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Connecting August 20, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Aug. 20, 2021,

We're saddened to share news of the death of **Scott Smith**, AP Venezuela correspondent since 2017, who died on Thursday at his parents' home in California. He was 50.

Today's Connecting brings you the seventh of eight installments of a visual history of The Associated Press as the news organization celebrates its 175th birthday in 2021. The blog – "AP at 175" – is produced by AP Corporate Archives. This installment covers the years from 1976 to 2000 and includes great photos as well as narratives from some of your fellow Connecting colleagues:

"I just kept the shutter down." **Ron Edmonds**

"In photography, everything has changed. What has not changed is the need for really fine photography, story telling pictures." **Hal Buell**

"Look around you! History is changing everything." **Alison Smale**

"Wake up, Bob, the war's begun!" **Edie Lederer**

CORRECTION: In Thursday's Connecting story on colleagues **Roxana Hegeman** and **Tom Slaughter** being named to the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, the email for Tom was incorrect. It should be: tomeslaughter@gmail.com Roxana's was correct – rhegeman@ap.org

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Scott Smith, AP's Venezuela correspondent, dies at 50

Scott Smith, correspondent for the AP in Caracas, Venezuela, since 2017, died Thursday at his parents' home in California.

Ian Phillips, AP vice president for international news, shared the sad news Thursday in an email to AP staff.



"Scott was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this year," Phillips said. "He was flown immediately to the U.S. for treatment, living his final months at his parents' home in California where he was raised.

"It's a terrible loss for all those who knew and worked with Scott – and for the AP. He loved working as a foreign correspondent in Caracas and previously had worked for

many years in the United States. Even while sick, he was contemplating where his next assignment might be or when he could return to his base. He turned 50 this year.

"We will pay tribute to Scott at tomorrow's (Friday's) 915 global news meeting and will share details soon about a separate call in which all are welcome to come and celebrate his life and career."

Smith joined the AP staff in Venezuela in 2017 after reporting for the AP since 2014 from Fresno, Calif. Prior to the AP, Smith spent more than a decade at The Record newspaper in Stockton, Calif., reporting on the city's bankruptcy as well as crime, courts and prisons.

Smith earned bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Chico.

(Photo of Scott above taken in 2017; (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

