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Connecting

January 12, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Jan. 12, 2022,

Our colleague **Dan Sewell** ([Email](#)) poses a question, but first read his story, which he titled, "When Baby Can't Wait":

Columbus Administrative Correspondent **Kantele Franko** ([Email](#)) wrapped up leading the Ohio news meeting via Zoom around noon ET Jan. 6, then let colleagues know she was going to see her doctor as a precaution because of some physical concerns about her pregnancy with about three weeks to go to due date.

She then was sent on to the hospital for testing.

Within a few hours, she updated colleagues on the Slack internal messaging system by posting a photo of newborn Charlie.

Her first child had weighed in at more than seven pounds - less than four hours after the end of the Ohio staff meeting!

Kantele, Charlie and her husband **Rick Rouan**, a USA Today political reporter, are all home now and doing fine.

Kantele and Rick are fellow alums of Ohio University and The Post student newspaper.

Wonder if others have stories to share about babies who arrived before deadline while they had planned to be working?

We lead today's issue with the AP news release that The Associated Press will launch a non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace built by blockchain technology provider Xooa, where collectors can purchase AP's award-winning contemporary and historic photojournalism.

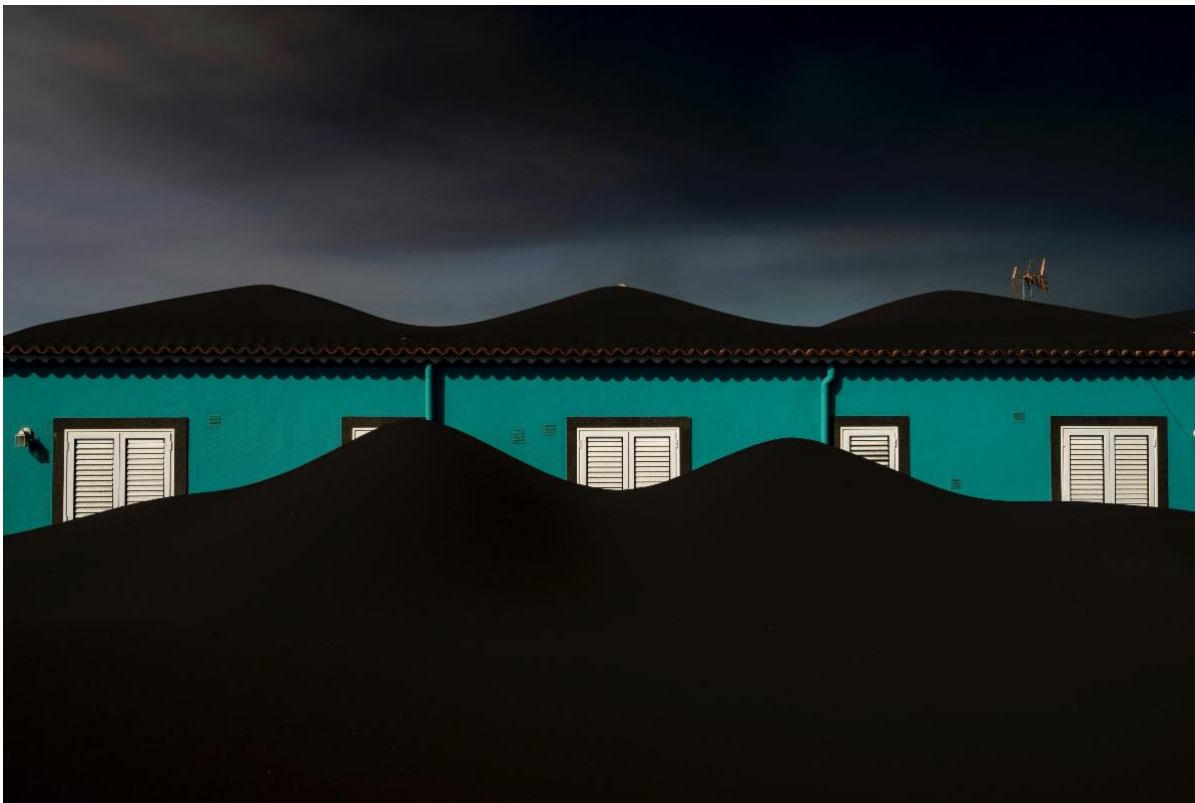
The marketplace and first NFTs are set to debut on Monday, Jan. 31. We had a PetaPixel story on this yesterday but I thought the AP release gave some further detail. And colleague Dwayne Desaulniers promises a follow-up explainer on NFTs for tomorrow's issue.

