



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - April 16, 2016

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 16, 2016 at 9:30 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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



# Connecting

April 16, 2016

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



[Top AP news](#)  
[Top AP photos](#)  
[AP World](#)

[AP books](#)  
[Connecting Archive](#)  
[AP Essentials](#) (*Purchases benefit [The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)*)



**Charter Members, Northrup Strip Press Club, White Sands Missile Range, N.M. April, 1981**

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Ever cover a story that turned out not to be a story? Well, 35 years ago today, I was part of an AP crew that spent several days in the New Mexico desert awaiting the possible landing of the first space shuttle flight. We were among 50 national and local media encamped at White Sands Missile Range, the alternative landing site for the shuttle if the primary site, Edwards AFB in California, was not accessible.

The shuttle landed at Edwards, after all, on April 16, 1981, but all of us were left with a story on a non-story to last a lifetime. One of those AP people, **Sue Major Holmes**, recounts that experience in today's issue. Got your own story of a non-story? Share it with your colleagues!

We lead off, however, with a real story - more on the remarkable U.N. luncheon hosted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to honor the recent 50-year AP anniversary of **Edie Lederer**, AP's chief U.N. correspondent. One of those who was there, **Richard Pyle**, Edie's boss in Saigon during the Vietnam War, presents the story.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## 'Edie is a diminutive giant at the AP'

By **RICHARD PYLE**

Edie Lederer, who recently celebrated a half-century Associated Press reporting career that includes the last 18 years as AP's chief United Nations correspondent, was the honored guest at an exceptional U.N. luncheon on Thursday.

Exceptional in the sense that the official host was U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who is himself due to leave office after 10 years at the helm, and whose idea it was to

personally sponsor the lunch. Ban told the dozen other guests that it was "the only time" he has led such an event honoring a journalist.

The South Korean diplomat said this reflected the respect that Ms. Lederer has earned for her diligence, concern for accuracy and other professional strengths in reporting the U.N. story. In a half-joking allusion to her well-known persistence, he added, "I want to be free!" He noted with mock envy that he had achieved "only" 46 years in his chosen career while she was marking 50.

Two of AP's top execs were in attendance: President and CEO Gary Pruitt, and retired president Louis D. Boccardi, who held that post from 1985 through mid-2003.

"Edie is a diminutive giant at the AP," said Pruitt in his toast to her at the luncheon, held in a private dining room off the Delegate's Lounge at the U.N.

Boccardi said his remarks would consist solely of reading the letter he recently sent Edie marking her 50th. The guests will note, he said, that it contains NO nouns and NO verbs. And he read this:

"Dear Edie:  
Insightful.  
Innovative.  
Indefatigable.  
Resourceful.  
Unafraid.  
Creative.  
Enthusiastic.  
Dependable.  
Caring.  
Thank you."

Edie said the note had brought tears to her eyes.

Edie then spoke, retracing her career from its domestic start to its global reach, remembering and recognizing AP folks who had been part of her journey.



At the end Ban Ki-moon presented her with an engraved silver tray and she gave him a volume of United Nations proceedings from 1946, the year after the U.N. was founded, and some hand towels saying "Peace." "These are for your kitchen when you leave the United Nations and return home," Lederer said.

The AP also was represented by Ellen Nimmons, assistant international editor and Edie's immediate boss; Maria Sanminiatelli, global news manager for evenings (and Edie's former boss); Sally Jacobsen, former International editor who recently retired; Richard Pyle, Edie's bureau chief in Vietnam and longtime AP correspondent now retired; and Barry Kramer, Vietnam war correspondent for AP who retired as deputy foreign editor of the Wall Street Journal.

