

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

January 14, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 14, 2022,

As I anticipated, Connecting has received some great memories of **Mike Cochran** from his former colleagues after the sad news of his death.

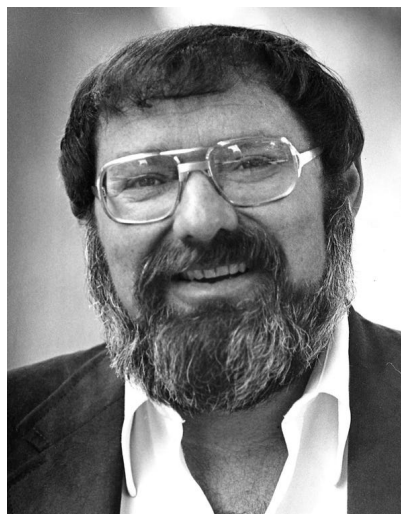
Cochran died Tuesday after a long battle with cancer, at the age of 85, and yesterday's issue provided details of his nearly 40-year career with The Associated Press, almost all of them as Fort Worth correspondent. (He is shown at right in 1980 photo.)

He was a legendary reporter – a statement few would argue. But he was far more than a reporter, as you'll read today's issue with some great stories of our colleague on the personal side. He touched hundreds in a positive way.

An example from colleague **John Willis**:

Mike's personality was larger than life. The depth of his curiosity, tenacity as a reporter, versatility and the breadth of his wordsmithing abilities were bigger than all of Texas. He always had a gleam in his eye that seemed to say, "let's see what kind of muck we can rake today." He had as many tales as Will Rogers and Mark Twain combined and he could spin a yarn with the best of them.

As far as this old AP hand is concerned, the saying "we shall not see the likes of him again" fits Mike Cochran like a golf glove. He got more life out of 85 years than anyone else could get out of 500.



Our colleague **Sylvia Wingfield** shares that **Brian Stelter** noted the passing of Mike in his Thursday night "Reliable Sources" newsletter for CNN:

-- Mike Cochran, "who covered Texas for The Associated Press for nearly 40 years and at one point ended up serving as a pallbearer for the presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald while reporting on his funeral, died on Tuesday." He was 85. [Read his incredible life story here..](#)"

(The link is to a version of AP's obit – authored by Dallas AP reporter **Jamie Stengle** - posted by the New York Times.)

Got a story or favorite memory to share of working with Mike? Please send it along to share in Connecting.

If you'd like to send condolences/remembrances to Mike's family, please email your message to Diana Heidgerd - heidgerd@flash.net - or John Lumpkin - jolumpk3@gmail.com - to be forwarded to his wife **Sondra Cochran**. Dallas AP's **Pam Collins** will also save hard copies of those messages for a memory book for the Cochran family.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Your memories of Mike Cochran



John Bolt ([Email](#)) - Like everyone who came in contact with him, I was sad to learn of Mike Cochran's passing. I wanted to add some remembrances of Mike from my time in Dallas.

I had the honor/challenge of editing Mike's stories from time to time. I always undertook the task with trepidation because, after all, it was MIKE COCHRAN I was editing. Sometimes we would go round and round about the least little thing — this word or that word, can I cut this 1,500-word piece some, etc. — but the thing I learned and appreciated was that he was precise and meticulous in his writing. He carefully considered each word that he wrote because he was a craftsman of the highest order. I don't recall how many of those discussions I ever "won," but I'm sure it wasn't many or maybe any. Because he was MIKE (expletive deleted) COCHRAN.

I also recall how stunned and sorrowed he was after appearing on a panel of reporters who had covered the Kennedy assassination. It was at the SMU journalism school on the 30th anniversary of the assassination. The (mostly) students in the audience essentially berated the panel (in my memory, anyway) for what they considered the reporters' failure and lack of skepticism. Most refused to even consider that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone, and asked the reporters on the panel why they failed to challenge the official version. Mike never understood, I don't think, the conspiracy industry. (I'd love to tell about a certain story Mike and I worked on about the assassination that was as intriguing as hell, but never saw the light of day — probably for the best.)

