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# Connecting February 21, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Feb. 21, 2022,

This is Presidents Day.

Our new Connecting colleague **Bob Ingle** has worn a lot of journalistic hats over the past 54 years since he joined The Associated Press – from AP newsman to newspaper columnist, news service editor, blogger and author of two New Jersey-related books.

He writes about his variety of experiences - still continuing, mind you, with a third book in the works - in today's Connecting new-member profile.



Our colleague **Kia Breaux** was featured last Thursday – on her  $25^{th}$  anniversary with the AP – as the featured speaker for "Ledeing the Way," a newly created series

sponsored by Women+@AP, a volunteer-led initiative founded in 2019. We bring you the story.

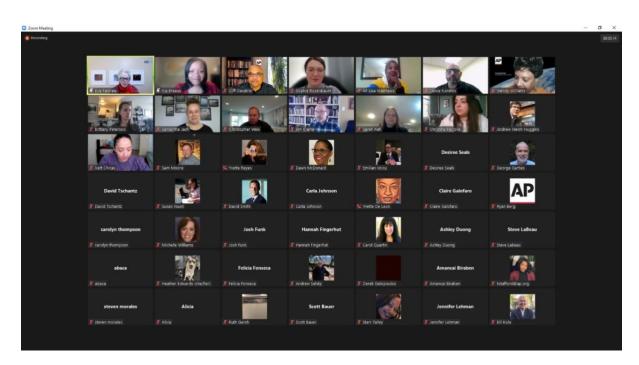
**Tony Keefe obituary**: Click <u>here</u> for the obituary for Tony Keefe, veteran communications executive in AP's London bureau, who died Feb. 7. Services will be held Monday, March 14, at the City Of London Crematorium - Traditional Chapel, Aldersbrook Road, London, E12 5DQ

Ralph Gage celebration of life: The life of Ralph Dana "Bud" Gage Jr., 80, a longtime newspaper executive with the Lawrence Journal-World and a member of the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, will be at 3 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the Lied Center of Kansas. An opportunity to visit with family will follow the service.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

# Kia Breaux cites passion for AP mission, opportunities to grow professionally



Kansas City-based regional director and Connecting colleague Kia Breaux was the most recent featured speaker for "Ledeing the Way," a newly created series sponsored by Women+@AP, a volunteer-led initiative founded in 2019.

Ledeing the Way highlights someone who has a great story to share, has

worked on an ambitious project recently or has advice that could benefit the group. Breaux's Feb. 17 conversation with Women+@AP, moderated by **Eva Parziale**,

managing director of key accounts, based in Columbus, coincidentally took place on Breaux's 25th anniversary at AP.

Over her career at AP, Breaux has worn many hats both in news production and business strategy. She started as a reporter in Missouri and Kansas and worked her way through multiple editing roles before transitioning to managing AP's relationships with customers.

"I've stayed at AP not only because I'm passionate about its mission, but because I've had varied opportunities to grow professionally," Breaux said. "No matter what I've wanted to do throughout my career – report, edit, manage a newsroom, business strategy – I've found room to do it and more at AP."

Women+@AP was started with the intention of creating a safe space for genders who have traditionally been marginalized in the newsroom and company. It provides talent development opportunities, fosters community, and raises important conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion.

## New-member profile:

# Bob Ingle's journalistic path started as AP newsman in Atlanta



We were setting up space at the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte and one of my Gannett colleagues took this, saying "Your alma mater."

**Bob Ingle** - People whose path took them through the AP tend to have fond memories of it even if they're known for something else. Not sure why, but I think it has to do with the tradition, professionalism and the personalities that surround you.

I worked full time on a daily in college and left grad school (in 1968) on a Sunday. Went to work for the AP in Atlanta the next day. It is as much my alma mater as the University of Georgia.

