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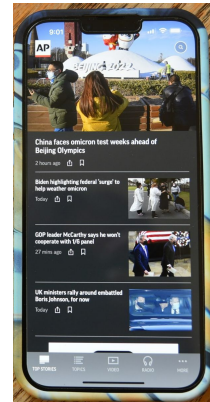
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Connecting

Feb. 16, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Feb. 16, 2023,

More details relating to plans to relaunch the AP News website later this year were announced Wednesday by **Julie Pace**, executive editor and senior vice president.

We lead today's issue with that announcement.

One of the newspaper industry's leading figures, **Jim Boone**, died on Monday, and our colleague **Ed Williams** - retired Auburn University journalism professor - offers his thoughts on his fellow Alabaman.

As publisher of The Tuscaloosa News, Boone's father, Buford Boone, wrote the 1957 Pulitzer-Prize-winning front-page editorial "What a Price for Peace" after Autherine Lucy's 1956 attempt to integrate the University of Alabama was met with mob violence. The editorial is included in this issue along with a photo of Lucy, taken by our colleague **Gene Herrick**, who covered the Civil Rights Movement in the South for the AP.

Have a great day - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Update on AP's Direct to Audience Efforts

AP executive editor Julie Pace, in a note to AP staff on Wednesday:

One of AP's most promising opportunities for growth is the expansion of our direct to audience digital news platforms. We're excited to bring AP's nonpartisan, fact-based journalism directly to more people. There's a gap in the market for this kind of journalism that AP is well-positioned to fill.

Later this year we'll be relaunching our AP News website, giving us a more modern canvas to display our work, engage audiences and grow revenue from advertising, which ultimately helps underpin our ability to do great journalism. Teams across the AP are engaged in this effort and we can't wait for everyone to see what they've been working on in the coming months.

This effort is being overseen by a trio of new leaders who have recently joined the AP:

Saeed Ahmed is AP's first Vice President of News for Digital Platforms. He's an innovative and experienced digital news leader who joins AP after stints at the BBC, NPR and CNN. He'll guide our digital news teams and shape AP's editorial direction on our direct to audience platforms – our website and mobile app, social media accounts and newsletters.

Paul Simoneschi is our new Vice President for Consumer Product and Technology. As a strategic technology leader, Paul has a track record of developing successful digital products at Code and Theory, serving top media clients such as NBC News Digital and CNN. He has also held leadership roles at Hearst, Vimeo, and most recently at digital healthcare startup K Health.

Saeed and Paul will work closely with **Drew Stoneman**, who joined AP last year as Vice President of Consumer Revenue. Drew brings to the AP nearly 20 years of experience in media, with a particular focus on digital monetization and marketing. He spent the last 10 years of his career at Dow Jones, most recently leading WSJ's commercial strategy and sales partnerships.

To be sure, AP's commitment to our members and customers remains at the core of our business, and that won't change as we build out our digital platforms. In fact, we're confident the lessons we learn along the way will help inform the journalism we provide our customers, and guide them as they make their own digital transformations.

We're excited about the opportunity to grow the audience for our nonpartisan, independent journalism and help keep the AP on the path for growth.

Gathering of Communications retirees



AP Comms (all Dallas buro alums) Retiree lunch Wednesday in Allen, Texas, at Grimaldi's. Many had not seen one another for 20-plus years. Good time catching up. From left: Marc Tuno, Mike Lipford, Tri Nguyen, Bill Sorenson, Pete Williams and Nolan Kienitz.

On the death of Jim Boone and the legacy of his father

Ed Williams – *on the death of Jim Boone, story below in Stories of Interest* - As publisher of The Tuscaloosa News, Jim Boone's father, Buford Boone, wrote the 1957 Pulitzer-Prize-winning front-page editorial "[What a Price for Peace](#)" after [Autherine Lucy](#)'s 1956 attempt to integrate the University of Alabama was met with mob violence.

Jim Boone followed in those footsteps, focusing initially on the business side of newspapers, where his father had invested more effort in editorial efforts, said Jerry Carpenter, long-time employee of the newspaper. The senior Boone hired Carpenter as a printer for a dollar a day, good money in 1959. The younger Boone was Carpenter's friend and contemporary.

Jim Boone was a newspaperman extraordinaire, and a class act.

"What a Price for Peace" was written by Buford Boone, editor and publisher of the Tuscaloosa News and advocate of law and order in a time when chaos reigned. On February 7, 1956, after three days of student demonstrations, the University of Alabama suspended Autherine Lucy, the first African American to attempt integration in the history of the school. The next day Boone published his editorial in The Tuscaloosa News, condemning the mob violence that had taken place on campus and the university's response to it.

