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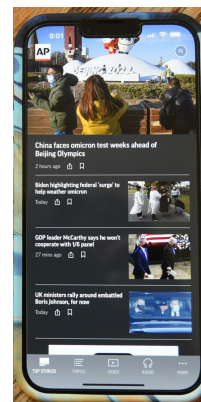
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Connecting

February 16, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Feb. 16, 2022,

Look what a Connecting feed from colleague **John Brewer** has gone and done?

When John was news editor in the AP's Los Angeles bureau in the '70s, **Mark Hamill** was among a number of part-time actors who were hired as news assistants tending to banks of chattering printers, loading paper and changing ribbons, storing away the day's report and keeping up the reference files. He worked the night shift so he could make ends meet and tend to his day job, minor acting roles he had in TV shows.



Responding to the Connecting call for celebrities who worked for AP, John told the story in

Monday's Connecting – and Hamill – yes, the Mark Hamill who portrayed Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars movies and today is a noted actor, producer, writer, and director – took to the Twittersverse to respond. Our colleague **Dan Sewell**, who tweeted about John's story, was enlisted to tell the rest of the story in today's Connecting.

We lead today's issue with an announcement Tuesday from the AP that it will significantly expand its climate coverage, creating a standalone desk that will enhance the global understanding of climate change and its impact across the world.

The initiative will infuse the global media landscape with a new stream of quality climate journalism through both AP content and in-depth training and collaboration directly with AP's thousands of customers worldwide.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy...and, I can't resist - may the force be with you!

Paul

AP announces sweeping climate journalism initiative



Smoke billows from the Mt. Etna volcano, as seen from Nicolosi, Sicily, southern Italy, Feb. 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Salvatore Allegra)



Residents work in a community garden at the Promised Land favela of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they have established community agriculture as a tool for social and economic change, as well as environmental preservation, Dec. 1, 2021. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

The Associated Press announced Tuesday it will significantly expand its climate coverage, creating a standalone desk that will enhance the global understanding of climate change and its impact across the world.

The initiative will infuse the global media landscape with a new stream of quality climate journalism through both AP content and in-depth training and collaboration directly with AP's thousands of customers worldwide.

AP will hire about 20 journalists based in Africa, Brazil, India and the U.S. to supplement the news agency's journalists already covering climate and the environment. Together the team will transform how AP covers the climate story, including focusing on the profound and varied impacts of climate change on society in areas such as food, agriculture, migration, housing and urban planning, disaster response, the economy and culture.

The new climate desk will leverage the expertise of AP's global staff to infuse climate coverage in all aspects of the news report, including words, visuals, data-driven journalism and graphics reaching over three billion people each day.

"This is a substantial investment to ramp up and dramatically expand the outstanding work AP has been doing on climate and environment for years," said AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Julie Pace. "This far-reaching initiative will transform how we cover the climate story -- helping people understand the implications and impacts of climate change on all aspects of their lives. We will do that both through

our journalism and by sharing our capabilities with local newsrooms so they too can tell impactful climate stories for their audiences.”

In addition to reporters and editors for text, photos and video, AP will add reporters dedicated to the intersection of climate with the economy and state government; a climate data team that will help newsrooms localize stories; a collaborations editor who will develop outside projects and work with local journalists; an accountability editor; and more.

The work will enable locally relevant text, photo and video for media outlets in large and small markets, including projects with AP partner news agencies in countries like India focusing on expanded coverage in multiple languages.

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

Click [here](#) for Axios story. Shared by Lou Boccardi.

Ladies and gentlemen, draw your lightsabers!

Mark Hamill [@HamillHimself](#)

FACT CHECK: Mostly TRUE. I WAS a copy-boy at the LA [@AP](#) bureau in the 70's & I DID inform John Brewer I was leaving because I'd been cast in, not a "sci-fi movie", but an episode of "The Partridge Family." And so ended my AP career. I like Mr Brewer's version much better.

Dan Sewell [@dansewell](#) · Feb 14

Former LA [@AP](#) bureau chief John Brewer recalls a struggling actor moonlighting as night news assistant - filing, changing ribbons, loading paper - in the '70s. He informed Brewer in '75 he had been cast in "a sci-fi movie." And so ended [@HamillHimself](#) 's AP career!

11:08 AM · Feb 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) - Luke Skywalker struck back on a detail about when his AP career ended.

