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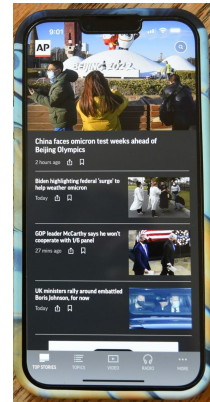
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# Connecting

February 24, 2022

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**Traffic jams are seen as people leave the city of Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday announced a military operation in Ukraine and warned other countries that any attempt to interfere with the Russian action would lead to "consequences you have never seen." (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)**

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Feb. 24, 2022,

Our prayers go out to all those in harm's way as Russian troops attacked Ukraine on Thursday - including the journalists covering the story. You can click on Top AP News and Top AP Photos in the Connecting masthead for the latest from AP.

The AP announced last week that it is assigning more than two dozen journalists across the world to cover climate issues – representing its largest single expansion paid for through philanthropic grants.

A [wire story](#) by colleague **David Bauder**, AP media writer, said the announcement “illustrates how philanthropy has swiftly become an important new funding source for journalism — at the AP and elsewhere — at a time when the industry’s financial outlook has been otherwise bleak.”

The grant is for more than \$8 million over three years, and about 20 of the climate journalists will be new hires. The AP has appointed **Peter Prengaman** as its climate and environment news director to lead the team.

Connecting carried on Monday an editorial from the New York Post critical of the philanthropic funding with the headline, “The Associated Press turns prostitute.”

And on Wednesday, our colleague **Lindel Hutson** (who retired from AP in 2009 after 20 years as Oklahoma City chief of bureau and previous experience on the General Desk) expressed concerns, noting “AP must survive, but is money taking precedent over concern about our image?” His post elicited some further thoughtful comment from his colleagues that we bring you in today’s Connecting.

I encourage you to share your own thoughts, but first, please read through the story by Bauder. In it, he quotes **Brian Carovillano**, AP news vice president who supervises partnerships and grants, who said AP often needs to educate funders upon first approach, explaining the company’s worldwide reach and mission to report independently. AP accepts money to cover certain areas but without strings attached; the funders have no influence on the stories that are done, he added.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

# Photojournalism of AP's Anja Niedringhaus honored



Hundreds of U.S. Marines gather at Camp Commando in the Kuwait desert during a Christmas eve visit by Santa Claus on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

Today (Wednesday) the AP Marketplace pays tribute and honors the photojournalism of the late Anja Niedringhaus. Niedringhaus was killed in the line of duty in 2014. Click [here](#).

This image has been minted as a 1-of-1 NFT on AP's Marketplace. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to IWMMF which sponsors a 'Courage in Journalism' award in Anja's name and to the construction and costs of a photojournalism museum in Anja's name. The museum will be built in her hometown of Hoxter, Germany, and open in March 2023.

## On AP accepting philanthropic funding for its news coverage

**John Dowling** - I was taken aback by Lindel Hutson's note echoing a NY Post editorial that criticized AP for accepting philanthropic funding to expand coverage of climate issues.

I dug out the Post editorial ("[The Associated Press turns prostitute](#)") and also reread the AP [announcement](#), and was struck that the Post neglected to mention -- or perhaps chose to ignore -- a key sentence deep down in the AP release: "AP retains complete editorial control of all content." In other words, AP is taking money from establishment foundations such as Hewlett and Rockefeller (not exactly radical climate activists) to fund more AP-quality journalism about climate issues. The AP plan also addresses state-level and member coverage, but I digress.

Of course, this isn't something that AP did back in the last century, but as an AP alum of that era I'm glad to see AP leadership being creative and aggressive in finding ways to fund accurate, impartial coverage of a story of unmatched importance (are we still debating THAT point?), in a time when U.S. newspapers are no longer paying the freight. An AP perpetually dwindling and cutting and veering toward clickbait content in a time so full of momentous news would be sad to contemplate.

I also have much faith in Peter Prengaman, the editor in charge of climate coverage, a smart, thoughtful, scrupulous journalist whom I've known for years and years.

