage) the objectivity ideal.

Here's hoping those who follow in their footsteps can strive for the same ideals as Candy and Wendell.

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He never forgot Candy's help

Jim Limbach ([Email](#)) - I worked with **Candy Crowley** (KROH-lee, not KROW-lee as many insist on pronouncing it) from 1976 until she departed for CNN. And Paul, is right, she's a classy lady, and I am in her debt. In 1983, she was AP Radio's White House correspondent and was able to wangle an invitation for me to attend the White House Christmas party, where the accompanying photo was taken. Thanks, again, Candy and best of luck in your future endeavors.



Iwo Jima - and getting published

Hal Buell ([Email](#)) - A brief addendum to Richard Pyle's tale of Iwo Jima, James Bradley and the ever elusive effort to get books published:

Talk about rejections by publishers? It took me 10 years from my first pitch to eventual acceptance to get UNCOMMON VALOR, COMMON VIRTUE published. Never did get a single reason for the lack of acceptance...just resounding silence from publishers queried.

But, Illegitimi non carborundum est! Hope my high school Latin holds up.

A celebration of John Dowling's career



New Connecting colleague (and Chicago-based AP medical writer) **Carla Johnson** ([Email](#)) - shares:

Colleagues from a 35-year career joined to honor **John Dowling** on Dec. 4 at the Parthenon restaurant in Chicago's Greektown. He is shown in photo above with Chicago newswoman **Tammy Weber**.

The dinner tribute, organized by AP Medical Writer **Lindsey Tanner** with help from others, provided a chance for John's many fans to show their support and appreciation. It felt, in many ways, like a retirement sendoff, but the occasion was bittersweet.

The AP, without explanation, eliminated John's position on Nov. 7. He had been the director of news training for almost 10 years and had held other leadership positions with the AP before that. He started his career at the AP as a copy assistant and one of the gifts he received at the dinner was a framed photo of a fresh-faced young John in his early years with the wire service. He also received a leather-bound collection of his co-workers' grateful words, fond memories and best wishes for the future.

John's farewell email was leaked to Jim Romenesko's blog (<http://jimromenesko.com/2014/11/08/associated-press-dismisses-its-longtime-director-of-news-training/>) where it can be read in its entirety. Here are a few sentences he directed to his colleagues: "You are smart, creative, funny, irreverent, committed, full of integrity and loyalty, the best companions anyone could ask for. I am proud to have all of you as friends, and that will not change. I hope to see all of you sometime soon, and have a laugh and maybe a beverage, and find out what everyone has been doing."

What's next for John? Stay tuned. As he describes himself on his LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnmdowling>) page, he's a "Builder of

learning programs to drive change. Editor and coach of world-class cross-media content and storytelling." Any organization would be lucky to have him.

'Hell of a Ride': Wendell Goler retires from Fox News

Longtime Fox News correspondent **Wendell Goler** is retiring and last Wednesday was his last day on the job.

Goler started at Fox News Channel in 1996 when the network was just launching, and before that he worked for The Associated Press as a White House correspondent.



After receiving a round of applause from White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest and his fellow White House press earlier today, Goler spoke to Shepard Smith and said it's been "a hell of a ride." He told Shep he feels like a dinosaur, as the news business has changed a bit.

"I saw a golden age of broadcasting and lived through it, and I think it's time for me to go where dinosaurs go. And I hear there's a bunch of them down in Punta Cana."

Goler said he's always tried to sell it straight and he's very grateful for the ride.

"It's just an incredible thing to be witness to history, to be witness to great people doing great things," Goler said. "It's also a tremendous honor to be able to relay that to the American people, and that's been a great joy for me."

The National Association of Black Journalists lauded Goler on his career accomplishments:

"We salute Wendell for his amazing body of work as a political correspondent covering complex issues and personalities of national and international significance. It is a testament to his career the type of praise that came in the wake of the announcement of his retirement," said NABJ

President Bob Butler. "There must be more effort paid to diversifying the White House press corps, the Congressional press corps, and Washington bureaus of television, radio, print, and online newsrooms. "

And this from the White House press secretary, Josh Earnest, "Well, after 28 years of service, I understand that this is your last day here at the White House. So your 28 years here has been characterized by a lot of professionalism and dedication to your field. And that's something that we both appreciate and will miss after your departure."