Also at the table were Lynda Gould, Edie's close friend who worked in politics, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Opera, and ran the American Hospital in Paris Foundation; Karen Vinacour, Edie's close friend who was a school social worker and now spends four months a year volunteering at the Children's Hospital in Vientiane, Laos; Stephane Dujarric, U.N. spokesman, and Cristina Gallach, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

## When the first space shuttle Columbia

# didn't land at White Sands Missile Range

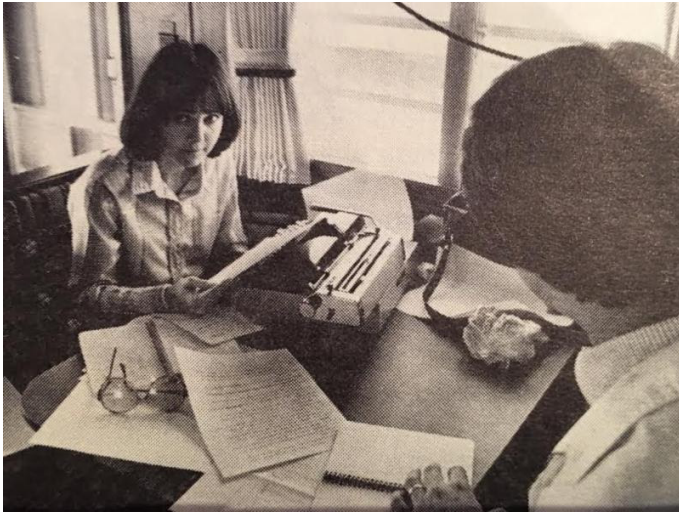


**AP White Sands operation consisted of a rented motorhome, six news people and miles of sand. Awaiting the shuttle that never came are, from left: Ed Andrieski, Sue Major Holmes, Paul Stevens, Ron Heflin, Brian Bland and Tom Dallas.**

**By SUE MAJOR HOLMES**

It's been 35 years since the April 1981 photo of the 50-plus "Charter members NORTHROP STRIP PRESS CLUB White Sands Missile Range, N.M." Six of those members - writer Sue Major Holmes, Bureau Chief Paul Stevens and Chief of Communications Tom Dallas of Albuquerque; Los Angeles radio newsman Brian Bland; and photographers Ed Andrieski of Denver and Ron Heflin of Dallas - made up AP's crew for the inaugural three-day STS-1 space shuttle mission, what I always refer to as "when the space shuttle didn't land at White Sands."

Given today's instant and ubiquitous communications, it's hard to explain just how tenuous communication was at White Sands in those pre-Internet, pre-cell phone days. The missile range lies in the southern New Mexico desert about 45 miles north of El Paso, Texas. The space shuttle Columbia's backup landing site, a hard-packed gypsum runway called Northrup Strip, was about an hour from range headquarters over an unpaved road through creosote bushes. Northrup defines the Middle of Nowhere, lacking even land lines in those days since it also lacked telephone poles.



**Holmes filing, Stevens editing**

opportunity of the day. The primary press center was at range headquarters, but you didn't want to stay there for fear that if the shuttle did land, the bus wouldn't get you to the landing strip in time.

Our link to the outside world was a rotary style-phone on an old industrial table plunked down outside canvas Army tents set on sand. I don't recall how that phone became possible, but in my mind I see telephone lines draped on creosote bushes and fence posts for miles.

The AP crew had motel rooms in El Paso, which meant getting up well before dawn each morning to drive a rental car to range headquarters. There, the press caught an Army bus before 4 a.m. to be driven to Northrup before the shuttle's first landing

AP headquarters at Northrup was a rented 22-foot Ford Coachman RV, a place to get out of the cold and wind and to keep food. We'd type stories on a manual typewriter (no computer because there were no lines for one) or record audio about how, as it passed overhead, the shuttle didn't try to land. Since this was the era of film cameras as well, Ed and Ron set up darkrooms in the RV and at missile range headquarters. Returning to headquarters would have required another bus ride since there were no private vehicles other than the RVs, and they were required to remain in place for the duration of the shuttle flight. A transmitter at the motor home was pointless without a phone line, so getting film back to headquarters to transmit in the event of a shuttle landing was a huge worry.

After the logistical headaches, the biggest problem was finding something to write, record or photograph. There also was the boredom of waiting, waiting, more waiting. Some reporters marked off a course in the sand with orange flags and set up races with a golf cart that one media outlet had - 25 cents a ride, with the fastest driver



taking the pot. Humor also helped. Another outlet, parked a few RVs away from ours, spruced up its lot with a picket fence, a few strips of sod and a "Keep off the Grass" sign. Given southern New Mexico's wind, each morning that crew had to sweep sand off the grass.

