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Connecting
February 22, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021,

Our spotlight for today's Connecting Spotlight shines on our colleague **Dan Day**, whose 23-year AP career included chief of bureau positions in Omaha, Seattle, San Francisco and Trenton before going to the member side as managing editor of the Fresno Bee. Nine years ago, he and his wife **Becky** returned to the East Coast when he joined Princeton University, where today he is director of operations for communications and public affairs.

I've been lucky enough to know Dan and his Dodge City, Kan., bride for years and am grateful he shared the profile. Got a favorite memory of working with him? Please send along.

### An errant email...

Last week, when sending notes out to our new members inviting them to submit a profile and photo, I made a slight error in the Gmail address for **Bill Lohmann** 

(columnist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch) and it ended up in the mailbox of an optometrist on the west coast of Norway who shares the same last name. That doctor was kind enough to let me know of my errant address. As for Bill, he didn't know the man but said there are Lohmann's all over Norway and Germany. Guess that made me feel better...

With an email address, there is no such thing as a slight error. It's correct or it's not. Got your own experiences to share with an errant email? I would love the company, so send along.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

# Connecting profile Dan Day



Dan Day in a selfie in front of one of the tiger sculptures that flank the main entrance to Nassau Hall, the Princeton University administration building. Dan has been working remotely from home since last March, and he looks forward to returning to his office in the building next door, Maclean House, which like Nassau Hall was built in 1756.



Dan has enjoyed the opportunity to meet world-renowned people during his nearly nine years at Princeton. Here, he poses with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, basketball legend, writer and social activist, who received an honorary degree in 2017.

## What are you doing these days?

My wife, Becky, and I are alive and well and living in Lawrence Township, New Jersey, just south of Princeton University, where I am director of operations for

communications and public affairs. Major duties include oversight of trademark licensing, plus budgeting and HR administration for the communications and public affairs division. I'm also involved in the university's efforts in messaging on all things related to the COVID pandemic.

On the volunteer side, I'm on the board of directors for the Princeton Federal Credit Union and I'm president of the board for CivicStory, a New Jersey non-profit news organization affiliated with the Institute for Nonprofit News headed by our former colleague Sue Cross.

## How did you get your first job? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

Dion Henderson hired me into the Milwaukee bureau in 1981, calling me up from my first reporting job, at the Ottawa (Illinois) Daily Times. Most of my early AP memories are of taking dictation from sportswriter Mike O'Brien and learning all the spelling variants of "Menomonee" as Mike shouted stories into the phone from the state high school basketball tournament.

What were your different past jobs, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each? As a newsman and broadcast editor in MI, I did just about everything an AP person could do: reported on the brewing industry, handled breaking stories phoned in by broadcasters, did solo shifts on Sundays, staying a few minutes late to finish off voicers for AP Radio, booking the day's report with a hammer, big nail and golden clasp.

I loved every minute of it, except when COB Henderson excoriated me for misspelling the name of Donald Minniecheske, leader of the survivalist group Posse Comitatus.



"Wheels down, wheels up" duty in September 1988 on the tarmac at Grand Island airport, near Air Force One, on which President Ronald Reagan arrived for an

appearance in central Nebraska. Standing with me is Mike Will of radio station KICS in nearby Hastings.

I moved on to news editor in Omaha in 1983, was promoted to correspondent in 1985 and named Nebraska bureau chief in 1988. Those Cornhusker years were a blast, as I got to travel the state and make forays over the border into Colorado, South Dakota and Iowa.

We packed up the family for my second COB gig, in Seattle in 1989 when Microsoft, Nirvana and Starbucks were in their ascendancy. We moved on to San Francisco in 1993 just as the internet and world wide web were taking hold. It was on to New York Membership as a general executive in 1999, and then a brief but fun stop as bureau chief in Trenton in 2003 before I left the cooperative in 2004.

I had a cup of coffee with a New Jersey PR firm before moving back to California in 2005 to become managing editor of The Modesto Bee. I signed on at Princeton in 2012.

## What was the biggest story or stories you covered or handled?

So many choices. I'll go with the arrest and almost-trial of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski.

### Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

There aren't enough pixels on the planet to give proper credit. Let me cite four of the people to whom I reported directly: Dion Henderson, Pat Arnold, Dave Tomlin and Wick Temple. Each inspired me, taught me, mentored me, backed me and showed great care for my family through it all. There was also a guy in LA named Lippman....

## What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I've become a birder in recent years. Lugging my camera around keeps me mentally fresh and modestly fit. When I need a little extra aggravation, I play a round of golf. To compensate for the aggravation, I crank up my guitars and drink one of my homebrewed beers.

### What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

When I transferred to Seattle from Omaha, my wife and I and our two kids piled into our Volkswagen Vanagon and spent 10 days roaming the west. The Nebraska panhandle, Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, Devil's Tower, Custer Battlefield — we took our time and soaked it all in.



Becky and me on vacation in Naples, Florida, a couple of winters back.

## Names of your family members and what they do?

My wife, Becky, is well known to my AP contemporaries. In the past few years she's worked part-time as a meeting planner and handled several state AP contests. She's now handling a news contest for the Kentucky Broadcasters Association. Daughter Katie, married with two kids, is a metallurgist working for an industrial firm outside Detroit. Son Liam, married with a newborn, is a symphony musician (trumpet) based in New York City. Tim, our youngest, is a software engineer working remotely for a computer gaming company. He just moved from the San Francisco area to his native Seattle.

## Would I do it over again?

Yes, I would, just as it happened, only with WiFi. I'm grateful for the 23 years I spent with AP, more than a third of my life. I developed wonderful friendships with colleagues and members, and I got to tell stories to a world-wide audience. That's a fortunate career.

## Dan Day's email - daniel.a.day1@gmail.com

# Hal Boyle told mothers about their sons on the front lines



Hal Boyle, Associated Press war correspondent, writes a dispatch on North African fighting on April 1, 1943. (AP Photo/Harrison Roberts)



WAR CORRESPONDENT: AP's Hal Boyle sits in a foxhole during World War II.

(AP Photos/Corporate Archives)

# By Marc Lancaster World War II on Deadline

Hal Boyle might not have the most recognizable name these days, but he may have been the most widely read U.S. correspondent during World War II.

The Associated Press stalwart, who was born Feb. 21, 1911 (not July 24, as Wikipedia says), landed with American troops in North Africa and covered their progress through Sicily, Italy, Normandy and eventually into Germany. Throughout those campaigns, his regular column, "Leaves from a War Correspondent's Notebook," appeared in hundreds of newspapers. And as an AP reporter, he also chipped in with standard news stories several times a week — usually from the midst of the action.

"You've got to be up there with the troops when they're taking it to get the real drama," he once said.

The son of a Kansas City butcher, Boyle found quickly that he related to those men at the sharp end. As his AP colleague Don Whitehead wrote in May 1945: "He fell in love with the American infantry back in North Africa and always believed it was the infantryman who would win the war."

Read more **here**. Shared by Bob Seavey, Paul Albright.

# On covering death of Rush Limbaugh

**David Briscoe** (<u>Email</u>) - The AP reporter who wrote the Rush Limbaugh obit posted that he got messages from Limbaugh supporters, none of whom liked the story and at least one who threatened bodily harm.

And yet, there's also blowback from a few of Matt Sedensky's colleagues, some of whom seem to think obituaries must follow a particular formula of summing up an essential truth about the departed in the first paragraph.

There were, in fact, at least two versions of Matt's story -- both of which were excellent. One was brilliant.

Dan Froomkin of the online "Press Watch" (which calls itself "an intervention for political journalism) called the original AP lede "effusive":

"Rush Limbaugh, the talk radio host who ripped into liberals and laid waste to political correctness with a gleeful malice that made him one of the most powerful voices in politics, influencing the rightward push of American conservatism and the rise of Donald Trump, died Wednesday. He was 70."

"Gleeful malice" is hardly a phrase of praise and there's plenty of disagreement on Trump and the state of American conservatism. So, hardly effusive. The writer obviously is not endorsing anything about Limbaugh.

But it's Matt's showcase follow-up that sums the man up so brilliantly in three paragraphs:

"Rush Limbaugh called himself a truth detector, doctor of democracy, lover of mankind, all-around good guy and harmless fuzz ball, titles his legions of followers embraced as he boomed from their radios in a daily ritual.

