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Connecting

January 11, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Jan. 11, 2022,

We lead today's issue with a story from PetaPixel on AP's plans to build an NFT marketplace that will feature in an initial collection of photography by current and former AP photojournalists (including Pulitzer Prize-winning photos).

We also bring you a story on how AP works with foundations and nonprofits to augment its journalism and help tell stories it might otherwise not be able to tell. Connecting colleague **Lisa Gibbs** ([Email](#)), AP's director of News Partnerships, explains in a Q and A.

And there's a delightful story from our colleague **Susan Clark** on her early morning emails with former AP White House correspondent **Jonathan Lemire** on his "Way Too Early" program on MSNBC.

Finally, join me in wishing a very Happy Birthday to a journalist who ranks among the very best political writers to ever carry a notepad – AP's own **Walter Mears**. The email

for our Pulitzer Prize-winning colleague – wmears111@gmail.com

Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

The Associated Press to Launch an NFT Photography Marketplace

JARON SCHNEIDER
PetaPixel

AP is building the marketplace in conjunction with blockchain provider Xooa and intends to launch the platform on January 31, and the collection will be released over a period of weeks. The organization says the initial collection that will be offered will feature photography by current and former AP photojournalists (including Pulitzer Prize-winning photos) as well as a selection of what it describes as “digitally enhanced depictions of their work.”

AP dipped its toe into NFTs in May of 2021 when it launched 10 through a collaboration with Everipedia and OpenSea. Clearly, the organization saw that endeavor as a success as it has decided to dramatically increase its efforts in the crypto space.

“For 175 years AP’s photographers have recorded the world’s biggest stories through gripping and poignant images that continue to resonate today,” Dwayne Desaulniers, AP’s director of blockchain and data licensing, says. “With Xooa’s technology, we are proud to offer these tokenized pieces to a fast-growing global audience of photography NFT collectors.”

AP says that each NFT will include the set of original metadata that it hopes will entice collectors who want to see the time, date, location, equipment, and technical settings used to create the photos. The content of the photography will range from space, climate, war, and other images that the organization says will put a spotlight on the work of specific AP photographers.

The storied press organization says that the prices it will seek for its NFTs will vary, but that as a not-for-profit news cooperative, any funds it collects as the result of the sales will go back to funding “factual, unbiased AP journalism.”

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

Watching " Way Too Early' on MSNBC



Susan Clark (Email) - Every morning since April 2020, Monday-Friday I get up at 5 am for my 7:45 cardio and bootcamp class on Zoom. I like to have coffee before the class and get up at 5 am., and watch "Way Too Early" on MSNBC hosted by Jon Lemire, former AP colleague and now the host. He is also the White House Bureau Chief for Politico. He always asks, " Why are you up"? People respond and then he reads the emails at about 5:50.

He has read my emails about three times. He posts them up on the screen. Monday, I wrote about the Novak Djokovic result (judge says he can stay in Australia). The first email was from someone who was happy he was let in and Jon said, "You should talk to Susan."



My email said: "Up early watching the Novak results. Melbourne has been in lockdown so many times and Novak just gets to waltz in. Very unfair. It is so exciting to see your email, however. I don't know anyone in my world that gets up "Way too Early."

Jon Lemire is amazing as he is up so early and then continues onto the next show " Morning Joe." I don't know when he sleeps.

How we work with foundations

By Lauren Easton

AP works with foundations and nonprofits to augment our journalism and help us tell stories we might otherwise not be able to tell.

Director of News Partnerships Lisa Gibbs explains how this outside support underpins AP's mission of providing factual, unbiased journalism to the world.

How does AP work with foundations and nonprofits?

AP collaborates with a number of nonprofits both in and outside of the news media industry to expand and deepen our global news report. Increasingly, philanthropic institutions are supporting those collaborations as well as AP's own ambitious plans to strengthen our great journalism and the entire news industry.

Grants fall basically into three categories. First, there are journalism projects that benefit from extra newsgathering funds, like the ongoing series "Tracked" about the impact of artificial intelligence on the lives of everyday people, that's funded by the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting. Then there are significant coverage expansions on topics we care deeply about, such as health and science, religion, and state government. Finally, there are technology innovations, like AP StoryShare, which allows local news organizations to share their stories with one another to supplement their news reports. In all three types, AP has complete editorial control over what we produce.

