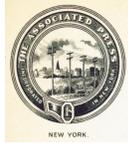

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 9:54 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - January 22, 2015

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Connecting

January 22, 2015

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



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Connecting has received good early response to the new feature on volunteering that was suggested by colleague **Mike Feinsilber**.

Besides highlighting the good work that many of you do as volunteers, the feature promises to provide great fodder to those of us looking for volunteer ideas.

So send along to me a story on your own volunteer work, along with a photo.

(On a personal note, assembling today's Today in History in the newsletter brought me pause and a tear when I came to this date in 1944 when the Anzio landings began during World War II. My dad, an Army artillery officer, was part of the landings that took him and his fellow soldiers into Rome, fighting up Italy and France, before going into Germany. I miss him every day...funny how such moments hit you out of the blue.)

Paul

Connecting volunteers: How we help others

George Krinsky ([Email](#)) - I think Mike Feinsilber's idea for an ongoing fixture on what our retired brethren/sistren (Yes, the latter term is legit - at least until midway through the 16th century) are doing in volunteer work. I have a feeling that we have always been unreconstructed do-gooders.

I have to confess that I resisted public service when I retired in 2012, because I couldn't get it out of my head that I was meant to be "an observer," not a participant (Thanks for that, Wes).

But I eventually succumbed to an invitation in my little town here in northwestern Connecticut to become a member of the Washington (CT) Historic District Commission, which is mandated to rule on proposed changes to buildings that fall within the district and are visible from the road. (We are frequently assaulted by proposals for McMansions from NY hedge-fund managers, and resisting that is a sacred duty).



You must understand that I always had hated the concept of telling homeowners what they could do with their property, but over the years since I returned to our home town, I came to appreciate, if not love, the beauty and serenity of my community, founded during the Revolutionary War and named after you-know-who, as well as what it takes to preserve that heritage.

In any case, even though I hardly know the difference between a gable and a gambrel roof, I accepted the position of Historic District Commissioner because I realized that journalism can actually be useful: Our beleaguered commission was not very good at articulating its wishes or resolutions. In other words, they needed a "word guy."

So, that's my story, for better or worse. I know a lot of my old AP colleagues are doing much more vital volunteer work, and I look forward to hearing from them.

-0-

Rachel Ambrose ([Email](#)) - I have been volunteering at the Science Center in Los Angeles, on the marketing committee, since my retirement in early 2009.



It's been a learning experience for me since I was never on the marketing end of news. Here is a picture of me with the space shuttle Endeavour in the background, upon its arrival at LAX and before its "run" through the streets of Los Angeles and eventual placement at the Science Center.

Most of the exhibits at the Science Center sell themselves but we need to get the word out. The Pompeii exhibit, now winding up, is consistently sold out. We meet next week to discuss marketing of the upcoming Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.

-0-

Jerry Harkavy ([Email](#)) - Shortly after I retired more than five years ago, I began volunteering as a Medicare counselor at the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging. I'm one of nearly 50 volunteers at the agency who help Medicare beneficiaries select the lowest-cost health and drug plan that best meets their needs.

Those of us who qualify for Medicare either because we've turned 65 or are on disability can attest that the system is excruciatingly complicated. That's why volunteers go through a rigorous training program and then job shadow experienced counselors before they are allowed to work on their own with beneficiaries. The one-on-one sessions usually run about an hour, and the volunteer assists the client in determining whether to choose a Medicare supplement, which is normally accompanied by a stand-alone drug plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan that bundles health care and drug coverage. We also try to line up



assistance programs that the state and federal governments provide for low-income beneficiaries.

I usually work three hour-long sessions per week, either in the morning or the afternoon. We can get called in more often during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7) when clients have the opportunity to change plans. We recommend that everyone check their coverage at that time because drug formularies, co-pays, deductibles and premiums can all change, and what might have been the best plan for a particular client this year can easily be the worst next year.

