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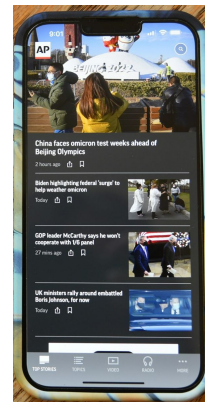
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# Connecting

Dec. 2, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Dec. 2, 2022,

Today's Connecting brings you a profile on the career of **Shawn Marsh**, breaking news supervisor for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio, who has retired after three decades with The Associated Press.

It's written by **Mark Mittelstadt**, who was chief of bureau in Trenton when Shawn was hired. Shawn is one of 65 AP employees who elected to retire under the AP's Special Retirement Option.

Shawn offers two favorite stories:

"It was very soon after becoming broadcast editor that I was doing an urgent series. WCBS was on in the bureau. As I sent the first take of the urgent, the station sounder went off and the anchor was reading my words. Dawned on me, AP sets the agenda in newsrooms around the world and puts words in the mouths of the biggest broadcasters.

"As for a funny story, I was sent to WDC for training at BNC. This coincided with World Cup soccer. The Saudi team was staying at my hotel and the players were notorious for using fire exits to escape to have fun at the nearby bars in Georgetown. After a shift, I hit the wrong floor on the elevator. The door opened on the Saudi floor and clerics were running after the players with switches. Wrong floor, I said as they looked at me."

We also bring you a selection of the top AP photos of 2022 – with a forward by our colleague **Ted Anthony**. Hope you will take time to go through this remarkable display.

And the Poynter story in yesterday's Connecting on the Top 25 journalism-related movies prompted several of your colleagues to chime in with their favorites. I hope you will do the same. You'd get extra points for any movie that has an AP sighting within it.

Finally, it was a sad day in journalism Thursday for journalists at CNN and Gannett. Both news organizations were struck with major layoffs. See stories in Stories of Interest.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## AP says goodbye to an unsung hero: Trenton's Shawn Marsh retires



Shawn Marsh in Trenton bureau in late 1990s

*(Shawn Marsh, breaking news supervisor for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio, was among the 65 AP employees who recently retired under the Special Retirement Option program.)*

[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - The Associated Press said good-bye last week to an unsung hero who helped create a better AP presence in New Jersey.

The charge I received upon being named bureau chief in the Garden State in late 1990 was to build a strong state news operation. The "control bureau" then was in a gritty six-story building across Routes 1 and 9 from Newark International Airport. Many on the bureau staff had been referred after applying to the New York City bureau or various headquarters departments. Spend time in New Jersey and we'll see what opens in New York, they were told. Most were good journalists. But they had little if any knowledge of New Jersey. Their goal was to transfer across the Hudson, and coverage at times reflected that. Member newspapers not only in New Jersey but in New York City and Philadelphia were complaining to headquarters about the quality of the news and photo reports and the responsiveness of the staff.

An issue with the bureau lease allowed AP to consider whether the main New Jersey bureau should be in Newark or elsewhere. Ultimately the decision was made to move to Trenton, where, it was felt, the company could attract journalists with backgrounds and experience in the state and who would produce a news report primarily for New Jersey members. The move also would bolster AP's Statehouse coverage, where three people had been responsible for covering not only state government affairs but breaking news in central New Jersey. Now they could focus on the state's year-round political environment with help as needed from the main bureau across State Street. As newspapers were retrenching and pulling staff out of the heart of New Jersey government in the early 1990s, that was another attractive aspect of the move.

One of the first hires in the new New Jersey control bureau was Shawn Marsh. He started in March 1993 as "broadcast editor."

It was an easy pick.



