

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 8:53 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 11, 2014

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Connecting

December 11, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning.

For those of us who haven't yet seen snow this winter, Ye Olde Connecting

Editor offers this photo from AP Images that shows a couple walking on the street during the first snowfall in central Moscow on Wednesday. Snow hit Moscow after a long snowless period on Wednesday with temperatures about 0 C (32 F). (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

You're welcome.

With that, here are stories of interest.

Paul

State Department stonewalls Hillary Clinton's files from AP's FOIA request

WASHINGTON (AP) - The State Department has failed to turn over government documents covering Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as secretary of state that The Associated Press and others requested under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act ahead of her presumptive presidential campaign. They include one request AP made four years ago and others pending for more than one year.



The agency already has missed deadlines it set for itself to turn over the material.

The State Department denied the AP's requests, and rejected the AP's subsequent appeals, to release the records sought quickly under a provision in the law reserved for journalists requesting federal records about especially newsworthy topics.

In its requests, the AP cited the likely prospect of Clinton entering the 2016 race. The former first lady is widely considered the leading Democratic contender hoping to succeed President Barack Obama. She has made scores of recent high-profile speeches and public appearances.

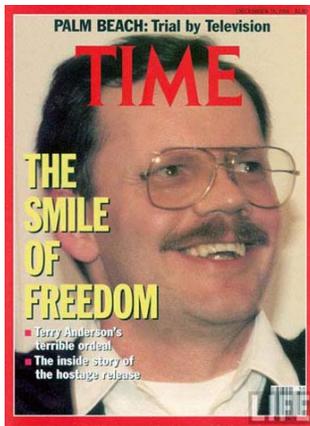
Click [here](#) to read more.

Terry Anderson: Didn't expect to see rescuers 'crashing through the door'

*(Referring to the "high risk" raid that failed to save journalist Luke Somers, Connecting colleague **Joe McGowan** wrote that when he served in danger areas, he wouldn't have expected U.S. military to attempt his rescue and wondered what others thought. Here is a response from Terry Anderson, AP Mideast*

correspondent who spent nearly seven years in captivity before his release in 1991.)

Terry Anderson ([Email](#)) - When I saw Joe's piece, it brought back similar criticisms of my situation. There are always people who say, "You knew it was dangerous and you shouldn't have been there."



But I'm surprised to hear it coming from a journalist, especially an AP journalist. So far as I know, none of the hostages who have been the goal of rescue attempts has asked or expected anyone to rescue them at risk to their own lives. As for me, while I would have been delighted to see Delta Force or Team 6 come crashing through the door, I certainly didn't expect it, and in fact knew that absent excellent intelligence (unlikely) and perfect execution, such an attempt would have brought about the death of hostages. Our captors were certainly prepared for it.

That said, what is bothersome about Joe's comment and others like it is the smell of victim-blaming. Of course, having been taken hostage means you have made an error in assessing risk. But to suggest that journalists should not go to dangerous places is to disrespect all those around the world who risk their lives every day to tell the truth. Most of them are not Americans or Westerners, by the way, and most who die are victims of their own governments.

There are those who go to risky places for inadequate reasons or without preparation and forethought. And yes, they cause problems for our and other governments. I don't know any journalists like that, and certainly wouldn't find them in the AP.

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Evolution of news-gathering technology

Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - Re Max Thomson's fine illustration (in Wednesday's Connecting) of the evolution of news gathering technology, the picture would have been a bit more graphic for an AP photographer.

In roughly the same time period covered, the equipment has gone from a carload of equipment to cameras, a laptop and a phone. In a pinch, a phone with a camera can make usable images and transmit them with caption info. I'd do a similar illustration if I could lay hands on an enlarger, a transmitter, developing tanks and trays, chemicals, timer, maybe a film dryer, typewriter and thermometer. Oh! And few rolls of film...



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Memorial service for Mike Shanahan



Gregory Nokes ([Email](#)) -

Friends of Mike:

Click [here](#) for a website posting from George Washington University on the memorial service held for **Mike Shanahan** on Saturday, Dec. 6. It was sad to bid good-bye to such a good friend, who, from all appearances, was in the prime of his life. But it was also a celebration of his life, and accomplished that purpose. Several of Mike's students spoke impressively of the strong bond he developed with his students during the 19 years he taught at GWU.