I had no particular expertise in health insurance or Medicare when I decided to take on this gig. But the agency that provides the counseling does a great job in keeping us up to speed with periodic training sessions as well as monthly case reviews that allow volunteers to discuss the more interesting and challenging cases. The work is personally rewarding, especially when you've shown people on fixed incomes how they can save many hundreds of dollars by picking the right plan.

My wife says that between volunteer activities, Senior College classes at the University of Southern Maine, and hiking and snowshoeing with a local outing club, I seem busier than I was when I was working. And I haven't entirely cut the cord with AP: I knock out a book review every couple of months or so and have been recalled to duty a few times on election night when the bureau can use an extra hand.

A Salute to AP Reporter Hal Boyle, Master of Snark, Hater of Suburbs



Associated Press journalist Hal Boyle was a hero. The old school newsman died in 1974 at the age of 63 and churned out 7,680 columns, winning a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting as a war correspondent during WWII. But one of his greatest achievements, in my eyes, were his prescient articles reporting how terrible the suburbs are. Long before there was internet snark, there was Hal Boyle, circa 1967:

"God made the country...man made the town...but no one, not even the devil, seems willing to accept responsibility for the suburbs.

Like Topsy, they seem to have "just grewed."

And they are still growing like mushrooms - or toadstools. America is well on its way to creating one of the world's first suburban civilizations.

Some of my best friends live in suburbs, and for the life of me I can't figure out why. Everytime I visit them and return safely to the city I feel like kissing the first skyscraper I meet in gratitude.

"And he goes on. It's quite possibly one of the most brilliant articles of all time:

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Len Iwanski)

Connecting mailbox

His streak hits 60 months

The golfing streak for **Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)), former AP chief of bureau and newsman and current editorial page editor of the Omaha World-Herald, reached 60 consecutive months this past weekend when, Mike report, the temperature hit a very unseasonable 59 on Sunday afternoon - although he admits his score was considerably higher than either of those numbers.

He has played at least nine holes - in Nebraska - every month. And shows no signs of stopping.

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Connecting sky shot - Michigan Avenue, Chicago



Ed Breen ([Email](#)) - Just a little something to make Jim Reindl homesick for Chicago: Adams

Street at Michigan Avenue at sunset last Friday.

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Unusual datelines redux

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - I have never seen this in print, but there is a small stop off west of Nashville on Interstate 40 called "Bucksnot." It's gained a lot of attention down through the years. At one time you could go fishing there and buy items at a small market. That's all that was there. One time I had pro wrestling on TV and a tag team reported they hailed from "Bucksnot."

-0-

Dan Day's grandson Blake carries meaningful name



Connecting colleague **Dan Day** ([Email](#)) with Blake, first grandson to Dan and Becky, and little brother to Molly, their first grandchild, who came along five years ago.

Blake is also Becky's maiden name, and the middle name for their sons. "I get dizzy thinking about all these connections!" says grandpa.

AP debate at Davos to focus on geopolitical outlook

What are the global and regional priorities that will impact industry in 2015? This will be the topic on Friday, Jan. 23, of the sixth annual Associated Press debate at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The hourlong session will begin at 1800 GMT (1 p.m. ET) and be carried live on APTN Direct to AP's global array of customers.

The discussion will be moderated by AP Senior Managing Editor Michael Oreskes and will feature:

*Federica Mogherini, high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

*Mohammad Javad Zarif, minister of foreign affairs, Iran

*Pham Binh Minh, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Vietnam

*Yun Byung-Se, minister of foreign affairs, South Korea

*Kasper Rorsted, chief executive officer, Henkel

"We are living through a very unsettled time - from savage terrorism to conflicts among nations of a sort we have not seen since the Cold War," Oreskes said. "The world economy remains vulnerable and we are unprepared for challenges as different as extreme weather and epidemic. We will ask our distinguished panel to identify the issues they are most worried about."

An edited version will be available later for other international broadcast clients. The discussion will also be webcast live and on demand on the World Economic Forum's website.

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What's the deal with Davos?

By Michael Oreskes
The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland - It's hard to think of any other event quite like the World Economic Forum's annual meeting here in the Swiss Alps. The U.N. General Assembly draws more world leaders. The Oscars attract more celebrities. But nothing brings together quite this combination of corporate executives, academics, philanthropists and media.

