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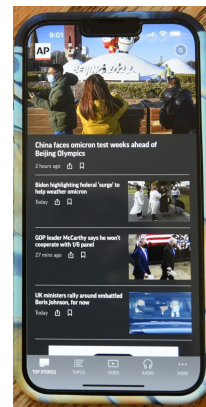
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# Connecting

Feb. 7, 2023

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A woman sits on the rubble as emergency rescue teams search for people under the remains of destroyed buildings in Nurdagi town on the outskirts of Osmaniye city southern Turkey, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023. A powerful earthquake hit southeast Turkey and Syria early Monday, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing and injuring thousands of people. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Feb. 7, 2023,

Our colleague **Mike “Buck” Tharp** died a month ago and Connecting has been on the lookout since for an obituary story on him and his long career in journalism – both in newspapering and journalism education. Patience paid off with our lead story from the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, of which he was an active member.

The lead by writer **Tracy Dahlby**:

*In another life he would have been a poet or a rock star. In this one Mike Tharp was a reporter’s reporter with a poet’s heart and a magnetic vibe that pulled into his orbit colleagues, friends and complete strangers who wanted some of that life force for themselves.*

*Michael Eugene Tharp, universally known as Buck, was a model foreign correspondent, revved up, rugged and resourceful. He was a professional listener with the unfaltering patience of a gemcutter, the bullshit detector of a great detective, and a low boil for the deceit and tomfoolery of the powerful and privileged.*

We bring you in today’s issue memories of two of our colleagues who died last Friday and whose obituaries were featured in Monday’s Connecting – Dallas sports writer

**Denne Freeman** and Nashville country music writer **Joe Edwards**.

**Diane Balk Palguta** recently retired as a librarian at Butler University in Indianapolis – and she shares memories of her earlier work in the Indianapolis bureau and as the first AP correspondent in Dayton, Ohio, over a 14-year span. I got a chance to work with Diane in Indy, and I love her closing line:

*Now I'm ready to perhaps do a part-time job, or events, seasonal, volunteer work, as well as grandparent time and sorting through paperwork and stuff that somehow accumulates in large quantities over the years. Advice and tips on happy retirement are always welcome (dbpalguta@yahoo.com). After all, hAPpy includes AP.*

**EARTHQUAKE LATEST: Race to find survivors as quake aid pours into Turkey, Syria** is the headline of this morning's latest AP story, bylined by MEHMET GUZEL, GHAITH ALSAYED and SUZAN FRASER, that leads:

NURDAG, Turkey (AP) — Search teams and emergency aid from around the world poured into Turkey and Syria on Tuesday as rescuers working in freezing temperatures dug — sometimes with their bare hands — through the remains of buildings flattened by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake. The death toll soared above 5,000 and was still expected to rise.

But with the damage spread over a wide area, the massive relief operation often struggled to reach devastated towns, and voices that had been crying out from the rubble fell silent.

Our prayers for the victims.

Paul

## ***Buck Tharp: 1945-2023*** **A heart that's true**

**By Tracy Dahlby**

**The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan**

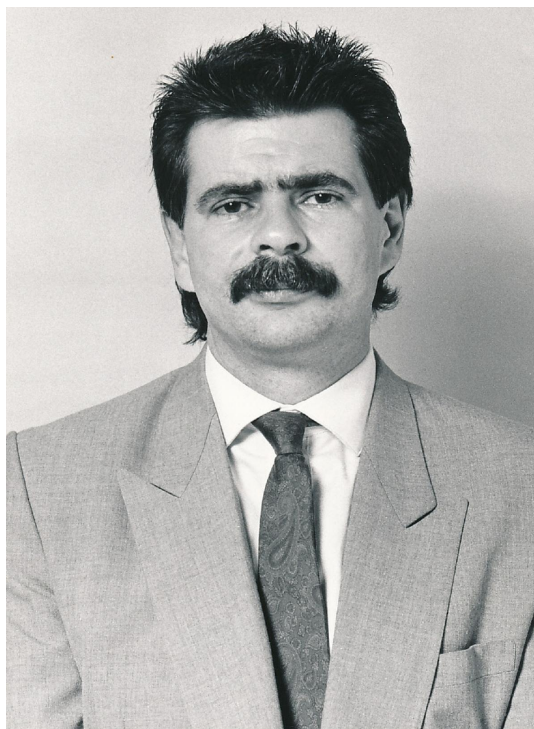
In another life he would have been a poet or a rock star. In this one Mike Tharp was a reporter's reporter with a poet's heart and a magnetic vibe that pulled into his orbit colleagues, friends and complete strangers who wanted some of that life force for themselves.