AP collaborates with nonprofit news outlets such as Chalkbeat and Kaiser Health News, and with customers like Univision to strengthen our journalism, bringing specialized expertise or journalists in locations where AP staff are unavailable. We have worked with several university journalism schools too; one example is our



project with the Northwestern University Knight Lab to help local newsrooms learn more about using automation and artificial intelligence.

Why does AP accept funding from foundations for its journalism? How do we decide who to work with?

Our work with foundations starts with AP's own strategic priorities – what stories could we tell better and more frequently with additional funds? How can we help members and customers cover those stories better for their own communities? How can we experiment with new approaches or improve our technology? We see foundation funding as an important means of fulfilling our mission of providing accurate, unbiased journalism as we produce the world's most comprehensive news report.

Then we determine which funders grant in those program areas and would meet AP's standards. Each foundation goes through a thorough standards review to ensure its commitment to editorial independence. AP's editorial control over our journalism is non-negotiable.

Throughout the news industry, philanthropies are increasingly giving grants to journalism organizations, not just public or nonprofit media but also for-profit news companies. Media casts a bright light on areas in which they are interested and think are valuable, both solutions and problems. AP's unparalleled distribution network means a much broader understanding of issues like health care, climate change and education.

Who have we accepted funding from lately and for what projects?

Before 2017, AP had only received grants from the Knight Foundation. As of today, we have grants with 16 funders and more to come. Most people know about our relationships with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for health and science coverage, the Lilly Endowment for religion, and Report for America for state government. In 2021, we received a grant from the European Journalism Centre for a year-long series on the impact of the pandemic on African women. We just announced our second grant from the Walton Family Foundation, for investigative reporting about oceans and fisheries.

Learn more about AP's work with foundations and nonprofits.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Brian Horton

Walter Mears

Bill Sikes

Stories of interest

Biden shied away from news conferences, interviews in Year 1 (AP)

By AAMER MADHANI

WASHINGTON (AP) — In what's become a familiar scene, President Joe Biden lingered after delivering a recent speech on the pandemic as reporters fired a barrage of questions.

He bristled at a query about the shortage of COVID-19 rapid tests, answered another about omicron-spurred travel restrictions and sidestepped a third about whether Sen. Joe Manchin failed to keep his word when he torpedoed Biden's social services and climate spending plan.

"I'm not supposed to be having this press conference right now," Biden said at the end of a meandering response that didn't directly answer the question about Manchin.

Seconds later, Biden turned and walked out of the State Dining Room, abruptly ending what's become his preferred method for his limited engagements with the press.

As Biden wraps up his first year in the White House, he has held fewer news conferences than any of his five immediate predecessors at the same point in their presidencies, and has participated in fewer media interviews than any of his recent predecessors.

Read more [here](#).

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Ruth Shalit Barrett sues Atlantic for \$1 million over retraction of viral article, allegations of inaccuracies

(Washington Post)

By Bryan Pietsch

Ruth Shalit Barrett, the freelance writer whose widely read 2020 story the Atlantic retracted after saying it had lost confidence in her credibility, is suing the magazine for \$1 million in damages. She alleges that the retraction of the article and a lengthy editor's note that disavowed her and mentioned incidents of plagiarism in her past "destroyed her reputation and career."

Barrett said in a lawsuit filed Friday in federal court in D.C. that the Atlantic "unlawfully smeared" her "for acting in accordance with the law and ethical precepts of the profession of journalism." She alleges defamation and breach of good faith and contract, among other claims. Don Peck, the Atlantic's former print magazine editor and current editor-at-large, is also named in the suit.

The Atlantic ran Barrett's story, "The Mad, Mad World of Niche Sports Among Ivy League-Obsessed Parents," in its November 2020 issue and published it online in October that year. The article offered a look into the posh mania of competitive youth sports such as fencing and lacrosse, focusing at first on a Connecticut mother who was referred to by her purported middle name, Sloane, to protect her anonymity.

Read more [here](#).

