

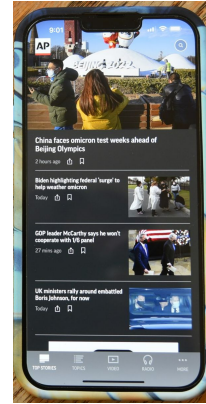
[View as Webpage](#)



# Connecting

Jan. 31, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



- [Top AP News](#)
- [Top AP Photos](#)
- [AP Merchandise](#)

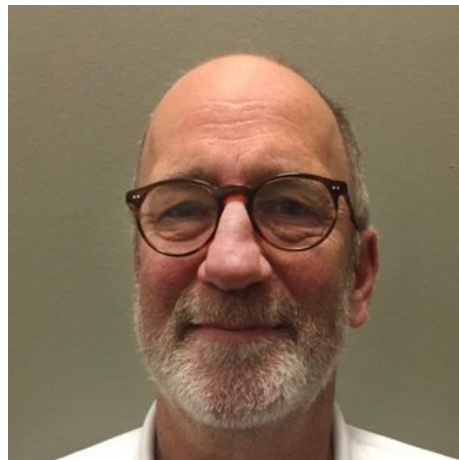
- [Connecting Archive](#)
- [AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- [AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Jan. 31, 2023,

Sad word was shared with AP staff this morning of the death of longtime Cleveland reporter, **Mark Gillispie**. He died after a brief battle with cancer at the age of 63, according to AP National News director **Josh Hoffner**, who wrote:

“Mark was a beloved colleague and friend to AP journalists in Ohio and beyond, and he had a hand in covering many of the biggest stories in the state over the past four decades at the AP and Plain Dealer in Cleveland. Mark was diagnosed with cancer last fall, less than three years after losing his wife Mary Lou to cancer. Mark eloquently wrote about Mary Lou’s passing during the height of the pandemic in an essay in June 2020.



"Mark was everything you could ask for in an AP colleague: Hard-working, tenacious, team-first and a wonderful mentor to so many journalists over the years. We will be moving an obituary to the wire later this morning.

"Our deepest condolences go out to Mark’s family and friends as they grieve his loss. We will stay in touch as we hear more about memorial services."

## Have you ever had it up to here – and quit a job in a huff?

Our colleague **Nora Raum**, former AP journalist who describes herself today as an NPR newscaster and recovering lawyer, has – and at Connecting’s request, she writes about it in today’s issue.

How about you? How’d it work out? Share your own story.

Today’s issue also brings you memories of former AP journalist **Craig Ammerman**, who died last Friday at the age of 72. Your own memories of him are welcomed.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Quitting in a huff



**Nora Raum** - The first time I quit in a huff I was about 20 or 21. I was an announcer at a department store while trying to break into radio. I stood in the middle of the main floor, with a mic, and every three minutes I would announce specials. It was actually good experience in ad-libbing. I had no script so had to improvise based on the week’s circular.

“Attention shoppers! Right now, we’re having a special on melamine dinnerware. A 21-piece set in your choice of three attractive patterns for \$9.99”!

After I had been there several months, they hired a young man about my age with no experience. He was paid more to start than I was after receiving a raise. So, I quit in a huff. I didn’t give notice. I just walked out in an indignant protest.

In the next few days, I went to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After I explained everything to a nice young man, I said “I just got fired from a radio station

for being a woman. Does that count?"

"Let me get another form" he said.

That same week, I had landed my first radio job, as an announcer at an easy listening station. After two days of training, I was told that although I was doing fine, they had to let me go because too many listeners complained about hearing a woman on the air. Really. This was the seventies.

