

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting

May 01, 2020

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



**Kia Breaux and Rod Richardson take a selfie shortly after becoming husband and wife on April 18.**

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the first day of May 2020,

Planning to hold a wedding in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic?

Our colleagues **Kia Breaux** and **Rod Richardson** might recommend against it, but they persevered nonetheless and are now a married couple. Kia authors our lead story – edited by Rod – of how it all came about. Kia is the AP’s regional director based in Kansas City, and a 23-year AP veteran. Rod worked for 15 years with the AP, his last position as Dallas assistant chief of bureau, and is city editor for the City of Kansas City.

**AP IMAGES BLOG** : Today’s issue brings colleague reaction to the story by **Peter Arnett** in Thursday’s issue on the end of the Vietnam War. AP Images produced a bog, “The Fall of Saigon, April 30, 1975: The end of the Vietnam War”, and it can be viewed [here](#) .

**IN NEED OF AN UPLIFT?** Colleague **Tori Smith Ekstrand** shares this video of an episode of the Dean's Dialogue, in which Chris Roush shares some stories of students and faculty who have found their pets to be a great source of relaxation during the isolation of Covid-19. Roush is dean of the School of Communications at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. Click [here](#) to view.



**AP GROUND GAME** : Parts of Europe are starting to take steps to reopen following weeks of lockdown. Hard-hit France and Spain, for example, will soon begin easing social distancing guidelines as cafes, schools and churches look at reopening in the coming weeks. In this episode of “Ground Game,” AP correspondents Aritz Parra in Spain and Angela Charlton in France explain how their respective countries are responding.

Listen [here](#).

Here’s to a safe and healthy weekend.

Paul

# An Imperfectly Perfect Wedding Day



**Rev. Jesse Frazier (left) prepares to perform the socially distant marriage ceremony of Rod Richardson, second from left, and Kia Breaux on April 18. Breaux's son John, standing next to Rod, gave his mother away. Breaux's other son, Jaden (far right,) was the ring bearer. (Photo credit Mike Severo/Studio 902)**

**Kia Breaux ( [Email](#) )** - I beamed with satisfaction as I prepared to leave the suburban Kansas City boutique where I had the final fitting for my wedding dress. It was Sunday, March 15, 2020, a day I will always remember.

Within hours of arriving home, I received a breaking news alert that made my heart sink: Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas had banned gatherings of more than 50 people in anticipation of a COVID-19 outbreak in the metro area. Our wedding date was April 18 and we had received RSVPs for 125 people, many of them traveling from out of town.

The tears flowed uncontrollably. I was devastated. My vision for a perfect wedding was fading away. The ceremony was planned in a big, beautiful church with stained glass windows and an alluring balcony overseeing the sanctuary. The reception venue was an ornate and charming building listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We had carefully selected the dinner menu. There would be passed hors d'oeuvres and a flutist playing during a cocktail hour. Later in the evening, a DJ would play dance music well into the night. Our honeymoon was planned at a beachfront resort in Puerto Rico.

My fiancé, Rod Richardson ( [Email](#) ), and I discussed alternate dates for the wedding. We agreed on May 16, and by the next day had gotten our pastor and vendors to confirm their availability.

“Surely things will have calmed down by then,” I said naively.

The next two weeks were an anxiety-filled blur. We canceled our spring break trip to the Lake of the Ozarks. Schools across Kansas City were ordered to

close. Suddenly we were thrust into facilitating distance learning for my sons Jaden, 10, and John, 14, from my previous marriage.

Employers were urged to have employees work from home. Rod and I staked out functional workspaces in our house. He settled into the home office upstairs while I worked from the eat-in kitchen so I could be within earshot of the boys who set up their work areas in the formal dining room.

Within days of us changing our wedding date, Kansas City had restricted gatherings to no more than 10 people and soon after issued a shelter in place order. Even if we were legally allowed to have a wedding in May, would our guests feel comfortable attending knowing a potentially deadly virus was spreading in the city? Ultimately, we decided it would be irresponsible for us to host a wedding anytime soon. We tentatively chose a second backup date in September.

After Rod and I became engaged last August, I joined Facebook wedding planning groups to get ideas. I couldn't help but be irritated by new members posting about getting married because of the pandemic, either for insurance benefits or because they thought the world was coming to an end.

