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Connecting

April 05, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 5th day of April 2021,

Connecting reported last week that **Bill Sikes**, AP’s New England photo editor since 2005, retired Friday after 46 years in journalism, including 22 with the AP.

On the heels of a Zoom call celebrating his career, I asked Bill to provide a bit more detail about that career – and he delivered with a great account of a life and a career well lived. And his passion, his vision for career in journalism began at an early age. Read on.

Bruce Dunford was a practitioner of “aloha journalism” during his 37-year career with the AP in Hawaii – part of what his colleague **David Briscoe** calls “a corps of island reporters who were tough on corruption, dishonesty and stupidity but deeply knowledgeable and respectful of Hawaii’s unique cultures.

Bruce, who retired from the AP in 2004, died recently and Briscoe, former chief of bureau and news editor in Hawaii, tells the story of his life and career in today’s issue.

If you have a memory of working with Bruce, please send it along.

I hope your Easter and Passover holidays were joyous and blessed.

Here's to a great week ahead – stay safe, be healthy.

Paul

Bill Sikes' passion for journalism began at an early age during turbulent '60s



New England AP photo editor Bill Sikes kicks back at his desk in the Boston bureau a few days before retiring on April 2, 2021. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Bill Sikes ([Email](#)) - National Guard convoys had been passing by at the end of the street to our neighborhood that hot summer afternoon. As a nine-year-old, I was curious and wanted to ride my bike to the corner and watch. My mom, on the other hand, thought gunfire could start at any time and made me stay indoors.

I had no real understanding of the political and racial ramifications the next morning when Alabama Gov. George Wallace made his final stand in the schoolhouse door to defy federal orders to desegregate the University of Alabama. But I sensed that history was happening just a quarter mile from my house and I wanted to witness it.

When The Tuscaloosa News landed on our lawn later that Tuesday afternoon, June 11, 1963, and seeing the front page photo, I realized that a camera in my hand would be a license for my nosiness and ticket to witness history.

Over the next six months I would rapidly come to understand what was happening during that pivotal time in our country's history. The very next day, civil rights activist Medgar Evers was assassinated in Mississippi. Two months later Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a march on Washington and gave his famous "I have a dream" speech. In September, four little girls were killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing just 60 miles up the road in Birmingham. And on Nov. 22, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Two days later my family and I watched on live black-and-white television when Jack Ruby shot accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald as he was being moved in Dallas. By that Saturday afternoon, this nine-year-old's Pollyanna view of the world was gone.

The "AP Wirephoto" of that moment was on the front page of Sunday morning newspapers everywhere. It was far more amazing to me than the video. In one frame with one flash Bob Jackson of the Dallas Times Herald made the most compelling photo I had ever seen.

So I took up photography, worked on my high school yearbook and as a freshman at the University of Alabama in 1972, was working part-time for the university's audio-visual service. Being assigned to cover the marching band's pregame and halftime performances during Bama football led me to meet the late Atlanta Associated Press staff photographer Joe Holloway, Jr.

Joe had covered the civil rights struggles of the 60's, and I was in awe. But he was outgoing, funny, gregarious and kind to this totally green kid. I somehow won his favor.

So in April 1975, I received a call from then-Atlanta Photo Editor Spencer Jones who wanted to meet with me in Tuscaloosa, bring a Wirephoto transmitter and install a separate phone line in my parent's house so I could freelance for AP.

Was I dreaming? How, why, what -- me?

Navigating technological hurdles and near disasters was the norm when filing photos in the analog world of the 70's. Beyond all his advice about photojournalism, the biggest lesson Joe taught was to not let any apparent disaster derail you. You can overcome just about anything if you stay focused on the mission and keep working.

Later that year Calvin Hannah hired me to the staff of The Tuscaloosa News. He showed and taught respect, patience, kindness and grace. I continued at The News for a year after graduating from Alabama.

