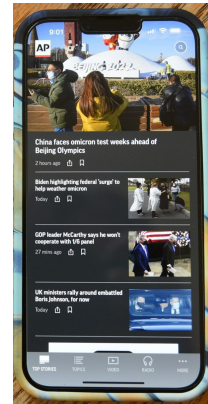


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Connecting

Dec. 30, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Dec. 30, 2022,

SAO PAULO (AP) — Pelé was simply “The King.” He embraced “the beautiful game” of soccer in his 1958 World Cup debut for Brazil and never really let go.

That was the lead of [AP’s story](#) on the death of the man who won a record three World Cups and was widely regarded as one of his sport’s greatest players. Pelé died Thursday at 82. He had undergone treatment for colon cancer since 2021.

Two of our colleagues who got the opportunity to meet him share their thoughts on one of the world’s greatest superstars. We lead with their stories.

Was there nothing of historic significance on December 29? That’s a question posed to Ye Olde Connecting Editor after he neglected to include Today in History in yesterday’s issue. Apologies, especially to the Texans among us. It is brought to you today...better late than never?

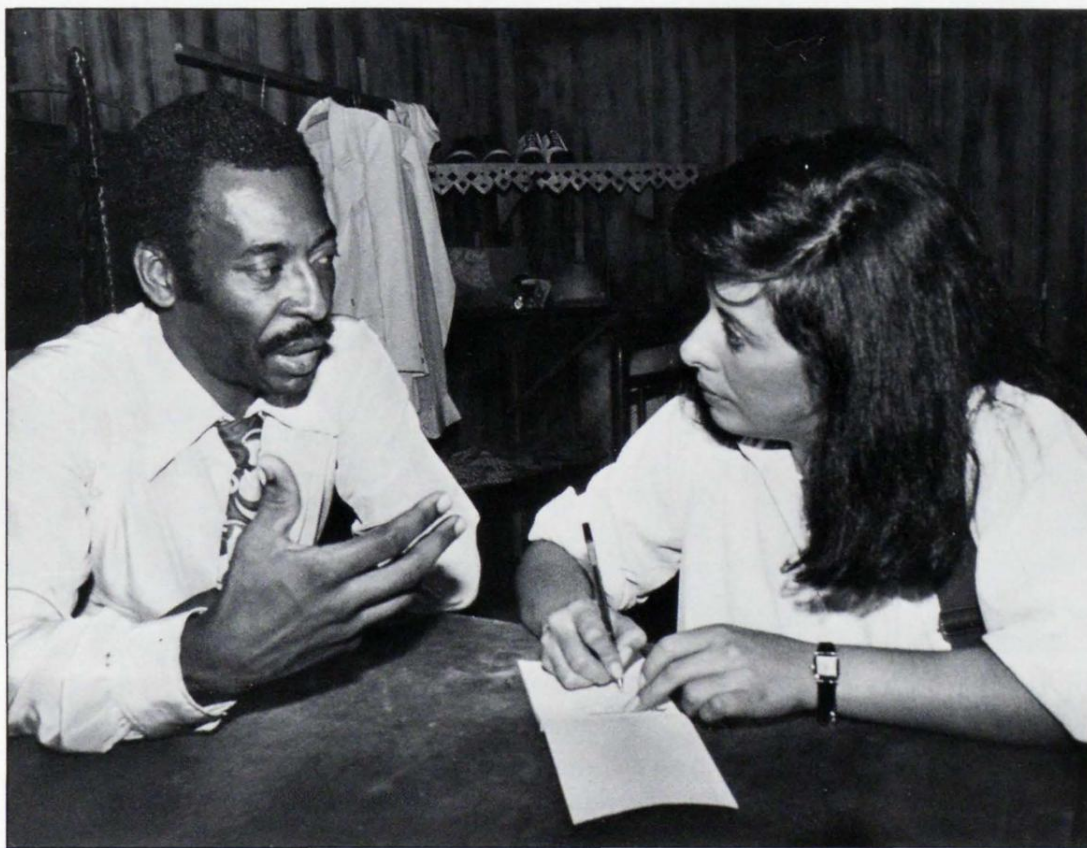
This is the last issue of 2022 - and with it, my salute to all of you who take the time to contribute your memories and thoughts and interesting stories to Connecting. In the 250 or so issues that have come to you in the past year, together we've shared the good and bad news that are part of life and welcomed a couple hundred journalists to the Connecting fold. We've reveled in stories past and lauded the current group of AP journalists who continue to commit great journalism under trying economic times.