Responding to my Tweet (see Tuesday's Connecting), Mark Hamill issued what he called a Fact Check: "Mostly True. I WAS a copy-boy in the LA AP bureau in the 70s & I

DID inform John Brewer I was leaving because I'd been cast in not a 'sci-fi movie,' but an episode of 'The Partridge Family.' And so ended my AP career. I like Mr. Brewer's version much better."

John, then news editor in Los Angeles, says he respects Mark's version, but his memory is that Mark told him he had won an audition for a sci-fi movie and would be filming on location.

That does sound more logical. Who would give up an AP career just for one Partridge Family show?

Hamill clearly enjoyed reminiscing about his stint in journalism. He followed up with a Tweet that said: "When I started, all I knew about journalism was from 'The Front Page' & Superman comics. I imagined myself bursting into the Editor's office yelling 'Stop the presses, Chief!' Not just cutting copy, sweeping up & getting lunch orders."

He concluded with a Ringo Starr-inspired ("It Don't Come Easy") hashtag: #GotToPayDuesIfYouWantToReportNews

He figured out how to get his thrills from other work, though.

Tune in for the next episode: maybe John will reveal he is Luke's father?

BTW: with Hamill playing, the number of Twitter impressions (views) was soaring toward 700,000, way more than any news story I ever Tweeted.

And a sampling of those Tweets, about a guy now 70 years old with a net worth of \$18 million (according to Celebrity Net Worth):

Looking back, do you think you made the right decision leaving your AP job?

How far do you think you would have gone if you never left the AP bureau?

Could have been a GREAT copy-boy, but nooooooo...

Just think you could have been famous. Maybe even on CNN by this time!

I'm proud to work in the same company that once employed a Jedi Knight.

You can't spell "Partridge Family" without "AP."

Another celeb with AP ties – Susan Ford

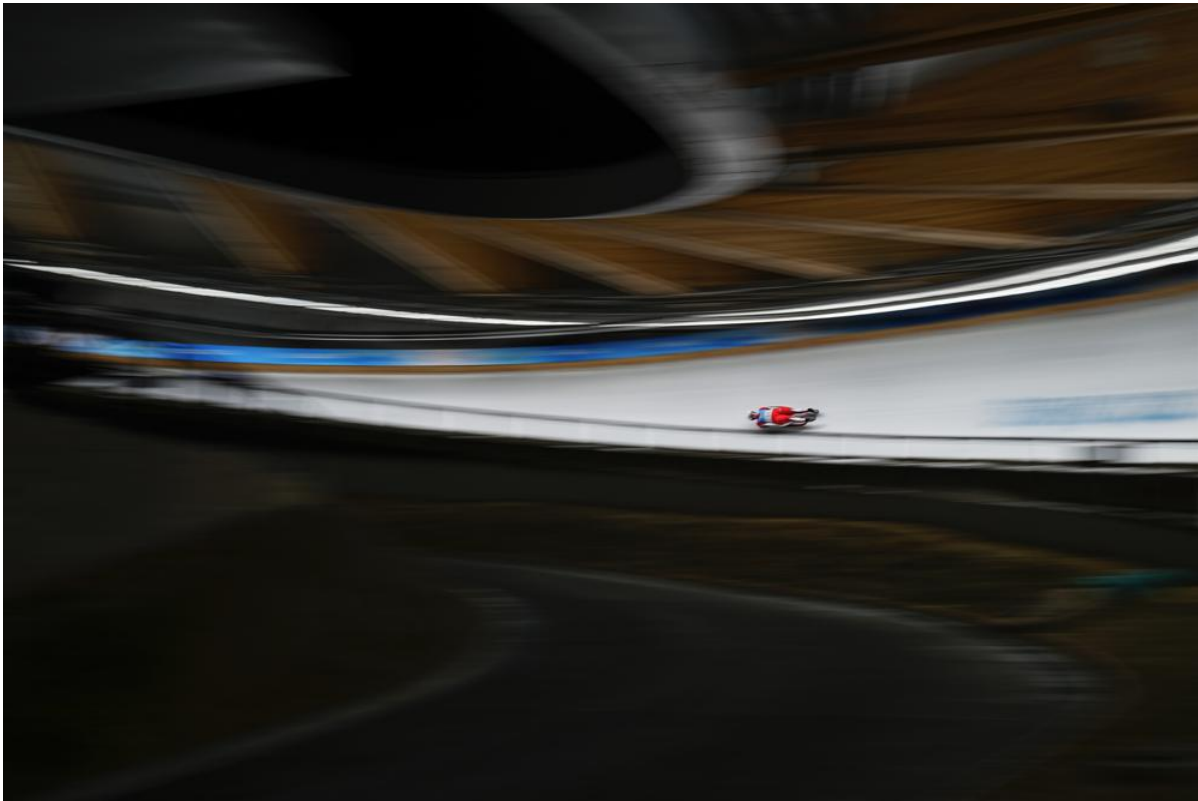


Susan Ford, daughter of President Gerald Ford, learns photography from Ansel Adams at his gallery near Yosemite National Park, June 1975. (AP Photo, shared by Corporate Archives)

Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - I recall that during President Gerald Ford's short reign, his daughter Susan also had a short tenure as an AP photographer in the Washington bureau. She would arrive for work with a couple of Secret Service agents escorting her. She would get an assignment, often on Capitol Hill, and off she'd go with her two agents in a black limo.

It was amusing to watch senators mumbling "is that who I think it is" among themselves. Access was never a problem. Between assignments Susan would mix with other staffers in the bureau while the SS agents usually took a seat on the heating/cooling ducts. It escapes me and others as to how much seniority she had on her departure.

At Olympics, the line between photo and painting can blur



Natalie Maag, of Switzerland, slides during the luge women's singles run 1 at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, in the Yanqing district of Beijing. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin)

By TED ANTHONY

BEIJING (AP) — A photograph is not a painting. A painting is not a photograph. Yet in the right situation, in the right hands, the two can approach each other and, in the best circumstances, seem to merge.

Add to that the unremitting scenes of dynamic motion that the Olympics provide — dramatic backdrops, unexpected moves, impossibly fit bodies performing at the height of their capacities — and you have a recipe for the arresting collision of news and aesthetics, of photography and art.

In short: Through the eyes and lenses of Associated Press photographers who are training their eyes on the arenas of competition at the Beijing Games, sometimes true magic can happen.

“Some of these photos, you can’t get around it, they look like paintings,” says Denis Paquin, who would know. He has overseen AP’s Olympic photo report for more than a decade and has viewed thousands of images over the past two weeks.

Photography is sometimes called “painting with light.” With these images, that’s truer than usual.

So slow yourself down. Spend some time looking at these six images from the Beijing Winter Games and hearing from the photojournalists who made them. And think

about what art is, what news is — and what photography can be when undertaken at the most thoughtful of levels.

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

On Reporter's Notebooks

Robert Wielaard ([Email](#)) - Margy McCay opened an old war wound by mentioning AP Reporters Notebooks.

I left Florida in 1979 to work at AP in Brussels. Had I known unavailible reporters notebooks are in Europe, I would have taken a dozen with me. Had I known I'd stay for 40+ years, I would have shipped a container full.

As a yachting media type today, my search for decent notebooks in Europe has become open-ended. In a Belgian office supply store just the other day, I told the sales lady a reporter's notebook is narrow, fits in one hand, has a spiral at the short end that can hold a pen, has lined pages (Not tiny squares!!) and slips in-'n-out of your back pocket unhindered.

I think my pain was meaningless to her!

More of your memories of Tony Keefe

Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - I had the honour of working with Tony Keefe in the London bureau 1986 - 1997. It was always a pleasure to interact with him be it in the workplace or at social events. In the fast-paced, stressful environment of the office, he seemed to have a knack to be both a very effective problem solver as well as a very personable comrade.

I lost touch with him after moving to the AP State Photo Center in Washington, but we reconnected through social media over the last several years. I enjoyed and occasionally commented on his wine and meal pairings, and he often commented on images I share.

In December, I saw that I would be staying a couple of days in London not far from his home and asked if we might meet up. He thanked me but said he wasn't getting out much these days. I wondered, but didn't know, if that was due to worries about COVID or something else.

I heard from former AP colleagues in England, Japan and Paris as the news of his passing filtered through communication channels. He touched a lot of lives by being a decent, lovely man and I hear quite a good singer. Reports are he led song sessions that warmed the crew at the Albertville Winter Olympics.

I thank Steve Graham for his tribute to Tony and more details about his career. There were a lot of great AP people in London who had started as teenagers and worked

their way up through the ranks, but few became as accomplished or expert in their field as Tony.

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MEMORIAL

Technical Services Manager Anthony Keefe of international communications in London, right, and former Moscow Chief of Bureau Mike Putzel, now Washington-based diplomatic writer, left, attach a brass plaque to the door of the Moscow bureau's new satellite communications system.

