

Connecting - August 07, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Fri, Aug 7, 2015 at 9:42 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

August 7, 2015

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



For the latest news and photos from the AP, click these:



[Top AP news](#)

[Top AP photos](#)



Republican presidential candidates from left, Chris Christie, Marco Rubio, Ben Carson, Scott Walker, Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, and John Kasich take the stage for the first Republican presidential debate at the Quicken Loans Arena Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015, in Cleveland. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

You'll read and hear all kinds of commentary on who won last night's Republican primary debate, who lost, and how they moved the voter approval needle. It began seconds after the debate in Cleveland ended.

But only on Connecting can you get the thoughts of your colleagues who responded to Ye Olde Connecting Editor's call for their own comment, presented briefly.

Here is what I received. If you want to share your thoughts, send them along today and I will use tomorrow. Me? I give high marks to the Fox News panel and was surprised that their questions were far from the softball-type I had anticipated. And I give low marks to Donald Trump for his very non-presidential reaction to Megyn Kelly's question on women's looks.

Paul

Connecting members' response to GOP debate



Ralph Gage - I found John Kasich to be impressive among the candidates in the main debate, perhaps because I hadn't paid much attention to him beforehand. I wish Carly Fiorina had been on stage with them. I also wish Ben Carson had been given more opportunity to speak. Many questions, and principally the questioners Wallace and Kelly, simply were snarky. I did not like the God question and most of the answers to it. My two-cents' worth.

-0-

Jim Lagier - I enjoyed it enormously. They were all articulate, very informed, surprising polite, filled with facts. The first one was slightly bland, the second one more substantive. I will wait for the thumbsuckers tomorrow.

-0-

Joe Frazier - I have been involved in news, foreign and domestic, for 40 years. I have never seen such a bench of evasive self-gratifying payasos hell-bent on ducking important issues in my life. Pure revision to talking points we have heard ad nauseum. Wouldst that they devour each other further. They seem to agree that money corrupts (horrors!) but (thus just in) God will fix it. I once thought w. J. Brian was the shallowest blowhole ever to oversimplify things. I erred.

-0-

Cliff Schiappa - The 10-ring circus was a made-for-TV event that was low on educational

opportunities for the electorate but high on sound bites that appeal to those with short attention spans. I don't like the term "winners and losers," rather it was just a reconfiguration of the deck chairs. I was put off by everyone's declaration that Hillary Clinton is the presumptive nominee for the Dems, but short of naming Trump as the common enemy, Hillary gets the nod. Carson will probably move up quite a few notches, Trump will drop down a bit. I am put off by Fox's assumption that all GOP candidates must be very conservative to succeed, whatever happened to a moderate candidate in that party? I was also put off by the very white analysis group that was used by Fox during the post-game analysis. If that's representative of the GOP's base, they are in big trouble.

-0-

Peggy Walsh - I was surprised by the toughness of some of the questions, which I didn't expect from Fox. The atmosphere at first was, best put, kind of weird - with the jokes, sort of like a reality show. That said, Kasich struck me as doing the best job of answering questions and seeming genuine. We'll see whether Trump trumped himself. Bush was prepared and more focused than he has been. Walker seemed unable to answer some pertinent questions. Carson was out of his element but I liked him. Christie was Christie but a faded version. Huckabee angered his way through the whole thing. Paul made some intelligent points but didn't stand out. Cruz has always struck me as unctuous. Rubio came off well but since he's crossed the aisle in the past will, as they say, "have some 'splainin' to do." In the end, it depends on who was watching and whether they actually analyzed what was said. Much like what has happened with people only watching or reading or Googling things that reinforce what they already think. That's the great thing about being a real journalist - you actually WANT to see all sides.