We had meticulously planned our April 18 wedding day for eight months, and our love story was 21 years in the making. This wedding was very important to us. This all seemed so unfair. September seemed so far away.

One day we looked at each other as if we had the same thought almost simultaneously: Maybe we could get married on our original wedding date and have a larger ceremony later.

Courthouses in the area were closed to the public at that point. Could we even obtain a marriage license? Rod called our county courthouse. They had stopped issuing marriage licenses.

I felt defeated, but I've never been one to take no for an answer. I knew Missouri Gov. Mike Parson had not yet issued a statewide stay-at-home order. Perhaps there was a nearby county that was still issuing marriage licenses? I did some research and found that Buchanan County, about 40 miles to the north of us, had a low-touch process in place that would allow us to get a license.

We weren't comfortable with even the slightest risk of being exposed to the virus so we decided against making the drive. Several days passed. Rod wondered out loud if our county had come up with an online process to resume issuing marriage licenses. I called the next day.

Marriage licenses were now being issued via online application and video conferencing. We filled out the required form the same day and scheduled a video conference with a clerk. During the session, the clerk witnessed our signatures on the application and verified our identities and ages as we held our drivers licenses up to the camera on my phone.

We paid the license fee by credit card and made the 15-minute drive to put the application in a drop box in front of the county courthouse. Two days later, on April 9, our marriage license arrived in the mail.

We wanted to keep our ceremony as simple and low-touch as possible. We had been aggressive about following social distancing recommendations and didn't want to make exceptions now. Our pastor, who had patiently guided us through four months of pre-marital counseling, eagerly agreed to come to our home and lead us through our vows from 6 feet away.

My parents and sisters would watch from their cars parked in the cul-de-sac outside our home. We gave our neighbors a heads-up so they could step outside and watch, too.

In the days leading up to the ceremony, I bought an inexpensive veil from Amazon.com, picked up an artificial floral decoration from the grocery store and stuck kabob sticks in the bottom to make a bouquet I could hold. I gave myself a manicure and pedicure and pinned up my hair – things I hadn't done on my own in decades.

Rod and the boys wore black suits pieced together from what we could find in their closets. John's pants were too long, and Jaden's jacket was too big. Haircuts weren't an option.

Rod and I wanted to maintain as many wedding day traditions as we could – like not seeing each other the day of the ceremony. But who would lace up my corset back wedding dress?

I asked my son, John, to help. And after watching several YouTube tutorials over a couple days, he tried his best. Bless his heart. (Photo below)

The intimate ceremony beneath the flowering dogwood tree in our front yard went off without a hitch. It was Rod and I, John, Jaden and the pastor. John gave me away and Jaden was the ringbearer. After we exchanged vows, Rod and I took a limo ride to our favorite restaurant to pick up dinner. Our limo driver, Greg, donned a mask and gloves and closed the partition between the front seats and passenger area as an extra precaution. He stopped at a couple of parks along the way for us to take photos.

Strangers cheerfully applauded and congratulated us. As Rod and I snapped selfies, several passers-by reached out their hands and offered to take photos of us with our



phones. Mindful of not sharing germs, we declined. One especially kind stranger, Kate, had an awesome idea: She took photos with her phone and texted them to us.

Managers at our restaurant greeted us with champagne, a bottle of red wine and two dinner specials – all on the house. We returned home where we enjoyed Wagyu burgers and homemade kettle chips still dressed in our formal wear. Later, we shared a quick toast with friends via Zoom.

Our wedding day was imperfectly perfect. Instead of dwelling on the things we couldn't do, we took full advantage of the things we could do.



**Kia Breaux holds a package of toilet paper a neighbor gifted to her and Rod Richardson at their wedding. (Photo courtesy Rod Richardson)**

We also have the best neighbors ever. One bought us what will become the most coveted wedding gift for 2020 pandemic couples: a multi-roll package of toilet paper.

The past six weeks have been a period of phenomenal growth and development for me. I now realize what should have been obvious from the beginning: Everything I truly need is right here at home.

## **Your thoughts on Peter Arnett's Fall of Saigon remembrance**

**David Breslauer** ([Email](#)) - Thursday, I retired after 17 years at MerlinOne where I worked with fellow former AP staffers David Tenenbaum, Rande Simpson and Pete Leabo. MerlinOne was my second act after 15 years at the AP as a photographer (first in Dallas and then in Austin) and then as a Photo Technology Advisor for Hal Buell's PhotoStream/LeafDesk team.

