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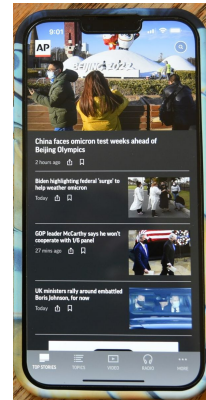
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# Connecting

January 26, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Jan. 26, 2022,

Like many of us, our colleague **Doug Richardson** was born and raised in a small town and got his start in journalism at a small-town newspaper.

He's from Seymour, Ind., and grew up with **John Mellencamp**, singer and song writer whose "Small Town" lyrics include: "No, I cannot forget from where it is that I come from, I cannot forget the people who love me. Yeah, I can be myself here in this small town, And people let me be just what I want to be."

Doug moved in 1984 from Indiana newspapering to a news position with the



AP's Indianapolis bureau (where I was chief of bureau) and became the statehouse writer before leaving nine years later for a career in governmental relations.

Today, from his home in Washington, he said, "I'm a reporter/editor on books by policy wonks. I contributed more than 20 stories to the book *Human Work*, by Jamie Merisotis, the CEO of the Lumina Foundation, published in 2020. And I contributed in the same way to the book *Growing Fairly*, by Steve Goldsmith and Kate Coleman, coming soon from Brookings."

Doug reminisces about his small-town beginnings in our lead story today. Can you relate to his small-town roots (I can, also born and raised in small towns), come ahead with your own story and how those roots impacted your life and your career.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## We all – or many of us – started out small



Doug Richardson in front of the John Mellencamp mural in downtown Seymour, Ind.

**Doug Richardson** ([Email](#)) - I listened to La Boheme on the public radio broadcast last week. It was a Saturday, the weather was bad, dark and cold, and I had tired of watching sports. But it conjured up so many memories from the past.

Like many of my colleagues in journalism, especially in the post-Watergate era, I didn't get that dream job at the Times, Post or Journal right out of college. I got a job at the weekly Knightstown Banner, in a small town about 40 miles east of Indianapolis. The same company published weekly antique and farm implement papers.

I rented the lower floor of a house across the street from the gym that later became famous as the Hickory home gym in the movie "Hoosiers." And I convinced the janitor to let me in at night to shoot baskets.

I was not only the news editor, but also the sportswriter. Basically, I was the whole staff. So I spent many of the darkest, coldest nights of the year covering Friday and Saturday basketball games in small-town gyms or gyms that, due to school consolidation, we're not even in towns.

Let's just say the cultural and social opportunities were limited. So you had to do something to stay sane. The Washington afternoon Texaco broadcasts of opera connected me with culture. I loved the few hours between games hearing Peter Allen on the Texaco broadcasts.

And on Sunday, I would drive to Indianapolis to visit a bookstore and buy the Times and the Louisville Courier-Journal, then a great paper. I would take the papers to Shapiros' deli, and unfold them in front a huge platter of corned beef and cabbage.

My point here is not to feel sorry for myself. It's to point out we all, or many, started out small. The Knightstown town council, the Shenandoah basketball games...those are things worth covering. And they teach you some humility.

When I later became the AP Statehouse correspondent in Indianapolis, I knew, as my high school friend wrote about small towns, "I knew where it is I came from."

## In the rooms where it happened

**Dan Day (Email)** - As it was for Marty Thompson, my AP years were devoid of personal peril, not counting the nutjob phone calls I got in my Nebraska years. But domestic service did offer some thrills.

When the vice presidential debate came to the Omaha Civic Auditorium in 1988, the Washington press corps assembled in the basement to monitor the debate the way most Americans would see it: on TV.

Our WX crew wanted to have somebody sit in the auditorium in case something odd happened out of view of the cameras. This CoB volunteered, and upstairs I went to watch Judy Woodruff and Tom Brokaw moderate the debate. My reward: watching Lloyd Bentsen pounce after Dan Quayle compared his credentials to those of a former president. "Senator," Bentsen said bluntly, "you're no Jack Kennedy."

After the debate, the basement turned into "spin (the term was new then) alley," where the politicians would work their way through the throng of reporters giving

their takes on whether Bentsen or Quayle got the better of the match. Little doubt there was.