Before joining FNC, Goler served as a White House correspondent for the Associated Press Broadcast Services. In that position, Goler anchored all presidential news conferences and was responsible for all coverage related to domestic and foreign presidential affairs. Additionally, he has served as a reporter for several Washington, D.C. stations, including WJLA-TV and WRC-TV.

Click [here](#) for the link to the NABJ story.

INSIDE KOBANI: A devastated town as fighting against Islamic State militants turns corner



KOBANI, Syria (AP) - Blocks of low-rise buildings with hollow facades, shattered concrete, streets strewn with rubble and the overturned, crumpled remains of cars and trucks. Such is the landscape in Kobani, where the sounds of rifle and mortar fire resonate all day long in fighting

between Islamic State extremists and the Syrian town's Kurdish defenders.

Kurdish fighters peek through sand-bagged positions, firing at suspected militant positions. Female fighters in trenches move quickly behind sheets strung up to block the view of snipers. Foreign jets circle overhead.

The Associated Press takes a rare and in-depth look at fighting and daily life inside Kobani, the Kurdish town in northern Syria that has been besieged by the Islamic State group and has suffered horrendous destruction after more than two months of violence.

Click [here](#) and scroll down for the five-part video-led series.

A brother's eulogy for Naomi Halperin

Naomi Halperin, who died Dec. 2 at the age of 55, served The Associated Press in many roles with the Associated Press Photo Managers group, including as president. She worked as a photographer at the Morning Call in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and was Director of Photography at The News-Journal in Wilmington, Delaware.



At her funeral services, her brother **Alan Halperin** delivered this remarkable eulogy:

Be Nice About It

I remember the day as if it were yesterday; yet, it was 48 years ago. Naomi was seven and I was six. We were housebound due to heavy rain. I wanted to play outside.

...Having more sense than I, Naomi wanted to play inside.

Naomi set up a table with toy dishes, and placed stuffed animals in chairs. She exclaimed, with tremendous enthusiasm, "let's have a tea party!" I complained bitterly. Eventually, I realized that my options were limited and Naomi's plan was better than doing nothing. I reluctantly agreed to Naomi's tea party, but made it clear I was doing so under protest.

Naomi promptly packed up the toy dishes and put away the stuffed animals. Confused, I told her I would play with her. Naomi's response was clear and to the point: "If you agree to do something, be nice about it. Otherwise, I am not interested."

To this day, I remember, and try to live by, the lesson of a remarkably

insightful seven year-old: "If you agree to do something, be nice about it."

Thus started my life lessons at Naomi's side.

Non-Conformist

Naomi was a non-conformist. While others in elementary and junior high school dressed in a similar fashion and fell into Allentown's version of Mean Girls cliques, Naomi marched to her own beat. She wore colorful and vibrant clothes, pursued art and rejected cliques. While not everyone embraced her fierce, independent streak, her true friends - many of whom I see today (40 years later) - adored her for it. Life Lesson Number Two: Be yourself and embrace your uniqueness.

First In State

Naomi and I, like many siblings close in age, made up games. One that sticks out was fondly known as "First in State."

Imagine a large car, circa 1968, with no seat belts. The four children were in the back, bouncing around as if we were in a roller coaster, with our parents in the front. To win the game, one of us had to arrive in the new state before the other.

Our favorite venue for the game was the narrow tube in the Lincoln Tunnel. Each of us would act as though we had forgotten about the game or we were so engrossed (or bored) with conversation, we did not realize that the state border was rapidly approaching.

As we bounded toward the New Jersey/New York line in the narrow tunnel, in a move that would have made Dennis Rodman and Charles Barclay marvel, Naomi would box me out, dive toward the front windshield with one hand extended (while the other knocked the back of my dad's head), and yell "First in State."

Lesson Number Three..Well, there is no lesson. I just love the image of Naomi diving toward the front of the car, throwing caution (and safety) to the wind.

Empathy

I defy you to name anyone on this planet who has endured more than Naomi. The endless surgeries, hospital stays and setbacks would have shattered any of us. Yet Naomi persevered with grace and dignity. Remarkably, she was not bitter or envious. Naomi celebrated our successes as though they were her own.