And Mike was always in charge of the hospitality suites at various AP functions, a task he relished. But one time, at a state broadcasters convention a year after the Branch Davidian debacle in Waco, he and I were enjoying a libation on our own in his hotel room and we started recalling those events. I had been on the desk on April 19, 1993,

watching the live shots of the compound burning, and filing News Alerts — as we called them then — with the General Desk, sentence-by-sentence, knowing all the while in the back of my mind that people, including many children, were being burned alive in that house. But it was a year later, talking with Mike in that hotel room, that I finally burst into tears and started dealing with the sorrow. And Mike, the grizzled, profane, larger-than-life friend, helped me through it. I'll always remember that about Mike first and foremost.

While Dallas (the city) was not my favorite place to be personally, in many ways it was working with and knowing Mike Cochran that made those 8 1/2 years enjoyable.

-0-

Katie Fairbank (Email) - I had the honor of following in his giant footsteps as Fort Worth correspondent. The idea was daunting and I asked him what I should do first. He squeezed my hand and told me the only thing he thought I should do was "enjoy all of it." Everyone I ever met knew him and they all couldn't hide that they were a little disappointed that I wasn't him. He was a friend, one of Texas' finest and a legend.

-0-

Cragg Hines (Email) - Wait, no, Mike Cochran can't be dead. His immortality had already been established in the mid-1960s, when I was a journalism student at what was then North Texas State University and recent-ish grad Cochran was a frequently cited exemplar of what we were supposed to be shooting for. I tried hard, even if my first job was with UPI and Preston McGraw (the first Oswald pallbearer) was an early editor. To me, a fifth-generation Dallasite, Mike was almost like a foreign correspondent, writing most often as he did about the strange world of Fort Worth and The West. (But there could be odd connections: Billie Sol Estes was a distant cousin on my father's side.) Later in his career, when I was well into a 35-year stint at the Washington Bureau of the Houston Chronicle, Mike was still chronicling the demi-gods of West Texas, even if they had moved to Las Vegas. Mike's ear caught the inimitable twang of gambling legend Doyle Brunson as he co-wrote "The Godfather of Poker."

-0-

Dale Leach (Email) - Please allow me to add my thoughts about the extraordinary Mike Cochran, who passed away this week.

Mike was a larger-than-life figure in Texas and in the AP, but he was never impressed by his own significant accomplishments. Instead, he was appreciative of all the AP and its people had given him.

Throughout my tenure as Texas bureau chief, Mike served as our host at the Texas APME hospitality suite at each year's convention -- a role I know Mike also played when John Lumpkin was Dallas chief of bureau. Even though Mike had long since retired from the AP, we could not have asked for a better ambassador for our beloved cooperative. Longtime convention-goers looked forward to these evenings with Mike,

but first-timers also were brought into his embrace because of Mike's humility and generosity.

And to say that his wife, Sondra, was a trooper does not begin to adequately describe her graciousness and charm throughout these conventions; the Cochrans attended every event -- even the early Sunday morning AP business meetings.

One of my favorite memories of Mike came during a convention in Austin -- one in which retired AP Board Chairman Burl Osborne was honored for his contributions to Texas journalism. As usual, we'd had a Friday reception to open the three-day convention, and the hotel bar had cordoned off an area for our group. Knowing I had to be up early to start off the business portion of the meeting, I'd left the bar at about midnight, leaving Mike and few others to wrap things up.

The next morning, the wonderful Pam Collins -- then the Dallas bureau administrative assistant -- intercepted me as I arrived at the meeting room. She said the hotel convention planner wanted to speak with me.

The hotel planner immediately began to tell me about an altercation the previous night in the bar, when Mike chastised the bartender for attempting to close our reception before the agreed-upon time. Before long, the Austin police were called. As I was steeling myself to either defend Mike or to apologize, depending on the severity of what had taken place and whether there had been arrests made, imagine my surprise when the hotel planner apologized to ME for the "unfortunate misunderstanding" and the bartender's over-reaction involving the police. I can only hope that my face registered graciousness -- not the profound relief I was feeling.

We had great fun recounting that story for several years, embellishing it until it became known as The Year the Police Almost Arrested Cochran.

Since leaving Texas upon my retirement, I've missed virtually all of the people who made up the fabric of AP life there, including Mike and Sondra. We now will miss Mike in a different way, but our sense of loss can't help but be filled by a treasure trove of memories of someone who loved life and shared that love unselfishly with those of us who had the pleasure of his company.