Realizing I needed more journalistic training, graduate school seemed logical and I was off to the University of Missouri. The renowned professor Angus McDougall headed the photojournalism program and taught us to tell stories with our cameras, to marry words with pictures, and to get out of the darkroom and into the newsroom. That was not a common concept at that time.

Though I loved the process of photography, Mac advised me I would make a better photo editor than photographer and steered me in that direction.



Associated Press Boston photo editor and Bill Sikes, left, and Los Angeles photo editor Tracy Gitnick edit behind the center camera position at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver.



Boston AP photo editor Bill Sikes files photos outside Massachusetts General Hospital in 2008 where Sen. Edward M. Kennedy had been rushed with what later proved to be a fatal brain tumor. (AP Photo/Winslow Townson)



Buffalo, N.Y., based AP staff photographer Bill Sikes waits for the start of a Buffalo Bills NFL football game at Rich Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y. (AP Photo/John Hickey)

I had several good years working as a photo editor and photographer in two different stints at the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville, where Ken Paik had installed a good Missouri-model photo operation. It was there where I met and married my unbelievably patient and supportive wife Barbara and where our son David was born. The Jacksonville years bookended two more years as Sunday magazine art director at The Kansas City Star.

But in 1991 my passion to become an Associated Press photographer was finally satisfied.

With an important assist by my great friend Cliff Schiappa, who encouraged AP's national photo editor Tom Stathis to give my photo portfolio consideration, and after Tom and Photo Director Vin Alabiso somehow thought I could do the job, I was assigned to the AP bureau in Buffalo.

The Buffalo Bills were atop the NFL during the 90's, and I chased them to three of their four (losing) Super Bowl appearances. In 1992, I enjoyed Barcelona for three weeks while covering the Summer Olympics. Sports photo editor Brian Horton assigned me to Toronto for Blue Jays World Series chases, to Pittsburgh and Vancouver for the Stanley Cup, to Seattle for the NCAA Final Four and too many other places to recall.

And since Oklahoma City bombing perpetrator Timothy McVeigh hailed from a Buffalo suburb, I spent several weeks covering local angles of that gut-wrenching story. It was a wonderful seven years in Buffalo, and my family became rabid Bills and Sabres fans.

But I knew the time had come to take off the photographer's hat and find a photo editing position.

Just as it was cresting on the wave of photojournalistic greatness, the Hartford Courant hired me in 1998 onto its team of photo editors. It was at the Courant, under the photo leadership of Missouri graduates Thom McGuire and John Scanlan, that I was able to employ those skills of marrying words and pictures. We were a very successful team during that time as our photography, our photo editing and our design all won top awards year after year at the turn of the century.

In 2003 I was off to the Orlando Sentinel to try to install the Courant model in Orlando. In a short time we able to fill an important editing position and began making positive strides. But three hurricanes later, and as economic declines began affecting newspapers, I accepted the AP photo editor position in Boston, and we moved back north.

The rest, as the cliché says, is history.

For 15 years I have had the privilege to edit some of the most talented photojournalists in person and from across the globe, thanks to today's technology. Our biggest and hardest story during that stretch was undoubtedly the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing -- which happened just a few months after the Newtown school shooting. I have never worked with a more dedicated, indefatigable team of uncompromising journalists -- who truly came together as a family to care for each other for several months.



Barbara, left, and husband Bill Sikes, AP Boston photo editor, wear matching masks that she made during the coronavirus outbreak, Friday, April 10, 2020, near their home in Marlborough, Mass. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

My favorite vacation ever came when Barbara and I finally could take a break after that story subsided for a nice, quiet time to be refreshed at Bar Harbor in Maine.

And as AP has evolved from a bureau-centric to a region-centric operation, so has my immediate AP family. That includes the staff on the East Desk and across the whole region, who, thanks to Zoom have faces and personalities not just voices on the phone.

So as I retire, I feel a bit like I am walking out on my family. It is bittersweet, but it is definitely time to take off the editor's hat and discard the alarm clock. I will finally have time to become more involved in my community and at my church. And when the pandemic has abated -- hopefully by the fall -- Barbara and I want to travel, especially to see some of the many natural wonders in the western part of the U.S. And maybe see some of you along the way.

