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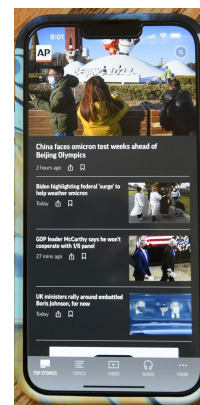
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Connecting

Jan. 22, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 22, 2024,

Congratulations to our colleague [Paul Haven](#), AP vice president and head of Global News Gathering, on being named a director of the Overseas Press Club Foundation.

Its board voted to name Haven as a director last weekend. He will be announced at the 2024 OPC Foundation Scholars Awards on March 5. The board cited his strong background in foreign news coverage and his interest in mentoring young would-be international correspondents. Haven has worked for the AP for almost 30 years.

The Overseas Press Club Foundation is committed to supporting and promoting the next generation of international correspondents, giving them the encouragement and experience they need to launch their careers.

Several of the OPC Foundation fellowships were created in honor of AP people including [Edie Lederer](#), [Sally Jacobsen](#), [Richard Pyle](#) and [Stan Swinton](#).

My January column for my hometown Fort Dodge Messenger focused on the city's library, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2024. Click [here](#) to read.

Rita Schmidt, director of the Fort Dodge Public Library, believes its founder, a Civil War veteran, would be gobsmacked by the technological and educational offerings provided to residents today, but also would be pleased that the focal point centers on good old-fashioned books.



“I personally don’t think the desire to crack open a book and flip through its pages will ever go away,” Schmidt said. “For many people there is something comforting, reassuring and exciting about opening a book and then getting lost in its pages. And honestly, there is nothing better than sharing a children’s picture book in all of its full-color glory. Whether it’s your child, grandchild, niece, nephew or someone else important in your life, it’s a great way to spend time relaxing, bonding and experiencing the joys of reading.”

Here’s to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

Davos Diary: Surreal encounters in the snow

By DAN PERRY

This weekend wraps up the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where participants like Antony Blinken and Tom Friedman were preoccupied with Israel’s war against Hamas. It got me thinking of the 2006 meeting, which was my first rodeo and where we were ... preoccupied with Hamas.

There was no discernable confusion back then about the jihadi terrorist group. Everyone knew they had spent years staging suicide bombings to move Israelis to the right and kill the peace process, since they were fanatics. Now, of course, there is — yet more evidence that not all change should be embraced.

It was during “Davos” that we learned Hamas had won an election (the last to be held by the Palestinian Authority). The group took 44%, but splits among the others enabled it to outscore the moderate Fatah, win over half the seats and establish the popular false narrative that it was “elected” (the vote was for the legislature only).

There was a flurry of despair among the world's assembled machinators, soon to be drowned in much booze and big ideas. These were present in equal measure: Davos has been for about a half century the marquee event of the WEF think-tank, and the legions of very important, somewhat important and merely self-important (it's such a fine line) are briefly conjoined in a wobbly marathon of parties and panels. The haul themselves up the remote mountain by bus and train and taxi, and together they slip and slide on the treacherously icy alleys that crisscross an un-quaint town.

I was based in London for AP back then, and the city was on a global high; so was I, as I recall, and so I felt at home at Davos. More precisely: I knew I was a pretender, but soon realized that so was almost everyone. Attending Davos almost yearly for a time, I always managed to scheme a coveted "white pass" – which means one is an actual delegate and not an assistant, a hanger-on or (heaven forfend) a journalist.

Read more [here](#).

Remembering her mom – and a fascination with the ocean



Linda Sargent - My mother, Margaret Beavers, could sit on the beach looking out over the ocean for hours. In this September 1995 photo, she and I are enjoying an Atlantic Ocean view somewhere south of Dover, Delaware. We found this beach shortly after we crossed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and before we ended up being stuck for at least a couple of hours in NASCAR traffic. The ocean view was so much better than that. My mother died Christmas Day 2004 at the age of 76. Photo by Ed Sargent, my husband.

Wire service veterans gathering



A reunion in North Port, FL, during the weekend. From right, Ira and Sharon Miller, UPI; Adolphe Bernotas, AP; Marguerite Orazi, Adolphe's spouse.

Ira and Adolphe were contemporaries on the Guild's Executive Committee in the 1970s. Ira and Sharon worked together at UPI-San Francisco. Ira left UPI for the San Francisco Chronicle from which he retired in 2008 as its NFL writer. (Shared by Adolphe Bernotas)

AP Sighting



Shared by Norm Clarke

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER
AP dominates coverage of exceptional genocide hearings targeting Israel



AP's team in The Hague dominated coverage of the International Court of Justice hearings into South Africa's accusation that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians, thanks to reporters' expertise in international law and solid planning and coordination across continents.

Across two intense days and under close global scrutiny, AP's team in The Hague dominated coverage of the tribunal looking into South Africa's accusation that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians. Expertise in international law, knowledge of sensitive geopolitics and solid planning and coordination across continents contributed to AP's strong showing.