Michael Eugene Tharp, universally known as Buck, was a model foreign correspondent, revved up, rugged and resourceful. He was a professional listener with the unfaltering patience of a gemcutter, the bullshit detector of a great detective, and a low boil for the deceit and tomfoolery of the powerful and privileged.

“What a strapping, swashbuckling, funny and perceptive man,” said Edith Terry, a fellow former Tokyo correspondent. His was a “life lived large all the way through”.

Buck left that life at a hospice in Dallas, Texas, on January 6 after a long fight with cancer. At his side in final days were his wife Jeralyn Nickel, his children, Nao Tharp and Dylann Tharp, and members of his extended family. Buck was 77.

Buck moved through his career with aptitude and grace. Starting as a copy boy at the Topeka Capital-Journal at 16 in 1961, he spent 11 years in Tokyo in a period from 1976 to 1990, covering Japan and Northeast Asia for, respectively, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Far Eastern Economic Review and U.S. News & World Report. While posted stateside in the 1990s, he deployed to cover wars in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia and Albania/Kosovo for U.S. News & World Report.



As the man himself said: "I knew what a foreign correspondent was."

Read more [here](#).

## Memories of Joe Edwards





**JOE RASTA MAN:** Joe Edwards (left) at his retirement party in 2012, with Adam Yeomans.

**Tennessee Sports Writer Teresa Walker:** One of my first national AP bylines was an obit written by Joe Edwards because I happened to be working the Sunday shift when the call came in confirming the death of late country star Webb Pierce. When I took over as the state sports editor, he always liked to remind me of the West Tennessee high school coach who told me "I asked good questions for a girl." I learned so much from this man. Rest in peace my friend!

**Former Nashville staffer Marta Aldrich:** I worked alongside Joe Edwards at The Associated Press for 15 years. He was kind, professional and — while he interviewed dozens of celebrities for his Nashville Sound column through the years — always humble. Every day, he ended his shift with the same words: "I've done all the damage I can do." But in actuality, Joe, it was all good.

**Former Tennessee staffer Beth Miller:** I cannot even begin to stress how huge of a force Joe Edwards was for the AP both in Tennessee and afar, even in his always unassuming demeanor. He was a masterful interviewer, and he could tell a story like none other (and boy, did he have the stories!) To this day I can hear him saying "yes, dear" while on the phone with Sandra at the office, and "yes, dear on the line" was our shorthand lingo that we shouted across the room anytime Sandra or anyone's spouse called the office. In the most stressful days at the bureau, he was always a steadying force, and he was wickedly funny. He taught me so much, and I will (and already do) miss him so much.

**Former Nashville staffer Gary Tanner:** When Joe Edwards and Paul Randall Dickerson taught me broadcast writing as a newbie at the AP bureau in Nashville I was learning from the best. And now Joe is gone. He was kind, smart and very funny. Thinking of his family and friends and sending prayers their way.

**Former AP staffer Jeff Wilson:** Joe Edwards was already a journalism icon when I joined The Associated Press in 1984.

His weekly country music column was a mainstay at newspapers around the world, including The Jackson Sun. If you were working the wires on The Sun copy desk, you were supposed to be alert for Joe's column and set it aside for use on Friday.

So Joe was on a bit of a pedestal before I met him and discovered what a wonderful, down-home and helpful person he could be. He genuinely cared about everyone in the AP Nashville Bureau, and he wanted to make the path easier for newbies. He was sympathetic, empathetic and a big fan of country cooking.