I was inspired to write this after reading Peter Arnett's great retelling of the Fall of Saigon in Connecting. It made me realize that today is a bit of a confluence for me. Yes, I retired, but it was also 45 years ago that my father, Col. Irving Breslauer, retired after a long career with the U.S. Air Force. I mention my father because he had been Director of Information for the Seventh Air Force. While in Vietnam, he sent home the Asahi Pentax Spotmatic camera that is responsible for my becoming a photographer. One of the things that came home with him (via medivac) was some sort of drawing or logo (I don't recall) that had farewell wishes from many newsmen and newswomen that he had worked with in Vietnam. Many of the names on that piece of paper that was eventually framed are also named in Arnett's story. Due to the draft ending earlier in 1973, I had not been too concerned with the war in Vietnam. I did not see the signed piece of paper until years later.

My father did not talk much about Vietnam and a year later when I gave him a photo book for his birthday I thought he would appreciate, Larry Burrows' Compassionate Photographer, I saw my father cry for the first time. My father was on active duty in Vietnam in 1971 when Burrows was killed. Again a confluence.

I wished I had taken the time to share about my father years ago when he was still living. He would have liked that I was at least tangentially linked to people that were important to him. While he did not talk often about Vietnam (or his WWII experiences) he did say that while it was difficult being away from home and family, the job he did in Vietnam was one of the most rewarding.

You can certainly see that in Arnett's retelling of the war's end.



**Ford Burkhart ( [Email](#) )** - I remember what Saigon was for the NY Desk during my years: It was a humble clicking, clacking black machine near the World Desk. It was next to the desks. Usually it was quiet, but each time it started clacking, the NY editor's job was to "file the wire," get it "out there." I recall the APW (for AP World Services) desk editors were young friends George Krinsky, Sam Koo, Larry Thorsen, Richard Boudreaux, maybe Tom Kent. The APW editors had to make sure the latest bulletins went out quickly on the World wires, 24 hours a day, since somebody was on deadline somewhere, every minute. The Foreign Desk mainly had the AAA wire and most US newspapers to worry about.

The NY desk's happiness was to be ahead of UPI and Reuters by a minute or two. Someone has written that we beat UPI by 5 minutes for the big Saigon story. I don't recall.

But I do recall one big moment, for me, and I wish someone in Saigon would fill in details and correct errors. It seems one of the Vietnamese staff members who didn't type so well in English entered the AP bureau, sat at the keyboard, just minutes after the surrender was announced, and tried to hunt and peck a rough account of what had happened on the streets in those final hours, from the Viet Cong perspective. We put it out on the AAA wire, typos and all, pretty much as he wrote it, as a historical document. But I can't find a copy of it today. Seems no newspaper carried it. Anybody else recall that tiny footnote to desk work on a momentous day? Or did it vanish amid the flood of history with bylines like Esper, Arnett and the rest?

-0-

**Dan Sewell ( [Email](#) )** – I enjoyed Peter Arnett's remembrances of covering the Fall of Saigon in 1975 when NVA soldiers came into the AP bureau. Peter won a Pulitzer Prize for his courageous Vietnam coverage (the late George Esper had to be in the running). But for younger AP staffers who don't understand when we old-timers discuss The AP as "a family," when I got to Buffalo as my first full-time job, people there talked about when Peter Arnett was sent in to help cover the Blizzard of '77. He saw they were all exhausted and volunteered to cover the night desk, watching for member "carbons" to rewrite, so they could get a break. Peter EFFING Arnett covered Night Desk in Buffalo, NY!

-0-

**Marty Thompson ( [Email](#) )** - Peter Arnett's account of covering the final days in Saigon is a gripping account of journalistic heroes determined to record history as it happened

Thanks to Peter for writing the piece and to Connecting for publishing it.

-0-

**Cecilia White** ([Email](#)) - Bravo to Peter Arnett for his detailed account of the fall of Saigon ("The Boys of Saigon and a Forgotten Woman," 4/30 Connecting). What a terrific, thoroughly engrossing piece. I recall that week in 1975 so vividly, and the faces of Vietnamese refugees I photographed at Camp Pendleton for months after the fall. It's difficult to believe that it has been 45 years.

