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Connecting - February 04, 2019

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Connecting

February 04, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Here's a way to stretch your brain's memory cells as we begin a new week:

What did you learn in high school - whether on the staff of the school paper or yearbook or in journalism classes or from a journalism instructor - that shaped and

influenced your career?

Topics could include what you did (wrote stories, designed yearbook pages, took photos, etc.), lessons learned, First Amendment, teachers who had an impact, maybe how an award affected them, fun escapades in the J classroom, timeless words of wisdom, classmates who continued a journalism path, etc.

Thanks to our colleague **Suzette Heiman** ([Email](#)), a professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, for the suggestion. Now, get working on your assignment and send your recollections to Connecting to share with your colleagues. And, if you dare, accompany your post with a photo of you from your high school days.

If there were a vote among Connecting colleagues for their favorite Super Bowl commercial last night, it's my bet that the winner would be "Democracy Dies in Darkness" by The Washington Post. Click [here](#) to see why.



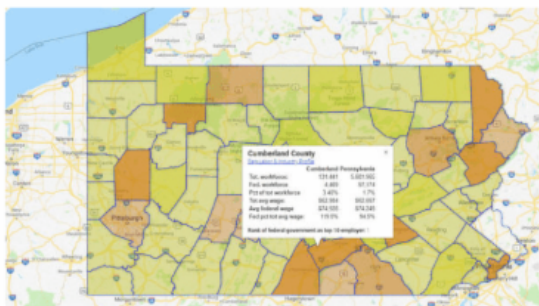
And read more about the ad below.

CORRECTION: In Friday's issue, the caption of a photo of AP's NFL writer Rob Maaddi incorrectly said he was chatting with Pro Football Hall of Famer Brian Dawkins. He was talking with movie producer Will Packer.

Have a great week!

Paul

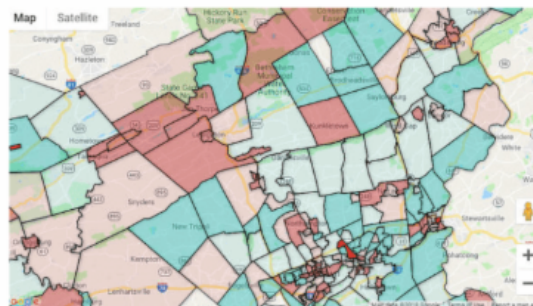
The AP is using data journalism to help strengthen local newsrooms



PENNSYLVANIA NEWS JAN. 12, 2019

Map: See where federal workers in Pennsylvania live, what they earn without a shutdown

The federal shutdown is now in its 22nd day, making it the longest closure in U.S. history. The shutdown hit the record Saturday, one day after paychecks were supposed to go out to the federal



DATA CENTER DEC. 26, 2018

MAP: How long can you expect to live in your eastern Pennsylvania neighborhood?

An Associated Press data project estimated neighborhood life expectancy for newborns in 65,662 census tracts throughout most of the country. The data reveal startling differences in how long one

By **KRISTEN HARE, Poynter**

The forces facing local news aren't all bad.

Report for America is putting more reporters in local newsrooms. ProPublica's adding local investigative journalists. And in the last three years, the Associated Press has worked with member newsrooms to localize data stories.

On Monday, the AP shared the results of a project it started to get localized data to local newsrooms and help journalists make the best use of it. In 2018, the AP saw 1,400 downloads from 300 local newsrooms on its data.world platform, said AP managing editor Brian Carovillano.

"Given the crisis in local news, I think it's something really notable," he said. "We're enabling local news coverage on hard-hitting topics at a really massive scale."

Read more [here](#).

Washington Post's Super Bowl debut



From Poynter's Morning Media Wire:

The Super Bowl is known for its iconic commercials.

Apple's "1984"-inspired ad. Cindy Crawford drinking Pepsi. Larry Bird and Michael Jordan playing H.O.R.S.E. for a Big Mac.

Now, it's journalism's turn. The Washington Post bought a 60-second commercial during Sunday's Super Bowl.

The ad, narrated by actor Tom Hanks, showed scenes from major news events from World War II through the present day. Hanks described the role of journalists as eyewitnesses and fact-gatherers. The commercial also showed several slain and missing journalists from the Post and other publications, including Jamal Khashoggi, who is alleged to have been killed at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul last year. The commercial ended with the Post's logo and slogan: "Democracy Dies in the Darkness."

"This was a chance for a broader message about the role journalists play in our everyday lives and the risks they take to bring us the facts," Fred Ryan, publisher and CEO of the paper, told the Post.

It's not known how much the Post paid for the ad, but CNBC reported that CBS was getting \$5.25 million for a 30-second slot. The fact that the Post might have paid upwards of \$10 million for the ad did not go over well with Fredrick Kunkle, a Post staff writer who is co-chair of the Washington-Baltimore News Guild.