Also, I must take issue with Marty's "no bravery, precious little wisdom" description of his AP days. In his many roles, he made many brave decisions standing up for what was right. The wisdom he imparted to me alone was not little, but it certainly was precious.

## Biden and Doocy and the 'apology'

**Jerry Cipriano (Email)** - In your open Tuesday, you say President Biden called Fox News Channel White House Correspondent Peter Doocy to "apologize" for calling him "a stupid son of a bitch." That is what some of the online headlines say, but it is not backed up by the story Doocy told after the Biden call. Asked by Sean Hannity if Biden had apologized, Doocy replied, "He cleared the air." When Hannity pressed him, saying that did not sound like an apology, Doocy quoted Biden as saying, "It's nothing personal, pal." Doocy went on to say he appreciated the President taking time to call him and added "I don't need anyone to apologize to me." So it appears no one did.

## Public personal attack

**Hal Spencer (Email)** - I did not see that one coming. One day in the mid-90s, I was covering a packed Senate Health Care Committee at the Washington State Legislature. The chairwoman was talking, and she suddenly veered off the subject and began berating me by name. She accused me of giving short shrift to a bill she had introduced for a flat income tax to finance health care. (These sorts of proposals were common.) I had covered it in a previous story along with negative reactions from her colleagues. I remember she called me a lousy reporter, a coward (ouch) and more. She did go on. I was embarrassed but kept taking notes. Even a legislator is only human.

## Here's to travel!

**Jim Reindl (Email)** - Your question about what travel has meant to any of us followed an exchange I had a couple of days ago with a young friend who just moved to Australia with his diplomat girlfriend. He asked if I ever felt like no matter where I lay my head, nowhere was home. I replied that I used to but since I started living in other parts of the world in 2014 my perspective and attitude had changed.

Once we sold (mostly) all we owned to join the Peace Corps in Ghana, I didn't have a tie to anywhere and for the seven and a half years since through moves to Southeast Asia and now Europe, that has remained the case. Learning to adapt to a new location every couple of years and realizing it is a temporary haven have taught me better to accept things as they come, make my adjustments as needed and carry on. It's been liberating.

We'll see how or if now owning a house and property in Brazil will change that. I still haven't lived there and developed that tie to home that one gets when it's "yours,"

but I'm hopeful it never dulls the sense of adventure and freedom I've enjoyed since 2014. Here's to travel!

## Mort Report Extra: Now or Never

**Mort Rosenblum** ([Email](#)) - EDITOR'S NOTE – If you're new to these dispatches, this one is different. As a lifelong reporter, I aim to analyze, not advocate. But this a cri de coeur to help readers persuade the persuadable before it's too late. Feel free to share it widely. Please.

TUCSON – During five years of daily word storms — stories that matter, hyped “breaking news” and thumb-sucking punditry — I've stayed fixated on what Steve Bannon told the New York Times in January 2017: “The media should keep its mouth shut.”

That's not how democracies work. A year later, Donald Trump's fat-slob Rasputin explained his chilling strategy to author Michael Lewis. “The Democrats don't matter,” he said. “The real opposition is the media, and the way to deal with them is to flood the zone with shit.”

Today the stench is sickening. Without a massive turnout in primaries and general elections, I believe American democracy is over.

This is no hair-on-fire hyperbole. Thomas Homer-Dixon at Royal Roads University in British Columbia, who has studied violent conflict for 40 years, warns Canada to prepare for a rightwing dictatorship and civil upheaval on its southern border by 2030 or sooner.

“We mustn't dismiss these possibilities just because they seem ludicrous or too horrible to imagine,” he wrote in the Toronto Globe and Mail.

Read more [here](#).

