

Connecting - September 24, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Thu, Sep 24, 2015 at 9:34 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

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Connecting

September 24, 2015

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Memories, fun aplenty at first AP Midwest reunion



Front row: Brad Martin, Cliff Schiappa, Marcia Martin, Beth Weydert. Second row, seated: Dick Shafer, John Schweitzer, Chris Kreger, Pat Kreger, Paul Stevens, Brent Kallestad, Lindel Hutson, Lew Ferguson and Gary Clark. Back row: Eileen Lockwood, Pete Leabo, Adam Yeomans, Steve Crowley, Kia Breaux, Bunny Hutson, Bill Kaczor, Kevin Walsh, Lisa Walsh, Linda Stevens, Mike Holmes, Bud Weydert, Larry Hamlin, Jim Bagby, Kent Zimmerman, Fay Clark, Peg Coughlin, Doug Tucker and Steve Graham. (Photo by Keith Kreger)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

The first-ever Connecting Midwest AP reunion is in the books - and a great success.

Connecting colleague **Brent Kallestad**, one of its organizers, wrote:

Great Kansas City barbecue and a trove of recounted memories highlighted the first Midwest reunion of Associated Press retirees Tuesday in Kansas City.

The event, inspired by the daily "Connecting" report now read by more than 900 AP followers, attracted about 40 former AP employees, spouses and current employees - from as distant as Oregon, New York State and Florida. **Steve Graham's** journey from Oregon was the longest trip of the group.



Florida contingent, from left: Adam Yeomans, Kevin Walsh, Brent Kallestad, Gary Clark and Bill Kaczor.



The two-day event concluded Wednesday with a tour of the Kansas City bureau newsroom by **Kia Breaux** (photo at left above) and the Technical Center by **Tom Young** (photo at right above), a lunch at Crown Center and a baseball game attended by six who witnessed a 10th-inning walk-off victory by the Royals over Seattle.

Several former bureau chiefs, broadcast executives and communications chiefs attended the event held at the trendy Char Bar in the Westport area of Kansas City. The evening's festivities were arranged by longtime AP photographer and news manager **Cliff Schiappa**.

Each person introduced themselves and gave brief backgrounds on their AP careers at the conclusion of dinner.

Among those toasted by those in attendance were former AP bureau chiefs **Fred Moen** and **Joe Dill** and broadcast vice president **Roy Steinfort** along with former Kansas City CoB and AP vice president **Paul Stevens**, now the Connecting editor.

Attendees had the opportunity to visit and snack for approximately an hour and a half before dinner and exchange stories. And what stories. What memories.

If you have an interest in a similar reunion in your area of the country, get in touch and we will be happy to provide any advice you'd like. Connecting is a great vehicle to help promote what you do.

As for the Midwesterners, the consensus was strong to make this an annual event.



At ballpark, from left: Dick Shafer, Kia Breaux, Bunny Hutson, Lindel Hutson, Paul Stevens and Adam Yeomans.



From left: Brad Martin, Steve Crowley, John Schweitzer and Pat Kreger.



From left: Pat Kreger, Brad Martin, Kevin Walsh, Doug Tucker and Marcia Martin.



Pete Leabo, left, and Kevin Walsh



Kent Zimmerman, left, and Lew Ferguson

Mistakes happen

Just ask the New York AP desk or on a far smaller scale, Ye Olde Connecting Editor.

When New York Yankees Hall of Famer Yogi Berra died, this bulletin appeared on the AP circuits:



AP Exchange notification



to me

2:42 AM [View details](#)

Date: 09/23/2015 02:37 AM

BC-APNewsAlert/17

New York Yankees Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Bear has died. He was 90.

NEW YORK (AP) - New York Yankees Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Bear has died. He was 90.

How it happened - spell check or ? - is not known. It stayed up for just a minute before being withdrawn, but it did not go unnoticed by Connecting colleagues, social media and Jim Romenesko..

Jerry Cipriano submitted it to Connecting with the note: "Hi, Paul - this is how AP broke the Yogi Berra story this morning. The ultimate - wait for it - Boo Boo."

From two Romenesko readers: "Smarter than the average headline editor?" - and, "The headline writer has been exiled to Jellystone Park."