There were the big stories:

- Stranded in a snow story in Bradford, Pa., a TV bulletin said an Allegheny airlines flight went down 1/6/69 near there. Got to a road leading up a mountain where emergency crews were staging. I told a guy on the back of a truck I was AP. "Stick your arms up!" I did. He lifted me into a truck with generators. First on the scene, 90 percent of the play over two cycles.
- There was a big brouhaha about Anniston, Ala., having one Black cop. City Council was taking it up, tensions high with threats. I showed up and the one Black cop met me at door. "Come with me," he said, you'll be safe here." He took me to an adjoining room with a rock fireplace. He put my chair in front of it and said "Stay away from the windows." I covered it from there.
- When protestors occupied the administration building at one of Atlanta's traditionally Black universities, they sent me for the overnight shift. I hired a cab by the hour. Protesters took and destroyed a TV camera and other journalists left. I remained and a group headed for me. "Who are you?" they demanded. The Black cab driver told them: "He is Associated Press and he is a friend of mine." They left. I never saw the cabbie before. We finished my shift together.
- The Rev. Billy Graham decided to take his crusade to Northern Ireland which was involved in bloody conflict. Someone recommended me for the story. So AP got a big exclusive about Northern Ireland via Birmingham.

But there were also the fun times. A few examples:

#### Phone pal:

Only one person was on duty in Alabama Sundays, and it was usually me. On the other end of the line was a familiar voice. "This is George Wallace, somebody called but they didn't get name. Was it you?" I said it wasn't, but he continued on for about 30 minutes.

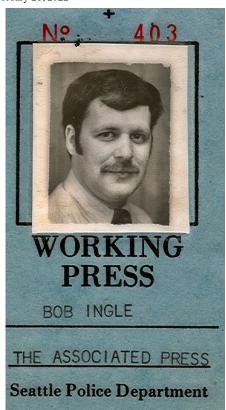
The next Sunday he called again. And it continued. It became our tradition: Sundays on the phone with George. He was lonely and just wanted to talk. Surprising, he never talked about anything he is known for. No race. No segregation. A lot of foreign affairs.

#### North to Seattle:

On to Seattle, an incredible place to work, when Kent Sturgis was COB. He is the only person I ever knew who was born and grew up in Alaska, which was a part of our territory along with the western Canadian provinces. Robert Weller was working with me and noticed on the Canadian Press wire a story about a man who had gone to Canada to evade the draft during the Vietnam war. As he was crossing from British Columbia to Washington state, he became scared when questioned and ran back into Canada. The U.S. border guards dragged him into the U.S. Robert was thoroughly angry. "Look at this," he said, shaking the wire copy in my face.

"Want to start an international incident?" I asked. I was joking but he wrote it and the General Desk put it on the AAA.

People were upset than Robert. Especially in Canada. It really was an international incident.



#### Do me a favor:

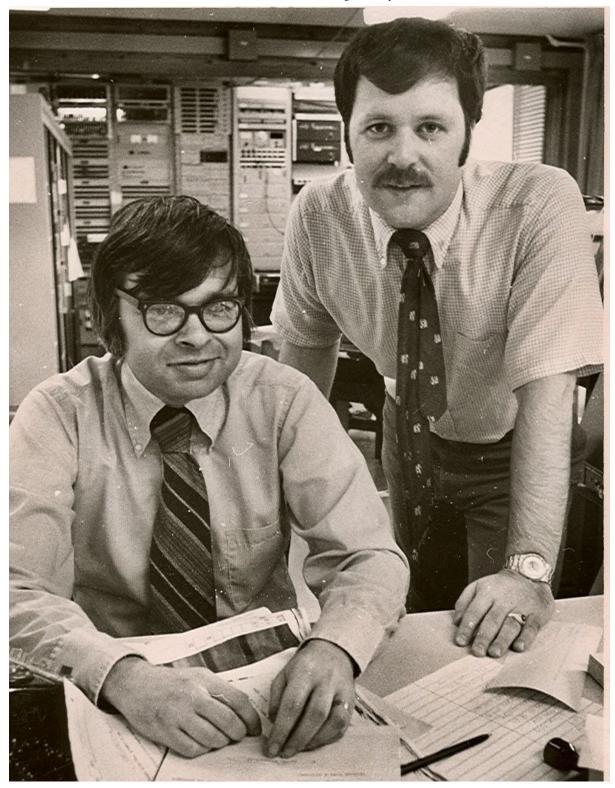
There was an orchardist taken hostage in Wenatchee. I had been writing about it all day, so they decided I was best to go. They told me a two-engine plane was waiting at Boeing Field. There was. It looked like something out of Indiana Jones. You walked across the wing to get into the two seats.