Last thought: Is anyone else struck by the notion that a newspaper owned by the proprietor of Fox News would feel qualified to question the journalistic scruples of another news organization? Perhaps the Post was unhappy that the AP initiative is funded in part by a public interest foundation established, perhaps as penance, by Rupert Murdoch's renegade son, James?

I will just leave that there, as the kids say on Twitter.

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**Charlie Hanley** – Old friend Lindel Hutson raises a weighty question (Tuesday Connecting) about the appropriateness of philanthropic funding of AP coverage. I'm sure it was a matter of real debate among AP leadership in recent years. I'll shy away from the broader debate for the moment, but will quibble over a narrower point. Lindel questions taking money from "climate activists," i.e., the Rockefeller Foundation et al., for climate coverage. But climate change is not a "cause"; it's a story. Not a controversy, but a fact, bigger and bigger news every day. (The only "controversy" was fabricated by oilmen, coal barons and ideologues gulling the uninformed.) And climate coverage is not propaganda, but the source of vital information in a democracy. The foundations in this case clearly understand that.

As for the Murdoch-paid jerk at the execrable NY Post who assails AP for "prostituting" coverage, what irony: Much of the new AP climate funding is Murdoch money.

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**Mike Holmes** - I share Lindel Hutson's concern over our alma mater's decision to accept philanthropic funding to cover specific issues.

I don't doubt that the AP will retain full editorial control over the content. And I'm pleased that 50 journalists have funding for their jobs. But I worked for the AP.

The New York Post editorial sounds an alarm about how this looks from outside our company. It has the appearance of those newspaper advertorials that give the appearance of regular news content except for a tiny agate "advertisement" warning.

The cornerstone of the cooperative has always been its independence and objectivity. That's why AP always falls smack in the middle of those right-left graphs rating the

political leanings of various news outlets.

At a time when public trust in real journalism is being damaged by dozens of so-called "news" organizations peddling misinformation, the AP's reputation for impartiality remains a precious — but fragile — asset.

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**Ed McCullough** - The key words (to me) in the Feb. 15 AP news release were: "AP retains complete editorial control of all content." One hopes that means: complete editorial responsibility.

It's early to preordain outcomes as necessarily tainted by inputs. But medical journals aren't wrong to question - and most likely reject for publication - "findings" that can't be replicated and suspiciously reflect their funding sources. Imagine: a new study (funded by Big Tobacco) reveals that smoking is good for you.

Climate change seems real and of course there is public interest in that news topic. But AP readers deserve AP's judgement. Legitimate scientists disagree on basic data. The worst projections have yet to come true. Those views and many others should be reflected in AP's climate coverage.

Accepting funding from climate activists is eyebrow-raising - to use Lindel Hutson's phrase in yesterday's Connecting - enough that AP felt the need to produce a news release for readers and news media subscribers. The New York Post called the AP initiative "prostitution."

That seems overboard - or at least premature - to me, a retired 35-year AP news- and businessman. Yet the (2017) photo that accompanied the news release showing a polar bear adrift on a shrinking patch of ice in the Canadian arctic tells only part of the story - incidentally, the part of the story that climate activists favor. Hopefully AP news coverage will be independent and non partisan taking into account - or despite - its new funding sources.

## Memory of Dick Foster

**Peter Eisner** - It was a shock and a terrible loss to hear from Dick Foster's wife, Etna Cavalcante, this week that our dear friend and colleague had died on February 18, just after marking his 78th birthday.

I first met Dick in 1979 when AP assigned me to replace him as the Brasilia correspondent. Dick went out of his way to help me get accustomed to my new assignment. Along the way, we became fast friends, and I inherited a group of the people he knew best, many of whom became my lifelong friends as well.

Few journalists knew Brazil as well as Dick Foster, who remained a professional contact and pal over the years when we both moved back to the states, with Brazil always in our hearts. I will miss him dearly.

# How Sister Donalda chose her name

Jeff Barnard - I once asked Sister Donalda how she got her name. There is no Saint Donalda. Here is what she wrote.

