



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - June 30, 2017

1 message

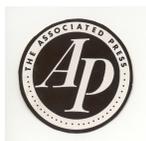
Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 30, 2017 at 9:18 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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# Connecting

June 30, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Each week, AP regional desks or editorial leaders nominate a scoop or especially impactful story for consideration as Beat of the Week and Best of the States.

A panel of editors meets and chooses the winners from the stories submitted. There are usually about 15-20 submissions considered from around the world and around the AP, according to our colleague **John Daniszewski**, AP's editor at large for Standards. The winners are then announced to AP journalists worldwide.

Connecting shares those stories with you on a regular basis as a reminder of the great journalism work that continues in our company. It's something I believe can never be overstated.

With that, we lead today's issue with the latest Best of States winner.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## **Enterprising desk work puts AP out front on amusement park rescue**



**A 14-year-old girl falls from an amusement park ride at Six Flags Great Escape Amusement Park in Queensbury, N.Y., June 24, 2017, in a still image made from amateur video. After she lost her grip on the slow-moving gondola ride she fell into a crowd of park guests and employees gathered under the ride to catch her before she hit the ground. The Delaware teen was in stable condition with no serious injuries, officials said. LEEANN WINCHELL VIA AP**

Colleen Long was by herself on the New York City desk this past Sunday with plenty to do, including taking feeds from two different stringers to update national stories on

gay pride parades and a graduation at a suburban high school shattered by killings blamed on the violent MS-13 gang.

But she still managed to jump into action on what turned out to be one of the day's most clickable stories - of a teenager who dangled and then fell 25 feet from a gondola ride at an upstate New York amusement park.

Long asked the man she was interviewing to send in video that a friend took of the entire event, putting AP out front across all formats.

Not only did Long land an interview with a father and daughter who scrambled to safely catch the 14-year-old girl, she also got the man to send in video that a friend took of the entire event, a reporting tour de force that singlehandedly put the AP out front across all formats.



**Colleen Long**

Long, who normally covers the police beat in New York City, began chasing the story by phone after another video of the girl falling from the ride at the Six Flags Great Escape Amusement Park began circulating online.

Long got hold of a spokesman for the Warren County Sheriff's Office who gave her the basic outlines of the story, that a girl somehow slipped under the retaining bar that holds passengers in the gondola and dangled for several minutes before falling into the arms of Good Samaritans, including a father and his daughter.

The spokesman mentioned that the father even suffered a minor back injury in taking the brunt of the girl's fall. Long immediately recognized the man as the real hero of the story and peppered the spokesman for details: "Is he OK? Can we talk to him? Do you have his name?" He checked his notes and not only gave Long the man's name but his cell phone number as well.

"They'll catch you, honey!" Teen drops 25 feet from stuck amusement park ride to waiting crowd. <https://t.co/AHbMdlcyQJ>

- The Associated Press (@AP) June 25, 2017

Long ended up interviewing both the father and his daughter, and got amazing quotes, including the man recalling he got he involved because "I couldn't let that little girl die," and how he yelled out to her: "It's OK to let go, I'll catch you, honey."

By then, the initial video circulating online had been scooped up by an agency that was asking an exorbitant amount of money for the AP to use it. So Colleen asked the father she was interviewing if he had any video. He said he was taking cellphone video before running to help, and handed the phone off to his girlfriend, who finished recording the whole thing. They allowed AP to use the 5-minute clip, which accompanied Long's story in both video and still photo form. The still captured the precise moment when the girl went airborne.

The story quickly became a sensation, leading nearly every major news web site.

As expected, Long's story quickly became a sensation, leading nearly every major news web site and ranking No. 4 overall Sunday on AP Mobile. It also ranked as the AP's top tweet over the weekend.

For doggedly working a story from the desk to keep the AP competitive, Colleen Long wins this week's Best of the States Award and the \$300 that goes with it.

