

Connecting - October 24, 2015

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Especially if you're a Mets or Royals fan...

BBQ or bagels? A tasty World Series set, Royals meet Mets



AP Photo/Matt Slocum

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

Yoenis Cespedes launching long drives, Lorenzo Cain dashing to catch them. Noah Syndergaard zinging 100 mph heat, Alcides Escobar trying to catch up.

The pitching-rich New York Mets, boosted by Daniel Murphy's power surge. The plucky Kansas City Royals, aiming to atone for last year's near-miss.

Served up with some BBQ and bagels, too. A tasty World Series, indeed.

The Royals set the matchup Friday night, beating Toronto 4-3 in Game 6 of AL Championship Series. The Mets were waiting, having swept the Cubs on Wednesday night in the NLCS.

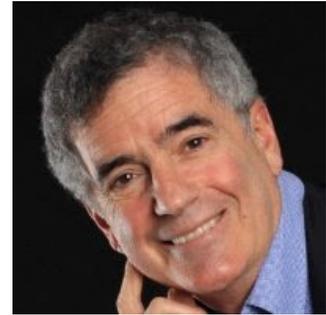
"Really good team. Really good pitching over there," Escobar, MVP of the ALCS, said about the New Yorkers.

They start Tuesday night in Kansas City. Already, the clubs have made history - this is the first World Series between franchises born in the expansion-era 1960s.

Click on this link to read more - <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/70f299644d884c5385274cb382bf936a/bbq-or-bagels-tasty-world-series-set-royals-meet-mets>

Paul Simon launches new life chapter

Former AP Nebraska bureau chief **Paul Simon** embarks Nov. 1 on what he is calling a new chapter in his life when he becomes Central Manager of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Denver. OLLI in Denver, comprised of OLLI Central, OLLI South, and OLLI West, is one of 119 such programs nationwide in which 2300 men and women over 50 take non-credit classes on various subjects at six locations in the Denver area.



Paul left AP in 2000 after 21 years in Los Angeles, Dallas, and Omaha, spent four years at the Denver Post editing the MediaNews Group News Service, and has worked for or consulted for a variety of Web-based businesses in recent years. He says his broad background with AP, as editor of various web sites, and as a leader in the Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District (he is governor-elect) will serve him well in his multi-faceted position. He calls this a "darned exciting" opportunity.

Connecting profile - Jodie Steck

Jodie Steck - I'm at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, as an AV Specialist. I'm the keeper of all AV records for his eight years in office (and look after gubernatorial AV and all things personal and accessioned/donated). I'm with the National Archives, the keeper of America's records, and while it's not AP and 24-7, it is very cool knowing that what I do weighs on how everyone will eventually view him.



I miss the spot news... sometimes/most times, I react to a request for images like it is and people are amazed that A, I call 'em back, and B, they get their stuff in a timely manner. Now if I could just write those overlines!

Jodie and Spencer

I was lucky enough to join Eric Draper at the White House for the last four years, leading the transition from film to digital. Being there was incredible. Traveling on international trips, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I will treasure always the memories of downloading Mel Gibson's *Apocalypse Now* from the runway in Monrovia on iTunes and seeing Tanzanians

12-deep along the route from the airport to downtown dressed in fabric bearing the president's likeness. It was ... incredible.

I've been in more countries on diplomatic visa than anyone from Hershey, Pa., could ever imagine, and that's just the icing on the cake that includes everything/ every place/ every story I was lucky enough to cover - good or horrid with such a hugely talented staff of photographers, writers and editors. from AP.

I love you guys, and geesh! I wish we could all gather and celebrate life!!!



It takes patience, and perseverance, to be Pennsylvania's go-to source for accountability journalism.

An AP exclusive Oct. 11 by Harrisburg reporter Mark Scolforo was more than four years in the making, but worth the wait. Scolforo found the Legislature had spent nearly \$3 million in public funds over four years to cover the legal bills of legislators and staff caught up in criminal investigations. To make matters worse, most of those getting legal aid on the taxpayer's dime ended up being charged and convicted of crimes, paying fines, going to jail or both.

