

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

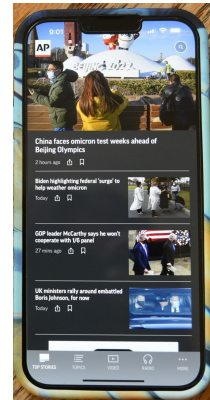
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

January 25, 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 Tuesday morning on this Jan. 25, 2022,

Fox News reporter **Peter Doocy** had a question for President Joe Biden at the White House on Monday:

“Do you think inflation is a political liability ahead of the midterms?”

Biden responded with sarcasm, “It’s a great asset — more inflation.” Then he shook his head and added, “What a stupid son of a bitch.” Biden called him later to apologize.

The AP story on Biden’s “hot mic” comments lead the Stories of Interest in today’s edition. But Connecting wants to know if you’ve experienced a comment like this directed at you from a newsmaker or witnessed one in the midst of your reporting experiences. Send along your story.

Travel has been curtailed significantly in the past couple years by the coronavirus pandemic (and now omicron), but I came across the following from a travel site and thought it worth sharing what is titled "Some of the INSPIRATIONAL TRAVEL QUOTES that ignite my heart & soul ..."

"Once a year, go someplace you've never been before." **Dalai Lama**

"Don't tell me how educated you are, tell me how much you have travelled." **Mohammed**

"Bizarre travel plans are dancing lessons from God." Kurt Vonnegut

"Travel changes you. As you move through this life and this world you change things slightly, you leave marks behind, however small. And in return, life – and travel – leaves marks on you." **Anthony Bourdain**

"We travel to escape life, but for life not to escape us." **Anonymous**

"Travel is about the gorgeous feeling of teetering in the unknown." **Anthony Bourdain**

"The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been, and the memories we've made along the way. To travel & to love is to be happy. **Anonymous**

So, with that, how about sharing your own thoughts on what travel has meant to you – and if you've got some future travel plans in mind.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Mike Cochran funeral services set for Saturday

John Lumpkin ([Email](#)) - Friends and colleagues of Mike Cochran:

As many of you know, Mike's funeral services are at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, January 29, at Greenwood Funeral Home, 3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX 78107.

There now is word about the reception to follow: It's at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at The City Club, 301 Commerce St, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

The funeral home has Mike's obituary (the AP version, actually) – click [here](#).



You can write a comment on the funeral home page dedicated to Mike.

I know some of you already knew of the Abilene Reporter-News' tribute to Mike. If you haven't seen it, it's [here](#).

New-member profile – Stacey Plaisance



Stacey Plaisance ([Email](#)) – video journalist in the AP's New Orleans bureau for the past 23 years, recently concluded her career and shares the following:

BREAKING NEWS: Today is my last day with the Associated Press.

This is such a bittersweet moment. As I filled out my final timesheet online, all I could think about is how when I started with the AP in 1999, I filled out my timesheets with a pen on paper actually “typed out” by an administrative assistant on a typewriter. I can recall the sound of the “click”, “click” of the typewriter in the background of the newsroom as the rest of us answered phones, conducted interviews, talked out story ideas, where we ate over the weekend or what bands we listened to – all while news feeds streamed live on at least five TVs in the background. But the best part of my job has always been being out in the field, meeting people, telling their stories, showing their successes and their struggles. My job was rarely ever dull, and I had the time of my life.



While much has changed in my two decades with the AP, both personally and professionally, one thing hasn't: My enormous amount of appreciation and respect for the people I've had the honor of working alongside all these years. I could not have asked for a better group of people or a better career – starting in print journalism and growing into a multimedia platform journalist at the oldest and largest news-gathering organization in the world. This job has taken me on quite literally the adventure of my young adult life. How lucky I am to have experienced that moment, that very blip in time, when the world transitioned from “film” to the digital age. I am a proud Generation X journalist. I know what a darkroom is, how it works, but also what it means to have to adapt to changing technology. The gift is that I know how to exist, to be happy, on both sides of the spectrum.