The most likely scenario for a White Sands landing was an abort-once-around, in which the shuttle had to come down because it didn't achieve orbit after launch. But after a flawless launch, the chances of a landing in New Mexico dimmed. On landing day, the weather was perfect at the chosen site, California's Edwards Air Force Base, and partly cloudy with light sprinkles at White Sands. While that wouldn't have ruled out a White Sands landing, NASA didn't need to look outside Edwards. Thus, we were among about two dozen people at Northrup watching TV monitors in an Army tent as the shuttle glided into California. We all cheered and applauded, elated over a safe landing for the first shuttle.



**Andrieski and 2,000-mm lens on top of motorhome.**

Still, we would have preferred that it hadn't happened 800 miles away.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Proud to say I was with the AP*

**John Willis** - Although I didn't have the long and illustrious career of Hal Bock, I totally agree with his assessment of our "job." I envied the things he got to cover, and cherish the stories "Fast" Eddie Schuyler shared with me when he came to Vegas to cover boxing. His version of the Ali-Frazier "Rumble in the Jungle" was the best, ever. I am proud to say I was an AP newsman, editor and correspondent. It might not make much of an impression with the millennials, but with folks over 50ish, I am a real, honest "something."

-0-

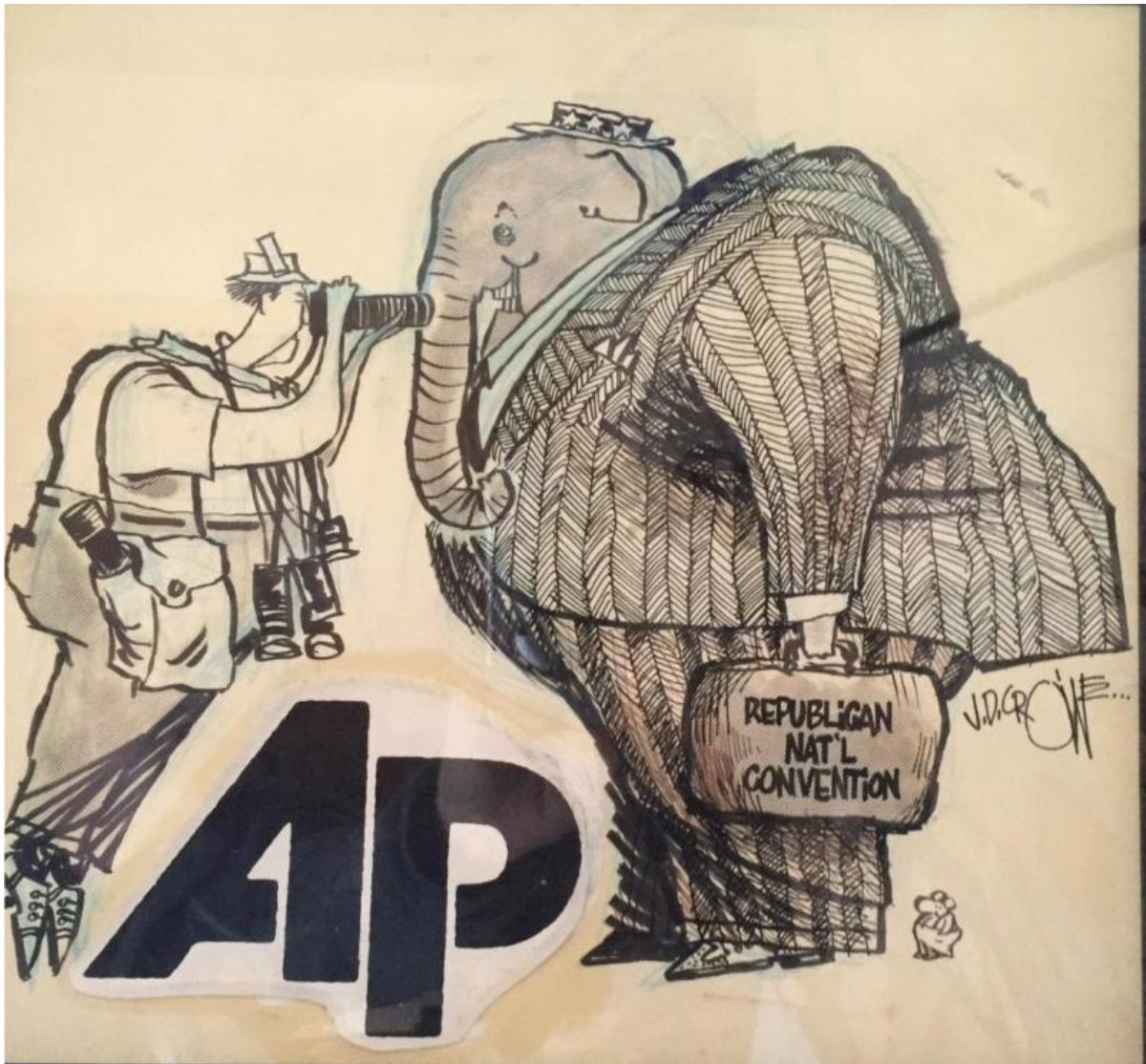
### *Missing from Today in History*

**Bruce Lowitt** - Missing on this date in history of April 15:

Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier, playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

-0-

## ***T-shirts for the 1984 GOP convention***



**David Breslauer** - For the 1984 GOP Convention in Dallas, we made t-shirts, at the suggestion of Texas Photo Editor Harry Cabluck, that I sold to the staff.

The editorial cartoonist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, J.D. Crowe created the artwork. I



think it cost me a shirt.

I don't have my shirt any longer, but I do have the artwork framed in my office.



My "legacy" photo from that event is Jerry Falwell riding a Texas longhorn at a party.

## AP-NORC Poll: That's rude: More say GOP is discourteous

By LAURIE KELLMAN AND EMILY SWANSON

WASHINGTON (AP) - Ask Americans about bad manners in the 2016 presidential campaign and the conversation shifts immediately to Donald Trump, the GOP front-runner who has branded his critics, "little," "lyin," "low-energy" and worse.