-0-



At last summer's Texas AP reunion, from left: Mike Cochran, Rod Richardson and Charles Richards. (Photo by Kia Breax Richardson)

Rod Richardson (Email) - I've had my fair share of rivals, going back to Carl Young in the 5th grade when we first competed in the 50-yard dash during Field Day at Queensborough Elementary School in Shreveport, La. After the race, a stunned classmate remarked "Do you know you just beat the fastest kid in the 5th grade?" My reply? "Well, I guess he's the 2nd-fastest kid in the 5th grade now." Carl and I went on to accomplish great things together in track and field, culminating in a state championship our senior year at Fair Park High. He's easily the best teammate I ever had and really pushed me to become the "Rocket Rod" who eventually was inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame. As an athlete, I was happy to take on all challengers, but the one rival I managed to dodge was none other than Mike Cochran.

Like anyone who knew Mike, he had a presence that couldn't be denied. Finding the action at most any event was always easy: just look for Mike because he was bound to be in the middle of it. I don't recall much about our Texas APME state conventions, except I always looked forward to watching Mike work the hospitality suite. Whether he was handling his business at the poker table or just making sure that no one had an empty glass, it was hard to look away from him. And it never failed that whenever I made my way to the suite, he'd greet me with a big Mike Cochran grin, followed by a firm handshake and bear hug and, without fail, he'd issue the same challenge. With one arm around my neck, he'd look me straight in the eyes and say, "Well, Rocket, I think it's about time that we race. I feel certain that you're past your prime and I'm right at my peak so this ought to be a piece of cake for me." Then we'd both start

laughing and I would politely decline his generous offer. The funny thing about it, though, is I'm not entirely sure he didn't really believe he'd actually win that race.

When I first learned that Mike had passed, tears welled up in my eyes. Then I started thinking about how much we used to laugh, and they quickly dried up. Man, I loved that dude and I'll cherish the good times we had. I'm pretty sure he's laughing now, but next time I see him, we'll toe the line and settle this rift once and for all.

-0-

Jim Spehar (Email) - "Legend"..."One of a kind"..."a poet on deadline"...or, to turn his own words on him, "a character's character."

I didn't know Mike Cochran well, but well enough to send him birthday messages when that anniversary was posted annually on Connecting. I was saddened to see him reply to one not too long ago in which I said I hoped he was still writing. He allowed that he didn't know that he had many bullets left.

I was introduced to Mike, either by the late Bill Cook or Doug Kienitz, at some AP gathering in Dallas back in the '80s. Then and later on my infrequent visits while a Broadcast Executive we'd usually end up at some watering hole or another in Dallas or Fort Worth with a few of the more rowdy APers swapping war stories and lies. His colorful tales took me deeper into his more serious work within and outside the AP.

In the newer incarnations of journalism, where a few sports stats can be fed into a computer and a story can emerge, where business jargon like "revenue streams" is heard as often as journalese, where there are fewer reporters and even fewer powerful writers, the Mike Cochrans of our world are sorely missed.

-0-

John Willis (Email) - I met Mike Cochran in early 1980. I was a new broadcast executive in Texas, having transferred to Houston in September 1979, from editorial side in Spokane, where I was correspondent. I was just learning the ropes in my new role of spreading the AP gospel to broadcasters, and one of the more difficult tasks was getting radio and television station owners and managers to lift their notices of cancellation of our fine services.

Four decades ago a lot of radio stations actually did news and they relied on wire service copy as the backbone of their newscasts. My job was to get more stations onboard and to show the owners, managers and sales managers how to turn the words coming off that old teletype printer into \$\$\$\$ in sales.

For purposes of this memory, I will not use the locations or names of the innocent, for some may still be living.

I had a station owner with four or five properties under notice of cancellation and I asked Doug Kienitz, my counterpart in Dallas, for some advice. He told me how he went about these things, and then he told me that I should get Mike Cochran to help.

Who is Mike Cochran, I asked? He's the Fort Worth correspondent, Kienitz said, and he knows just about everyone in Texas worth knowing. He could be extremely helpful in lifting notices. Kienitz arranged for Mike and I to talk on the phone, and I learned that Mike apparently had gone to school with this particular station owner and they were pals.