AP was well represented with past and present staffers, among them **Bob Cullen, Jon Wolman, Tom Brady, Sandy Johnson, Terry Hunt, Tom Raum, Jim Rubin, Amy Sabrin, Evans Witt, Dave Espo, Chuck Lewis, Myron Belkind, and Frank Cesno**, who now directs the GWU journalism program. There were others whom I'm not remembering at the moment.

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AP global news internship program introduced for 2015

The summer 2015 Global News Internship is a paid, highly selective, 12-week individually tailored training program for students who are aspiring cross-format

journalists. Interns must have experience and/or training in video and one other format. They will contribute to AP's text, video, photo and interactive reporting.

U.S. internships are available in Chicago; Los Angeles; Miami; New York; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Raleigh, North Carolina; Sacramento, California and Washington, D.C. International locations are Bangkok; Berlin; Johannesburg; London; Mexico City; New Delhi; Paris; Rio de Janeiro; Seoul and Tokyo.

Click [here](#) for more details.

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Stories of interest

[Behind TIME's Person of the Year Ebola Fighters Cover](#)

Few people are likely to know the names or recognize the faces of the five men and women who appear on the cover of TIME's People of the Year issue. They are ordinary people who have made extraordinary sacrifices in 2014 to stem the spread of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa. "They're not just saving their own community. They're



saving us too. They're saving the whole world," says Jackie Nickerson, the photographer for four of the five the covers.

Together, the covers along with the photographs in the issue by Nickerson and Bryan Schutmaat offer perhaps the broadest portrait yet of Ebola's frontline fighters-23 of the thousands of people who have risked their lives to stop this epidemic. "There are many others we're not showing but we wanted a range of the different kind of efforts that are required to fight this fight," says Nancy Gibbs, TIME's editor. "Some of them are native to Africa and some of them have come from all over the world and we wanted to capture that across our five covers."

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[How Brian Stelter Turned Reliable Sources into the Smartest Sunday Show](#)



"The guest," Brian Stelter told Mediaite, "is everything."

Stelter was leaning against the wall of a West Village brewpub, having just finished booking Slate's Hanna Rosin to talk Rolling Stone's UVA rape story on his Sunday morning show. It was a good get; the next day Rolling Stone would retract its bombshell article, and Rosin would write one of the most exacting takes on how the magazine failed so spectacularly.

"That's one of the things I thought I knew but didn't know until I'd done it," he told me after he'd hung up. "Once you have a few segments when the guests fall flat, you become really picky. You push yourself really hard to come up with the best possible guests."

It's been one year since the precocious 29-year-old ascended from his media reporting beat at the New York Times to host CNN's long-running media show Reliable Sources. Coming of age in the blogging generation - "I'm glad I was born when I was," he said - Stelter started the media website TVNewser at 18 and soon was penning insider accounts of the morning show wars.

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[The Real Crisis of Journalism](#)

Two dispiriting events in the world of magazine journalism coincided last week. The first is the collapse of Rolling Stone's story about a violent gang rape at the University of Virginia; the second is the collapse of The New Republic. They could be sloppily squished together into a more general "crisis of journalism," but, in fact, they have nothing to do with each other, and the first has no larger significance for journalism beyond itself.

As for the mass self-purge of editors and writers at The New Republic, it might be taken as part of the ongoing demise of old journalistic institutions in the face of new realities of technology and business. Or it might just be the story of one incompetent media mogul. Two years ago, with a lucky Facebook-based fortune and earnest talk about great journalism, Chris Hughes (right) seduced a lot of hardened veterans of the New York-Washington news world who were desperate for a vision of the future.



If his original intention, when he bought The New Republic, was to turn it into a "vertically integrated digital-media company," as his new chief executive put it at a disastrous recent staff meeting, Hughes should have started such a company from scratch and called it, say, V.I.D.M.C., rather than ruining what has been, in different periods during the past century, though not for some time, one of the country's great magazines. (At least Pierre Omidyar, whose money came from eBay, has had the decency to stumble with a venture of his own making-First Look Media.) Perhaps those newly unemployed editors and writers-some of whom left excellent jobs to work for Hughes, and will go on to do excellent work for other magazines, though at the moment it's hard to think of which ones-should form their own startup. Then they could buy back the naming rights for a dollar in exchange for ending Hughes's public humiliation, and call it "The New Republic." The only question is who would give them the capital.