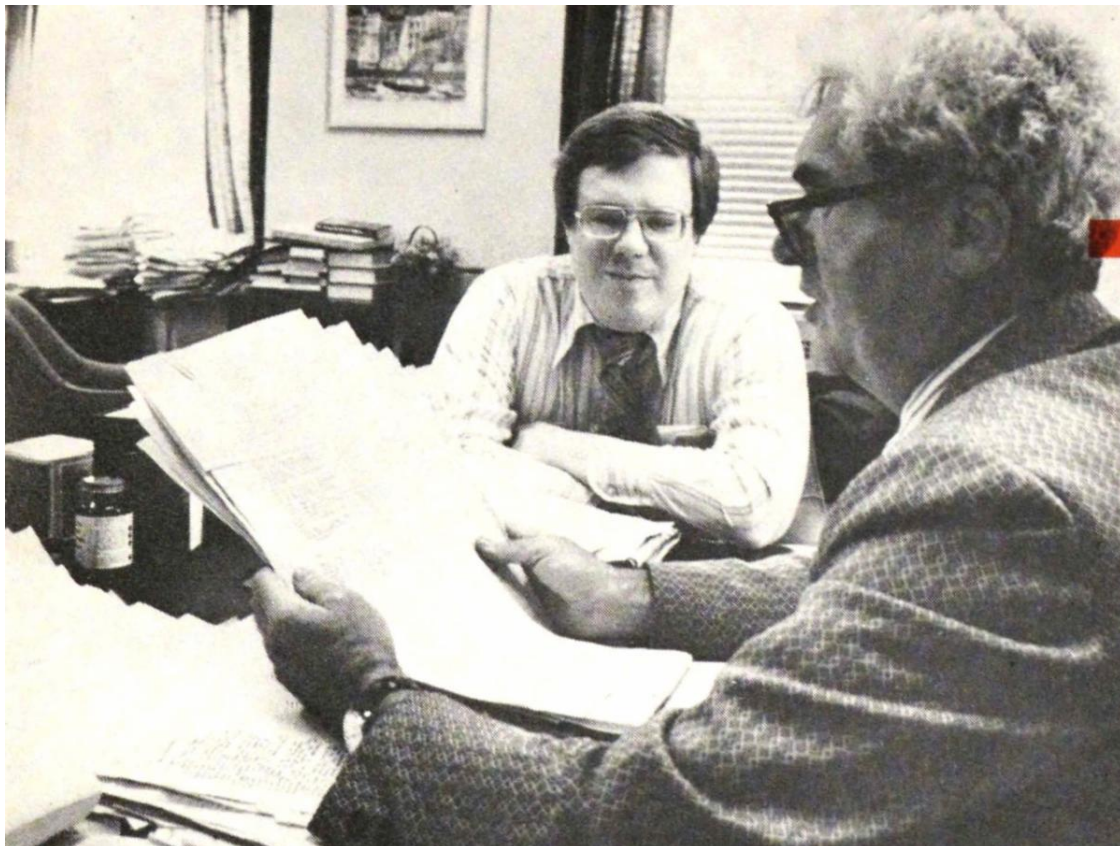
That was the only time I've been fired. So far. I don't keep any personal stuff at NPR. On my last day, I don't want to make the security guards wait to escort me from the building. That would be rude.

After being fired, I got other jobs at radio stations in Virginia. I was working at WAVA, an all-news station in Arlington, when I was abruptly taken off morning drive. I got offended and quit in a huff again. This time, I gave two weeks' notice with a gracious letter about how great it was to work there but it was time to move on.

A few years later, I got a relief job, and then a permanent job, at AP Radio. When I got annoyed some years after that, I wrote another gracious letter about how great it was to work there but it was time to move on. I was getting the hang of that by then.

Looking back, I might have been a bit hasty in my decisions, but I don't regret them. Everything worked out.

## Memories of Craig Ammerman



**1973 FILE PHOTO: General News Editor Jack Cappon (right) talks about his survey of state reports with Craig Ammerman, a General Desk editor who recently served as New England news editor. Photo in August 1973 AP World, shared by AP Corporate Archives.**

**Mike Harris** - In the story about Craig Ammerman's death it was noted that he was funny and playful. My wife and I can attest to that.

Craig was the AP's deputy sports editor in the mid 70's and, one year, was sent to Indianapolis to supervise the coverage of the Indy 500. As Indiana sports editor, I felt it was my job to play host and invited Craig to dinner at our apartment. When I told Judy I was bringing Craig home for dinner, she was flustered. "I only have two lamb chops set up for dinner. You need to go to the store on the way home."

I got stuck at the track with a late-breaking story and Craig offered to pick Judy up and take her to the store. The two of them immediately hit it off. As Craig was looking for a bottle of wine to go with dinner, he said, "Don't worry, the AP is paying." Judy told him, "I don't drink, but I do love candy. Could Uncle Wes (Gallagher, then the AP's president and general manager) maybe buy some chocolate for dessert?"