Mike was eager to help, and knew that the BEs had expense accounts. He arranged the meeting with the station owner, and we met beforehand to plan our strategy.

Mike would be the good guy and I would be the "by the rules AP guy."

We were greeted at the station as if we were old friends, but when the subject of the cancellations came up the owner went into a rant about how it was too expensive and they didn't use it that much and he really needed to cut expenses, especially with this new rate increase coming in February.

We listened intently, knowing the whole time he was blowing smoke and full of baloney. Mike asked me what we could do to help a little, and I said there wasn't much. We would have to check with New York, because we were not permitted to "negotiate" rates.

Mike had been in on some deals before, so he knew Roy Steinfort, our broadcasting VP in NY.

Cochran went into the secretary's office and called Steinfort to explain where we were and the issues we faced. He came back with a potential solution. If the owner would sign new five-year agreements before the rate increase, he could avoid that hike for at least a year, and we would throw in a week's free service for each station.

I praised Cochran for his wheedling out some wiggle room for us, and when we threw in a steak dinner the next time Cochran was in town, the owner capitulated.

We typed up the letter lifting the notices, and the owner signed it. I agreed to prepare the new contracts for his stations.

The deed being done, we adjourned. The owner went about his business. Mike and I repaired to the bar at the Holiday Inn we were staying, and we celebrated our victory over the forces of darkness.

We celebrated and celebrated with beer after beer and then a nice prime rib dinner and a few more beers. We probably got overserved, but we weren't driving so it didn't matter. We could crawl to our rooms.

It was during our celebration that Mike told me he hadn't talked with anyone in New York. He had only made believe he was talking to them as a show for his old friend. So now it had to be cleared with Steinfort, and that was my job. I called Roy and told him about Mike's magical performance. He was ecstatic. We made a great team, he told me. He agreed to the terms we had already agreed to.

From that day on I considered Mike Cochran a great friend, and I think he considered me one of his posse. Years later we would retell the story at AP gatherings and at the

annual golf tourney Cochran cofounded with former AP correspondent and newsman Miller Bonner.

Mike did know just about everybody out there in west Texas, and whenever I needed, he would make a call to a station owner, manager or news director on my behalf.

I can't add much to what has already been written about Mike. I bragged to my high school friends over the years that I knew a guy who was a pallbearer for Lee Harvey Oswald. Now that's some serious name dropping.

I heard of Mike's death Wednesday night. While it was not surprising considering his medical issues of the past few years, it really set me back a few paces. I had to open a cold brew, sit down and raise it in a toast to one of the real AP Texas legends.



Golfer Lee Trevino (center) yuks it up with Mike Cochran, right, and singer Bobby Goldsboro in 1971 at the Colonial National Invitational pro-am.

This morning as I watched a few hardy golfers play past on the fairway out back, I thought of Mike, and playing golf at the various conventions in Texas and in our annual get togethers. We even played in a media tournament for the LaJet Classic, which was a PGA tour stop for a few years in Abilene. Perhaps Mike was getting in an emergency nine as I was looking out the back window today. Perhaps not.

Mike's personality was larger than life. The depth of his curiosity, tenacity as a reporter, versatility and the breadth of his wordsmithing abilities were bigger than all of Texas. He always had a gleam in his eye that seemed to say, "let's see what kind of

muck we can rake today." He had as many tales as Will Rogers and Mark Twain combined and he could spin a yarn with the best of them.

As far as this old AP hand is concerned, the saying "we shall not see the likes of him again" fits Mike Cochran like a golf glove. He got more life out of 85 years than anyone else could get out of 500.

While the official AP obit was nicely done, I found a link to a story about Mike from a few years ago when he collected another honor. It adds a lot of color and depth. Click [here](#) for the link.

Thanks for everything, Mike. RIP Amigo. You will be missed by many and remembered by many more.

-0-

Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - Early in the morning on Sunday Oct. 4, 1981, the body of presidential assassin Harvey Oswald was removed from his grave at Rose Hill Burial Park in Fort Worth.

British writer Michael Eddowes had perpetuated the claim that the grave actually contained the body of a Soviet spy who had assume Oswald's identity.

UPI, which had helped promote the theory, had a reporter at the scene. AP did not.

But we quickly assigned a team – led by Mike Cochran – to chase the story.