-0-

**Arnold Zeitlin** ([Email](#)) - Peter's account and the photo of George's story bring back memories, Paul. While they were gallivanting around what became Ho Chi Minh City, I was the news agency pool reporter with my Manila photographer Jess Tan aboard the USS Blue Ridge, the Pacific fleet's command ship with a direct line to the White House (the ship had the direct line, not me). We were off the coast of Vietnam, waiting for evacuees. Helicopters from the mainland were bringing people to the Blue Ridge. After the helicopters settled on the ship's stern landing pad, the aircraft first were pushed overboard. Later, after the air traffic increased, the pilots lifted off after unloading passengers, swung out over the sea and dropped into the water. Crews in lifeboats waited to rescue the pilots as their helicopters sank.

I was sending reams of copy through the ship's communications to a relay station that might have been at Clark air base in the Philippines. I learned much later that all the copy was held up until the Pentagon could announce the end of the evacuation and the fall of Saigon. I still have no idea how much of my copy ever got through. I believe my Manila associate, Gil Santos, may have been at the Manila end of the communication line and handled some of the copy. I was the bureau chief in Manila.

Eventually, the AP evacuees reached the Blue Ridge with a batch of other journo. Ed White and Neal Ulevich reached the ship; Peter and George were left behind. We even received a report via a Japanese news agency that George had been killed.

New York was yelling for a story from the evacuees. I remember Ed White was too zonked out to write anything, so Neal and I constructed a story that we sent out under Neal's byline.

On the trip to the waters off Vietnam and before the evacuation started, I was assigned a cabin to myself aboard the ship. That cabin left me as the ship filled up with evacuees; I was pointed to a hammock somewhere in the vessel's bottom. During that night, a helicopter brought the American ambassador, carrying a folded American flag, to the ship, pretty much ending the evacuation. I spent part of that night at the ship's bow, overcome with the sheer history of the moment, the American retreat from Vietnam. I felt privileged to be a witness.

## Connecting mailbox

## ***Wife of AP's Cleveland correspondent dies of cancer***

**Mary Lou Sneyd Gillispie** , the wife of AP's Cleveland Correspondent Mark Gillispie, died Tuesday and was remembered in [this column](#) by Brent Larkin of cleveland.com:

Most businesses have unsung heroes, people whose prodigious contributions rarely receive the attention they deserve. At work, and in life, Mary Lou Sneyd Gillispie was one of mine.

Mary Lou, who left The Plain Dealer last year, was a page designer and copy editor for 30 years, the mother of Sam and Martha, and wife of Mark, a former Plain Dealer reporter.

Mary Lou died Tuesday of complications from brain cancer. She was 62. Those of us who worked with her will miss her dearly.