In a series of tweets, Kunkle wrote:

"The Post is now paying, say, \$5M/30 seconds to tout journalistic freedom during one of the glitziest and -- given the NFL's knee-taking protests and concussions -- more controversial sporting events in our country."

"While I too am extremely proud of the Post and its legacy, this seems like an especially infuriating expense for a company that has a) tried to take away health care insurance from part-time employees b) moved everyone toward riskier forms of health insurance

"c) made it easier to lay people off d) cut their severance e) frozen their pensions and resisted the smallest enhancements to remaining retirement benefits until Sen. Bernie Sanders shamed it into doing so.

"f) refused to add a single day of paid parental leave to its measly four weeks and g) must know that other media companies, sensing trouble ahead, have been trimming staff."

The commercial, however, was powerful, especially for journalists and those who support journalism's role in society.

Donald Trump Jr., the president's son, was unmoved. He tweeted:

"You know how MSM journalists could avoid having to spend millions on a #superbowl commercial to gain some undeserved credibility? How about report the news and not their leftist BS for a change."

Right after the commercial aired, Post owner Jeff Bezos tweeted:

"Grateful for the journalists at the @washingtonpost and around the world who do the work, no matter the risk or dangers they face."

Sue Ferguson, wife of longtime AP Topeka correspondent Lew Ferguson, dies at 85

Sue Ann (Thomson) Ferguson (85) passed away peacefully at her home on January 23, 2019. She was born in Ponca City, Okla., on March 5, 1933, to John Albert Lawrence (Jack) and Dorothy (Huffman) Thomson.

Even though she was shy as a child, she loved to tell the story of how as a very young girl she got up on a table in Colorado Springs and sang the Texas Bluebonnet song to the troops stationed there. She enjoyed singing and acting out musicals with her playmates. As a leader in a junior high sorority system, administrators sought her help. She worked to shut down the elitist system, earning few friends but taking pride in doing the right thing.



Sue, Lew wedding day: June 5, 1958

She had an interest in journalism and served as co-editor of the Ponca City High School paper until her graduation in 1951. For years she would joke that her future husband, Lewis Ferguson, was "only" the sports editor. Lew had a long, distinguished career with The Associated Press as a sports and political reporter, culminating with his induction to journalism halls of fame in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Read more [here](#). If you would like to send a note to Sue and Lew's children, here are their emails: **Diane Ferguson** - aristeia.diane@gmail.com - and **Mike Ferguson** - luxon1964@yahoo.com

Memories of Jim Dietz



AP Communications staffers before the 2000 GOP convention in Philadelphia are, from left: Allen Soldani, New Orleans project manager; Felix Bae, New York Communications technician; Roseann Treloar, Philadelphia assistant chief of communications; Jim Dietz, State Photo Center senior project manager, and Gary Peerson, Cranbury technician. (Photo by Mark Humphrey, courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.

Bob Daugherty (Email) - I was speechless upon learning that Jim Dietz had passed away. I'm sure that there isn't a photographer or photo editor, some past and present, who would have more than one story of Jim pulling their bacon from the fire. Jim and the band of AP evangelists introducing members and AP staff to the Leaf machinery were basically moving us all, staff and members, from analog to digital-suddenly. As director of the State Photo Center I was blessed at different times with deputies that I called the best and brightest - Jim Dietz, Susan Wise and Bill Waugh. I also know that Getty Images has a massive hole in their hearts and in their staff.

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Doug Pizac (Email) - I'm a computer-oriented person at heart, starting out as a math/computer science major in college before switching to photography. I found Jim a wonderful resource for answers and to bounce things off of that helped me professionally and when I helped newspapers in SoCal with issues they had with the LeafDesk, Leafscan 35/45 and Leafax scanners. And he was a gem/pleasure to

work with when he was at the State Photo Center. His knowledge, wit and humor will be loss to all of us.

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Dave Tomlin (Email) - I am very sorry to learn of Jim Dietz's death. I worked alongside him during the time AP was replacing its LaserPhoto receivers with Leafdesks and trying to make a business out of persuading members to buy additional Leaf units and other equipment. The project was often severely polarized between those who trained members to get the most out of the new systems and those responsible for pushing sales. I remember appreciating Jim's contributions to the project, always constructive, cheerful and focused on helping everyone around him succeed.

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Ken Mainardis, Senior Vice President, Global Editorial, Getty Images, in a statement Saturday to Will Carleton's www.PhotoArchiveNews.com site:

We are devastated to confirm the death of our revered colleague, Jim Dietz, who died suddenly this week.