## Connecting mailbox

### *It's been a painful day*

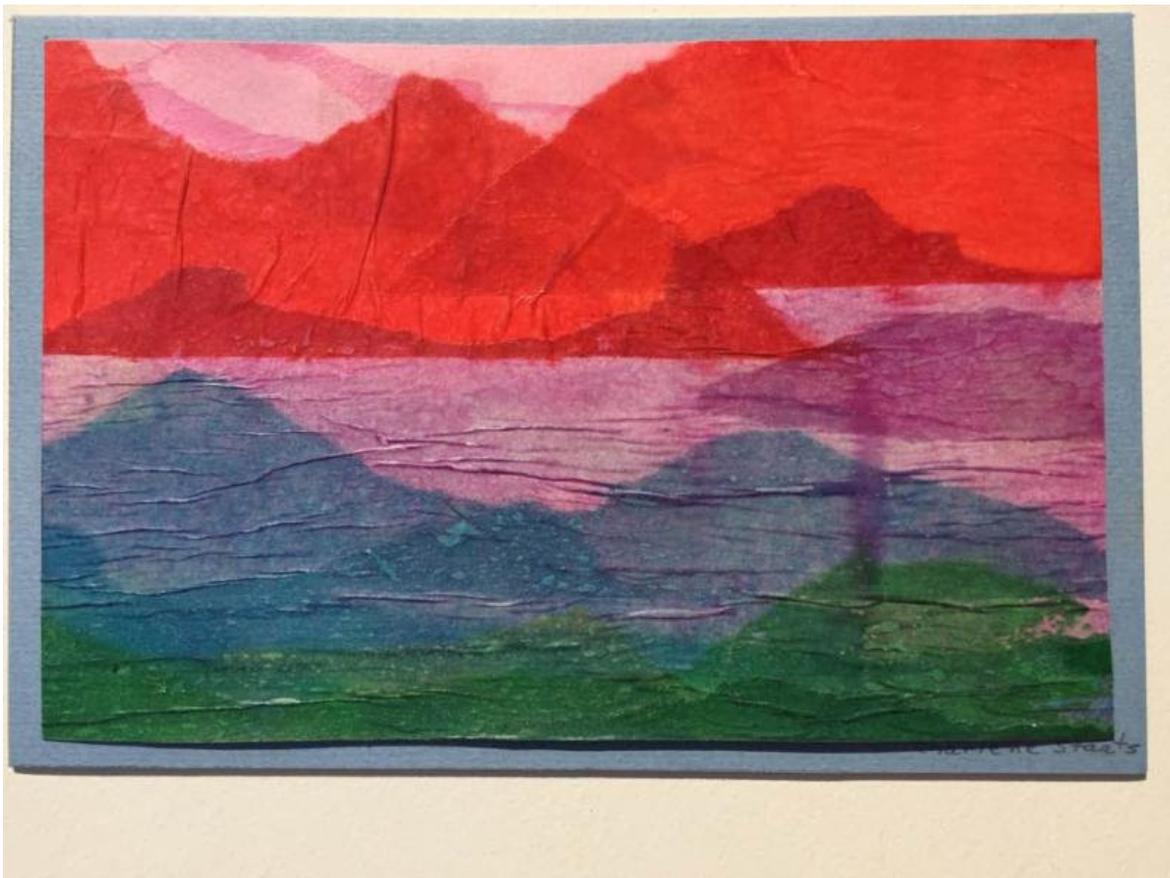
**Bob Daugherty** ([Email](#)) - I spent about 40 years covering the president, and other official Washington federal departments. I made it a point to always wear a DC uniform, khakis, a light blue oxford cloth button-down shirt, a blue blazer and A TIE. Maybe that was old-school, but I thought it was a simply showing respect for the office of the president. That was before Twitter. I'd still follow the dress code even now. I doubt seriously that any president ever knew my name, but that did not diminish my respect for the office. The recent Twitter-related eruption was unheard of in my time. There were times that the president was obviously irked with the press, but I cannot remember anything even coming close to the acrimony we are watching today. And all of this when older folks on Medicaid in nursing homes may be put in the parking lot. The list goes on and on, civility is apparently double parked. It's been a painful day.