-0-

Chuck McFadden - Any Republican presidential hopeful has to thread three needles: be right-wing enough to retain the Republican "base," be moderate enough to hang onto what's left of the Republican moderate wing, and at the same time appeal to the broader electorate so you can win the general if you win the nomination. All 10 of the Republicans on stage Thursday night seemed to dispense with any tactic other than appealing to the base by saying they would defend America against terrorism, uphold the Bill of Rights and make sure everyone was prosperous. Specifics were as rare as Bernie Sanders banners. Donald Trump bragged and bragged and bragged and vociferously ducked every question; Scott Walker seemed at times lost, taking refuge in spouting cliches. Ben Carson was so cautious he almost disappeared. Winners: Jeb Bush, John Kasich; biggest loser, Rand Paul, who came off badly during a heated encounter with Chris Christie over government snooping. Trump won no points for himself during a testy exchange with moderator Megyn Kelly, who asked him about his previous remarks about women's looks. But none of the other candidates attacked Trump head-on. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

-0-

Hal Bock - I was surprised that there was no post-debate analysis on any of the three major networks, just the usual 11p local news. CNN and MSNBC were the only channels I

found discussing the event in Cleveland. Where were Brokaw, Holt, Muir and Pelley? Is this a function of the new journalism? If so, mark me down for the old journalism.

And a memory generated by the debate:

Amy Sancetta - "Tonight's Republican presidential debate in Cleveland has me thinking of a debate I helped to cover - in a way - way back when.

I was a college student at Ohio State and an AP stringer in 1980 when Ronald Reagan and then-President Jimmy Carter were set to debate at Public Hall in my home town.

I wasn't on AP Columbus photo editor Brian Horton 's list to help with the coverage, but then the phone call came. Brian rang me up and asked if I could get myself up to Cleveland, and bring my best running shoes.

It seems there were to be only two allowed shipments of film from the event. A League of Women's Voters staffer would collect the film from the shooters inside and then hand the rolls to a eagerly waiting stringer standing on the sidewalk outside the building. That would be me. The film then needed only to go back into the building through a doorway just about 10 feet away. So why did I need my best sneakers? Well, that 12 feet of space - from the ground on up - had been deemed a secure zone. There could be no simple hand off, or a toss of the caption bag of film from stringer to editor. To get the film to an eagerly waiting editor Horton - I could see him standing right there, for Pete's sake! - I had to run around the exterior of the entire building. It had to be about 3/4 of a mile, and I did it back and forth twice!

I can't remember who the AP staffer was shooting the event, but here is one of his pictures, as well as my credential from the evening. I loved my entire AP career, but I really loved those early days."

Connecting mailbox

Remembering INS

Joseph Benham - I remember INS, and one of their Texas bureau chiefs who became nationally known if not world-famous. George Christian ran their two-man Austin bureau until the Saturday morning when a phone call from On High ordered George and side-kick Bill Carter to remove their personal items from the office, lock it and take the keys to the UPI bureau manager, United Press was now United Press International and International News Service was no more.

Hearst offered the best of their INS staffer jobs on the new Hearst Headline Service, but George became a respected press secretary for Texas Govs. Price Daniel and John Connally and for Lyndon Johnson from 1966 until LBJ left the White House in 1969.

After that, he was a political consultant and PR man in Texas until his death from lung cancer in 2002, according to his obit.

Carter became Public Info director for the Texas Department of Transportation. He was a good newsman and competent PR man, but had an unfortunate habit when in his cups of singing songs which some found offensive: singing a ditty called, "Irishman, Go Hang Your Head" in an Irish bar was a poor choice of songs and location.

Bob Considine was another INS staffer whom I remember very well: nice, funny guy and a consummate multi-tasker whom I met when he came to Dallas to cover the Cotton Bowl and emcee the awards luncheon.

At the game, he followed the action on the field while listening to the Orange Bowl on a portable radio and writing a column based on his pre-game interview with a member of one of the high school bands invited to play in addition to the two college bands.

The high school musician was the sister of Cpl. Claude Batchelor of Kermit, TX, a POW who defected to the North Koreans and Red Chinese rather than be repatriated with other Korean War prisoners. Considine learned shortly before the game that Batchelor's sister was there, and secured an exclusive interview.

-0-

The Birthday Maven gets some love

Joni Beall - (Entertainment Birthday editor for AP) I was mentioned on "Live with Kelly and Michael" Thursday. On Tuesday, they mentioned producer Michael Gelman's birthday and said it came from The Associated Press birthday list. So I sent an email to the show saying I was glad Gelman was pleased and that I had Kelly and Michael's birthdays, but I couldn't confirm Art Moore's. I don't usually do a production manager's birthday, but if you watch the show you know he's on camera often.