Jim has been with Getty Images for five years, based in New York; however, he is well-respected in the editorial world and has worked with and known many of us for much longer. The word 'genius' is one thrown around casually, particularly in the technology space, but it is hard to measure just how much Jim brought to the Getty Images team by way of competitive advantage. His ability to hook up the most difficult locations with unfeasibly large amounts of bandwidth, usually via innovative wireless technologies, genuinely blew the competition out of the water at some of the biggest events on the planet. This skill deployed on the side of alpine skiing venues in the most inhospitable mountains at the Winter Olympics particularly comes to mind.

Before joining Getty Images, Jim was also responsible for developing the latest version of the Associated Press' workflow tool and distribution system.

His passing is a devastating and shocking loss for his family and friends, Getty Images and the industry at large.

AP Photo of the Day



New England Patriots' Tom Brady holds his daughter, Vivian, after the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game against the Los Angeles Rams, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, in Atlanta. The Patriots won 13-3. MARK HUMPHREY AP PHOTO

Revolution in Iran, episode 2: Khomeini comes home



In this Feb. 1, 1979, file photo, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini sits inside the chartered airplane in Paris before flying back to Iran after 14 years of exile. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had expelled Khomeini from Iran in 1964, and he spent most of his time in Najaf, Iraq, but fled to France in 1978. He spent several months in Neauphle-Le-Chateau, a village outside Paris, where he launched the Iranian revolution 40 years ago. (AP Photo/Thierry Campion, File)

This year marks 40 years since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, when 2,500 years of monarchy gave way to a Shiite Muslim-led theocracy. In part 2 of this AP series, our reporters recall Khomeini's return home.

Click here to [view](#). Shared by Trenton Daniel.

Khomeini launched a revolution from a sleepy French village



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, a view of the entrance gate to Rue de Chevreuse, close to the cottage which served as Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's operational and media headquarters during his four month stay in October 1978, in Neauphle-Le-Chateau, west of Paris. Sheltered in a cottage in a sleepy village outside Paris, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini piped out messages daily to hundreds of followers clamoring to glimpse their glowering idol with black turban, and amplified his pronouncements with recorded messages to Iranians at home, turning his humble abode into an international megaphone for the Islamic revolution. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

By ELAINE GANLEY

NEAUPHLE-LE-CHATEAU, France (AP) - From a sleepy village outside Paris, the man who would become the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran sat cross-legged beneath an apple tree, delivering messages daily to hundreds of followers clamoring to glimpse the glowering cleric in the black turban.

For several months in late 1978 and early 1979, the humble site became a megaphone for the pronouncements of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that were sent back home to Iranians seeking to overturn 2,500 years of monarchical rule.

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had expelled Khomeini from Iran in 1964, and he spent most of his time in Najaf, Iraq, a pilgrimage city for Iranians and other Shiite Muslims. But Iraq, reportedly under pressure from the shah, forced the cleric to flee to France in 1978.

Read more [here](#).

AP, News Media Guild reach new tentative 3 1/2 year agreement

NEW YORK (AP) - The Associated Press and the News Media Guild on Thursday reached a tentative agreement on a new three-and-a-half-year contract that includes pay raises each year of the agreement and health care revisions.

The agreement comes after more than 17 months of negotiations and is subject to ratification of the union membership.

The tentative agreement will require employees choosing a premium plan to pay 20 percent of their health care plan costs by January 2022. The AP had initially sought the 20 percent contribution immediately. It also expands paid parental leave for new and adoptive parents, allows parents to use sick days to care for their children and adds coverage for mental health services.

"This was a very difficult bargaining but we are proud of the gains we made, particularly the increase in paid parental leave, the addition of insurance coverage for autism treatments and allowing employees to use sick leave to care for ill family members," said NMG President Jill Bleed. "We know the insurance increases are huge and the raises don't keep up with inflation, but we are also cognizant of what's happening at other news outlets."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Connecting mailbox

Memories sparked by Today in History item on Private Slovik execution

Cynthia Denham ([Email](#)) - Today, you included this fact for January 31:

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

Connecting and connections-William Bradford Huie from north Alabama was a friend. When they met, his second wife Martha was teaching art at Snead State Community College where I teach English, so I knew him from the late 70s until his death in 1986 and attended his funeral in Hartselle. Martha and I were friends from 1971 until her death in 2013. She was a force of nature, who is responsible for Bill's continued reprinted editions. There are not many of us remaining who knew Bill (I am now 72).

Bill's "The Execution of Private Slovik" was published in 1954, much to the dismay of Eisenhower and others, and the TV movie in 1974 was the most watched up until that time. Without his research and book, it might have been possible that this story would have stayed buried.

Martha's daughter has carried on to keep Huie's work in print. Bill's research on the King assassination "He Slew the Dreamer" has just been re-issued by the University of Mississippi Press with a new foreword by Riche Richardson, originally from Alabama and now a professor at Cornell. Riche is accomplished in her research, her art, and her publications.