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What Surprised Us in Focus Groups With Voters About Jan. 6 (New York Times)

By Patrick Healy
Deputy Opinion Editor

"What were some of the biggest things that happened in 2021?"

That was the opening question to two very different focus groups of voters convened by Times Opinion this week. The wide-open question was intended to see what was top of mind for the two separate groups — nine Democrats and eight Republicans from across the country — who weren't told the discussions would focus on the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and the state of democracy in America. Unprompted, the Democrats started off with these answers:

"The Capitol in January."

“Definitely.”

“Absolutely.”

And the Republicans started off with these answers:

“The vaccine. More and more people getting vaccinated.”

“The economy started to go bad.”

“The price of everything going up, and we’re back to \$50 fill-ups.”

The moderator of the Democratic focus group, Margie Omero, and I weren’t expecting these participants (and others who followed suit) to bring up the Capitol attack right away, given all the news and challenges of 2021. And while I wasn’t surprised that some Republican participants, when asked by moderator Kristen Soltis Anderson for one-word reactions to “Jan. 6,” said they thought it was “way overblown” and “misrepresented,” I was struck that other Republicans defied Trumpian orthodoxy and reacted to Jan. 6 by saying “scary” and “definitely Trump.”

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

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Local News Rebirth in Chicago: ‘More Exciting Than It’s Ever Been’ (Local News Initiative)

by MARK JACOB

Chicago journalism is undergoing a dramatic restructuring that has turned the nation’s third-largest media market into a center for news experimentation.

While the city’s media have seen brutal job cuts in recent years, including a dramatic downsizing at the Chicago Tribune, a sense of rebirth and optimism prevails. Longtime observers talk about “an explosion of media” that makes it “more exciting than it’s ever been.”

The changes are attracting national attention, according to Sue Cross, CEO and Executive Director of the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN). “It’s important nationally and perhaps even globally because Chicago is a petri dish for the re-invention of news media,” Cross said.

A variety of journalism trends intersect in Chicago.

Nonprofit news is assuming a prominence once reserved for the city’s commercial outlets as the 175-year-old Tribune recedes and a public radio station, WBEZ, emerges as a rival for dominance in local reporting.

Read more [here](#).

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Carl Bernstein's Eulogy for the Newspaper Business

(New York Times)

BOOK REVIEW

By Jill Abramson

CHASING HISTORY

A Kid in the Newsroom

By Carl Bernstein

Nearly 25 percent of the 9,000 U.S. newspapers that were published 15 years ago are gone, leaving behind a vast news desert and signs of a weakened democracy. So it's bittersweet to read Carl Bernstein's "Chasing History," a rollicking memoir about the golden age of newspapers. Bernstein ignores the bad karma engulfing the newspaper industry to recreate his rookie days at The Washington Evening Star, a robust afternoon paper that ceased publication in 1981. Bernstein's nostalgia for those times is so deep that after the first 30 pages I could hear ghostly voices shouting, "Honey, get me rewrite."

If you count the books Bernstein co-authored with Bob Woodward about their legendary coverage of Watergate for The Washington Post ("All the President's Men" and "The Final Days") and "Loyalties," the book he published in 1989 about his parents' struggles during McCarthyism, this is Bernstein's fourth time writing about his life and work. Even for one of the country's most famous reporters, that's a lot of Bernstein.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

Never End a Text Message Like This, Experts Warn

(BestLife)

By MEGAN CAHN

Texting is how we communicate. You may have had to resign yourself to texting your children before you call them if you want them to pick up the phone, but it's also proven to be the least complicated way to get a quick answer from someone or even reach a customer service person instead of waiting on hold. It's easy and simple, but texting also has its own set of rules that may be hard to decipher. Have you ever felt that you're being misunderstood in a text? It turns out, it could all be in the punctuation. If you want to come across natural via text—especially with the younger set—it's best to unlearn a few things you were taught in English class. Read on to find out how you should never end a text message.

When it comes to texting, you have to throw all that grammar you've retained in your brain for, yes, your whole life, out the window—or at least one integral part of it: the period at the end of a sentence. Save that punctuation for your emails or your next novel, it's now considered rude or even passive-aggressive in a text.