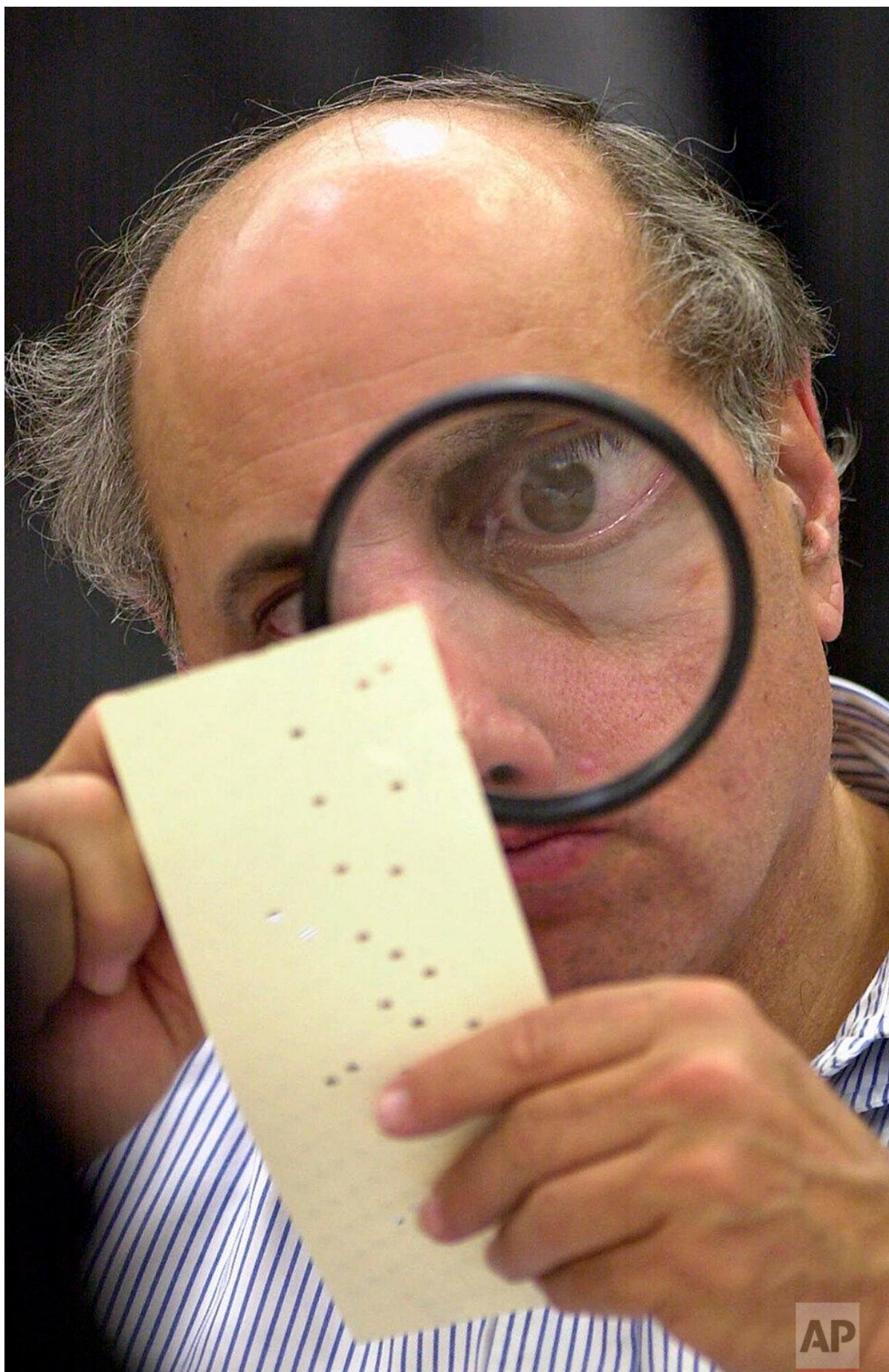
AP at 175, Part 7: Speed, 1976-2000



Terry Anderson with Associated Press President and CEO Lou Boccardi in December 1991. (AP Photo)



This Nov. 10, 1989 file photo shows Berliners singing and dancing on top of the Berlin wall to celebrate the opening of East-West German borders. Thousands of East German citizens moved into the West after East German authorities opened all border crossing points to the West. In the background is the Brandenburg Gate. (AP Photo/Thomas Kienzle)



In this Nov. 24, 2000, file photo, Broward County, Fla., canvassing board member Judge Robert Rosenberg uses a magnifying glass to examine a disputed election ballot

at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Two decades ago, Florida's hanging chads became an unlikely symbol of a disputed presidential election. This year, the issue could be poorly marked ovals or boxes. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

Text and photo editing by Francesca Pitaro, AP Corporate Archives.

The AP began the last quarter of the 20th century with one foot firmly in the computer age. Under General Manager Keith Fuller, who served from 1975 to 1984, AP made the transition from leased wires to satellite transmission of news. By 1986, with DataStream on the horizon and the capacity to deliver 9,600 words of copy per minute, the last teletype was taken out of service at the West Plains (MO) Daily Quill.

In January 1985, Louis D. Boccardi, who had joined AP in 1967 as assistant to the general news editor, became the AP's president and general manager. Renowned as an editor, Boccardi proved equally adept at steering the business side of AP operations in an extremely competitive environment. The only constant was the need for change. Innovation in news and photo delivery were part of AP's playbook and AP met those challenges time and again, most notably with the introduction of Photostream and the electronic darkroom, the development of the NC2000 digital camera and the creation of AP's digital photo archive. Under Boccardi, AP also expanded its reach in the media arena, entering the video market in 1994 with the launch of APTV in London. In 1998 AP purchased WTN (Worldwide Television News), which combined with APTV to create APTN, a global video news service. AP's own internet service, The Wire, launched in 1996, providing text, photos, audio, and video news, updated with the latest reporting.