**Shawn Marsh in Columbia, Mo., last fall.**

A native of New Jersey and graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, Shawn began his career at the age of 14 at a New Jersey cable TV station. "I was the bird puppet for a local program 'Lucky Cable,' a version of Bingo," Shawn recalled. He went on to cover and anchor local news. He later worked at KFRU in Columbia, Mo., various radio and TV stations in the Midwest and New Jersey, and then as news director at Press Broadcasting. Press Broadcasting was owned by the Asbury Park Press, then the second- or third-largest newspaper in the state behind the Star-Ledger of Newark and The Record of Hackensack. Shawn won best newscast multiple years from the New Jersey AP Broadcasters.

As the new AP broadcast editor, Shawn became a fixture of daily news meetings involving the news editor, statehouse correspondent, day desk supervisor, photographer and, when events warranted, correspondents at bureaus in Newark, Atlantic City and Woodbury. His appointment immediately began to attract more news contributions from colleagues in the industry. He revamped an AP audio cut operation at the Statehouse, New Jersey Sound; trained staff how to write broadcast; contributed voice reports to the Broadcast News Center. He also organized the annual NJAP Broadcasters meetings and awards.

As the direction and staffing of AP's bureau operations nationally changed over the years, Shawn became breaking news supervisor, national trending editor and breaking news supervisor for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio. He was part of the team that won awards from the Associated Press Managing Editors for coverage of Superstorm Sandy. He also was active in the New Jersey Broadcast Association where he was a visible AP presence among the state's broadcasters.

Shawn retired last Tuesday after 29 years and nine months with AP. Quite a record of longevity in a state news operation that previously had had its share of turnover as journalists came and went.

He is considering his next chapter. He and his wife, Lorie, an administrative assistant at the Asbury Park Press, live in Manasquan.

Shawn brought a strong New Jersey voice to a state news report that needed it. I thank him for his many contributions to that initiative.

Shawn's email - [smarshnj@optimum.net](mailto:smarshnj@optimum.net)

## AP's top 2022 photos capture a planet bursting at the seams



A civilian wears a Vladimir Putin mask as a spoof, while a Ukrainian soldier stands atop a destroyed Russian tank in Bucha, Ukraine, outside of Kyiv, on April 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)



Wind whips embers from a burning tree during a wildfire near Hemet, Calif., on Sept. 6, 2022. (AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)

### By The Associated Press

Taken together, they can convey the feeling of a world convulsing — 150 Associated Press images from across 2022, showing the fragments that make up our lives and freezing in time the moments that somehow, these days, seem to pass faster than ever.

Here: a man recovering items from a burning shop in Ukraine after a Russia attack. Here: people thronging the residence of the Sri Lankan president after protesters stormed it demanding his resignation. Here: medical workers trying to identify victims of a bridge collapse in India. And here: flames engulfing a chair inside a burning home as wildfires sweep across Mariposa County, Calif.

As history in 2022 unfolded and the world lurched forward — or, it seemed sometimes, in other directions — Associated Press photographers were there to bring back unforgettable images. Through their lenses, across the moments and months, the presence of chaos can seem more encircling than ever.

A year's worth of news images can also be clarifying. To see these photographs is to channel — at least a bit — the jumbled nature of the events that come at us, whether we are participating in them or, more likely, observing them from afar. Thus do 150 individual front-row seats to history and life translate into a message: While the world may surge with disorder, the thrum of daily life in all its beauty continues to unfold in the planet's every corner.

There is grief: Three heart-shaped balloons fly at a memorial site outside the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two teachers were killed

by a gunman.

There is determination: Migrants in a wooden boat float across the Mediterranean sea south of an Italian island, trying to reach their destination.

There is fear: A man looks skyward over his shoulder, an expression of trepidation on his face, as he walks past homes damaged by a rocket attack in Ukraine.

There are glimpses into calamity: Villagers gather in northern Kenya, in an area stricken by climate-induced drought.

There is perseverance: A girl uses a kerosene oil lamp to attend online lessons during a power cut in the Sri Lankan capital.

Don't be blinded by all of the violence and disarray, though, which can drown out other things but perhaps should not. Because here, too, are photos of joy and exuberance and, simply, daily human life.