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[News Outlets Protest Exclusion From Senate Torture Report Briefing](#)

NEW YORK -- Three news organizations, including The Huffington Post, are protesting the "apparently deliberate exclusion" from the Senate Intelligence Committee's Tuesday morning background briefing held prior to the release of its long-awaited [report on CIA torture](#).

"We all requested information on the briefing and how to attend, and were ignored, even while the Committee was intent on finding ways to get non-credentialed reporters, whom it apparently looked upon more favorably, into its briefing, which occurred before normal business hours," read a letter sent

Wednesday to the Standing Committee of Correspondents of the U.S. Senate Daily Press Gallery and Radio Television Correspondents Association.

The letter is signed by Huffington Post Washington bureau chief Ryan Grim, senior congressional correspondent Michael McAuliff, BuzzFeed Washington bureau chief John Stanton and Al Jazeera English executive producer Alan Fisher.

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Report Says C.I.A. Used Media Leaks to Advantage

The Central Intelligence Agency leaked classified material to reporters to shape the perception that its detention and interrogation program was an effective tool in thwarting terrorism, according to a Senate Intelligence Committee report released Tuesday.

The report also said that in 2002, a publication, revealed later on Tuesday to be The New York Times, agreed to withhold information about a secret prison in Thailand at the urging of the agency and Vice President Dick Cheney.

In addition to providing vivid details of the C.I.A.'s use of secret prisons and more aggressive torture methods than was previously known, the Senate report provides examples - in highly redacted form - of the interactions between the agency and journalists in the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

AND, a well-done front page headlining the news:



Jays need 2 OTs to subdue S. Dakota

Creighton survives a post-Nebraska hangover and a gritty pack of Coyotes. **Sports**

White House asks for new, more flexible war powers

Congress is upset Obama asked after widening the fight against Islamic State

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry asked Congress on Tuesday for new war powers to provide the legal grounding for U.S. military operations against the Islamic State but said any new authorization should not limit the fight to Iraq and Syria and should not bind President Barack Obama from ever deploying ground troops against the militant group if necessary.

In the battle against the Islamic State, Obama has been relying on congressional authorizations that former President George W. Bush used to justify military action after 9/11.

Critics say the White House's use of post-9/11 congressional authorizations is a legal stretch at best.

Obama has insisted that he had the legal authority to send about 3,000 U.S. troops to train and assist Iraqi security forces and to launch hundreds of airstrikes against targets in Iraq and Syria since September.

More recently, the president has said that he wants a new Au-

See War powers: Page 3

HAGEL VISITS IRAQ

The outgoing defense secretary delivers a message to Baghdad: This is your fight. **Page 6A**

Action urged to lower property tax on ag land

By PAUL HANSEN, WORLDHerald.com

LINCOLN — Property taxes paid by Nebraska farmers and ranchers are two to three times higher than those paid by their counterparts in Iowa, South Dakota and Kansas, a panel of state lawmakers was told Tuesday.

That wide disparity calls for action by the Nebraska Legislature, according to the head of the state's largest farm organization as well as a key state senator.

"It points out why we need to do something," said Steve Nelson of Axtell, the president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau. "And it needs to be something significant to bring us back into what would be a balanced tax system."

On Tuesday, the Legislature's Revenue Committee heard reports from two staffers who dug into the issues of agriculture property valuation and income taxes.

Staffers Bill Luck and Mary Jo Egge Edson walked committee members through policies undertaken by other states to prepare lawmakers for debate on the two front-burner topics during the 2015 session.

See Taxes: Page 3

KEY FINDINGS OF SENATE REPORT ON CIA INTERROGATIONS

"Not an effective means of acquiring intelligence"

"Brutal and far worse than the CIA represented"

"Actively avoided or impeded congressional oversight"

"Complicated, and in some cases impeded, the national security missions"

"Deeply flawed throughout the program's duration"

"Coercive interrogation techniques that had not been approved"

"Ignored numerous internal critiques, criticisms, and objections"

"DAMAGED THE UNITED STATES' STANDING IN THE WORLD"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday issued a sweeping indictment of the CIA's program to detain and interrogate terrorism suspects in the years after the 9/11 attacks, drawing on millions of internal CIA documents to illuminate practices that it said were more brutal — and far less effective — than the agency acknowledged either to Bush administration officials or to the public. • The long-delayed report delivers a withering judgment on one of the most controversial tactics of a twilight war waged over a dozen years. • The Senate committee's investigation, born of what its chairman, Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, said was a need to reckon with the excesses of this war, found that CIA officials routinely misled the White House and Congress about the information it obtained and failed to provide basic oversight of the secret prisons it established around the world.