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## ***Your love and concern means more than you can know***

**Ed Staats** ([Email](#)) has shared with friends the brave fight that his wife of 56 years, Charlene, has waged with Alzheimer's and sadly, she took a turn for the worse in recent days. Ed, a retired AP executive, bureau chief, broadcast executive and newsman, shared the following Thursday with Facebook friends and agreed to let me share his post on Connecting to reach many of his friends who are not on Facebook:

It has been overwhelming to read the many comments and Likes and offerings of thoughts and prayers in connection with Charlene's illness. With family spread across the country and none here, this demonstration of love and concern means much more than you can know. She was resting comfortably today in the care of her facility and the hospice agency in Louisville. She is able to take nourishment and speak quietly and still be funny in her retorts. The doctors believe she is in the early stages of the body shutting down.



Among the comments here about her condition was a gracious request from a years-long friend, Kim, to see other examples of her artwork. I have chosen a favorite, a surrealistic seascape. The medium is watercolor on tissue paper. She started out at The University of Texas as an art major. Just before her junior year,

and before we met, she concluded she "wasn't weird enough" to be an art major. That's despite her long, blond hair which reflected some of the beatnik themes of those times. She switched to interior design and right on schedule earned her bachelor of science in home economics. She painted for quite a few years but then inexplicably stopped cold turkey and switched to singing as her favored avocation.

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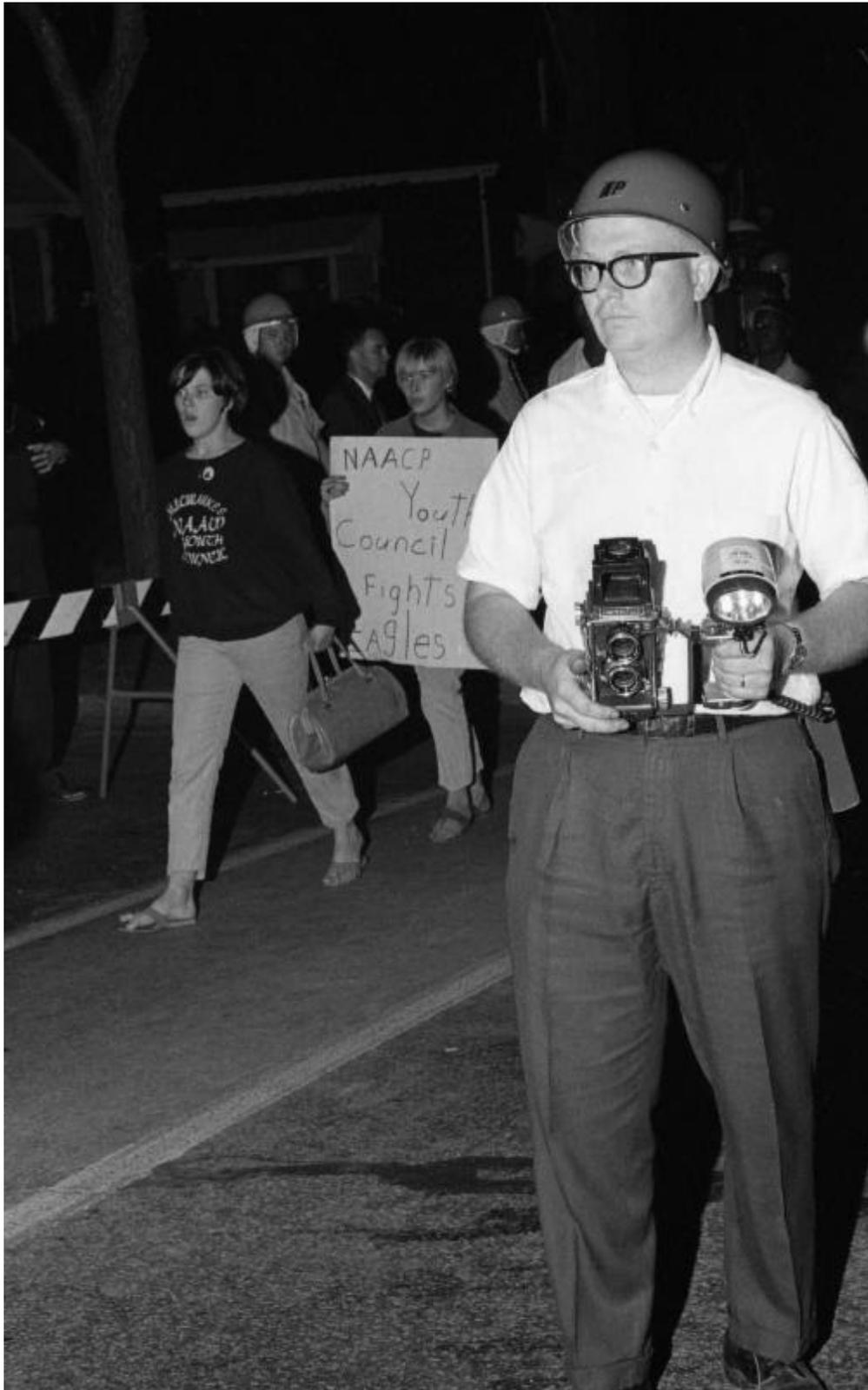
## ***National Parks also have Access Pass***