A skier soaring through the air in Austria, conquering gravity for a fleeting moment. Chris Martin of the band Coldplay, singing toward the sky in Rio de Janeiro. A lone guard marching outside Buckingham Palace days after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. An 8-year-old Afghan girl, her eyes locked with the camera, posing for a photo in her classroom in Kabul, days after a bombing attack at her school. Women taking a selfie at a ski resort in Lesotho.

Finally, allow a moment to consider one of those pauses in humanity's march: a boy drenching himself in a public fountain in a heat wave-stricken Vilnius, Lithuania, reveling in the water and the sun and the simple act of just being. Even in the middle of a year of chaos on an uneasy planet, moments of tranquility manage to peek through.

— By Ted Anthony, AP National Writer

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Doug Pizac.

## Fog of war

**Bob Daugherty** - Edward L. Kennedy was an AP journalist best known for being the first Allied newsman to report the German surrender at the end of World War II, getting the word to the Associated Press in London before the surrender had been officially announced by Supreme Allied Headquarters. This angered Allied commanders who had imposed a 36-hour news embargo before their official surrender announcement. After being forced stateside, Kennedy was fired by the AP for his actions. In 2012, the Associated Press apologized for this, saying "It was handled in the worst possible way."

Somehow the firing of James LaPorta reminds me of Kennedy's story. I believe Kennedy's story deserved the Pulitzer Prize. LaPorta's story is a bit different and I reserve judgment, but it reminds me of Kennedy's story.

# Your thoughts on best journalism movies

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Click [here](#) for the Poynter story in Thursday's Connecting that prompted these comments.

**[Brent Kallestad](#)** - Agree on the ranking of movies in Thursday's "Connecting." While I haven't seen all 25, SPOTLIGHT hands down is the best among the many I have watched.

-0-

**[Larry Margasak](#)** - I loved the latest article, repeated in Connecting, on the 25 best journalism films. Five Star Final (1931), not on anyone's top 25, had one of the great journalism lines.

Editor Edward G. Robinson had been trying to move the paper away from tabloid journalism, but runs into fierce internal opposition. The owner wants to build circulation, and orders a series on a 20-year-old murder case. The woman killed a man who fathered her child and refused to marry her. The jury, apparently swayed by her pregnancy, acquitted her.

The owner: "It seems to me that editors put themselves on a pedestal over their readers."

Robinson: "If I sat on a cigar box, I'd be above our readers."

One of the reporters is Boris Karloff, just weeks away from making that famous monster movie.

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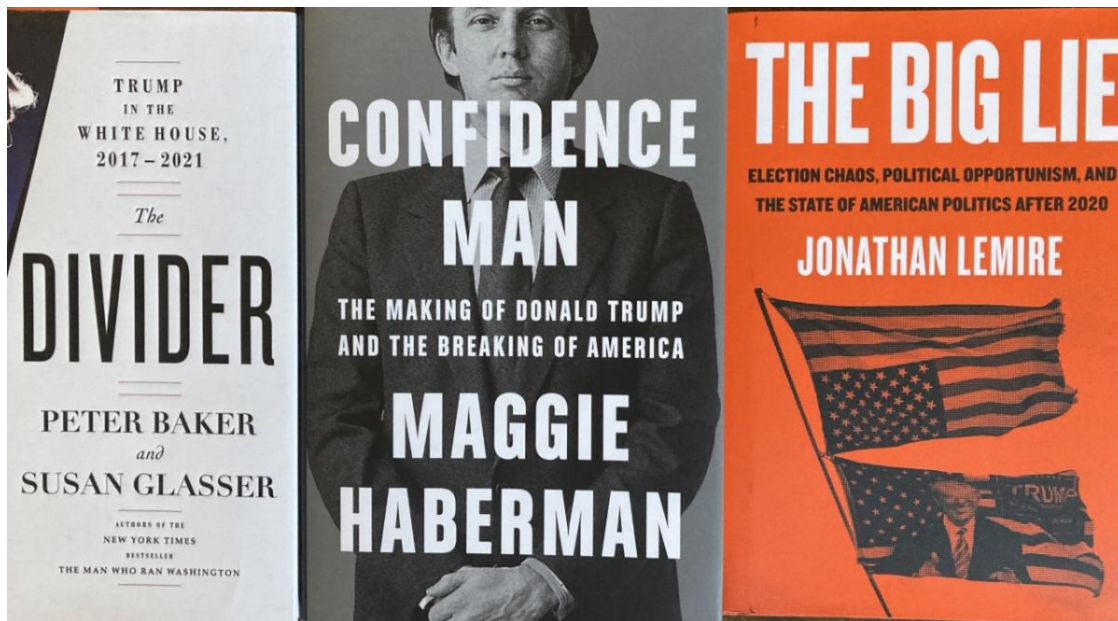
**[Neal Ulevich](#)** - Re Journalism movies, at the age of 76 I've never forgotten -30- starring Jack Webb, a 1959 black and white flick on the agony and ecstasy of putting a daily newspaper to bed. As a youngster I was inspired by it, and remember it to this day.