If you're in to New Year's resolutions, make one of them be to share a profile of your career, if you haven't done so, whether that career was in AP or in some other journalism field.

Here's to a new year that brings you and your loved ones much health and happiness. I'll see you in your Inbox next Tuesday morning.

Paul

Pelé and his AP connections



Gloria Helena Ray interviews Pelé in 1984. Photo by AP photographer Algemiro Nunes.

Pele tries to change his image

By **GLORIA HELENA REY**

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Pele, the Brazilian superstar of soccer, wants to shed his athlete's image and be known as an actor who is politically aware.

"My athletic phase definitely is over," Pele said in an interview.

The 43-year-old star, whose real name is Edson Arantes de Nascimento, retired from competitive soccer seven years ago. But his sports image continued to haunt him in commercials and in such movies as *Victory*, with Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone.

It was a great surprise this year when Pele, known throughout the world as *O Rei* or *The King of soccer*, publicly joined the campaign for direct elections for the next president of Brazil, thus opposing the ruling military regime.

"The establishment of immediate direct elections for president means a return to full democracy," Pele said. "When I defend the right to vote, I'm not getting involved in politics. I'm defending a right every citizen has."

This is quite a change from the public image of the athlete who, during a 21-year career, scored 1,286 goals — far more than any other professional soccer player in history — and led Brazil to three World Cup titles.

In fact, Pele had been considered by politicians and intellectuals as little more than a "dumb jock," and once was quoted as saying that Brazilians "don't know how to vote."

"I never said Brazilians were dumb," he said. "What I said was they must take voting seriously, and not, for example, mark in 'Pele' on ballots, as has happened."

"Voting is a serious responsibility, and he who exercises that responsibility must know whom he's voting for. The right to vote must not be wasted."

The former sports star said he is apolitical. Still, he criticized the "bad management" of the rightist military-run government that has been in power since 1964, blaming it for Brazil's widespread poverty and illiteracy.


"What really hurts me is to see a country like Brazil, which has no problem with foreign wars or internal guerrillas, faced with so much injustice," Pele said.

Pele is spending his time these days making a new movie, *Pedro Mico*. It is based on a play by Brazilian writer Antonio Callado. But this time, there are no soccer balls in sight.

Pele plays the title character, a poor man who turns to a life of crime in order to survive. He furthers his education through a relationship with a prostitute who knows how to read and write.

"The theme of the film is important because it depicts the problem of illiteracy and the anxiety of the Third World," Pele said. "There are a lot of Pedro Micos in Brazil today."

As a child, Pele polished shoes in the backward interior of Brazil and turned to sports to overcome problems of poverty, no education and racism.



Edson Arantes de Nascimento (Pele)

Images courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Gloria Helena Rey — My three-hour interview with Pelé in 1984 was easy, uncomplicated. It was done in Portuguese but, if we are precise, it was in Portunhol because Pelé was trying to speak Spanish and I was trying to speak Portuguese. We talked about soccer because he was the best athlete of the century, but also about music. He loved music because he was a very sensitive person. We sang songs by Chico Buarque, Vinicius and others, but I was surprised to learn that Pelé sang and that, sometimes, he composed secretly. He didn't want to show me any of his creations at the time, but later I saw a video in which Maradona forced him to sing, accompanied by a guitar.

We were talking about many subjects and then he invited us (Algemeiro and I) to drink a caipirinha. Was a very nice afternoon. Inolvidable!

For me, Pelé not only was a great footballer but an immense human being with a humility that shone. He was one of the best gifts I received as a Latin American correspondent for AP in Brazil.

Good trip, unforgettable Pelé, and thank you very much. It was an honor to meet you.

-0-

I was an AP correspondent in Rio from 1980-1987. I traveled all over the country. I left Brazil with a scholarship in Paris, after my husband, the Spanish journalist Jose Fajardo, was killed. Later I returned to Brazil as a correspondent for France Presse in Brasilia, then I was a correspondent for the newspaper *La Vanguardia*, from Barcelona, based in Sao Paulo, and later a collaborator with the BBC in London. In total about 23 years in Brazil.



I returned to Colombia as a correspondent for the BBC. Later I was an editorial writer for the newspaper El Tiempo and currently I only write special articles for the same newspaper and I am living between Bogotá and Fusagasugá but continue writing - my big passion.