In exhaustive detail, the report by Democrats on the committee gives a macabre accounting of some of the grisliest techniques that the CIA used to torture and imprison terrorism suspects.

Detainees were deprived of sleep for as long as a week, and were sometimes told that they would be killed while in U.S. custody. With the approval of the CIA's medical staff, some CIA prisoners

were subjected to medically unnecessary "rectal feeding" or "rectal hydration" — a technique that the CIA's chief of interrogations described as a way to exert "total control over the detainee."

CIA medical staff members described the waterboarding of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the chief planner of the Sept. 11 attacks, as a "series of near drownings."

The report also suggests that more

prisoners were subjected to waterboarding than the three the CIA has acknowledged in the past.

The committee obtained a photograph of a waterboard surrounded by buckets of water at the prison in Afghanistan commonly known as the Salt Pit, a facility where the CIA had claimed that waterboarding was never used.

See Report: Page 2

OF THE 119 DETAINEES

The Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the CIA's interrogation and detention program listed, for the first time, the names of the 119 detainees who went through the agency's secret prison system. Of those 119 detainees ...

39 were subjected to the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques

7 of the 39 interrogated produced no information ever used in intelligence reports

5 were subjected to "rectal rehydration"

3 or more were subjected to waterboarding

26 did not meet the standard for detention

20 were not previously acknowledged by the CIA until the release of this report

15 are being held at Guantanamo

Source: Washington Post

CIA's bosses in Congress out of loop, Bereuter says

By JOSEPH MORROW, WORLDHerald.com

WASHINGTON — Most members of the congressional committees that oversee the CIA were left in the dark about the brutal interrogation techniques that the CIA used after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, former Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., said Tuesday.

Bereuter, a senior member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence at the time, told The World-Herald that he was never informed about those enhanced interrogation techniques.

The methods were described in graphic detail in a report released Tuesday by Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee. Detainees were dragged around naked, slammed into walls, deprived

of sleep for many days at a time and waterboarded to the point of near drownings, according to the report's unclassified portions.

"They constitute in anybody's judgment — certainly mine — torture," Bereuter said of the techniques. "And any time we begin to use those techniques, it is contrary to American law, it is contrary to our traditions, and it places our future prisoners in jeopardy. It gives an excuse to any terrorist group or any other nation which might be in an adversarial position with us to use the same kinds of techniques on our personnel that might be captured."

But former Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., said there was tremendous pressure on the CIA

See Committee: Page 3



Former CIA Director Michael Hayden came under special scrutiny in the Senate Democrats' report, with a 38-page table ("example of inaccurate CIA testimony") comparing his statements to often conflicting agency documents.



Abu Zubaydah, left, was the first suspect to be waterboarded in the CIA's secret prisons. The CIA said his interrogation led to the arrest of Jose Padilla, right, who was planning to release a dirty bomb in the U.S. But Tuesday's report says Zubaydah gave that information before being tortured.

CIA AND REPUBLICANS PUSH BACK QUICKLY

Supporters of the agency are equally forceful in its defense. **Page 2A**

MIDLANDS LAWMAKERS SPLIT ON PARTY LINES

Republicans say American safety requires hard choices. **Page 2A**

"The truth is sometimes a hard pill to swallow. It sometimes causes us difficulties at home and abroad.

It is sometimes used by our enemies in attempts to hurt us. But the American people are entitled to it, nonetheless." — Sen. John McCain



INSIDE

Omaha's sweater-wearing lamb arrives into national fame

Gage the lamb, dressed in his holiday best, becomes an online sensation after being found wandering in north Omaha. Turns out he wasn't far from home. **Midlands**

Goodfellows

To make donations: World Herald Goodfellows, 1314 Douglas St., Suite 125, Omaha, NE 68102 or at Omaha.com/goodfellows. Donations to date: \$242,147.78. Story in Midlands

Omaha weather

Today's forecast: High: 41, Low: 29. Full report: Page 6B. On Omaha.com: Find the latest weather updates.