I'll close with the memo sent to my AP colleagues by my beloved boss/mentor/years-long soundboard, colleague and friend, Alex Sanz:

All,

Sharing some bittersweet news from New Orleans. After more than two decades covering stories across the southeastern United States, Stacey Plaisance is leaving The Associated Press.

Stacey called her time with us "the adventure of my young adult life" and said she has "nothing but gratitude and a mountain of love for AP and its people."

From the coronavirus pandemic to racial injustice, hurricanes to Mardi Gras, the environment to space, to New Orleans' film and music scene – an arts and entertainment beat that led to exclusive interviews with Sandra Bullock, Fats Domino, Brad Pitt and others – Stacey made the text and video report stronger, and we're grateful.

"Besides being more available for my husband and kids, I'm fulfilling a dream of renovating my family's 130-year-old home, and we are even adding a guest suite that we may eventually turn into a B&B," she said. "Keep in touch AP friends, and you will always have a place to stay when you visit New Orleans."

- 30 -

Vivid memory: Lawmaker swings at a reporter and misses

Bill Kaczor (Email) - I somehow avoided any physical altercations during my journalism career, but I did play an unwitting role in one involving a colleague and a Florida state legislator. It happened back in 1976 when I was with Gannett News Service in Tallahassee. Bill Sloat, then a reporter for the Gannett-owned Fort Myers News Press, was on temporary duty helping us cover the legislative session. We were at a crowded meeting of a Senate budget committee that was hearing testimony from Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Ben Overton when state Rep. Billy Joe Rish, a Panhandle Democrat, came into the room and asked me if Sloat was there as the two did not know each other. I had no idea why Rish wanted to see Sloat so I pointed him out. Rish then went over to Sloat and berated him over a story he had written. Rish called Sloat a "scumsucker" and "bearded Communist" and challenged him to go outside and fight. The conservative, teetotaling Methodist church board chairman was angry over a story Sloat had written about lawmakers being wined and dined by business lobbyists at what was known as "the Trailers" maintained by the mobile home industry.

The story had appeared the day before in the News Press and the Pensacola News Journal, where Rish's sister had read it and called to question him about it. Rish vehemently denied that he had been at the Trailers and claimed the story had

besmirched his reputation. It quoted two Fort Myers lawmakers, one who avoided the Trailers and other who made no apologies for taking the freebies. The only mention of Rish was in a brief listing of other lawmakers spotted there. I asked Sloat if he was sure Rish had been there. He said he didn't know who all of the lawmakers were but that a legislative aide told him Rish was one of those in attendance. Florida Today, the only other Gannett paper in the state at that time, had not yet run the story, so we agreed that Sloat would call the paper and have Rish's name deleted to avoid further controversy. By this time Rish had left, so Sloat went to use the pay phone just outside the meeting room.

Moments later a commotion could be heard coming from outside the room. The chief justice stopped talking and turned around to see what was happening through the glass doors. One of the senators said, "Somebody's fighting out there," and lawmakers rushed outside. I got there just in time to see Senate President Lew Brantley separating Sloat and Rish. Sloat said Rish, who was muscular but about a head shorter than the reporter, had thrown a punch at him but that he ducked in time and was not hit. He said Rish then got him in a headlock and they both went down to the floor. That's when Brantley and another bystander pulled Rish off of him. Gannett and AP reported on the altercation. The Gannett story said Rich initially admitted he swung at Sloat but that he denied doing so in a subsequent written statement in which he added: "If I had really wanted to get him, I'd have gotten him." Rish later apologized. Florida Today deleted his name when it ran the story while the News Journal retracted the mention of Rish being at the Trailers, calling it "apparently a case of mistaken identity."