It began in 1971 as a two-week meeting designed to improve European



management. Some 450 executives attended. It has grown to something both grander and broader, with 2,500 attendees and a sweeping motto: "Committed to improving the state of the world." No small task.

To a considerable extent they all come because they all come. Some critics dismiss the meetings as a talk shop or a gathering of elites who fly pretty high above the world most people live in, the one they are committed to improving.

Yet, for all that, interesting things are often said here and occasionally news is broken here. One year, AP Chief Switzerland Correspondent John Heilprin scooped the world on a new security policy in which the United States said that protecting corporate supply chains was now as important as the longtime job of guarding shipping lanes. How did he get the scoop? The then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was sent to Davos with half a dozen copies of the new directive signed personally by President Barack Obama. They were intended for other world leaders. But it's hard to actually catch up with a world leader here, even though there are usually about 40 at least passing through. So John seized the moment and cajoled one of those documents out of an aide.

Some news organizations send small armies to cover Davos. One, for example, takes over the town's library for its operations. AP takes a different approach. A small but hearty band of journalists covers all formats. It's a great place to snag newsmakers for video or text. Pan Pylas, an AP business reporter here from London, recalls standing feet from actor Matt Damon one moment and then being quick marched by his editors (well, me actually) to a private briefing with the president of Iran.

"It's unusual to get so many newsmakers and thought leaders all together in a very small place, when they are unusually accessible and a little bit more relaxed than usual," Heilprin said. "For a reporter, the first challenge is to recognize them all. The second is to quickly think of a good question when one passes by."

The highlight of our Davos week is the annual AP Davos debate, the brainchild of Director of Global Video News Sandy MacIntyre and Senior Field Producer Masha McPherson. Working with the Davos organizers, we turn one of the panel discussions into a broadcast and send it to our 700 broadcast clients and hundreds of digital news outlets.

We've had some memorable moments. Like the time Prime Minister David Cameron asked Bono to help craft a message for the fight on global poverty. Or when the Italian finance minister got angry because we asked about a bank scandal in Siena instead of the high-minded global financial questions he was looking for. Our Italian customers were very happy.

But that's Davos. If you remember why you're here, as a journalist, you can always find a story.

(Shared by Paul Colford)

Two newspapers, AP sue Kansas governor over records

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has been sued by three news organizations after the governor refused to disclose the names of candidates seeking Brownback's appointment to the expanded Saline County commission.

The Associated Press and The Salina Journal filed the lawsuit in Shawnee County District Court on Friday, and The Topeka Capital-Journal joined the lawsuit on Saturday. Nathanael W. Berg, a Salina lawyer, filed the lawsuit.

In November, Saline County voters "overwhelmingly" cast ballots to expand the county commission from three members to five, the lawsuit said. According to Kansas law, the governor then appoints commissioners to fill the two newly created posts until voters can cast ballots to elect commissioners in the next general election.

First the Salina Journal, then the Associated Press asked the governor's office to identify the names of applicants seeking the two seats. The governor's office refused, the lawsuit said, and the lawsuit was filed.

"The Capital-Journal has a long history of standing up for the First Amendment," said Tomari Quinn, Capital-Journal editor and director of audience development, on Saturday. "We believe the governor's office was incorrect in refusing to disclose the names of applicants for county commission seats, and we support our peers at the Salina Journal and The Associated Press in their quest for open government and transparency."

The news organizations' attempts to obtain the names of Saline County applicants for the two county commission slots surfaced after voters in that county voted on Nov. 4, 2014, to expand the commission.