Unfortunately, a recent book has called Bill a "liar" because Bill's version of the 1955 Emmett Till murder that Look Magazine published gives the confessions of Milam and Bryant after the white male jury acquitted them in an hour (they said they drank Coca-Colas to pass the time for an hour). The Look Magazine article indicates that it was just Milam and Bryant. Those were the only "releases" Bill could get. It was a "group effort" with others involved in the murder and mutilation of the boy; however, in judging the article, one should remember the times. Even to write the confession of Milam and Bryant in a national publication helped keep the story known. Bill said he was fearful for his life when he drove to Money, Mississippi, to interview the men, something many journalists can understand. It is easy to judge from the present looking back. Bill always said, "I'm in the truth business." I leave the debate about Bill paying Milam and Bryant \$4000 to give him their confession to others.

After Bill's reporting in World War II ended, he tried early broadcast journalism. On the Longines Chronoscope he conducted one of the early recorded political interviews with JFK in 1952. However, Bill left the national scene to return to Hartselle, Alabama, just as his journalism would find his home state embroiled in major national controversies in the 1960s. His house was shot into and crosses were burned in his yard as a result his courageous reporting.

The Eddie Slovik Today in History reminded me of the importance of not forgetting the important work of all journalists.

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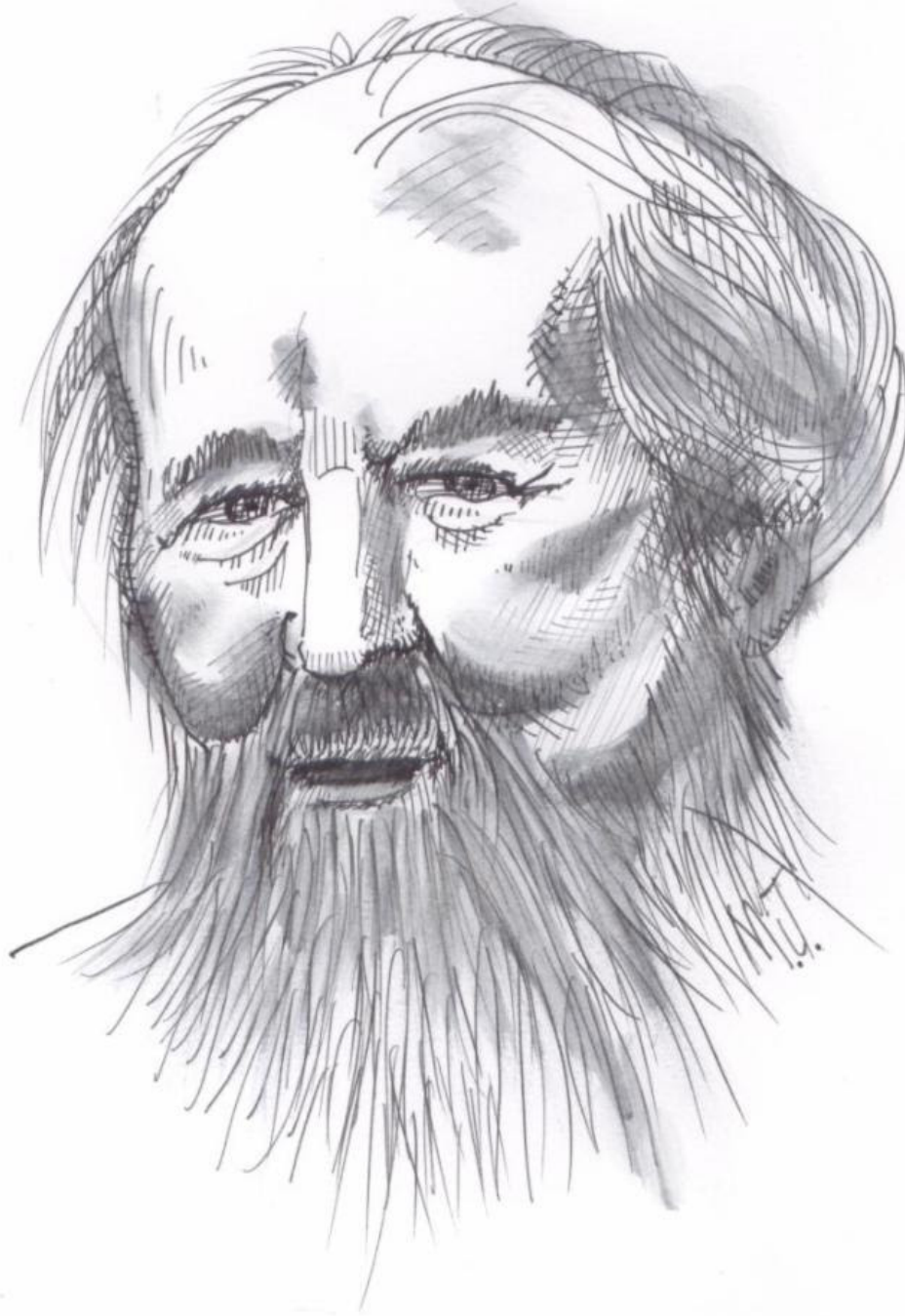
Connecting sky/elk shot - Colorado



Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - We had about 10 elk in the neighborhood. These elk munched breakfast for a while in our empty lot.