Craig found a paper bag, handed it to Judy and said, "Load it up."

The ensuing dinner included a great conversation, some good Midwestern fare and a very chocolaty dessert.

One of the subjects of conversation that night was my future with AP. I told Craig that I had been in Indy for nearly five years and was ready to make a move to a bigger sports job. He said he admired my work and would keep me in mind. Three months later, Craig called to tell me I had my choice of two sports openings - Seattle or Cleveland, both of which needed someone in a hurry. I chose Cleveland - closer to family - and never regretted my choice.

I was disappointed shortly after that when I heard Craig had moved on to a newspaper job. But I enjoyed his company and still consider him a key cog in my AP career.

-0-

**William Morrissey** - Craig Ammerman, may he rest in peace, was a vibrant AP man and colleague during the 1970s. The news of his death saddens me, but also brings to mind vibrant memories of the days when ties between many AP regional editors and the "small state" or "small city" correspondents were mainly linked by wire and the hesitant rattle, clank and clunk of a hand-driven teletype delivering terse messages.

There were occasional "how are you doing" long distance telephone calls between big city Boston and Montpelier, Vt., a capital city of about 8,000 people. Mostly, however, Craig and I chatted about an element of the news report that might make it to the AAA wire or was published by the Globe.

That kind of relationship was repeated for decades throughout the AP, including my time in Tennessee.

We always promised to get together and share beers and stories. Craig and I did during shared stints in New York.

But, the essence of those years and the lifetime relationships among staffers was best expressed when Craig called me after reading about a New York AP staff reunion reported in Connecting. I had worked in Buffalo, Syracuse and New York City. Craig tracked down my home telephone number and called from Florida. It had been maybe 35 years since we last talked, but the conversation was easy and bright. We shared experiences and laughed.

To Esther and Craig's family, we are all saddened by your loss. Know that Craig's colleagues feel the loss of their friend of a lifetime.

## New-member profile: Angie Wagner

**Angie Wagner** - When I was a senior in college, our newspaper advisor took the journalism students to a job fair and introduced me to Lindel Hutson, the Oklahoma bureau chief at the time. He invited me to take the AP test. All was going well until I couldn't find a first reference to an athlete in a sports story. I must have read the story 10 times, then summoned the courage to ask Lindel if I had missed it. I remember he said, "In all my years giving this test no one has ever found that error." Little did I know that that test would lead to an 11-year career with the AP.

It was now May of 1995, a month after the Oklahoma City bombing, and I had just graduated from college. Lindel called me two days after graduation and said, "You don't have a job yet, do you?" I didn't. "Good," he said. And then he hung up.

I started as a temp in the OKC bureau right after that. It was overwhelming going from college stories to helping cover the biggest story in the country. I learned so much in those first few months such as how to separate emotion from the story, how to connect with people who are grieving and how to weave a story in record time. After one more temp stint, I was off to Las Vegas for a full-time job.

Las Vegas was booming, and so were the stories. One day I would be covering a murder trial or a casino opening and the



next it was Andre Agassi's wedding. In 2002, I was named the Western Regional Reporter and then a national writer, my dream job.

Our first daughter was born in 2003 and our second in 2005. I left my job in 2006 to be a full-time mom and never regretted it. For a while, I wrote a parenting column for the AP and did a few freelance stories. There are days when I miss the thrill of being in a newsroom or landing the big interview, but I have loved being a full-time mom.

I still hear from some of the people I wrote about, including my favorite international jewel thief, Doris Payne. She calls and pitches me stories. She's still going strong at 92, although her theft days are over. Or so she says.

My husband Matt and I have been married 25 years and are still in Las Vegas. We enjoy traveling and keeping up with two teen daughters. Our oldest daughter, Addie, is a freshman at Oklahoma State University majoring in strategic communications. Our youngest, Aubrey, is a junior in high school and will attend Oklahoma State University on an athletic scholarship for soccer.

## On the French

[Campbell Gardett](#) - The Stylebook writers who object to "the French" and "the college educated" are right to remind us how much we deal in categories, and how these abstractions are not the same as the people we collectivize in them. The Stylebook is presumably right, too, in finding that some expressions like "the disabled" would convey their reality better by re-inserting personhood: "people with disabilities." But the Stylebook writers also unintentionally commit a dehumanization of their own: against the writers, editors and consumers of news stories. Along the whole path of a story, people bring their own best judgment, experience, discernment and good faith. They do not need, and indeed might be ill-served by, the degree of timidity and cleansing implied in the recent Stylebook recommendation.