Welcome to Connecting



John Kekis ([Email](#)) - Albany AP sports writer

Dave DeGrace ([Email](#)) - former EA, Milwaukee

Dale Brendel ([Email](#)) - Publisher, Stillwater (OK) News Press

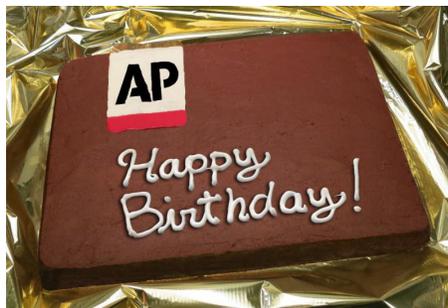
Jim Willse ([Email](#)) - With AP from 1970 to 1978, first in NY on General Desk, then San Francisco news editor

Wendy Benjaminson ([Email](#)) - Assistant Bureau Chief/National Security Editor, AP Washington

Emily Leshner ([Email](#)) - Communications manager, AP New York

Bob Davidson ([Email](#)) - The Salina (KS) Journal

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Stories of interest

[State of the Union Drew Lowest TV Audience in 15 Years](#)

President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union address drew the lowest television viewership for any such speech in the last 15 years, according to new data from Nielsen.

The president's Tuesday address was watched by 31.7 million viewers across 12 broadcast and cable networks that carried the speech live, despite a two-week campaign style tour and a social media blitz to drum up interest.

That's down from the 33.3 million viewers who tuned in to Mr. Obama's State of the Union address last year, and the 52.4 million who watched him deliver a 2009 speech to a joint session of Congress early on in his presidency.

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[Greenpeace seeks to exclude journalists from Peru case](#)

LIMA, Peru (AP) -- Greenpeace said Tuesday it has given prosecutors the names of four people involved in a protest for renewable energy at the country's famed Nazca Lines archaeological site, an action that sparked widespread outrage in Peru.

In naming the activists, the group urged prosecutors to drop legal proceedings against two journalists who covered the Dec. 8 event, Associated Press photographer Rodrigo Abd and Reuters video journalist Herbert Villarraga.

Officials have accused participants of permanently damaging one of the country's most important cultural treasures by using the fragile desert at the site as the backdrop for Greenpeace's environmental message.

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[Attacks on journalists threaten media freedom in Afghanistan](#)

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) -- When Afghan journalist Hussain Sirat's car disappeared in late December, he assumed it was simply theft, until a man called to say that he had the vehicle, and a gun with which he planned to kill him.

In the weeks since then, Sirat, an editor at Afghanistan's biggest daily newspaper 8AM who also works for Deutsche Welle, has been attacked in the street and received death threats in text messages that accuse him of being an "infidel" - which he assumes is related to his work for the German broadcaster.

"I don't feel safe," he said. The 33-year-old has moved to a safe house away from his wife and five children, who are afraid to go outside. Neither the police nor security services have been able to find the people who threatened him. "They can't make me feel any safer," he said.

Eight journalists were killed in Afghanistan in 2014, making it the deadliest year for the media since 2001, when the U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban, rights groups say. While reporting on last year's presidential election, Associated Press photographer Anja Niedringhaus, 48, was shot dead and reporter Kathy Gannon, 60, was seriously wounded in an attack by an Afghan policeman in the town of Khost, near the border with Pakistan. Their attacker is appealing a death sentence for the assault.

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[Voices: I still teach students to read the bill](#)

By PAUL SINGER

USA TODAY

I teach a journalism class at Georgetown University called Covering Capitol Hill that sometimes feels hopelessly out-of-date.

This week I will discuss with my students how a bill becomes a law. I start with the old Schoolhouse Rock! cartoon "I'm just a bill, yes I'm only a bill ..." which is really a pretty good primer.

Then I hand out a detailed chart of how the congressional process is supposed to work: markups in the House and Senate; committee votes; amendments on the floor; conference committees to reconcile competing bills in the House and Senate; final passage and presidential signature.

These days I teach this stuff as a kind of historic record. This is how it used to work, young people, back when computer screens were green or amber and documents were delivered by bike messenger, not e-mail.

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[Will Journalism Suffer After the Paris Attack?](#)

The killing of twelve people in an attack on Charlie Hebdo, a French weekly known for satirizing Islam, has spurred an international discussion on press freedom. Despite the widespread outpouring of support for the newspaper, many worry the attack and others like it will inhibit reporting and commentary on religion.

