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# Connecting - January 22, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

January 22, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

We begin the new week on a happy note.

Connecting congratulates our colleague **Mike Cochran** on his induction into the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame.



**Mike at podium after introduction from Larry Jackson.**

Mike, retired AP Fort Worth correspondent, was among four who entered the Hall of Fame on Friday night in Galveston.

Thanks to **Al Cross** and **Pam Collins** for combining to provide coverage for Connecting. And a shoutout to **Candace Velvin** of Texas Press Association for the photos.

I look forward to hearing from you this week.

Paul

## **AP's Mike Cochran inducted into Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame**



Mike Cochran gets a standing ovation.

By **AL CROSS** ([Email](#))

Retired AP correspondent Mike Cochran of Fort Worth was among four people welcomed into the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame Friday night at the Texas Press Association convention in Galveston.

"It's the greatest, grandest honor; it's unreal," Mike told the crowd of hundreds at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center.

Mike had a wide-ranging career, covering many big news events, but among some journalists is best known as one of the pallbearers for JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. "His popularity was at an all-time low," Mike quipped to the Galveston crowd. No one was there to heft the casket. Mike said he first declined the funeral director's request for help, but when a UPI correspondent volunteered, "I wasn't just totally crazy so I changed my mind."

The story Mike seemed to like better recalling was his obituary of C.E. "Pop" Shuford, architect of the journalism program at North Texas State University. Mike said he proudly told Shuford that he had landed a \$150-a-week PR job with an oil company, but Shuford told him that Shuford had arranged a \$60-a-week sportswriting job for him at the Denton Record-Chronicle. Mike asked, "You mean I have to take \$90 week pay cut the first time out?" Pop said, "You'll thank me for it

someday." To the crowd, Mike said, "I'll end this story by saying one more time, 'Thanks, Pop'."

A native of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Mike grew up in Stamford, about 150 miles west of Fort Worth. He joined the AP in 1960. After covering the JFK assassination, he covered the 1966 University of Texas tower shooting and the murder trials of oilman T. Cullen Davis in the 1970s, writing a book about them with AP's John Lumpkin, *Deliver Us from Evil: A Trilogy of Murder, Ministers and Millionaires*. He also wrote a book about oilman and unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams, *Claytie: The Roller-Coaster Life of a Texas Wildcatter*.

Others in the 2018 Hall of Fame class are Dolph Tillotson, president of Southern Newspapers Inc.; the late John C. Taylor, who published *The Seguin Gazette*; and the late Victor B. Fain, who was editor and publisher of *The (Nacogdoches) Daily Sentinel* for 40 years.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Ed Andrieski wasn't a 'My photographer'*

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - As a white-whiskered retired AP photographer, it warms the cockles of my heart to read the many kudos and remembrances of the late Ed Andrieski.

What would Ed have said if some reporter or editor introduced him as "My photographer?"

Me thinketh Mr. Ed would have hit him/her with one of his gourmet hamburgers.

I had retired before Ed started his illustrious AP photo career, but I wish his spirit well, and know that he's probably having libations with the other great AP photographers who have moved on.

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### *The rest of the story...on Rush*

**Jim Hood (Email)** - A longtime friend of the AP, Ed McLaughlin, died recently at the enviable age of 92. Eddie was for years president of ABC Radio. Upon his retirement, the company gave him a satellite channel so he could pursue his idea of syndicating high-caliber talk radio nationwide.

Eddie had it in mind to syndicate Dr. Dean Edell, a Bay Area physician who had a highly successful talk show on ABC's KGO Radio in San Francisco. One fine day, Roy Steinfort and I had a three-martini lunch to discuss the idea.

Eddie had been presenting the concept to stations and had found them receptive but reluctant to take apart their midday schedule for a single two-hour show. Did we think it would be a good idea to add two hours of political gab?

We didn't. Eddie didn't either. He wanted programming that would be entertaining and useful, not incendiary. But the stations wanted another few hours of gab and Eddie had located a young gabber at a Sacramento station who was game to give it a try.