## The Night The Lights Went Out In Bartow

[Dennis Conrad](#) - I am White.

My Dad never felt compelled to give me The Talk.

I did see enough Sidney Poitier movies and enough cops on the nightly news to know that a police encounter must always be treated very seriously.

One Florida evening in 1977 as I drove home to rural Wauchula from a soccer match at Tampa Stadium I put that knowledge to work.

As the clock reached past 11, I pulled over to a convenience store off U.S. 17 in Bartow, the county seat of Polk County. Then 24, and the news editor for a weekly that was the only paper published in neighboring Hardee County, I often made such stops in search of daily newspapers that might be available from around the Sunshine State.

This time, absolutely no luck. All the papers were sold out. So I returned to my car and started to get back on U.S. 17 when I noticed what appeared to be a newspaper vending machine in the distance outside of a closed shopping mall and by a well-lit parking lot.

I decided to check it out.

That's when a police car seemingly out of nowhere entered the scene and the lone officer in it signaled me to come to a stop — and that I quickly did as I wondered what in the world had I done. The officer, then outside of his car and holding a long gun aimed at me, told me to get out of my car and keep my hands up.

I was scared to death. I could not believe I was staring at a shotgun aimed at me. I thought if I moved an inch that I would be blown away. And there would be nobody left to tell the story of my death except this officer firing the shot.

With the gun pointed at me, I submitted to an interview about my day, my profession, my love of newspapers, my spotting of that newspaper vending machine, and it worked. I was allowed to live for another day and drive home to Wauchula.

But not before the cop told me that I needed to turn my lights ON.

Yes, I had forgotten to turn my headlights on after leaving the convenience store and returning to my car.



## Introducing: The Sports Wire

Thanks for reading The Morning Wire! As a dedicated subscriber, we wanted you to know about our latest newsletter, The Sports Wire.

Delivered Monday through Friday, The Sports Wire will keep you up to date on the biggest stories in sports from the AP. You'll receive:

Daily top stories from the NFL, NBA, MLB, soccer, golf, auto racing, and more

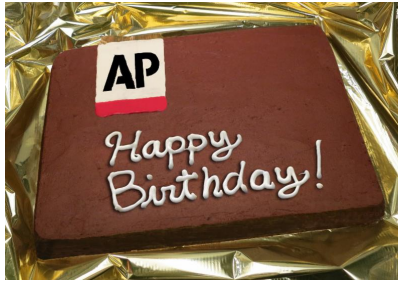
Breakdown of the biggest games and matchups

Previews, polls, and predictions

Analysis that goes beyond the score

... and much more. [Sign up today.](#)

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Don Deibler](#)

## Stories of interest

***Paxton Media Group tells at least some local papers to close their offices to the public; target date is Wednesday*** (Rural Blog)

By AL CROSS

One of the nation's leading rural newspaper chains is planning to close at least some of its papers' local offices to the public this week.

In an email to local and area managers, Paxton Media Group said, "To help streamline our efficiencies and processes, and to keep pace with changes in our own industry, we've decided it's best to eliminate our open office hours to the public completely, for the remaining publications in our group."

The meaning of "remaining publications in our group" was unclear. The memo seen by The Rural Blog was sent at least to managers of some papers in Kentucky and southern Indiana, and was a topic of discussion among Kentucky employees last week.

The memo was sent last week and gave a target date of Wednesday, Feb. 1. Paxton managers declined to comment or did not respond to requests for comment on such questions as possible layoffs.

The memo began, "As we all know, the newspaper industry has changed dramatically over the last several years, and especially since the Covid pandemic. Things that we used to see as normal business practices have developed into something completely. We are not unique, as industries all over the globe have changed how they do business."

Read more [here](#).

-0-



## ***Opinion Newsrooms that move beyond ‘objectivity’ can build trust*** (Washington Post)

By Leonard Downie Jr.