Corder's intricate knowledge of the international courts put AP ahead, including explainers the week before and the opening day of the hearing. Furtula's deep experience covering the courts allowed for a comprehensive but flexible video plan with video journalists and LiveU mobile video units in key places well ahead of time. Both allowed AP to provide colleagues in other regions and our customers with detailed information about the unfolding of the hearings and access. Carlson's sharp eyes and creativity allowed him to capture exclusive coverage of a powerful exchange by pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian protesters outside the courthouse that summed up the high emotion of the first day. Casert's quick and steady hand anchoring the stories allowed AP to speak with authority while Corder focused on the courtroom. And crucially, the teamwork with Tia Goldenberg, Isabel Debre and other colleagues in the Middle East, as well as Gerald Imray in South Africa, allowed AP to tell this highly sensitive story with fairness and inclusion, reflecting points of views from around the world.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Weeks of reporting and trust-building reveals a striking missed opportunity to prevent a mass shooting



After the deadliest mass shooting in Maine's history, New England reporter Holly Ramer began looking for someone identified in police documents only as "Staff Sgt. Hodgson." That person had earlier texted a superior in the U.S. Army that he was afraid Robert Card, a reservist, would "snap and do a mass shooting." But officials downplayed the warning, calling Hodgson alarmist.

Ramer scoured Maine newspaper archives for any mention of the name and came across an arrest log that included a Sean Hodgson from Lewiston. That led her to social media profiles of a man wearing an Army uniform. She reached out.

Hodgson replied to Ramer's initial message by referring her to an Army public affairs officer. She responded by sending him the police-commissioned report, in which his credibility was questioned, then asked him to meet. He called her shortly thereafter, which led to a series of interviews over the next week and a half.

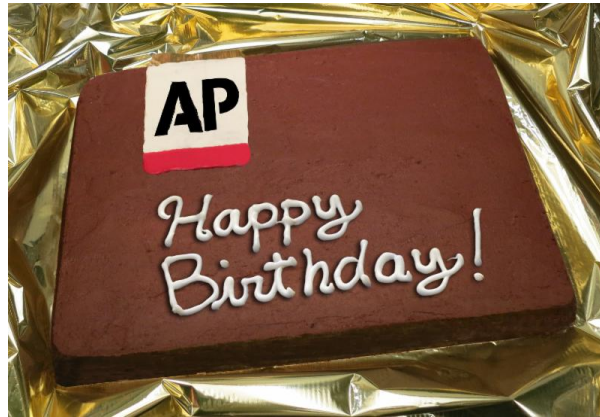
From the start, Hodgson was upfront about his own personal failings and legal troubles, which David Sharp later confirmed at courthouses. But Hodgson felt strongly that his warning should have been taken more seriously, not only because of his training in threat mitigation but because of how well he knew Card through their 17-year friendship.

Hodgson had watched Card unravel, becoming increasingly angry and paranoid. Knowing Card had access to guns and wouldn't get help, Hodgson raised the most

glaring in a string of red flags concerning Card — he told authorities to change the passcode to the gate at their Army Reserve training facility and arm themselves if Card showed up.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Amir Bibawy](#)

[Kevin Bohn](#)

[Ford Burkhardt](#)

[Charles Pittman](#)

Stories of interest

A Colorado town's newspapers were stolen after a story about rape charges at the police chief's house

(AP)

BY AMY BETH HANSON

Nearly all the copies of a small-town Colorado newspaper were stolen from newspaper racks on the same day the Ouray County Plaindealer published a story about charges being filed over rapes alleged to have occurred at an underage drinking party at the police chief's house while the chief was asleep, the owner and publisher said Friday.

Mike Wiggins vowed to get to the bottom of it, posting Thursday on X, formerly Twitter: "If you hoped to silence or intimidate us, you failed miserably. We'll find out

who did this. And another press run is imminent.”

The newspaper posted the story on social media and removed its website paywall so people could read about the felony sexual assault charges filed against three men, including a relative of the police chief, for actions that allegedly occurred at a May 2023 party in Ouray where drugs and alcohol were used, according to court records.

The suspects were ages 17, 18 and 19 at the time, and the person who reported the rapes was 17, records said.

By Thursday evening, someone had returned a garbage bag full of newspapers to the Plaindealer and supporters had donated about \$2,000 to the paper, something Wiggins called “extremely heartening and humbling.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Don Cooper, Peggy Walsh.

-0-

How Harvard Crimson journalists delivered ‘indispensable’ coverage of the university’s leadership crisis (WBUR)

By Suevon Lee

When the Harvard Crimson broke the story into one of the final chapters of Claudine Gay’s embattled tenure as Harvard president, most people were still asleep.

Crimson reporters Miles Herszenhorn and Claire Yuan, like many Harvard juniors, were up late at the university library, studying for finals.

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They’d recently reported that the school’s two governing bodies convened on campus over the weekend to presumably discuss the evolving crisis since Gay’s congressional testimony on Dec. 5. Despite mounting calls for her removal, the university’s highest governing board — the Harvard Corporation — had yet to break its silence on the matter.