"To those who hated him, the names he conjured were often unfit for print.

"Such was the nature of Limbaugh, who died of lung cancer Wednesday at the age of 70: Prized by adherents as the voice of conservatism, pilloried by critics as the worst of American politics' extreme right wing."

Yet, even this bit of truth in talented prose received the criticism of a handful of colleagues for leading with Limbaugh's distorted idea of himself.

I and some others give it nothing but admiration.

Full disclosure: I worked with Sedensky early in his AP career and know he hasn't a biased feather in his quill. He's a talented reporter and writer and his obituary of Limbaugh is a brilliantly written and reported piece of which the AP can be proud.

I dread to think some editor might have told Matt to basically rewrite and slant the story as a critique of Limbaugh rather than brilliantly leading with that ironic, twisted

and well documented view he had of himself.

The distorting and misplaced criticism and selective quotes in the "Press Watch" critique, at least as they apply to The AP obit, are the other side of the coin of the Trump realm, "fake news". It's fake liberal criticism.

The favored story for "Press Watch" was one that bluntly labeled Limbaugh bigoted in the lead.

What the AP obit does not do is paint Limbaugh as a baboon alongside the Trump orangutan as many liberals view him or as simply the winner of Trump's Presidential Medal of Freedom as his fans might have preferred.

I love the calling out of political lies which was rarely done when I worked in journalism -- nor was there as much lying, I think. But I'm still old fashioned enough to prefer that departure stories be truthful without sarcasm, name-calling or editorializing. They also must be unfailingly accurate in describing and quoting views on as many sides as possible.

We can no more shill for liberals than for conservatives, and this obituary does neither.

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**William Pekala** (Email) - I don't know how much input you have in the daily newsletter but the article by Dan Froomkin about a dead man has no place regardless of how your politics run - it is a despicable rant - he seems to have forgotten what his mother should have taught him - "If you can't say anything good about someone - keep your mouth shut when speaking of the dead." That said - I enjoy the newsletter immensely.

# 'People of color' - a term that's discriminating, racist and insulting

**Lelieu Browne** (Email) - I have often been accused of being over-sensitive or over-reactive for a slightest critic against me. In the past, I would brood for hours or even for days if someone close to me accidently makes a bad joke about me. In nature, I am shy and too slow to react when confronted with an event or an opponent. I have grown mellow at old age and take life with a grain of salt.

All is said, and yet, one issue continues to upset me although it is considered politically correct to everybody else. Every time I hear it on television news or read in the newspaper, I keep crying out that it's discriminating, racist and insulting.

That is "people of color."

Throughout my life, seven decades to count, I have heard all kinds of insulting expressions thrown at citizens who don't look like the whites. Annamites for the

Vietnamese citizens living under the French colony. Japs, Chinook, and Chink for Chinese. There is no doubt that each country has its own racist discrimination, Rohinga in Myanmar. The Vietnamese used to call the Americans living in Vietnam as "big nose."

Back in the 50s, I was student in France and England. I vividly remember a singular encounter with a French professor in class. Out of nowhere as I was reviewing my lesson, she came to stand in front of my desk and directly confronted me by addressing these words: "I don't understand why you, your people, fight against us. We have brought you education, built roads and bridges and health care. We build hospitals and technology to farm. So why are you against us?"

"You are a bunch of colons who exploit and rob our rich resources for your advantages," I was so shocked and was about to spit on her with those words, but I restrained myself, being a school girl and she could expel me for being insolent. But that was the mentality of the French colons.

In London, for no reason, I was insulted by a bus passenger who called me a colored girl. I got snared at whenever I stepped into a restaurant.

That word "color" stroke me as racist and offensive then. When I arrived in this country in early 60s, "Negro" was regarded as a condescending address but still being heard in the streets until Black people started to revolt. And yet, these days the Americans lump us of all races as "people of color," and somehow it is acceptable as correctly respective word referred to any race different from white. Somehow white is not considered as color.

