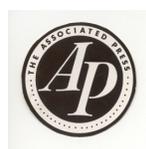
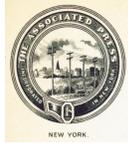


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 9:17 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - January 8, 2015

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Connecting

January 8, 2015

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



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning.

Today's Connecting leads with news from Paris on the horrific killing of 12 people at the office of a satirical newspaper that caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

Eight journalists, two police officers, a maintenance worker and a visitor were killed, said prosecutor Francois Molins. He said 11 people were wounded - four of them seriously.

The above AP photo by Thibault Camus shows thousands of people gathering in solidarity for the victims of the attacks.

Paul

French hunt for 2 in attack on paper; Paris mourns victims

PARIS (AP) -- With tensions high across Paris, French authorities hunted Thursday for two heavily armed brothers they feared would strike again after the methodical killing of 12 people at a satirical newspaper that caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

France's prime minister said the possibility of a new attack "is our main concern" and announced several overnight arrests as the country began a day of national mourning.

The most senior security official abandoned a top-level meeting after just 10 minutes to rush to a shooting on the city's southern edge that killed a policewoman. The shooter remained at large and it was not immediately clear if her death was linked to Wednesday's deadly attack on the Paris newspaper Charlie Hebdo, where two police were among the 12 dead.

France's prime minister, Manuel Valls, said the two suspects still at large in the Charlie Hebdo slayings - Cherif Kouachi, 32, and his 34-year-old brother Said Kouachi - were known to intelligence services and preventing them from carrying out another attack "is our main concern."

Click [here](#) to read more.

AP does not move Muhammad Images

The Daily Beast:

The Associated Press, the world's largest news



collective, said Wednesday its policy is to not show images of the Prophet Muhammad, like the ones published on the cover of Charlie Hebdo magazine that was attacked by terrorists Wednesday.

"None of the images distributed by AP showed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad," said spokesman Paul Colford, telling The Daily Beast that several photos from SIPA were automatically sent to the AP's commercial photo unit and have since been removed. A photo of Charlie Hebdo's now-dead editor holding a Muhammad cover on the AP news wire was deliberately cropped out.

"It's been our policy for years that we refrain from moving deliberately provocative images." Several news organizations, including the New York Daily News and London Telegraph, have edited out Charlie Hebdo magazine covers showing Muhammad. You can see a gallery of the magazine's most controversial covers below.

Click [here](#) to read the story.

'Je Suis Charlie' message goes viral after Paris attack

Messages of condolence, outrage and defiance over the Paris terrorist attack on a newspaper office spread quickly around the world Wednesday with thousands of people taking to the streets to protest the killings and using the slogan "Je Suis Charlie" on social media.



Many who poured into Place de la République in eastern Paris near the site of Wednesday's noontime attack waved papers, pencils and pens. Journalists led the march but most in the crowd weren't from the media world, expressing solidarity and support of freedom of speech.

Similar gatherings, including some silent vigils, took place at London's Trafalgar Square, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, in Madrid, Brussels, Nice and elsewhere.

"No matter what a journalist or magazine has to say, even if it is not what the majority of people think, they still have the right to say it without feeling in danger, which is the case today," said Alice Blanc, a London student who is originally from Paris and was among those in the London crowd, estimated in the hundreds.

Online, the declaration "Je Suis Charlie," or "I Am Charlie," replaced profile pictures on

Facebook while Twitter users showed themselves with the slogan on signs with words of support for the 12 victims who were killed at Charlie Hebdo, a weekly newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

The "Je Suis Charlie" slogan grew into a trending hashtag on Twitter and spread to Instagram, along with an image of a machine gun with the words "Ceci n'est pas une religion," or "This is not a religion."