A quarter-century later -- long after I'd left AP -- I ventured out during the 2010 Nashville flood. Among other things, I collected some quotes from truckers stranded nearby because of closed roads. I knew AP would be hungry for in-the-field quotes.

When I called the bureau, I got Joe. Despite the pressures that day, he was professional and convivial. He commended and thanked me. My quotes made the A-wire, which is the holy grail for AP writers, even former ones. That was my last professional encounter with him.

Rest in peace, Joe. You will enrich everyone who encounters you in the after life, as you did on earth.

## Memories of Denne Freeman



### Denne Freeman with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

**Bruce Lowitt** - Denne and I worked a lot together at Cowboys games (regular season and playoffs), Super Bowls, Olympics, college football and a lot more. He was a great storyteller, I learned a lot from him and I loved working beside him.

My favorite story involving Denne:

The AP assigned me to cover the Jan. 2, 1972, NFC championship game (the Cowboys beat the 49ers 14-3), then decided that as long as I was going to Dallas, I should also cover the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl game (Penn State beat Texas 30-6). That meant I had to fly there on New Year's Eve.

When I got to my hotel in midafternoon I called the Dallas buro to tell them where I was and so on. Denne answered the phone and said (and this is a direct quote I will never forget): "The boys are throwin' a party. Wanna come?" I said sure. He gave me the address and around nine o'clock I put on my jeans and sports jacket and walked to the hotel.

The "boys" were the Cotton Bowl Committee. Men in tuxedos, women in cocktail dresses.

I never even made it to the hotel lobby. I turned around, walked back to my hotel, picking up a couple of chili dogs on the way, and watched the ball come down in Times Square on a one-hour tape delay.

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**Arnie Stapleton** - Let's all celebrate a wonderful life and an awesome journalist! Denne impacted so many lives and his legacy lives on in all of us who learned from the master storyteller and scoop artist. Quick story: I was with Denne when Jerry Jones bought the Cowboys and fired Tom Landry. When all other reporters were waiting for a late-night news conference at team headquarters, Denne and I were patrolling the parking lot and he grabbed Jerry for a quick introduction and a few quotes after the limos arrived. I went into the news conference room to wait for the festivities while Denne borrowed the PR guy's office phone to call in quotes a good half hour before the news conference began. And this: when Denne introduced us to Jerry Jones, he told him, "Congratulations, Jerry. If you're the new owner of the Dallas Cowboys, we're going to need your phone number because we are The Associated Press." We got that number. A couple of the many lessons I learned from my mentor.

Godspeed Denne Freeman.

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**Doug Tucker** - My first conversation with Denne Freeman quickly turned into an argument.

Denne had arrived on a redeye flight the night before for an APSE meeting and was probably feeling a bit sleep-deprived. I was a young Kansas City staffer who happened to answer the phone when he called to dictate a story.

When he said so-and-so said such-and-such "on Monday," I stopped him. No, this is Tuesday.

Denne protested briefly. But when he realized the day indeed was Tuesday, I was struck by how genuinely appreciative he was for my catching his innocent little slip.

Nice guy, I thought. Then a year or so after that I began covering sports full time in KC and realized this friendly, folksy Texan was nice, yes, but also much more.

He was just about the best sportswriter I ever read. No matter the sport, no matter the angle, Denne Freeman in my opinion was as good as they came.

I used to marvel at the vivid, evocative leads he authored on college and NFL games. Equally creative was his touch on breaking news.

I still remember one.

"Billy Martin says it's three strikes and he is out of baseball," Denne wrote when the Texas Rangers made the volatile Martin a thrice-fired manager.

I last spoke with Denne about a year or so ago. I could tell he was not doing well. But he was still friendly. Still funny.

Still Denne. A nice guy and much, much more.