Leonard Downie Jr., a former executive editor of The Washington Post, is a professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Amid all the profound challenges and changes roiling the American news media today, newsrooms are debating whether traditional objectivity should still be the standard for news reporting. “Objectivity” is defined by most dictionaries as expressing or using facts without distortion by personal beliefs, bias, feelings or prejudice. Journalistic objectivity has been generally understood to mean much the same thing.

But increasingly, reporters, editors and media critics argue that the concept of journalistic objectivity is a distortion of reality. They point out that the standard was dictated over decades by male editors in predominantly White newsrooms and reinforced their own view of the world. They believe that pursuing objectivity can lead to false balance or misleading “bothsidesism” in covering stories about race, the treatment of women, LGBTQ+ rights, income inequality, climate change and many other subjects. And, in today’s diversifying newsrooms, they feel it negates many of their own identities, life experiences and cultural contexts, keeping them from pursuing truth in their work.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***History: Columnists chronicled society and celebrity in the desert*** (Desert Sun)

Tracy Conrad

Scrawled across the Ruby’s Dunes Wine Menu, over the listing of imported champagnes and various available table wines, were well-wishes for Hildy Crawford’s birthday.

In gorgeous and bold cursive, the congratulations were signed by movie star-singer Frank Sinatra, composer extraordinaire Jimmy Van Heusen, and restaurant owner Irwin “Ruby” Rubinstein. Famous and charming, all three were regulars in Crawford’s newspaper columns and signed the menu as a memento of the occasion.

At the time of her birthday celebration Crawford was the reigning queen of the social circuit and the social pages in the desert in the mid-century.

The notion of newspaper and magazine society pages, the precursor to today's social media, had started decades before with The Social Register. Mere wealth or fame were insufficient reasons for inclusion in The Social Register. (Later permutations were also known as the Blue Book, not just for the color of the binding but presumably for the color of the blood of those included in its pages.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cliff Schiappa.

-0-

## ***The press versus the president, part one*** (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JEFF GERTH

### **INTRODUCTION: 'I REALIZED EARLY ON I HAD TWO JOBS'**

The end of the long inquiry into whether Donald Trump was colluding with Russia came in July 2019, when Robert Mueller III, the special counsel, took seven, sometimes painful, hours to essentially say no.

"Holy shit, Bob Mueller is not going to do it," is how Dean Baquet, then the executive editor of the New York Times, described the moment his paper's readers realized Mueller was not going to pursue Trump's ouster.

Baquet, speaking to his colleagues in a town hall meeting soon after the testimony concluded, acknowledged the Times had been caught "a little tiny bit flat-footed" by the outcome of Mueller's investigation.

That would prove to be more than an understatement. But neither Baquet nor his successor, nor any of the paper's reporters, would offer anything like a postmortem of the paper's Trump-Russia saga, unlike the examination the Times did of its coverage before the Iraq War.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Trump lawsuit claims Woodward audiobook violates copyright*** (AP)

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump filed a lawsuit Monday against journalist Bob Woodward, claiming he never had permission to publicly release interview recordings made for the book "Rage."

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Pensacola, Florida, against Woodward, his publisher Simon & Schuster Inc., and the publisher's parent company Paramount

Global. Trump's attorneys are seeking nearly \$50 million in damages.

Simon & Schuster and Woodward released a joint response saying Trump's lawsuit is without merit, and they will aggressively defend against it.

"All these interviews were on the record and recorded with President Trump's knowledge and agreement," the statement said. "Moreover, it is in the public interest to have this historical record in Trump's own words. We are confident that the facts and the law are in our favor."

The lawsuit claims that Trump consented to being recorded for a series of interviews between December 2019 and August 2020, but only for a book Woodward was working on. "Rage" was published in September 2021. Trump claims Woodward and Simon & Schuster Inc. violated his copyright by releasing the audio recordings in November 2022 as "The Trump Tapes: Bob Woodward's Twenty Interviews with President Donald Trump."

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

## The Final Word

### *1 big thing: Amazing 70s* (Axios)

Americans are staying healthier longer than ever — and are transforming what older age looks like.

"We have essentially created a new stage of life," David Brooks writes in The Atlantic. "Americans retire, on average, by their early- to mid-60s, yet many now remain vibrant into their mid-80s."

Why it matters: The 70s — a largely overlooked decade of life — can be some of our best years, Axios' Erica Pandey writes.