I cringe whenever I hear it out of the mouth of Black, Asian, India or Middle East. We are the "people of color," while white people are not "colored." We do have our identity as Asians, Middle Eastern, Indian or Native Americans. We are all Americans and like all white Americans, we are originally immigrants who come to the United States and to adopt new culture, new spirit of freedom and new way of life, like white Americans from Eastern Europe, former USRR and Europe who came here before us. We call ourselves Asian-Americans, Black Americans, Indian-Americans, etc. That would identify our race and culture. "People of color" sounds like we all share a common culture and aliens different from the whites.

I am aware that "people of color" is commonly used these days and I may be the only person who feels differently.

# Connecting mailbox

# No unusual email address, but how about this license plate?

**Dinesh Ramde** (<u>Email</u>) - I don't have an unusual email address, but I did have a license plate I was proud of.

I was hired into the Milwaukee bureau in 2005. When I went to register my car in Wisconsin, I noticed it was only \$5 more for a personalized plate (when I lived in California it was \$100+). So I figured, why not?

At first I considered going with something that would show off my AP affiliation. But APWRITR or APRPRTR seemed pretentious, if not indecipherable.



Next, as a Boston sports fan, I considered something related to my Red Sox, Celtics or Patriots. But that seemed cliche.

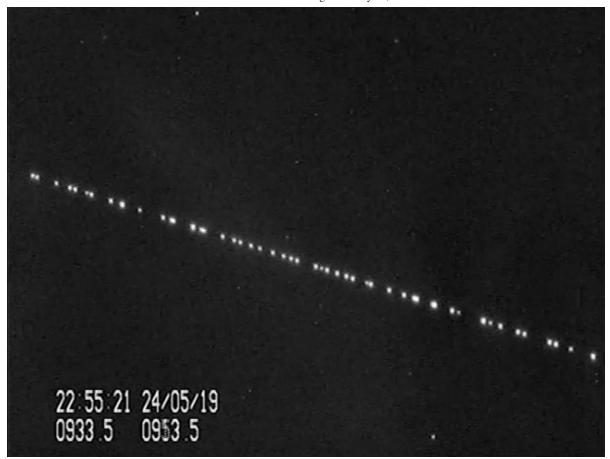
Finally I tried to come up with something clever that had AP within it, as my own inside joke whenever I saw it. But I couldn't come up with anything good.

Anyway, that night I happened to be watching some Red Sox highlights. The announcers referred to slugger David Ortiz by his famous nickname, and the lightbulb went off.

BIG PAPI has seven letters, it has AP in it, it referred to my favorite player, and the translation fed my delusion that I'm more of a bad\*ss than I really am. :)

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# Look! Up in the sky! It's a...



A train of SpaceX Starlink satellites are visible in the night sky in this still from a video captured by satellite tracker Marco Langbroek in Leiden, the Netherlands on May 24, 2019, just one day after SpaceX launched 60 of the Starlink internet communications satellites into orbit. (Image credit: Marco Langbroek via SatTrackBlog)

**Cliff Schiappa** (<u>Email</u>) - Certainly there were other early risers Friday morning who happened to look up in the sky to confirm what I had just seen. To be sure, I was sober, I never use drugs, and had been awake for 30 minutes so I was clear-eyed and alert.

Sitting in my hot tub at 5:18 a.m., I saw in the sky a string of lights, about 20 or 30 of them, all in a perfectly straight line, but not evenly spaced, moving in a southeasterly direction over Palm Springs. I could not determine their altitude, so I couldn't guess at their size or speed. Visually they were two or three times larger and brighter than stars in the sky and the formation was moving smoothly and completely silently. I jumped out of the hot tub, ran in to get my cell phone, but by then the lights had moved too far to make a video. I then checked FlightRadar24, an app that tracks aircraft movement, and there were no commercial or general aviation aircraft in the area.

I got on my laptop and posted what I saw on NextDoor, a web-based neighborhood gathering spot slightly similar to Facebook. Perhaps there was an early morning dog walker who happened to look up? I also sent an email to a pickleball bud who serves on the city's Aviation Committee asking if he could check with anyone who may have been working the airport control tower at that time.

Within minutes a neighbor replied on NextDoor proving that I was not suffering from visual delusions, saying that what I had seen was the Starlink satellite array, a series of satellites that are launched together and used for internet connectivity. He also included this URL that explained it further: https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-satellites-night-sky-visibility-guide.html

I was glad to have a reasonable explanation, but part of me was hoping it was a UFO of some sort, after all, who knows what goes on out in the vast desert expanses of the southwest!