Boccardi never lost sight of AP's mission, nor took for granted the sacrifices made by staff in the field. On March 16, 1985, Chief Middle East Correspondent Terry Anderson was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants near his apartment in Beirut. Working behind the scenes with a team led by AP's Larry Heinzerling, Boccardi was relentless in his efforts to free Anderson, who was finally released on December 4th, 1991, after 6 ½ years in captivity.

Read more [here](#).

Marty Steinberg retiring from CNBC.com



At CNBC, I became known as The Style Stickler. It was a name I came up with for a weekly writing and editing memo I used to write for the staff. (The CNBC editor who asked me to write it was then-DME and former APer Ben Berkowitz.) It later transformed into a Slack channel, where people ask questions about style and standards.

Elisabeth Cordova, deputy managing editor, CNBC.com, in a note Wednesday to staff:

After 45 years in journalism, Marty Steinberg (Email) is finally putting his AP Stylebook up on a shelf. Our copy chief plans to retire on Friday, Oct. 1.

Marty Steinberg started with CNBC nearly 10 years ago, when he joined the newsroom to work as a YOH copy editor focusing on the special reports section. As the newsroom's coverage expanded, Marty took on additional leadership responsibilities, mentoring young reporters, coaching veteran journalists and encouraging a roster of talented copy editors.

His career was already well-established when he joined CNBC.com. Marty previously spent 28 years at the Associated Press, where he even copy-edited several editions of

the AP Stylebook.

Marty, whose first job in journalism was at his hometown newspaper, The Philadelphia Inquirer, has served CNBC's newsroom well. He added clarity to thousands of articles, prevented more than a few embarrassing corrections and answered all manner of questions in The Style Stickler.

In addition to copy editing, Marty wrote obituaries of newsmakers in preparation for their deaths, building up our extensive obit prep library. He penned CNBC's obituaries for President George H.W. Bush, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sen. John McCain, Rep. John Lewis, Prince Philip, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, former GE chief Jack Welch and fraudster Bernie Madoff.

Of that unique newsroom role, he says, "I don't write the obituaries, the people do. That's what people should know; what you do with your life, you're writing it. You're writing your story."

Patient but insistent, Marty is passionate about the truth. He cares deeply about protecting CNBC's reputation and brand. Although he'll hear out objections and admit it when he has misjudged, his dedication to getting it right remains tireless. Marty has even been known to point out to the AP editors several style errors, omissions and typos in their Stylebook.

Our newsroom and our industry are stronger institutions for his influence.

Although retiring from CNBC, Marty plans to be active, focusing on his second career as founder of RomanzaMusicEvents.com and as a cello teacher and performer. He and his wife, Wilma, will also get to spend more time with their family. They have a daughter and son-in-law in NYC and a son and daughter-in-law in Seattle, plus five grandkids.

Please join us in congratulating Marty on a job well done. We'll raise a toast for him before he departs.

Editor's Note: Marty started at CNBC.com in November 2011 as a copy editor and has been in charge of its copy desk for about eight years. He worked for the AP from 1981-2010 and played key roles in AP's coverage of major news events including the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks; the Iraq wars; the 2000 presidential election; the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing; the O.J. Simpson saga; Pope John Paul II's visit to the New York area in 1995; the Clinton presidency; the Rodney King beating and its aftermath; the 1986 space shuttle Challenger disaster.

Connecting mailbox

AP Mini-reunions... in Washington State



Retired bureau chiefs Howard Goldberg and Sally Hale laugh about how much they might miss calling elections. The photo was made by Rick Hale on the Hales' back patio in Camas, Wash., when Howard was passing through on Aug. 12, 2021. Howard notes that although the photo is blatantly staged, it is still storytelling: The plants are under an umbrella during record-setting heat in the Pacific Northwest.