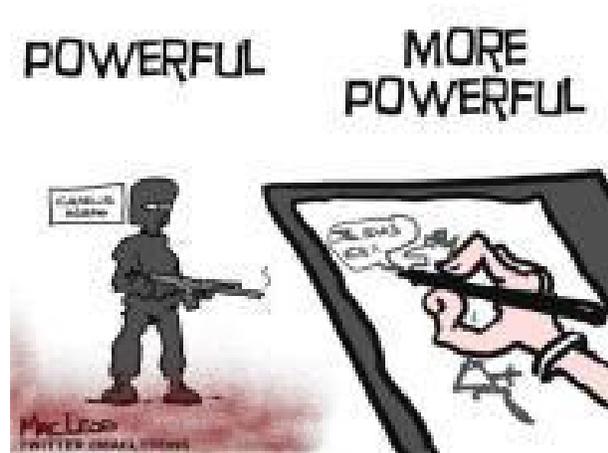
Click [here](#) to read more.

Worth 1,000 words: Cartoonists draw for slain colleagues

PARIS (AP) - As if to prove that pens are mightier than swords, cartoonists around the world reacted to the cold-blooded assassination of their colleagues at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo as only they can: with powerful drawings worth thousands of words.

Defiant, angry, poignant, irreverent and sobering, their drawings united cartoonists in grief, tried to make sense of the nonsensical, and sent a shared message: We must not, will not and should not be silenced. Some drawings touched such a nerve they made one want to both laugh and cry.

"Can't sleep tonight, thoughts with my French cartooning colleagues, their families and loved ones," David Pope, cartoonist for The Canberra Times in Australia, wrote on his Twitter feed.



His drawing showed the lifeless body of a cartoonist and a hooded gunman holding a still-smoking rifle and saying: "He drew first."

In India, cartoonist Manjul drew a plane exploding in a fireball into the Eiffel Tower, its pointy top redrawn as the nib of an ink pen.

One of the most powerful drawings had no drawing. Christian Adams' cartoon for The Daily Telegraph in London showed a completely blank space with the heading: "Extremist approved cartoon."

Another Telegraph cartoon showed one gunman saying to another: "Be careful, they might have pens."

The 12 people killed in the terrorist attack in Paris on Wednesday included some of France's leading cartoonists. Reveling in provocation and taking pride in their freedom to poke fun at anyone - be they popes, presidents, public figures or the Prophet Muhammad - they also faced frequent outrage and threats because of their work.

Click [here](#) to read the story.

Attack on Journalists: "I Am Charlie"

by Sandy K. Johnson

You could almost feel the chill when the news erupted from Paris today. Two terrorists gunned down journalists at the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, leaving 12 dead and a feeling of shock and alarm among journalists across the world.

But chill is exactly what the terrorists intended: a chilling effect on freedom of the press. Within hours, shock gave way to anger and then to solidarity.

"Cartoonists and journalists around the world should be permitted to express themselves freely without fear of reprisal," the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists said. "These types of attacks only serve to illustrate how important the free spirit of cartoon commentary is, and how cartoonists make a difference in helping to expose hypocrisy."

Importantly, the AAEC added, "Furthermore, newspapers should not avoid publishing material from the magazine that allegedly incited the incident. More freedom of expression and not less demonstrates courage in the face of attacks. Shrinking from a newspaper's watchdog role only encourages more terror."

Heather Dahl, chairman of NPF's board of directors, said, "The National Press Foundation, which trains journalists around the world, mourns our fallen colleagues at Charlie Hebdo and stands resolutely strong for a free press around the world."

The Society of Professional Journalists organized a campaign to create a logo "Je Suis Charlie" - "I am Charlie" - after it lit up Twitter and social media after the attacks. NPF and dozens of other news organizations joined the logo campaign.

"I am still in shock and disbelief from this horrific assault on free speech. It is an all-out affront to all of our American values and way of life," Zyglistis said. "I was just in Paris this past October for an editorial cartooning festival, and an event for Cartooning for Peace. I met with several French cartoonists, but unfortunately I didn't get the privilege to meet any of the fallen in person. However, I knew several of them through their powerful work. There is a void in the world of satire today, but their work will live on. Today, my heart is still in France."

Heather Dahl captured the mood among journalists: "Sometimes events are so terrible as

to beggar words. Yet the slaughter in Paris commands us to speak forcefully for the freedoms that define and protect us: freedom of speech, freedom of the press. We cannot be silent in the face of those who silence words and lives with bullets. This attack was not just on just one publication. It was an attack on all media."