Karin Karlekar, who tracks trends in media freedom for Freedom House, a U.S.-based monitoring group, says journalists have increasingly become the target of broader assaults

on democratic values and tolerance. Fear should not factor into editorial judgments, she says, but concern for safety naturally does for many media outlets.

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[My life as a failed G-man](#) (Shared by Jim Clarke)



FORT DIX - It's a crisp, clear morning in late November when I pick the silver Smith and Wesson semi-automatic handgun up off a table, wrap my fingers around the handle, and aim.

I have done a number of dangerous things as a journalist.

I once donned a beekeeper's suit and stuck my hand inside an active hive.

I've stood in the bowels of a dank New York City subway tunnel and tried to remain perfectly still as a 400-ton Manhattan-bound R train thundered past.

And I stood next to Al Sharpton during the marches in Queens that followed the death of a black man chased onto the Belt Parkway by a gang of white teenagers.

But growing up in Brooklyn I've never fired a gun.

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[Media freedom in Afghanistan increasingly under threat](#)

"The governor told me in the presence of everyone: 'Why have you reported on this? ... You have no right to report it. I will imprison you. Your life is nothing to me,'" a journalist from the southeastern Paktika province, who had reported on an attack on an Afghan security base that killed two officers, told Human Rights Watch (HRW). "It's been 12 or 13 months since the threats and I am afraid even when I go home."

The reporter is one of more than 30 journalists, editors, publishers, and media directors interviewed by the human rights group across the South Asian country for its report "Stop

Reporting or We'll Kill Your Family: Threats to Media Freedom in Afghanistan." The 48-page document, released on January 21, focuses not only on the rising number of attacks and threats against journalists in the conflict-ridden nation, but also on the Afghan government's failure to investigate and prosecute those responsible.

The paper comes at a crucial time for Afghanistan, just weeks after a foreign troops drawdown and months after an election feud over claims of fraud which only ended when the two main candidates agreed to form a national unity government.

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[NPR's 'Starting Over' series profiles inspiring stories that are real, relatable](#)



I'm talking to Andrea Bruce, supervising editor for NPR's national desk about her latest series, "Starting Over," and what stories motivate people.

She's emphatic: treacly stories of heroism and innate, unmitigated goodness do not help. They alienate.

"Those are self-defeating stories," she said. "They are extreme biological freaks of nature. They are total classic exceptions to the rule. And when there are stories that are inspirations about taking control of one's life and the circumstances that we're in, that are relevant and feel like, 'That is a person I could know,' it feels really great as a listener. I'm inspired. It feels doable."

This insight ultimately led to the creation of the popular eight-part special series, which is running this month on NPR.

It features three- to five-minute stories about people, places, or even institutions that have undergone a transformation either by choice or, more interestingly in Bruce's view, by circumstance.

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[The Megyn Kelly Moment](#)



On a gray Wednesday in November, the Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly and four producers gathered around a conference table on the 17th floor of the News Corporation building in Manhattan. They were there to plan the 281st episode of "The Kelly File," which would be shown live in a few hours, at 9 p.m. Kelly's executive producer, Tom Lowell, a 25-year veteran of TV news, ticked through the program blocks, the between-commercial bits that are the basic unit of television programming. The A Block would contain a Fox News exclusive on the president's plans to halt millions of deportations. The B and C Blocks would focus on the Obama health care adviser Jonathan Gruber's declaration, caught on tape, that the Affordable Care Act passed in part because of "the stupidity of the American voter." Slated for the D block was Jonathan Gilliam, a former Navy SEAL.

Gilliam had been Kelly's idea. She saw him on Anderson Cooper's CNN program a few days earlier, attacking another former SEAL, Robert O'Neill, who had been talking about his role in the assassination of Osama Bin Laden in sometimes salty language. Cooper asked Gilliam for a reaction. Gilliam said the boasting was a breach of military honor and had, if anything, made O'Neill an assassination target. O'Neill, Gilliam said, should be prosecuted and given a dishonorable discharge.