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[Past?](#) (Bryan Jones)

In October, the president of the South Carolina NAACP called on the Augusta Chronicle to issue an apology for publishing slavery-related content, such as ads seeking slaves, during the 18th and 19th centuries. Should newspapers apologize for their sins of the distant past?

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[What you're missing now that you don't read this in print](#) (Marcus Eliason)



Liverpool airport is a curiously unreal place in the half-light before dawn on a cold November morning. Out across the Mersey at high tide, raindrops turn the silver to lead, and at the easyJet departures gate people in tracksuit bottoms brush against the occasional tweed

and Remembrance Day poppy. Intending stag-weekenders, and the set who have a little place in the Pyrenees, coincide but do not mingle. A young woman is trying to buy rosé wine, and an elderly gent is trying to find a copy of that morning's Times.

The elderly gent is me, flying to Barcelona for the day for my sister's 60th birthday lunch, to return that night to Manchester.

And yes, all the morning papers are available and I buy the one I write for; but it would make no difference if the paper had been the Telegraph or any other quality newspaper: my experience would have been the same. That experience is one I must have had thousands of times when younger: no more an 'experience' than cleaning my teeth. This time, however, it felt strange and almost new.

I read a newspaper.

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[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Editor Martin Kaiser to leave in February](#)

Martin Kaiser, editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, announced Tuesday he will leave the company in February, ending an unprecedented run in which he led the news organization to national prominence and three Pulitzer Prizes, while navigating tumultuous



economic and technological change.

Kaiser's successor will be George Stanley, the Journal Sentinel's managing editor, who has been at his side since 1997. The news was announced to the Journal Sentinel newsroom Tuesday afternoon.

Kaiser called his years in Milwaukee the "most amazing and rewarding time of my career."

"But over the last couple of years I have come to the conclusion that it is time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life and to seek a new challenge," he said. "This is my decision - and mine alone. It was not an easy one."

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[The Future of Print: Newspapers Struggle to Survive in the Age of Technology](#)

The news industry has had a rough decade. Print readership is steadily declining, newspapers are closing, and journalists with decades of experience are being laid off.

In response, major newspapers have made considerable changes. They're attempting to combat diminishing reader interest by shortening stories, adding commentary, and most notably, using social media to their advantage.

With the meteoric rise of social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, many people have claimed that we are entering a new age in which news must be delivered in 140 characters or fewer. It seems as if the golden age of Woodward and Bernstein, Edward R. Murrow, and Walter Cronkite is long gone.

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[Twitter's top political moments of 2014](#)

By HADAS GOLD | 12/10/14 12:07 AM EST #BringBackOurGirls, #TanSuit and the @CIA were some of the top U.S. government and political moments on Twitter in 2014, the social networking site will announce on Wednesday. Twitter determined the top moments of the year based on popularity and impact.

When the CIA decided to join Twitter, its first tweet became the most retweeted government or political tweet of the year with more than 300,000 retweets.

AP Beat of the Week

Eight months after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine, the world's eyes were

turned away. But AP's Laura Mills and John-Thor Dahlburg wanted another look to learn what had happened under the new pro-Russia leadership.

In a story that reads like a cross between a detective novel and an evidence-packed legal brief, they reported the answer: a grab of up to 4,000 companies, factories and plots of land - even an Orthodox cathedral has become a target - orchestrated by the Moscow-backed government and often carried out by armed men with suspect documentation or none at all. Their shocking, all-formats investigation wins the Beat of the Week.

Mills, based in Moscow, and Dahlburg, AP's Brussels news editor (who previously worked for 7 years in Moscow for AP and the LA Times), meticulously tracked down example after example of assets taken over by Crimea's new leaders under a so-called nationalization law, against the rules of Russia's own constitution. They interviewed victims who lost millions in assets and whose efforts to get justice or compensation have been thwarted. Property was taken from independent news media, the Crimean Tatar ethnic minority and the pro-Kiev branch of the Orthodox Church, among others.

The story was the first to report the large-scale property grab and to link it in numerous cases to the leadership of the new Crimean prime minister, Sergei Aksyonov.

"One must understand that in Crimea, in essence, a gangster regime has been established under the protection of Moscow," Russian opposition leader Sergei Mitrokhim told AP. "Former criminals have come to power, and have started to carve up the property."