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**[Jeff Williams](#)** - I liked your list of journalism-related movies. My favorite was Year of Living Dangerously because I went through much of that covering President Sukarno and his escapades in Indonesia 1966-68 for AP. Then I was the AP correspondent in Cambodia when the Khmer Rouge was rising to murderous power, but the movie about that starring Sam Waterston (or something like that) just didn't capture the mood.

## Books on Trump - he's read 12 of them





[Dan Sewell](#) - Looking for a Christmas gift book for a politics fan, or trying to decide which of the mini-library of Donald Trump books to read yourself?

Having just finished my 12th Trump book, the nearly 700 pages of "The Divider," by Peter Baker and Susan Glasser, I have some thoughts:

I only bought the books written by journalists, not by people with axes to grind or to be self-serving. My wife bought Michael Cohen's "Revenge" after finding him interesting on talk shows, but I read only the first chapter before tiring of how he tried to justify serving as Trump's fixer and then lamenting all he has had to suffer since.

"The Divider" is very thorough, with a lot of colorful details and explanation.

"Confidence Man," by Maggie Haberman, is the definitive Donald Trump story. She's been covering him longer than anyone, and has a lot of material about his early New York days that serves as foreshadowing for what kind of person he would be in the White House.

Our former AP colleague Jonathan Lemire's "The Big Lie" is a well-focused, well-organized look at the origins of Trump's plans to claim the election (s - 2016 if he had lost) was "stolen."

"Thank You For Your Servitude" by Mark Leibovich is the most humorous, although in a sad way because it's about how the Washington establishment submitted to Trump.

Bob Woodward's three-book series "Rage," "Fear," and "Peril," is quite a lot, but a good history of Trump's rise, rule and fall.

Trump gave him a lot of access, so much so that Woodward has an audiobook out. He also provided plenty of access for Haberman and for Baker and Glasser, possibly thinking he could influence their narratives.

I liked the other Trump books, but I think the above are the best.

A couple takeaways: Antagonistic relations with the news media are nothing new for presidents, but Trump took it to a new level with his relentless efforts to attack and try to discredit the "Fake News." Not good for any of us.

The other is the challenge of reporting about someone who is such an inveterate liar. The books document how he would make dozens of demonstrably false statements on a near-daily basis.

Many now refer directly to his "lies" in straight news stories, which doesn't seem quite right. Maybe do a Fact Check at the bottom of the story explaining why what he is saying is false?