One last thing: AP is the gold standard and beacon for everyone in journalism. Do everything in your power not to tarnish it, but to keep it polished and shining brightly.

Connecting mailbox

Fending off cyber-attack on election reporting

Larry Blasko ([Email](#)) - Here's a second to Mark Mittelstadt's hope (in Friday's Connecting) that we hear more --within security limits-- about how AP fended off cyber attacks from foreign governments aimed at compromising election results reporting. Questions:

* Beyond "Hey, you're the bullseye," did the U.S. help AP with hardware, software and staff?

* How much did the defensive hardware/software/staff cost? Who paid for it? Is the expense-and/or-help ongoing?

Whatever the answers, Gary Pruitt and the AP IT crew do have a right to be proud that the election results cyber integrity score stands at Mother AP 1, Evil 0.

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Paul Simon signed his first member, a good start on bureau chief journey

Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - About that doubly other-Paul -- not the singer/songwriter and not the retired AP vice president -- it was a pleasure watching him on a maiden AP bureau chief assignment: Signing up a new member. That was back when there were bureau chiefs and non-member newspapers to persuade we were better and worth the money. I was bureau chief in Los Angeles, helping as Paul

organized a campaign well and signed his first new member. It was a good start on an important journey for a bureau chief.

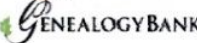
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The morning Roy Williams called demanding a reporter be fired

Richard Brack ([Email](#)) - My friend Dennis Conrad's recollection (Connecting, Friday) is more representative of the man, but my favorite memory of Roy Williams came from many years earlier. It was the morning in 1990 he called my office at the University Daily Kansan, where I was editor, to demand I fire a reporter assigned to cover his Jayhawks team. Roy didn't like the fact the student newspaper had quoted a player about something or other, in violation of the coach's unilateral restrictions on such direct contact. The conversation went south quickly when I explained my reporter was doing his job admirably and would not be relieved of duty, then suggested his player might be a better candidate for firing, given he'd violated the coach's edict. Memory is hazy, but I'm fairly certain the call ended with one party hanging up on the other.

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AP in the news

 **Doings Of The Race. A New Orleans Tragedy Ends in the death of an Afro-American**
Sat, Jan 30, 1892 | Cleveland Gazette (Cleveland, OH) | Page 1

states as well.

The New York Sun has withdrawn from the Associated Press. The Memphis Commercial's New York correspondent makes the extraordinary statement that the Associated Press is controlled by republican magnates and has in its service systematically defamed the south for years. If this be true, God save us from a press service favorable to the south. We never saw an Associated Press report of southern rascality that was not a lie on its face, and its back, too, for the matter of that. —N. Y. Age.

The incident published some months

Bob Greene ([Email](#)) - While doing research on Black history in Maine, I ran across a story that The Cleveland Gazette published on Jan. 30, 1892. It was an item picked up from the New York Age concerning the AP.

Thought there might be interest.