Here's a reminder that our colleague **Becky Day** is seeking volunteers to help with judging state AP newspaper and broadcast contests. If you're interested in more information, contact Becky at becky@kba.org

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP to launch NFT photography marketplace built by Xooa



This image of a home covered in ash from a volcano erupting on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain, on Nov. 1, 2021, will be available as an NFT on AP's NFT marketplace. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



This Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a Jewish settler challenging Israeli security officers in the West Bank settlement of Amona, Feb. 1, 2006, will be among the first NFTs available on AP's NFT marketplace. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

NEW YORK – The Associated Press will launch a non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace built by blockchain technology provider Xooa, where collectors can purchase the news agency's award-winning contemporary and historic photojournalism.

The marketplace and first NFTs are set to debut on Monday, Jan. 31.

The initial collection will feature photography by current and former AP photojournalists and a selection of digitally enhanced depictions of their work. Pulitzer Prize-winning AP images will be included.

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

Each NFT will include a rich set of original metadata offering collectors awareness of the time, date, location, equipment and technical settings used for the shot.

The initial collection will be released over a period of weeks beginning Jan. 31. NFTs will range from space, climate, war and other images to spotlights on the work of specific AP photographers.

NFT price points will vary. As a not-for-profit news cooperative, proceeds go back into funding factual, unbiased AP journalism.

Collectors of all levels will be able to seamlessly buy, sell and trade official AP digital collectibles through the marketplace. It will support secondary market transactions and purchases using credit card payments as well as crypto wallets, including MetaMask, with support for Fortmatic, Binance, and Coinbase (NASDAQ: COIN) to come.

The NFTs will be minted on the Polygon blockchain, which is an environmentally friendly, Ethereum-compatible layer two solution.

“Xooa is proud to work with The Associated Press to launch AP’s NFT marketplace. Xooa’s work with brands around NFTs and metaverse marketplaces provides inherent scarcity and utility for collectors as well as a powerful connection between the virtual world and the real world,” said Zach Danker-Feldman, Xooa’s head of marketplaces. “In this marketplace deployment, emphasis has been placed on accessibility for all types of collectors to empower them to join a community that shares their interest in stunning photography.”

To learn more and sign up for updates: <https://apmarket.xooa.com/>

Click [here](#) for link to this news release. (Shared by Arnold Zeitlin)