## 'Be curious:' Advice from a retired librarian



**Diane Palguta, information commons associate, is retiring after a career at Irwin Library. Photo by Eli Kohn.**

**EMMA CHAMLEY**  
**The Butler Collegian**

Late at night in Irwin Library, while students are busy studying, Diane Palguta, Irwin Library information commons associate, can always be found with a friendly look on her face. Palguta has worked the night shift, from 4 p.m. to midnight., for the last eight years, but the week of Jan. 30 marks her retirement.

Palguta first moved to Indianapolis after graduating college early at Northwestern University, where she majored in journalism and minored in political science. She began working for the Associated Press, AP, where she was a broadcast editor and correspondent, as well as a statehouse reporter.

Palguta said Butler's campus became a welcoming place for her in her early days in Indianapolis.

"I was really homesick for a college campus," Palguta said. " ... I was feeling the absence of all of my friends who were still on campus. I would come and sit in Holcomb Gardens, just to kind of breathe and be on a college campus again ... That's probably my first Indianapolis memory of Butler."

After working for AP for 14 years, Palguta developed carpal tunnel syndrome, which limited her ability to type, something she was constantly doing at AP. She then began working in public relations, doing research on the student loan industry. Throughout her career, she remained devoted to public service and information — this led her to work at Carmel Public Library and later the Indianapolis Public Library system.

Read more [here](#).

## And in response to a request from Connecting for more on her AP career:

**Diane Balk Palguta** – It doesn't seem that long ago that I joined the AP fresh out of Northwestern University, where I majored in journalism and worked at WNUR radio news and the Daily Northwestern. Summer and internship experience 1976-1980 included research and script typing at Good Morning America, being a desk assistant at ABC Radio Network News, a fall internship at the Huntington, WVA Advertiser, and a summer at the Chicago Sun Times. When it came time to apply for jobs as graduation neared, I loved the idea of an entity that handled print and broadcast journalism. I took the AP test at 50 Rock and all I could think was, I didn't want to mess this up.



When I walked in the doors to the AP bureau in Indianapolis in spring of 1980, I was thrilled to be at the wire service, and have the byline Diane M. Balk, Associated Press Writer. I had the good fortune to be hired as a newswoman by Bureau Chief Dave Swearingen and start AP work under the ever-patient news editor Lindel Hutson, sports editor Steve Herman, sportswriter Hank Lowenkron, overnigher Marty Anderson, writers Masha Hamilton and Lisa Levitt, and photographer Chuck Robinson and some personable stringers too. Jan Carroll and Kristie Hill made a formidable Statehouse team. I mostly worked 3:30 pm-11:30 pm night rewrite, with Sunday overnight relief. When a Statehouse opening occurred, I eventually moved into legislative relief staffing, covering the Indiana Senate. There were annual debates on legislation to start a lottery in Indiana. When I covered the announcement of Subaru opening an Indiana plant, little did I know that years later I'd wind up buying and loving all-wheel drive Subarus.

Elsewhere along the way there was one-person bureau opening in Dayton, Ohio. I became the AP's first Dayton correspondent. News there that I still remember covering - the Reagan train, the Alton Coleman crime spree, the Home State banking crisis, and lots of feature writing. I have strong memories of Jake Booher and the Columbus staff, and Cincinnati stalwarts John Nolan and Joe Kay, and Toledo correspondent Sue Cross. After about a year and a half in Dayton, I moved back to Indianapolis to marry J. Paul Palguta, who prosecuted the case when a drunk hit my car while I was on the AP overnight. I then moved into AP weekend feature work and became broadcast editor, as well as the mother of a wonderful daughter and son.