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## Firefalls at Yosemite



**Nick Ut** (<u>Email</u>) - I am here in Yosemite, California, taking pictures of the Firefalls. The Firefalls at the Horsetail Fall light up with the sunset light striking the face of El Capitan

in Yosemite National Park on Saturday. Hundreds of people waited for up to four hours to watch the natural phenomenon.

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**Michael Weinfeld** (<u>Email</u>) – John Dowling's and Chris Connell's photos of their beagles in snow chutes: Not just beagles, Chris & John. Labradoodles, too! Fenway loved running up and down the chute in our long pipe stem driveway in Herndon, VA.

# Best of the Week Latest on New York COVID policy: State sent over 9,000 virus patients to nursing homes



Families of COVID-19 victims who passed away in New York nursing homes gather in front of the Cobble Hill Heath Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Oct. 18, 2020, to demand New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo apologize for his handling of nursing home during the pandemic. New records obtained by the AP show that more than 9,000 recovering coronavirus patients in the state were released from hospitals into nursing homes at the height of the pandemic under a controversial order that was scrapped amid criticism that it accelerated outbreaks. AP PHOTO/YUKI IWAMURA

For nine months, AP has led all media on the story of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's controversial directive to return recovering coronavirus patients from hospitals to nursing houses during the pandemic.

Last week, reporters Bernard Condon and Jennifer Peltz added to that record. They reported exclusively that more than 9,000 patients in New York were released under the policy, amid criticism that it accelerated nursing home outbreaks. The latest AP scoop has helped put Cuomo and his administration on the defensive at home and nationally.

Condon, Peltz and other members of AP's team have been atop this story from the beginning. Their latest break was the result of a Freedom of Information Act request they had pressed with state officials for nine months, seeking data about the March 25 order.

Read more **here**.

## Best of the States

# AP team finds diversity of politics and religion among West Virginia evangelicals



### AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski

The story began when AP global religion editor Sally Stapleton noticed, under a story by the religion team, a comment posted about Christian leaders who've backed former President Donald Trump, and the clergy's messaging following the Feb. 6 Capitol riot.

"A difficult conversation most Americans are not ready to have," Lesley Dillon tweeted. "But most people in my rural, Appalachian hometown are being radicalized at church by their pastor, which is the person they trust the most."

Stapleton asked reporter Luis Andres Henao to look into a story. Henao first spoke with Travis Lowe, the pastor of Crossroads Church in Bluefield, West Virginia. Lowe said that he and other pastors were concerned that fiery rhetoric and baseless claims from the pulpit could stoke more divisions in their small city of 10,000 in West Virginia. He also mentioned Doyle Bradford, a local pastor who joined some congregants during the Jan 6. rally that degenerated into the storming of the Capitol.

Read more here.

# **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



# Dorothy Abernathy - dabernathy@outlook.com

# Welcome to Connecting



George Tibbits - george.tibbits@gmail.com

# Stories of interest

# The lighter days of CNN's Cuomo Brothers show are long gone (AP in Las Vegas Sun)

By David Bauder, Associated Press

NEW YORK — Some television shows age much better than others.

For CNN, last spring's prime-time banter between Chris Cuomo and his older brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, looks worse in hindsight as the governor's administration is questioned about its role in failing to disclose the true number of COVID-19 nursing home deaths.

CNN is covering that story, but not on Chris Cuomo's show. The network said it had reinstated a prohibition on Cuomo interviewing or doing stories about his brother that it had temporarily lifted last spring.

The brothers were both in the spotlight last March. Chris Cuomo caught COVID-19 and continued anchoring his show from his basement, while the governor dealt with New York's hellish days as the nation's early coronavirus epicenter. Andrew Cuomo's near-daily briefing was widely televised and, to some viewers, embraced as a counterpoint to those held by former President Donald Trump.

Read more **here**.

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# Especially where Ted Cruz is concerned, always get the name of the dog (Poynter)

By: Roy Peter Clark

I am a transformed or reformed English professor who got hooked up with newsrooms and became a writing coach. I have spent 40 years in conversation with reporters and practice some journalism now and then. If you read my books, you can find out how to use a semicolon or cut an adverb.