"I don't recall anyone stirring up as much of a fuss as Mr. Trump," says Sidney Waldman, 81, a retired book store owner in Key West, Florida. "He just does not need to say things the way he says them. It may get attention now, but he is going to be remembered in a negative way."

"He's a bully," says Kellie Zangrillo, 53, of Auburn, Washington, like Waldman an independent. Trump not only may have set the tone in the campaign, she suggested, but his nasty words could have real consequences if uttered as president. "I think he'd get us into World War III."

When it comes to rudeness in 2016 politics, the Republican presidential contest wins in a landslide, a new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research has found. The survey shows that 78 percent of Americans, including most Republicans, see the GOP race as discourteous. Only about half as many - 41 percent - say the same about the Democratic campaign.

[Click here](#) to read more...and read the next item, Beat of the Week.



By **JOHN DANISZEWSKI**

In an election season awash in poll data, most of it horse-race ephemera, AP News Survey Specialist Emily Swanson crafted a series of questions about the 2016 presidential elections that truly stood out. The AP-GfK poll she designed found most notably that Donald Trump is a remarkably unpopular candidate for president, with an unprecedented 7 in 10 Americans holding an unfavorable opinion of him and a clear majority saying they will not vote for him in a general election. While Hillary Clinton may be a historically unpopular option, as Swanson's poll also found, she is still more electable than Trump.

Swanson's stories, written in combination with White House correspondent Julie Pace, homed in on responses to granular questions that compared Trump with Clinton. They found Americans trust Clinton more than Trump \_ even on his signature issue of making America great.

In the competitive world of presidential election surveys, Washington bureau chief Sally Buzbee said, Swanson's work was "the most impactful, buzzy set of polling we've had in literally years." It is the Beat of the Week.

The range and depth of the poll's questions enabled the strong stories, and its timing also helped. "Although Trump has had high unfavorable ratings for a while now, our poll came at a time when he's reaching new depths of unpopularity," Swanson noted.

Some questions sought nuances of opinion on each candidate. For instance, Swanson said, "We asked whether a variety of words described each candidate and found half or more Americans said words like honest, civil, likable, compassionate and even competent did not describe Trump even slightly well."