By the numbers: A recent study from AARP and National Geographic found that happiness dwindles in middle age — but then spikes again in our 70s and 80s, as people find more free time and less stress.

34% of adults in their 80s, and 27% of those in their 70s, say they're very happy — compared with 18% in their 50s.

51% of adults in their 70s say they're optimistic about their futures, compared with 44% in their 60s.

Reality check: There are, of course, plenty of stresses from getting older. The study found that independence, brain health and the strength of relationships were older adults' top worries.

As we've reported, there's a growing wave of seniors who are aging alone — without any close family around.

This lack of kinship can contribute to deteriorating mental and physical health.

The bottom line: Many of us fear the prospect of aging. But this stage of life can be enjoyed — and celebrated.

Your turn! Are you in your 70s or 80s? What do you love most about it? What have you learned?

Send your insights, your name, your age and your hometown to [finishline@axios.com](mailto:finishline@axios.com), and we'll pass on your wisdom.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Jan. 31, 2023



Today is Tuesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2023. There are 334 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

### On this date:

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

In 1863, during the Civil War, the First South Carolina Volunteers, an all-Black Union regiment composed of many escaped slaves, was mustered into federal service at Beaufort, South Carolina.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.)

In 1919, baseball Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme (wy-NEE'-mee), California, killing all 88 people aboard.

In 2001, a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands convicted one Libyan and acquitted a second, in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi was given a life sentence, but was released after eight years on compassionate grounds by Scotland's government. He died in 2012.)

In 2015, Bobbi Kristina Brown, the daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston, was found unresponsive in a bathtub at her Georgia townhome and was taken to an Atlanta-area hospital. (She died six months later.)

In 2016, Novak Djokovic maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory over Andy Murray.

In 2020, the United States declared a public health emergency over the new coronavirus, and President Donald Trump signed an order to temporarily bar entry to foreign nationals, other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, who had traveled in China within the preceding 14 days. The Senate narrowly rejected Democratic demands to summon witnesses for President Donald Trump's first impeachment trial.

Ten years ago: Chuck Hagel emerged from his grueling confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee with solid Democratic support for his nomination to be President Barack Obama's next defense secretary. A gas explosion caused three floors of the headquarters of Mexico's national oil company Pemex to collapse, killing 37 people. Caleb Moore, 25, an innovative freestyle snowmobile rider who'd been hurt in a crash at the Winter X Games in Colorado, died at a hospital in Grand Junction.

Five years ago: Republican congressman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, who became known for leading a House panel's investigation into the 2012 attacks against Americans in Benghazi, Libya, announced that he would be retiring from Congress after his term expired. Much of the world was treated to a rare triple lunar treat - a total lunar eclipse combined with a particularly close full moon that was also the second full moon of the month.

One year ago: U.S. health regulators gave full approval to Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. North Korea confirmed it had test-launched an intermediate-range ballistic

missile capable of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam, the North's most significant weapon launch in years. The New York Times said it had purchased the online word game Wordle for a price in the "low seven figures." Rafael Nadal won a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title with a comeback five-set victory over second-ranked Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open final.

Today's birthdays: Composer Philip Glass is 86. Former Interior Secretary James Watt is 85. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 85. Actor Stuart Margolin is 83. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 82. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 79. Actor Glynn Turman is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is 76. Actor Jonathan Banks is 76. Singer-musician Harry Wayne Casey (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 71. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 66. Actor Kelly Lynch is 64. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 64. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 62. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 57. Actor Minnie Driver is 53. Actor Portia de Rossi is 50. Actor-comedian Bobby Moynihan is 46. Actor Kerry Washington is 46. Bluegrass singer-musician Becky Buller is 44. Singer Justin Timberlake is 42. Actor Tyler Ritter is 38. Country singer Tyler Hubbard (Florida Georgia Line) is 36. Folk-rock singer-musician Marcus Mumford (Mumford and Sons) is 36. Actor Joel Courtney is 27.

## 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.



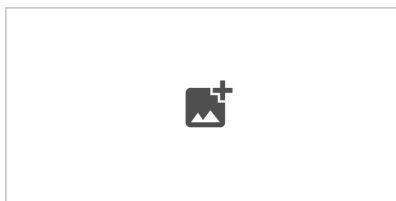
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to [Ye Olde Connecting Editor](#). And don't forget to include photos!

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



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!