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Connecting

Jan. 26, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 26, 2024,

Congratulations to our colleague **Steve Herman** on news Thursday of his selection to the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame.

Herman, who was AP's Indiana sports editor for 25 of his 39 years with the news cooperative, was one of six journalists named to the association's Class of 2024 which will be inducted in April.

I had the pleasure of working with Steve for several of his AP years when I served as Indianapolis chief of bureau from 1982-84. He took great pride and effort in the state sports report, one of the strengths of the AP in a state that was competitive at the time with UPI, and teamed well with another Connecting colleague, **Hank Lowenkron**.

Here's to a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

AP's Steve Herman named to Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame

Steve Herman, Indiana sports editor for The Associated Press from 1975-2000, has been named to the Hall of Fame of the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association.

He was one of six journalists named to the Class of 2024 on Thursday. They will be inducted at the association's annual awards banquet to be held on Sunday, April 7, at Valle Vista Country Club in Greenwood, Ind. Click [here](#) for the news release.

Others named to the class were John Bansch (deceased), Indianapolis Star; Russ Brown, Louisville Courier-Journal; Mark Jaynes, IndyCar Radio Network; John Montgomery, WNDI Radio, Sullivan, and Jack Nolan, WNDU South Bend/Notre Dame Athletics.

Herman, an Indianapolis native, left law school after a year and a half to follow his passion for journalism. He earned a degree in journalism from the University of Indiana.

He worked for the AP from 1970-2009, all in the Indianapolis bureau. He was night supervisor and assistant sports editor before becoming the sports editor for Indiana in 1975, a position he would hold for 25 years.

While covering all the major teams and events, the beat that brought Steve the most joy was high school sports, writing a weekly 'Prep Notes' column.

"Covering high school sports probably was the most satisfying," Herman told Connecting. "The people I dealt with there were generally easier to talk to and certainly less full of themselves than college and pro athletes and coaches.

"That said, though, the most memorable people or events I covered have to include Indiana's Bob Knight, his three NCAA championships and many controversies; Pacers' coach Bob 'Slick' Leonard and the team's transition from the old ABA to the NBA; Larry Bird's emergence as a star at Indiana State; the Indianapolis 500, including drivers such as A.J. Foyt, the first four-time winner, Janet Guthrie, the first woman to race at Indy, and multi-generation families of drivers such as the Andrettis and Unsers; the Colts' move to Indianapolis from Baltimore; and the relocation of the NCAA



headquarters to Indianapolis and the city's emergence as a perennial host for major national and international sports events.”

The Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association was founded in 1946. The ISSA created its Hall of Fame 50 years later in 1996. The Hall of Fame currently has 141 members including this year’s honorees.

Jim Baltzelle honored in Zoom celebration of his career



[Jim Baltzelle](#), who retired from the AP at the end of 2023, was honored in a Zoom celebration Thursday by more than 50 present and former colleagues and members. Adam Yeomans, AP regional director for the South based in Nashville, organized and moderated the event. Baltzelle was the AP's Florida-based account director and earlier served as Miami chief of bureau.

More on Charles Osgood

[Ken Herman](#) - Count me among AP folks who were honored to have Mr. Osgood feel inspiration from something we had put on the wire.

Many, many years ago, during one of the periodic crises about the price of a barrel of oil (I don't remember if the price was newsworthy high or newsworthy low) I wrote about the apparent impossibility of buying a (as in just one) barrel of oil.

Somehow my unsuccessful quest caught his eye and provided fodder for one of his always entertaining "Osgood File" radio pieces.

Such a talent. RIP, sir.

Poetry at the news desk

[Jim Carlson](#) - One night at the Milwaukee bureau, I couldn't help trying to get clever with the announcement that the state would get a poet laureate.

Here's the way I remember my story going when I sent it on the wire.

The governor issued his decree;
Bring forth a poet laureate to me.
Not just for Governor Tommy Thompson,
But for the whole state of Wisconsin,

One of only 14 states you see
That lack a chief of poesy,
To travel the state, strong, sublime
And preach the benefits of rhyme.

Only published poets need apply
To the office of the governor, on high.
A panel will narrow the field to three,
And the governor will choose who it will be.

The job's unpaid for the new hire,
But might not the deft wordsmith aspire,
To use the chance to mince and mingle,
And master the art of the campaign jingle?

When I got to work the next day, a little nervous about how the poem-story went over, COB Lee Hughes advised me with a chuckle that I would only get one of those per career.

I believe NY used it in a lites column, and someone {Hughes?} had posted it on the office bulletin board.