On the NYT search for reporter to cover 'right-wing media ecosystem'

AllSides™ Media Bias Chart™

All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content. Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



AllSides Media Bias Ratings™ are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. Visit AllSides.com to view hundreds of media bias ratings. **Version 5.1 | AllSides 2021**

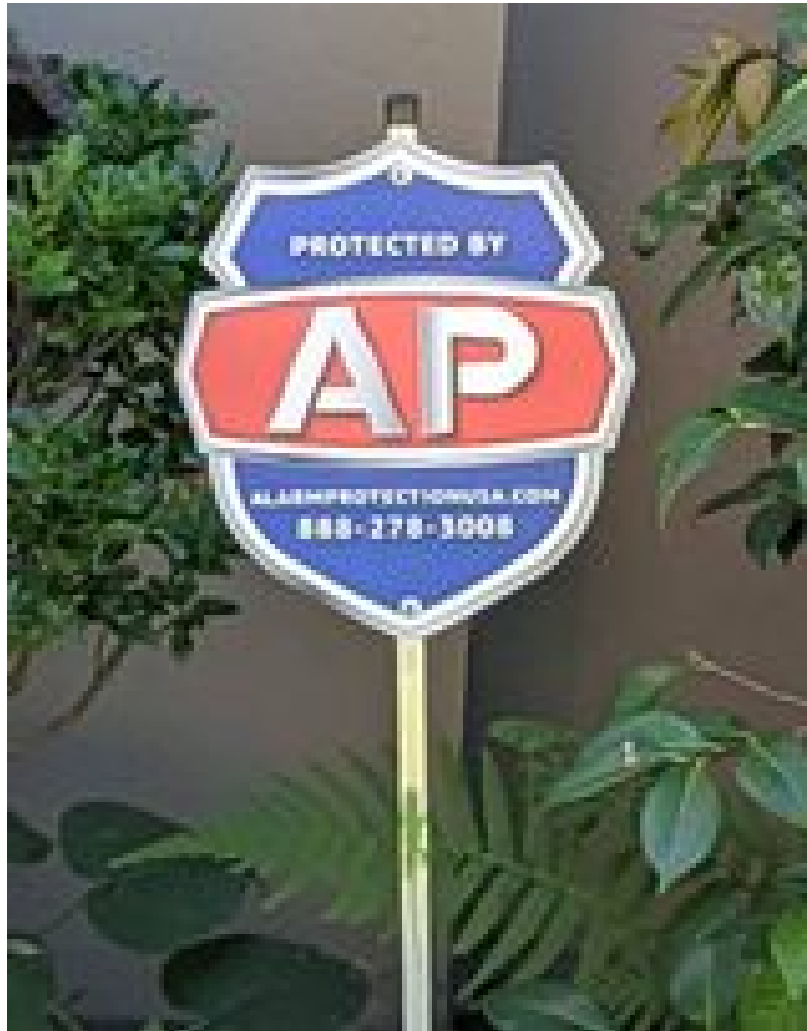
Ed McCullough (Email) - in commenting on recent Connecting post from the NYTimes "Job Opportunities" page seeking reporter to cover "the news outlets, online communities and influential personalities making up the right-wing media ecosystem that now serves many conservative Americans who no longer rely on the mainstream media to inform themselves."

According to AllSides Media Bias Chart (above), to cite just one relatively non-partisan source, the NYT is "left" leaning in its general news coverage and completely "left" in its editorial commentary. In one or the other of those two categories are included The Washington Post, USA Today, CNN, CBS, ABC, NBC and even AP's political and fact check coverage. Hence the so-called "right-wing media ecosystem" doesn't diverge so much from any "mainstream" as it does from left-leaning media that self-define as "mainstream."

The NYT job description states that "the ideal candidate" should be prepared to "inhabit corners of the internet that popularize far-right or extremist ideas." Does the NYT dedicate a reporter to cover the left-wing media ecosystem? Extremist ideas come from that direction, too, even if "mainstream" media don't label them that way. Which is partly why many Americans - not limited to "conservative" Americans - "no longer rely on the mainstream media to inform themselves."

P.S. Valid, insightful and factually correct news of all kinds is not limited to "corners" of the Internet. It's all over and available to anyone.

AP sighting – Natchez, Mississippi



Shared by Kevin Walsh.

Connecting sky shot – California



Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - Sunrise Saturday in El Dorado Hills, Calif.

Dramatic rescue aboard the USS Enterprise



Marc Lancaster **World War II on Deadline**

Editors of the Philadelphia Inquirer probably didn't spend much time debating about what photo would lead the front page of their Jan. 19, 1945 editions. The U.S. Navy took care of that decision.