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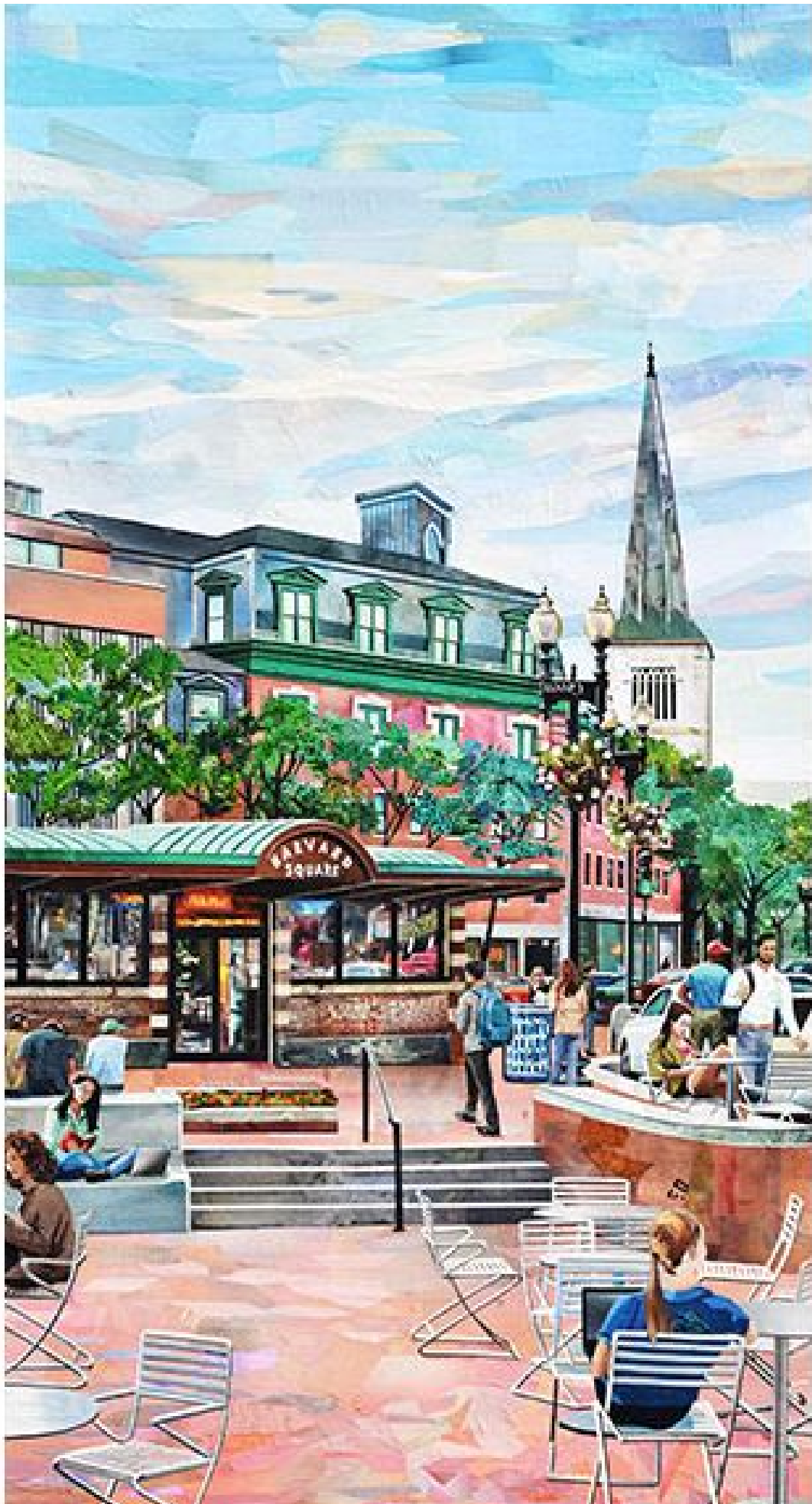
Photo by AP's Mark Lennihan

[Aroun Deen](#) - The King of kings of the game of soccer/football. His death most certainly will sadden the world. Visiting the AP in New York City for an interview on Wednesday, April 2, 2014. From left, AP's Jorge Nunez, Pele, me, and AP's Bill Pilc.

I found him to be very jovial, very approachable! He had a strong, commanding voice as well. He said something that got all three of us laughing!

May God Grant him, Heaven.

