



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - July 02, 2016

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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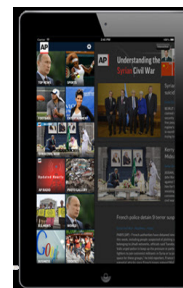
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Connecting

July 02, 2016

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Saying farewell to Guy and Tom



The Palmiotto's - Guy and Carmella - posing in front of a Nikon cake made by AP's Gillian Mark (picture on screen is at the annual dinner celebrating 25 years). (Photo/Sean Thompson)



Tom Kent (left) was roasted by Santiago Lyon (center) as John Daniszewski looks on in Tom's send-off party. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews).

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Two retirement parties - for Connecting colleagues **Tom Kent** and **Guy Palmiotto** - were held in New York on the eve of the Fourth of July weekend.

Tom, AP's standards editor, completed a 44-year career with the AP and moved straight into his next chapter - incoming president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Guy served AP for 40 years and was honored by his colleagues in AP Images at a sendoff Thursday. He was the AP's premiere color printer and traveled all over North America setting up darkrooms and printing for the AP, for events such as World Series, Olympics, papal tours, political conventions, Super Bowls and golf tournaments. And when he was away from the office, he played on the AP championship softball team. He was the treasurer and then general photographer for AP's toastmasters club. Guy was a scanner/digital retoucher in AP Images at the time of his retirement.

Please join me in wishing them all the best in their new stages of life. But they will remain with us on Connecting.

If you'd like to drop them a note, Guy can be reached at gpalmiotto@verizon.net And Tom can be reached at tjrkent@gmail.com And if you have a story or memory to share of either man, send along to Connecting.

Have a great and safe Fourth of July holiday. Connecting will see you Tuesday morning!

Paul

Connecting mailbox

After 40 years in journalism, Charlotte Porter takes a leap of faith

Charlotte Porter ([Email](#)) - I've made a lot of moves in my career. This is my first leap of faith.



It was certainly a surprise to me about five years ago when I felt an overwhelming need to connect with a higher power. I'd always thought I was an agnostic. But working with a spiritual counselor helped me overcome my objections to "religion" and focus instead on simple faith. As we worked, the urge to be of service became stronger and stronger. So I applied to the master of divinity program at Union Theological Seminary (what an amazing place - [click here](#) - and to my surprise, was accepted.

Then came the question of how I was going to fit study into a very busy life at Bloomberg. It became pretty clear that the fit, if there were to be one, would be awkward at best. So, on Union's website, I found an opening for a marketing and communications manager. AP skills in my back pocket, I applied for that, and again to my surprise, was accepted. We have a lot of work cut out for us, and I may have to defer my studies for a year while we raise our social media presence and brand and all that. But it will be a work of creation, and should be a lot of fun. After that, I envision getting a degree that will allow me to work with hospice programs. A lot of people need quiet comfort at the ends of their lives, and I think I can provide that.

This has all happened in about a month, which is why I told my Facebook friends that I alternate from a giant grin to wanting to throw up. The pay cut was enormous, and I haven't worked out all that yet. But it felt right to make the leap, and so I have. If the ground doesn't rise up to meet me, I hope there will at least be a haystack at the bottom.

Wish me luck. Prayers accepted, too. I want to thank all my AP family for the amazing, amazing life I had with you for almost 30 years. You all made me whatever it is I am, and I am grateful to have known you.

(Charlotte served the AP for 29 years including chief of bureau in New Orleans, and was with Bloomberg News for the past 11 years as energy markets/weather editor.)

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Another (almost) AP sighting



Doug Pizac (Email) - To match your photo of Lou Boccardi's restaurant find, when I and my wife (former AP photo editor Betty Kumpf) were in Delaware for our son's Masters graduation in May, we took a day trip up to Philly for sightseeing and lunch. Across the street from the restaurant we found a frozen yogurt shop called Berry Sweet -- an obvious link for us to long time Seattle photographer and friend Barry Sweet. And again, no AP discount.