Rather than just ask which candidate represents their opinions, the survey, crafted in consultation with AP political editor David Scott, gave a battery of 12 specific opinions, Swanson said, adding, "David gets the credit for adding 'making America great' to that."

The creative questioning provided material for multiple candidate-focused stories \_ not just on Trump and Clinton, but also on Sen. Bernie Sanders, who turned out to look pretty good to Americans in comparison to the other candidates.

Scott said, "Emily and I take a lot of pride in that we don't do horse race" \_ the simple, who's-ahead-now surveys that roll out constantly through election season, "contributing to the high level of noise in the polling world."

Readers want more, the AP pollsters believe, and the play for Swanson and Pace's all-formats stories supports that notion. The first story from the poll led newscasts, got tremendous online display and was No.1 for the week on AP Mobile. Pace appeared on MSNBC's influential "Morning Joe" chat show twice to talk about the results, which became the talk of politics.

"To get this type of impact with an AP poll \_ especially when AP does so much less political polling than some other news organizations \_ is nothing short of rare and astonishing," Buzbee said.

<http://apne.ws/1VBh7oU> <http://apne.ws/1VLYte9> <http://apne.ws/1TMMEUW><http://bit.ly/1Q6R2r9>

For designing an original, important survey that reset the political news agenda, Swanson wins this week's \$500 prize.

### **Others whose work impressed the judges:**

Hau Dinh, video journalist, Hanoi; Johnson Lai, video journalist, Taipei; Jim Gomez, chief correspondent, Manila; Zhang Weiqun, video journalist, Beijing; Niniek Karmini, reporter, Jakarta, for giving AP customers a unique up-close view, shareable in all formats, on a highly topical issue, the South China Sea disputes. They presented fishermen from around the region talking about the impact in their own voices, against the backdrop of their fishing ports. <http://bit.ly/1S6AgKN>

Meghan Hoyer, data journalist, Washington; Ryan Foley, reporter, Iowa City; John Seewer, reporter, Toledo, Ohio, for their weeks-long analysis of EPA records that found that lead contamination of drinking water goes far beyond the crisis in Flint, Michigan. The package included two spreadsheets of data spanning a decade, made available to AP customers two weeks before publication so they could localize. The package generated 95 front pages. Main bar: <http://apne.ws/1N4Drpo>  
Interactive:<http://apne.ws/1WnJs2F>

Adrian Sainz, correspondent, Memphis, for showing through months of reporting that the kinds of cemetery abuses found at Galilee Memorial Gardens near Memphis \_ stacked bodies, empty graves, caskets crushed and dumped into a single grave - are widespread in the U.S., and often go unpunished. <http://apne.ws/22qfQRY>

Rob Harris, global soccer writer, London, for revealing that the English Football Association will ask FIFA to investigate whether former soccer players have dementia as a consequence of brain damage from playing the game. <http://dailym.ai/1VIR9XA>

Jack Gillum, newsman, Washington, for revealing congressional investigations and new details about the theft from a government office of a laptop and external drives that investigators believe contain 2 million to 5 million names, Social Security numbers and more. He learned that the government waited more than two months to notify Congress of the theft from the U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement, even though the law requires such notice after a week. <http://bit.ly/22u7FE4>

Jim Gomez, chief correspondent, Manila, for finding out that Islamic extremists had killed 18 Filipino soldiers and wounded 40 in the southern Philippines on April 9, the largest single-day combat loss for the military this year. His 11 p.m. alert remained unmatched until the next morning. <http://nyti.ms/1N8qbQG>

Andrew Taylor, newsman, Washington, for being hours ahead on news that the Obama administration would take money targeted to fight Ebola for the current battle against the Zika virus. Taylor's story moved at 5:44 p.m. on April 5, but it wasn't matched until the official announcement the next day at 10:30 a.m. <http://abcn.ws/1VuMgKO>

Collin Binkley, education beat team reporter, Boston, for using records obtained through FOIA to detail how semi-automatic rifles are becoming a standard part of the arsenal for college police forces. The story showed how the arms buildup has been occurring over the last decade in response to concerns about school shootings. <http://abcn.ws/1VuMgKO>