Newspapers (and magazines) in art



Betsy Silverman, Out of Town News (30 in. × 50 in.).

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.- The “Out of Town News” returns to Harvard Square! Read all about it!



No, the beloved and iconic newsstand building – for decades the epicenter of this Cambridge neighborhood – remains shuttered, as it has been since 2019. But the newsstand’s pulsing heyday is depicted in one of two new artworks displayed in the recently opened Starbucks coffee shop in the Abbot Building at 1 John F. Kennedy Street.

Both artworks were created by the Boston-area artist, Betsy Silverman, who practices a unique style of creating images with stunning realism entirely from recycled magazines. “There is no paint, ink, or pencil,” Silverman explains. “I use magazines, scissors, and glue, the way other artists use brushes and paint. My color palette is the thousands of magazines I have in my studio.” A close look at Silverman’s artwork reveals how she creates a sense of three-dimensionality through the precise and painstaking placement of layer upon layer of carefully cut pieces of paper – each having carefully selected colors, pictorial content, and gradations of intensity. According to Silverman, some of the magazine slivers she uses are cut so finely that they have to be applied with a magnifying glass and tweezers.

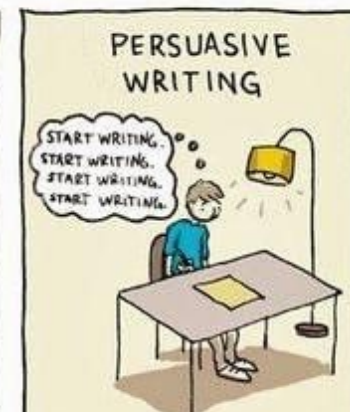
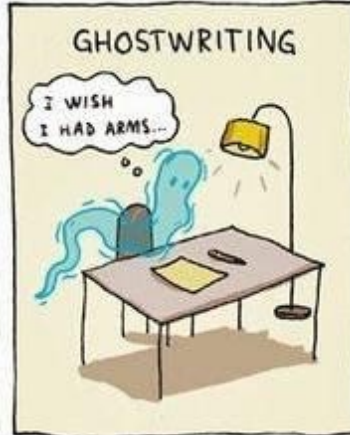
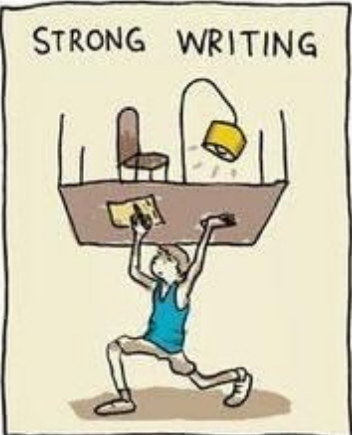
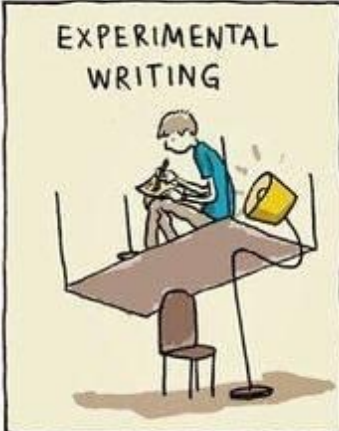
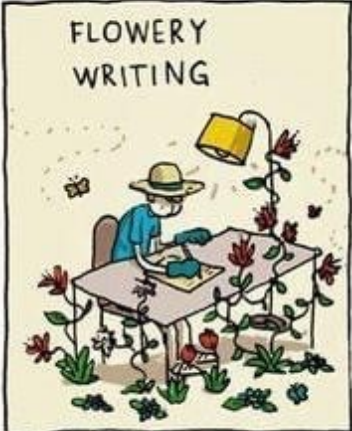
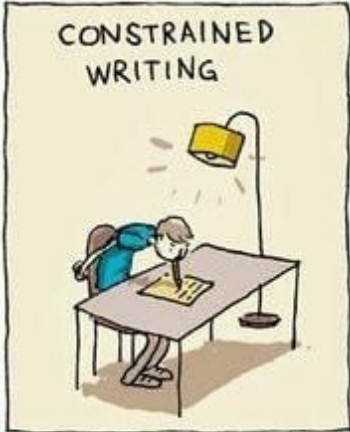
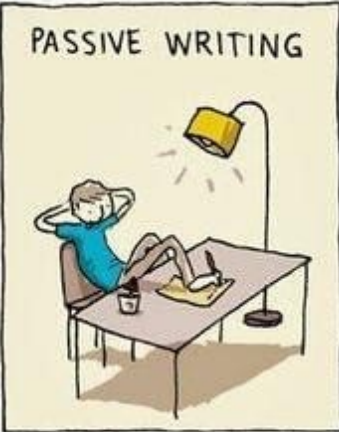
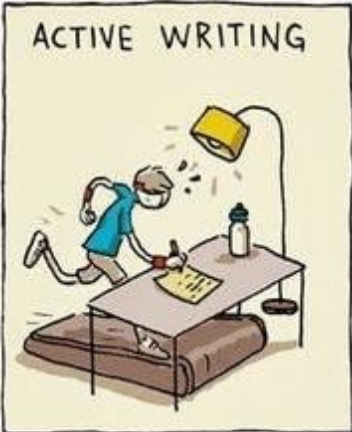
Silverman’s art also maintains an underlying ecological consciousness, by embracing the use of recycled raw materials. Her study of sustainable architecture, while earning a degree at the Rhode Island School of Design, helped to inspire her technique, she explains. “My art explores and refashions the content that contemporary culture preserves, in a sense, but also – literally – throws away, which increases my awareness of the need for environmental sustainability in all aspects of our society. I love the notion of recycling discarded magazines and turning them into art.”