Mills and Dahlburg sought documentation - legal filings, copies of the transfer orders, property documents, and the like. They also talked to dozens of people to make the story not just thoroughly documented but highly readable.

"We're left with ruins," said the acting president of privately-owned Black Sea Television and Radio Station, whose cameras and other equipment were seized and office trashed and closed.

"Who am I supposed to sue?" said a lawyer for a 34,600-acre farm in eastern Crimea, which was seized. Mysterious men in camouflage now guard it.

The Orthodox Church has seen 11 of 18 functioning parishes shut, and its crown jewel in Crimea, the Cathedral of Saints Vladimir and Olga, faces closure - its annual rent has been raised from a symbolic 1 Ukrainian hryvnia, about 7 U.S. cents, to the equivalent of \$38,700.

How did AP gather all of these details? Old-fashioned source reporting, but also a clear plan, as the two reporters explained: "Our goal was to document, document, document," producing not just allegations but "the most solid and

objective proof possible of what was happening."

Dahlburg, who had been in Crimea in March reporting on the referendum to secede from Ukraine, began wondering three months ago what was happening there now that pro-Russians were firmly in control. His "pre-reporting" interviews from Brussels with Crimean exiles, academics and others quickly revealed "a large-scale property heist going on while the outside world wasn't looking." He followed up with on-the-ground reporting in Ukraine.

Mills spent nine days there, crisscrossing the peninsula to meet sources, to gather documents and in some cases to show up unannounced at seized properties for a firsthand look and for comments.

At one site, she says, a man in camouflage who was "milling around" waved her off, refusing to speak. Walking away, she was soon followed down a street by a Humvee-like vehicle with three men in it. "We ducked into a little grocery store in the local village and waited there for half an hour until the men had left," she says.

The all-format package _ including the work of Alexander Roslaykov, a video journalist for the Moscow bureau, and photos by Alexander Zemlianichenko _ went everywhere and topped AP Mobile.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/166097f662ec4e6e899b14c12e9a0c58/change-leadership-crimea-means-property-grab>

<http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2014/crimea/>

For intrepid sleuthing that exposed systematic corruption, Mills and Dahlburg share this week's \$500 prize.

AP Best of the States

Pennsylvania's governor-elect, Tom Wolf, staked his successful campaign partly on a pledge to enact a new tax on natural gas drillers, which he said could generate \$1 billion for the state and help plug a huge budget gap.



Northeast Pennsylvania correspondent **Michael Rubinkam**, acting on a suggestion from the industry that he should check the math, did exactly that.

He found the governor may have overstated the amount by hundreds of millions of dollars, potentially complicating his effort to win legislative approval for the tax, as well as his efforts to plug a budget gap that could be as much as \$2 billion next year.

To analyze the numbers, Rubinkam obtained a spreadsheet with pricing data going back to January. The spreadsheet showed that the prices that drillers have been getting for their gas lags far behind the national benchmark price used to come up with the catchy \$1 billion figure. The spreadsheet allowed Rubinkam to report with authority that, at current prices and production, the tax would bring in as little as \$525 million.

Rubinkam confirmed with the U.S. Energy Information Administration that natural gas prices in Pennsylvania have been lagging because of a lack of infrastructure, and he interviewed two energy industry analysts who said prices are likely to stay low.

The story was most-read of the day on the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's PowerSource energy blog; it was tweeted by The Philadelphia Inquirer's business section and by its energy reporter; and it landed on at least six front pages across the state. Another newspaper reported on the AP's findings in one of its blogs, and at least one group of newspapers editorialized on the AP's findings, writing:

"No doubt a number of factors led to Wolf's victory. But predicting with confidence a \$1 billion revenue stream made a lasting impression. Except it now appears the \$1 billion figure was wrong, based as it was on old information and erroneous assumptions that have been shattered by the realities of the volatile energy industry."

Statehouse politics and the natural gas industry are probably the two most competitive beats in Pennsylvania, so Rubinkam's scoop was a twofer.

For doing the math, Rubinkam wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize. And let's take a moment to note that Rubinkam has become a regular in this space - this is his third BOTS win of the year.

(Both above shared by Valerie Komor)

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[Today in Media History: In 1901 newspapers reported on the first Nobel Prizes](#)
(Bob Daugherty)

The first ceremony to award the Nobel Prizes took place on December 10, 1901, the fifth anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. News articles noted that awards were given in the areas of peace, literature, chemistry, physics and medicine.