"To younger generations, using proper punctuation in a casual context like texting can give an impression of formality that borders on rudeness, as if the texter is not comfortable enough with the texting partner to relax," reports The New York Times. "The message-ending period establishes a certain distance ... Simply put, the inclusion of a formality in casual communication is unnerving."

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

Today in History - Jan. 11, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2022. There are 354 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 11, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon National Monument (it became a national park in 1919).

On this date:

In 1861, Alabama became the fourth state to withdraw from the Union.

In 1913, the first enclosed sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th National Automobile Show in New York.

In 1927, the creation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was proposed during a dinner of Hollywood luminaries at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began an 18-hour trip from Honolulu to Oakland, California, that made her the first person to fly solo across any part of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1943, the United States and Britain signed treaties relinquishing extraterritorial rights in China.

In 1963, the Beatles' single "Please Please Me" (B side "Ask Me Why") was released in Britain by Parlophone.

In 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued "Smoking and Health," a report that concluded that "cigarette smoking contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and to the overall death rate."

In 1978, two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz 27 capsule linked up with the Salyut 6 orbiting space station, where the Soyuz 26 capsule was already docked.

In 1989, nine days before leaving the White House, President Ronald Reagan bade the nation farewell in a prime-time address, saying of his eight years in office: "We meant to change a nation and instead we changed a world."

In 2003, calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

In 2010, Mark McGwire admitted to The Associated Press that he'd used steroids and human growth hormone when he broke baseball's home run record in 1998.

In 2020, health authorities in the central Chinese city of Wuhan reported the first death from what had been identified as a new type of coronavirus; the patient was a 61-year-old man who'd been a frequent customer at a food market linked to the majority of cases there.

Ten years ago: Joran van der Sloot (YOHR'-uhn VAN'-dur-sloht), the longtime suspect in the still unsolved disappearance of American Natalee Holloway in Aruba, pleaded guilty in Lima to the 2010 murder of a Peruvian woman, Stephany Flores; he was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Five years ago: In a combative and freewheeling news conference at Trump Tower in New York, President-elect Donald Trump said for the first time that he accepted that Russia was behind the election year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race; looking ahead, he urged Congress to move quickly to replace President Barack Obama's signature health care law and insisted anew that Mexico would pay the cost of a border wall. Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany were indicted in the U.S. in the VW emissions-cheating scandal, while the company agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay \$4.3 billion — by far the biggest fine ever levied by the government against an automaker.

One year ago: The conservative-friendly social network Parler was booted off the internet over ties to the siege on the U.S. Capitol, but not before digital activists made off with an archive of its posts, including any that might have helped organize or

document the riot. The San Diego Zoo Safari Park said several gorillas there had tested positive for the coronavirus in what were believed to be the first cases among such primates in captivity. Pope Francis changed church law to explicitly allow women to do more things during Mass, while reaffirming they cannot be priests. Billionaire casino mogul and Republican mega-donor Sheldon Adelson died at 87. No. 1 Alabama won college football's national championship game, 52-24 against No. 3 Ohio State, capping a season that was played in a pandemic; thousands of excited football fans ignored pandemic precautions and partied in streets around the University of Alabama after the game.

Today's Birthdays: Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (zhahn kray-tee-EHN') is 88. Actor Mitchell Ryan is 88. Movie director Joel Zwick is 80. Country singer Naomi Judd is 76. World Golf Hall of Famer Ben Crenshaw is 70. Singer Robert Earl Keen is 66. Actor Phyllis Logan is 66. Musician Vicki Peterson (The Bangles) is 64. Actor Kim Coles is 60. Actor Jason Connery is 59. Former child actor Dawn Lyn (TV: "My Three Sons") is 59. Rock musician Tom Dumont (No Doubt) is 54. Movie director Malcolm D. Lee is 52. Singer Mary J. Blige is 51. Musician Tom Rowlands (The Chemical Brothers) is 51. Actor Marc Blucas is 50. Actor Amanda Peet is 50. Actor Rockmond Dunbar is 49. Actor Aja Naomi King is 37. Actor Kristolyn Lloyd is 37. Reality TV star Jason Wahler is 35. Pop singer Cody Simpson is 25.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career.

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:

- **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.

- **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?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
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