Starbucks picked Betsy Silverman to create artworks for the new Harvard Square location, as part of Starbucks’ effort to use its coffee shops as venues to show off local artists. “I was honored to have Starbucks ask me to create art for the Harvard Square location, especially because my use of recycled materials aligns with Starbucks’ drive toward environmental sustainability” she explains. “I am also impressed by Starbucks’ efforts to help promote the work of innovative artists, in various U.S. stores and around the world.”

The head of Starbucks’ global art program, Lara Behnert, explained: “We love finding emerging artists with a focused perspective and style, who feel in line with how we are – optimistic, thoughtful and full of new ideas. There’s an essence of joy at Starbucks, and we want people to feel that through our collaboration with these artists.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

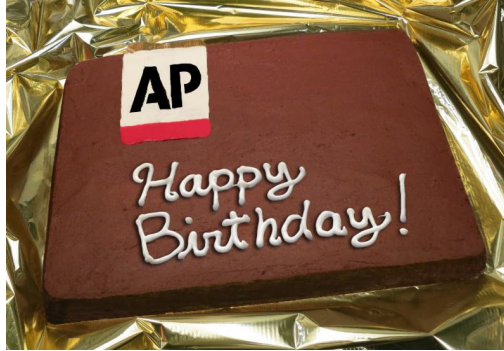
STYLES OF WRITING



Shared by Mark Mittelstadt

GRANT SNIDER

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bob Graves](#)

[Rick Plumlee](#)

[Ebony Reed](#)

On Saturday to...

[Pauline Arrillaga](#)

[Don Dashiell](#)

[Gerry Price](#)

On Sunday to...

[Jim Carlson](#)

[Roger Verdon](#)

On Monday to...

[Claudia DiMartino](#)

[Repps Hudson](#)

[Phil Sandlin](#)

Stories of interest

A tiny paper broke the George Santos scandal, but no one paid attention (Washington Post)

By Sarah Ellison

Months before the New York Times published a December article suggesting Rep.-elect George Santos (R-N.Y.) had fabricated much of his résumé and biography, a tiny publication on Long Island was ringing alarm bells about its local candidate.

The North Shore Leader wrote in September, when few others were covering Santos, about his “inexplicable rise” in reported net worth — from essentially nothing in 2020 to as much as \$11 million two years later.

The story noted other oddities about the self-described gay Trump supporter with Jewish heritage, who would go on to flip New York’s 3rd Congressional District from blue to red, and is now under investigation by authorities for misrepresenting his background to voters.

“Interestingly, Santos shows no U.S. real property in his financial disclosure, although he has repeatedly claimed to own ‘a mansion in Oyster Bay Cove’ on Tiffany Road; and ‘a mansion in the Hamptons’ on Dune Road,” managing editor Maureen Daly wrote in the Leader. “For a man of such alleged wealth, campaign records show that Santos and his husband live in a rented apartment, in an attached rowhouse in Queens.”