The night before the doctors removed her second leg, while she struggled with the pain, I unfortunately lost my filter. I accidentally uttered: "I am so sorry. I feel so bad for you." With genuine sincerity, Naomi responded: "It's fine. There are people who have it worse."

Think about that response: "People have it worse." Naomi deeply cared about others. She never was judgmental. Despite what painful tragedy was plaguing her, she wanted to know about our concerns, our challenges, our lives. She made you feel as though you were the most important person in the world.

Lesson Number Three: Naomi, with remarkable sincerity and care, taught us about empathy.

Sense of Humor

So how did Naomi cope with such adversity? First, her sense of humor was legendary. For example, when she told me that some people have it worse, I asked her "Where?" Without missing a beat, she said, "Hmmm. Syria?" Then, the two of us had one of those hard belly laughs, which lasted for minutes, with our sides aching.

Life Lesson Number Four from Naomi: a sense of humor is a powerful tool. It can help you get through difficult times and endears you to the world.

Friends

One of my close friends, who is here with us today, introduced me to an expression of which I have grown fond: "To judge a person's character, all one needs to know is that person's friends." As I look out into the sanctuary, I see Naomi's remarkably loyal, devoted and loving friends. Based on the adage - to know a person's character, all one needs to know is her friends - I am confident that Naomi had the utmost character.

I appreciate that Naomi enriched your lives. But you also should understand that you greatly enhanced Naomi's life. We are forever grateful for all you have done for Naomi.

On this very point, I want to mention one specific person, Marc Gerson. Your quiet strength, selflessness, love and heartfelt care sustained Naomi during the last few difficult years.

Lesson Number Five from the School of Naomi: appreciate and love your friends. Don't take them for granted. Nurture and maintain friendships. Make sure that you make time to be with each other at life events, both happy and sad.

Someone's Sister with Hopes

My wife Lauren and I traveled to Israel with Naomi. Spending over a week together gave us insight not only as to how Naomi overcame hurdles, but also as to her emotional state and outlook.

First, let me touch upon her emotional state and perspective. Naomi embraced visits to historical sites, gatherings with family members and the various meals with remarkable enthusiasm. She would discuss how she would return to Israel with Marc to go to this museum or that historical site as soon as she became healthy.

I should have realized it earlier, because it is so obvious: Naomi, like all of us, had hopes, aspirations and dreams. These strong and powerful desires for a better tomorrow carried her through each day.

My other epiphany was that people, in large part, are quite nice. Perhaps Naomi simply brought out the best in us. But I witnessed strangers opening doors, assisting her with steps, extending a helpful hand and engaging her in conversation.

So what did I learn from this experience? When you see a person who might be struggling, remember he or she has hopes, aspirations and dreams; that person is someone's daughter, sister, friend or parent, who yearns for a better day. Extend a helping hand or pleasant smile. And remember the first lesson: "If you do so, be nice about it."

Family

Naomi loved family. Each of my siblings and my mother thought we had the most special, close relationship with Naomi. (But since I am the one who is now speaking, I can confirm that I was the one with the special relationship.) How can one person be so loving, caring and insightful with many individuals? It is too painful to think how we will cope with our profound loss.

Today, however, I will try to focus on how she brought us together.

Yesterday, my Mom, sister Marcia, brother David and I watched a tape of a party Naomi organized for my Dad's 80th birthday. The party was 12 years ago, and her dear friend, Donna (who is here today), filmed the happy event.

Naomi - not surprisingly - was the life of the party. She was engaging, funny and tireless. She was healthy and beautiful. This is the Naomi I choose to remember.

Fast forward 12 years later. Two weeks ago, Naomi celebrated with relatives in New York at a family wedding. While she clearly was not feeling well, she insisted. Naomi refused to allow anything get in the way of spending time, at a happy event, with family.

Now comes the remarkable fact: only a few days ago, Naomi hosted Thanksgiving. She entertained 17 people and, of course, four dogs. Some of us struggle to make a grilled cheese sandwich. Yet, Naomi - in her fragile condition - hosted Thanksgiving for 17 people.

Life Lesson Number Six from the University of Naomi: Family is paramount. It is not always easy, fun or comfortable. But maintaining close family relations was Naomi's way of life.