The circuit, linking Moscow, New York and London, is the first in the Soviet Union to carry voice, news and photo transmissions simultaneously. The plaque says: "Moscow Communications Center, dedicated to the memory of John Mulroy, who said it could be done." Mulroy, AP's director of international commu-

nications, conceived the plan for using satellite technology to overcome the Soviet Union's notoriously unreliable land lines. He had begun negotiations for such a system when he was killed in the Dec. 21, 1988, terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. (Photo: Liu Heung Shing)

Michael Putzel (Email) - Shortly before he died, Tony Keefe sent me a copy of a clipping from an AP World showing Tony installing a plaque on the Moscow bureau's communications cabinet while I watched and Bryan Brumley, my successor as Moscow COB, looked on (far left). The system was the first of its kind in the Soviet Union, and the plaque memorialized John Mulroy, the AP's international communications chief, who conceived of the project and set it in motion before he was killed in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. Tony helped complete the project near the end of my tour in 1990.

More of your most unusual datelines

Peter Mattiace ([Email](#)) - How about:

SLOVENSKA NARODNA PODPORNA JENOTA, Pa. (AP) –

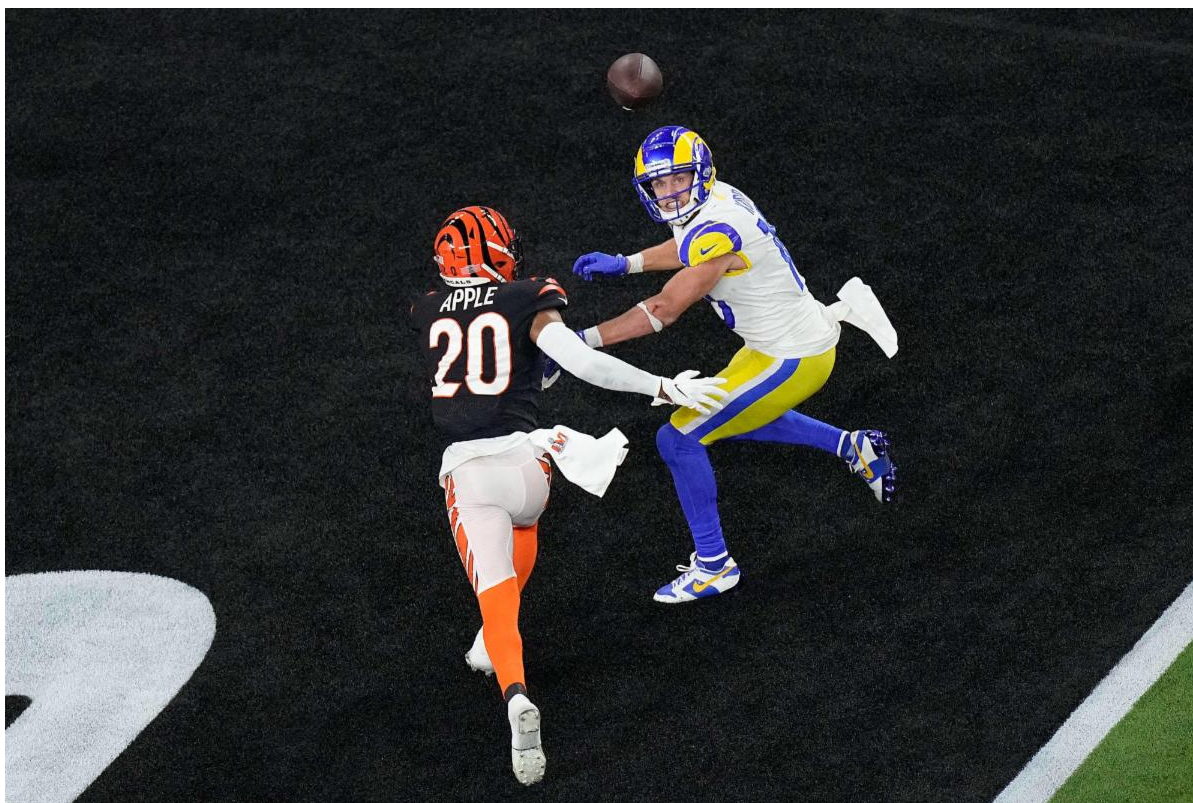
It stands for Slovene National Benefit Society. Its 500 acres is a recognized borough in Lawrence County, just one mile from the Ohio-Pennsylvania line near Pittsburgh. The grounds had 19 residents in 1990 who mostly enjoy the summertime recreation.