We're cruising along over the Cascades, me in the co-pilot seat, and I'm looking down at that snow-covered endless wilderness thinking there could be a Big Foot. They couldn't find us if the plane crashed. About that time the pilot said, "Could you do me a favor?" Of course. "I need you to fly the plane while I do something." I paused while I turned that over in my mind. Yep, that's what he wanted. "See that gap between the peaks? I need you to fly us through that."

#### Guess who came to dinner

Luckily, the pilot finished in time to land. I went to the scene where the hostage got fed up and walked out. I knocked on doors to find a phone. An older man let me in and led me to his table. I called in the print story then radio. Then he used the phone to call his daughter. "You never are going to believe who is in my kitchen. Bob Ingle of the Associated Press. Yeah. Right here."

He asked if I would have a drink with him and since he helped me I couldn't refuse. He pulled out – Jack Daniels. I found a motel and the next day drove back to Seattle.



Lenny Pallats (left) and I went to Georgia together and worked together at AP Atlanta and Seattle.

## After AP life

It was bittersweet when I left Seattle and AP in 1979 to join the Atlanta Constitution, the paper I grew up with. I was a columnist and assistant to Editor Hal Gulliver, who, by the way, worked with me at the Atlanta AP. The people I admired were still there.

And Lester Maddox dropped by to talk. He seemed to like us now. Not unlike George Wallace.

When Jimmy Carter, who I have known since he was a state senator, was president he read my columns and occasionally called to comment and pass along some tidbit. The operator began "Mr. Ingle, can you hold for the president?" Often thought about saying, "No, I'm busy, I'll call him back." Once in Washington in the White House when the president was elsewhere I slipped into a well-known place I should not have been and called Kate McCarthy in Seattle. "You'll never guess where I am."

I went on to advertising in 1986, making TV commercials in Los Angeles. Gannett asked me if I would like to return to the news side. When they bought more papers, they created a seven-person bureau and wanted someone with experience to run it. Every AP person's dream, your own wire service. I was with Gannett from 1992 to 2017.

For my first book, The Soprano State, written with Sandy McClure and published in 2008, I wanted an AP reference in the bio on the jacket, but my publisher didn't. So, I asked Tom Curley, then AP CEO, to write a jacket blurb. He did - which got the AP on the cover. It became a New York Times Best Seller the second week then came a documentary film in 2010. I sent Tom a note saying that's what did it.

#### What now?

Everyone says I should write a book about my behind-the-scenes adventures. I'm working on one based in Atlanta. But it's not about me. Although it has a main character who is an Atlanta newsman. I have a blog, use Twitter and Facebook to keep people informed, write travel articles and spend time in Africa and Europe. I have done TV and radio interviews occasionally, mostly about Chris Christie since I wrote his biography in 2012 with Mike Symons, who worked for me in Trenton.

## As Beijing Winter Olympics come to close



Asia-Pacific deputy news director for photography and storytelling from Tokyo Kii Sato, left, technology manager from Cairo Hesham Salah, San Diego photographer Gregory Bull, Istanbul chief photographer Francisco Seco and Seoul photographer Jin-man Lee jumps on the halfpipe for a team picture at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China. (AP Photo)



Gathering of AP journalists at closing ceremony: from left: Ragan Clark, Graham Dunbar, Cara Rubinsky, Ted Anthony, Howie Rumberg and Aaron Morrison.

# Gilligan: Sister Donalda typed out notes full of wit, kindness

BY AMY GILLIGAN
Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph Herald executive editor

The world lost a sweetheart with the death of Sister Donalda Kehoe, a Franciscan sister who banged out kind and occasionally sassy notes on a manual typewriter well into her 90s from her home at Clare House.