LA to Frankfurt, over northern Iowa

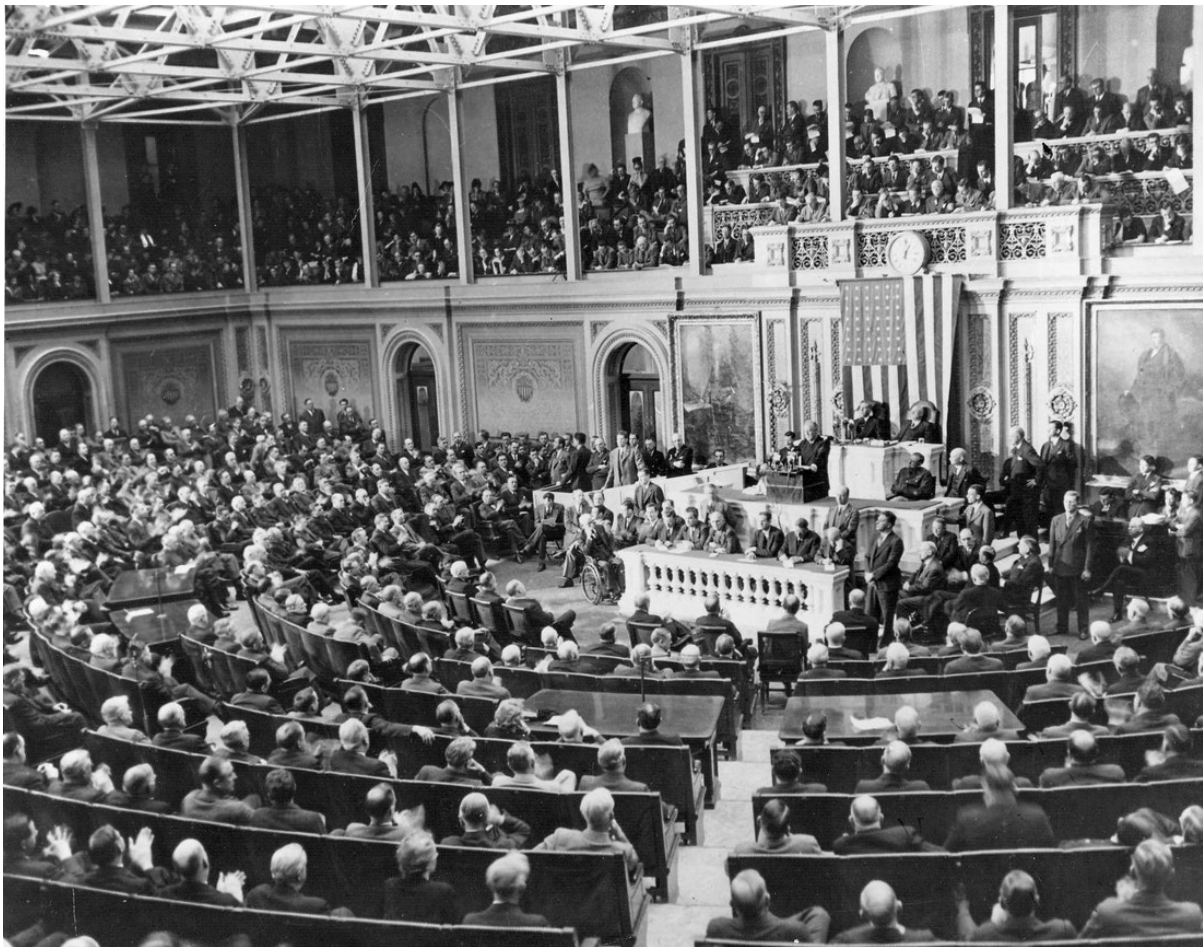


Tom Tierney (Email) - Lufthansa Cargo Flight 8231 six miles over Humboldt County (Iowa) last week flying in clear skies at 600 MPH from Los Angeles to Frankfurt, Germany.

(Asked by Ye Olde Connecting Editor how he knew that:)

Identity thanks to [Flightradar24](#) - a global flight tracking service that provides you with real-time information about thousands of aircraft around the world. Flightradar24 tracks 180,000+ flights, from 1,200+ airlines, flying to or from 4,000+ airports around the world in real time. Our service is currently available online and for your iOS or Android device.

FDR's 'Four Freedoms' speech



(National Archives)

Marc Lancaster **World War II on Deadline**

On the afternoon of January 6, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt went before a joint session of Congress and delivered what would come to be known as the “Four Freedoms” speech. It stands in history as one of his best-known orations, perhaps second only to the speech he delivered 11 months and two days later, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ideals that gave that particular State of the Union speech its name — freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, freedom from fear — inspired a series of Norman Rockwell paintings that ran in four consecutive issues of the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1943. Decades later, Roosevelt’s words were chiseled into the granite walls at the FDR Memorial in Washington.

The four freedoms’ place in the American rhetorical canon is secure, but that particular section of his speech was not necessarily the focus of press coverage at the time.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

20 Years Later, the Story Behind the Guantánamo Photo That Won't Go Away (New York Times)



An image taken by the military on Jan. 11, 2002, shows the first 20 prisoners at Guantánamo Bay soon after their arrival. Credit...Petty Officer First Class Shane T. McCoy/U.S. Navy

By Carol Rosenberg

GUANTÁNAMO BAY, Cuba — Four months to the day after the Sept. 11 attacks, a photographer hoisted a camera above shiny new razor wire and took a picture of 20 prisoners on their knees in orange uniforms, manacled, masked and heads bowed.