Click [here](#) to read the story by Sandy Johnson, Connecting colleague, former AP Washington chief of bureau and now president and COO of the National Press Foundation.

Alabama politics reporter Phillip Rawls retiring from AP after 40-year career

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) - Associated Press reporter Phillip Rawls, the longest-serving member of Alabama's Capitol press corps and a recognized expert on state politics, is retiring after more than 35 years with the news cooperative.

Rawls, 63, developed a reputation for fairness and accuracy during a 40-year career in journalism, nearly all of it spent with the AP covering politics and government in Montgomery.

Rawls' tenure spanned seven Alabama governors, from George Wallace to Robert Bentley, and 35 regular sessions of the Legislature. His retirement takes effect later this month.



A native of Covington County in south Alabama, Rawls received bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Alabama. He worked for the Atmore Advance and Montgomery Advertiser before joining the AP in 1979.

Rawls covered virtually everything that had anything to do with state government through the years, from elections to policy debates, corruption to bribery trials.

Rawls also played a vital role in coverage of general news, including the hostage standoff involving a young boy grabbed off a school bus in 2013 and the prosecution of a former state trooper charged in a civil rights killing that occurred more than 40 years earlier.

"Phil is a legend in Alabama journalism. He has covered the biggest stories, scored countless scoops, and represented the true spirit of the news cooperative during his career," said AP Deep South Editor Jim Van Anglen. "But it's not what he has covered that is most important. Rather, it's how he has done his job - with a sense of dignity, class and grace that has been an inspiration to me and countless other Alabama journalists."

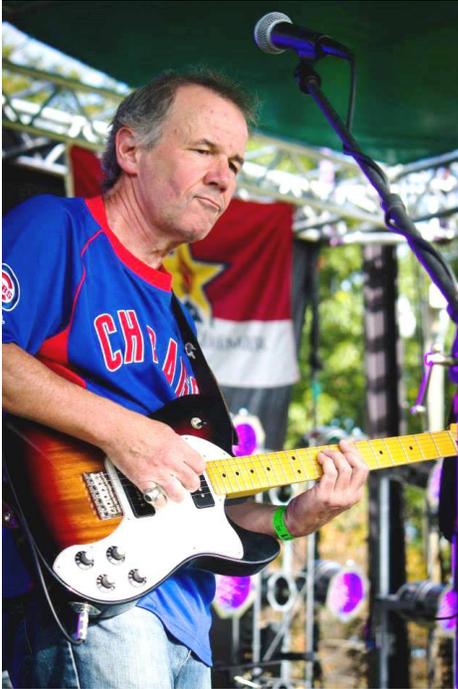
Behind the scenes, Rawls served as a mentor to dozens of younger journalists covering politics through the years. As the trusted dean of the Statehouse press corps, Rawls often was sought out by writers, photographers and others seeking their way around the

Statehouse.

Known for a virtually unflappable demeanor and his encyclopedic knowledge of Alabama politics, Rawls was honored in 2013 with the Distinguished Mass Media Achievement Award presented by Auburn University.

Click [here](#) to view the story.

Keith Robinson rockin' on



Former AP bureau chief **Keith Robinson** ([Email](#)) finally is doing something he has wanted to do for more than 35 years but never seemed to have the time for: Play in a rock band.

He has been doing that now for two years as a guitarist for the AgTones, a band composed of fellow staffers in the Purdue University College of Agriculture, where he has worked as coordinator of news and public affairs since 2010. The band covers mostly 1970s and '80s hard rock songs by such artists as AC/DC, Bon Jovi, Reo Speedwagon, the Eagles, the Black Crowes and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

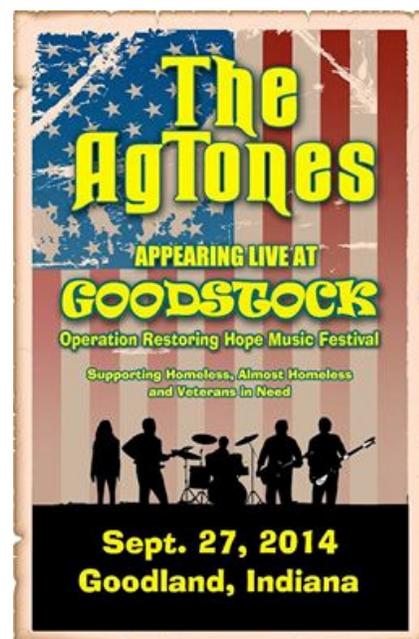
"Most of it is not what I grew up with, although there is some overlap in the years," Robinson said. "I am mostly a product of the '60s and '70s - even the '50s to a lesser extent. But I'm having fun with the songs

the band does."