“When we were received into community, back in 1946, it was symbolic to leave our old selves behind and take a new name/identity, as it were. There were 900 plus Sisters already professed in the community I was entering, and names could not be duplicated. I submitted three choices of names for myself: Humiliana (Lord forbid), Finian (too worldly) and Donalda (after my brother Donald who died at age 12 in 1936). The leadership made a good choice for me, didn't they? When we could, I did not return to my baptismal name of Rosemary.

Rest In Peace, Donalda.

## A last word on 2-2-22

Reed Saxon - Well, today (Twosday), we'll have even more twos.

These days, I code all my photos this way – today would be year/month/day, 20220222, so the thing is always searchable by the date if nothing else. To the plethora of twos we have today, I'm reminded of an old joke, from a host at a military base radio station, probably apocryphal at this point.

So tonight, Tuesday evening, in military (and most of the rest of the world) time, we'll have 20220222.22:22:22 – down to the second.

The DJ's joke was, “For all you enlisted personnel, that'll be 2222 hours. For all you civilians, that'll be 10:22 p.m. For all you officers, the little hand will be on the 10 and the big hand will be near the 4.”

## Connecting sky shot – Florida



**Jo Steck** - On the Halifax River in Ponce Inlet, Fla.

## Joe Rosenthal and the flag on Iwo Jima



**Marc Lancaster**  
**World War II on Deadline**

The man who captured what is to many the defining image of World War II -- and one of the great news photographs in history -- was rejected for military service due to poor eyesight.

With two brothers in the U.S. Army, though, Joe Rosenthal wasn't content to let an impediment like his notably thick eyeglasses keep him from contributing to the war effort one way or another.



"They wouldn't let me carry a gun," he said, "but I can pack my camera right with the boys in the front lines and show they're fighting."

Rosenthal was a photographer in the Associated Press' San Francisco bureau when the U.S. entered the war, and after his initial efforts to join the fight firsthand went for naught, he settled for a photography assignment with the U.S. Maritime Service. That duty saw him travel to the Mediterranean and England, but he was never in the midst of the action.

He rejoined the AP in 1944 and secured a war correspondent's assignment, shipping out to the Pacific that spring. Rosenthal followed the campaign from island to island, and on Feb. 19, 1945, he went ashore on the first day of fighting on Iwo Jima.

Thanks to the vastly improved communications apparatus in place by that point in the war, his photographs from the first few days of the invasion appeared in newspapers everywhere within a day or two. But that was nothing compared to what was to come on the Marines' fifth day ashore, Feb. 23.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Phil Dopoulos](#)

## Stories of interest

*Abolition newspaper revived for nation grappling with racism* (AP)



**Amber Payne, left, and Deborah Douglas co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication of "The Emancipator" pose at their office inside the Boston Globe, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, in Boston. Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research and The Boston Globe's Opinion team are collaborating to resurrect and reimagine The Emancipator, the first abolitionist newspaper in the United States, which was founded more than 200 years ago. The new incarnation of The Emancipator will explore ways to reframe the national conversation around racial injustice. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)**

**By PHILIP MARCELO**

BOSTON (AP) — America's first newspaper dedicated to ending slavery is being resurrected and reimaged more than two centuries later as the nation continues to grapple with its legacy of racism.

The revived version of The Emancipator is a joint effort by Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research and The Boston Globe's Opinion team that's expected to launch in the coming months.

Deborah Douglas and Amber Payne, co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication, say it will feature written and video opinion pieces, multimedia series, virtual talks and other content by respected scholars and seasoned journalists. The goal, they say, is to "reframe" the national conversation around racial injustice.

"I like to say it's anti-racism, every day, on purpose," said Douglas, who joined the project after working as a journalism professor at DePauw University in Indiana. "We are targeting anyone who wants to be a part of the solution to creating an anti-racist society because we think that leads us to our true north, which is democracy."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas, Peg Coughlin, Myron Belkind.

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## ***Mexican leader says US misinformed on journalist killings*** (AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken must be misinformed about threats facing journalists in Mexico, reacting to a message of sympathy from the U.S. official.