If I hadn't developed carpal tunnel, I'd have loved to have stayed longer than my 14 years at AP. There was rarely a dull day at work. I loved the variety. I met so many wonderful people through the years, including COBs Andy Lippman and Paul Stevens, and I'm still in touch with former APers Susan and Tom Wyman, Doug Richardson, Lisa Greathouse, John Strauss, Jodi Perras, and others. I happily read Facebook feeds from them, as well as Mike Conroy and Ken Kusmer, and I enjoy reading articles by Beth Harris and Nancy Armour, who were bright lights in their time in Indy. I still have friends from the Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis News, and broadcasters from those formative years. I wouldn't trade that time and those experiences for anything. My after-AP work years included public relations, higher ed newsletter editing, and bookstores and public and academic library work. I enjoyed creating programming, producing library Facebook and twitter feeds, and working with kids. A sense of the importance of public service, accurate information, learning something new, helping people, and experiencing variety made all of my full-time work years fulfilling. I was deeply touched by the thanks from college students I've mentored and supervised as a library aide. Now I'm ready to perhaps do a part-time job, or events, seasonal, volunteer work, as well as grandparent time and sorting through paperwork and stuff that somehow accumulates in large quantities over the years. Advice and tips on happy retirement are always welcome (dbpalguta@yahoo.com). After all, hAPpy includes AP.

## Print or online? – how do you receive your newspaper

[Lelieu Browne](#) - It's such a joy to learn so many journalists still prefer hard copy paper than on line. I am a newspaper junkie myself.

It is obvious that, being married to a journalist, I had the privilege of reading the New York Times, Time, Newsweek, and others everyday ever since we were married. But even before it, I became reading the French Newspapers and The London Times when I was student in Europe.

Now I continue to go out to buy the New York Times every day. It not only gives me an excuse to exercise but to feel it in my hand and to have a quick glance of what's going on in the world on page 1.

A few years ago, after Malcolm's pass, my neighbor and friend offered to pass her NYT to me after she finished reading it. It saved me some money until she went online. Friends keep asking me why I would not either have the paper delivered or read online. I have my reason.

First, daily news, local and international, is very important to me. I watch tv news when I wake up and when I go to bed. But I am not satisfied with such a brief announcement, especially on subjects that interest to me. I want to know more in detail. At my age, I feel stressed trying to search anything online.

Unlike many people who prefer to read the newspaper at breakfast with a cup of coffee, I concentrate more on my breakfast and sip on my coffee while my brain slowly

clears up and inspiration penetrates my soul. Even when Malcolm was with me, breakfast gave us a chance to chat and to plan the day ahead. We both worked and came home late and too tired to have decent discussions. That was very unusual for a journalist to do it, but we lovingly shared the same thought. I continue the tradition, alone and chatting with my cat.

These days, I only read the NYT and French Paris Match on hard copy. I use my resting time in the afternoon or early in the morning to read peacefully.

I spend my summer in Vermont where we have our summer house. The nearest local store carried the NYT and local newspapers, especially the Valley News which reproduced editorial pieces and political analysis from the Washing Post. It happened that the store shared the space with the local post office. I used to pay a week in advance for the NYT and asked the mailman to deliver it along with my daily mail. I went to pick up the Sunday Times myself.

Unfortunately, the local store was closed and sold during the Covid pandemic. Being in Vermont for summer only, I did not want to cause more headaches by ordering home delivery. I did order home delivery for the Valley News, and it was a disaster. Short of hand during the pandemic, I might get the VN delivered twice or three times weekly, depending on the availability of the staff. The whole community of my region loudly protested the handling either through the community listserv or email, but to no result. So, I ended up driving farther to the next town to get my NYT. I would not want to miss it any day.

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**Mike Harris** - Like so many of you, I have been a print newspaper junkie since I was a young boy in Madison, WI. In my early days, my parents had both the Wisconsin State Journal and the afternoon Capital Times delivered to our house. That got me addicted to reading newspapers each day. When I got my first full-time newspaper job in Rockford, IL, after college, I had the mail edition sent to my parents so they could keep track of what I was doing.

Since I've been married - going on 55 years, Judy and I have always had a newspaper delivered - The Rockford Morning Star and Register-Republic, the Indianapolis Star, the Chicago Tribune, the Raleigh Observer and now the Boston Globe. And, of course, I now have more time to read the paper each day.

We have actually been fortunate to live in cities where the newspapers were among the best in the country. That has not changed since we moved to Newton, MA, a suburb of Boston. The Globe remains an excellent and thorough newspaper - a rarity these days. And, thanks to our intrepid delivery person, we find the paper, wrapped in plastic, on our front walk each day.