I and others in our newsroom were the lucky recipients of her whimsical musings, always complimentary, sometimes including an acrostic or a limerick and occasionally with a little treat tucked inside. She once sent a news clerk who had helped her with an obituary a sweet thank-you note with a gold medal inside for her top-notch customer service.

Some of the letters I got included a 4-cent Freedom of the Press stamp, and she was inclined toward awarding \$2 bills to those she liked. She was a big fan of TH columnist Kurt Ullrich, and she wrote him a letter just last year, complete with a \$2 bill — which she told him to spend on a haircut.



Sister Donalda was prolific on her Royal 440 manual typewriter. She wouldn't let go of the old machine. "The manual typewriter and I think at the same speed," she said. And she credited O'Toole Office Supply Co. on Main Street with keeping typewriter ribbon for her use.

In the letters she sent me, she often signed off as "an avid, 90-something feisty Irish reader." My kind of woman. She celebrated 75 years in the Franciscan sisterhood last year. Sister Donalda died this month, just two days after her 95th birthday.

Cheers to this dear lady and to the joy she spread with her wit and words.

Click here for link to the column.

## Connecting mailbox

## RIP, Patrick Jake O'Rourke

Jim Spehar - Wrote my column this weekend about departed writer/humorist P.J. O'Rourke, another scribe who'd probably have as much trouble passing the AP writing test as I did in my three attempts. Included was this wisdom that I'm quite certain most former Broadcast Executives can vouch for. As well as a certain former Broadcast VP who once took it upon himself to road test the Chrysler Corporation K-Cars once foisted on the sales crew by Keith Fuller.

"I first encountered O'Rourke on the pages of Car and Driver. As someone blessed with expense account travel for 11 years, I can confirm this: 'There's a lot of debate... about what kind of car handles best. Some say a front-engined car, some say a rearengined car. I say a rented car. Nothing handles better than a rented car. You can go faster, turn corners sharper, and put the transmission into reverse while going forward at a higher rate of speed in a rented car than in any other kind.'"

Click here for link to the column.

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## The Associated Press turns prostitute

By (New York) Post Editorial Board Feb. 18, 2022

News to order: The Associated Press admits it's taken \$8 million from climate activists to write about their pet issues, so it's "assigning more than two dozen journalists across the world to cover climate issues."

If anyone had the least doubt what angle the resulting stories will take, the AP explained that it learned "that funders weren't just being generous; they had their own goals to achieve." Ya think?

Since the AP feeds newspapers, websites and TV stations across the country and even the world, the "donors" have a great chance of getting all their money's worth in propaganda, even though all the resulting content is to be clearly labelled as such.

Sorry: This is news-as-prostitution. Pay the media to get the coverage you want.

Read more **here**.

Click **here** for AP story from last week.

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## Connecting connections

**Bruce Handler** - This is what's so great about Connecting!

We've heard recently from AP-Havana vets Ike Flores and George Arfield.

George was the COB in Rio de Janeiro who in 1969 hired me back as a full-time, American-paid AP newsman, following my hiatus the year before. That was when I left the Portland, OR, bureau (PD) to undertake a five-month land journey from Oregon to Argentina and wound up as a stringer in the AP bureau in Buenos Aires.

George (he spelled his last name slightly differently way back then) assigned me to our bureau in São Paulo. My boss there: Ike Flores! I remember watching the Neil Armstrong moon landing at Ike's house, on his little Brazilian b/w TV set.

And all of this more than 50 years ago.

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## Out-of-the-way datelines

**Brendan Riley** - Hunting for unusual datelines, once made it all the way to Timbuctoo -- no, not in Africa. It was a once-booming California gold rush town reduced to a single crumbling building when I stopped there in 1982. Made the AAA wire writing about a couple who bought the townsite, about 70 miles north of Sacramento, with grand plans for a restoration project.