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

-0-

Judy Woodruff on how her son with disabilities changed her view of health care (Washington Post)

By Roxanne Roberts

Last month, TV anchor Judy Woodruff had some news of her own: She is stepping down from “PBS NewsHour” on Friday, Dec. 30.

One of the most respected and honored journalists on television could have retired. Instead, she’s embarking on a new PBS project, “America at a Crossroads,” where she’ll spend the next two years traveling around the country trying to figure out what voters want, what they need and how to repair the deep divides.

One subject close to her heart that she wants to highlight? People with disabilities.

Her oldest son, Jeffrey Hunt, was born with what she calls a “very mild” case of spina bifida. When he was a teenager, what was supposed to be a routine operation left him in a wheelchair and in need of full-time care. It was life-altering for Jeffrey and the entire family.

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

-0-

North Country Publisher, Writer and Friend To Many – John Harrigan Has Died (InDepthNH.org)

By PAULA TRACY

COLEBROOK — North Country publisher, avid outdoorsman, and well-known writer John D. Harrigan of Colebrook has died at age 75.

Harrigan passed away on Monday, Dec. 26, at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital after being diagnosed with advanced cancer in November, according to his sister, Mary Trowbridge.

During his 52-year career in journalism, Harrigan made many, many friends and kept them forever.

Jack Savage, president of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, is one of those longtime friends.

“John had an inherent and unshakeable sense of place, a quality too seldom celebrated,” Savage said. “He understood and embraced the idea that place is defined not just by mountains and rivers and forests but also by the culture of the people who sculpt an existence from the land. As a writer, he storied the North Country so fervently that he became a symbol of its identity. New Hampshire will miss him.”

Another longtime friend Barbara Tetreault, retired managing editor of the Berlin Sun, said Harrigan’s passing is a real loss for the world of journalism and for the North Country.

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

Today in History - Dec. 30, 2022



Today is Friday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2022. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

On this date:

In 1813, British troops burned Buffalo, New York, during the War of 1812.

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1860, 10 days after South Carolina seceded from the Union, the state militia seized the United States Arsenal in Charleston.

In 1922, Vladimir Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in December 1991.

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first Black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 2004, a fire broke out during a rock concert at a nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 194 people.

In 2006, a state funeral service was held in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda for former President Gerald R. Ford.

In 2009, seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed by a suicide bomber at a U.S. base in Khost (hohst), Afghanistan.

In 2015, Bill Cosby was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. (Cosby's first trial ended in a mistrial after jurors deadlocked; he was convicted on three charges at his retrial in April 2018 and was sentenced to three to 10 years in prison, but the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned the conviction in June 2021 and Cosby went free.)

In 2020, Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri said he would raise objections when Congress met to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory, forcing House and Senate votes. President Donald Trump asked the Supreme Court to overturn his election loss in Wisconsin; it was his second unsuccessful appeal in as many days to the high court over the result in the battleground state. Dawn Wells, who played the wholesome Mary Ann on the 1960s sitcom "Gilligan's Island," died in Los Angeles at age 82 from what her publicist said were causes related to COVID-19.

Ten years ago: Recalling the shooting rampage that killed 20 first graders in Connecticut as the worst day of his presidency, President Barack Obama pledged on NBC's "Meet the Press" to put his "full weight" behind legislation aimed at preventing gun violence. A tour bus crashed on an icy Oregon highway, killing nine passengers and injuring nearly 40 on Interstate 84 east of Pendleton.

Five years ago: A wave of spontaneous protests over Iran's weak economy swept into Tehran, with college students and others chanting against the government. Forecasters issued winter weather advisories across much of the Deep South ahead of plunging temperatures expected as the new year arrived.

One year ago: In a phone conversation lasting nearly an hour, President Joe Biden warned Russia's Vladimir Putin that the U.S. could impose new sanctions against Russia if it took further military action against Ukraine; Putin responded that such a U.S. move could lead to a complete rupture of ties between the nations. A wildfire driven by wind gusts up to 105 mph swept through towns northwest of Denver, destroying hundreds of homes and forcing tens of thousands of people to flee. (The wildfire would cause more than \$2 billion in losses, making it the costliest in state history; it was blamed for at least one death.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Russ Tamblyn is 88. Baseball Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax is 87. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 85. TV director James Burrows is 82. Actor Concetta Tomei (toh-MAY') is 77. Singer Patti Smith is 76. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 75. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 69. Actor Sheryl Lee Ralph is 67. Actor Patricia Kalember is 66. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 66. Actor-comedian Tracey Ullman is 63. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 61. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 61. Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is 59. Actor George Newbern is 59. Movie director Bennett Miller is 56. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 53. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 53. Actor Meredith Monroe is 53. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 51. Actor Maureen Flannigan is 50. Actor Jason Behr is 49. Golfer Tiger Woods is 47. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 45. Actor Lucy Punch is 45. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 44. Actor Eliza Dushku is 42. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 42. Actor Kristin Kreuk is 40. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 40. NBA star LeBron James is 38. R&B singer Andra Day is 38. Actor Anna Wood is 37. Pop-