Sure, it's expensive to keep getting seven days a week delivery. But I consider it a contribution to keeping real journalism alive and to keeping a real newspaper healthy.

And I do love filling out each day's crossword - in ink, Norm Abelson - even though it's not the NYT crossword.



## Texas AP poll voters knew how to pick 'em



Whitehouse (Texas) High School quarterback Patrick Mahomes, with his father Pat Mahomes, displays a plaque honoring him as Texas AP Player of the Year for 2013. Ten years later, he's in his second Super Bowl with the Kansas City Chiefs and a likely candidate to be NFL Most Valuable Player for the second time in his young career. Photo/Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.

Dallas AP sports writer [Schuyler Dixon](#) said: "The voters for the AP player of the year were the eight people I chose from the list of 20 voters on the top 10 poll during the regular season. The idea was generally two voters per region, and the list generally stayed the same. I think I inherited the concept from Paul Weber, who was in charge of all that when Dale got the player of the year thing going.

"And on the 'we know how to pick 'em,' while the voters get the credit, the list of (roughly) 10 winners was a pretty good who's who of Texas HS football players. Almost all of the winners were QBs. You know, kinda like NFL MVP races."

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Liz Koskenmaki](#)

[David Redfearn](#)

## Stories of interest

*Journalists are routinely vilified on social media and the beat, with women enduring the brunt of the abuse* (Editor and Publisher)

Michael J. Bugeja | for Editor & Publisher

There were 25 organized troll campaigns targeting women reporters in the first half of 2020, according to Ms. Magazine. Additionally, the magazine cited 267 attacks and threats, with many mentioning women's appearance and sexuality, including death and rape warnings.

To make matters worse, women of color were 34% more likely than white women to be mentioned in abusive, sexist and racist tweets.

In any other profession, supervisors would be responsible for addressing and preventing those attacks. But publishers and general managers typically advise reporters to block the trolls and ignore the digital assaults.

Media companies can do more. As I recommended in a recent article for the Poynter Institute, a journalism research organization, supervisors can:

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion: Trump's lawsuit against Bob Woodward is absurd — and dangerous*** (Washington Post)

**By the Editorial Board**

Donald Trump's public words — speeches, interviews and written statements — were an essential record of his presidential campaign and four years in the Oval Office. But judging by a lawsuit Mr. Trump filed against our colleague Bob Woodward and his book publisher, Simon & Schuster, the former president thinks he personally owns the words he spoke while president. This is absurd — and intended to intimidate and harass.

Sign up for a weekly roundup of thought-provoking ideas and debates  
Alas, such legal gambits are becoming more common. They can have a chilling effect on journalists, human rights defenders or others seeking to hold the powerful to account. Efforts are already underway in a number of states as well as in Britain and the European Union to strengthen protections against frivolous actions known as “strategic lawsuits against public participation,” or SLAPPs.

Mr. Woodward interviewed Mr. Trump 20 times on the record for his book “Rage,” published before the 2020 election. One session was in 2016, while Mr. Trump was running, while the remainder took place in 2019-2020. In the fourth interview, on Dec. 30, 2019, Mr. Trump said, “Okay. For the book only, right?” A deputy press secretary, Hogan Gidley, added, “Right. No stories coming out, no nothing.” Woodward says the agreement was that he was interviewing Trump for a book, not for articles in The Post. When “Rage” was published in September 2020, about a half-hour of the audio recordings were released to The Post and CNN, and Mr. Trump raised no objection then. He criticized what Mr. Woodward had written about him but also said, “I said really good things in that book.”

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

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## ***University of Oregon journalism chair asks Gannett to donate The Eugene Register-Guard to the school*** (Editor and Publisher)

### **An "E&P Reports" Vodcast with Mike Blinder**

In the January 2023 issue of Editor & Publisher Magazine, E&P featured an article about Dr. Peter Laufer's book, “Slow News: A Manifesto for the Critical News Consumer,” and the subsequent film documentary “Slow News” that speaks to how media companies chasing “clicks” in a digital age has led to the erosion of quality journalism and the public's trust.