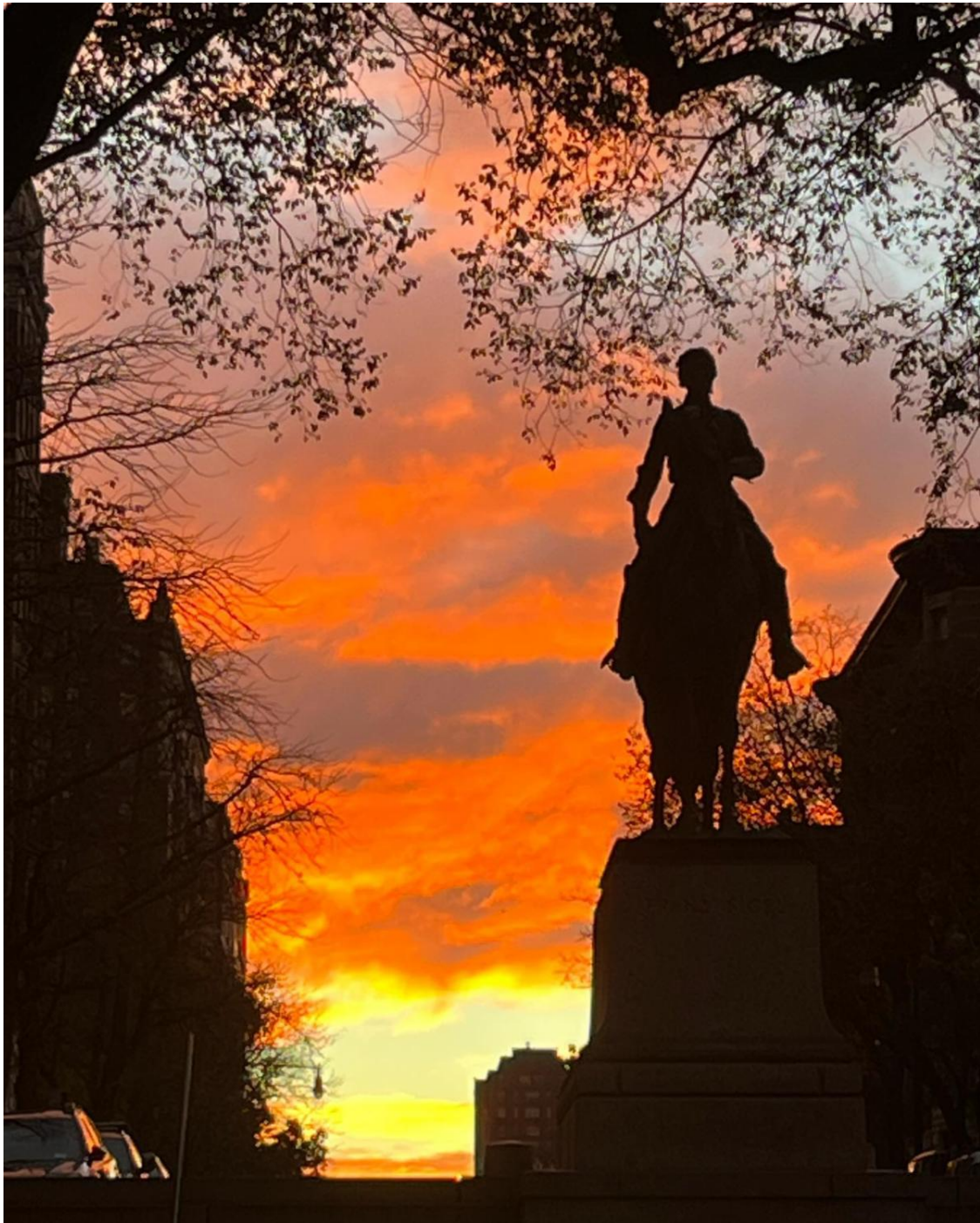
So now I'm going to cleanse my reading palate with the latest Stephen King book. It might not be as scary as some of the Trump books.