They read my email during the Inbox segment at the end of the show. Of course, they pronounced my last name wrong, but everyone does. When they asked Art about giving his DOB, he said "good luck."

-0-

Circa is no more

Craig Klugman - I pass this along because one of Connecting's followers recommended Circa.

This [link](#) notes:

"It's with great disappointment that we let you know that Circa News has been put on

indefinite hiatus*. Producing high-quality news can be a costly endeavor and without the capital necessary to support further production we are unable to continue. Our mission was always to create a news company where factual, unbiased, and succinct information could be found. In doing so we recognized that building a revenue stream for such a mission would take some time and chose to rely on venture capital to sustain. We have now reached a point where we're no longer able to continue news production as-is."

-0-

Words, words, words

Robert Weller - Mark Twain probably would say all words are invented. Femicide looks good to me, just as good as patricide and other Latin-based words.

We can all be picky about words. I hate that "militant" is so widely used now. I understand, and people I know who know much more about this than I do, say it is okay. I think it began being used because so many times when violent acts occur we have so little idea who the hell did it, why, or what for. To me, militants will always be someone in the SDS opposed to the Vietnam War. They used to tell me what to write but they never shot me or even at me.

-0-

A Danse Macabre

George Zucker - For two years in the 1950s, I served in the U.S. Air Force with the man who showed the world the horror of nuclear warfare. In 1956, I was named editor of the Hunter Herald, the weekly newspaper at the Strategic Air Command's Hunter Air Force Base near Savannah, Ga. Also transferring to Hunter the same month was one of Hunter's new wing commanders, Col. Paul W. Tibbets Jr., who 11 years earlier piloted Enola Gay -- the famed B-29 "Super Fortress" named after his mother -- that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. I was eager to interview him, but was quickly ordered never to speak of the historic attack in his presence, let alone write a story about it.

But I did get to dance with his young French wife, Andrea, and later broke one of the biggest stories of my fledgling journalism career when a crippled B-47 jet bomber jettisoned its nuclear payload just off Savannah's Tybee Island.

Besides a famous colonel who wouldn't talk to me about anything beyond his wing's blood drives or United Way campaigns, almost everything newsworthy at Hunter was off-limits. The Pentagon didn't want locals worrying about nuclear bombs flying over their heads night and day. The public didn't see them stacked up for display on Armed Forces Day. When nukes were loaded onto the big jets, the bomb bays were draped with canvas shrouds while armed men stood guard. I kept my distance when I made my flight-line reporting rounds.

Another Hunter notable was Dieter, a young German whose ironic life was another story I couldn't write. Dieter was 12 years old when American warplanes destroyed his family's home in Berlin. He was picked up by U.S. troops, earning his keep as a translator. He joined the Air Force and years later, would enjoy off-hours in the arms of women in a faraway land of magnolias and weeping willows.

Dieter, 24, was a handsome youth with black curly hair and a European charm that won him an off-duty job as a ballroom dance instructor. Dieter often showed off his pupils at the USO center next door to his Savannah dance studio. He and his quick-stepping charges took over the center of the dance floor at the first notes of Prez Prado's cha-cha hit, Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White.

His fans gasped the night he went up to the man who dropped the first atomic bomb and asked his pretty wife to dance. Tibbets, 41, making a rare USO appearance, watched his wife waltz off with Dieter with the stolid aplomb of a man who has known unpleasant duty. He famously said in 2007 shortly before his death at 92 that he never lost a night's sleep over that historic A-bomb attack. Nor did he lose any sleep the night a brash young German two-stepped away with his wife. But I've always wondered if Mrs. Tibbets remembered the gawky editor (me) who asked for the next dance, making a clumsy try at small talk. So what do you say to a woman whose husband was history's first nuclear warrior?

"Do you come here often?" I stammered.