However, what this professor of journalism and James N. Wallace Chair of Journalism at the University of Oregon was chasing was a personal dream to save the local cities

newspaper — The Eugene (OR) Register-Guard.

In a recent article for the local weekly entitled "How to Save the 'Guarded-Register, ' Dr. Laufer writes, "We in Eugene are witnessing the slow murder of our daily newspaper. But maybe, just maybe, what's rapidly becoming too thin to wrap fish and line the bird cage, can still be saved." He goes on to state, "When what's now the Gannett Company — the corporate monster that owns more U.S. newspapers than any other — bought the R-G, butchery began: de facto pink slips to venerable reporters and editors and photographers in the form of buyouts, and local news coverage replaced with outdated reporting from elsewhere via Gannett's USA TODAY network."

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Feb. 7, 2023



Today is Tuesday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2023. There are 333 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 7, 1964, the Beatles arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to begin their first American tour.

### On this date:

In 1857, a French court acquitted author Gustave Flaubert of obscenity for his serialized novel "Madame Bovary."

In 1943, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. (Rationing was lifted in October 1945.)

In 1948, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army chief of staff; he was succeeded by Gen. Omar Bradley.



In 1962, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

In 1971, women in Switzerland gained the right to vote through a national referendum, 12 years after a previous attempt failed.

In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk, which lasted nearly six hours.

In 1985, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena was kidnapped in Guadalajara, Mexico, by drug traffickers who tortured and murdered him.

In 1991, Jean-Bertrand Aristide (zhahn behr-TRAHN’ ahr-ihs-TEED’) was inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of Haiti (he was overthrown by the military the following September).

In 1999, Jordan’s King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah (ab-DUH’-luh).

In 2009, a miles-wide section of ice in Lake Erie broke away from the Ohio shoreline, trapping about 135 fishermen, some for as long as four hours before they could be rescued (one man fell into the water and later died of an apparent heart attack).

In 2014, the Sochi Olympics opened with a celebration of Russia’s past greatness and hopes for future glory.

In 2020, two days after his acquittal in his first Senate impeachment trial, President Donald Trump took retribution against two officials who had delivered damaging testimony; he ousted Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a national security aide, and Gordon Sondland, his ambassador to the European Union.

Ten years ago: CIA Director-designate John Brennan strongly defended anti-terror attacks by unmanned drones under close questioning at a protest-disrupted confirmation hearing held by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Five years ago: Biotech billionaire Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong struck a \$500 million deal to buy the Los Angeles Times, the San Diego Union-Tribune and some other publications; the deal would take effect in June. St. John’s beat top-ranked Villanova, 79-75, for its second win that week over a top-five team. (St. John’s had earlier snapped an 11-game losing streak by beating fourth-ranked Duke.)

One year ago: President Joe Biden’s top science adviser Eric Lander resigned after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation found credible evidence that he mistreated his staff, marking the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

Today’s birthdays: Author Gay Talese is 91. Former Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., is 88. Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., is 71. Comedy writer Robert Smigel is 63. Actor James Spader is 63. Country singer Garth Brooks is 61. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 61. Actor-comedian Eddie Izzard is 61. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 58. Actor Jason

Gedrick is 56. Actor Essence Atkins is 50. Rock singer-musician Wes Borland is 48. Rock musician Tom Blankenship (My Morning Jacket) is 45. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 45. Actor Tina Majorino is 38. Actor Deborah Ann Woll is 38. NBA player Isaiah Thomas is 34. NHL center Steven Stamkos is 33.

## 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:

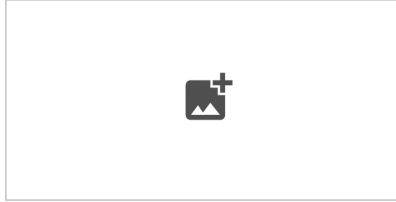
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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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