“We were very much knee deep in finals,” Yuan, 20, said. “We were still awake at some pretty obscene hours of the night trying to not only continue sourcing but also get some of our schoolwork done.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

Sports Illustrated staff could be laid off as the iconic magazine's publisher faces money troubles (AP)

BY JOE REEDY AND DAVID BAUDER

The jobs of people who produce Sports Illustrated were in limbo Friday after the company that paid to maintain the iconic brand's print and digital products told staff that its license was revoked.

In an email to employees Friday morning, the Arena Group, which operates Sports Illustrated and related properties, said that because of the revocation, "we will be laying off staff that work on the SI brand."

Authentic Brands Group owns the Sports Illustrated brand and had been licensing it to Arena. Authentic later said in a statement it intends to keep Sports Illustrated going. The company is negotiating with Arena and other publishing entities to determine who will do that, according to a person with knowledge of the talks who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly about them.

Until those negotiations are resolved, it's unclear which journalists would actually do the work of making Sports Illustrated. It was not clear how many jobs were affected.

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

-0-

Inside Pitchfork's absorption into GQ: When 'music media' becomes 'men's media,' what's lost? (AP)

BY MARIA SHERMAN

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly three decades after it was established, Pitchfork, the most influential music publication of the internet age with the power to make or break an artist, is being absorbed by another entity — a men's fashion and style magazine.

The website, beloved for being one of modern music's true centers of gravity and renowned for its daily record reviews scored 0.0 to 10.0, will be folded into GQ, parent company Condé Nast announced Wednesday.

At least 12 staffers were laid off, three people involved in the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they said the situation was still fluid. Ten of those were editorial layoffs, leaving a permanent editorial staff of eight.

The decision was made after what Anna Wintour, chief content officer for Condé Nast, called "a careful evaluation of Pitchfork's performance." Wintour called the move "the

best path forward for the brand so that our coverage of music can continue to thrive within the company.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

The Final Word

LA CUCARACHA

BY LALO ALCARAZ



Shared by Reed Saxon

Today in History - Jan. 22, 2024



Today is Monday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2024. There are 344 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, declared a nationwide constitutional right to abortion.

On this date:

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

In 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time in Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1947, America's first commercially licensed television station west of the Mississippi, KTLA-TV in Los Angeles, made its official debut.

In 1953, the Arthur Miller drama "The Crucible" opened on Broadway.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, at age 104.

In 1997, the Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

In 1998, Theodore Kaczynski pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

In 2006, Kobe Bryant scored 81 points, the second-highest in NBA history, in the Los Angeles Lakers' 122-104 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

In 2008, actor Heath Ledger, age 28, was found dead of an accidental prescription overdose in a New York City apartment.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp within a year. (The facility remained in operation as lawmakers blocked efforts to transfer terror suspects to the United States; President Donald Trump later issued an order to keep the jail open and allow the Pentagon to bring new prisoners there.)

In 2012, longtime Penn State coach Joe Paterno, who'd won more games than anyone in major college football but was fired amid a child sex abuse scandal that scarred his reputation, died at age 85.

In 2013, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line bloc fared worse than expected in a parliamentary election, forcing Netanyahu to negotiate a broad coalition deal.

In 2020, Chinese health authorities urged people in the city of Wuhan to avoid crowds and public gatherings after warning that a new viral illness that had infected hundreds of people and caused at least nine deaths could spread further. Health officials in Washington state said they were actively monitoring 16 people who'd come in close contact with a traveler to China, the first U.S. resident known to be infected with the virus.

In 2023, a 72-year-old gunman killed 10 people at a Southern California ballroom dance studio amid Lunar New Year celebrations then tried but failed to target a second dance hall before killing himself as police approached him.

Today's birthdays: Celebrity chef Graham Kerr (TV: "The Galloping Gourmet") is 90. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 87. Singer Steve Perry is 75. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 72. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 71. Actor John Wesley Shipp is 69. Actor Linda Blair is 65. Actor Diane Lane is 59. Actor and rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 59. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 56. Actor Olivia d'Abo is 55. Actor Katie Finneran is 53. Actor Gabriel Macht is 52. Actor Balthazar Getty is 49. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 44. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 44. Pop singer Willa Ford is 43. Actor Beverley Mitchell is 43. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody (Evanescence) is 43. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 42. Actor-singer Phoebe Strole is 41. Rapper Logic is 34. Tennis player Alizé Cornet (uh-LEEZ' kohr-NAY') is 34. Actor Sami Gayle is 28.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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 Central Region 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.

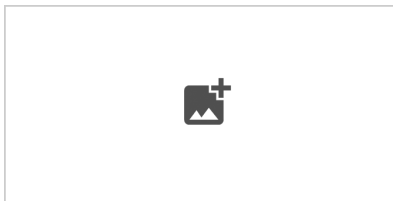
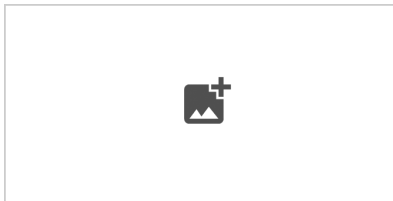
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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