The shows got underway and the political talkfest quickly eclipsed the healthtalk. This created another dilemma, and another three-martini lunch.

"My God," Eddie lamented. "This guy just opens his mouth and says on the air that he's going to start a newsletter and everybody should send in \$10 to subscribe, so now my office is full of envelopes stuffed with \$10 checks. What the hell am I going to do?"

I remember recommending a couple of companies that provided outsourcing services for newsletters and other publications and I seem to recall we suggested a couple of ghost-writers.

I actually am not a big radio listener so I'm not sure exactly how this all played out, except that it was successful beyond anyone's dreams, at least the political part of it.

Dr. Dean Edell is probably still out there somewhere. And that political talker from Sacramento? He's very much still out there. He is, of course, Rush Limbaugh.

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***A peanut tree from Georgia on her desk in Paris***

**Yvette Mercourt (Email)** - End of the 1970s, as I was working in AP Paris, in the administrative office, my very dear friends from New Jersey invited me, to go with them to visit their family in Georgia.

Once there, as a souvenir I bought a small bag of peanuts. My idea was to grow a peanut tree (*Arachis Hypogaea*) on my desk in AP Paris, rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré.

My first look when I opened my office door in the morning, was to see if my peanuts were still there. Not too long after, tiny leaves came out and then my very cute peanuts. 2 steps from the Champs Elysées, Paris.

I am so sorry now that I did not save them for my own garden where I grow all kind of vegetables, in very small quantities of course.

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## ***Box is open, and they can't stuff it back in***

**Jeffrey Ulbrich (Email)** - The mainstream media apparently agonized - and even wrote at some length about their agony - over whether or not to use the word shithole, selected by our very stable genius to describe certain countries. After concluding that the utterance was indeed newsworthy in itself, having come from our nation's leader, it seems now they can't stop using it. The box is open and they can't stuff it back in.

If the NYT is any example (and I admit that in retirement abroad the NYT is my major source of English language news) the word pops into print every day now (no more agonizing), sometimes several times a day. It's getting worse than the opioid epidemic.





# AP NewsBreak: AP scoops everyone on ICE's 7-Eleven hiring sweep, biggest raid under Trump



**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents serve an employment audit notice at a 7-Eleven convenience store in Los Angeles, Jan. 10, 2018. Agents said they targeted about 100 7-Eleven stores nationwide to open employment audits and interview workers. AP PHOTO / CHRIS CARLSON**

Associated Press reporter Elliot Spagat has spent years covering the U.S.-Mexico border, building sources within the federal agencies that enforce the nation's immigration laws and earning the respect of senior officials.

That source work paid off when Spagat scored an exclusive ride-along as federal agents executed what officials called the largest immigration action against an employer under Donald Trump's presidency: An early-morning sweep of nearly 100 7-Eleven stores that targeted the stores' owners, rather than the workers.

Working under a noon Eastern embargo, Spagat, along with Rockies news editor Joe Danborn, made contingency plans for the news leaking out as agents began the operation on the East Coast. But the embargo held, and the APNewsBreak caught the competition cold.

One U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official said the operation was "a harbinger of what's to come" for employers.

For his efforts to put AP ahead of the competition (some news organizations cited AP while their own reporters rushed to confirm the story), Spagat wins this week's Beat of the Week prize.

Spagat, based in San Diego, has pressed ICE officials for months about their plans to target employers. The Trump administration, which has come under fire for deporting immigrants but not going after employers, has been saying that a crackdown on businesses was coming.

Working under a noon Eastern embargo, Spagat, along with Rockies news editor Joe Danborn, made contingency plans for the news leaking out as agents began the operation on the East Coast. But the embargo held, and the APNewsBreak caught the competition cold.