**Ed Tobias (Email)** - One more note about the National Park Services' Senior Pass. For folks like me, who meet the government's definition of being a "U.S. citizen...medically determined to have a permanent disability..." there is an Access Pass. And, it's free!

I got mine several years ago when a kind Park Ranger, at the entrance to Skyline drive in VA, noticed my handicapped tag and suggested that I apply for one. Then he waved us through for our first National Park freebie. I suspect that there are other Connecting readers who can qualify for this benefit, as long as it continues.

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## ***Paul Shane and his 2 ¼ camera***



**Neal Ulevich (Email)** - Rummaging through old negatives I found this 1966 picture of Paul Shane, then Milwaukee AP photographer, at a civil rights demonstration we covered in Wauwatosa, a Milwaukee suburb. His comment on seeing the image after all these years: "I was using a 2 1/4 camera because I thought I could aim through the frame viewfinder while wearing a gas mask, a dumb idea as I recall. "

# George Strode, former Ohio AP sports editor and Dispatch sports editor, dies at 81



George K. Strode, whose four decades in sports journalism included a 15-year run as sports editor of The Dispatch, died Wednesday in Columbus after a brief illness. He was 81.

Strode served as The Dispatch's sports editor from 1985 until his retirement in 1999. Before that, he had spent 16 years as Ohio sports editor of The Associated Press and six years as a sports reporter for The Columbus Citizen-Journal.

He is survived by his loving wife and inseparable companion of 43 years, Ruth, and a host of former friends and colleagues.

The Dispatch needed to hire a sports editor in 1985, and the obvious choice was George Strode," former Dispatch editor Luke Feck said. "The paper was lucky to have such a knowledgeable, witty raconteur who knew Ohio sports inside and out."

Read more **here**. Shared by Eva Parziale.

## Paul Harloff named AP's global markets editor

NEW YORK (AP) -- The Associated Press has named Paul Harloff as its global markets editor.

Harloff will be in charge of a team that handles daily news and enterprise stories about stocks, bonds, commodities, banking and investing. The team also produces the Money & Markets and Municipal Bond Index products.

Harloff has worked at the AP since 2004 and most recently led the auto, airlines and energy team. Prior to that, he helped build and run APFN, which delivered real-time news for Yahoo Finance, MSN Money and other financial websites.