After my discharge, I went to work as a reporter for a Savannah radio station. In February, 1958, a month after Tibbets left for a new command in Florida, a crippled B-47 making an emergency landing at Hunter dumped its hydrogen bomb into the bay four miles off Tybee Island.

I broke the story when I called my old boss at the Hunter Herald to ask why Navy frogmen were looking for something in the water. The Pentagon hoped the lost weapon would be found before the first press inquiry. My call broke the story that the 7,600-pound "nuclear device" was jettisoned to help a faltering B-47 land safely. The big jet was damaged in a mid-air collision with a smaller military plane and with its heavy nuclear payload encased in a lead shield, could not maintain a safe landing speed. The brief Pentagon statement triggered by my call said there was no danger of radiation or nuclear explosion.

As I wrote in a 2012 article for The American Legion Magazine, now more than 50 years later, the lost Tybee bomb -- said to be 100 times more powerful than the one Col. Tibbets dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 -- has never been found. The government says the abandoned bomb is safer left alone and doesn't want civilians looking for it. The feds contend the only danger the lost nuke poses is the 400 pounds of explosives in its triggering device, saying a recovery attempt might cause the decaying TNT to explode.

Since American and Russian planes and submarines began carrying armed nuclear warheads, 92 of the so-called "broken arrows" have been lost in military mishaps. The environmental watchdog, Greenpeace, claims more than 50 nuclear bombs still lay lost, mostly in the world's oceans. Our government lists only 11 of its abandoned bombs as still

missing, including the one off Tybee Island and two more 50 miles offshore from Atlantic City, N.J. While these long-lost bombs aren't expected to roll in with the tide any time soon, the Pentagon assures us that the lost Tybee and Atlantic City nukes did not carry plutonium capsules, so there is no danger of nuclear radiation or detonation.

A month after the Tybee bomb was dumped, another B-47 headed for Hunter accidentally dropped its "nuclear device" on a farm near Florence, S.C., blowing up a chicken coop and damaging a farm house. No one was hurt, but six chickens died. That bomb was recovered.

-0-

Rather's departure a major loss for CBS

Hank Lowenkron - Thanks for the update on Dan Rather. I have felt his departure was a major loss for CBS News. It *the Article was another example of how connection serves its readers. Also, found the articles on dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. I was an 8-year-old at the time and really didn't appreciate the enormity of thre events.

-0-

Praise for Emmitt Till story

Robert Kimball - Great piece on the Emmitt Till case. I always have wondered why Milam and Bryant never succumbed to vigilante justice.

-0-

Playing catchup with Connecting

Peggy Walsh - Catching up comments on a batch of recent Connectings: Great piece on Hiroshima. Gene Herrick's piece on the Till case was so enlightening. It's sad that in some places things have "progressed" so little. Hal Bock's piece on the Hall of Fame votes was rightly indignant. Without the invaluable collective memory not only will the asterisks from drug use be next on the list, we might also get Pete Rose. I'm glad to see Sibby is back and commenting after her hip surgery. And, last but not least, I know Linda Deutsch will be thrilled to see that Jon Stewart's set will be at the Newseum.

AP expands Global Media Services business, increasing facilities for broadcasters worldwide

The Associated Press is expanding its Global Media Services (GMS) business, opening a

new facility in North Korea and upgrading its existing live facilities in Cuba and China.

AP GMS provides global broadcasters with on-the-ground broadcast facilities, producers, reporters and technicians whenever and wherever news breaks. Supported by a worldwide fixed infrastructure with satellite and fiber links, it provides connectivity around the world.

AP GMS has operated in North Korea since 2002, but can now for the first time offer a dedicated HD live position to its customers. The new plug-and-play facility on the terrace of the Yangakkdo International Hotel provides a panoramic view of Pyongyang's skyline dominated by the Tower of the Juche Idea.

In Havana, ahead of key global events, including the opening of the U.S. Embassy and the visit of Pope Francis in September, there are now four HD paths available to broadcasters, meeting the increased demand for access to the region. An office move in China, to join the main AP bureau, means AP GMS can now offer broadcast customers a stunning new backdrop of central Beijing from the 12th floor podium terrace, as well as new indoor studio facilities.