Eddowes' theory was quickly proved to be false.

Pathologists at the Baylor University Medical Center confirmed within hours that "beyond any doubt...that the individual buried under the name Lee Harvey Oswald in Rose Hill cemetery is Lee Harvey Oswald."

We included an editor's note over Mike's Monday AM story noting that he had been one of Oswald's pallbearers in 1963. (No one else was available, so six reporters were recruited to carry Oswald's coffin to the grave.)

Mike's stories – coupled, I believe, with UPI's embarrassment over having promoted the false theory – dominated the play at all points for the rest of the week.

AP's credibility was never higher.

As has been noted in Connecting, Mike was a great journalist and friend, and a darned good bartender.

Connecting series:

A story of a speedy delivery

Tom Coyne (Email) - I thought I'd share our story of a speedy delivery.

During a morning editorial meeting in April 1994, Detroit news editor Paula Froke told me she wanted me to cover something in Ann Arbor. I told her I didn't think I could cover it because I thought my wife might be having a baby that day. Co-workers asked me why I was at work. I told them my wife said I should go to work, but to be ready for her call. I did as I was told.

Shortly before noon, Susan called and said it was time. I drove home, picked her up and we went straight to the hospital. When we got there, the receptionist seemed to be in no hurry. After standing there for two or three minutes waiting, I told her this was our third child. Our first child arrived 57 minutes after we arrived at the hospital. The second arrived in 47 minutes. I told her I thought this one was going to be here quite soon. She looked at me with trepidation.

She called for a nurse and asked her to give Susan a preliminary examination while she reviewed the paperwork we had filled out before arriving. Susan disappeared behind a curtain. About 30 seconds later, the nurse yelled: "Someone get a doctor! Now!"

The next few minutes were a blur. I was gowned up quickly. A doctor we had never seen before delivered Sarah a few minutes later. From the time we stepped in the door to Sarah's birth was 24 minutes.

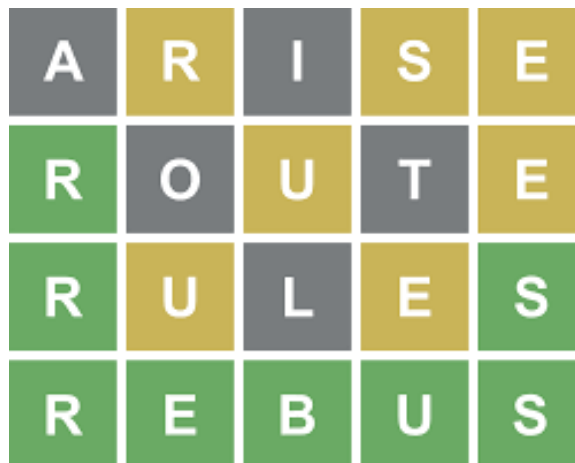
I called Susan's parents and my parents to give them the good news: a 9-pound, 3-ounce baby girl. Then I called the bureau. The person answering the phone said: "Did you even make it to the hospital?"

We had. With time to spare.

WORDLE – a new game sweeping the world

Cliff Schiappa (Email) - The saying goes there are six degrees of separation from Kevin Bacon. Maybe so, but there are also six degrees of separation from your starting word to the winning word in the new game that is sweeping the globe: WORDLE.

I learned about the game in a recent story in The New York Times. Here's the [link](#). And I've been playing it every day since, as have friends of mine including AP colleagues and pickleball buds. Here's the [link](#) to play the game:



Basically, you have six tries to guess a five-letter word. Kevin is not allowed because it's a proper name, but bacon is certainly an option. After your guess, each letter is color coded: Gray means that letter is not in the final word. Gold means that letter is in the final word but not in that specific position. Green means that letter is in the final word and is in the proper position.

Through process of elimination, or wild guessing, you have six tries to reach the winning word. There is only one word each day, thus preventing those with addictive personalities to spend all their waking hours on the game, and it is the same random word for everyone around the world.