The band plays a few "gigs" a year - nothing monumental but a chance to play before an audience nonetheless. In the past year, the AgTones played at such places as a street festival in South Bend, Indiana; a fall festival at an apple orchard in Indiana farm country; and, the highlight for Robinson, the "Goodstock" festival in Goodland, Indiana.

"It was modeled, rather loosely, after Woodstock, as the name implies," he explained. "Several bands played during the day. What made it special for me was that it was a benefit concert for military veterans. I enjoyed that very much being a Navy veteran myself. "

So what's with the name AgTones?



"It's a bit on the corny side, but we really like it," Robinson said.

The AgTones are on Facebook. Here is a link to one of their videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vV2ikMu6rA&feature=youtu.be>

Since the summer, Robinson also has been performing as a solo at a winery, where he plays songs more from his time - Beatles, Beach Boys, Ricky Nelson, Elvis, Neil Diamond, the Doors, John Denver, the Moody Blues and Roy Orbison, as examples. He plays for free wine and tips. That's fine with him.

Robinson worked in the AP for 25 years. He started in the Columbus bureau in 1984, rising through the news ranks under Jake Booher. His first bureau chief assignment was in Hartford in 1998. He was promoted to COB in Indianapolis in 2000 and stayed there until the position was ended.

Connecting mailbox

A few words about obituaries

Richard Pyle ([Email](#)) - A few words, if I may, to the AP Connecting Nation about obituaries.

First and foremost, I'm grateful to all whose volunteered memories of the late Matt Franjola provided valuable material for an obituary I was asked to write, and also to those who commended the result.

While I sent it to AP itself as a courtesy, the obit was really written for the Connecting newsletter and the Vietnam Old Hacks blog edited from Australia by ex-Saigon staffer Carl Robinson.

The response from those quarters has been remarkable, especially considering that it concerns a colleague less well-known within AP than most of the seven other former Saigon staffers for whom I wrote obits in recent years.

Not to suggest that is the only criterion that matters; I imagine most AP writers have been called on at some time to write spot obits, or ``prep" versions to be kept on file and updated when needed.

In my last years before retiring in 2009, I wrote perhaps a dozen spot or ``prep" obituaries for various people including AP (and UPI) staffers, and public figures such as author Norman Mailer and gangster John Gotti.

(Mailer, incidentally, was the only person I ever asked for information to use in his obit, though even then I didn't explain my reason, and he didn't ask.)

From all this I've come to believe that most people in journalism - especially our uniquely jack-of-all-trades wire service journalism - lead lives studded with exceptional experiences

and interesting encounters with people that often provide useful historical context for telling their stories.

We really are the cats that can look at kings - and at knaves, too.

As for Matt Franjola's obit, several people have wondered why AP used a less detailed version (no mention of Cambodia, for example) by the Hartford bureau.

A couple of years ago, amid a 14-month spate of Saigon-related obits, AP advised me that it now requires that obituaries be done only by current staffers under relevant datelines (in this case Hartford). Thus some I'd prepared in advance, or written spot, carried other bylines and my name as a ``contributor.'' Whether that's new or not, it's the policy.

-0-

AP Stylebook, parenting edition: 'It's baby-sit, baby-sitting, baby-sat and baby sitter.'

On Tuesday, the Associated Press' monthly style chat focused on parenting with Leanne Italie. As you'll see from the collection of tweets below, we quickly move through the stages of life, from baby sitter to teens to elder care in three tweets. Enjoy. Click [here](#) to view.