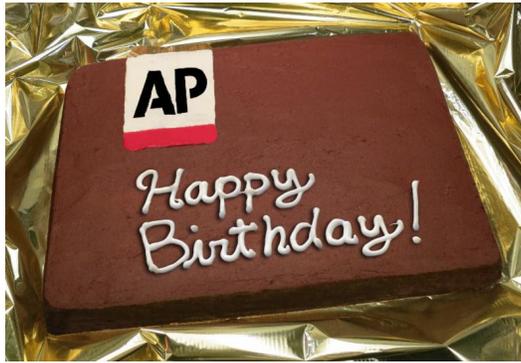


He managed various teams for Dow Jones and WSJ.com before joining AP.

He starts as global markets editor Wednesday. Based in New York, he'll report to AP Business Editor Lisa Gibbs.

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

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Ed Andrieski - [ed@edandrieski.com](mailto:ed@edandrieski.com)

Paul Cheung - [pcheung630@gmail.com](mailto:pcheung630@gmail.com)

Kent Zimmerman - [ksshawnee555@att.net](mailto:ksshawnee555@att.net)

*On Saturday...*

Jeff McMurray - [mcmurrayjeff@gmail.com](mailto:mcmurrayjeff@gmail.com)

*On Sunday...*

Donna Davidson - [ddavidson@ap.org](mailto:ddavidson@ap.org)

Jim Robertson - [jimrobertson203@gmail.com](mailto:jimrobertson203@gmail.com)

**Welcome to Connecting**



Shelly Howell - [howellshelly@gmail.com](mailto:howellshelly@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***MSNBC 'Morning Joe' hosts fire back at Trump Twitter blasts***

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - "Morning Joe" hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski said Friday that President Donald Trump lied about their December encounter in a tweet and that his "unhealthy obsession" with their program doesn't serve his mental health or the country well.

The two MSNBC personalities postponed a vacation in order to respond to Trump's tweet, which drew broad condemnation a day earlier because he called Brzezinski "crazy" and said she was "bleeding badly from a face-lift" when he saw them at his Florida estate.

"It's been fascinating and frightening and really sad for our country," Brzezinski said on their program.

"We're OK," said Scarborough, her co-host and fiance. "The country's not."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Trump gets it from all sides for trash-talking MSNBC hosts***

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump launched a crude Twitter attack on the brains, looks and temperament of a female TV personality Thursday, drawing bipartisan howls of outrage and leaving fellow Republicans beseeching him: Stop, please just stop.

Trump's tweets aimed at MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski revived concerns about his views of women in a city where civility already is in short supply and he is struggling for any support he can get for his proposals on health care, immigration and other controversial issues.

"I heard poorly rated @Morning\_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore)," Trump tweeted to his nearly 33 million followers Thursday morning. "Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!"

The tweets served to unite Democrats and Republicans for once in a chorus of protest that amounted to perhaps the loudest outcry since Trump took office.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Times Staff Members Protest Cuts and Changes to News Operation***



***New York Daily News photo***

With the imminent elimination of a stand-alone copy desk at The New York Times, copy editors and reporters have sent two strongly worded letters to top management voicing their concerns over the changes to the newsroom's structure.

On Wednesday, copy editors sent an open letter to Dean Baquet, The Times's executive editor, and Joe Kahn, the managing editor, challenging the decision to cut staff and eradicate the copy desk, which is responsible for, among other things, catching factual and grammatical errors and ensuring that articles adhere to Times style guidelines.

"We have begun the humiliating process of justifying our continued presence at The New York Times," the letter from the copy desk began.

On Thursday, Times reporters sent their own letter to Mr. Baquet and Mr. Kahn in support of the copy desk. "Editors - and yes, that especially means copy editors - save reporters and The Times every day from countless errors, large and small," the reporters wrote.

Read more [here](#).

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# ***Fact-checking has never been this important. Come define its future*** (Poynter)

**By Alexios Mantzarlis**

In the fall of 2015, I joined Poynter to run the newly launched International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN). While I had high expectations for the new gig, I could not predict that in the following years fact-checking would become a crucial element of the conversation on the future of journalism worldwide.

The IFCN has played a central role in this conversation. In just over 18 months, we have launched a series of initiatives to make fact-checking better. These include:

A code of principles that encourages fact-checkers to uphold high standards of transparency in their work (Facebook uses this code as a filter for third-party fact-checkers on its platform).