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Missouri Press, AP Day at Capitol set for Feb. 12

The 25th annual Missouri Press Association and Associated Press Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, in Jefferson City. Beginning in 1991, MPA has hosted a day each February at the state capitol for press members to interact with their state legislators and state officials.

On Wednesday morning and afternoon, February 11, the boards of the Missouri Press Foundation, Missouri Press Association and Missouri Press Service will hold meetings at the DoubleTree Hotel, Jefferson City. No reception for legislators is planned for Wednesday evening.

On Thursday morning, between 8 and 9:30, a breakfast (pastries and coffee) for MPA members and legislators, will be held in House Hearing Room 1, in the state capitol basement.

From 10 to 11:45 a.m., the Day at the Capitol program is scheduled in the Senate Lounge, third floor, in the capitol. Confirmed speakers include a Senate panel on proposed legislation relating to Ferguson, Missouri. Panelists are Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D-St. Louis), Sen. Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis), and Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Glendale). Other speakers for the morning program will be announced.

Attendees will leave the capitol at 11:45 a.m. for the brief walk to the Governor's Mansion for lunch with Governor Jay Nixon. After lunch, Governor Nixon will offer remarks and take questions from the audience. The program will end by 1:30 p.m.

Persons must be registered with Missouri Press Association to attend the luncheon in the Governor's Mansion. Missouri Press Association pays for breakfast and luncheon costs. There is no charge to MPA members. However, last-minute cancellations will result in a \$25 cancellation fee.

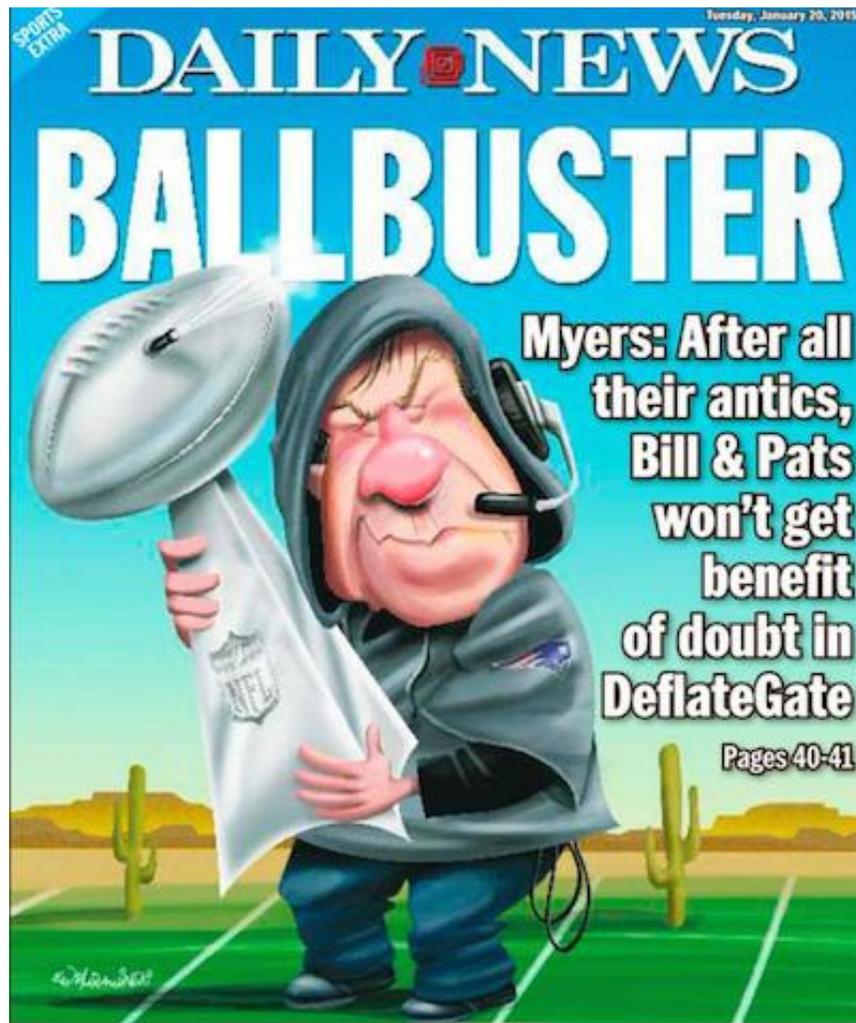
MPA is holding a block of sleeping rooms for Wednesday, February 11, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City. Call 573-636-5101 by January 30, and ask for Missouri Press Association's \$109 room rate. The DoubleTree's address is: 422 Monroe Street, Jefferson City.