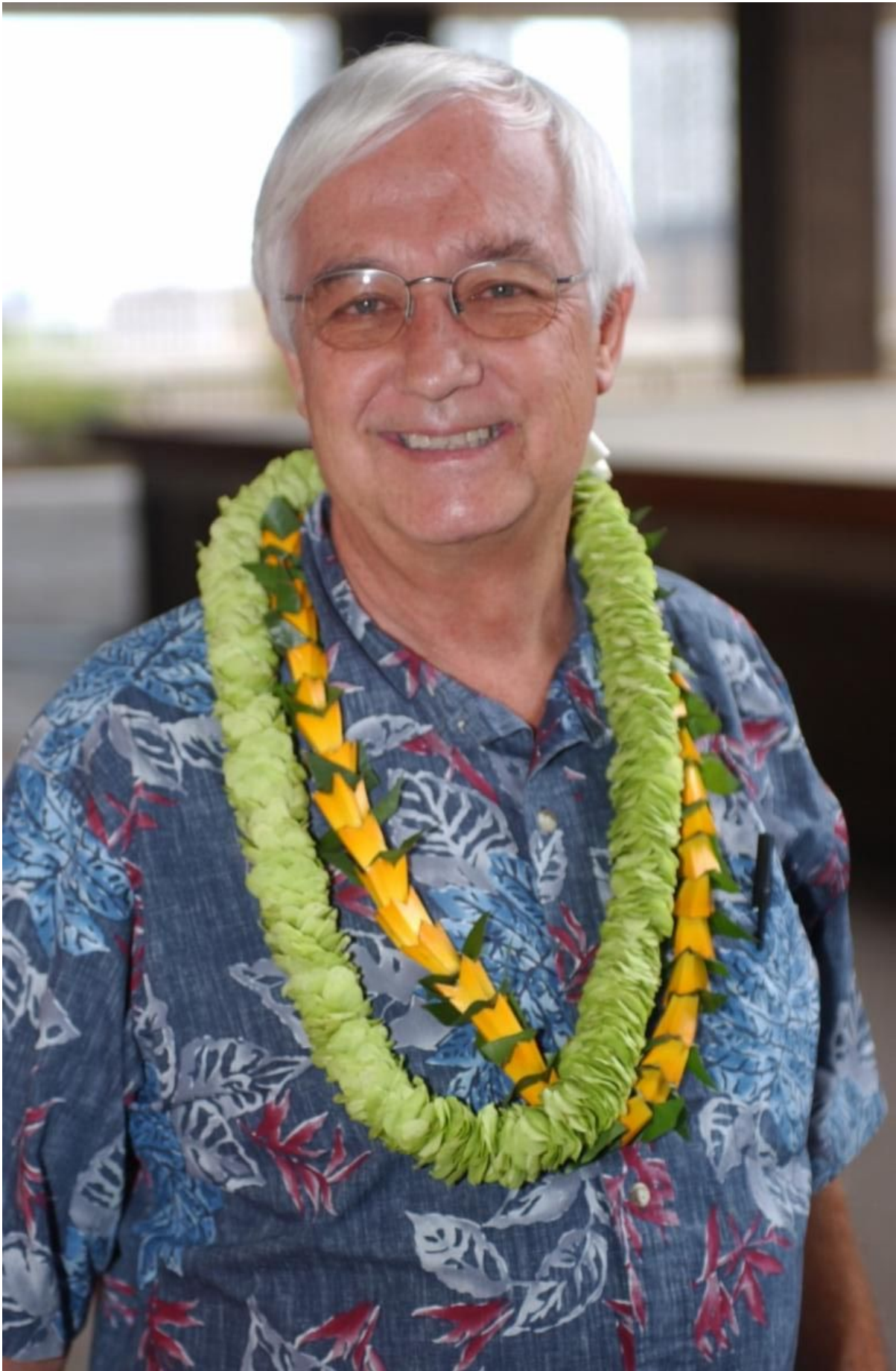
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Easter Sunday sunrise in Florida



Photo by Jo Steck ([Email](#))

Lucky to Live Hawaii and Know Bruce Dunford



Bruce Dunford at retirement in 2004

David Briscoe (Email) - *(Former Honolulu COB/news editor 2001-2009)* - No reporter has ever covered Hawaii's volcano-like Capitol quite the way Bruce Dunford did for more than two decades.

His shock of white hair as he breezed around the island on his beloved Harley-Davidson in a flowery aloha shirt and blue jeans made Dunford anything but a typical Associated Press reporter.

But then, who is, especially in Hawaii?

Dunford, whose death was confirmed last week by his family, wrapped up a 37-year AP career in 2004. He died at 79 in his sleep at a nursing facility near his Hawaii home after years of deteriorating health.