We Are Fortunate

If you are fortunate enough to have known Naomi, I suspect you are a better person. I urge you to embrace her legacy and remember her inspirational and aspirational spirit.

Naomi, we will honor your life by remembering how you enriched our lives.

Welcome to Connecting



Bryan Brumley ([Email](#))

Candy Crowley ([Email](#))

Carla Johnson ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

[**2 projects collect media and things from the media in Ferguson**](#) (Bob Daugherty)



For months, the image stayed in her phone. Laura Schatzman didn't know what to do with it, but she knew it was special - a crowd of hands reaching toward blue sky, framed by St. Louis' Gateway Arch. She saw it, got chills, and it stayed in her phone.

Schatzman, a landscape and urban designer, went to a prayer and service event at Central Reform Congregation the night after the grand jury ruled not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the death of Mike Brown. They prayed and made goodie bags for kids at Ferguson's library, and Schatzman met a professional photographer.

"I've had this buried deep for months now," she told him, "I just don't know what to do with it," and she showed him the image she took with her iPhone at an Aug. 14 National Moment of Silence Event at the Arch. The photographer told her to send it to a project through Washington University, and Schatzman did just that.

In mid-August, staff at Washington University Libraries in St. Louis started collecting with a site called Documenting Ferguson, asking people to share their images, videos and stories from events in Ferguson, Missouri after police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown.

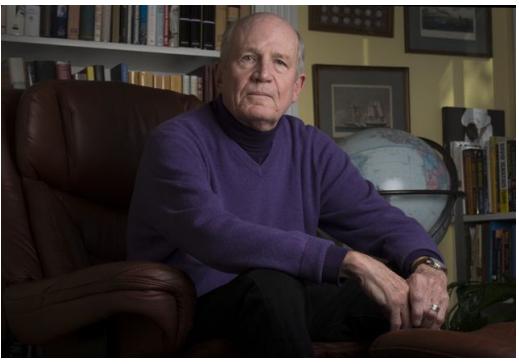
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[After more than three decades and 3,000 reviews, a fond farewell](#)

By Jonathan Yardley

(Jonathan Yardley has been a Washington Post book critic since 1981.)

Thirty-three years and four months - a third of a century almost to the minute - are quite enough, thank you. On the second Monday of August 1981, I reported for work in the tiny, semi-subterranean offices of Book World, the Sunday supplement of The Washington Post. Those offices moved all over the building in the years to follow, and indeed Book World itself eventually dissolved into bits and pieces of other sections, but I stayed the course, never missing a day's work, plugging away book after book after book, to the somewhat numbing total of about 3,000 reviews.

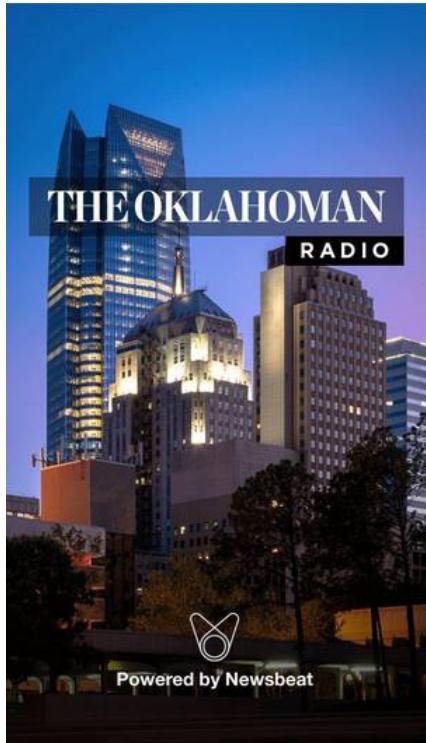
A black and white photograph of Jonathan Yardley, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a purple turtleneck sweater. He is seated in a brown leather armchair, looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. Behind him is a bookshelf filled with books and a globe.

As of the first Sunday of December 2014, I'm out of here. The choice to leave is my own: I am more than ready to retire, as I will explain below. But for me this has been a happy time, and ending it is a sad one. I had wanted to work for The Post from the day I left the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in June 1961, and though it took me two full decades to get here it was - for me, at least - worth every minute of the wait.

Click [here](#) for a list of Yardley's favorite books.