To register for MPA/AP Day at the Capitol activities, contact Kristie Williams, kwilliams@socket.net.

The Final Word

Pats Scandal Causes NYC Tabloids to Overload on Ball Puns

Click [here](#) to see more covers. (Shared by Bob Daugherty)



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2015. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

On this date:

In 1498, during his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus arrived at the present-day Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

In 1908, Katie Mulcahey became the first - and only - woman to run afoul of New York City's just-passed ban on women smoking in public establishments. (Declaring, "No man

shall dictate to me," Mulcahey served a night in jail after refusing to pay a \$5 fine; the law, which did not specify any fines, ended up being vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr.)

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.)

In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI.

In 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time in Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1957, suspected "Mad Bomber" George P. Metesky was arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut. (He was later found mentally ill and committed until 1973; he died in 1994.) In 1968, "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6 1/2 hours later.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Raiders defeated the Washington Redskins 38-9 to win Super Bowl XVIII (18) at Tampa Stadium in Florida; the CBS-TV broadcast featured Apple Computer's famous "1984" commercial introducing the Macintosh computer.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, at age 104.

Ten years ago: The Iraqi government pledged to do everything in its power to protect voters from insurgent attacks during upcoming elections, as militants announced they'd killed 15 captive Iraqi National Guardsmen for cooperating with the Americans. Friends and family bade farewell to ten people killed when a mudslide damaged more than two dozen homes in La Conchita, California. President Richard Nixon's former secretary, Rose Mary Woods, died in Alliance, Ohio, at age 87. "Besame (BAY'-sah-may) Mucho" songwriter Consuelo Velazquez died in Mexico; she was believed to have been 88.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama tried to revive his battered agenda and rally Democrats with a renewed emphasis on jobs during a town hall meeting in Elyria, Ohio. The "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon raised over \$66 million. Conan O'Brien ended his brief tenure on "The Tonight Show" after accepting a \$45 million buyout from NBC to leave the show he'd long dreamed of hosting after only seven months. Actress Jean Simmons, 80, died in Santa Monica, California. Actor James Mitchell, 89, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: The White House Council on Women and Girls released a report on rape at college campuses, saying 1 in 5 female students were assaulted while only 1 in 8 student

victims reported it. Edgar Tamayo, a Mexican national, was put to death in Texas for killing Houston police officer Guy Gaddis despite pleas and diplomatic pressure from Mexico and the U.S. State Department to halt the execution. Israel said it had foiled an "advanced" al-Qaida plan to carry out a suicide bombing on the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and bomb other targets.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 87. Actress Piper Laurie is 83. Actor Seymour Cassel is 80. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 78. Actor John Hurt is 75. Singer Steve Perry is 66. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 63. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 62. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mike Bossy is 58. Actress Linda Blair is 56. Actress Diane Lane is 50. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 50. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 50. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri (TV: "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives") is 47. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 46. Actress Katie Finneran (TV: "The Michael J. Fox Show") is 44. Actor Gabriel Macht is 43. Actor Balthazar Getty is 40. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 35. Pop singer Willa Ford is 34. Actress Beverley (cq) Mitchell is 34. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 34. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 33. Actress-singer Phoebe Strole (TV: "Glee") is 32. Actress Sami Gayle (TV: "Blue Bloods") is 19.

Thought for Today: "Children need models rather than critics." - Joseph Joubert (zhoo-BAYR'), French moralist (1754-1824).

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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