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, reporter, Washington; Adam Beam, reporter, Frankfort, Kentucky, with contributions from Jonathan J. Cooper in Sacramento and David Gram in Vermont, for breaking the news that the state health insurance exchanges in California, Kentucky and Vermont had serious cybersecurity flaws and had failed to correct some of them after they had been flagged by the federal government. <http://apne.ws/1YjPAaL>

Beth Harris, sportswriter, Los Angeles, for her interview with the daughter of Hall of Famer Don Drysdale, who told AP that she objected to a decision by Drysdale's second wife to auction his memorabilia, including his 1962 Cy Young award. <http://apne.ws/1Nob7cF>

Eric Tucker, newsman, Washington, for being far ahead on a fascinating yarn about a spy investigation based on a warrant from a secret court. The spy investigation yielded nothing, but the discovery of child pornography on a man's computer led to further legal troubles. <http://apne.ws/1Mu3kz9>

Ron Blum, sports writer, New York, for a nuanced report on a new tech sleeve that can help detect elbow stress in pitchers. He discovered that it might not go into use because the players' union had concerns about how it could be used against a player and if a player would be required to wear one. <http://apne.ws/23ujkIP>





As the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan, erupted into a national story, one question persisted in the background: How safe is the drinking water everywhere else? Finding an answer turned out to be a monumental challenge.

AP data journalist Meghan Hoyer already had a sizable federal database of water system violations and fines, but was getting virtually no help from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as she sought answers to her numerous questions about it. After more than a month of nearly constant emails and phone calls, the EPA finally connected her with a data technician. That turned out to be just the beginning. The EPA tech told Hoyer that she had the wrong data. To get a complete picture of lead contamination around the country, she needed a different data set that showed the actual test results.

At last armed with the relevant information, Hoyer set about analyzing 25 years' worth of sampling for more than 75,000 water systems around the country. Narrowing her focus to just the last three years, she unearthed the news that took the crisis well beyond the neighborhoods of Flint: Nearly 1,400 water systems had samples above the EPA's safe level for lead during the past three years, about 280 of them in schools and day care centers that operate their own water systems.

Her reporting colleagues, Ryan Foley in Iowa City and John Seewer in Toledo, then took separate slices of the data and sought to tell the story through the eyes of those dealing with elevated lead in their water.

Foley's reporting took him to Galesburg, Illinois, where the water system exceeded the federal lead standard in 22 out of 30 sampling periods since 1992. Blood tests in Knox County, where Galesburg is the largest town, showed that one in 20 children under the age of 6 had lead levels exceeding the state standard for public health intervention — a rate six times higher than the Illinois average. Local officials blamed the elevated lead levels on old paint and dust.

Meanwhile, Seewer poured through Hoyer's data and found schools and day cares across the country with levels of lead in the water that raised concern. Some had already turned off the taps and were spending thousands of dollars to buy bottled water.

Although Foley is a part-time member of the State Government Team, he and Seewer are primarily state reporters who had numerous other duties to fulfil while they worked on the lead project.

As they were reporting their stories, Hoyer was cleaning up the data so it could be shared with AP customers and preparing a detailed file explaining how to use it. The data was made available to customers and AP state bureaus three weeks before publication, and the team hosted a webinar to walk reporters through the spreadsheets and answer questions. That call also included digital news producer Youyou Zhou, who created an interactive for online use that allowed people to see the lead test results for their own water systems by typing in the name of their city.

The resulting play was off the charts, with some version of the story hitting at least 97 front pages. That included the story by Foley and Hoyer, Seewer's sidebar on the schools and day cares, the state-specific stories written by AP reporters in more than 30 states, and the versions written by local staffs using the AP's data. The Williamsport Sun-Gazette in Pennsylvania actually started three versions on its front page \_ the national mainbar, the AP state story and the locally produced story with staff byline. Its A1 centerpiece also included Seth Perlman's photographs from Galesburg, which were used widely. The lead package played well in Peoria, where the Journal Star ran the package as a series, reserving A1 real estate for it on consecutive days.

The AP stories or localized versions also won front-page play with some of our largest member newspapers, including The Oregonian in Portland, The Detroit News, the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, The Columbus Dispatch, the Albuquerque Journal and The Oklahoman. Underscoring how such localization projects strengthen the AP's relationship with our customers, the Oregonian's data reporter emailed Hoyer a thank you and wrote, "It's great working with the AP."