## Connecting sky shots



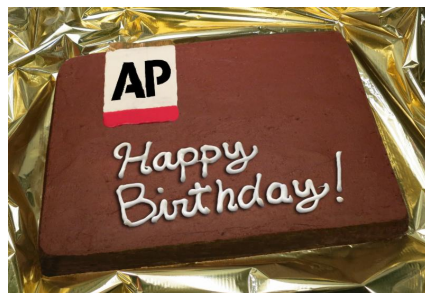


[Peter Leabo](#) - I went to Rogers, TX, for the wedding of the daughter of my best friend, Bob Leland (best friends since the 6th grade), in mid-November. At the reception, the central Texas sky exploded into a palette of sunset colors, which lasted nearly 30 minutes and just kept getting better and richer. As I was shooting the sunset, Bob said from behind me, "Hey, turn around!" I did and found myself in one of those rare, other-side-of-the-camera moments. My photo of the sunset was taken about 10 minutes later.



Marjorie Miller - Morning in Riverside Park, New York City.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jerry Pye](#)

[Nancy Shipley](#)

[John Miller](#)

[Doug Waggoner](#)

[Barbara Worth](#)

*On Saturday to...*

[Merv Hendricks](#)

*On Sunday to.*

[Elaine Hooker](#)

[Bill Winter](#)

## Stories of interest

***CNN's chief outlines changes to network after layoffs, including end of live programming on HLN***

(CNN)

By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business

New York - CNN on Thursday executed sweeping layoffs and implemented a series of changes that impacted multiple divisions across the news organization, including ending live programming on HLN, the company's chief executive, Chris Licht, said in a memo to employees.

"The changes we are making today are necessary and will make us stronger and better positioned to place big bets going forward without fear of failure," Licht wrote in his memo.

The layoffs, which started Wednesday and were expected to impact hundreds of employees, largely had been completed by Thursday afternoon. A CNN spokesperson declined to say how many employees were let go, but the cuts targeted several areas of the company, including some on-air talent and members of management.

The series of changes, which came after Licht conducted a months-long review of CNN's business after taking over in May as the network's head, notably included the ending of live programming on HLN, CNN's longtime sister channel. Licht said that, starting December 6, CNN "will no longer produce live programming for HLN."

HLN will instead simulcast "CNN This Morning" and, Licht said, HLN's crime programming will move under the purview of Kathleen Finch, a programming executive at Warner Bros. Discovery, CNN's parent company.

Read more [here](#).

**AND...**

## ***CNN makes massive staff cuts as news industry prepares for a dark winter*** (Washington Post)

**By Jeremy Barr and Elahe Izadi**

CNN is laying off hundreds of employees in a cost-cutting effort that illuminates the financial challenges facing a wide array of media companies as the economy teeters toward a possible recession.

The cuts began on Wednesday and finished on Thursday, with affected employees notified in person or via Zoom.

"It is incredibly hard to say goodbye to any one member of the CNN team," CNN chief executive Chris Licht wrote in a Wednesday staff memo obtained by The Washington Post, describing the cuts as a "gut punch."

Chris Cillizza, who joined CNN as a politics reporter and editor-at-large in 2017, confirmed to The Post that he has been laid off. Susan Glasser, a CNN global affairs analyst, also said that she was "one of many" part-time commentators affected by the cuts. Rachel Metz, a senior technology writer, said she was "devastated" to have been laid off on Thursday.

Other television networks are planning cost-cutting measures over the winter. NBCUniversal, the parent company of NBC News and MSNBC, will lay off employees in January, according to a Business Insider report, though a news division spokesperson declined to comment Thursday. ABC News parent company Disney is similarly planning cuts under the leadership of Bob Iger, who recently returned as the company's chief executive.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Gannett initiates another round of layoffs, cutting its news division by 6%*** (Poynter)

**By: Angela Fu**

Gannett started another round of layoffs Thursday, just four months after the company terminated hundreds of employees.

The layoffs, which will continue into Friday, are part of Gannett's efforts to cut its news division staff of 3,440 by 6%. That amounts to roughly 200 layoffs.

News division head Henry Faure Walker first warned journalists about impending layoffs on Nov. 17. He wrote in an email to staff that Gannett's news division costs are too high and that the company needed to enter the new year in a "stronger economic position." Gannett is the largest newspaper chain in the country with more than 200 dailies.