The effort to document the spending began when fellow Harrisburg reporter Marc Levy filed a Right-to-Know request seeking access to the legal bills of a lawmaker facing major corruption charges, and was denied. The AP took legal action, and didn't stop fighting until it won its case in the state Supreme Court.

The courts ruled that details about free legal aid being provided lawmakers are not protected by the shield of attorney-client privilege. As one judge put it: "Whereas, as here, the taxpayers are footing the bill for the legal services, they are entitled to know the general nature of the services provided for the fees charged."

A final appeal by the state Senate was denied in March, and two months later, Scolforo followed up with four new Right-to-Know requests.

His story won prominent play across Pennsylvania, appearing on at least a half dozen front pages and triggering a slew of strongly worded editorials that gave extensive credit to the AP for its report.

Some noted bitterly that the cost to taxpayers included the nearly quarter-million dollars the Senate spent fighting the AP, and that, as Scolforo also noted, the Legislature is still not providing a complete list of lawmakers who have gotten free legal help, and how much it

cost in each instance.

Wrote The Mercury newspaper of Pottstown:

"An Associated Press analysis of documents obtained through Right-to-Know requests shows that legislative scandals from 2011 to 2015 have cost taxpayers dearly in legal bills racked up by members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

"The documents were released only after AP went to the state Supreme Court to appeal the Senate's withholding of information regarding legal bills. The Senate spent nearly a quarter-million dollars fighting the release of information ...

"Inefficient and costly, the lawmaking body in Pennsylvania is in dire need of reform. But a more basic need goes unmet, and last week's AP report drives home the costs to taxpayers. Corruption is costly."

For digging through nearly 600 pages of documents to detail how taxpayers are footing some of the legal bills for corrupt lawmakers, Scolforo wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Stories of interest

Media obsession with Clinton Benghazi hearing paid off in ratings (Politico)

The media went full bore covering Hillary Clinton's appearance in front of the House Benghazi Committee on Thursday, attracting nonstop coverage from nearly every news organization. And the ratings show that it paid off.

CNN, MSNBC and Al Jazeera America carried all 11 hours of Clinton's testimony live and mostly commercial free (except for breaks), a feat only reserved for the most important breaking news events. Fox News carried the hearings live and commercial free until early primetime, cutting away at 5 p.m. for "The Five," though it kept the hearing on a split screen for most of the show. Fox Business, CNBC, HLN and Bloomberg carried large portions of the testimony throughout the day as well, though they also cut off by the afternoon.

Nearly every news outlet across the board, even those not laser-focused on politics, had Clinton as its top story, proving the buzziness that a combination Clinton-Benghazi-Congress story provides.

[Click here](#) to read more.

USA TODAY's 'Back to the Future' edition went fast (Poynter)

A special edition of USA TODAY that celebrated "Back to the Future Day" moved faster than a DeLorean going 88 mph.

Thursday's issue, which was wrapped in a replica of a fake USA TODAY that appeared in "Back to the Future Part II," sold out early yesterday in many places across the U.S., according to a spokesperson for the newspaper. The edition is already being sold on eBay as a collectible, with recent auctions listing the newspaper for between \$10 and \$15.

So far, more than 17,000 copies have been sold through USA TODAY's online store, according to a spokesperson.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Bob Dotson to Deliver One Last American Story (AdWeek)

Bob Dotson, national correspondent for the Today show and reporter of the series American Story, is leaving the network, TVNewser has learned.

Dotson's final American Story will air this Friday, nearly 40 years to the day after he joined NBC News. "Together we criss-crossed the United States, more than 4 million miles, searching for people who are practically invisible, the ones who change our lives but don't take time to tweet and tell us about it," Dotson writes in a note to colleagues.

Dotson has shelves-full of awards-more than 120-including six Edward R. Murrow awards for writing and eight Emmys.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - October 24, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, October 24, the 297th day of 2015. There are 68 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 24, 1945, the [United Nations](#) officially came into existence as its charter took effect.

On this date:

In 1537, Jane Seymour, the third wife of England's King Henry VIII, died 12 days after giving birth to Prince Edward, later King Edward VI.