APNewsBreak: U.S. immigration agents descend on dozens of 7-Eleven stores to open employment audits and interview workers. <https://t.co/MOJmw1IEy8>

- The Associated Press (@AP) January 10, 2018

The Washington Post moved an alert more than 30 minutes later, based on an ICE news release. The Los Angeles Times emailed an alert to readers based on the AP break and, along with CNN, The New York Times and others, posted the AP's story before cobbling together versions that still leaned heavily on Spagat's story, including his exclusive interview with a top ICE official.

Reuters' initial take credited the AP; Bloomberg simply left the AP's story up. The Miami Herald and other major outlets tweeted AP's story; MSNBC tweeted virtually the entire APNewsNow in a thread with AP credit.

Spagat's immigration team colleague Nomaan Merchant in Houston secured crucial context from ICE officials who worked under the Obama administration. Chris Carlson's exclusive photos of agents hitting a Los Angeles store ran everywhere, including on the front pages of the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

"7-Eleven" quickly became a dominant trend as the story shot to the top of all of AP's text and mobile metrics, still leading engagement and readership nearly 24 hours later, topping Chartbeat by a factor of 10, and racking up some 144,000 Facebook engagements.



Agents descend on 7-Eleven stores nationwide to check on employees' immigration status, @elliotspagat reports. Read more here: <https://t.co/IY5hUlr9pic>. [twitter.com/wsJGPDOgJX](https://twitter.com/wsJGPDOgJX)

- AP West Region (@APWestRegion) January 10, 2018

Spagat also got around ICE's strict no on video by returning to the scene to record a first-person report on camera. The West Desk's Chris Havlik gathered the elements, and it was turned into edits for broadcast clients.

For scoring an exclusive through dogged source work, Spagat win's this week's \$500 Beat of the Week prize.



## Strong sourcing, teamwork put AP ahead on offshore drilling news



**Florida Gov. Rick Scott, center, and Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, right, announce that there will be no new offshore drilling in the Florida, during a news conference at the Tallahassee International Airport, Jan. 9, 2018. The Florida announcement triggered immediate criticism from other states opposed to the oil drilling plan. SCOTT KEELER / TAMPA BAY TIMES VIA AP**

For Tallahassee reporter Gary Fineout, Tuesday began as he expected, with the usual pomp and circumstance of the first day of the legislative session and Gov. Rick Scott's annual state of the state speech. From there it took a quick turn.

A source in Scott's office called Fineout at around 4 p.m. and asked if he was in a position to drive to the Tallahassee International Airport. The reason? Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke was supposed to be flying in from Atlanta to meet with the governor - and both would be willing to talk to the media afterward.

Fineout immediately emailed Matthew Daly in Washington, who had some ideas on what the meeting was about. Daly, who covers Interior, had just pitched a story about the fallout from the Trump administration's new oil drilling plan. Daly had tapped into a key political problem in the plan announced the week earlier: Republican governors were not on board.

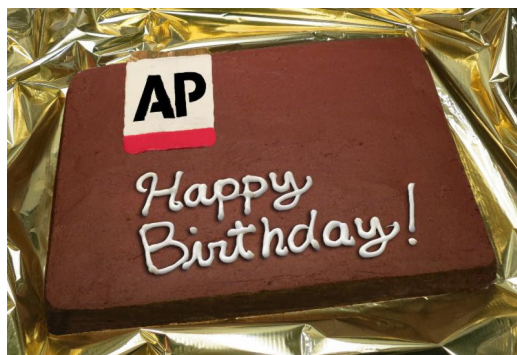
Fineout emailed the news to D.C. during the news conference. By the time Fineout got back to his car, Daly was moving the news alert.

Daly set out reporting a story about how the governors, chief among them Scott, planned to lobby the administration to rethink the plan. Fineout and Daly together discussed possible outcomes and angles. At around 6 p.m. Zinke and Scott strode down the main corridor of Tallahassee's small airport and dropped the news that Florida was going to be removed from the Trump administration's oil drilling plan. Before the two officials stopped talking, Fineout emailed Daly in D.C. to let him know the news that would soon create a torrent of criticism from other states that oppose the oil drilling plan. By the time Fineout got back to his car in the parking lot, Daly was moving the news alert.