Faure Walker's November email mentioned that Gannett was taking "similar actions" in its other divisions. Spokesperson Lark-Marie Anton confirmed Thursday that other divisions are also undergoing reductions, but the majority of individuals impacted during this week's cuts are part of the news organization. She declined to answer questions about which papers and positions have been affected.

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

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## ***Are you a freelancer? Does the government agree?*** (Poynter)

**By: Elizabeth Djinis**

As newsrooms have laid off more and more journalists, those former employees have found themselves with a choice: Do I return to a staff job with some of the same problems, do I leave the profession altogether or do I try something different? Needless to say, some choose the final option, embarking on a path of self-employment with its own pros and cons. (I should note that I am one of them.)

One big problem is that it's hard to find a universal definition of what constitutes a freelancer. Is a freelancer someone who writes one story a month for a publication? What if they write one story a day? Can they be a weekend editor for a legacy magazine, working double-digit hours every week for the same client?

Depending on whom you ask, self-employed status is a blessing or a curse. An employee generally gets employer-sponsored health insurance, sick leave and a defined schedule. A freelancer theoretically sets their own hours, figures their taxes and can work for as many clients as they want. But for some, the freelancer title is

simply a way for news organizations to relegate them to a lower status, foisting on them all the responsibilities of an employee with none of the benefits.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***A Hacked Newsroom Brings a Spyware Maker to U.S. Court*** (The New Yorker)

By **RONAN FARROW**

Ronan Gressier, an American journalist working for the Salvadoran news outlet El Faro, spent the spring of 2021 in his small, dorm-like apartment outside the capital. He was twenty-six, and had recently moved to San Salvador to pursue his long-standing ambition of working for El Faro, one of Central America's foremost news organizations. Breaking a string of stories documenting corruption and malfeasance in the administration of El Salvador's populist President, Nayib Bukele, El Faro has become a leading source of accountability in Central American media—and a source of frustration to Bukele. The Salvadoran leader has tweeted diatribes against journalists, dismissing them as “mercenaries” and “fake news.” “El Faro (and friends) became Web sites with opposition content,” Bukele tweeted in Spanish. “If there was any journalism left there, it's gone.” Gressier worked long hours, subsisting on pupusas and takeout from a nearby taqueria. He talked incessantly to colleagues and sources on his battered, Tiffany-blue-encased iPhone 11. “I don't remember having a particularly good work-life balance,” he told me.

He wrote articles about the arrests of working-class Salvadorans attempting to flee to the U.S. and activists' efforts to strengthen an anti-corruption commission. The work was scrupulous and at times frightening. “On one hand, everything was falling into place,” Gressier recalled. “And on the other, I did feel very strained and under the microscope, and like I was tiptoeing around, and there was a direct sense that I was being surveilled.” One story, which Gressier translated into English, covered the U.S. State Department's decision to place Bukele's chief cabinet minister on a list of corrupt officials. Around the time that story was published in El Faro, Gressier's iPhone 11 was hacked for the first of at least four times, according to analysis conducted by the watchdog group Citizen Lab. His device was infected with Pegasus, spyware developed by the Israeli technology company NSO Group. Pegasus seizes control of a target's phone, providing access to its photos, messages, and other data. It allows the software's operator to turn on the device's camera and microphone, and use it as a listening device. The infections can be effected using “zero click” exploits, which do not require the phone's user to take any action, and can eliminate obvious evidence that the spyware was even installed.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Guatemala's El Periodico newspaper stops print edition*** (AP)

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The prominent Guatemalan investigative newspaper “El Periodico” announced Wednesday that it is stopping its print edition, after the government arrested the paper’s president.

José Rubén Zamora was arrested in July and charged with money laundering and extortion. Zamora has overseen dozens of investigations into corruption during his leadership at El Periodico since the paper was founded in 1996.