"The developments are in response to trends and developments in the market," said Andy Braddel, director of AP Global Media Services. "The thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations means more broadcasters are now getting the opportunity to go into the country and there will be a steady stream of stories emerging from Cuba.

"The demand for live content from across the globe is also increasing," he added. "However, retaining fixed facilities in numerous countries is beyond the budget of most broadcasters. With HD studios now in over 30 countries, AP GMS can offer customers a one-stop-shop solution to aid their breaking news or daily news coverage. This investment ensures that we continue to offer the highest service level possible."

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.



When Brazil won its Olympic bid in 2009, organizers promised that cleaning up Rio de Janeiro's sewage-laden waterways would be the crowning legacy of the 2016 Games.

But that cleanup hasn't happened. In fact, as a blockbuster AP investigation revealed last week, there are shockingly high levels of viruses in Rio's water sites, posing a threat that athletes in swimming and boating events could become violently ill.

Talk about a game-changer: The report, based on AP's own testing, prompted the International Olympic Committee to reverse course and order that viral testing be done in

Olympic waters. This groundbreaking work and the team behind it _ Brad Brooks, Jenny Barchfield, Yesica Fisch, Silvia Izquierdo, and Steve Wade _ win the Beat of the Week.

The investigation, nearly two years in the making, stems from reporting done before the 2014 World Cup, also held in Brazil. Already back then, water pollution was front and center. The AP found, based on data from the state environmental agency, that bacterial pollution levels at some spots were 180 times what would be considered safe in the U.S. That led to the question: What else is in that water?

Brooks, the Brazil bureau chief, began searching for how the AP could carry out its own tests. The AP science team, including Washington's Seth Borenstein, suggested specialists to consult. But when Brooks approached four international firms that test water, all declined and two indicated they didn't want to put lucrative government contracts at risk by tackling the sensitive topic.

Next, Brooks spoke with virologists at top universities in Rio and in Sao Paulo. Again, dead ends: While the scientists expressed deep interest, they said they couldn't participate because they feared the political backlash.

Finally, Brooks was directed to an excellent young virologist heading one of the few Brazilian labs equipped to handle such complicated testing: Fernando Spilki at the private Feevale University. When Brooks sent him an email inquiry in January 2014, Spilki quickly replied: "Of course, please call me."

Immediately, Spilki made clear that the AP should be hunting the sewage-infested waters for viral pathogens _ not just bacteria. Brazil, like most nations, only mandates that bacterial markers for pollution be tested, mostly because it's cheap and easy. But Spilki noted that viruses are far more resistant to the elements and last far longer. He also argued that most waterborne illnesses come from viruses _ so why shouldn't the AP find those? Other experts agreed.

As Spilki gave Brooks a crash course in water quality assessment, Brooks explained to the scientist what was needed for the journalism side of the project _ from data to interviews to images. Spilki visited Rio in April 2014 to tour future Olympic water venues with Brooks, scouting out where the sampling should take place.

Then in May 2014, correspondent Barchfield obtained a Rio state government document in which the state environment secretariat admitted they would not be able to meet the lofty depollution goals set out in Brazil's Olympic bid. Suddenly it seemed the steam was taken out of the water project. If officials already said they couldn't depollute the waters, why spend the money to prove what they already acknowledged?

But Spilki insisted that understanding water quality by only looking at bacterial pathogens in the government's testing didn't give the public the complete understanding of the real dangers lurking in Rio's waters. Brooks talked to experts around the globe who agreed that while governments do not mandate that water be tested for viruses to determine water safety, they certainly should.

Finally, in January, the story was re-pitched to editors with more emphasis on the hunt for disease-causing viruses. The project was greenlighted and testing of water samples began two months later.

The results were astonishing.

The data from the first round of sampling was emailed to the Brooks at 10 p.m. on the last Monday in March. Reading the results on his laptop, he handed it over to his physician wife. She gasped and said, "No, this can't be right!"

Shockingly, it was. And for months after that first round, the results kept coming back the same: Even in the "cleanest" of Olympic venues, the viral counts for three types of human adenovirus and in some instances rotavirus and enterovirus were roughly equivalent to those seen in raw sewage.