## Best of the Week

# Determined reporting, solid sourcing and regional expertise put AP ahead on Ukraine coverage



#### AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda

AP journalists Matt Lee and Vladimir Isachenkov, along with all-formats colleagues covering the ongoing Ukraine-Russia crisis, delivered on AP's promise — fast, accurate, contextualized reporting on one of the world's most complex stories.

Diplomatic writer Lee scored a lengthy beat over the competition, breaking the news that the U.S. was evacuating most embassy personnel from Ukraine, while Moscow-based Isachenkov has drawn on his deep knowledge of the region to imbue his dispatches with critical context, history and analysis that helped readers make sense of the ongoing crisis.

Together, Lee and Isachenkov are AP's Best of the Week — First Winners.

Over the weeks of the intensifying and complicated crisis, Isachenkov has not only been the lead writer for on-the-ground spot developments but has contributed a wealth of stories explaining the nuances, strategies and background behind the breaking news. Notable recent stories, done either on his own or in cooperation with reporters including Lee in Washington and Yuras Karmanau in Kyiv include exploring the skepticism that most Russians feel about the prospect of imminent war; the details and history of the Minsk II Accord, a 2015 deal whose unfulfillment is a key element of Russia's grievances, and an analysis of the feints, parries and misdirections of the Russia-West brinksmanship.

Read more **here**.

## **Bombing Monte Cassino**

## Marc Lancaster World War II on Deadline



From the time Allied troops moved into mainland Italy in mid-1943, debates about how to handle the country's religious landmarks vexed top military and political officials in the U.S. and U.K.

While winning the war was their unquestioned priority, they were cognizant of public opinion when it came to unnecessary destruction of culturally significant sites, and field commanders had been instructed to avoid damaging them whenever possible. When U.S. bombers first hit Rome in July 1943, for instance, aircrews were given detailed maps depicting key sites and ordered to keep their munitions away from them.

Even as the ground war in Italy deteriorated into a muddy stalemate over the winter of 1943-44, military leaders doubled down on those directives. On Dec. 29, 1943, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote in a memo to his commanders that the Allies were "bound to respect those monuments so far as war allows." He continued:

Read more here.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



Susan Clark

## Mark Duncan

## Stories of interest

# Once savvy, NBC's Olympics deal is shakier after Beijing (AP)

## By DAVID BAUDER and JOE REEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — There were many reasons to think NBC made a savvy business deal in 2014 when it locked up the American media rights to the Olympics through 2032 for \$7.75 billion.

As the Beijing winter games come to a close, it's harder to see them now.

These Olympics were a disaster for the network: a buzz-free, hermetically-sealed event in an authoritarian country a half-day's time zone away, where the enduring images will be the emotional meltdown of Russian teen-agers after a drug-tainted figure skating competition and a bereft Mikaela Shiffrin, sitting on a ski slope wondering what went wrong.

Many American athletes underperformed, and arguably the most successful — freestyle skier Eileen Gu — competed for China.

Viewers stayed away in alarming numbers, and NBC has to wonder whether it was extraordinarily bad luck or if the brand of a once-unifying event for tens of millions of people is permanently tainted.

Read more here.

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## Dean Baquet Never Wanted to Be an Editor (New Yorker)

Ahead of his expected retirement, the Times' executive editor reflects on his newsroom's unprecedented growth, Twitter's influence on journalism, and the time he punched a hole in a wall.

#### By Clare Malone

When Dean Baquet took over as the executive editor of the Times, in 2014—the first Black editor to fill the role—the paper, like so many around the country, faced layoffs and an uncertain future. Baquet is widely expected to step down this year, at the age of sixty-five, per company tradition. He will leave not just a thriving newspaper but a burgeoning media empire. During his eight years at the helm, the paper won more than a dozen Pulitzer Prizes, the number of newsroom staff members increased from thirteen hundred to two thousand, and subscriptions soared. With increased revenues, the Times made forays into TV, podcasts, product reviews, and games. In the past two years alone, it bought Serial Productions, for twenty-five million dollars; the Athletic, a sports site, for five hundred and fifty million dollars; and the viral game Wordle, for an undisclosed sum in the low seven figures. "I think it's a better news organization, as well as a more successful news business, than when I came in," Baquet said. "I will take some credit for that."

