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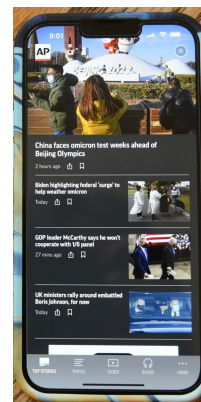
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Connecting

March 1, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 1, 2022,

“Show this to Putin. The eyes of this child, and crying doctors.”

A doctor in blue medical scrubs, pumping oxygen into a 6-year-old girl, looked straight at the camera of Associated Press videojournalist **Evgeniy Maloletka** who had been allowed inside. Mortally wounded by Russian shelling, the girl did not survive.

That tragic encounter is our lead story in today’s Connecting as reporting by the AP brings home the toll of the war in the Ukraine.

These photos were among many heart-breaking pictures by AP photojournalists in this story, [AP Photos: War doesn’t spare Ukraine’s children.](#)

We pray for the victims and the journalists covering such tragic events. Be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

A shelling, a young girl, and hopeless moments in a hospital



A woman reacts as paramedics perform CPR on a girl who was injured during shelling, at city hospital of Mariupol, eastern Ukraine, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022. The girl did not survive. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)



Medics perform CPR on a girl at the city hospital of Mariupol, who was injured during shelling in a residential area in eastern Ukraine, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022. The girl did not survive. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)



The lifeless body of a girl killed during the shelling of a residential area lies on a medical cart at the city hospital of Mariupol, eastern Ukraine, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

By **MSTYSLAV CHERNOV**

MARIUPOL, Ukraine (AP) — In the port city of Mariupol, where Ukrainians are trying to fend off a Russian advance, an ambulance raced into a city hospital Sunday, carrying a 6-year-old girl mortally injured in Russian shelling.

She was pale. Her brown hair was pulled back with a rubber band. Her bloody pyjama pants were decorated with cartoon unicorns. She was brought in with her wounded father, his head bloodied and bandaged.

A medical team pumped her chest, fighting desperately to revive her. Her mother stood outside the ambulance, weeping.

“Take her out! Take her out! We can make it!” a hospital worker shouted, pushing a gurney to the ambulance.

The girl was raced inside and doctors and nurses huddled around her. One gave her an injection. Another tried to revive her with a defibrillator. A nurse wept. A doctor in blue medical scrubs, pumping oxygen into her, looked straight at the camera of an Associated Press videojournalist who had been allowed inside.

“Show this to Putin,” he said angrily. “The eyes of this child, and crying doctors.”

The girl, whose name was not immediately known, could not be saved. The doctor reached gently over her face to close her eyes.

Her body was left alone in the room, covered by her brightly colored polyester jacket, now spattered with blood.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Using the word ‘war’ in Ukraine

By [John Daniszewski](#)
Vice President for Standards

There has been some discussion about whether to term the fighting in Ukraine a “war.” The AP is using the word, and here is why:

The definition of war is quite broad: “Open armed conflict between countries or between factions within the same country,” or, “Any active hostility, contention, or struggle; conflict.”

Russia has preferred to call it a “special military operation” with what it says are limited goals. It actually has banned Russian media from calling it a war.

But the fighting in Ukraine has been both geographically widespread and locally intense, involving missile and rocket barrages, tank advances, gun battles and even street fighting. It is taking place between two countries — one that has invaded to

achieve its goals, and one that believes it is defending its homeland and sees itself as fighting for its very existence.

The number of casualties is unknown. Russia has not disclosed any figures, and Ukraine has put the number of its civilian casualties at about 200 and claims that as many as several thousand members of the Russian armed forces have died.

All these reports are unreliable, but it seems likely that there are significant casualties. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people have become refugees and even more have been displaced within Ukraine. In a few short days, AP journalists have gathered images of damaged buildings, burned vehicles and uniformed corpses.

While it remains appropriate to refer to the fighting that began Thursday as an attack or an invasion, we believe that all the evidence of the past few days means that these two countries are at war. Therefore, we may use the word “war” in copy, in slugs, in captions and in other AP content.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Pandemic, protests part of AP Gal Pals weekend in NYC

[Diana Heidgerd](#) - I'd never seen a Ukrainian flag up close until Saturday.

The declining pandemic and increasing outrage against Russia for invading Ukraine became our unexpected reality as the AP Gal Pals trip to New York City resumed last weekend. I've shared details in past years via Connecting.

The annual NYC trip, started in 2010 but suspended last year due to COVID-19, usually adds up to a lighthearted long weekend with a half-dozen or so friends from across the country going to Broadway shows, dining out and catching up.