The image ignited a debate over what the United States was doing at its offshore prison, which continues operating to this day. It also became one of the most enduring, damning photos of U.S. detention policy in the 21st century.

But lost in time and collective memory to many is that the picture was not some leaked image of torture that the public was not meant to see. It was taken by a U.S. Navy photographer, intentionally released by the Defense Department.

“I was doing exactly what I was assigned to do,” said the photographer, Shane T. McCoy. “It was my job to document it. I absolutely had to photograph it. And I had to send it up.”

The date was Jan. 11, 2002. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, local allies had scooped up hundreds of suspected foreign fighters and Qaeda members and delivered them to U.S. forces. The C.I.A. had yet to establish its secret prison network. The detainee abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq was years away.

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

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Seven shifts in our quest to make progress useful

By DAN PERRY

Two years into the pandemic, the Omicron variant feels like a turning of a corner; so insanely contagious and yet significantly less deadly that perhaps the endgame is at hand. But even if COVID never goes away, a new landscape is slowly coming into view, with some surprises to offer our exhausted, apprehensive world. What seems at first like a random civilizational reboot might really have been an acceleration of the inevitable. Moreover, despite what many consider to be an era of decline and idiocracy, much of it may well be for the good, and indeed a triumph of the spirit. So here's a survey of the disorienting landscape as we embark on 2022.

The shift in where we work

COVID probably made permanent the long-imminent shift to hybrid and remote labor. The trade-off: Offices allow in-person interactions better for training and team building, but they require pollution-causing and time-consuming travel. Moreover, people in the knowledge economy interact mostly with others far away who have no ability or need to gather in a single physical space. Today's communication tools make forcing them together absurd.

So residential real estate will see a permanent bump up as people discover working in the kitchen is not too much fun and start requiring a home office. That's a top reason why house prices globally are soaring. So the demand for office plummets and office stocks will suffer, while companies that deal with converting office to residential – or sales floors to warehouses – will thrive, as will enterprises that make real estate transactions less difficult.

Read more [here](#).

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Indigenous news outlets, nonprofits drive deeper coverage (AP)

By KATIE OYAN

PHOENIX (AP) — Kiowa tribal member Tristan Ahtone remembers just getting started in journalism over a decade ago and pitching ideas on Indigenous topics. His bosses

would say things like: “We ran a Native story earlier this year. Do we need another one?”

Thankfully, he said, times have changed.

“Nowadays there’s not enough content to fill demand, which is fantastic,” said Ahtone, a former longtime Native American Journalists Association board member and current editor at large at nonprofit media outlet Grist.

Native American communities have seen more robust news coverage in recent years, in part because of an increase in Indigenous affairs reporting positions at U.S. newsrooms and financial support from foundations.

Journalism-focused philanthropy quadrupled from 2009 to 2019 as traditional newspaper revenue shrank, according to a Media Impact Funders report. At the same time, an increasingly diverse population and a renewed focus on social injustice have commanded greater media attention.

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

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Opinion: This Trumpish attack on the media is ridiculous, yes, but serious nonetheless (Washington Post)

By William H. Freivogel

William H. Freivogel, a former St. Louis Post-Dispatch editor, is a journalism professor at Southern Illinois University and a member of the Missouri Bar.

Last fall, Josh Renaud, a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (where I once worked), was aggregating Missouri state data on teachers to identify who was unlicensed. As he worked, he looked at the HTML code for the publicly available webpages — a task customarily accomplished with a couple of clicks to reveal the HyperText Markup Language used to construct the pages. Renaud noticed that the code included nine-digit numbers. He surmised, correctly, that these were Social Security numbers.

Rather than rushing to publish a scoop about the glaring privacy vulnerability for more than 100,000 Missouri public-school teachers, Renaud and the Post-Dispatch did the right thing. They alerted state education officials, giving them time to fix the problem before the paper disclosed it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

The Final Word



*“I’ve tried rebooting it several times,
but the news is still terrible.”*

Shared by Craig Armstrong

Today in History - Jan. 12, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2022. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 12, 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records (originally Tamla Records) in Detroit.