Daly and Fineout's model of teamwork put AP so far ahead some in the competition didn't bother to catch up. The Washington Post ran the AP story, with bylines, in the print edition. Others had to wait until after the Interior Department put out a statement - a full 10 minutes after the AP alert moved - to post the news. In the days that followed, Daly kept AP ahead with help from bureaus on both coasts. He pulled together another a strong story on coastal states' reaction, complete with a glance noting where each governor stood on the issue. He looked at the legality of the exemption and the political dynamics. It was a strong example of not resting on a news break, but continuing to push the story forward cycle after cycle.

For their initiative and coordinated effort to give AP an important beat, Fineout and Daly share this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Amir Bibawy - [qmiro@ap.org](mailto:qmiro@ap.org)

Charles Pittman - [cpittman@schurz.com](mailto:cpittman@schurz.com)

## Stories of interest

***Facebook will now ask users to rank news organizations they trust*** (Washington Post)

By Elizabeth Dwoskin, Hamza Shaban

Facebook unveiled major changes Friday to the News Feed of its 2 billion users, announcing it will rank news organizations by credibility based on user feedback and diminish its role as an arbiter of the news people see.

The move comes after the company endured harsh criticism for allowing disinformation to spread on its social network and for favoring liberal outlets over conservative ones. In a blog post accompanying the announcement, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg wrote Facebook is not "comfortable" deciding which news sources are the most trustworthy in a "world with so much division."

"We decided that having the community determine which sources are broadly trusted would be most objective," he wrote.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Los Angeles Times journalists vote 248-44 to unionize***

**By James Rufus Koren**

Journalists at the Los Angeles Times have overwhelmingly elected to form a union, a first for the 136-year-old news organization that for much of its history was known for its opposition to organized labor.

The union drive was launched publicly in October and culminated in an election earlier this month. Results, tallied Friday by the National Labor Relations Board, show workers voted 248 to 44 to be represented by the Washington, D.C.-based NewsGuild-Communications Workers of America.

"We respect the outcome of the election and look forward to productive conversations with union leadership as we move forward," said Marisa Kollias, spokeswoman for Tronc Inc., The Times' parent. "We remain committed to ensuring that the Los Angeles Times is a leading source for news and information and to producing the award-winning journalism our readers rely on."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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## ***Nicolle Wallace's Road From the White House to 30 Rock*** (New York Times)

By **SRIDHAR PAPPU**

In the basement of the Mexican restaurant Anejo TriBeCa last December, with rain pouring down on the streets of Lower Manhattan, Nicolle Wallace was addressing the staff of her new MSNBC show, "Deadline: White House."

They had gathered for their first holiday party since the show's debut in May. Ms. Wallace, a former communications director under George W. Bush and a campaign strategist for John McCain's unsuccessful run for the presidency in 2008, thanked the roughly 20 people in the room for their hard work and noted the implausibility of the moment.

"None of you are supposed to be here," she said. "I'm not supposed to be the anchor of the 4 p.m. hour. I'm not."

Indeed. It's been a surprising career trajectory for Ms. Wallace, who - after four years as a regular panelist on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," and a yearlong (and not entirely successful) stint on "The View" - now anchors a prime spot on MSNBC's afternoon lineup, acting as a lead-in for Chuck Todd's "MTP Daily," and going up against Jake Tapper on CNN and Neil Cavuto on Fox News.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jenny Volanakis.

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## ***As journalists, we decry this appalling editorial***

(Minneapolis Star-Tribune)

Editor's note: On Jan. 15, an editorial under the headline "Reason as Racism" appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, having first been published by its sister paper the Toledo Blade. In response, the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, the newsroom union, submitted a letter to the editor from 150 newsroom employees. It was not accepted for publication in the paper but appeared on the Guild's website. The Star Tribune is reprinting both items. To read the original editorial, click here.