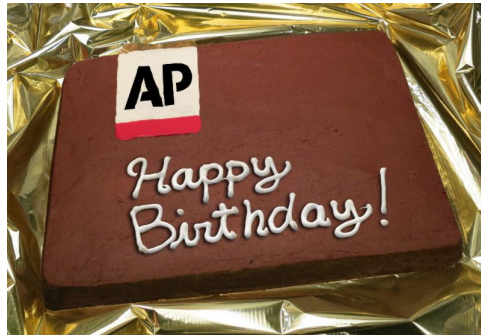
Page 1 of that day's Inquirer featured a hometown boy, Philadelphia native Lt. Walter L. Chewning Jr., climbing up the side of a flaming F6F Hellcat aboard the USS Enterprise in a daring effort to rescue the pilot of the fighter that had just crashed on deck of the aircraft carrier. The dramatic picture snapped by a Navy photographer aboard the Enterprise would become one of the best-known images of World War II.

The incident had occurred on Nov. 10, 1943, but censors didn't release the photo for publication until 14 months later. The most surprising thing about the picture, from our vantage point, is how little media follow-up there appears to have been on the men involved — Chewning and the pilot, Ensign Byron Johnson.

Of course, there was still a war on at the time, but under the same circumstances today a horde of journalists would descend on the home of any available relative of either man to get their reaction, and would be awaiting the men themselves the day they returned from the fighting. As far as we can tell from online newspaper archives, though, the photo stood alone to tell the story, with no context from Chewning or Johnson.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Gibbons](#)

Stories of interest

Biden calls Fox News reporter at White House a stupid SOB (AP)

By JOSH BOAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden responded to a question about inflation by calling a Fox News reporter a vulgarity.

The president was in the East Room of the White House on Monday for a meeting of his Competition Council, which is focused on changing regulations and enforcing laws to help consumers deal with high prices. Reporters in the room shouted questions after Biden's remarks.

Fox News' Peter Doocy asked Biden about inflation, which is at a nearly 40-year high and has hurt the president's public approval. Doocy's network has been relentlessly critical of Biden.

Doocy called out, "Do you think inflation is a political liability ahead of the midterms?"

Biden responded with sarcasm, "It's a great asset — more inflation." Then he shook his head and added, "What a stupid son of a bitch."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

In deadly start to year, 3 journalists killed in Mexico

(AP)

By **MARÍA VERZA**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A journalist has been killed the northern Mexico border city of Tijuana — the second in the city in a week and the third in Mexico this month.

Mexico President Andrés Manuel Obrador called Monday for a full investigation and cautioned against jumping to conclusions about the motive for the murder of Lourdes Maldonado López, a Tijuana journalist who once sought his help.

Maldonado was found fatally shot inside a car Sunday, according to a statement from the Baja California state prosecutor's office. Authorities received a 911 call around 7 p.m. and found Maldonado dead.

In 2019, Maldonado went to López Obrador's daily morning news conference and asked for his help "because I fear for my life."

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

-0-

Lee Enterprises asks investors to help fight off hedge fund

(AP)

By **JOSH FUNK**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Newspaper publisher Lee Enterprises is asking its shareholders to help it fight off a hostile takeover offer from "vulture hedge fund" Alden Global Capital.

The publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Buffalo News and dozens of other newspapers, including nearly every daily newspaper in Nebraska, sent a letter to shareholders Monday asking them to support its board nominees in the dispute with Alden. Lee, which is based in Davenport, Iowa, already rejected Alden's \$24 per share offer because it said the \$141 million bid grossly undervalues Lee, but the two sides are locked in a court battle over whether Alden will be able to nominate its own directors.

"A 'Vulture Hedge Fund' is seeking to acquire Lee at a steep discount. Don't let it take value that belongs to you," Lee said in its letter to shareholders.

Lee also told shareholders that they should have faith in the company's current strategy to shift its publications over to online delivery because it has seen its digital-only subscriptions grow 65% over the past year to 402,000 at all of its newspapers.