Stories of interest

[Ansel Adams Act Goes to Congress, Aims to 'Restore the First Amendment Rights of Photographers'](#)

A new "Ansel Adams Act" introduced in Congress could have big implications on photographers' rights across the United States. The bill aims to "restore the First Amendment rights of photographers" by removing restrictions on taking photos in public places.

Introduced on January 2nd, 2015 by Republican US Representative Steve Stockman of Texas, the document discusses the disturbing trend in recent years of the US Government creating regulations that prohibit or restrict photography in places such as national parks and public spaces, and of subjects such as government buildings, police officers, and other government workers.

Even when these laws don't exist, people "have been instructed to prohibit photography from public spaces, and threatened photographers with arrest or seizure of photographic equipment," the bill says.

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[Outrage erupts over lack of media coverage of NAACP office bombing](#)

One day after the FBI called an explosion outside a Colorado NAACP office building "deliberate," #NAACPBomb is a top worldwide trending topic on Twitter.

Almost all of the hashtag's thousands of tweets are criticizing the mainstream media for their lack of coverage of the attack.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a 106-year-old civil rights organization-the oldest in the country-that has played a key role in countless political battles over the last century. On Tuesday, someone planted an improvised explosive device on the wall of the group's Colorado Springs office, right next to a gasoline can that failed to ignite, according to the FBI.

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[REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK: Inside the Tsarnaev courthouse](#) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

There are few things worth waking up early for each morning, but a so-called trial of the century is certainly one. On the first day of IAP, the trial of the Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev began.

I was a freshman when the Boston Marathon bombing occurred two years ago, and I remember the shock when we heard first about the explosion, then the loss of Officer Sean Collier. Those events were in chilling contrast to that year's Campus Preview Weekend - which had just taken place - with MIT's newly-admitted students bubbling over with excitement and reminding us why we chose MIT.

In November, The Tech's news department received an email from Ginny Hurley, the Outreach/Training Coordinator for the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, inviting us to a media informational meeting in preparation for the trial. I was floored.

Doubtful that we'd receive a seat next to big names like The New York Times and ABC News, however, we almost didn't RSVP. But we decided to give it a shot, classes be damned.

AP Beat of the Week

In 2006, two years after a massive tsunami washed away hundreds of thousands of lives across Asia, Jerry Harmer covered the opening of a cemetery in Phang Nga province, southern Thailand, a resting place for hundreds of unclaimed victims. Walking amid the headstones, he wondered: Who were these people? What were their stories? Did their families even know they were there?

Every year on the Dec. 26 anniversary of the disaster, he was reminded of this sad patch of sunbaked earth. And when the 10th anniversary approached, he resolved to find the

answers to his questions. It would not be easy, but the Bangkok-based video editor was determined. The extraordinary result: an all-formats package that brought a measure of closure to two families and touched the hearts of people around the world. It is the Beat of the Week. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6jnLESXgLg&feature=youtu.be>

Harmer's first step was to contact the Thai police; they proved remarkably forthcoming with their records of all the victims. Harmer and video journalist Papitchaya Boonngok went through hundreds of pages of documents and narrowed their search to those whose data seemed to offer the best chance of a trace -- victims with a full name or a portion of an address, victims with a phone number attached to their documents or the name of a relative.

Most proved dead-ends. Phone numbers either didn't ring or had long since been reassigned; addresses were too vague. Contact names on data sheets led to people who had employed them on a casual basis at the time of the tsunami but now could remember a nickname at most.

But two victims stood out. Both had full names recorded and one even had a full address.

But the address proved a problem. The victim, a young woman called May Aye Nwe, apparently came from a village in Myanmar's Karen State called Saint Pie. The name looked odd, and staffers in the Yangon bureau said it had to be wrong. Harmer guessed that the transliteration was incorrect. Then he noticed a piece of information tucked away in the data: The information had come from a Myanmar ID card that was found on the victim's body. Papitchaya got a color photocopy of the card from the police and Harmer sent a scan to Yangon, where correspondent Aye Aye Win determined that Saint Pie was actually Seint Paing, a village near the Karen State capital Hpa-an.