And in Ohio...



Former Cincinnati correspondents John Nolan (left) and Dan Sewell flank former Dayton correspondent Jim Hannah in a mini-reunion along the Little Miami River. John retired from the Dayton Daily News, while Jim is in Wright State University communications, where his best assignment was spending a couple days hanging out with Tom Hanks, a benefactor of the school's arts program.

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AP Logo police spotting – Asbury Park



Spotted on the Asbury Park boardwalk by AP photojournalist Richard Drew. Shared by Molly Gordy.

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A trip to JFK Library and Museum



Paul Colford ([Email](#)) - I spent a long vacation weekend in Boston. Got into the JFK Library and Museum, which recently reopened, on Saturdays and Sundays only, and only to those who have reserved a time slot in advance.

I couldn't help but notice the pricey gifts (see two attached photos) given to JFK now that he agreed to live, televised news conferences starting in 1963.

Note this [link](#) and this [link](#) to stories relating to the news conferences.

AP names Troy Thibodeaux as new director of Digital News

In a note to staff Thursday from Amanda Barrett, deputy managing editor:

I am thrilled to announce that Troy Thibodeaux is AP's new Director of Digital News. He will lead our efforts to hone our focus on the growing digital news needs of customers and delivering our journalism in ways that meet those needs, as well as our own direct-to-audience work.

As director, Troy will oversee the Data Analysis and News Applications team, the News Design and Graphics team, the News Research team and the new Audience and Platforms team.



Troy, who has led AP's data journalism efforts since 2013, is the perfect choice for this new role in the News Department. As an innovator and collaborator, he has fostered some of AP's highest-impact journalism. He has worked consistently to build our capacity for digital work and served as a coach and mentor to reporters harnessing the power of data to bring precision to their work and break more news. And his experience in working with colleagues in Technology, Revenue and Products will be invaluable as we create the future of our digital platforms and make stronger connections between the work of AP journalists around the world and the end user who reads, watches, and listens to AP's news online and on a device.

Since joining the AP in 2007, Troy has steadily pushed AP journalism forward in the digital space. He began as a database editor but quickly worked to define our data journalism strategy and direct multimedia and computer-assisted reporting teams.

Over the past few years, he has taken our data journalism team from a small section of the graphics department into an award-winning team that works with AP journalists around the globe. In 2015, he devised and launched the data distribution program that allows members to tailor national stories for local audiences. During the pandemic, his team has shared vital COVID-19 information with members and customers.

Troy has also played an integral role in our election coverage. His team developed customizable coverage for customers and readers for the 2020 elections and has worked to internationalize election visualizations. He is now heavily involved in remaking our elections offerings for 2022 alongside our Graphics and Election teams. I know Troy will bring that same entrepreneurial spirit to his new position.

Troy's work has won acclaim from many corners. He was part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of Hurricane Katrina at the Times-Picayune, a winner of the IRE Philip Meyer Award. In 2019, the data team won AP's Chairman's Prize, our highest internal honor, for their work to create distinctive local accountability journalism. The team compiles, vets and distributes data that enables customers to localize national stories and tell unique local stories better.

Troy has a bachelor's degree in English and Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, a master's degree in English and American Literature from Louisiana State University and a doctorate in English and American Literature from New York University.

Please join me in congratulating him!

Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

UPDATE: *Texas Rangers group tickets now in socially distanced seating area of Globe Life Field, tickets only \$15 each*

NOTE: Organizers are monitoring pandemic concerns and urging all participants to be fully vaccinated. Plans continue, at this time, for the AP Connecting Regional Reunion to be held as originally scheduled next month.

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The deadline to register for the Sept. 17-18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area has been extended to Monday, Aug. 23.