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Desperately Seeking Solzhenitsyn



Art work of Alexander Solzhenitsyn by Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson ([Email](#)) - I once spent two days roaming the Moscow suburbs in search of dissident Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn. He was in hiding after the announcement that he had just won the 1970 Nobel Prize for Literature. When we finally came face to face, he wasn't particularly happy to see me.

Solzhenitsyn had been tailed and harassed by the KGB for most of his life and had made a dangerous game of dodging the authorities. He considered any interaction

with the free-wheeling Western media to be foolhardy, and he was right.

Of course every correspondent in Moscow wanted to be the first to find him. I was a young AP reporter and I intended to be the one to smoke him out. I was unconcerned about the consequences this might have for him.

My search began with Lev Kopelev, a writer who was at a friendly stage in his up-and-down relationship with Solzhenitsyn. A few days before the scheduled Nobel announcement, I got to Lev through his wife Raisa Orlova, a literary translator.

My presence made Lev nervous but he tolerated our visit with good humor and agreed to be the intermediary for carrying the news to Solzhenitsyn if he won. He would not disclose Solzhenitsyn's whereabouts. This seemed a fair deal, given the risks.

Access to the AP teleprinter in the bureau meant that I would have the news the moment it was announced. If the news was good, I agreed that I would ring Lev, and he would ring Solzhenitsyn. I would get nothing from the arrangement other than the satisfaction of being the messenger.

A week later, I was on duty at the AP when the teleprinter came alive, bells ringing, with a one-paragraph bulletin from our Stockholm office quoting the Swedish Academy as awarding the prize to Solzhenitsyn. I let out an involuntary whoop. Before the paragraph had finished clattering, I was on the phone to Lev, who received the news with an even greater whoop. He immediately relayed the news to Solzhenitsyn by phone. I was still none the wiser as to his address.

With no further help from Lev, I set about contacting Russian acquaintances who might have an inkling of Solzhenitsyn's contact details. He could have been almost anywhere. Moscow was then a city of 6 million.

Burning with determination, I followed up some new leads confided to me by a cellist acquaintance, Natalya Gutman, a protégée of the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. She told me she had heard that Solzhenitsyn was spending a lot of time at Rostropovich's dacha in Zhukovka, a cluster of comfortable homes where some of the scientific and artistic elite lived, about 30 minutes from Moscow. "He and might be there now," she said.

This was what a hungry AP journalist would call a hot tip. The following day I brought along an Italian colleague, Pietro Sormani of *Corriere della Sera* and a Swiss journalist, Roger Bernheim of *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, for the hunt. We drove straight through the icy fog to Zhukovka early in the morning, ignoring the 30-mile restriction of foreigners' travel that was in force at the time. The police did not bother us.

We quickly found our way to Dmitri Shostakovich's house, the first landmark Ms. Gutman had indicated, and there we were flagged down by a short, stout policewoman in a bulky overcoat and fur hat. Bluffing our way through her questions, I asked outright where Rostropovich's dacha was. Surprisingly, she gave us directions in the most clear and courteous manner. We had been prepared for a worst-case outcome - a reprimand or possible arrest for running around loose in a state-run complex without authorization.

We followed the rambling pathways and eventually came upon the cellist's dacha. It reminded me of the big wooden farm houses in Indiana where I grew up. We cautiously climbed the steps, snow squeaking underfoot, our teeth chattering and knees knocking from the chill and the excitement. It was mid-winter under the usual leaden skies.

A lone birch tree, covered in frost, was struggling to survive on the front lawn. Nothing stirred.

I knocked at the door, expecting Rostropovich or his wife Galina Vishnevskaya, the operatic diva, to appear. A housemaid answered the door promptly. She was a peasant woman in her 50s, missing most of her teeth, a scarf over her hair and an apron over her sweater and woolen skirt. She looked like she needed a bath. I asked to see Rostropovich, and she replied matter-of-factly, "*Khozyain za rubezhom.*" ("The master is abroad.")

I then inquired whether Alexander Solzhenitsyn was living there. "I have never heard the name," she said, "but there's a man with a beard living in the garage over there," pointing to the outbuilding across the property. Hmmm, we thought. A beard. Could it be him?

We thanked the maid and set out across the snow-covered lawn to the garage. I approached the door and knocked a few times. When no one responded, I called out "Alexander Isayevich?" A pause of a few seconds ensued, then came a piercing voice, none too inviting, "*Kto eto?*" ("Who's there?") I replied that we were foreign journalists from Moscow who had come to congratulate him on his Nobel Prize.