All of the paper’s reporters have been let go, and it is not clear how it can continue with digital editions only. The government has withdrawn advertising and has allegedly pressured businesses to do the same.

“It has been 30 years of struggle against corruption and impunity, against governmental abuses and terrorism, in favor of freedom transparency and accountability,” Zamora wrote in a final editorial, datelined from the prison cell where he is being held.

The closure of the print edition came on Guatemala’s “Day of the Journalist.” Guatemala’s chief prosecutor has been criticized by the United States government for blocking corruption investigations and instead pursuing the prosecutors and judges who carried them out.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

**This year has almost gone.  
Not all our friends and  
family made it. Never take  
for granted the people you  
love. Be thankful for  
today, because in one  
moment, your entire life  
could change.**

Oldtimers9.com

## Today in History – Dec. 2, 2022



Today is Friday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2022. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Republican Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin, saying he had “acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute.”

**On this date:**

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered in El Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1993, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar was shot to death by security forces in Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN’).

In 2000, Al Gore sought a recount in South Florida, while George W. Bush flatly asserted, “I’m soon to be the president” and met with GOP congressional leaders.

In 2001, in one of the largest corporate bankruptcies in U.S. history, Enron filed for Chapter 11 protection.

In 2015, a couple loyal to the Islamic State group opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

In 2016, a fire that raced through an illegally converted warehouse in Oakland, California, during a dance party killed 36 people.

In 2020, in a video released on social media, President Donald Trump stood before a White House lectern and delivered a 46-minute diatribe against the election results that produced a win for Democrat Joe Biden, unspooling one misstatement after another to back his baseless claim that he really won. Britain became the first country in the world to authorize a rigorously tested COVID-19 vaccine, giving the go-ahead for emergency use of the vaccine developed by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany’s BioNTech.

Ten years ago: Hundreds of concrete slabs, each weighing more than a ton, fell from the roof of a highway tunnel west of Tokyo, crushing vehicles below and killing nine people. Dustin Hoffman, David Letterman, Led Zeppelin, Chicago bluesman Buddy Guy and ballerina Natalia Makarova received Kennedy Center Honors.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump changed his story on why he fired Michael Flynn as his national security adviser, now suggesting that he knew at the time that Flynn had lied to the FBI about his contacts with Russians. ABC News suspended investigative reporter Brian Ross for four weeks without pay for an erroneous report about Flynn. (Ross had reported that then-candidate Trump had directed Flynn to make contact with the Russians; Ross clarified the report hours later, saying that his source now said Trump had not done so as a candidate, but as president-elect.)

One year ago: Nevada's Supreme Court ruled unanimously that gun manufacturers could not be held responsible for the deaths in the 2017 mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip because a state law shielded them from liability unless the weapon malfunctioned. Jason Meade, the Ohio sheriff's deputy who shot Casey Goodson Jr. in the back five times as the Black man entered his grandmother's house, was charged with murder, as Goodson's family also filed a federal civil rights lawsuit. (Meade has pleaded not guilty.) Major League Baseball plunged into its first work stoppage in a quarter-century when the sport's collective bargaining agreement expired and owners immediately locked out players. (An agreement would end the lockout after 99 days; the start of the season was delayed by about a week.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 91. Actor Cathy Lee Crosby is 78. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 77. Actor Ron Raines is 73. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 72. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 70. Actor Dan Butler is 68. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 68. Actor Dennis Christopher is 67. Actor Steven Bauer is 66. Country singer Joe Henry is 62. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 62. Actor Brendan Coyle is 59. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 54. Actor Suzy Nakamura is 54. Actor Rena Sofer is 54. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 54. Actor Lucy Liu (loo) is 54. U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough is 53. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 52. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Monica Seles is 49. Singer Nelly Furtado is 44. Pop singer Britney Spears is 41. Actor-singer Jana Kramer is 39. Actor Yvonne Orji is 39. Actor Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 39. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 39. Actor Alfred Enoch is 34. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 31.

## 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.**

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