As for Connecting, a photo in Wednesday's newsletter on Best of the States that was meant to be Providence Correspondent **Michelle Smith** instead was a photo of someone else. Michelle took the Connecting editor's apology with grace and good humor, responding: "It's no problem at all. The Michelle Smiths of the world are numerous and used to being mistaken for one another. At least it was not a photo of the Michelle Smith who was an Irish swimmer busted for doping. We got a good laugh out of it today."

So gracious was Michelle that she accepted my offer to join Connecting. Her profile and her photo - yes, HER photo - are featured in today's Connecting.

Connecting mailbox

Gene Herrick - My oh my, the chiefs of NBC and MSNBC put their heads together and decided to free Brian Williams from his six-month air waves prison sentence for lying and padding his news coverage efforts, and assigned him to anchor MSNBC's coverage of the Holy Pope. The dictionary says this is contradictory, antithetical, diametric, etc.

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Daniel Beegan - As a resident foreigner in the Philippines, living less than 1 klick from the sea, I believe in global warming, but as a journalist with scientific training, I am unsure of the role humans have had.

Just saying.

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Andy Lippman - I invited Hugh to speak to the AP editors meeting one year in Fort Wayne, Ind. Everyone was looking at me as Hugh started speaking, and I could read their eyes: "Why is this man stuttering so badly, and why is he talking to us about Ireland in Indiana."

Of course, by the end of the talk, everyone was charmed out of their minds.

Mulligan was supposed to play golf the next day with Dick Inskip, publisher of the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette and Peter Ridder, then CEO of Fort Wayne Newspapers. He had originally been excited about the opportunity because Hugh liked to play golf.

But he heard that both men were very good golfers, and for some reason, the prospect of playing them, especially Ridder, began to make Mulligan more nervous as the evening went on.

I saw Hugh the next morning and I immediately asked him how things had gone on the golf course.

"I was worried the entire night," Mulligan admitted. "I got out to the course and practiced and as I did, clouds began to form.

"Then just before we teed off, there was a big clap of thunder and it poured. We had to cancel the match.

"That's when I knew G-d was Catholic."

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AP East Desk editor to appear on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'

Albert Stumm, an editor on the AP's East desk in Philadelphia, is going to be on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire. It airs at different times in different markets, but should be on today and Friday in some markets.

Here is a story in philly.com:

Karen Testa just sent out a note about it to the East staff, and here's a link to a philly.com story about him:

South Philly man makes upside-down appearance on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire'

South Philadelphia will soon see one of its own representing our fine city on a couple upcoming episodes of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire set to air this week.



Passyunk Post publisher and former Daily News assistant city editor Albert Stumm will appear on the show's next two episodes, which air on 6ABC at 1:05 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24 and Friday, Sept. 25. And judging from the clip above, the South Philly resident had quite the time during his appearance, which was filmed back in June.

As you can see, host Chris Harrison saddles Stumm with a question that requires him to turn himself upside-down in order to figure out what license plate number presented to him spells a swear word when turned over. To figure it out, Stumm figured he had to "kind of show my butt" to the Millionaire host, in his words.

And show his butt he did. Lucky for Stumm, that was the right course of action, seeing as he ended up getting that question correct.

The curse word in question, though? We'll leave that up to Stumm.

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

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Joe McKnight - This brings together several stories that have appeared in The Columbus Dispatch over the past week. Dispatch executives Alan Miller and Jim Hopson will speak at a luncheon of a downtown business group tomorrow and I plan to attend to see what they have to say.

COLUMBUS -- The Columbus Dispatch has announced several changes in what it terms the start of a process to better position itself in the marketplace.

Editor Alan Miller said the newspaper is cutting 63 jobs, none of them in The Dispatch news room. The announcement said those "who received job-reduction notices will receive severance pay," and help with job-placement. The newspaper has about 1,000 employees.

Business First, a weekly newspaper not affiliated with The Dispatch, reported that some senior Dispatch news staffers had accepted a buy out offered by new Dispatch owners GateHouse Media and that they are to start leaving in October.

The Dispatch also announced it will move its downtown newspaper offices to another downtown building.

It reported other changes include promotion of leaders in news, advertising and marketing divisions of the newspaper and its magazines; upgrades in its printing operations, and new computers.

Starting early next year, The Dispatch said it plans to shift some newspaper copy-editing and page-design work of the daily and its weekly newspapers to the GateHouse Center for News and Design in Austin, TX.