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A reunion of Kansas statehouse reporters

Lew Ferguson (Email) - Thirty-five reporters who covered Kansas state government fulltime for news organizations in the 1970s and 1980s held a reunion June 24-25 in Topeka. With spouses, the turnout topped 50.

Among news organizations represented were The Associated Press, United Press International, the Kansas City Star/Times, the Wichita Eagle/Beacon, the Topeka Capital/State Journal, Lawrence Journal World and Harris News Service, which had fulltime writers reporting for six Harris Enterprise papers, Hutchinson News, Salina Journal, Garden City Telegram, Ottawa Herald. Hays Daily News and Chanute Tribune. Also attending were several reporters for radio and television outlets.

A highlight of the gathering was presentation to Justice Dan Biles of a framed certificate of achievement for his legal career, which culminated in 2009 with his appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court by then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Biles worked two sessions as legislative relief staffer for the AP while obtaining his law degree, then another three years as a fulltime AP staffer. He went from the AP to being an assistant attorney general, attorney for both the State Department of Education and Kansas Turnpike Authority and general practice attorney in suburban Kansas City.

Presenting the certificate was former Topeka AP correspondent Lew Ferguson, who retired in 1999 after 29 years as correspondent. Ferguson was Biles' supervisor the five years he worked for AP.



Dan Biles, left, and Lew Ferguson

The group toured the extensively renovated state capitol, led by AP Correspondent John Hanna and Martin Hawver, who produces a newsletter on state government and politics for private clients. Hanna succeeded Ferguson and now has covered the Statehouse 30 years, the last 17 as correspondent.

Representing the AP besides Ferguson, Biles and Hanna was Bill Vogrin, a staffer in the mid-1980s who became Peoria Correspondent before moving on to the Colorado Springs Gazette. Barry Massey, former Santa Fe correspondent, planned to attend but had to cancel.

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Not wild about AP's automated baseball leads

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - Who's on first?

I've read the computer-generated story of the Spikes - Cyclones game three times and, for the life of me, I can't figure out how Hudzina scored the winning run.

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) -- Dylan Tice was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded with one out in the 11th inning, giving the State College Spikes a 9-8 victory over the Brooklyn Cyclones on Wednesday.

Danny Hudzina scored the game-winning run after he reached base on a sacrifice hit, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt and then went to third on an out.

Gene Cone scored on a double play in the first inning to give the Cyclones a 1-0 lead. The Spikes came back to take a 5-1 lead in the first inning when they put up five runs, including a two-run home run by Tice.

It looks like the computer needs to learn a few basic baseball rules:

- You can't get to first base on a sacrifice hit.
- If Hudzina moved from first to second on a sacrifice bunt then first base would be left empty.
- If Hudzina then moved from second to third on "an out" then first and second base would be empty and there would be two outs, not one.

How did the bases become loaded so that Hudzina could walk home when Tice was hit by a pitch?

I don't know. (But he's playing third).

AND...

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - I am saddened by the automated baseball leads.

There is no way a computer can add the perspective to a story that a human can. Was it a diving catch? Did an infielder make a spectacular play? Was the home run 450 feet or just over the fence? Was it a 10-pitch at-bat or did the batter hit the first pitch?

I could go on and on. Baseball is a fascinating, often complex game and its dramatic moments can't be reduced to a simplistic accounting produced by a hunk of hardware.

AND...

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - I look forward to the Wordsmith platform asking a manager about the fight that broke out after one of his players was hit by a pitch.

Sometimes the most important part of the game is not "who" or "what" or "when" or "how," but "why?"

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A new award proposed for Beat of Week winner

Campbell Gardett ([Email](#)) - If you ask me, Steve Braun deserves more than a \$500 prize for AP Beat of the Week (Thursday's Connecting).



He, and AP for supporting him, deserve an "I.F. Stone Award for the Fruits of Sheer Doggedness." It turns out there used to be an I.F. Stone award that recognized the work of non-mainstream journalists, and Stone was that. And I think there's a Nieman-based Medal for Journalistic Independence, and Stone represents that. But of at least equal importance, Izzy Stone was known for going through tons of documents and ferreting out the truth. The documents were available to all, but only he went into the mine and picked away to find the vein.