-0-

## ***Your first press passes***



Associated Press

P R E N S A



INTERNACIONAL

Sr. RICARDO REIF

Cédula Ps. 315868 Venezue

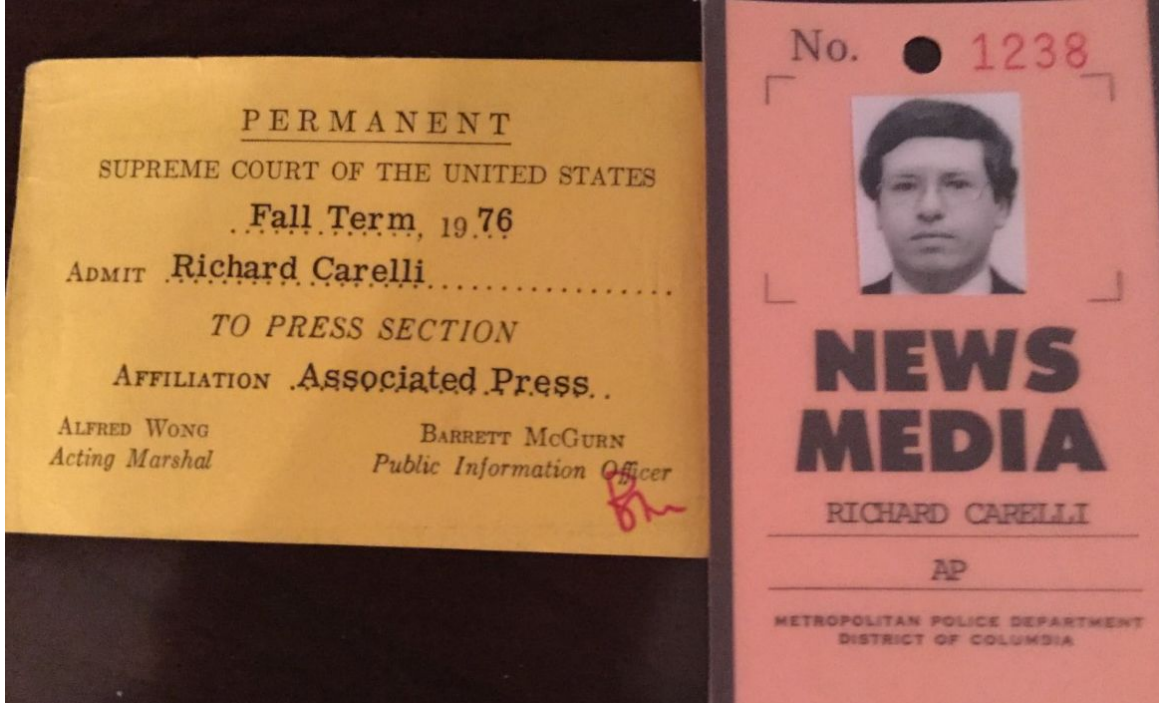
Cargo PERIODISTA

Vence DIC 31 1996

Nº

630

**Ricardo Reif** ([Email](#)) - Greetings from the AP's Spanish News Service. If interested, here is my first AP press pass, in Caracas, Venezuela, issued in 1992.



**Richard Carelli** ([Email](#)) - These are my first two press passes in the Washington bureau.

-0-

## ***No COVID-19, but I dodged a bullet***

**Mike Tharp** ([Email](#)) – A week ago Thursday, I shuffled into the ER of a hospital in Plano, Texas, where I live. The reason: shortness of breath for the last month or so. One of the signs of the coronavirus. I've always been a holdout about seeing doctors, but my primary care physician--after hearing the oxygen levels my physical therapist recorded on a finger pulse oximeter during my last session--told me to go to the ER right away.

The folks in plastic welder's-type masks and disposable gowns took over. Three nose swabs. The first was fairly gentle. The next two seemed to hit the back of my head. No Covid-19.

They put me in a room on a floor with COVID patients and those suspected with the virus. Beaucoup tests including a chest X-ray. Three docs came to visit, including Dr. P, my cardiologist from the building next door. "You don't look or act like a heart patient," he said. I hoped he wasn't damning with faint praise.

Dr. P wasn't happy with an ultrasound test Friday morning. Tech Anna had rubbed gel on my chest, then used a wand to record what the ultrasound waves said about my heart.

Thirty minutes later two burly aides, Dustin and Kyle, rolled my bed from the fifth floor to the first-floor cardiac theater.

It looked like something a giant would assemble from Tinker Toys (look it up, kids). Beige metal arms swung up and down, right and left, attached to what looked like a ship's deck funnel.

I managed to scrooch onto the operating table where, Dustin promised, I'd soon get "the happy juice." It was a mild anesthetic containing Valium. Cool. I'd never tried it.

Anselmo, a onetime soccer midfielder, shaved part of my groin and the underside of my right wrist. Whichever offered the best entry would be the one Dr. P chose. I'm not sure how I got dosed with the happy juice till I felt him holding my wrist with two or three fingers.

Before my surgery, X-rays of my arteries looked like old-time science book photos of the Andromeda Galaxy—tendrils of a trillion stars, trailing clouds of glory.

Except for two places where the connective tissue dwindled to narrow gauge, like angel hair pasta between slabs of lasagna.

Those were the blockages.

One 85%, one 70%. They slowed or stopped oxygenated blood from reaching my heart. That's why for the past month or so, I sometimes felt the same way after running wind sprints in college basketball.

I didn't notice when Dr. P punctured my skin to insert the balloon catheter into my arteries. It came with a dye so X-rays could reveal the blockages. Once he saw them, he inserted two stents—tiny bare-metal bullets with a special coating to hold open the arteries.

My eyes stared at the round ceiling lights, which seemed to go off and on. But I wasn't a reliable witness.

After about 45 minutes it was over. Dr. P showed me the pictures of the pre-angiogram Andromeda arteries. Then they wheeled me back to my room.

I was lucky. One of the ER doctors told me I'd been "living on borrowed time." In the previous weeks, I sometimes panicked, feeling as if two 20-pound mulch bags were pressing on my lungs.