None of this is half bad for a college dropout. Baquet grew up in New Orleans, where his family owned a popular restaurant, Eddie's. He started his reporting career at the age of nineteen, after three years at Columbia University. "I couldn't go back to college," he said in a 2020 interview. "I had found my life's work and college felt boring." His first jobs in journalism were in his home town, first at the New Orleans States-Item and then at the Times-Picayune. (His native accent still sneaks out on a few words, including "New Orleans.") At thirty-one, he won a Pulitzer Prize, for his work on a six-month Chicago Tribune investigation into influence-peddling on the Chicago City Council. His brother Terry also received journalism's top award, at the Times-Picayune, in 2006, for his part in the paper's coverage of Hurricane Katrina. "I've got two boys with two Pulitzers," Myrtle Baquet said that year. "Not many mothers can say that."

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Randall Hackley.

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## News industry reflects on the life and death of Rex Rust, co-publisher at Rust Communications



Jon K. Rust observes as brother Rex Rust gets ready to toss a football into the balcony at Southeast Missouri State University's River Campus in Cape Girardeau during the 2018 Semoball Awards. Rex's throw was an annual tradition at the high school sports event. (Photo credit: Southeast Missourian)

#### Mary Reardon | for Editor & Publisher

Many in the newspaper and media industry have heard the news that Rex Rust, copresident of Rust Communications, died on Jan. 6, 2022, at age 52, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. A story on Rust's life ran in the Southeast Missourian, a Rust Communications paper in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Dean Ridings, CEO of America's Newspapers, offered this comment after E&P contacted him, "Rex Rust was the perfect example of what's great about our industry. He was very involved with the Inland Press Association, the predecessor of America's Newspapers, and served as its president in 2012. He was always looking ahead and helped to engage and energize the next generation of leadership in the organization's Family Owners Group. Rex was always positive and had incredible passion for what we do. He will be missed by many at America's Newspapers."

"Indeed, there were few places Rex would go where he wasn't noticed, and he loved to create laughter, whether singing at full volume to a busy restaurant, dancing on a table or doing the worm on the floor to amazed bystanders," wrote fellow copresident and older brother Jon K. Rust in a tribute to Rex that ran in the Southeast Missourian. "Almost always, the laughs came at his own expense, and anyone who spent time with him undoubtedly has a story about his craziness. I have hundreds."

Read more here.

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# Charlie Munger on journalism: 'We have suffered a huge loss here' (Yahoo Finance)

#### Adriana Belmonte and Michael B. Kelley

Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charlie Munger provided new perspective on how the role of local newspapers and traditional newsrooms are increasingly being replaced by untrustworthy voices.

"We are going to miss these newspapers terribly," Munger said at the Daily Journal's annual shareholders meeting on Wednesday. "Each newspaper... was an independent bastion of power. The economic position was so impregnable... and the ethos of a journalist was to try to tell it like it is. And they really were a branch of the government —they called them the Fourth Estate, meaning the fourth branch of the government. It arose by accident. Now about 95% of [newspapers are] going to disappear and go away forever. And what do we get in substitute? We get a bunch of people who attract an audience because they're crazy."

Local newspapers are vanishing across the country: Nearly 1,800 U.S. newspapers have closed since 2004 and more than 100 newsrooms shuttered since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Berkshire Hathaway sold its newspaper business in 2020.

Read more here. Shared by Doug Pizac.

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# Republican lawmakers bar journalists from statehouse floors (AP)

#### By SAM METZ

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Republican lawmakers in several states are scaling back access to government business, extending pandemic-era rules that restrict when journalists can report from the floors of state legislative chambers and, in effect, making it easier to dodge the press.

As the public returns to the corridors of state capitols, new rules approved in Iowa last month and in Utah this week critically limit reporters' access to lawmakers, sparking an outcry from media organizations and press advocates.