I recall my lede for this feature was something like: "Don't worry, the mayor doesn't know how to pronounce it either."

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Jeff Barnard ([Email](#)) - I can't find any evidence that I ever actually wrote a story datelined HOLE IN THE GROUND, Ore., but it is was one I pined for. Hole In The Ground is a small volcanic caldera in Eastern Oregon, not far from Fort Rock, a magma core that was a site used by ancient people. I had been told that if you walk to the bottom of Hole in The Ground you are likely to find bowling balls used as projectiles by people shooting off black-powder mortars. I stopped by once on a family trip but found no bowling balls or mortar crews. Bad timing I guess.

What a picture!



Al Cross ([Email](#)) - Drone? Platform? Pretty amazing.

Connecting went to the source of the game-winning Super Bowl shot – AP photographer Matt Rourke ([Email](#)) of the Philadelphia bureau, who responded:

The photo was made from the eighth level above the 50-yard line at the SoFi Stadium with a Sony Alpha A1 and a 600mm lens. The players did the hard part, I just happened to be looking the right way.

Connecting sky shot?



Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - I'm not sure this qualifies as a "sky shot," but these players got pretty high into the atmosphere. It's one of the better pictures I've taken as the volunteer sports photographer for Pensacola Catholic High School. The players in white are from Williston, Florida. Catholic won that regional playoff game last Wednesday and then another on Saturday to make it to the Elite Eight in the 3A state tournament.

AP sighting, sort of



Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Maybe it's cheating a bit (the rest of the license plate was numbers) but it's on the car of our best friends we were visiting in Ridgefield, Conn.

Stories of interest

Jury rejects Sarah Palin's lawsuit against New York Times (AP)

By **TOM HAYS** and **LARRY NEUMEISTER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin lost her libel lawsuit against The New York Times on Tuesday when a jury rejected her claim that the newspaper maliciously damaged her reputation by erroneously linking her campaign rhetoric to a mass shooting.

A judge had already declared that if the jury sided with Palin, he would set aside its verdict on the grounds that she hadn't proved the paper acted maliciously, something required in libel suits involving public figures.

Asked about the verdict as she left the Manhattan courthouse, Palin said, "Of course we're disappointed," adding she hoped there would be an appeal. She also praised her two lawyers.

"There were three of us versus the monstrous team of The New York Times, and we did well," she said. "Doing all they can to make sure the little guy has a voice, the underdog can have their say."

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

Click [here](#) for New York Times story. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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How a Secret Assault Allegation Against an Anchor Upended CNN (New York Times)

By **Emily Steel**, **Jodi Kantor**, **Michael M. Grynbaum**, **James B. Stewart** and **John Koblin**

Late in the day on Nov. 30, Jeff Zucker, the president of CNN Worldwide, summoned his star anchor and friend, Chris Cuomo, to a meeting in the network's skyscraper overlooking the Hudson River.

Mr. Zucker was joined by the network's chief marketing officer — and his secret romantic partner — Allison Gollust. They had to deliver a delicate message.

Mr. Zucker told Mr. Cuomo that CNN was suspending him because of his unethical interactions with his brother, New York's governor. Mr. Cuomo was shocked and offered to resign. Mr. Zucker countered that the anchor might be able to return at some point, according to people with knowledge of the conversation.

Mr. Cuomo felt reassured. He and Mr. Zucker were confidants, their fortunes entwined. Mr. Cuomo didn't bother to consult a lawyer.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Judge backs Lee Enterprises rejection of hedge fund nominees (AP)

By JOSH FUNK

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Lee Enterprises' effort to repel a hostile takeover got a boost this week when a judge ruled the newspaper publisher could ignore two board nominations from the hedge fund Alden Global Capital.

But Alden said it will press the fight by urging shareholders to vote against Lee Chairman Mary Junck and one other longstanding board member at the company's March 10 annual meeting.

Lee Enterprises, based in Davenport, Iowa, said Tuesday that a Delaware judge supported its decision to reject Alden's nominees because the hedge fund didn't meet Lee's technical requirements to nominate board members. Late last year, Lee rejected Alden's \$141 million offer, saying that it "grossly undervalues" the publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tulsa World, Richmond Times-Dispatch and dozens of other newspapers.