Causes? Genes. Age. Lifestyle. Diet. The first two apply to me, the last two don't.

My experience with cardiovascular disease has let me imagine what seriously ill COVID patients must feel as the virus, in its insensate tribute to Darwinism, literally steals their air and kills them.

I came home last Saturday. Now begins the slow road to recovery. I've been a workout fanatic all my life. Now I have to accept that an 80-yard shamble is now my equivalent to a 10K run.

But it sure as hell beats the alternative.

Meanwhile comma peace.

-0-

## ***Nekesa Mumbi Moody Named Editorial Director at Hollywood Reporter***

### **The Hollywood Reporter**

The Hollywood Reporter has found its new editorial director.

Nekesa Mumbi Moody, who has served as global entertainment and lifestyles editor at the Associated Press since 2012, has been named to the top editorial role at The Hollywood Reporter. Moody will relocate from New York to Los Angeles and starts in the role on June 15.

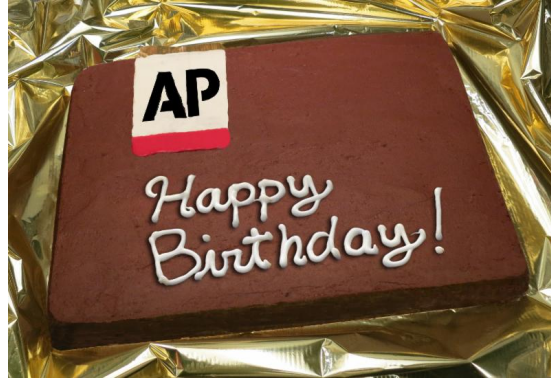


"The Hollywood Reporter has consistently produced some of the most important, informative and revealing stories about the entertainment industry. I'm thrilled to join and look forward to building on the incredible work of its journalists as Hollywood finds itself facing new challenges amid historic change," said Moody.

At the Associated Press, Moody oversaw a team of 40 journalists and directed multiformat entertainment coverage for the wire service, breaking news and producing exclusive content for newspapers, online portals and broadcasters.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Rachel Ambrose.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

Nancy Benac – [nbenac@ap.org](mailto:nbenac@ap.org)

*On Sunday to...*

Betsy Blaney – [ecblaney@gmail.com](mailto:ecblaney@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***Pence staff threatens action against reporter who tweeted about visit to clinic without surgical mask*** (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Vice President Pence's office has threatened to retaliate against a reporter who revealed that Pence's office had told journalists they would need masks for Pence's visit to the Mayo Clinic — a requirement Pence himself did not follow.

Pence's trip to the clinic Tuesday generated criticism after he was photographed without a surgical mask — the only person in the room not wearing one. The Minnesota clinic requires visitors to wear masks as a precaution against spreading the coronavirus.

Pence's wife, Karen Pence, said in an interview with Fox News on Thursday that he was unaware of the mask policy until his visit was over.

But Steve Herman, who covers the White House for Voice of America, suggested that there was more to the story after Karen Pence's interview.

"All of us who traveled with [Pence] were notified by the office of @VP the day before the trip that wearing of masks was required by the @MayoClinic and to prepare accordingly," tweeted Herman, who covered the trip as part of his



rotation as one of the pool reporters, who share information with other reporters in limited-space situations.

The tweet apparently enraged Pence's staff, which told Herman that he had violated the off-the-record terms of a planning memo that had been sent to him and other reporters in advance of Pence's trip.

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

-0-

## ***McClatchy unveils text-to-speech feature to listen to news content*** (The Hill)

**BY JOE CONCHA**

McClatchy is launching a text-to-speech audio feature allowing readers to listen to content produced by its 30 newsrooms in the U.S., making it the first local news media company with a national presence to offer the technology.

The company said in a statement on Tuesday that the development it is part of its "strategy in the audio space, which includes initiatives in smart speakers, audio search and podcasts."

McClatchy said it has seen positive results from trials at The Sacramento Bee in California and The News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C., with each publication showing a 168 percent increase in time spent on their news site, an 89 percent rise in story page views and a 95 percent uptick in visits per user.

Read more [here](#) .

-0-

## ***New York Post Publisher Tells Staff That Business Is 'Drastically Disrupted' by Coronavirus, Announces Layoffs*** (Daily Beast)

**By Maxwell Tani, Media Reporter, and Lachlan Cartwright, Senior Reporter**

The publisher of one of New York's last remaining daily tabloids said its business had been "drastically disrupted" by the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis.