"It is critical that there is some accountability with respect to those who have tremendous power, such as you," Lauren Gustus, the executive editor of The Salt Lake

Tribune, told Utah lawmakers in a committee hearing last week, where she testified against such rules.

These rule changes limit when journalists can work on the floor of the legislature where lawmakers sit, making it easier for elected officials to avoid interacting with the press, even when they take up high-profile topics like election laws, taxes and abortion.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

## Today in History - Feb. 21, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2022. There are 313 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving 1 1/2 years).

#### On this date:

In 1437, James I, King of Scots, was assassinated; his 6-year-old son succeeded him as James II.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1911, composer Gustav Mahler, despite a fever, conducted the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in what turned out to be his final concert (he died the following May).

In 1964, the first shipment of U.S. wheat purchased by the Soviet Union arrived in the port of Odessa.

In 1965, minister and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York. (Three men identified as members of the Nation of Islam were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled. The convictions of two of the men were dismissed in November 2021; prosecutors said new evidence had undermined the case against them.)

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 over the Sinai Desert, killing all but five of the 113 people on board.

In 1992, Kristi Yamaguchi (yah-mah-GOO'-chee) of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville Olympics; Midori Ito (mee-doh-ree eetoh) of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S. the bronze.

In 1995, Chicago adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean by balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

In 2018, the Rev. Billy Graham, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died at his North Carolina home; he was 99.

In 2019, teachers in Oakland, California, went on strike in the latest in a wave of teacher activism that had included walkouts in Denver, Los Angeles and West Virginia.

In 2020, a temporary truce between the United States and the Taliban in Afghanistan took effect, setting the stage for the two sides to sign a peace deal the following week.

Ten years ago: The 17-nation eurozone approved a \$170 billion bailout for Greece, which received the news with a mixture of relief and foreboding.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump condemned recent threats against Jewish community centers in the U.S. as "painful reminders" of lingering prejudice and evil; the president also denounced "bigotry, intolerance and hatred in all of its very ugly forms" during his first visit to the new Smithsonian Black history museum.

Conservative writer Milo Yiannopoulos (MY'-loh yuh-NAH'-poh-lihs) resigned as an editor for Breitbart News, apologizing for comments he'd made in video clips in which he appeared to defend sexual relationships between men and boys as young as 13.

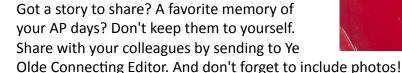
One year ago: Hospitals across the southern United States grappled with ruptured water pipes and patient transfers as the region carried on with efforts to recover from the winter weather that paralyzed parts of the nation. Police in Liberty, New York, said an expectant father was killed when a device he was building for a gender reveal party exploded. Novak Djokovic beat Daniil Medvedev in three sets to win his ninth Australian Open championship and 18th Grand Slam title.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Bob Rafelson is 89. Actor Gary Lockwood is 85. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 83. Actor Peter McEnery is 82. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 79. Actor Tyne Daly is 76. Actor Anthony Daniels is 76. Tricia Nixon Cox is 76. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 75. Rock musician Jerry

Harrison (The Heads) is 73. Actor Christine Ebersole is 69. Actor William Petersen is 69. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 67. Singer/guitarist Larry Campbell is 67. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 64. Actor Kim Coates is 64. Actor Jack Coleman is 64. Actor Christopher Atkins is 61. Actor William Baldwin is 59. Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., is 58. Rock musician Michael Ward is 55. Actor Aunjanue Ellis is 53. Blues musician Corey Harris is 53. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 52. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 52. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 49. Singer Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) is 45. Actor Tituss Burgess is 43. Actor Jennifer Love Hewitt is 43. Comedian-actor Jordan Peele is 43. Actor Brendan Sexton III is 42. Singer Charlotte Church is 36. Actor Ashley Greene is 35. Actor Elliot Page is 35. Actor Corbin Bleu is 33. Actor Hayley Orrantia is 28. Actor Sophie Turner is 26.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career 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.





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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