A few days later Yangon photographer Khin Maung Win set off on the long trek to Seint Paing, which has no phone service, to find May Aye Nwe's family and verify the story. As Harmer had suspected, her mother, Aye Pu, never knew her daughter's body had been found, let alone that it had been in a Thai grave for years. But that wasn't all -- Khin Maung Win also found the friend who had been with May Aye Nwe on the small boat when the tsunami struck as they made their way to Thailand to start a new life.

A full AP team went to Seint Paing to record interviews with Aye Pu and with the friend, Khin Htway Yee, who recalled how she pushed May Aye Nwe away -- to her death -- as they struggled in the churning water. She had no choice: Her friend was dragging her down by her hair.

As the AP team left, Aye Pu thanked them again and again for bringing her news that had upended her world.

The other victim identified in police records was Bhesraj Dhaurali. An Internet search showed the name was Nepalese but a check of Nepalese databases drew a blank. Harmer even cold-called two or three Dhauralis in Kathmandu asking, as diplomatically as possible, whether they had a relative who died in the 2004 tsunami. Still nothing. Then he played a

hunch. Many Nepalese in Thailand are involved in the bespoke clothing business. Perhaps Bhesraj had been, too. A search of Nepalese tailors in the Phuket area led him to the president of the Thai-Nepalese Association, himself a tailor. He promised to help, and put out the word to his many members. Within 24 hours they had found Dhaurali's 20-year-old daughter, who had never been told her father's body was in the cemetery.

At the end of November, with his daughter and 19-year-old son present, Bhesraj's body was exhumed and cremated with Hindu and Buddhist rites. Harmer and Papitchaya shot photos and video, and the tale of the doomed tailor was part of the text story written by Jocelyn Gecker.

The story and video drew tears around the globe; in comments, email and even phone calls, people asked if they could contribute to bring May Aye Nwe's body home. "That was the best part of this story," says Harmer. "Knowing it had touched people's hearts and helped bring the beginnings of peace to families who have lived with sorrow and grief for 10 years. "

For tenacious reporting that resulted in an anniversary story that did far more than recapitulate decade-old events, Harmer wins this week's \$500 prize.

AP Best of the States

In 2014, there were few reporters in the business who got more out of their beat than the New York City bureau's Jake Pearson. So it is fitting that we open the Best of the States year with a win by Pearson for yet another big scoop on the distressing conditions at the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex.

The judges agreed this was the strongest field in memory for BOTS, with a half-dozen nominees that could have won in another week. But Pearson rose to the top for again scooping the most competitive media market in America, and for his full body of work on Rikers Island.

Pearson's latest newsbreak was about a mentally ill inmate who hanged himself on New Year's Day after orders to put him on 24-hour suicide watch were never implemented. His story, based on the account of two city officials, showed numerous breakdowns in protocols leading up to the suicide of 35-year-old Fabian Cruz. Pearson's story moved a full two hours ahead of the NY Times version. And while the NY Daily News was first to report a suicide, it missed the news of a mandated suicide watch. Pearson also was able to get a mugshot of the inmate, something his competition didn't have.

Cruz's death came six months after another of Pearson's exclusive reports on Rikers found that suicide-prevention protocols were not followed in at least nine of the 11 suicides at Rikers over the past five years. This latest story shows that there is still much work to be done to fix the systemic problems at the sprawling jail complex.

Pearson got the story after sending a text message wishing a longtime Rikers source a happy New Year. The reply: ""Thx, sad but there was a hang up in rndc tonight, will let you

know what I find." RNDC is a Rikers facility.

Pearson stayed in touch the following day and he found out more, including that Cruz had been placed on 24-hour watch that was never implemented. Pearson then called a second source to confirm and learned even more details of breakdowns in suicide-prevention protocols.

The story was widely used online and in print during the holiday weekend, including fronting the news pages of Yahoo!, MSN and the Huffington Post. It also proved once again that the AP can break big stories in the nation's biggest and most competitive market through good old-fashioned beat reporting and source development.

Pearson's win caps a year in which he led the way on exposing the problems at Rikers. His work has included an array of stories, including the deaths of two seriously mentally ill inmates, and others about guards' failure to follow jail protocol in cases that led to inmate deaths. His reporting led to promises of change from New York Mayor Bill DiBlasio and others, as well as a \$400,000 federal grant intended to prevent suicides and other self-harm by inmates.