Same OLD story

[Norm Abelson](#) - I am angry. No, I'm mad, so mad I could spit!

What is it that has me in an uproar? All this stuff about the inabilities of older people.

If I read one more column about what a certain New York paper calls “age and acuity”, and thus assumed disabilities, mostly of a certain serving president....

The latest slam column talked about two presidential candidates who have “been around since the Korean War.” Well, she ought to know; at the age of 78 she is just three years younger than the prexy. At war's end Joe Biden was ten, and the writer was a mere seven. Maybe it's time for this scribe to check out her acuity.

Hey, I've been around since the Depression and WWII, and my acuity is just fine, thank you. Once a month Ye Olde Editor Stevens publishes a lengthy list of Connecting colleagues in their 80's and 90's. Many of them contribute writing that is as good as anything around - and loaded with acuity.

Having done my share of Op Eds over the years, I get that there are at times anxiety and self-questioning about what and who to comment on. And it certainly is true that as we age we lose some capabilities. Gee, I bet that's true even for opinion writers.

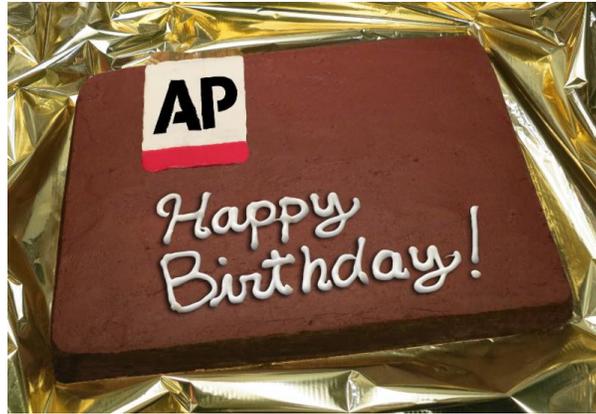
When I was a kid, my parents taught me to respect the elderly for their experience and collected wisdom – as well as having had to overcome some of the bumps life always had in store. Certainly, there are cases where the old are not up to holding office. But sticking all of us in a box marked “No Longer Fit To Serve,” is both mean-spirited and downright wrong.

Leading a homebrewing workshop

[Dan Day](#) – A Princeton University colleague did a short video from the homebrewing workshop that another colleague and I led last week. It's the second year we've done a homebrewing class during "Wintersession," a two-week span in which students, faculty and staff teach and attend non-credit enrichment classes before the second semester begins. The video shows us demonstrating and explaining the brewing process with my basic equipment and colleague Steve's more advanced gear.

Click [here](#) to view.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[David Royse](#)

On Sunday to...

[Christopher Bacey](#)

[Vahe Gregorian](#)

[Robert Kimball](#)

Stories of interest

Chaos, Fury Engulf Los Angeles Times in Historic Cuts to Newsroom (The Wrap)

By Alexei Barrionuevo, Sharon Knolle and Natalie Korach

LA Times guild members met with management on Wednesday to try to create order from the chaos of the bloodiest layoffs in decades at the nation's largest West Coast newspaper.

Update: Even at midnight on Wednesday, the turmoil continued as the guild informed members of additional cuts. "In one of the most bizarre days of bargaining we've experienced, the company unexpectedly raised its layoff target and sent out five more layoff notices Wednesday night – then as midnight neared and we raised protests for our affected colleagues, signaled these notices might not be final," read the note, obtained by TheWrap.

That note followed a day full of tension and anger.

Barely 24 hours after billionaire owner Patrick Soon-Shiong imposed more than 115 job cuts, reducing about 20% of the newsroom, staffers arriving at the paper's offices in El Segundo were greeted by security guards checking a list to ensure laid-off colleagues were denied entry.

The job cuts, dictated by a last-hired-first-fired contract, were among the most sweeping in the paper's 142-year history. Cutting a deep swath across the newsroom and raising serious questions about the paper's ability to report the news in a presidential election year, they come amid a wave of layoffs at other legacy publications, including Time magazine and Sports Illustrated, in a year media analysts predict will be one of the bloodiest ever for journalism.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Sikes, Doug Pizac.

-0-

Media workers strike to protest layoffs at New York Daily News, Forbes and Condé Nast (AP)

PHILIP MARCELO

NEW YORK (AP) — Journalists at The New York Daily News and Forbes walked off the job Thursday amid contentious contract talks with management and a difficult few weeks in the news industry.

Both strike are historic: It's the first-ever at the business-focused magazine in more than a century, and the first at the storied newspaper in more than three decades, according to the NewsGuild of New York.