The Dispatch, which traces its roots to the 19th century, was sold by the Wolfe family three months ago to GateHouse Media. That transaction included the daily Columbus Dispatch, 24 suburban weeklies, and six magazines. It also included three commercial sites: a printing plant on the west side of the city, a five-story office building downtown, and the weeklies' offices at Lewis Center, a suburban municipality north of the city. The total transaction was valued at about \$47 million.

GateHouse Media parent New Media Investment Group Inc., is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and holds publishing interests in 32 states.

Former Dispatch owner John F. Wolfe retained radio and television interests as well as the long time downtown Dispatch offices, a four-story building at 34 South Third Street across from the east side of the Ohio Statehouse.

Next year, The Dispatch will move to 62 E. Broad St., on the north side of the statehouse, property that was included in sale of the newspapers.

Jim Hopson is interim publisher of the Dispatch Media Group, which includes The Dispatch, ThisWeek Community Newspapers, and a group of magazines.

Hopson wrote in a separate publisher's note on Sept. 18, that the changes will strengthen the company and better position it for a stable and successful future.

"Other changes in the coming months will further help position these companies to remain trusted news sources in central Ohio and beyond," Hopson wrote.

In other changes, Joseph Y. Gallo, executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Dispatch Printing Co., was named president and chief operating officer of the media company. Michael J. Florile, president and CEO, was promoted to vice chairman and CEO.

Hopson previously appointed Ray Paprocki as publisher of the magazine group.

Welcome to Connecting - Michelle Smith

Michelle Smith ([Email](#)) - I have been AP's correspondent in Providence since 2005. I



began my AP career in 2000 in San Francisco, where I was TV editor. I moved to Boston in 2003 and began working there as AP's night supervisor. I have also worked at the public radio stations WBUR in Boston and KQED in San Francisco, and for the legal news website Law.com. I earned my undergraduate degree in history from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

One of the things I love about my job at the AP is the wide variety of stories I get to cover. I spent the first four months of this year covering the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez.

Rhode Island is known for its colorful and often corrupt public officials, and much of my work has involved the intersection of law and politics. I spent part of last year covering the failed comeback bid of two-time felon and ex-Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci.

I also covered the Boston Marathon bombings and the legal aftermath of the 2003 nightclub fire that killed 100 people.

I'm currently working with my colleagues, Charles Krupa and Rodrique Ngowi, on a story about the world of competitive pumpkin growing (which should be out in the next few weeks).

I live in Providence with my husband, Rolf Nelson, a college professor, 7-year-old daughter, Willa, and 4-year-old son, Julian.

(Photo by Jen McDermott.)



Arkansas announced last month it had acquired the drugs necessary to kill condemned prisoners and scheduled its first executions since 2005.

Then, under a new law shielding virtually all information about death penalty procedures, the state went mum.

Arkansas legislators had carved out a large exemption to the state's FOI law last spring, hoping to jump-start an idle execution process amid questions about drug purity and pharmaceutical companies that refused to sell certain drugs to capital punishment states.

Under the law, even inmates and drug manufacturers weren't entitled to know the source of the drugs to be used in executions.

Little Rock newswoman **Claudia Lauer** sought to identify the drugs and trace them back to their manufacturers. It would require some journalistic sleuthing.



She asked the state for the drugs' bill of sale, as well as prison logs showing them being added to the state inventory. An invoice listed only the state prison unit holding the drugs, not the supplier. So Lauer next requested any lab tests, lot numbers or expiration dates, hoping that documentation would show whether the drugs came from a compounding pharmacy or a traditional drug manufacturer.

What she received was both heavily redacted and a gold mine. The Correction Department had blacked out lot numbers and UPC codes, but there with each drug vial's expiration date was the rest of the label.

All Lauer had to do was figure out who made each drug and what their labels looked like. But how?

Since midazolam is a common sedative, Lauer went to her dentist to see if he recognized the label. His midazolam supply didn't match, but he let her check his supply catalog. And when that didn't provide a match, he showed her how to check an FDA database. A Medicaid fraud attorney showed Lauer how to check labels through the National Institutes of Health.

Like thumbprints, each manufacturer has its own labeling scheme, and each of the three drugs in Arkansas' execution protocol matched that of a major manufacturer.

Lauer reached out to the drug makers, dealing with people on four continents and in seven time zones, before making the connections she needed for a story.