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

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P.J. O'Rourke, influential satirist and commentator, dies at 74 (NBC News)

By Dennis Romero

P.J. O'Rourke, an influential baby boomer satirist and commentator who defied the counterculture's leftward politics, died Tuesday morning. He was 74.

Deb Seager, a vice president and spokeswoman at his publisher, Grove Atlantic, confirmed O'Rourke's death in a statement.

"Our dear friend and cherished Grove Atlantic author P. J. O'Rourke passed away this morning from complications of lung cancer," she said.

She noted his accomplishments: "A journalist and political satirist, O'Rourke wrote over 20 books on subjects as diverse as politics, cars, etiquette, and economics, including his two No. 1 New York Times Bestsellers, 'Parliament of Whores' and 'Give War a Chance.'"

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

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Senate committee moves forward with rule to limit press access at Capitol (Deseret News)

By Bridger Beal-Cvetko

A rules resolution to limit media access in the Utah Senate passed its initial hearing on Wednesday, despite concerns from media members that it would make it more difficult to report on Capitol Hill.

SR1, sponsored by Sen. Mike McKell, R-Spanish Fork, stipulates that news media are only allowed access to the Senate floor, hallways and lounge if they have permission from a Senate media designee and must “promptly exit the designated area after completing the specific interview.”

It would also require that photographers obtain permission from a committee chairperson before being allowed to stand behind the dais in order to photograph witnesses or public commenters who are addressing the committee.

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

Today in History - Feb. 16, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2022. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the moniker "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence from the Russian Empire. (Lithuania, which was occupied by the Soviet Union, then Nazi Germany, then the Soviet Union again during World War II, renewed its independence in 1990).

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1960, the nuclear-powered radar picket submarine USS Triton departed New London, Connecticut, on the first submerged circumnavigation by a vessel.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1996, eleven people were killed in a fiery collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland commuter train in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300 trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus seven on the ground.

In 2001, the United States and Britain staged air strikes against radar stations and air defense command centers in Iraq.

In 2009, in Stamford, Connecticut, a 200-pound chimpanzee named Travis went berserk, severely mauling its owner's friend, Charla Nash; Travis was shot dead by police.

In 2011, bookstore chain Borders filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and said it would close nearly a third of its stores. (Borders closed all of its remaining stores in September 2011.)

In 2019, the Vatican announced that former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who served as archbishop of Washington, D.C., had been found guilty by the Vatican of sex abuse and had been defrocked; McCarrick was the highest-ranking churchman and the first cardinal to face that punishment as the church dealt with clerical sex abuse.

Ten years ago: A federal judge in Detroit ordered life in prison for "underwear bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO'-mahr fah-ROOK' ahb-DOOL'-moo-TAH'-lahb), a Nigerian who had tried to blow up a packed Northwest jetliner. New York Times correspondent Anthony Shadid, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, died of an apparent asthma attack in Syria while reporting on the uprising against its president; he was 43. Hall of Fame catcher Gary Carter died in West Palm Beach, Florida, at age 57.

Five years ago: In the first full-length news conference of his presidency, Donald Trump denounced what he called the “criminal” leaks that took down his top national security adviser, Michael Flynn. Trump named Alexander Acosta as his new choice for labor secretary, a day after Andrew Puzder abruptly withdrew. Immigrants around the U.S. stayed home from work and school to demonstrate how important they were to America’s economy, and many businesses closed in solidarity.

One year ago: A winter storm that left millions without power in record-breaking cold weather claimed more lives, including four family members who perished in a Houston-area house fire while using a fireplace to stay warm. FEMA opened its first COVID-19 mass vaccination sites, setting up in Los Angeles and Oakland as part of a stepped-up effort by the Biden administration to reach minority communities. Amy Cooper, the white woman who was arrested for calling 911 on a Black birdwatcher in New York’s Central Park, had her criminal case thrown out after completing a diversionary counseling program.

Today’s Birthdays: Jazz/pop singer-actor Peggy King is 92. Actor William Katt is 71. Actor LeVar Burton is 65. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 64. Actor Lisa Loring is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 63. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 61. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 57. Actor Sarah Clarke is 51. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 49. Actor Mahershala Ali is 48. Electronic dance music artist Bassnectar is 44. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 40. Actor Chloe Wepper is 36. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follis (FAHL’-eh-say) (Hot Chelle (SHEL) Rae) is 35. Sen. John Ossoff, D-Ga., is 35. Rock musician Danielle Haim (HYM) is 33. Actor Elizabeth Olsen is 33.

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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in 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.

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