In 1648, the Peace of Westphalia (west-FAY'-lee-uh) ended the Thirty Years War and effectively destroyed the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1861, the first transcontinental telegraph message was sent by Chief Justice Stephen J. Field of California from San Francisco to President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C., over a line built by the Western Union Telegraph Co.

In 1936, the short story "The Devil and Daniel Webster" by Stephen Vincent Benet was published in The Saturday Evening Post.

In 1939, [Benny Goodman](#) and His Orchestra recorded their signature theme, "Let's Dance," for Columbia Records in New York. DuPont began publicly selling its nylon stockings in Wilmington, Delaware.

In 1940, the 40-hour work week went into effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

In 1952, Republican presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower declared in Detroit, "I shall go to Korea" as he promised to end the conflict. (He made the visit over a month later.)

In 1962, a naval quarantine of Cuba ordered by President John F. Kennedy went into effect during the missile crisis.

In 1972, Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, who'd broken Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947, died in Stamford, Connecticut, at age 53.

In 1980, the merchant freighter SS Poet departed Philadelphia, bound for Port Said (sah-EED'), Egypt, with a crew of 34 and a cargo of grain; it disappeared en route and has not been heard from since.

In 1992, the Toronto Blue Jays became the first non-U.S. team to win the World Series as they defeated the Atlanta Braves, 4-3, in Game 6.

In 2002, authorities apprehended Army veteran John Allen Muhammad and teenager Lee Boyd Malvo near Myersville, Maryland, in the Washington-area sniper attacks. (Malvo was later sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole; Muhammad was sentenced to death and executed in 2009.)

Ten years ago: Hurricane Wilma knifed through Florida with winds up to 125 mph. Civil rights icon Rosa Parks died in Detroit at age 92. President George W. Bush nominated economic adviser Ben Bernanke (bur-NANG'-kee) to succeed Alan Greenspan as Federal Reserve chairman. Bombs went off near the Palestine and Sheraton hotels in Baghdad, killing as many as 17 Iraqi pedestrians and security guards.

Five years ago: Following the latest release of secret U.S. military documents by WikiLeaks, British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg told BBC television that allegations of prisoner abuse and civilian killings in Iraq were extremely serious and needed to be investigated. Playwright Joseph Stein, who wrote the book for the classic Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof," died in New York at age 98.

One year ago: A shooting rampage in Northern California claimed the lives of Sacramento County Deputy Danny Oliver, then Placer County sheriff's detective Michael Davis Jr. (a suspect, Luis Enrique Monroy Bracamontes, faces charges of murder and attempted murder). Jaylen Fryberg, a student at Marysville-Pilchuck High School in Washington state, fatally shot four friends he had invited to lunch and wounded a fifth teen before killing himself. A coordinated militant assault on an army checkpoint in the Sinai Peninsula killed 31 Egyptian troops. Actress Marcia Strassman, who'd played Gabe Kaplan's wife, Julie, on the 1970s sitcom "Welcome Back, Kotter," died in Sherman Oaks, California, at age 66. Ted Bishop was ousted as president of the PGA of America over a sexist tweet and Facebook post directed at Ian Poulter.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall-of-Famer Y.A. Tittle is 89. Rock musician Bill Wyman is 79. Actor F. Murray Abraham is 76. Movie director-screenwriter David S. Ward is 70. Actor Kevin Kline is 68. Former NAACP President Kweisi Mfume (kwah-EE'-see oom-FOO'-may) is 67. Country musician Billy Thomas (Terry McBride and the Ride) is 62. Actor Doug Davidson is 61. Actor B.D. Wong is 55. Singer Michael Trent (Americana duo Shovels & Rope) is 38. Rock musician Ben Gillies (Silverchair) is 36. Singer-actress Monica Arnold is 35. Actress-comedian Casey Wilson is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Adrienne Bailon (3lw) is 32. Actor Tim Pocock is 30. R&B singer-rapper-actor Drake is 29. Actress Shenae Grimes is 26. Actress Eliza Taylor is 26. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kyla Ross is 19. Actor Hudson Yang (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 12.

Thought for Today: "Seek not the favor of the multitude; it is seldom got by honest and lawful means. But seek the testimony of the few; and number not voices, but weigh them." - Immanuel Kant, German philosopher (1724-1804).

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.

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