The one-day strike at the Daily News coincides with Forbes walkout, which runs through Monday.

In midtown Manhattan, dozens of Daily News staffers and their supporters picketed Thursday outside a small co-working space — the newspaper's office since its lower Manhattan newsroom was shuttered in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic.

Read more [here](#).

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Scarsdale Inquirer Suspends Publication After 123 Years (Scarsdale10583)

JOANNE WALLENSTEIN

The Scarsdale Inquirer, a community newspaper and an institution in Scarsdale, announced that it had suspended publication on January 16, 2024. The paper has been published weekly for 123 years, since its founding on July 4, 1901. The news was sudden and unexpected by staff and readers.

Though the regular digital version of the paper was published on Thursday January 11, 2024, the paper itself failed to appear on Friday January 12, 2024 or anytime over the three day holiday weekend. Some assumed that it was delayed due to Martin Luther King Day and the snow, but it turned out the paper was not to come at all.

The Scarsdale Village Board was among the first to learn the news. The Village publishes legal notifications of their meetings in the newspaper and was advised on Tuesday January 16 that notice of a Planning Board meeting to be held on January 24 had not appeared in the paper. The Board was forced to delay that meeting until January 31 as proper notice had not been given.

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

The Final Word



Shared by Doug Pizac



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Today in History: Jan. 26, 2024



Today is Friday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2024 There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 26, 2020, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others were killed when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California; the former Lakers star was 41.

On this date:

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, which created America's 10th national park.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon. (The probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.)

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

In 1993, Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

In 1994, a scare occurred during a visit to Sydney, Australia, by Britain's Prince Charles as college student David Kang lunged at the prince, firing two blank shots from a starter's pistol. (Kang was later sentenced to 500 hours of community service.)

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

In 2005, a U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and a Navy medic aboard.

In 2009, Nadya Suleman gave birth at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center in California to six boys and two girls; criticism came after the public learned that the

unemployed, single mother had gotten pregnant with the octuplets and six elder children through in vitro fertilization.

In 2012, some 12,000 people — including Penn State students, fans and football stars — paid tribute to the late Joe Paterno in a campus memorial service that exposed a strong undercurrent of anger over his firing.

In 2016, character actor Abe Vigoda, star of “The Godfather” and “Barney Miller,” died in Woodland Park, New Jersey at age 94.

In 2022, Spotify said it would grant the request of veteran rocker Neil Young to have his music removed from the streaming platform after he objected to the company’s decision to allow COVID-19 misinformation to spread in podcasts.

In 2023, Israeli forces killed at least nine Palestinians and wounded several others in a large-scale raid in the occupied West Bank, the deadliest single operation in the territory in two decades.

Today’s birthdays: Cartoonist Jules Feiffer is 95. Sportscaster-actor Bob Uecker is 89. Actor Scott Glenn is 85. Activist Angela Davis is 80. Actor Richard Portnow is 77. Rock musician Corky Laing (Mountain) is 76. Actor David Strathairn (streh-THEHRN’) is 75. Producer-director Mimi Leder is 72. Alt-country singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams is 71. Reggae musician Norman Hassan (UB40) is 66. Actor-comedian-talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is 66. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 64. Hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky is 63. Musician Andrew Ridgeley is 61. R&B singer Jazzie B (Soul II Soul) is 61. Actor Paul Johansson is 60. Director Lenny Abrahamson is 58. Actor Bryan Callen is 57. Gospel singer Kirk Franklin is 54. Actor Nate Mooney is 52. Actor Jennifer Crystal is 51. Rock musician Chris Hesse (Hoobastank) is 50. Actor Matilda Szydagis is 50. Actor Gilles Marini (ZHEEL ma-REE’-nee) is 48. Gospel singer Tye Tribbett is 48. Retired NBA player Vince Carter is 47. Actor Sarah Rue is 46. Actor Colin O’Donoghue is 43.

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.

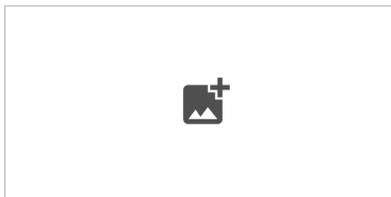
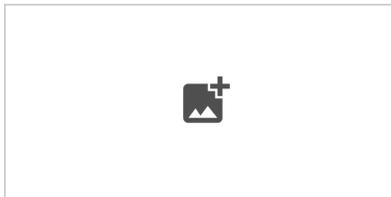
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

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



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