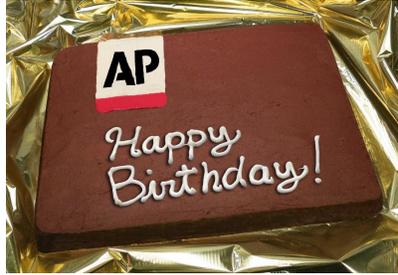
The maker of the sedative was first to say it was attempting to contact Arkansas about the use of its drug. Arkansas prison officials, citing the new FOI exemption, wouldn't respond. (The other two drug makers have since weighed in with their concerns.)

Lauer's story got wide play in the state. The state's largest newspaper and Lauer's former employer, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, ran her story with a byline. And the local alternative weekly cited her work, saying: "It is serious enough that the state is in the killing business. A government conducting the killing business in secrecy is another order of concern."

For her enterprising reporting, Lauer receives this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#))

Robert Shaw ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Brian Williams returns, understated and effective (Poynter)

It was a launch so soft that National Security Agency satellites might have missed the introduction of a new product.

But there at 3 p.m. Eastern Tuesday, following an ad for a rheumatoid arthritis drug, was Brian Williams, a star anchor back from self-inflicted corporate immolation and brief purgatory.

"And good day, I'm Brian Williams at MSNBC headquarters here in New York," he said in a decidedly un-dramatic opening to coverage of the arrival in Washington of Pope Francis.

There was no pro forma anchor hyperbole, no seemingly rehearsed grand socio-cultural statements or rhetorical, Vatican-smitten groveling toward this "holy man." We did not have a seven-figure journalist emoting about the Catholic Church leader's admirable quest for greater economic equality.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Al Jazeera journalists freed from Egypt prison

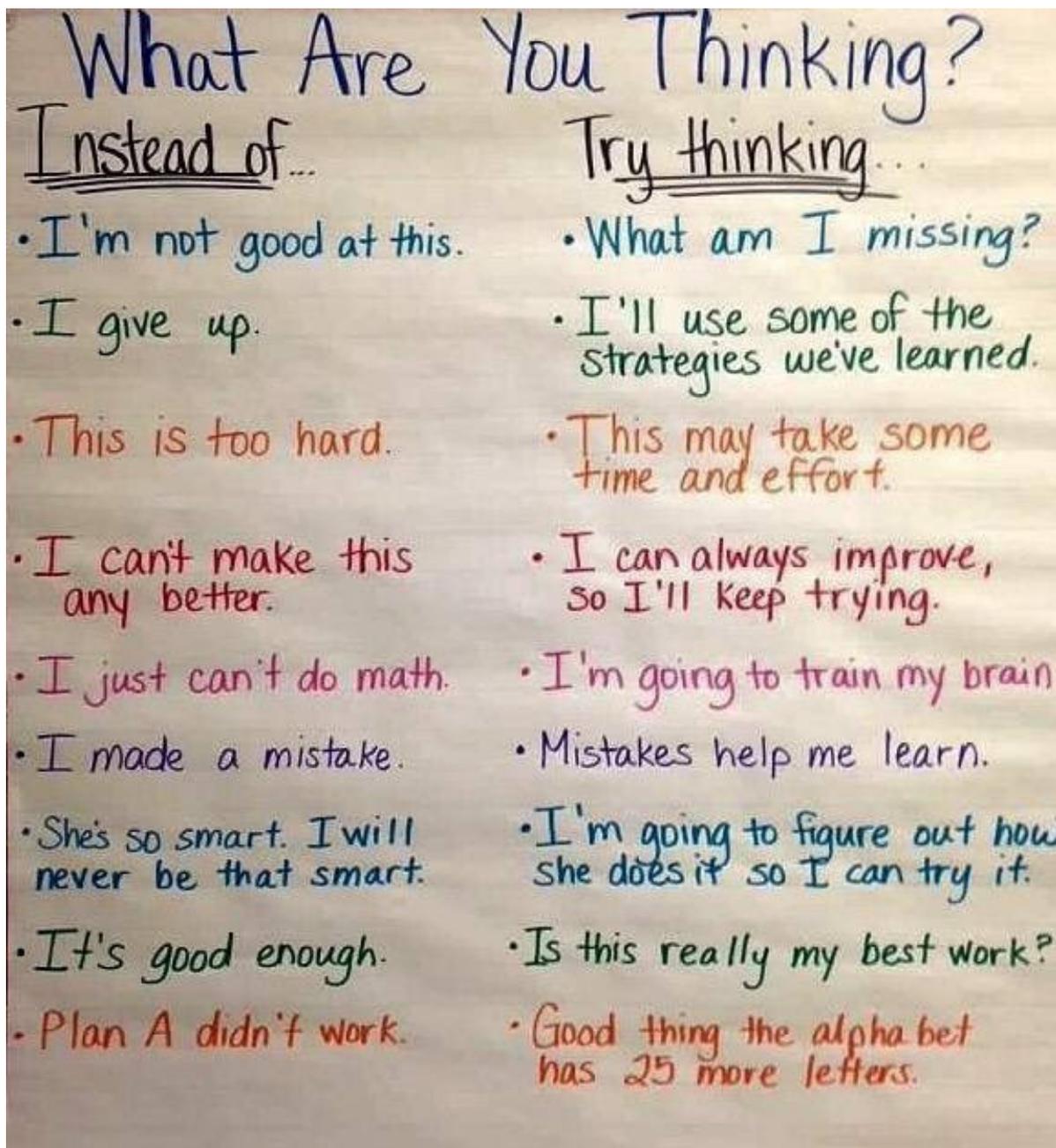
Jailed Al Jazeera journalists Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed have been released from prison following a presidential pardon in Egypt.