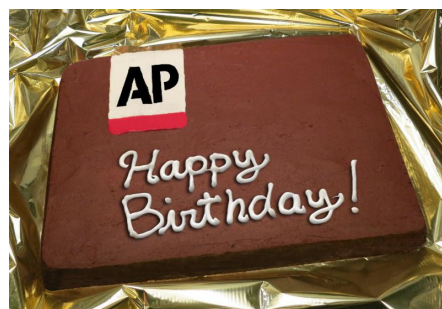
My pickleball bud Dan Baker had a stroke of beginners luck on the first day when he got the winning word on three tries, only to follow the next day with two tries, which is quite remarkable.

Retired AP Boston photo editor Bill Sikes has been playing for almost two weeks and we exchange tips and share our winning results each morning. Sikes says "This game emphasizes something I always say: Keep It Simple, Stupid! Everyone loves it because it is simple and yet challenging."

Former New York AP photo editor Claudia Counts posted on Facebook: "I read that story too, tried it, and am hooked. I use the Times' Spelling Bee to wake up my brain every morning, and this is a great add on." And just this past Thursday, AP Salem Correspondent Andrew Selsky solved it in three tries.

Of course, once you uncover the winning word, there's a strong urge to share your success with others, but beware! Don't share the actual winning grid that shows your letters because it will ruin it for others who have yet to play the game. Instead, once you finish the game, a window will pop up that shows your winning stats along with a "SHARE" button. Click on it and paste it in texts or email to show others how many tries it took and where your gray, gold, and green letters were on each guess. It's a great way to start the day!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Mark Thayer

On Sunday to...

Shirley Christian

[Bob Daugherty](#)

[Brian Friedman](#)

[Arlene Sposato](#)

Stories of interest

ABC News draws fire for editing of CDC director's interview (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC News is under fire for its editing of a “Good Morning America” interview with CDC Director Rochelle Walensky that created uncertainty that’s being exploited by vaccine critics.

In the interview, Walensky discussed a study that showed how most vaccinated people who died of coronavirus were also sick for other reasons. But the way the interview was edited, it wasn’t clear she was talking about vaccinated people — and references spread widely online implying she was talking about all COVID-19 victims.

The interview was seized upon by figures like Donald Trump Jr., Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham to imply the Biden administration has been lying to the public about the importance of vaccines.

The network remained mum on Thursday about the controversy. However, experts say ABC News has a responsibility to talk to viewers about what happened and why, to prevent misinformation from spreading further.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Tampa Bay Times CEO Paul Tash to retire, passing role to company president (Tampa Bay Times)

By Jay Cridlin

Forty-seven years after a summer newsroom internship brought him to St. Petersburg, Paul Tash, the Tampa Bay Times’ longest-serving CEO and chairman, is retiring.

Stepping into the role of CEO is Times Publishing Co. president Conan Gallaty, who is also expected to become chairman when Tash leaves its board of directors July 1. Tash will continue to chair the board of trustees at the nonprofit Poynter Institute for Media Studies, which owns the newspaper.

Gallaty will be the fourth person to lead the Times since 1978, when former owner Nelson Poynter died and the torch passed to Eugene Patterson. Patterson named Andrew Barnes CEO and chairman in 1988 and Barnes named Tash in 2004.

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

-0-

A few brief reasons to take Axios Local seriously as a competitor (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

There was more than a hint of the grandiose in Axios CEO Jim VandeHei's "manifesto" announcement of the latest expansion of Axios' year-old morning newsletter franchise. He wrote:

"We want to bring smart, modern, trustworthy local news to every community in America. ... Everyone needs — and deserves — high-quality reporting to understand the changes unfolding fast where they live. Axios Local is the solution, elegantly delivered to your smartphone."

VandeHei conceded that some might say, "This sounds insanely ambitious (or just insane). But you don't solve gigantic societal and business problems by thinking small."

Savior or not, after talking last week with the two men overseeing Axios Local's expansion, I was persuaded that the product and plan are solidly grounded.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Sikes.

-0-

New year, new journalism ventures growing (Seattle Times)

By Brier Dudley
Seattle Times Free Press editor

While the journalism crisis is far from over, 2022 should see all sorts of innovation and progress with different models to sustain local news coverage.

That's partly because growing public awareness of the crisis and why it's critical to sustain local news is producing generous support for efforts to restore or replace

coverage lost as newspapers closed or shrank.

An outstanding example is Spotlight PA, a thriving news startup providing statewide accountability and investigative coverage in Pennsylvania.