The door burst open and we were transfixed by this little man with a magnificent head of reddish hair that spread down his face into a bushy beard. He gave us the once over with his beady blue eyes.

We recognized him immediately as the author of a series of literary masterpieces, all banned in Russia. When he was satisfied in his own mind that we were not KGB operatives in disguise, he confirmed his identity.

Solzhenitsyn spoke rapidly, like a man with a lot on his mind, in a strange, high-pitched voice. I started by asking him for his reaction to being selected for the Nobel (probably some inane question such as "How does it feel?"). He avoided the

question, perhaps dreading headlines around the world that might make his situation even more difficult.

He replied that he regretted he could not invite us into his humble quarters because he was a guest himself in the apartment owned by Rostropovich. It seemed like a poor excuse to turn us away but we understood the real reason.

We could see inside that he was housed in a partially completed apartment being constructed inside the garage. The danger that this represented for Rostropovich - harboring an outspoken critic of the regime - was not lost upon us. Both of these men were heroic figures willing to risk their lives to speak out for human rights in Russia.

The conversation that followed was brief and to the point. Solzhenitsyn confirmed that he knew about the prize (from Lev) but felt he could not comment on it because his host was away. He seemed doubtful about our motives and probably wondered about our common sense. He was obviously not prepared for our questions. He said he had made no decision about whether to accept the prize. And he repeated how much he regretted that we could not be invited in for tea. He was talking in circles.

I told him we fully understood, and did not intend to bother him further, and with that we wished him the best of luck and departed.

As we made our way back to my car, I stopped to take a photo of the garage with the trembling birch tree, a fitting symbol for the events we were witnessing, in the foreground. It was published internationally along with the story confirming that Solzhenitsyn had not yet been bothered by the authorities and was sheltered by his friend Rostropovich. I threw in a couple of quotes, hoping the reader would grasp how restrained Solzhenitsyn was acting, and why.

Just another day at The AP on top of the news.

Best of the Week

AP Exclusive: Secret diplomacy behind Venezuela's self-declared interim president



Juan Guaidó, center, Venezuela's self-declared interim president, greets supporters after a rally on a public plaza in Las Mercedes neighborhood of Caracas, Jan. 26, 2019. The U.S., Canada and a coalition of Latin American countries recognize Guaidó as the country's rightful president, and have called on socialist President Nicolas Maduro to resign. AP Photo / Fernando Llano

The world watched enthralled on Jan. 23 as little-known Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó declared himself president of the struggling South American nation and called on socialist President Nicolas Maduro to resign. More surprising still was the fact the 35-year-old Guaidó was almost immediately recognized as the country's rightful leader by the United States, Canada and a host of Latin American countries.

The timing was clearly no coincidence, but what exactly had happened?

Journalists throughout the Americas raced to find answers. Bogota, Colombia-based Andean News Director Josh Goodman, Toronto-based Canada Bureau Chief Rob Gillies and Washington newsman Luis Alonso scooped them all with first-rate source work that revealed a coordinated behind-the-scenes push that read more like a spy novel than real world events.

For weeks, a coalition of Latin American governments had launched secret diplomatic efforts, including encrypted messages and a furtive trip by Guaido to Washington, Bogota and Brasilia to build a strategy around the baby-faced Assembly president. To leave Venezuela, Guaido had sneaked across the lawless border with Colombia, so as not to raise suspicions among immigration officials who sometimes bar opposition figures from traveling abroad, an anti-government leader told AP.

Sharing tips across time zones, each journalist relied on sources cultivated over years, leading to the exclusive. People who met with Guaido in Washington were told not to talk about his visit for fear the opposition's bold move would be framed as a U.S.-orchestrated plot. Gillies' access to high-level diplomats shed light on Canada's surprisingly assertive role in the secret diplomacy. From Caracas, Goodman held late-night conversations with at least one prominent activist and a U.S. official whose communications are under intense surveillance. Meanwhile, Alonso was meeting with a diplomat representing a country in the multinational coalition that advocates democratic reform in Venezuela. The diplomat briefed him on issues including details of Guaido's secret trip to Bogota and the coalition's role in Guaido assuming the interim presidency.

Sharing tips across time zones, the team relied on sources cultivated over years.

So far, the AP is the only media outlet to have told this story, and it has been widely used inside and outside Venezuela. Even embattled President Maduro praised the AP scoop to supporters at a rally over the weekend, while his foreign minister mentioned it to the world's diplomats at an emergency U.S. Security Council meeting.