Many of the rest of us were too inclined to wait for the Rand Corporation or others to do such work, sometimes even under contract to the government! (This reference is to the Pentagon Papers of old, but there are plenty of recent examples.)

As a lesson to journalists, there should be an "I.F. Stone Doggedness Award," or perhaps an "Izzy Stone Sheer Cussedness Award." There being none, I hereby anoint and convey it to the deserving Mr. Braun, with thanks and real admiration and some undeserved sharing in the AP glow.

Connecting summer travel series

Prospecting for history (and bats) in Ruby, Arizona



Bats emerging at dusk from an abandoned mine shaft in Ruby, Ariz. (Photo by Mary Mittelstadt)

Mark Mittelstadt - [Email](#) - For Mary's birthday last month my oldest son and I took her to the mining ghost town of Ruby in extreme southern Arizona.

Ruby is 50 miles southwest of Tucson and four miles north of the Mexican border. The first Europeans to visit the area were Spanish conquistadors in the late 1500s. In the 19th century, gold was found and the region was referred to as "Oro Blanco," or white gold. Colonists moving west brought an influx of adventurers, mountain men, ranchers and miners.



The "gated" community of Ruby.

The first strike in the Montana Mine vein was in the late 1870s. By the turn of the century, Ruby had become the largest mining camp in the area, supporting a mercantile, houses, school and jail. A post office operated from 1910 to 1940.

The camp changed hands several times. Today, Ruby is owned by a group of families interested in maintaining the remaining buildings and making the town available for recreation, including hiking, camping, fishing and bird watching.



A classroom (left) and a small storage space with piano and storage lockers in the three-room Ruby School (upper left). Matt Mittelstadt, inside ruins of the Ruby Mercantile, surveys the mining camp valley and other remaining buildings. The mine shaft opening is to the right of the cream-colored building in the background. (Photos by Mary Mittelstadt)

Besides being a top-notch music teacher, Mary is pretty good with the camera, as evidenced by an album she posted to Facebook. I've shared a couple of her photos here. There were many highlights of the trip, including lunch en route to Ruby at Restaurant La Bocanita in Rio Rico, a trucking port of entry just north of Nogales; riding over nearly 20 miles of frequently bumpy mountain roads, occasionally in the rain; and watching the nightly emergence of bats from the abandoned mining shaft.

Tens of thousands of Mexican Free-Tailed Bats appear daily around sunset out of a large hole in the mountain and fly over the southern Arizona landscape to forage and drink, feeding primarily on moths but other insects as well. The Ruby colony, estimated by biologists at 70,000 to 200,000, is mostly a maternity colony. Nursing females require large quantities of insects that are high in fat, such as egg-laden moths.

The bats breed in northern Mexico in February and March and arrive in Ruby in April. Typically they depart as a group in September.

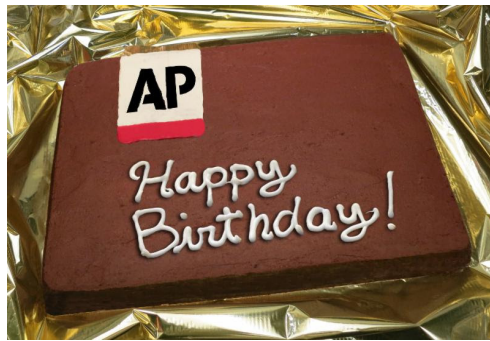
On our evening at Ruby the first wave of bats began at 7:20 p.m., to the minute predicted by the town caretaker, and lasted for approximately eight minutes. A second wave began at 7:45 p.m.

The bats return to the mining shaft shortly before dawn.



The bats of Ruby, Ariz.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Deborah Altmar - daltmar_contractor@ap.org

and on the Fourth...:

Mike Stewart - bmstewart@ap.org

Stories of interest

Newspaper publisher arrested after open records request

JASPER, Ga. (AP) - The publisher of a small, weekly north Georgia newspaper was jailed, along with his lawyer, after officials alleged his open records request for county checks written to two local judges included a criminal falsehood, and that a subpoena they issued constituted an attempt to commit identity fraud.