Dozens of activists have also been released as part of a pardon marking the occasion of Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday that starts on Thursday, Alaa Youssef, a spokesperson for the Egyptian presidency, has told the al-Ahram newspaper.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on his Facebook page announced on Wednesday that he would release "100 young people trapped in issues related to the breach of the law on demonstrations and some humanitarian and health cases".

Click [here](#) to read more.

The Final Word



Today in History - September 24, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, September 24, the 267th day of 2015. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1929, Lt. James H. Doolittle guided a Consolidated NY-2 Biplane over Mitchel Field in New York in the first all-instrument flight.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1948, Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio propagandist "Axis Sally," pleaded not guilty in Washington D.C. to charges of treason. (Gillars, later convicted, ended up serving 12 years in prison.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1957, the Los Angeles-bound Brooklyn Dodgers played their last game at Ebbets Field, defeating the [Pittsburgh Pirates](#) 2-0.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her

part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter [Ben Johnson](#) won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics - but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1991, kidnappers in Lebanon freed British hostage Jack Mann after holding him captive for more than two years. Children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zul), better known as "Dr. Seuss," died in La Jolla, California, at age 87.

In 1995, Israel and the PLO agreed to sign a pact at the White House ending nearly three decades of Israeli occupation of West Bank cities. Eric Borel, a 16-year-old in Cuers, France, shot and killed 12 people before taking his own life, a day after he'd killed three family members.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Rita struck eastern Texas and the Louisiana coast, causing more flooding in New Orleans. Crowds opposed to the war in Iraq surged past the White House, staging the largest anti-war protest in the nation's capital since the U.S. invasion. Vice President [Dick Cheney](#) had surgery to repair aneurysms on the back of both knees.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Southeast Asian leaders meeting in New York sent China a firm message over territorial disputes between Beijing and its neighbors, calling for freedom of navigation in seas that China claimed as its own. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg pledged \$100 million over the next five years to Newark, New Jersey, schools a week before the release of the biographical movie "The Social Network." Gennady Yanayev, 73, a leader of the abortive 1991 coup who had briefly declared himself Soviet president, died in Moscow.

One year ago: At the opening of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for world leaders to join an international campaign to ease the plight of nearly unprecedented numbers of refugees, the displaced and victims of violence in a world wracked by wars and the swift-spreading and deadly Ebola epidemic. President Barack Obama implored the leaders to rally behind his expanded military campaign to stamp out the violent Islamic State group and its "network of death." A visibly upset President Francois Hollande of France announced that an al-Qaida splinter group had beheaded Herve Gourdel, a French mountaineer kidnapped while hiking in Algeria.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 76. Singer

Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 75. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 73. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 73. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 70. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 69. Actor Gordon Clapp is 67. Songwriter Holly Knight is 59. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 63. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 57. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent (Take 6) is 53. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 53. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 46. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 46. Actress Megan Ward is 46. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 44. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 40. Actor Ian Bohen is 39. Actor Justin Bruening is 36. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 33. Actor Erik Stocklin is 33. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 27.

Thought for Today: "Do not weep; do not wax indignant. Understand." - Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher (1632-1677).

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:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **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

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