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[The Oklahoman launches new radio app with customizable features](#) (Lindel Hutson)



Ever wish someone would read you the newspaper on your drive to work? Or at the gym? As of today, subscribers to The Oklahoman can have their news read to them when they are on the go.

The Oklahoman Radio app is now accessible to all subscribers. At left and right are screen-grabs of different sections of the app. The Oklahoman is the first newspaper in the country to offer a fully customizable radio app. "The Oklahoman Radio" is now accessible to all subscribers of The Oklahoman, both print and digital.

"The Oklahoman Radio app provides an all-new way for our customers to access their favorite content from the newspaper,

whether they're on the go, in their cars or at times when they're just too busy to pick it up," said Chris Reen, publisher of The Oklahoman.

Designed with commuters in mind, owners of vehicles with Bluetooth devices can listen to the reports hands free through their car radios.

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New Republic Suspends Publication After Mass Resignations

The New Republic has halted publication of its next issue after dozens of employees, including top editors Franklin Foer and Leon Wieseltier, resigned from the political biweekly over changes to the publication.

"Given the departure this week of several editors and writers, The New Republic decided to cancel the issue rather than risk producing a magazine not in keeping with the traditionally high standards of the institution," a spokesman for the publication told TheWrap on Saturday.

The next issue was due for publication Dec. 15. Instead, the 100-year-old institution will next publish on Feb. 2, with newly installed editor-in-chief Gabriel Snyder editing.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2014. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date:

In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington's retreating army crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

In 1813, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, was first performed in Vienna, with Beethoven himself conducting.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1960, NBC broadcast a new, color videotape version of the TV special "Peter Pan" starring Mary Martin. (Two previous telecasts, also starring Martin, had been performed live in 1955 and 1956.)

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. (After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.)

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1992, Americans got to see live television coverage of U.S. troops landing on the beaches of Somalia as Operation Restore Hope began (because of the time difference, it was early Dec. 9 in Somalia).

Ten years ago: The Senate completed congressional approval of the biggest overhaul of U.S. intelligence in a half-century, voting 89-2 to send the measure to President George W. Bush, who signed it nine days later. Disgruntled U.S. soldiers complained to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld during a question-and-answer session in Kuwait about long deployments and a lack of armored vehicles and other equipment. Treasury Secretary John Snow accepted President Bush's offer to remain in the Cabinet. "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, 38, an influential heavy metal guitarist, was fatally shot with three other people during a performance in Columbus, Ohio; the gunman was then shot dead by a police officer.

Five years ago: Ohio executed murderer Kenneth Biros by performing the nation's first lethal injection using a single drug, a supposedly less painful method than previous executions that required three drugs. A wave of coordinated bomb attacks targeting high-profile symbols of Iraqi authority killed at least 127 people.

One year ago: Hundreds of thousands of protesters poured into the streets of the Ukrainian capital of

Kiev, toppling the statue of former Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin and blocking key government buildings in an escalating stand-off with the president on the future of the country. Zach Johnson rallied from four shots behind with eight holes to play and beat Tiger Woods, the No. 1 player in golf, at the World Challenge. Lydia Ko, a 16-year-old from New Zealand, rallied to win her first title as a professional, winning the Swinging Skirts World Ladies Masters with a three-stroke victory over South Korea's So Yeon Ryu.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 75. Singer Jerry Butler is 75. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 73. Actress Mary Woronov is 71. Actor John Rubinstein is 68. Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 67. Reggae singer Toots Hibbert (Toots and the Maytals) is 66. Actress Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 61. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 58. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 57. Country singer Marty Raybon is 55. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim is 55. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 53. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 52. Actor Wendell Pierce is 51. Actress Teri Hatcher is 50. Actor David Harewood is 49. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 48. Singer Sinéad (shih-NAYD') O'Connor is 48. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 48. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 42. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 38. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 36. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 35. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 32. Actress Hannah Ware is 32. Country singer Sam Hunt is 30. Rock singer-actress Kate Voegele (VOH'-gehl) is 28. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 25. Actress AnnaSophia Robb is 21.

Thought for Today: "The unknown is what it is. And to be frightened of it is what sends everybody scurrying around chasing dreams, illusions, wars, peace, love, hate, all that. Unknown is what it is. Accept that it's unknown and it's plain sailing." - John Lennon (1940-1980).

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