To the Editor:

The Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, the union representing 150 reporters, photographers, copy editors, artists and other editorial employees at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, is collectively appalled and crestfallen by the repugnant editorial

"Reason as Racism." As a matter of course, the Guild does not weigh in on editorial positions, but this piece is so extraordinary in its mindless, sycophantic embrace of racist values and outright bigotry espoused by this country's President that we would be morally, journalistically, and humanly remiss not to speak out against it.

Read more [here](#), Shared by Doug Kienitz.

## Today in History - January 22, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2018. There are 343 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1968, the fast-paced sketch comedy program "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered as a weekly series on NBC-TV.

### On this date:

In 1498, during his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus arrived at the present-day Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.



In 1908, Katie Mulcahey became the first - and only - woman to run afoul of New York City's just-passed ban on females smoking in public establishments. (Mulcahey served a night in jail after refusing to pay a \$5 fine; the law, which did not specify any fines, ended up being vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr.)

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson, in an address to Congress, pleaded for an end to the war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.)

In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI.

In 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time in Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1953, the Arthur Miller drama "The Crucible," set during the Salem witch trials, opened on Broadway.

In 1957, George P. Metesky, suspected of being the "Mad Bomber" who injured 15 people over a 16-year period, was arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut. (Metesky was later found mentally ill and committed until 1973; he died in 1994.)

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers.

In 1998, Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

Ten years ago: Actor Heath Ledger, 28, was found dead of an accidental prescription overdose in a New York City apartment. Jose Padilla (hoh-ZAY' puh-

DEE'-uh), once accused of plotting with al-Qaida to blow up a radioactive "dirty bomb," was sentenced by a U.S. federal judge in Miami to 17 years and four months (later increased to 21 years) on other terrorism conspiracy charges. Republican Fred Thompson quit the race for the White House after a string of poor finishes in early primary and caucus states.

Five years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line bloc fared worse than expected in a parliamentary election, forcing Netanyahu to negotiate a broad coalition deal. An Indonesian court sentenced Lindsay June Sandiford, a British grandmother, to death for smuggling cocaine into Bali (Sandiford is appealing her sentence). Linda Pugach, who was blinded in 1959 when her lover, Burton Pugach, hired hit men to throw lye in her face - and became a media sensation after later marrying him - died in Queens, New York at age 75.

One year ago: After a combative start to his presidency, Donald Trump delivered a more unifying message and sought to reassure Americans he was ready to begin governing a divided nation. A robbery inside a San Antonio shopping mall ended with shots fired, leaving one person who tried to intervene dead (two suspects are charged with capital murder). Tom Brady led the New England Patriots to another big AFC championship game performance in a 36-17 rout of the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Atlanta Falcons blew out the Green Bay Packers in the NFC championship game, 44-21. Nathan Chen performed a near-flawless free skate featuring five quadruple jumps to become, at 17, the youngest men's U.S. figure skating champion in more than five decades at the competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 90. Actress Piper Laurie is 86. Celebrity chef Graham Kerr (TV: "The Galloping Gourmet") is 84. Actor Seymour Cassel is 83. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 81. Singer Steve Perry is 69. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 66. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 65. Actor John Wesley Shipp is 63. Hockey Hall of Famer Mike Bossy is 61. Actress Linda Blair is 59. Actress Diane Lane is 53. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 53. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 53. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 50. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 49. Actress Katie Finneran is 47. Actor Gabriel Macht is 46. Actor Balthazar Getty is 43. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 38. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 38. Pop singer Willa Ford is 37. Actress Beverley (cq) Mitchell is 37. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 37. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 36. Actress-singer Phoebe Strole is 35. Rapper Logic is 28. Tennis player Alize Cornet (uh-LEEZ' kohr-NAY') is 28. Actress Sami Gayle is 22.

***Thought for Today: "I know there's a proverb which that says 'To err is human,' but a human error is nothing to what a computer can do if it tries." - Dame Agatha Christie, English mystery writer (1890-1976).***

# 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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