Just a few days before Cruz's death, AP published a deep and moving piece by Pearson that showed through the lens of another recent death how difficult it will be to implement the cultural and structural changes that are needed at Rikers. This is highly recommended reading as well.

So it is the full body of work - including the New Year's Day scoop -- that wins Pearson this week's \$300 Best of the States Prize.

(Both of above shared by Valerie Komor)

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2015. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 8, 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces led by Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans. (Given the slowness of communications at the time, the battle took place even though the United States and Britain had already signed a peace treaty.)

On this date:

In 1642, astronomer Galileo Galilei died in Arcetri, Italy.

In 1790, President George Washington delivered his first State of the Union address to Congress in New York.

In 1863, America's First Transcontinental Railroad had its beginnings as California Gov. Leland Stanford broke ground for the Central Pacific Railroad in Sacramento. (The transcontinental railroad was completed in Promontory, Utah, in May 1869.)

In 1912, the African National Congress was founded in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 1959, Charles de Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an "unconditional war on poverty in America."

In 1965, the Star of India and other gems stolen from the American Museum of Natural History in New York the previous October were recovered from a bus depot locker in Miami.

In 1975, Judge John J. Sirica ordered the early release from prison of Watergate figures John W. Dean III, Herbert W. Kalmbach and Jeb Stuart Magruder. Democrat Ella Grasso was sworn in as Connecticut's first female governor. Opera singer Richard Tucker, 61, died in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1998, Ramzi Yousef (RAHM'-zee YOO'-sef), the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced in New York to life imprisonment.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six other people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner (LAWF'-nur) was sentenced in Nov. 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

Ten years ago: The United States acknowledged dropping a 500-pound bomb on the wrong house during a search for terror suspects outside the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. (The military said that five people were killed; the house's owner said 14 people died.) Marty Schottenheimer of the San Diego Chargers was named The Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year.

Five years ago: Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO'-mahr fah-ROOK' ahb-DOOL'-moo-TAH'-lahb), accused of trying to blow up a U.S. airliner on Christmas, appeared in federal court in Detroit; the judge entered a not-guilty plea on his behalf. Vice President Joe Biden's mother, Jean Biden, died in Wilmington, Delaware, at age 92.

One year ago: Emails and text messages obtained by The Associated Press and other news organizations suggested that one of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's top aides engineered traffic jams in Fort Lee in Sept. 2013 to punish its mayor for not endorsing Christie for re-election; Christie responded by saying he'd been misled by the aide, and he denied involvement in the apparent act of political payback. Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and Frank Thomas were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 92. Actor Ron Moody is 91. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 87. CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 82. Singer Shirley Bassey is 78. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 77. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Gourdine (Little Anthony and the Imperials) is 74. Actress Yvette Mimieux is 73. Physicist Stephen Hawking is 73. Singer Juanita Cowart Motley (The Marvelettes) is 71. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is 69. Rock singer David Bowie is 68. Movie director John McTiernan is 64. Actress Harriet Sansom Harris is 60. Singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith is 51. Actress Maria Pitillo (pih-TIHL'-loh) is 50. Actress Michelle Forbes is 50. Singer R. Kelly is 48. Rock musician Jeff Abercrombie (Fuel) is 46. Actress Ami Dolenz is 46. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 42. Country singer Tift Merritt is 40. Actress-rock singer Jenny Lewis is 39. Actress Amber Benson is 38. Actor Scott Whyte is 37. Singer-songwriter Erin McCarley is 36. Actress Sarah Polley is 36. Actor Windell D. Middlebrooks is 36. Actress Rachel Nichols is 35. Actress Gaby Hoffman is 33. Rock musician Disashi Lumumbo-Kasongo (dih-SAH'-shee LUHM'-uhm-boh kuh-SAHN'-goh) (Gym Class Heroes) is 32.

Thought for Today: "Contempt for happiness is usually contempt for other people's happiness, and is an elegant disguise for hatred of the human race." - Bertrand Russell, English philosopher and mathematician (1872-1970).

Paul Stevens
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