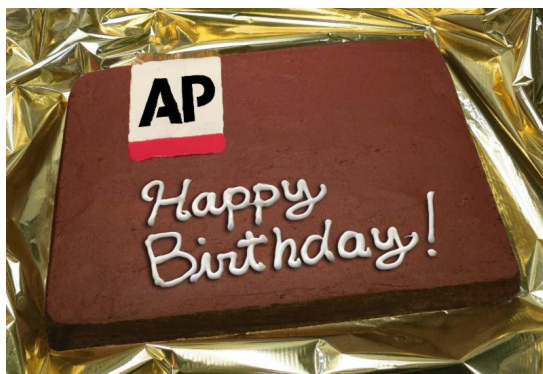
Interest continued after the story was published. Hoyer did on-air interviews with PBS NewsHour and with NPR affiliate WHYY in Philadelphia. Three days later, an Illinois congresswoman called on officials in Galesburg to take action. She said it was alarming that they would blame paint and dust for the city's lead problem without having done a study.

The reporters also prepared Twitter messages to promote the package on social media. That included producing their own videos explaining their work. See the Twitter stack here: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/tainted-tap-social-promotion-stack#overlay-context=>

For showing the extent of the lead problem in water systems nationwide, Hoyer, Foley and Seewer win this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Beat of Week and Best of States shared by Valerie Komor)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Ted Anthony - [tanthony@ap.org](mailto:tanthony@ap.org)

# Stories of interest

***Who will win the Pulitzer Prizes Monday? A survey of the most impressive journalism from 2015*** (Poynter)

**By ROY J. HARRIS JR.**

The problem with a Pulitzer preview like this one - aimed ahead of Monday's 3 p.m. announcement of the 2016 prizes - is that people want a prediction. So here's one for you:

"Hamilton" will win the Pulitzer for drama.

Seriously, my annual Poynter pre-prize forecast, as it's done for a half-dozen years, will focus on the 14 journalism categories - not the seven that are arts-related. And once again we'll avoid forecasting what the unpredictable Pulitzer Prize board might do. ("Hamilton" may be a good bet, though.

Were Lin-Manuel Miranda's runaway Broadway rap hit to win in the drama category it would be the ninth musical to do so, and the first since 2010's "Next to Normal.")

Rather, my aim is to point out some likely print and online contenders this year. The favorites are based on what's been honored by other press contests in the weeks leading up to Pulitzers - the most revered of U.S. awards and the oldest, celebrating their centennial this year. I'll also focus on the reporting-based categories - for the most part setting aside photojournalism, commentary, criticism and editorial writing and cartooning. Earlier journalism contests actually offer little real help in Pulitzer prognostication.

That's because most others produce numerous winners, compared to the relative handful of Pulitzers. Plus, one must account for various quirks within the top-secret operations of the Pulitzer board, whose 18 members began their three-day meeting Wednesday at the Journalism Building at New York's Columbia University, which manages the prizes.

[Click here](#) to read more.

-0-

## ***Five Things I Won't Miss at The Times - and Seven I Will***

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

While preparing to leave the public editor's office and move to Washington, I've been getting together in recent weeks with some people I've met while living in New York. One was Ben Smith, the editor in chief of BuzzFeed, who asked me over lunch what columns I planned to do before I left. I tossed it back to him, asking what he would like to read, and he suggested I take up "what I love and what I hate about The New York Times."

This guy's definitely got a future as an editor! I decided to tweak his idea, with a nod to Nora Ephron's list from her book, "I Remember Nothing: And Other Reflections." (Of all the people I wish I had been able to meet in New York, she tops the list.)

**What I won't miss:**

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

-0-

## ***The Panama Papers and the Monster Stories of the Future*** (New Yorker)

The movie "Spotlight," which for many journalists provided a jolt of pure gratification, follows the canonical story line for news-biz triumphs. A determined team at a major-league newspaper, led by a brave and supportive editor, is permitted to spend months relentlessly chasing down a major story. Sources help, of course, but they need to be persuaded and verified, and there is much more

to the work than simply receiving material. Finally, after many setbacks that would have daunted ordinary mortals, the team fits all the pieces together. The presses roll. Justice is done. Nobody but a big news organization could have accomplished this.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Susana Hayward.