The venture just announced that it's receiving \$2 million over three years to expand its reporting and operations.

That will enable Spotlight PA to grow its staff from 16 to 20, including an operations team to help the nonprofit further expand with new bureaus and local coverage in Pennsylvania's news deserts.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer.

The Final Word

SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Today in History - Jan. 14, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2022. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 14, 2013, Lance Armstrong ended a decade of denial by confessing to Oprah Winfrey during a videotaped interview that he'd used performance-enhancing drugs to win the Tour de France.

On this date:

In 1784, the United States ratified the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War; Britain followed suit in April 1784.

In 1914, Ford Motor Co. greatly improved its assembly-line operation by employing an endless chain to pull each chassis along at its Highland Park, Michigan, plant.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French General Charles de Gaulle opened a wartime conference in Casablanca.

In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered, with Dave Garroway as the host, or "communicator."

In 1954, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio were married at San Francisco City Hall. (The marriage lasted about nine months.)

In 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with the pledge, "Segregation forever!" — a view Wallace later repudiated.

In 1964, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, in a brief televised address, thanked Americans for their condolences and messages of support following the assassination of her husband, President John F. Kennedy, nearly two months earlier.

In 1967, the Sixties' "Summer of Love" unofficially began with a "Human Be-In" involving tens of thousands of young people at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

In 1970, Diana Ross and the Supremes performed their last concert together, at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas.

In 1975, the House Internal Security Committee (formerly the House Un-American Activities Committee) was disbanded.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an accord to stop aiming missiles at any nation; the leaders joined Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in signing an accord to dismantle the nuclear arsenal of Ukraine.

In 2010, President Barack Obama and the U.S. moved to take charge in earthquake-ravaged Haiti, dispatching thousands of troops along with tons of aid.

Ten years ago: Rescue workers scrambled aboard the stricken Costa Concordia cruise liner, seeking to help some 4,200 passengers a day after the ship ran aground and

tipped over off Italy's Tuscan coast; the death toll from the tragedy eventually reached 32.

Five years ago: Donald Trump tore into civil rights legend and Georgia congressman John Lewis on Twitter for questioning the legitimacy of Trump's White House victory. Protesters gathered in Washington and other cities to denounce the president-elect's anti-immigrant stance and his pledge to build a wall on the Mexican border. A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying a payload of satellites blasted off from California, marking the company's first launch since a fireball engulfed a similar rocket on a Florida launch pad more than four months earlier.

One year ago: Airlines and airports said they were stepping up security before the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration, with airlines saying they would prohibit passengers flying to the Washington area from putting guns in checked bags. An Arkansas man, Peter Stager, was in custody, accused of beating a police officer with a pole flying a U.S. flag during the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. A global team of researchers sent by the World Health Organization arrived in the Chinese city where the coronavirus pandemic was first detected to investigate its origins. Authorities said a new investigation of the Flint water disaster had led to charges against nine people, including former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and key members of his administration.

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer Clarence Carter is 86. Singer Jack Jones is 84. Actor Faye Dunaway is 81. Actor Holland Taylor is 79. Actor Carl Weathers is 74. Singer-producer T-Bone Burnett is 74. Movie writer-director Lawrence Kasdan is 73. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Maureen Dowd is 70. Rock singer Geoff Tate (Queensryche) is 63. Movie writer-director Steven Soderbergh is 59. Actor Mark Addy is 58. Former Fox News Channel anchorman Shepard Smith is 58. Actor/producer Dan Schneider is 58. Rapper Slick Rick is 57. Actor Emily Watson is 55. Actor-comedian Tom Rhodes is 55. Rock musician Zakk Wylde is 55. Rapper-actor LL Cool J is 54. Actor Jason Bateman is 53. Rock singer-musician Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters) is 53. Actor Kevin Durand is 48. Actor Jordan Ladd is 47. Actor Ward Horton is 46. Actor Emayatzy Corinealdi is 42. Retro-soul singer-songwriter Marc Broussard is 40. Rock singer-musician Caleb Followill (Kings of Leon) is 40. Actor Zach Gilford is 40. Actor Jake Choi is 37. Actor Jonathan Osser is 33. Actor-singer Grant Gustin is 32. Singer/guitarist Molly Tuttle is 29.

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 in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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

paulstevens46@gmail.com