I was lucky enough not only to live Hawaii for the past 21 years but to work with the likes of Bruce Dunford for several of those years. The expression is: "Lucky you live Hawaii." For journalist newcomers to the islands, it might have been: "Lucky you know Bruce Dunford."

It was a time when news from Hawaii was elevated by the election of our first Republican and first woman governor, Linda Lingle, even before the election of Hawaii-born Barack Obama as America's first black and white president.

Frankly, Bruce wasn't the kind of reporter who annoyed politicians with tough grillings or gotcha questions. But he always seemed to know more than the politicians and often let them know it.

Lingle, in a partially tongue-in-cheek gubernatorial proclamation of Bruce Dunford Day when he retired in 2004, dubbed AP's longtime statehouse reporter the Capitol Jester.

But Bruce was much more than a punster and funny story-teller. For me, Bruce was a fitting symbol for a very special kind of journalism in a very special place at a very special time.

Call it aloha journalism. Bruce was part of a corps of island reporters who were tough on corruption, dishonesty and stupidity but deeply knowledgeable and respectful of Hawaii's unique cultures.



This 2004 photo shows (l to r) B.J. Reyes, David Briscoe, Gov. Linda Lingle, Bruce Dunford, Janis Meierdiercks and Ron Staton.

Unlike many pursuing AP careers, he was not a glutton for stories that made what we used to call the “A wire” or stories that went around the world. His byline was little known beyond these isolated islands. He never sought promotion or praise.

Even his get-up was really not that unusual, except maybe his preference for flip-flop rubber “slippahs” over shoes and the fact he wore the same garb on the motorcycle as when he buttonholed the governor. Ties, much less coat and tie, are rarely seen in media offices or even the Hawaii Capitol, except on members of the bar and Mormon missionaries.

The Honolulu Bureau, where Dunford actually didn’t have a desk in his final two decades with AP because he spent nearly all of his time in the Capitol crater, has attracted scores of reporters and a surprising number of Hawaii lifers who spend their entire AP careers and retirements in the islands.

Others of that ilk on the staff when news editor Janis Magin Meierdiercks and I arrived as outsiders in 2001 included Ron Staton and Greg Small, who have found pleasant retirements on the island after strictly local AP careers in the world’s most isolated metropolis.

A few old Asia hands, such as myself and the late John Roderick, Roy Essoyan and Ed White, also chose Hawaii as a sort of post-career paradise. Some of us still can’t figure out why anyone ever leaves the islands and why the 50th state isn’t even more overrun with retirees from the almost always rougher world outside.

Bruce, as the ultimate dean of the Capitol press corps, justly earned a kind of legendary status in the islands. An outpouring of praise and memories came this

weekend on Facebook when friends and colleagues learned of his passing.

“He taught me to ask hard questions, not to be afraid to push back when questioned, and to have some fun while we worked hard,” former AP reporter Ben DiPietro posted on Facebook. “And we did have fun, at work and then at the bar.”

Honolulu Star-Advertiser reporter Gorden Pang envisioned Bruce and other departed Hawaii journalists “trading snarky remarks about some senator in the big bad bar in the sky.”

Former AP editor Jaymes Song, now a Honolulu real estate agent, remembers Bruce for his “prolific writing abilities, uncanny shibai detecting skills and sense of humor.” (Shibai is a polite island/Japanese term for lies or pretension.)

One common theme in memories of Bruce was his knowledge of the Honolulu bar scene.

Lingle, in her partly tongue-in-cheek proclamation, accused him of creating a financial formula for the state budget based on “the number of cars parked nightly outside of Oahu bars and clubs.”

In fact, one of Dunford's most widely read AP stories reported very early in his career (1969) that some of Honolulu's most infamous night spots along Hotel Street were facing possible destruction for a new transit system.

Much to the dismay of islanders, the story was picked up around the country, even though it proved to be one of Dunford's less reliable reporting ventures. The transit system wasn't started for another 50 years and one of the clubs Dunford highlighted, Hubba Hubba, only closed in 1997.

Bruce Dunford's political reporting was far more reliable.