For their resourceful and consequential news break on one of the top stories in the world, Goodman, Gillies and Alonso win AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

Trump rollbacks benefit fossil fuel industry but carry steep cost



The Dave Johnston coal-fired power plant is silhouetted in Glenrock, Wyo., July 27, 2018. As the Trump administration rolls back environmental and safety rules for the U.S. energy sector, government projections show billions of dollars in savings reaped by companies will come at a steep cost: increased premature deaths and illnesses from air pollution, a jump in climate-warming emissions and more derailments of trains carrying explosive fuels. AP Photo / J. David Ake

Over the past two years, the Trump administration has relentlessly moved to relax or repeal major environmental and safety rules for the fossil fuels industry to further its energy goals. Each change was reported by news outlets, including the AP. But Billings, Montana, correspondent and environment team member Matthew Brown decided to look more deeply into the highly touted savings to industry as well as the societal costs.

For months, Brown painstakingly examined 11 major rules targeted by Trump's administration. Using the government's own detailed projections required by executive order, he sought to find how much businesses would benefit and the public would be harmed by the widespread deregulation.

Wading through many thousands of pages of government documents and researching each rule's history, Brown built a spreadsheet to summarize what he found. He identified \$11.6 billion in potential savings for companies that produce, use and transport fossil fuels. Billions of dollars more are expected to come from the freeze of vehicle fuel efficiency standards that will produce a 79 billion-gallon hike in fuel consumption.

But Brown also discovered that those savings will come at a steep cost, including more premature deaths and illnesses from air pollution, increased greenhouse gas emissions and additional derailments of trains carrying explosive fuels.

He was able to authoritatively illustrate sweeping impacts such as: up to 1,400 premature deaths from the pending repeal of a rule for cutting coal plant pollution; an increase of greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade that equates to the annual emissions from about 200 million vehicles; increased water contamination from fracking; and fewer safety checks to avoid offshore oil spills like the 2010 Gulf of Mexico disaster.

To round out reporting on such complex rules, Brown reached out to industry experts and former government officials to check his methodology and to get comment and interpretation of the AP analysis.

Through use of meticulously reported examples, he was able to conclude that the administration has tried to support the rules changes by emphasizing, and sometimes exaggerating, economic gains while minimizing negative impacts. While researching the story, he also discovered that the administration mistakenly understated by \$171 million the societal benefits of improving the brakes of oil trains to avoid derailments.

His Only on AP was accompanied by photos and a glance describing each of the 11 rules and the impacts. The package ran on front pages of at least 16 newspapers, including many in the oil and gas states of Texas and California, and on numerous web sites. The Washington Post displayed both the main-bar and glance.

For in-depth reporting and comprehensive accounting of the administration's actions on important environmental and safety issues, Brown wins this week's Best of the States.

Welcome to Connecting



Judy Capar - judy.capar@gmail.com

Jean Capellos - jcapellos@gmail.com

Tom Goodman - fddodger@gmail.com

Tom Horan - tomhoran1@verizon.net

Richard Keltner - rkeltner2001@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

Newsonomics: Amid screaming alarms, consolidation mania turns feverish (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

Alden's going to snatch Gannett! No, Gannett's going to turn the tables and buy Alden's Digital First Media! But wait, Gannett will reject Alden - is that a real offer? - and turn its attention to merging with Tribune! No, Tribune - having dispatched its CEO Justin Dearborn to clear the way for a deal - will buy Gannett, or accept the kind-of offer from Gannett to buy it, which it rejected last year? But, then, there's McClatchy in the wings, having been spurned by Tribune at the holidays and now angling for a new deal with Tribune, or Gannett, or maybe someone else!

So go the fortunes of four of the six largest U.S. daily newspaper companies. The journalists' Twitter is alight with Game of Thrones metaphors, but I think that's misplaced. The action seems more Bravo-esque, The Desperate Housewives of

Main Street, perhaps. Or, more prosaically, as one newspaper company exec told me Wednesday, "The pressure for consolidating is only intensifying."

Read more [here](#).

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Lawyers for Nick Sandmann Send Over 50 Letters to Media Organizations, Celebrities: 'They Know They Crossed the Line' (Newsweek)

By MARIA PEREZ

The attorneys that are representing the Covington Catholic High School student who went viral after engaging in a confrontation with a Native American have sent over 50 letters to media outlets, Catholic organizations, celebrities and individuals to begin the first steps to possible libel and defamation lawsuits.

The list, which was obtained by the Cincinnati Enquirer, shows 54 names and organizations on the list of possible lawsuits, including The New York Times, CNN, presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren, actress Alyssa Milano, comedian Jim Carrey, and Times journalist Maggie Haberman. The Catholic dioceses of Covington and Lexington, as well as the archdioceses of Louisville and Baltimore, were also on the list, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Covington student, Nick Sandmann, and his friends went viral after a video of them wearing "Make America Great Again" hats while confronting a Native American beating a drum at an Indigenous Peoples Rally in January. Todd McMurty from Kentucky and L. Lin Wood from Atlanta Georgia are legally representing the Sandmann and his family, the Cincinnati Enquirer reported. The attorneys told the publication they sent the letters at the end of the day on Friday.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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AP's Daniel Ochoa denied entry Jan. 20

Immigrant rights attorneys and journalists denied entry into Mexico (Los Angeles Times)

By KATE LINTHICUM, CINDY CARCAMO and MOLLY O'TOOLE

Two U.S. immigrant rights attorneys and two journalists who have worked closely with members of a migrant caravan in Tijuana said they had been denied entry into Mexico in recent days after their passports were flagged with alerts by an unknown government.