On the advice of a U.S. expert, some new wrinkles were added to the AP's testing _ most importantly, lab work to determine whether the viruses found were active and infectious. Those tests came back positive: Not only would Olympic athletes be swimming in virus-plagued waters, but those viruses were in most cases infectious.

From the beginning, senior producer Yesica Fisch and chief photographer Silvia Izquierdo were capturing images and interviews from Spilki's trips to sample Rio's waters.

With AP's results, Barchfield reached out to her local sources for reaction and used a Wade contact to land a crucial set of interviews with Austrian Olympic sailors and a coach who said the Rio waters were the worst they had seen, and that they had indeed fallen ill on numerous occasions.

Brooks and Barchfield interviewed Rio's top health experts who deal with sewage-related illnesses, who all labeled the city's public health situation as "endemic."

The story appeared Thursday _ in a first, AP translated the 2,500-word main story and provided a Portuguese voiced-over video for Brazilian clients _ and it hit like a bomb. No other AP story has played as widely within Brazil, with the nation's media giant Globo TV running the text and using AP's footage hour after hour. Reuters simply picked up the AP story, as did AFP.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/07/30/rio-2016-olympic-venue-waters-are-filthy-ap-study-finds>

The story echoed around the world. In Malaysia, where the IOC's top brass were meeting, London-based sports editor Steve Wilson pressed for a response. His IOC contacts first stonewalled, then said they would not change their bacteria-only testing regime and continued to maintain that the waters were safe for athletes, despite the AP findings. IOC officials said the World Health Organization had told them that bacterial testing was all that was needed.

But on Saturday, Barchfield, who had been pushing WHO on the matter, received an emailed reply: In the wake of the AP report, WHO "advised the IOC to widen the scientific

base of indicators to include viruses" to determine the safety of water. On Sunday, IOC told Wilson that viral testing will take place. Meanwhile, the AP's own testing will continue _ up to and through the Olympics.

For nurturing an idea born 18 months earlier in brainstorming into worldwide news that changed the Olympics, Brooks, Barchfield, Fisch, Izquierdo and Wade win this week's \$500 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Stories of interest

Stewart bids 'Daily Show' farewell with Carell, Mandvi (AP)



NEW YORK (AP) - Jon Stewart said goodbye to "The Daily Show" on Thursday, America's foremost satirist of politicians and the media ushered out with a reunion of the many colleagues that he worked with during 16 years as host.

"Guess what? Stewart said at the show's opening. "I've got big news. This is it."

He began by pretending to report on Thursday's Republican presidential debate - which actually happened after the taping - but said he didn't have enough remaining correspondents to talk about all the candidates. There followed a long succession of personalities, like Aasif Mandvi, John Hodgman, Steve Carell and more, who had gotten their starts at Comedy Central.

He'd been away from the show for more than a decade, but Carell said that "becoming an international superstar is just something I did while awaiting my next assignment."

Click [here](#) to read more.

AND...

Did Jon Stewart Have a Serious Lesson for Journalists? (New York Times)

As Jon Stewart steps down as host of "The Daily Show" he leaves behind "an audience that will no longer take the theater of media-driven politics seriously," as Timothy Egan wrote. His funny, but tough take on events was a major source of news for young people, particularly liberal ones. He, Stephen Colbert, John Oliver and others have shown that non-traditional journalism can be effective. (The Newseum is getting his set.)

Can mainstream journalists learn anything from Jon Stewart's approach, or from comedic news shows in general?

Click [here](#) to read more.

-0-

Newsnomics: 10 numbers on The New York Times' 1 million digital-subscriber milestone (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

If, half a decade ago, you'd been able to put money down in Vegas on The New York Times' chances of reaching 1 million digital subscribers by 2015, what kind of odds could you have gotten? Longer than longshot. In 2010, when the Times announced it would put up a paywall, hardly anyone thought readers would pay for that sort of "commodity" - general news - on the web. TimesSelect, the Times' first foray into digital paid content in the mid-2000s, had gone bust, and the program's name served as an easy punchline for the conventional wisdom of the moment.