Ben Caytano, one of four Democratic governors Bruce covered, praised him as a “fine reporter” and a “nice guy.”

Lingle said at his retirement that she was grateful for his “dedication and many years of fair, balanced and accurate reporting.”

Dave Smith of the Tribune Herald in Hilo said other reporters were in awe of Dunford's output and the “breadth of his coverage.”

More than any other print reporter in Hawaii, Dunford had a statewide audience, creating a window to Hawaii politics for AP member newspapers on Kauai, Maui and the Big Island as well as the main island of Oahu.

For me, Bruce's retirement and his final departure mark the decline of a kind of golden age in Hawaii reporting and in once-vital AP state reporting in general. Each bureau was not only a window for the world but also invariably for the best in local print, broadcast and photo journalism.

We miss Bruce and some of us miss that AP.

Here is the 8/24/2004 proclamation from Gov. Linda Lingle:



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford has been a reporter with the Associated Press Honolulu Bureau for 37 years and has served in the AP's Capitol Bureau since the early 1980s, covering 22 sessions of the Hawai'i State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford, as a Capitol Bureau reporter, has covered the past five governors, all of whom asked their aides at one time or another: "Who is that tall haole guy with the glasses and white hair taking notes?"; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford, during his illustrious career with the AP Honolulu Bureau, has inflicted upon politicians, government officials, sources, lobbyists, other members of the media and the public so many puns, put-downs, jokes, riddles and observations that he should be forever known as the Capitol Jester; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford, having devoted his off-hours to extensive and repeated research in this field, holds the publishing rights for "An Insider's Guide to Q'ahu Bars"; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford has been known to craft his own state budget as well as forecast state revenue using a financial formula known as the "Dunford Factor," a hallmark of which is an economic indicator involving the number of cars parked nightly outside of O'ahu bars and clubs; and,

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford is an expert in nutrition, having subsisted on a diet of chips and soda for breakfast, and has done his part to support the plate lunch wagon industry around the State Capitol, particularly in the sale of tripe stew; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford has made it an inadvertent habit of trying to set policy by offering his two cents to any lawmaker within earshot; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford has taken every opportunity to discuss his former days as a U.S. Navy journalist, and has managed to work all these years in the same attire: an aloha shirt and jeans; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford has developed an uncanny psychic ability to sense the presence of Governor Lingle as she arrives for work, allowing him to conduct informal interviews in the Capitol basement that usually wind up leading the AP report; and
WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford often attempts to convey a tough guy look while riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, but fails because no one takes seriously a guy riding a bike wearing shorts and slippers; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford has done his best to impart his wisdom of O'ahu bars, motorcycle maintenance and Navy lore on unsuspecting colleagues so as to mold a successor to continue the traditions he established in his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dunford, a fixture in Hawai'i media, is a journalist all try to emulate but many obfuscate, and his retirement will leave a void easily filled but hardly replaced,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim August 24, 2004, as

BRUCE DUNFORD DAY

in Hawai' i, and on behalf of the people of the Aloha State, extend our gratitude for his dedication and many years of fair, balanced and accurate reporting, and keeping the people of our state informed of the day-to-day activities of government in Hawai' i.

Done at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers. Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fourth day of August, 2004.

(signed)
Linda Lingle,
Governor,
State of Hawai'i

(AP reporter) Kenneth L. Dixon's tribute to the grunts

Marc Lancaster
WW2 On Deadline

Kenneth L. Dixon's dispatches from the war left no need for interpretation when it came to his point of view. The story he told was almost invariably that of the grunt on the front lines.

Writing from Rome on June 7, 1944, Dixon's entire piece read as a conversation between "well-to-do Romans," newly liberated, and an exasperated, parenthetical narrator who had spent months with the liberators.

"You have been so long," sighed the beautiful, smartly dressed woman in the bar. "Waiting has been an ordeal — more than you can imagine. We have expected you since September."