This year's group included AP science editor Stephanie Nano of New York City, AP aerospace writer Marcia Dunn of Florida, Boston AP retiree Sylvia Wingfield, former Dallas AP journalist and now Georgia-based NASA science writer Amanda Barnett Home – [NASA Solar System Exploration](#), me (Dallas AP retiree) and my sister-in-law, Karen Lieberman from New Jersey.



NEW YORK CITY _ Journalism friends gathered in New York City over the weekend to resume their annual AP Gal Pals trip, which began in 2010 but had to be suspended last year due to the pandemic. Pictured (l-r): Boston AP retiree Sylvia Wingfield, AP aerospace writer Marcia Dunn of Florida, Karen Lieberman from New Jersey, AP science editor Stephanie Nano of New York City, former Dallas AP journalist Amanda Barnett of the Atlanta area (now a contract writer for NASA) and Dallas AP retiree Diana Heidgerd.

Our journey to New York required a 2-fer every time we sat down for a meal -- meaning show your COVID vaccination card indicating all shots and boosters were complete and also present your personal ID. I wasn't really sure what to think when we were wearing masks, entered a nicer Italian restaurant and the host/greeter at the door required us to show our two documents -- as he went mask-less.

As for those pandemic rules and entertainment, it was ditto for attending "The Music Man" on Broadway, where ushers roamed the aisles flashing signs that said "Mask Up!" [Review: Hugh Jackman steals 'The Music Man' on Broadway | AP News](#)



Marcia Dunn, Sylvia Wingfield and Diana Heidgerd attended the Broadway show “The Music Man” on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, and wore masks as part of COVID-19 precautions. (Selfie by Diana Heidgerd)

In the middle of our trip the CDC eased pandemic guidelines on masks [CDC: Many healthy Americans can take a break from masks | AP News](#) and by the end of the weekend more faces were revealed most places we went.

We also started to see people waving blue and yellow Ukrainian flags, as a protest against deadly Russian aggression. Some supporters, driving through the Broadway district, hung out windows and waved the banners while yelling praise for Ukraine. I stood on a street corner and watched this amazing show of patriotism roll right by me.

As current and former journalists we were drawn to news coverage of Russia’s attack on Ukraine. Ironically, one night we went to a quirky off-Broadway show called “Space Dogs.” The two-man musical -- [SPACE DOGS | MCC Theater](#) -- tells the true story of Cold War-era Russian scientists sending stray dogs into orbit as part of rocket testing in the international space race.

At one point the actors asked if anyone in the audience (about 120 people or so) had questions or comments about the early space missions. I was tempted to shout out that I was born a day after the USSR launched the Sputnik satellite on Oct. 4, 1957. I also nearly shared that three of my journalism colleagues, at the show, have spent decades covering the space program, including Marcia visiting Moscow several times.

But I stayed quiet. I kept thinking that someone that evening -- before, during or after "Space Dogs" -- would comment about Russia in the current violent context.

Nobody did.

So we settled for a photo by the "Space Dogs" poster as part of what I consider the most unusual, restricted but yet inspirational AP Gal Pals weekend ever.

Connecting mailbox

AP should share easy access to its news principles

Ed McCullough - Re Monday's trenchant Connecting item "On AP Taking a Grant" from Robert Wielaard, here is a suggestion. At the bottom of many (every?) Reuters news story at www.reuters.com is a "hot" link: Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust principles. No. 1 states: "That Reuters shall at no time pass into the hands of any one interest, group or faction." There are four other principles and explanatory journalism about "a special need to ... avoid any bias which may stem from control by specific individuals or interests."

AP doesn't have and perhaps never (thought it) needed that. Then again, AP rarely if ever accepted funding for reporting from sources that have or may have their own news agendas. Case in point: AP's recent acceptance of an \$8 million grant to cover climate change.

AP asserts it maintains "complete editorial control" of news coverage that results from reporters funded by this project. If AP's own reporters and editors, current and former, find that hard to accept at face value, AP might do itself a service by explaining and making easily available to its readers AP's news principles in general and as applied specifically to climate coverage.

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'60 Minutes' report on crisis in local journalism gives local media opportunity to elaborate and reinforce the message

By **Al Cross**, Director and Professor
Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, University of Kentucky

The local news crisis got its biggest play yet to an American audience Sunday night, as CBS's "60 Minutes" did a story that reached perhaps 9 million viewers. It didn't make

the best case ever for local journalism, but as the show usually does, it told the tale through some compelling personal stories.