About 70 people have already registered for the event co-hosted by Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at heidgerd@flash.net

NEW: Due to pandemic concerns, the AP reunion group seating for the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19, will now be in socially distanced seats costing \$15 each (correct). Seats are spread out, fans are seated in two's and four's and not as close to other fans. There are wheelchair/accessible seats available. Globe Life Field has a retractable roof and air conditioning/air recirculation.

Please email heidgerd@flash.net to order game tickets by Sunday, Aug. 22. Socially distanced Section 240 is still on the 200 level of Globe Life Field (center field) but is not the previous \$45 all-you-can-eat seats (200 Level of right field). If you previously committed to purchasing game tickets, you do not need to respond again.

AP 175th Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts (men's sizes only) are available to order online. Cost \$20 apiece, includes mailing & handling. Please order by Friday, Sept. 3.

_ Click this link: <https://associatedpress175.spiritsale.com> Check out the example of the T-shirt, front & back, with AP 175th anniversary logo. One color only – gray.

- _ Select the T-shirt size(s), the number you wish to order and add to cart.
- _ Click on cart, fill out shipping information and click again to place order. You will receive an initial email from the vendor, CreativeWEB in South Dakota, with order confirmation.
- _ You will receive a second email, upon completion of the order, to pay via a secure credit-card link. If you have problems getting the payment link to work, contact CreativeWEB at 605-350-6468 to provide a credit-card number or use PayPal. The T-shirts will be delivered by U.S. Postal Service.

Reunion Weekend/Schedule:

_ Pay your own way for events Saturday night, Sept. 18 (Tex-Mex group dinner) and the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19. Please reserve your \$15 game tickets in advance (see above).

_ A bonus BBQ dinner event, hosted by David & Ellen Sedeño, is scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 17. Please also register in advance for this gathering.

_ Details on the group hotel, confirming your place at all three events and ordering/online AP 175th Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts are in the registration form. Email Diana: heidgerd@flash.net

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Jay Reeves - jreeves@ap.org

Kendal Weaver - kendalweaver45@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Norm Black - normanblack73@gmail.com

Stories of interest

How News Organizations Got Afghan Colleagues Out of Kabul (New York Times)



Hundreds gathered Monday near a U.S. Air Force C-17 transport plane at the perimeter of the international airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. Credit...Shekib Rahmani/Associated Press

By Michael M. Grynbaum, Tiffany Hsu and Katie Robertson

For hours, they waited on the tarmac in the relentless heat, children and suitcases and strollers in tow, hoping for a flight to freedom that would not come. More than 200 Afghans from all walks of life — cooks, gardeners, translators, drivers, journalists — gathered on the runway of the Kabul airport, seeking escape from a country whose government had collapsed with shocking speed.

When Taliban forces surged into the crowded airport, the group — local employees of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, along with their relatives — heard gunfire. They quickly scattered, eventually returning to homes where their safety could not be assured.

It would be several long days until some members of the group were able to secure passage on Thursday out of Afghanistan — an exfiltration that came after a global rescue effort stretching from American newsrooms to the halls of the Pentagon to the emir's palace in Doha, Qatar. One Times correspondent, a former U.S. Marine, who

had been evacuated earlier but returned on a military plane to assist his Afghan colleagues, stayed inside the airport to help coordinate the escape.

The group's ordeal was one of many that played out over the past week in Afghanistan, where citizens who worked side by side with Western journalists for years — helping to inform the world about the travails of their nation — now fear for their safety and that of their families under the Taliban. Media outlets from around the world have called on high-level diplomats and on-the-ground fixers to help their employees escape a situation that none expected to unfold so brutally, so quickly."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind, Sibby Christensen.

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A free press was trying to take root in Afghanistan. Now journalists are bracing for Taliban rule. (Washington Post)

By Elahe Izadi and Sarah Ellison

When Lotfullah Najafizada, head of Afghanistan's widely watched Tolo TV news channel, learned that the president had fled the country, he held the story for an hour.