(Yes, lady, the lads have been delayed. There was a short delay at Salerno. You may have heard of Salerno — a lot of folks back home have; they were told in little telegrams.)

The piece ends with an anonymous soldier taking in this and other tone-deaf complaints from the locals while "sitting wearily on the curb, resting his burning feet."



Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright

Best of the Week

A master class: AP teams deliver sweeping coverage of the migrant surge at the US-Mexico border



AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills

When the U.S.-Mexico border became a major front-page story again in recent weeks, the AP set out to tell the story of newly arriving Central American children and families in trademark AP fashion: with compelling all-formats journalism and richly reported viewpoints from migrants to bring perspective to readers on the topic of immigration.

Photographers Julio Cortez and Dario Lopez-Mills, reporters Adriana Gómez Licón and Elliot Spagat, and video journalists Eugene Garcia and John Mone answered the call and more, delivering stellar coverage from the border at every step.

They produced a string of stories last week that amounted to a master class in how to cover the border.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

All-formats reporting from a Michigan potato farm reveals how climate change threatens crop storage



Potato farmer Brian Sackett watches as potatoes are transferred from a storage bin at his farm in Mecosta, Mich., March 11, 2021. For generations, For generations, Sackett's family has farmed potatoes that are made into chips. About 25% of the nation's potato chips get their start in Michigan, which historically has had reliably cool air during September harvest and late spring but now is getting warmer temperatures. Sackett had to buy several small refrigeration units for his sprawling warehouses, and last year he paid \$125,000 for a bigger one to keep his harvest from rotting. AP PHOTO / CARLOS OSORIO

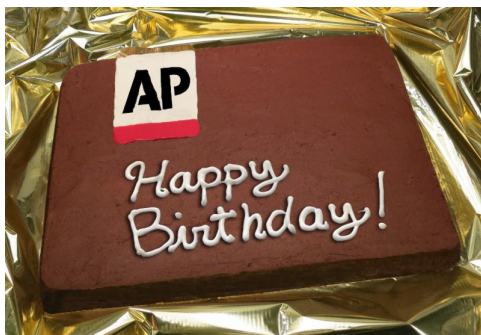
After reporting for years on life-or-death results of global warming such as floods and wildfires, Traverse City, Michigan, correspondent John Flesher uncovered another serious but little-recognized consequence: Climate change poses an increasingly troublesome and costly threat to food crop storage in the United States and much of the world.

To illustrate the issue, Flesher and this all-formats AP team looked at an everyday snack food. Michigan is the top U.S. producer of potatoes used for chips, thanks to a mild climate that lets farmers store their crops for months using only outdoor air to cool them.

Flesher, a member of the Global Environmental Beat Team, came across a scientific paper warning that those hospitable conditions will become scarcer this century as the planet gets hotter. Climate models suggest things will get especially dicey after fall harvest, when the temperature of potatoes must be lowered quickly to avoid spoilage.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



John Diamond - jdiamond125@msn.com

Gary Fields - gfields@ap.org

Stories of interest

Washington Post editor Marty Baron on our nation's "wake-up call" (CBS News)

The retiring leader of the Washington Post's newsroom talks with "60 Minutes" correspondent Lesley Stahl about the changing world of newspapers; how Jeff Bezos' purchase of the Post reinvigorated the paper; and how events of the past several years have shined a light on the fragility of democratic institutions and the importance of a free press.

View [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Maryland hotel exec and Swiss billionaire make fully financed \$680 million bid for Tribune Publishing (Chicago Tribune)

By ROBERT CHANNICK

Maryland hotel executive Stewart Bainum and Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss have made a fully financed \$680 million bid for Tribune Publishing, according to a source close to the situation.

The \$18.50-per-share bid for the Chicago-based newspaper chain, which is higher than the \$17.25 per share offer by hedge fund Alden Global Capital, was received and verified by the Tribune Publishing board, beginning a due diligence process that could lead to a firm deal within weeks, according to the source.