Most of those stories, and the belief that "Journalism is essential for the survival of American democracy," as one former reporter put it, are familiar to readers of The Rural Blog. But they are not well known by many Americans, so for local news media, the network report is an opportunity to reinforce the message, and elaborate on it.

The story's only evidence of "increased corruption by local officials," was a rather old story: the 2010 revelation by the Los Angeles Times (uncredited by CBS) that officials in the small L.A. County city of Bell were paying themselves exorbitant salaries after "the local newspaper there shut down," as CBS put it. Actually, the area had a paper, but it was covering so many municipalities that Bell got little attention.

There's plenty of other evidence that lack of local journalism is bad for taxpayers, such as studies showing higher interest rates for bond issues, fewer candidates for local office, and more straight-ticket voting and political polarization. But those points didn't have compelling video, like the footage "60 Minutes" used, showing enraged citizens at a meeting of the Bell City Council.

Read more [here](#).

Two international news directors are named

[Paul Haven](#), AP vice president and head of global news gathering, announced two key appointments on Monday: James Jordan will lead AP's coverage of Europe and Africa, and Cristiana Mesquita will head Cuba and the Caribbean.

Here is his memo to staff:

I am thrilled to share two extremely important staffing developments that are going to put a pair of our most experienced, cool-headed and hard-working news people in key leadership positions. We are naming **James Jordan** as our next News Director for Europe and Africa and **Cristiana Mesquita** as News Director for Cuba and the Caribbean.

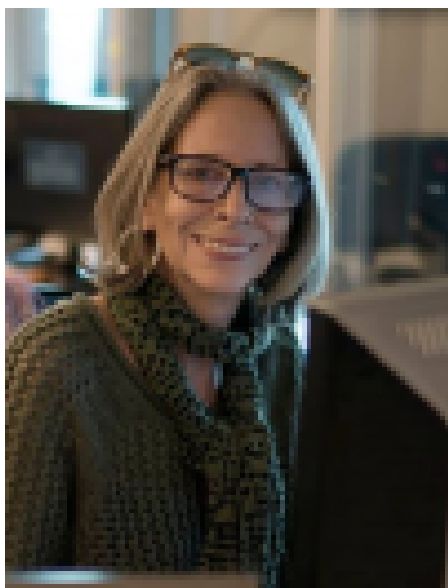
James takes command of Europe and Africa at one of the most significant moments in recent history, with Russian troops pushing toward the Ukrainian capital in an invasion that is not only causing untold suffering but is rewriting the world order that has existed since the end of the Cold War.

James, a native of the United Kingdom, joined AP in 2016 as an executive producer following a stint at ITV, where he held several leadership jobs, including overseeing newsgathering in the

United Kingdom. He also led other top stories throughout Europe and beyond, including the 2015 attacks in Paris and the Islamic State's advance across Syria and Iraq in 2014.

Since 2019, James has been the deputy news director for Europe and Africa, where he helped run the daily report through the COVID pandemic, as well as heading up coverage of the recent German election, the war in Nagorno-Karabakh and, most recently, the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

It has never been more important that AP's coverage be fast, reliable and authoritative in all formats. James's strong news judgment, incredible work ethic and passion for the AP and its staff will serve him well in this important new role.



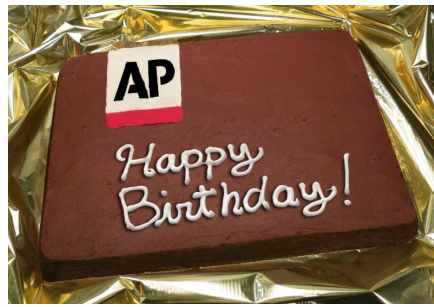
Our other big announcement comes from Latin America, where **Cristiana Mesquita**, a true legend of AP video, will take over as News Director for Cuba and the Caribbean, based in Havana. Cristiana, or "Chichi" as she is widely known, has covered practically every major event in Latin America over the past two decades, as well as global stories including those in conflict zones like Kosovo, Afghanistan, Gaza, and Iraq. A native of Brazil, she is a former head of Latin America's video operation, and in recent years has been a key voice conceptualizing stories in all formats out of the region.

I have known and admired Chichi for many years, particularly the authority and calm she brings to every assignment. Her natural gravitas, respect for different points of view and charm will also serve her well in a country that is often difficult to report from, and where AP's mission for fact-based, non-biased reporting is essential.

Please join me in congratulating James and Chichi on their assignments!

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Melinda Smith

John Wylie

Stories of interest

Colbert gives sendoff as his producer gets ready to lead CNN (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — As his executive producer, Chris Licht, prepares to take over as the new chief of CNN, Stephen Colbert joked late Monday that its name will now stand for Colbert News Network.