Today, four and a half years after the Times introduced its metered paywall, we can declare a milestone. The Times can now count 1 million digital-only subscribers. It's a moment the Times should be celebrating. And yet, despite this success, the Times' ad results paralleled too closely that of its peer newspaper companies. For the quarter, overall ad revenues dropped 5.5 percent, anchored down by a print loss of 12.8 percent despite a digital gain of 14.2 percent. That means overall revenues dipped 1.5 percent. The outlook for the third quarter: another "decrease in the mid-single digits" in overall ad revenue. None of that is surprising; it's largely more of the same, with a deeper print gloom to consider.

For today, though, let's pull apart the million-reader milestone. It's worth celebrating for all who value journalism.

Click [here](#) to read more.

The Final Word



Today in History - August 7, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, August 7, the 219th day of 2015. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 7, 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. War Department was established by Congress.

In 1814, Pope Pius VII issued a bull restoring the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, four decades after the order had been suppressed by Pope Clement XIV.

In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of

Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1927, the already opened Peace Bridge connecting Buffalo, New York, and Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, was officially dedicated.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1974, French stuntman Philippe Petit (fee-LEEP' peh-TEET') repeatedly walked a tightrope strung between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to **Saudi Arabia** to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jewish candidate on a major party's presidential ticket.

Ten years ago: ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at age 67. Seven people in a Russian mini-submarine trapped for nearly three days under the Pacific Ocean were rescued after a British remote-controlled vehicle cut away undersea cables that snarled their vessel. Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned from his post to protest an upcoming withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank.

Five years ago: Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. A healthy-looking **Fidel Castro** appealed to President Barack Obama to stave off global nuclear war in an address to parliament that marked his first official government appearance since emergency surgery four years earlier. Jerry Rice, Emmitt Smith, John Randle, Dick LeBeau, Rickey Jackson, Russ Grimm and Floyd Little were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

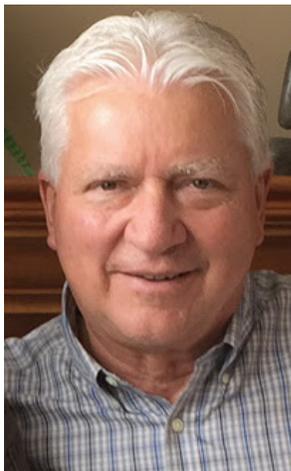
One year ago: President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes in northern Iraq, warning they would be launched if needed to defend Americans from advancing Islamic militants and protect civilians under siege. President Obama signed a \$16.3 billion measure aimed at helping veterans avoid long waits for health care. A jury convicted a suburban Detroit homeowner of second-degree murder and manslaughter in the killing of an unarmed woman on his porch, rejecting Theodore Wafer's claim that he was afraid for his life when he heard Renisha McBride pounding on his door in the middle of the night and had acted

in self-defense. (Wafer was sentenced to at least 17 years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 87. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 86. Actress Verna Bloom is 77. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 73. Singer B.J. Thomas is 73. Singer Lana Cantrell is 72. FBI Director Robert Mueller is 71. Actor John Glover is 71. Actor David Rasche is 71. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 65. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 65. Actress Caroline Aaron is 63. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 63. Actor Wayne Knight is 60. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 57. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 57. Actor David Duchovny is 55. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 54. Actress Delane Matthews is 54. Actor Harold Perrineau is 52. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 52. Country singer Raul Malo is 50. Actor David Mann is 49. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 48. Actress Sydney Penny is 44. Actor Michael Shannon is 41. Actress **Charlize Theron** (shahr-LEES' THAYR'-ehn) is 40. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 39. Actor Randy Wayne is 34. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 33.

Thought for Today: "There are a lot of people who think our job is to reassure the public every night that their home, their community and their nation is safe. I don't subscribe to that at all. I subscribe to leaving people with essentially sorry it's a cliché a rough draft of history. Some days it's reassuring, some days it's absolutely destructive." - Peter Jennings (1938-2005).

Got a story to share?



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor

Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to pjshane@gmail.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215