-0-

***How one restaurant critic took on the food fables we've all been fed*** (Poynter)

**By KRISTEN HARE**

Laura Reiley's first investigation was a small one. But it proved to be a nibble into something much bigger, which the Tampa Bay Times' food critic took on this week.

Four years ago, over dinner at Tampa's famous Bern's Steak House, Reiley listened as the waiter expounded on specials that came from the restaurant's eight-acre organic farm. She thought to herself: These things don't grow in Florida this time of year. The following week, Reiley got into her car and drove to the farm. Nothing was growing - except grass. Her investigation ran in May 2012.



[Click here](#) to read more.

### Today in History - April 16, 2016



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Saturday, April 16, the 107th day of 2016. There are 259 days left in the year.

#### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On April 16, 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Virginia, for his inauguration in New York.

**On this date:**

In 1879, Bernadette Soubirous, who'd described seeing visions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, died in Nevers (neh-VEHR'), France.

In 1912, American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, leaving Dover, England, and arriving near Calais, France, in 59 minutes.

In 1935, the radio comedy program "Fibber McGee and Molly" premiered on NBC's Blue Network.

In 1940, Major League Baseball's first (and, to date, only) opening day no-hitter took place as Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians pitched a no-no against the Chicago White Sox, 1-0, at Comiskey Park.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea torpedoed and sank the MV Goya, which Germany was using to transport civilian refugees and wounded soldiers; it's estimated that up to 7,000 people died. In his first speech to Congress, President Harry S. Truman pledged to carry out the war and peace policies of his late predecessor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1947, the French ship Grandcamp blew up at the harbor in Texas City, Texas; another ship, the High Flyer, exploded the following day (the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people). Financier Bernard M. Baruch said in a speech at the South Carolina statehouse, "Let us not be deceived - we are today in the midst of a cold war."

In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which he said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

In 1986, dispelling rumors he was dead, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi appeared on television to condemn the U.S. raid on his country and to say that Libyans were "ready to die" defending their nation.

In 1991, Sir David Lean, who had directed "The Bridge on the River Kwai," "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Doctor Zhivago" died in London at age 83.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of divorcing.

In 2007, college student Seung-Hui Cho (sung-wee joh) shot and killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

Ten years ago: In his first Easter message as pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI urged nations to use diplomacy to defuse nuclear crises and prayed that Palestinians would one day have their own state alongside Israel.

Five years ago: A Taliban sleeper agent walked into a meeting of NATO trainers and Afghan troops at Forward Operating Base Gamberi in the eastern Afghan province of Laghman and detonated a vest of explosives hidden underneath his uniform; six American troops, four Afghan soldiers and an interpreter were killed. President Raul Castro drew a line in the Caribbean sand across which Cuba's economic reforms must never go, telling a Communist party summit that he had rejected dozens of suggested changes that would have allowed the concentration of property in private hands.

One year ago: U.N. Security Council members were moved to tears as a Syrian doctor, Mohamed Tennari, an eyewitness to suspected chlorine attacks on civilians in Syria, gave a graphic eyewitness account of dying children during a closed-door briefing. The NFL reinstated Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, clearing the way for him to return after missing most of the previous season while facing child abuse charges in Texas for disciplining his son with a wooden switch.

Today's Birthdays: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is 89. Actor Peter Mark Richman is 89. Singer Bobby Vinton is 81. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 76. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 69. Former Massachusetts first lady Ann Romney is 67. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 64. Rock singer and former politician Peter Garrett is 63. Actress Ellen Barkin is 62. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 54. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 53. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 52. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 51. Actor Jon Cryer is 51. Rock musician Dan Rieser is 50. Actor Peter Billingsley is 45. Actor Lukas Haas is 40. Actress-singer Kelli O'Hara is 40. Figure skater Mirai Nagasu is 23. Actress Sadie Sink (TV: "American Odyssey") is 14.

***Thought for Today: "We think too much and feel too little." - Charles Chaplin, English actor-comedian-director (born this date in 1889, died in 1977).***

## 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.
- **"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**  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today