Ashraf Ghani's shocking departure on Sunday was a huge scoop, but Najafizada had more than the usual concerns about making sure they had their facts right: He knew the government would collapse — and the country would plunge into chaos — the moment the news broke.

Ultimately, they got the story out just minutes before their regular 6 p.m. newscast. "By that evening," he told The Washington Post, "the Taliban were everywhere."

Tolo never went off the air. "I knew if we shut down, to restart the channel would have been much more difficult," Najafizada said. "It was very, very important" to keep going, "even after the president of our country fled and there was no rule of law in the city."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.



Celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History" - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 3/4 x 6 3/4 in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - Aug. 20, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 20, the 232nd day of 2021. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 20, 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

On this date:

In 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley calling on President Abraham Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free the slaves and end the South's rebellion.

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1882, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" had its premiere in Moscow.

In 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

In 1955, hundreds of people were killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

In 1979, swimmer Diana Nyad (NY'-ad) succeeded in her third attempt at swimming from the Bahamas to Florida.

In 1986, postal employee Patrick Henry Sherrill went on a deadly rampage at a post office in Edmond, Okla., shooting 14 fellow workers to death before killing himself.

In 1988, a cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran went into effect.

In 1989, fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames (tehms) in London after colliding with a dredger.

In 2017, actor, comic and longtime telethon host Jerry Lewis died of heart disease in Las Vegas at the age of 91.

In 2019, President Donald Trump abruptly canceled an upcoming trip to Denmark, which owns Greenland, after the Danish prime minister dismissed the idea of the United States purchasing the mostly frozen island.

Ten years ago: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il arrived in Russia's Far East on a nearly weeklong visit. Jordyn Wieber won her first title at the U.S. gymnastics championships in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Five years ago: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump told a rally in Virginia that his party had to do a better job of appealing to African-American voters. At the Rio Games, the U.S. women's basketball team won a sixth consecutive Olympic gold medal, routing Spain 101-72. Allyson Felix and LaShawn Merritt anchored the 4x400 relay teams to victory.

One year ago: Accepting the Democratic presidential nomination, Joe Biden vowed to move the nation past the chaos of Donald Trump's tenure and return it to its leadership role in the world; capping a virtual convention amid the pandemic, Biden spoke to a largely empty arena in Delaware. A federal judge cleared the way for a New York prosecutor to get President Donald Trump's tax returns. Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, was pulled from a yacht and arrested on charges that he and three associates ripped off donors trying to fund a southern border wall. (Trump, in his final hours in office, would pardon Bannon.) Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny became ill on a flight to Moscow from Siberia and was hospitalized in a coma. (Navalny would spend five months in Germany recovering from a nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin; he was arrested after his return to Russia.)

Officials announced a \$600 million settlement between the state of Michigan and Flint residents who were harmed by lead-tainted water. The Minnesota Timberwolves won the NBA lottery giving them the first pick in the upcoming draft. (The Timberwolves would select Georgia shooting guard Anthony Edwards.)

Today's Birthdays: Boxing promoter Don King is 90. Former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, is 88. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 86. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 77. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 75. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 74. Actor Ray Wise is 74. Actor John Noble is 73. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 73. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 69. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 69. Actor-director Peter Horton is 68. TV weatherman Al Roker is 67. Actor Jay Acovone is 66. Actor Joan Allen is 65. Movie director David O. Russell is 63. TV personality Asha Blake is 60. Actor James Marsters is 59. Rapper KRS-One is 56. Actor Colin Cunningham is 55. Actor Billy Gardell is 52. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 51. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 51. Rock musician Brad Avery is 50. Actor Misha Collins is 47. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 46. Jazz/pop singer-pianist Jamie Cullum is 42. Actor Ben Barnes is 40. Actor Meghan Ory is 39. Actor Andrew Garfield is 38. Actor Brant Daugherty is 36. Actor-singer Demi Lovato is 29. Actor Christopher Paul Richards is 18.

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"