I am no expert on reporting. I am, instead, a student of reporters and editors, often in awe of the what they discover and how they share it in reports and stories.

If I have made one contribution to the reporting field, it is embodied in this sentence: "Get the name of the dog."

I learned that reminder from city editors at the then-St. Petersburg (Florida) Times. I have passed it along in almost every book I've written about the craft, and every workshop I have taught. It's not just about dogs, of course, or names. It's about the power of details, what I might describe in academic settings as "particularity."

When you are reporting a story and a dog or cat or Komodo dragon ambles by, ask about its name. These days, you don't have to be out in the field. You can see details in a Zoom room. The name of the dog, the brand of the beer, the titles of books on bookshelves behind the Zoomer, the image on the T-shirt, that poster of Farrah Fawcett hanging on the bedroom wall.

Read more **here**.

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# These word cops stand guard to keep language clear and simple (Los Angeles Times)

By EVAN HALPER

WASHINGTON — The crack team of federal specialists proceeded cautiously and deliberately, activating a vast network of experts to avoid missteps.

Skillful guidance was crucial to navigating the vexing case that had gone cold for the organized crime unit of the Mesa, Ariz., Police Department.

One word or two? Hyphen or no?

The case of how to describe those tiny Ziplocs favored by drug dealers would not be quickly shut. The matter would be dissected on an obscure government listserv in an exchange that stretched over 44 messages.

Read more here. Shared by Michael Weinfeld.

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# Where Will Rush Limbaugh's 15 Million Listeners Go Now? (New York Times)

## By Michael M. Grynbaum

So who now takes the place of Rush Limbaugh as the media ringmaster of the right?

The answer, most likely, is nobody.

That is not because Mr. Limbaugh, who died on Wednesday at 70, was uniquely talented among conservative broadcasters, although his popularity and influence on American politics surely rank him in the highest tier.

Mr. Limbaugh almost single-handedly created a right-wing mass-media universe — with its kneejerk hatred of Democrats, mocking nicknames and own-the-libs glee — that allowed him to imprint his grievances and goals on the national debate. About 15 million people a week tuned in for his daily three-hour program.

But Mr. Limbaugh's monopoly on outrage was fractured by a thousand rivals.

Read more **here**. Shared by Dennis Conrad, Mark Mittelstadt.

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# How Investigative Journalism Flourished in Hostile Russia (New York Times)

### By Ben Smith

The Russian language has introduced a few words that in recent years have been widely used and misused in English: disinformation, kompromat, Novichok.

But the one that blows my mind is "probiv." It's drawn from the word that means "to pierce" — or to enter something into a search bar. Today, it refers to the practice by

which anyone can buy, for a couple of dollars on the social media app Telegram or hundreds on a dark web marketplace, the call records, cellphone geolocation or air travel records of anyone in Russia you want to track. Probiv is purchased by jealous spouses or curious business partners, and criminals of various sorts. But it has also been used recently, and explosively, by journalists and political activists, overlapping categories in Russia, where the chief opposition leader, Aleksei A. Navalny, often makes use of the tools of investigative journalism.

Probiv is only one of the factors that have made Russia, of all places, the most exciting place in the world for investigative journalism. There is a new wave of outlets, many using more conventional sourcing to pierce the veil of President Vladimir V. Putin's power. And there is a growing online audience for their work in a country where the state controls, directly or indirectly, all of the major television networks.

Read more **here**. Shared by Sibby Christensen, Dennis Conrad.

# Today in History - Feb. 22, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2021. There are 312 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 22, 1980, the "Miracle on Ice" took place in Lake Placid, New York, as the United States Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets, 4-3. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

### On this date:

In 1732 (New Style date), the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born in Westmoreland County in the Virginia Colony.

In 1889, President Grover Cleveland signed an enabling act paving the way for the Dakotas, Montana and Washington to become states.

In 1959, the inaugural Daytona 500 race was held; although Johnny Beauchamp was initially declared the winner, the victory was later awarded to Lee Petty.

In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Vietcong stronghold near the Cambodian border. (Although the communists were driven out, they later returned.)