The first International Fact-Checking Day, which offered a lesson plan that reached tens of thousands of students internationally.

Fellowships that help fact-checkers collaborate and learn from each other.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**





AP Los Angeles retiree **Nick Ut** checked in with Connecting to let us know he's not retired from shooting photos - exemplified by shots he took of a 10-acre brush fire that burned dangerously close to homes in the Verdugo Mountains before being contained and evacuation orders lifted.

Nick said he was driving on the freeway when he saw the fires and did what he is trained to do - take pictures of the action.

## Today in History - June 30, 2017



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 30, the 181st day of 2017. There are 184 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1997, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time over Government House in Hong Kong as Britain prepared to hand the colony back to China at midnight after ruling it for 156 years.

### On this date:

In 1859, French acrobat Charles Blondin (blahn-DAN') walked back and forth on a tightrope above the gorge of Niagara Falls as thousands of spectators watched.

In 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

In 1892, small frogs rained down on Moseley, England, south of Birmingham. (According to an account quoted in the U.S. Agriculture Department's Monthly Weather Review for May 1917, the frogs, described as "almost white in color," were found "scattered about several gardens" and had "evidently been absorbed in a small waterspout" during a storm.)

In 1908, the Tunguska Event took place in Russia as an asteroid exploded above Siberia, leaving 800 square miles of scorched or blown-down trees.

In 1917, singer, actress and activist Lena Horne was born in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1936, the Civil War novel "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell was first published by The Macmillan Co. in New York.

In 1949, "The Missouri Waltz" became the official state song of Missouri.

In 1952, "The Guiding Light," a popular radio program, began a 57-year television run on CBS.

In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1966, the National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in Washington, D.C.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter announced he had decided against production of the Rockwell B-1 bomber, saying it was too costly. (However, the B-1 was later revived by President Ronald Reagan.)

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held 17 days.

Ten years ago: Two men rammed an SUV loaded with gasoline canisters into the main terminal at Glasgow (GLAS'-goh) Airport in Scotland, failing to set off an explosion, but seriously burning one of the suspects; the attack came a day after two cars rigged as bombs were found and defused in London.

Five years ago: Islamist Mohammed Morsi became Egypt's first freely elected president as he was sworn in during a pair of ceremonies. An international conference in Geneva accepted a U.N.-brokered peace plan calling for creation of a transitional government in Syria, but at Russia's insistence the compromise left the door open to Syria's president being a part of it. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir died at age 96. Yaroslava Shvedova (yar-al-SLAH'-vah SHVEH'-doh-vah) of Kazakhstan became the first player in a Grand Slam tournament to win every point of a set on her way to beating French Open runner-up Sara Errani 6-0, 6-4 in the third round of Wimbledon.

One year ago: Saying it was the right thing to do, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that transgender people would be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces. President Barack Obama signed a rescue package for financially strapped Puerto Rico, which was facing more than \$70 billion in debt and a major payment due the next day. Rodrigo Duterte (doo-TEHR'-tay) was sworn as president of the Philippines.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lea Massari is 84. Actress Nancy Dussault (doo-SOH') is 81. Songwriter Tony Hatch is 78. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 73. Actor Leonard Whiting is 67. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 66. Actor David Garrison is 65. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 64. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 61. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 58. Actress Deirdre Lovejoy is 55. Actor Rupert Graves is 54. Boxer Mike Tyson is 51. Actor Peter Outerbridge is 51. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 48. Actor Brian Bloom is 47. Actor Brian Vincent is 47. Actress Monica Potter is 46. Actress Molly Parker is 45. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 38. Actor Tom Burke is 36. Actress Lizzy Caplan is 35. Rock musician James Adam Shelley (American Authors) is 34. Country singer Cole Swindell is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Fantasia is 33. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 32.

***Thought for Today: "I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate." - Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, English dramatist (1855-1934).***

## Got a story or photos 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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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