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

-0-

CBS retools streaming service to better resemble TV network (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK - CBS News says it is retooling its streaming service to better incorporate programs and personalities from the television network. The CBS service is debuting a new evening newscast and prime-time lineup on Monday, from a newly-constructed Manhattan-based studio, part of what promises to be an aggressive year of building for news-based products.

The hourlong evening newscast, beginning at 7 p.m. Eastern, will feature a rotating cast of anchors and originate from New York, Washington and Los Angeles. The streaming service will continue to air a rerun of Norah O'Donnell's "CBS Evening News" later in the evening.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta to receive William Allen White Foundation National Citation

University of Kansas News Release

LAWRENCE — Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who has won multiple Emmy awards as chief medical correspondent for CNN and host of the CNN podcast "Chasing Life," has been selected to receive the 2022 William Allen White Foundation National Citation. The award, which recognizes individuals for outstanding journalistic service, comes from a vote of the trustees of the William Allen White Foundation, which is named in honor of White.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta will visit the University of Kansas. Gupta, a practicing neurosurgeon, plays an integral role in CNN's reporting on health and medical news and regularly contributes to CNN.com. He will accept the award in person on William Allen White Day, which is April 21 on the KU Lawrence campus.

"The William Allen White Foundation Board of Trustees continues their tradition of selecting a journalist who is making an impact on the profession," said Ann M. Brill, dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications. "In Dr. Gupta's case, that impact extends to the entire world. His reporting ranges from his work on CNN and CBS, numerous medical journal articles, to books, AARP magazine and his medical practice as a neurosurgeon. We are pleased to award the National Citation to Dr. Gupta."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Jan. 25, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2022. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions.

On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln accepted Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1959, American Airlines began Boeing 707 jet flights between New York and Los Angeles.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actor Sharon

Tate.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1993, Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous century-old catalog.

In 1994, maintaining his innocence, singer Michael Jackson settled a child molestation lawsuit against him; terms were confidential, although the monetary figure was reportedly \$22 million.

In 2004, NASA's Opportunity rover zipped its first pictures of Mars to Earth, showing a surface smooth and dark red in some places, and strewn with fragmented slabs of light bedrock in others.

In 2020, President Donald Trump's defense team opened its arguments at his first Senate impeachment trial, casting the effort to remove him from office as a politically motivated attempt to subvert the 2016 election and the upcoming 2020 contest. Canada, Australia and Malaysia each reported their first cases of the new coronavirus.

Ten years ago: U.S. military forces flew into Somalia in a nighttime helicopter raid, freeing an American and a Danish hostage and killing nine pirates. U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona returned to Congress to officially tender her resignation a year after she was shot and severely wounded in her home district.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump moved aggressively to tighten the nation's immigration controls, signing executive actions to jumpstart construction of his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall and cut federal grants for immigrant-protecting "sanctuary cities." Mary Tyler Moore, who created one of TV's first career-woman sitcom heroines in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," died at the age of 80. Actor John Hurt died at 77.

One year ago: House Democrats delivered the impeachment case against Donald Trump to the Senate for the start of his historic second impeachment trial even as Republican senators eased off of their criticism of the former president and shunned calls to convict him over the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol. President Joe Biden reinstated COVID-19 travel restrictions on non-U.S. travelers from more than two dozen countries, including European countries that allowed travel across open borders; he added South Africa to the list because of concerns about a variant of the coronavirus that had spread beyond that nation. Biden signed an order reversing a Pentagon policy that largely barred transgender individuals from military service. Dominion Voting Systems filed a defamation lawsuit against Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who led the former president's efforts to spread baseless claims about the 2020 election.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Claude Gray is 90. Actor Leigh Taylor-Young is 78. Actor Jenifer Lewis is 65. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 56. R&B singer Kina is 53. Actor China Kantner is 51. Actor Ana Ortiz is 51. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') (Mighty Mighty Bosstones) is 50. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 48. Actor Mia Kirshner is 47. Actor Christine Lakin is 43. R&B singer Alicia (ah-

LEE'-shuh) Keys is 42. Actor Michael Trevino is 37. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 26. Actor Olivia Edward is 15.

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