## Joe Morton: War correspondent executed by the Nazis





### Marc Lancaster World War II on Deadline

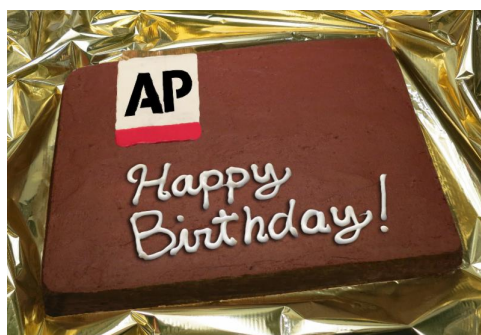
Dozens of journalists died covering World War II, some of them victims of stray bullets or shrapnel on the battlefield, others aboard planes or ships that went down in combat. We have told many of their stories here.

Of all those who gave their lives in pursuit of the news, though, only one was deliberately targeted for death: Associated Press correspondent Joe Morton, who was executed Jan. 24, 1945 at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. This is his story.

Joseph Morton was born June 30, 1911, near St. Joseph, Missouri. His father, also named Joseph, was an accomplished local attorney who had married Joe's mother, Pearl, in 1909 after the death of his first wife. When the elder Morton died in 1938, an editorial in the St. Joseph News-Press compared him at length to John Quincy Adams.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



## David Royse

# Stories of interest

## ***Olympics-At Beijing Games, hugs discouraged but condoms available*** (Reuters)

By Yew Lun Tian

BEIJING, Jan 25 (Reuters) - Beijing Olympics organisers are keeping up with the tradition of making condoms available to athletes, despite detailed social distancing guidelines intended to curb the spread of COVID-19 within the "closed loop" in which the Games will take place.

"All Olympic-related units will provide appropriate quantities of condoms for free at the appropriate time to people who've checked in to stay inside the loop," organisers told Reuters by email on Tuesday.

The Games are set to take place from Feb. 4-20 in Beijing and the nearby city of Zhangjiakou inside a bubble that strictly separates athletes and other Games personnel from the public.

Journalists who checked into the Guizhou Hotel, which is inside the closed loop, found five individually wrapped condoms in each room. They were individually packed in different-coloured envelopes decorated with an image of a Chinese lantern.

Organisers did not immediately say how many condoms they would distribute.

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

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## ***Brian Williams turns down CBS News' attempt to recruit him for the 'Evening News'*** (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy

Brian Williams doesn't want to anchor the "Evening News."  
Just years ago, in 2015, the notion that Williams would be rebuffing an offer to helm one of the big three nightly news programs would have been unfathomable. His reputation was in ruins for embellishing his stories as a journalist. He was booted from "NBC Nightly News" and accepted what was then a significant demotion to MSNBC.

But the tide has since turned.

Williams, who hosted the popular "11th Hour" program on MSNBC during the Trump-era, has largely rehabilitated his image. Now, he is in demand. And after departing NBC when his contract expired late last year, he's a free agent for the first time in decades. That free agent status has translated into Williams fielding proposals.

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

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## ***Why pay TV operators are dropping Trump-loving cable networks*** (Los Angeles Times)

**BY STEPHEN BATTAGLIO**

Before One America News Network host Dan Ball finished an interview with guest Jim Jordan this past week, he asked the Ohio Republican congressman for a favor.

"Please put some pressure on AT&T and DirecTV for us," said Ball, whose "Real America" airs nightly on the right-wing cable channel. "OAN would love to continue broadcasting on that platform and we know for a fact it is all political behind the scenes on why they're doing that to us."

Earlier in the week, Ball solicited viewers to send him "dirt" on William E. Kennard, chairman of of the board at DirecTV parent AT&T, including any evidence of marital infidelity. OAN's 80-year-old founder, tech entrepreneur Robert Herring, also went on camera to plead with viewers to ask other cable and satellite providers in their areas to add the channel to their lineups.

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

## **The Final Word**





Shared by Bob Daugherty

## Today in History - Jan. 26, 2022



## By The Associated Press

**Today is Wednesday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2022. There are 339 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 26, 2020, the U.S. consulate in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus epidemic, said it would evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight. Five cases of the new coronavirus were now confirmed in the United States, including new cases in California and Arizona; all involved people who had traveled to Wuhan.

### **On this date:**

In 1861, Louisiana passed an Ordinance of Secession, becoming the sixth state to break free from the United States.

In 1911, the Richard Strauss opera "Der Rosenkavalier" (The Cavalier of the Rose) premiered in Dresden, Germany.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, which created America's 10th national park.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon. (The probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.)