Five journalists have been killed so far this year in Mexico and Blinken sent a tweet Tuesday night saying, "The high number of journalists killed in Mexico this year and the ongoing threats they face are concerning.

"I join those calling for greater accountability and protections for Mexican journalists. My heart goes out to the loved ones of those who gave their lives for the truth," he added.

López Obrador appeared to take the comment as a criticism of Mexico's efforts to probe such crimes and protect journalists — a group with which he has been sparring of late.

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

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## ***Psaki says binge-watching 'The West Wing' brought her back to politics*** (Fox News)

By DAVID AARO

White House press secretary Jen Psaki says binge-watching "The West Wing" helped inspire her to get back into politics.

Psaki started watching the award-winning TV drama after leaving the Obama White House in 2011, feeling exhausted, she remarked during an appearance last week on actor Rob Lowe's "Literally!" podcast.

"I'm working at this consulting firm and I started watching 'The West Wing.' And I don't know what prompted me to watch it, but I watched, I binged, the entire thing," Psaki said.

"In a crazy way, it really brought me back to come back to politics and I ended up coming back and doing the 2012 campaign, and traveling with then-President Obama on his reelection," Psaki added. "So I was basically gone for like six months, and then I thought to myself, 'I've got to go back, I've got to go back.'"

In the TV series, which ended in 2006, Rob Lowe, 57, played fictional Deputy Communications Director Sam Seaborn.

Read more [here](#).

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## Matthew Stafford apologizes to photographer who fell off stage: 'I wish I had a better reaction' (KTLA)

By: Tony Kurzweil

Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford went on his wife Kelly's podcast to talk about the family's experiences since the team won the Super Bowl, including his reaction to a photographer falling off a stage last week that went viral.

NFL photographer Kelly Smiley fell backward off a stage while taking a photo of the Staffords at the Rams victory rally Feb. 16.

Smiley later said she fractured her spine and broke two of her cameras in the fall.

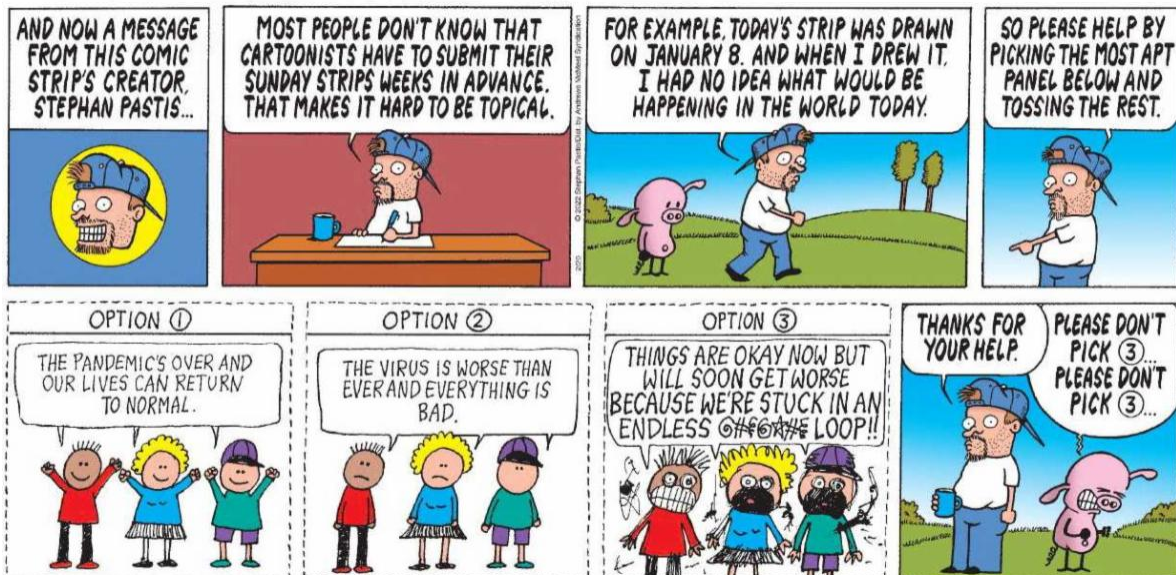
Kelly Stafford immediately rushed to the end of the stage to check on Smiley but it was Matthew Stafford's reaction that went viral.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

# Today in History - Feb. 24, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2022. There are 310 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1942, the SS Struma, a charter ship attempting to carry nearly 800 Jewish refugees from Romania to British-mandated Palestine, was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine in the Black Sea; all but one of the refugees perished.