On this date:

In 1828, the United States and Mexico signed a Treaty of Limits defining the boundary between the two countries to be the same as the one established by an 1819 treaty between the U.S. and Spain.

In 1910, at a White House dinner hosted by President William Howard Taft, Baroness Rosen, wife of the Russian ambassador, caused a stir by requesting and smoking a cigarette — it was, apparently, the first time a woman had smoked openly during a public function in the executive mansion. (Some of the other women present who had brought their own cigarettes began lighting up in turn.)

In 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a proposed constitutional amendment to give women nationwide the right to vote.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate after initially being appointed to serve out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a major, successful offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe. Aircraft from U.S. Task Force 38 sank about 40 Japanese ships off Indochina.

In 1948, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Sipuel v. Board of Regents of University of Oklahoma*, unanimously ruled that state law schools could not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. military should stay in Vietnam until Communist aggression there was stopped. The TV series "Batman," starring Adam West and Burt Ward as the Dynamic Duo, premiered on ABC.

In 1969, the New York Jets of the American Football League upset the Baltimore Colts of the National Football League 16-7 in Super Bowl III, played at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

In 1971, the groundbreaking situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS television.

In 2000, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Illinois v. Wardlow*, gave police broad authority to stop and question people who run at the sight of an officer.

In 2010, Haiti was struck by a magnitude-7 earthquake; the Haitian government said 316,000 people were killed, while a report prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development suggested the death toll may have been between 46,000 and 85,000.

In 2016, Iran detained 10 American sailors and their two small Navy boats after the boats drifted into Iranian waters; the sailors and their vessels were released the following day.

Ten years ago: Pentagon leaders scrambled to contain damage from an Internet video purporting to show four Marines urinating on Taliban corpses. (The Marine Corps announced in August 2012 that three Marines had received administrative punishments in connection with this incident.)

Five years ago: In yet another aftershock from the chaotic presidential campaign, the Justice Department inspector general opened an investigation into department and FBI actions before the election, including whether FBI Director James Comey followed established policies in the email investigation of Hillary Clinton. President Barack Obama ended the longstanding "wet foot, dry foot" immigration policy that allowed any Cuban who made it to U.S. soil to stay and become a legal resident.

One year ago: The House voted to urge Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to the Constitution and hold a Cabinet vote to remove President Donald Trump from office; it was a symbolic action after Pence had already said he would not do so. Amid worry about renewed violence on Inauguration Day, the military's top leaders issued a written reminder to service members that the deadly insurrection at the Capitol was an anti-democratic, criminal act, and that the right to free speech gives no one the right to commit violence. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said anyone flying to the United States would soon need to show proof of a negative test for COVID-19.

Today's Birthdays: The Amazing Kreskin is 87. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 83. Actor Anthony Andrews is 74. Movie director Wayne Wang is 73. Actor Kirstie Alley is 71. Legal affairs blogger Ann Althouse is 71. Writer Walter Mosley is 70. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 70. Radio-TV personality Howard Stern is 68. Writer-producer-director John Lasseter is 65. Broadcast journalist

Christiane Amanpour is 64. Actor Oliver Platt is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins is 62. Entrepreneur Jeff Bezos is 58. Rock singer Rob Zombie is 57. Actor Olivier Martinez is 56. Model Vendela is 55. Actor Farrah Focuse is 54. Actor Rachael Harris is 54. Rock singer Zack de la Rocha is 52. Rapper Raekwon (Wu Tang Clan) is 52. Actor Zabryna Guevara is 50. Singer Dan Haseltine (Jars of Clay) is 49. Singer Melanie Chisholm (Spice Girls) is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Jeremy Camp is 44. Actor Cynthia Addai-Robinson is 42. R&B singer Amerie is 42. Actor Issa Rae is 37. Actor Will Rothhaar is 35. Actor Andrew Lawrence is 34. Rock singer ZAYN is 29. Pop/soul singer Ella Henderson (TV: "The X Factor") is 26.

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

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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