Despite some expected ribbing, Colbert offered a heartfelt sendoff, telling Licht that “I love you.”

After a career that had been entirely in news, Licht was appointed executive producer of the “Late Show” in 2016 after a rocky first year with Colbert at the helm. He steadied the ship behind the scenes and the show jumped to the top of the ratings, propelled by the host’s biting takedowns of then-President Donald Trump.

On Monday, Discovery CEO David Zaslav announced that Licht will replace Jeff Zucker as head of CNN, likely in May. That’s when Discovery’s corporate takeover of Warner Media, CNN’s parent company, is expected to be complete.

Prior to joining Colbert, Licht had been executive producer of the “CBS This Morning” news show and, before that, helped develop and produced “Morning Joe” with Joe Scarborough at MSNBC.

Read more [here](#).

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Our local-news situation is even worse than we think
(Columbia Journalism Review)

By **STEVE WALDMAN**

This is the first of a two-part series; for part two, click [here](#).

IN MEASURING THE COLLAPSE OF LOCAL NEWS, there is arguably no more important metric than the number of local reporters. Though precise numbers are hard to come by, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports an astounding 57 percent decline in newspaper newsroom employees—from 71,640 to 30,820—since 2004. Depressingly, academic studies show that the local news collapse has likely led to lower voter turnout and bond ratings, and more corruption, waste, air pollution, and corporate crime.

It is a truly bleak picture. And yet focusing exclusively on that employment statistic understates the problem, as becomes clear when we look at the decline in the context of four other factors: spending by state and local governments, population growth, the trajectory of other professions, and the rise of misinformation engines.

Read more [here](#). Shared by **John Montgomery**, who said, "This seems relevant to the Connecting controversy about the AP looking to philanthropy to pay for enterprise journalism it probably not otherwise would have the resources to undertake. This is why news organizations need to look at new revenue models. The old commercial model is crumbling. As advertising has eroded, philanthropy has emerged as a promising new, solid leg on the revenue stool. In fact, many new nonprofit journalism organizations have helped filled the void of journalism no longer being done by commercial outlets. I don't blame AP for strengthening its resources through fundraising; in fact, I applaud it. I trust that AP will respect the ethical lines as well as anyone else."

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This rural news start-up has two reporters and an editor with no broadband. Already, it's made an impact. (Washington Post)

By **Margaret Sullivan**
Columnist

Two photographs tell the story of Cardinal News, a start-up news site in a mostly rural section of Virginia.

One shows a lawn chair and small table set up just outside the Fincastle branch of the Botetourt County public library. It's where editor Dwayne Yancey sometimes goes to use the broadband Internet access that he lacks at his nearby home. When he needs to upload big digital files — particularly photographs he wants to publish on the news site — his mobile hotspot can't get the job done.

The other photo is of the ravaged interior of Patty Coleman's home in Hurley, a community close to the Kentucky and West Virginia state lines, where a flood and

mudslide destroyed dozens of homes and caused one death last summer. After Yancey sent Megan Schnabel, one of Cardinal's two reporters, to Hurley for several days, along with a photographer, their in-depth reporting about the devastation brought much-needed attention to Hurley's suffering residents — and may help them get \$11 million of state aid.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Harry Dunphy.

The Final Word

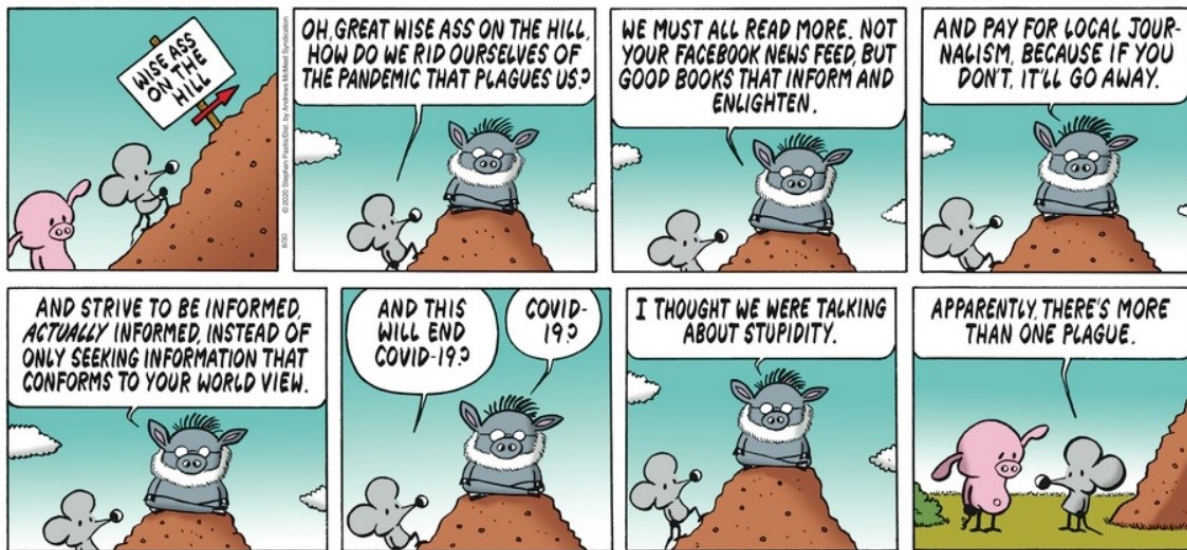
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