The charges have drawn condemnation from a state journalism organization, but the local prosecutor said they were justified.

The three-count indictment filed June 24 in Pickens County Superior Court, accuses Mark Thomason, publisher of the Fannin Focus newspaper of making a false statement. It also charges him and his lawyer, Russell Stookey, with identity fraud and attempt to commit identity fraud.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Major Political News Outlets Offer Interviews for Sale at DNC and RNC Conventions (Intercept)

FOR HIGH-ROLLING special interests looking to make an impression at the presidential conventions next month, one option is to pay a lot of money to a media outlet. Lobbyists for the oil industry, for instance, are picking up the tab for leading Beltway publications to host energy policy discussions at the convention, including *The Atlantic* and *Politico*.

And for the right price, some political media outlets are even offering special interviews with editorial staffers and promotional coverage at the convention.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Dick Chady.

-0-

Secret rules make it pretty easy for the FBI to spy on journalists (Intercept)

SECRET FBI RULES allow agents to obtain journalists' phone records with approval from two internal officials - far less oversight than under normal judicial procedures.

The classified rules, obtained by *The Intercept* and dating from 2013, govern the FBI's use of national security letters, which allow the bureau to obtain information about journalists' calls without going to a judge or informing the news organization being targeted. They have previously been released only in heavily redacted form.

Media advocates said the documents show that the FBI imposes few constraints on itself when it bypasses the requirement to go to court and obtain subpoenas or search warrants before accessing journalists' information.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - July 2, 2016



By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, July 2, the 184th day of 2016. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

On this date:

In 1566, French astrologer, physician and professed prophesier Nostradamus died in Salon (sah-LOHN').

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1926, the United States Army Air Corps was created.

In 1955, "The Lawrence Welk Show" premiered on ABC-TV under its original title, "The Dodge Dancing Party."

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1986, ruling in a pair of cases, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action as a remedy for past job discrimination.

In 1991, actress Lee Remick died in Los Angeles at age 55.

In 1996, electricity and phone service was knocked out for millions of customers from Canada to the Southwest on a record-hot day. Seven years after they shot-gunned their parents to death in the family's Beverly Hills mansion, Lyle and Erik Menendez were sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 2001, Robert Tools received the world's first self-contained artificial heart in Louisville, Kentucky. (He lived 151 days with the device.) Vice President Dick Cheney returned to work two days after receiving a new pacemaker.

Ten years ago: Conservative free-trader Felipe Calderon (fay-LEE'-pay kahl-duh-ROHN') defeated leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (ahn-DRAYS' mahn-WEHL' LOH'-pez OH'-brah-dohr) by just 234,000 votes in Mexico's presidential election. Comic Jan Murray died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 89.

Five years ago: Petra Kvitova beat Maria Sharapova 6-3, 6-4 to become the first left-handed woman to win the Wimbledon title since Martina Navratilova in 1990.

One year ago: Trying to close the books on the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, BP agreed to provide billions of dollars in new money to five Gulf Coast states in a deal the company said would bring its full obligations to an estimated \$53.8 billion. A Philippine ferry, the *Kim Nirvana*, capsized after leaving port in Ormoc City, killing about 60 people.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 87. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 86. Actor Robert Ito is 85. Actress Polly Holliday is 79. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 79. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 77. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 74. Writer-director-comedian Larry

David is 69. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 69. Actor Saul Rubinek is 68. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 67. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 64. Actress Wendy Schaal is 62. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 60. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 55. Country singer Guy Penrod is 53. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 51. Actress Yancy Butler is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 40. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 38. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 37. Singer Michelle Branch is 33. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 32. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 32. Actor Nelson Franklin is 31. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 31. Actress Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 30. Actress Margot Robbie is 26.

Thought for Today: "Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things." - Amelia Earhart (1897-1937?).

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

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

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