Here is a New York Tribune story about the 1901 ceremony:

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

DIVIDED BETWEEN DR. DUMANT, OF SWITZERLAND, AND FREDERICK PASSY, OF FRANCE.

Christiania, Dec. 10.—It was announced in the Storting this morning that the Nobel prize for the encouragement of peace and arbitration for 1901, amounting to 150,000 kroner, has been equally divided between Dr. Henri Dumant, the Swiss physician, who was recommended by the Swedish Rigsdag to the committee intrusted with bestowing the prize, and Frederick Passy, the former member of the French Chamber of Deputies, member of the Academy of Moral Political Sciences and a leading apostle of peace, who received the next highest vote. The prize will be a special boon to Dr. Dumant, who is broken in health, in needy circumstances and lying in a hospital in Switzerland.

Stockholm, Dec. 10.—The Nobel medical, chemical, physical science and literary prizes, amounting to 151,200 kroner each, and awarded respectively to Professor Behring, a German; Dr. Van Hoff, a Hollander; Professor Roentgen, and Armand Sully Prudhomme, the French literary man, were distributed to-night by the Crown Prince in the Musical Academy.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 2014. There are 20 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert,

became King George VI.

On this date:

In 1792, France's King Louis XVI went before the Convention to face charges of treason. (Louis was convicted, and executed the following month.)

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1928, police in Buenos Aires announced they had thwarted an attempt on the life of President-elect Herbert Hoover.

In 1937, Italy announced it was withdrawing from the League of Nations.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1964, Che Guevara addressed the United Nations; in his speech, the Argentine revolutionary declared that "the final hour of colonialism has struck." Singer-songwriter Sam Cooke was shot to death by a motel manager in Los Angeles; he was 33.

In 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt aboard; during three extravehicular activities (EVAs), they became the last two men to date to step onto the lunar surface.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental "superfund" to pay for cleaning up chemical spills and toxic waste dumps. "Magnum P.I.," starring Tom Selleck, premiered on CBS.

In 1994, leaders of 34 Western Hemisphere nations signed a free-trade declaration in Miami.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

In 2008, Bernie Madoff was arrested, accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme. (Madoff is serving a 150-year federal prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: Doctors in Austria said that Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko had been poisoned with dioxin, which caused the severe disfigurement and partial paralysis of his face. Vitali Klitschko stopped Danny Williams in the eighth round to retain his WBC heavyweight title. Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart (LYN'-nurt) was awarded the 70th Heisman

Trophy.

Five years ago: Tiger Woods announced on his website that he was taking an indefinite leave from golf to try to save his five-year-old marriage to Elin Nordegren. (However, the couple ended up divorcing in Aug. 2010.)

One year ago: Time magazine selected Pope Francis as its Person of the Year, saying the Roman Catholic church's new leader - the first from Latin America - had changed the perception of the 2,000-year-old institution in an extraordinary way in a short time.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 84. Actress Rita Moreno is 83. Former California state lawmaker Tom Hayden is 75. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 74. Actress Donna Mills is 74. U.S. Ambassador to China, former Sen. Max Baucus, is 73. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is 71. Singer Brenda Lee is 70. Actress Lynda Day George is 70. Music producer Tony Brown is 68. Actress Teri Garr is 67. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 62. Actress Bess Armstrong is 61. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 60. Rock musician Mike Mesaros (The Smithereens) is 57. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Motley Crue) is 56. Rock musician Darryl Jones (The Rolling Stones) is 53. Actor Ben Browder is 52. Singer-musician Justin Currie (Del Amitri) is 50. Rock musician David Schools (Hard Working Americans, Gov't Mule, Widespread Panic) is 50. Actor Gary Dourdan (DOOR'-dan) is 48. Actress-comedian Mo'Nique is 47. Actor Max Martini is 45. Rapper-actor Mos Def is 41. Actor Rider Strong is 35. Actress Xosha (ZOH'-shah) Roquemore (TV: "The Mindy Project") is 30. Actress Karla Souza (TV: "How to Get Away With Murder") is 28. Actress Hailee Steinfeld is 18.

Thought for Today: "It takes a long time to understand nothing." - Edward Dahlberg, American author and critic (1900-1977).

Paul Stevens
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