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

In 1993, Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

In 1994, a scare occurred during a visit to Sydney, Australia, by Britain's Prince Charles as college student David Kang lunged at the prince, firing two blank shots from a starter's pistol. (Kang was later sentenced to 500 hours of community service.)

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

In 2005, a U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and a Navy medic aboard. A man parked his SUV on railroad tracks in Glendale, California, setting off a crash of two commuter trains that killed 11 people. (The SUV's driver, Juan Alvarez, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

In 2009, Nadya Suleman gave birth at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center in California to six boys and two girls; criticism came after the public learned that the unemployed, single mother had gotten pregnant with the octuplets and six elder children through in vitro fertilization.

In 2016, the FBI arrested the leaders of an armed group that was occupying a national wildlife refuge in Oregon for more than three weeks during a traffic stop that left one man, Robert “LaVoy” Finicum, dead. Character actor Abe Vigoda, 94, died in Woodland Park, New Jersey.

In 2020, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others were killed when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California; the former Lakers star was 41. Eighteen-year-old singer Billie Eilish made history at the Grammy Awards, becoming the youngest to win one of Grammy’s top awards and the first to sweep all four in nearly 40 years.

Ten years ago: The Pentagon outlined a plan for slowing the growth of military spending, including cutting the size of the Army and Marine Corps, retiring older planes and trimming war costs. Capping three days of mourning, some 12,000 people — including Penn State students, fans and football stars — paid tribute to the late Joe Paterno in a campus memorial service that exposed a strong undercurrent of anger over his firing.

Five years ago: Tensions flared between President Donald Trump and Mexico, with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto (PAYN’-yuh nee-EH’-toh) scrapping a planned visit to Washington and the White House threatening a 20 percent tax on imports to pay for Trump’s proposed wall along the southern border. Actor Mike Connors, 91, who starred as TV’s hard-hitting private eye “Mannix,” died in Los Angeles. Actor Barbara Hale, 94, who played steadfast secretary Della Street on “Perry Mason,” died at her home in Sherman Oaks, California.

One year ago: The interim chief of the Capitol Police, in prepared testimony to lawmakers, apologized for failing to prepare for what became a violent insurrection on Jan. 6 despite warnings that white supremacists and far-right groups would target Congress. President Joe Biden and Russian leader Vladimir Putin held their first phone conversation as counterparts; Biden raised concerns about the arrest of opposition figure Alexei Navalny and other issues. The Biden administration said it was restoring relations with the Palestinians and renewing aid to Palestinian refugees, a reversal of the Trump administration’s cutoff. The Justice Department rescinded a Trump-era memo that established a “zero tolerance” enforcement policy for migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, which resulted in thousands of family separations. The San Francisco school board voted to remove the names of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and others from public schools after officials deemed them unworthy of the honor. (The plan was later suspended.)

Today’s Birthdays: Cartoonist Jules Feiffer is 93. Sportscaster-actor Bob Uecker is 87. Actor Scott Glenn is 83. Singer Jean Knight is 79. Activist Angela Davis is 78. Actor Richard Portnow is 75. Rock musician Corky Laing (Mountain) is 74. Actor David Strathairn (streh-THEHRN’) is 73. Producer-director Mimi Leder is 70. Alt-country singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams is 69. Reggae musician Norman Hassan (UB40) is 64. Actor-comedian-talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is 64. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 62. Hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky is 61. Musician Andrew Ridgeley is 59. R&B singer Jazzie B (Soul II Soul) is 59. Actor Paul Johansson is 58. Director Lenny Abrahamson is 56. Actor Bryan Callen is 55. Gospel singer Kirk Franklin is 52. Actor Nate Mooney is 50. Actor Jennifer Crystal is 49. Rock

musician Chris Hesse (Hoobastank) is 48. Actor Matilda Szydagis is 48. Actor Gilles Marini (ZHEEL ma-REE'-nee) is 46. Gospel singer Tye Tribbett is 46. Retired NBA player Vince Carter is 45. Actor Sarah Rue is 44. Actor Colin O'Donoghue is 41.

## 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**