Their stories are nearly identical: All four report being detained by Mexican immigration authorities while trying to enter the country, and eventually being turned back because the authorities said their passports had been flagged.

It is unclear which government or governments, if any, might have issued the alerts.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment Friday, and the Homeland Security Department and Customs and Border Protection did not respond to requests for comment. The Justice Department directed The Times to Mexican officials. Representatives for the Mexican government did not respond to requests for comment.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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The Newseum was a grand tribute to the power of journalism. Here's how it failed. (Washington Post)

A view of the Washington skyline from inside the Newseum. (Katherine Frey/The Washington Post)

By Peggy McGlone and Manuel Roig-Franzia

A bald eagle named Challenger shot into the sky on that day in April 2008 as the Newseum celebrated the unveiling of its sumptuous building with the soaring facade just steps from the U.S. Capitol. A Marine band played before an A-list audience that included the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief justice of the United States and titans of the newspaper industry.

Al Neuharth, the brash USA Today founder whose grand vision was coming to fruition, gushed about "this glamorous glass house" that had sprouted on land bought at the highest price ever for a chunk of real estate in the city's history. The new museum's chief executive, Charles Overby, declared that they were "laying down a marker right here on Pennsylvania Avenue that the First Amendment is the cornerstone of our democracy."

It was a dazzling start that gave no hint of the dizzying fall to come.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber.

Today in History - February 4, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2019. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

On this date:

In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1913, Rosa Parks, a black woman whose 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus to a white man sparked a civil rights revolution, was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee.

In 1938, the Thornton Wilder play "Our Town" opened on Broadway. Walt Disney's animated feature "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opened in general U.S. release.

In 1944, the Bronze Star Medal, honoring "heroic or meritorious achievement or service," was authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1962, a rare conjunction of the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn occurred.

In 1983, pop singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, California, at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, California, home at age 67.

In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, California, found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In 1999, Amadou Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, was shot and killed in front of his Bronx home by four plainclothes New York City police officers. (The officers were acquitted at trial.)

In 2004, the Massachusetts high court declared that gay couples were entitled to nothing less than marriage, and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice. The social networking website Facebook had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama imposed a \$500,000 cap on executive pay for companies receiving federal bailout money; the president also signed a bill extending health coverage to 4 million uninsured children. Lux Interior, co-founder and lead singer of the horror-punk band The Cramps, died in Glendale, Calif., at age 62.

Five years ago: The Congressional Budget Office said several million American workers would reduce their hours on the job or leave the workforce entirely because of incentives built into President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

One year ago: The Philadelphia Eagles, led by backup quarterback Nick Foles, became NFL champs for the first time since 1960, beating Tom Brady and the New England Patriots 41-33 in the Super Bowl. An Amtrak passenger train slammed into a parked freight train in the early-morning darkness in South Carolina after a thrown switch sent it hurtling down a side track; the conductor and engineer were killed and more than 100 passengers were injured. Indianapolis Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson and his Uber driver were struck and killed as they stood on the shoulder of an Indianapolis highway. (The driver of the truck that hit them, a man from Guatemala living illegally in the United States, would be sentenced to 16 years in prison for the drunken-driving crash.) Actor John Mahoney, who played the dad of two psychiatrists on the TV show "Frasier," died in Chicago at the age of 77.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jerry Adler is 90. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 88. Actor Gary Conway is 83. Actor John Schuck is 79. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 78. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 77. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 72. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 71. Actor Michael Beck is 70. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 67. Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor is 60. Actress Pamelyn Ferdin is 60. Rock singer Tim Booth is 59. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 58. Country singer Clint Black is 57. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 56. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 53. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 49. Actor Rob Corddry is 48. Singer David (dah-VEED') Garza is 48. Actor Michael Goorjian is 48. TV personality Nicolle Wallace is 47. Olympic gold medal boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 46. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 44. Singer Natalie Imbruglia (em-BROO'-lee-ah) is 44. Rapper Cam'ron is 43. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 42. Rock singer Zoe Manville is 35. Actor/musician Bashy, AKA Ashley Thomas, is 34. Actor Charlie Barnett is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 31. Actress Kyla Kenedy (cq) (TV: "Speechless") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Habit is necessary; it is the habit of having habits, of turning a trail into a rut, that must be incessantly fought against if one is to remain alive." - Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).

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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