Bainum and Wyss, who previously committed \$100 million each to buy Tribune Publishing, have agreed to finance the entire \$680 million between themselves to

expedite the deal, according to the source. The financing doesn't include any other investors, but Bainum and Wyss could pursue debt financing if a deal with Tribune is reached, the source said.

Alden would have four business days to match the higher offer or receive a \$20 million breakup fee, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Today in History - April 5, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 5, the 95th day of 2021. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 5, 2010, an explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine near Charleston, West Virginia, killed 29 workers. In a televised rescue, 115 Chinese coal miners were freed after spending eight days trapped in a flooded mine, surviving an accident that had killed 38.

On this date:

In 1621, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts on a monthlong return trip to England.

In 1792, President George Washington cast his first veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

In 1887, in Tuscumbia, Alabama, teacher Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her 6-year-old deaf-blind pupil, Helen Keller, learned the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death following their conviction in New York on charges of conspiring to commit espionage for the Soviet

Union.

In 1955, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned his office for health reasons. Democrat Richard J. Daley was first elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Robert E. Merriam.

In 1976, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident that prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In 1987, Fox Broadcasting Co. made its prime-time TV debut by airing the situation comedy "Married with Children" followed by "The Tracey Ullman Show," then repeating both premiere episodes two more times in the same evening.

In 1991, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Georgia.

In 1997, Allen Ginsberg, the counterculture guru who shattered conventions as poet laureate of the Beat Generation, died in New York City at age 70.

In 2015, Rolling Stone magazine apologized and officially retracted its discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia.

In 2019, inspecting a refurbished section of fencing at the Mexican border in California, President Donald Trump declared that "our country is full," and that illegal crossings must be stopped.

Ten years ago: Ivory Coast's strongman leader, Laurent Gbagbo (loh-RAHN' BAHG'-boh), remained holed up in a bunker inside the presidential residence, defiantly maintaining he'd won an election four months earlier even as troops backing the internationally recognized winner encircled the home. (Gbagbo was arrested six days later.) Texas A&M won its first national women's basketball championship with a 76-70 victory over Notre Dame.

Five years ago: The leak of millions of records on offshore accounts claimed its first high-profile political casualty as Iceland's prime minister, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, stepped aside. Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed a law allowing religious groups and private businesses to deny services to gay and transgender people. R&B singer-songwriter Leon Haywood, 74, died in Los Angeles. UConn won an unprecedented fourth straight women's national championship, capping another perfect season by routing Syracuse 82-51.

One year ago: Surgeon General Jerome Adams told CNN that the coming week would be "the hardest and saddest week of most Americans' lives" because of the increasing toll from the coronavirus; hours later, President Donald Trump took a more optimistic tone, saying, "We're starting to see light at the end of the tunnel." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was admitted to a hospital for tests, as he continued to suffer symptoms 10 days after being diagnosed with COVID-19. Federal officials said a tiger at the Bronx Zoo in New York had tested positive for the coronavirus, in what was

believed to be the first known infection in an animal in the U.S.; the tiger was believed to have been infected by a zoo employee.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Roger Corman is 95. Former U.S. Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell is 84. Country singer Tommy Cash is 81. Actor Michael Moriarty is 80. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 79. Writer-director Peter Greenaway is 79. Actor Max Gail is 78. Actor Jane Asher is 75. Singer Agnetha (ag-NEE'-tah) Faltskog (ABBA) is 71. Actor Mitch Pileggi is 69. Singer-songwriter Peter Case is 67. Hip-hop artist/actor Christopher "Kid" Reid is 57. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 55. Singer Paula Cole is 53. Actor Krista Allen is 50. Actor Victoria Hamilton is 50. Country singer Pat Green is 49. Rapper-producer Pharrell (fa-REHL') Williams is 48. Rapper/producer Juicy J is 46. Actor Sterling K. Brown is 45. Country singer-musician Mike Eli (The Eli Young Band) is 40. Actor Hayley Atwell is 39. Actor Lily James is 32.

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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