Shared by Jim Spehar

Today in History - March 1, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 1, the 60th day of 2022. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 1, 1974, seven people, including former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General John Mitchell and former assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, were indicted on charges of conspiring to obstruct justice in connection with the Watergate break-in. (These four defendants were convicted in January 1975, although Mardian's conviction was later reversed.)

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon, having escaped exile in Elba, arrived in Cannes, France, and headed for Paris to begin his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.

In 1893, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis by transmitting electromagnetic energy without wires.

In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, back from the Yalta Conference, proclaimed the meeting a success as he addressed a joint session of Congress.

In 1954, four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the spectators' gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five members of Congress.

In 1966, the Soviet space probe Venera 3 impacted the surface of Venus, becoming the first spacecraft to reach another planet; however, Venera was unable to transmit any data, its communications system having failed.

In 1971, a bomb went off inside a men's room at the U.S. Capitol; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blast.

In 2005, Dennis Rader, the churchgoing family man accused of leading a double life as the BTK serial killer, was charged in Wichita, Kansas, with 10 counts of first-degree murder. (Rader later pleaded guilty and received multiple life sentences.) A closely divided Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty for juvenile criminals.

In 2010, Jay Leno returned as host of NBC's "The Tonight Show."

In 2015, tens of thousands marched through Moscow in honor of slain Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who had been shot to death on Feb. 27.

In 2020, state officials said New York City had its first confirmed case of the coronavirus, a woman in her late 30s who had contracted the virus while traveling in Iran. Health officials in Washington state, announcing what was believed at the time to be the second U.S. death from the coronavirus, said the virus may have been circulating for weeks undetected in the Seattle area.

Ten years ago: Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley signed a measure legalizing same-sex marriage in his state, effective January 2013. Online publisher and conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart died in Los Angeles at age 43.

Five years ago: Former Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke was sworn in as secretary of the Interior Department by Vice President Mike Pence, hours after being confirmed by the Senate.

One year ago: Vernon Jordan, who rose from humble beginnings in the segregated South to become a champion of civil rights before reinventing himself as a Washington insider, died at 85. Pennsylvania's Republican Party expressed its disapproval of U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey over his vote to convict Donald Trump during Trump's second impeachment trial, but stopped short of issuing a more serious censure. Twitter said it had begun labeling tweets that included misleading information about COVID-19 vaccines, and that it would use a "strike system" to remove accounts that repeatedly violate its rules. An American father and son wanted by Japan for helping former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn escape from the country in a box while facing financial misconduct charges were handed over to Japanese custody. (Michael Taylor would be sentenced to two years in prison; his son Peter was sentenced to one year and eight months.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 96. Singer/actor Harry Belafonte is 95. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 78. Former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., is 78. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 78. Actor Dirk Benedict is 77. Actor-director Ron Howard is 68. Country singer Janis Oliver (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 68. Actor Catherine Bach is 67. Actor Tim Daly is 66. Singer-musician Jon Carroll is 65. Rock musician Bill Leen is 60. Actor Bryan Batt is 59. Actor Maurice Benard is 59. Actor Russell Wong is 59. Actor Chris Eigeman is 57. Actor George Eads is 55. Actor Javier Bardem (HAH'-vee-ayr bahr-DEHM') is 53. Actor Jack Davenport is 49. Rock musician Ryan Peake (Nickelback) is 49. Actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar is 48. Singer Tate Stevens is 47. Actor Jensen Ackles is 44. TV host Donovan Patton is 44. Actor Joe Tippett is 40. Actor Lupita Nyong'o is 39. Pop

singer Kesha (formerly Ke\$ha) is 35. R&B singer Sammie is 35. Pop singer Justin Bieber is 28.

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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