During a series of calls with staffers on Wednesday, New York Post publisher Sean Giancola, announced that the company will take significant cost-cutting measures to keep the publication afloat following the “significant decrease in the advertising demand,” as business closures have shrunk budgets.

People familiar with the matter told The Daily Beast that more than a dozen staffers were laid off. “The paper is dying,” said one staffer who was axed.

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

## Today in History - May 01, 2020



### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 1, the 122nd day of 2020. There are 244 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1992, on the third day of the Los Angeles riots, a visibly shaken Rodney King appeared in public to appeal for calm, pleading, “Can we all get along?”

#### On this date:

In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

In 1915, the RMS Lusitania set sail from New York, headed for Liverpool, England (it was torpedoed and sunk by Germany off the coast of Ireland six days later).

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated. Singer Kate Smith made her debut on CBS Radio on her 24th birthday.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler took his own life, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1963, James W. Whittaker became the first American to conquer Mount Everest as he and Sherpa guide Nawang Gombu reached the summit.

In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas. (They divorced in 1973.) Anastasio Somoza Debayle became president of Nicaragua.

In 1971, the intercity passenger rail service Amtrak went into operation.

In 1982, the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, was opened by President Ronald Reagan.

In 1991, Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers threw his seventh no-hitter at age 44, shutting out the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0. Rickey Henderson of the Oakland A's set a major league record by stealing his 939th base during a game against the New York Yankees.

In 2009, Supreme Court Justice David Souter announced his retirement effective at the end of the court's term in late June. (President Barack Obama chose federal judge Sonia Sotomayor to succeed him.)

In 2011, President Barack Obama announced the death of Osama bin Laden during a U.S. commando operation (because of the time difference, it was early May 2 in Pakistan, where the al-Qaida leader met his end).

Ten years ago: Pakistan-born U.S. citizen Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD') failed in an attempt to set off a homemade bomb in an SUV parked in New York's Times Square. (Shahzad is serving a life prison sentence.) Jockey Calvin Borel steered Super Saver through the mud to win his third Kentucky Derby in four years, beating Lookin At Lucky by 2 1/2 lengths. Actress Helen Wagner, who'd played Nancy Hughes on the CBS soap opera "As the World Turns" for 54 years, died in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 91.

Five years ago: Baltimore's top prosecutor charged six police officers with felonies ranging from assault to murder in the death of Freddie Gray, who'd suffered a spinal injury while riding in a police van. Actress Grace Lee Whitney, who played Captain Kirk's assistant, Yeoman Janice Rand, on the original "Star Trek" TV series, died in Coarsegold, California, at age 85.

One year ago: Tensions between Justice Department leaders and special counsel Robert Mueller's team broke into public view as Attorney General William Barr pushed back at what he called "snitty" complaints by the special counsel over Barr's handling of the report from the Trump-Russia investigation.

Venezuelans heeded a call from opposition leader Juan Guaido to fill the streets around the nation, but they were met with tear gas as security forces failed to fulfill his appeal for a widespread military uprising. A British judge sentenced WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to 50 weeks in prison for skipping bail seven years earlier and taking refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that Olympic gold medalist Caster Semenya and other female runners with unusually high testosterone must take medication to reduce their levels of the male sex hormone in order to compete in certain events.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Judy Collins is 81. Actor Stephen Macht is 78. Singer Rita Coolidge is 75. Pop singer Nick Fortuna (The Buckingham) is 74. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 71. Actor Dann Florek is 69. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 66. Actor Byron Stewart is 64. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 60. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 58. Actor Scott Coffey is 56. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 55. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 54. Country singer Tim McGraw is 53. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 52. Rock musician D'Arcy is 52. Movie director Wes Anderson is 51. Actress Julie Benz is 48. Actor Bailey Chase is 48. Country singer Cory Morrow is 48. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Tina Campbell (Mary Mary) is 46. Actor Darius McCrary is 44. Actor Jamie Dornan is 38. Actress Kerry Bishe is 36. TV personality Abby Huntsman is 34. Actress Lizzy Greene is 17.

**Thought for Today: "Anyone who is satisfied to stand still should not complain when others pass him." [-] Italian proverb.**

## Got a story or photos to share?

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:

- **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?

- **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.

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

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor**, Connecting newsletter

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**