### On this date:

In 1803, in its *Marbury v. Madison* decision, the Supreme Court established judicial review of the constitutionality of statutes.

In 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1981, a jury in White Plains, New York, found Jean Harris guilty of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower. (Sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, Harris was granted clemency by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo in December 1992.)

In 1986, the Supreme Court struck down, 6-3, an Indianapolis ordinance that would have allowed women injured by someone who had seen or read pornographic material to sue the maker or seller of that material.

In 1988, in a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a \$150,000 award that the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against *Hustler* magazine and its publisher, Larry Flynt.

In 1989, a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

In 1993, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) resigned after more than eight years in office.

In 2002, the Salt Lake City Olympics came to a close, the same day Canada won its first hockey gold in 50 years (the U.S. won silver) and three cross-country skiers were thrown out of the games for using a performance-enhancing drug.

In 2008, Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel.

In 2011, Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time, heading toward the International Space Station on a journey marking the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

In 2015, the Justice Department announced that George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Trayvon Martin in a 2012 confrontation, would not face federal charges.

In 2020, former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was convicted in New York on charges of rape and sexual assault involving two women. (Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in state prison.)

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in Tunisia for a conference on Syria, called Russia and China "despicable" for opposing U.N. action aimed at stopping the bloodshed caused by the Damascus regime's crackdown on an anti-government uprising. Jan Berenstain, 88, who with her husband, Stan, wrote and illustrated the Berenstain Bears books, died in Solebury Township, Pennsylvania.

Five years ago: Vice President Mike Pence assured the Republican Jewish Coalition meeting in Las Vegas that he and President Donald Trump would work tirelessly on foreign and domestic issues important to the group, such as enacting business-friendly policies at home and supporting Israel abroad.

One year ago: The acting head of the Capitol Police acknowledged to a House panel that the department had intelligence warning of a "significant likelihood for violence" on Jan. 6 but said officers were not prepared for the insurrection that would follow. Lady Gaga's dog walker was shot and two of the singer's French bulldogs were stolen in Hollywood during what police described as an armed robbery; the singer offered a \$500,000 reward for the return of her dogs. (The dogs were recovered unharmed two days later; five people would be charged either with carrying out the attack or as alleged accomplices.) Palm Beach County defied Florida's governor and refused to lower its flags for a day in honor of the late conservative broadcaster Rush Limbaugh; flags at the state Capitol and in the Town of Palm Beach were lowered.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Dominic Chianese (kee-uh-NAY'-see) is 91. Opera singer-director Renata Scottò is 88. Singer Joanie Sommers is 81. Actor Jenny O'Hara is 80. Former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., is 80. Actor Barry Bostwick is 77. Actor Edward James Olmos is 75. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 75. Rock singer-musician George Thorogood is 72. Actor Debra Jo Rupp is 71. Actor Helen Shaver is 71. News anchor Paula Zahn is 66. Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Murray is 66. Country

singer Sammy Kershaw is 64. Actor Mark Moses is 64. Actor Beth Broderick is 63. Actor Emilio Rivera is 61. Singer Michelle Shocked is 60. Movie director Todd Field is 58. Actor Billy Zane is 56. Actor Bonnie Somerville is 48. Jazz musician Jimmy Greene is 47. Former boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 45. Rock musician Matt McGinley (Gym Class Heroes) is 39. Actor Wilson Bethel is 38. Actor Alexander Koch is 34. Actor Daniel Kaluuya (Film: "Get Out") is 33. Rapper-actor O'Shea Jackson Jr. is 31.

## 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.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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