rock singer Ellie Goulding (GOL'-ding) is 36. Actor Caity Lotz is 36. Actor Jeff Ward is 36. Country musician Eric Steedly is 32. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follesé (FAHL'-es-ay) (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 31.

And for those who missed seeing yesterday's...

Today is Thursday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2022. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

On this date:

In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was slain in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the American frigate USS Constitution engaged and severely damaged the British frigate HMS Java off Brazil.

In 1851, the first Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in the United States was founded in Boston.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

In 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed into the Florida Everglades near Miami International Airport, killing 101 of the 176 people aboard.

In 1978, during the Gator Bowl, Ohio State University coach Woody Hayes punched Clemson player Charlie Bauman, who'd intercepted an Ohio State pass. (Hayes was fired by Ohio State the next day.)

In 1989, dissident and playwright Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) assumed the presidency of Czechoslovakia.

In 1992, the United States and Russia announced agreement on a nuclear arms reduction treaty.

In 2006, word reached the United States of the execution of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein (because of the time difference, it was the morning of Dec. 30 in Iraq when the hanging took place). In a statement, President George W. Bush called Saddam's execution an important milestone on Iraq's road to democracy.

In 2007, the New England Patriots ended their regular season with a remarkable 16-0 record following a 38-35 comeback victory over the New York Giants. (New England

became the first NFL team since the 1972 Dolphins to win every game on the schedule.)

In 2016, the United States struck back at Russia for hacking the U.S. presidential campaign with a sweeping set of punishments targeting Russia's spy agencies and diplomats.

Ten years ago: Maine's same-sex marriage law went into effect. Shocked Indians mourned the death of a woman who'd been gang-raped and beaten on a bus in New Delhi nearly two weeks earlier; six suspects were charged with murder. (Four were later sentenced to death; one died in prison; the sixth, a juvenile at the time of the attack, was sentenced to a maximum of three years in a reform home.)

Five years ago: Puerto Rico authorities said nearly half of the power customers in the U.S. territory still lacked electricity, more than three months after Hurricane Maria.

One year ago: British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell was convicted in New York of helping lure teenage girls to be sexually abused by the late Jeffrey Epstein; the verdict capped a monthlong trial featuring accounts of the sexual exploitation of girls as young as 14. (Maxwell would be sentenced to 20 years in prison.) More than a year after a vaccine was rolled out, new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. were soaring to their highest levels on record at over 265,000 per day; the surge was driven largely by the highly contagious omicron variant. Candace Parker, who helped the Chicago Sky win the franchise's first WNBA championship, was named The Associated Press' Female Athlete of the Year for a second time.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Inga Swenson is 90. Retired ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 88. Actor Barbara Steele is 85. Actor Jon Voight is 84. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 76. Retired Hall of Fame Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 76. Actor Ted Danson is 75. Singer-actor Yvonne Elliman is 71. The president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, is 69. Actor Patricia Clarkson is 63. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 63. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 61. Actor Michael Cudlitz is 58. Rock singer Dexter Holland (The Offspring) is 57. Actor-comedian Mysterio Clark is 56. Actor Jason Gould is 56. News anchor Ashleigh Banfield is 55. Movie director Lilly Wachowski is 55. Actor Jennifer Ehle is 53. Actor Patrick Fischler is 53. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 52. Actor Kevin Weisman is 52. Actor Jude Law is 50. Actor Maria Dizzia is 48. Actor Mekhi Phifer (mih-KY' FY'-fuhr) is 48. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 47. Actor Katherine Moennig is 45. Actor Diego Luna is 43. Actor Alison Brie is 40. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 39. Actor Iain de Caestecker is 35. Actor Jane Levy is 33. Singer-actor-dancer Ross Lynch is 27. Rock musician Danny Wagner is 24.

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
paulstevens46@gmail.com



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