In 1984, David Vetter, a 12-year-old Texas boy who'd spent most of his life in a plastic bubble because he had no immunity to disease, died 15 days after being removed from the bubble for a bone-marrow transplant.

In 1987, pop artist Andy Warhol died at a New York City hospital at age 58.

In 1997, scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly." (Dolly, however, was later put down after a short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

In 2004, consumer advocate Ralph Nader announced he was running again for president, this time as an independent.

In 2005, Buckingham Palace said Queen Elizabeth II would not attend the civil marriage ceremony of her son Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles [–] but that her absence should not be interpreted as a snub.

In 2010, Najibullah Zazi (nah-jee-BOO'-lah ZAH'-zee), accused of buying beauty supplies to make bombs for an attack on New York City subways, pleaded guilty to charges including conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction. (Zazi faced up to life in prison but spent nearly a decade after his arrest helping the U.S. identify and prosecute terrorists; he was given a 10-year sentence followed by supervised release.)

In 2017, the Trump administration lifted federal guidelines that said transgender students should be allowed to use public school bathrooms and locker rooms matching their chosen gender identity.

In 2019, a California couple pleaded guilty to torture and years of abuse that included shackling some of their 13 children to beds and starving them. (The couple would be sentenced to up to life in prison.) Producers of the Fox TV show "Empire" announced that actor Jussie Smollett's character would be removed from the final two episodes of the season after his arrest on charges that he staged a racist, anti-gay attack on himself.

Ten years ago: A defiant Moammar Gadhafi vowed to fight to his "last drop of blood" and roared at supporters to strike back against Libyan protesters to defend his embattled regime. A magnitude-6.1 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, killed 184 people. Somali pirates shot to death four Americans taken hostage on their yacht several hundred miles south of Oman. Former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel was elected mayor of Chicago.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama sent lawmakers an official \$1.9 billion request to combat the spread of the Zika virus in Latin America and the U.S. (Congress passed a \$1.1 billion package in Sept. 2016.) The City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina,

voted 7-4 to pass a new law allowing transgender people to choose public bathrooms that corresponded to their gender identity. Country singer Sonny James, 87, died in Nashville. British cinematographer Douglas Slocombe, 103, died in London. The Lady Vols' streak of 565 consecutive weeks in The Associated Press women's basketball poll ended as Tennessee fell out of the Top 25.

One year ago: A dozen towns in northern Italy effectively went into lockdown after the deaths of two people infected with the coronavirus. South Korea reported an eightfold jump in viral infections, with more than 400 cases mostly linked to a church and a hospital. Bernie Sanders scored a resounding win in Nevada's presidential caucuses, cementing his status as the Democrats' front-runner. Self-styled daredevil Mike Hughes, 64, died after a rocket in which he launched himself crashed into the ground near Barstow, California; he had said he wanted to fly to the edge of outer space to see if the world is round. Barbara Smith, known as "B." Smith, a top Black model who went on to open restaurants and launch a home products line, died at the age of 70 at her suburban New York home after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. British boxer Tyson Fury beat Deontay Wilder in their rematch in Las Vegas to win the heavyweight title for a second time.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Dooley is 93. Actor James Hong is 92. Actor John Ashton is 73. Actor Miou-Miou is 71. Actor Julie Walters is 71. Basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving is 71. Actor Ellen Greene is 70. Former Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is 69. Former White House adviser David Axelrod is 66. Actor Kyle MacLachlan is 62. World Golf Hall of Famer Vijay Singh is 58. Actor-comedian Rachel Dratch is 55. Actor Paul Lieberstein is 54. Actor Jeri Ryan is 53. Actor Thomas Jane is 52. TV host Clinton Kelly is 52. Actor Tamara Mello is 51. Actor-singer Lea Salonga (LAY'-uh suh-LONG'-guh) is 50. Actor Jose Solano is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Michael Chang is 49. Rock musician Scott Phillips is 48. Singer James Blunt is 47. Actor Drew Barrymore is 46. Actor Liza Huber is 46. Rock singer Tom Higgenson (Plain White T's) is 42. Rock musician Joe Hottinger (Halestorm) is 39. Actor Zach Roerig is 36. Actor Daniel E. Smith is 31.

# 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 selfprofile 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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