"What a Price for Peace" thrust Boone into the national spotlight and earned him the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing in 1957. He became the South's moderate voice in the civil rights movement, a role that won him both enemies and supporters.



What a price for peace

Tuscaloosa News Publisher Buford Boone won a Pulitzer Prize in 1957 for the following editorial deploring the violence that accompanied the attempt to enroll Autherine Lucy as the first black student at the University of Alabama.

When mobs start imposing their frenzied will on universities, we have a bad situation.

But that is what has happened at the University of Alabama. And it is a development over which the University of Alabama, the people of this state and the community of Tuscaloosa should be deeply ashamed — and more than a little afraid.

Our government's authority springs from the will of the people. But their wishes, if we are to be guided by democratic processes, must be expressed by ballot at the polls, by action in the legislative halls, and finally by interpretation from the bench. No intelligent expression ever has come from a crazed mob, and it never will.

And make no mistake. There was a mob, in the worst sense, at the University of Alabama yesterday.

Every person who witnessed the events there with comparative detachment speaks of the tragic nearness with which our great University came to being associated with a murder — yes, we said murder.

"If they could have gotten their hands on her, they would have killed her."

with the law, right on up to the United States Supreme Court, on her side.

What does it mean today at the University of Alabama, and here in Tuscaloosa, to have the law on your side?

The answer has to be: Nothing — that is, if a mob disagrees with you and the courts.

As matters now stand, the University administration and trustees have knuckled under to the pressures and desires of a mob. What is to keep the same mob, if uncontrolled again, from taking over in any other field where it decides to impose its wishes? Apparently, nothing.

What is the answer to a mob? We think that is clear. It lies in firm, decisive action. It lies in the use of whatever force is necessary to restrain and subdue anyone who is violating the law.

Not a single university student has been arrested on the campus, and that is no indictment against the men in uniform, but against higher levels which failed to give them clean-cut authority to go along with responsibility.

What has happened here is far more important than whether a Ne-



Autherine Lucy, center, in 1956, after she had begun attending classes at the University of Alabama only to face mobs that attacked her. With her were Arthur Shores, one of her lawyers, and Ruby Hurley, Southeast regional secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. Credit...Gene Herrick/Associated Press

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Read more [here](#).

Nick and Kim in Vietnam



Nick Ut with Kim Phuc together in Qui Nhon, Vietnam.

Pictorial benefits of living off Jersey coast





Brian Horton – One of the benefits of living on Long Beach Island, an 18-mile-long barrier island off the southern New Jersey coast, are the great views of the sunrise and sunset.

With the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Barnegat Bay on the other, there are always vantage spots nearby with an unbroken view year-round. I'm not much of an early riser, so the sunset view is my specialty.

My late wife, Marilyn Dillon, and I started taking in the sunsets several nights a week several years ago.

I've continued the habit since her death in March of 2020. Each night is different. Sometimes it is best just after the sun has set, like Monday's night view (top photo above), and other times it is best when the sky is towering, before the actual sunset, like last night's view.

Each night is different and, unless it is wiped out by clouds or rain, there are no bad views!

It is not uncommon to get hundreds of reactions and comments on Facebook and Instagram from island visitors who enjoy the views year-round when they can't be there themselves.

Stories of interest

Study shows 'striking' number who believe news misinforms (AP)

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Half of Americans in a recent survey indicated they believe national news organizations intend to mislead, misinform or persuade the public to adopt a particular point of view through their reporting.

The survey, released Wednesday by Gallup and the Knight Foundation, goes beyond others that have shown a low level of trust in the media to the startling point where many believe there is an intent to deceive.

Asked whether they agreed with the statement that national news organizations do not intend to mislead, 50% said they disagreed. Only 25% agreed, the study found.

Similarly, 52% disagreed with a statement that disseminators of national news “care about the best interests of their readers, viewers and listeners,” the study found. It said 23% of respondents believed the journalists were acting in the public’s best interests.

“That was pretty striking for us,” said Sarah Fioroni, a consultant for Gallup. The findings showed a depth of distrust and bad feeling that go beyond the foundations and processes of journalism, she said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Kansas City-area native, veteran leader named the new executive editor of The Star (Kansas City Star)

BY **KEVIN HARDY**

Greg Farmer, a longtime leader at The Kansas City Star, will become its next executive editor.

Kristin Roberts, chief content officer for The Star’s parent company, McClatchy, made the announcement Monday after conducting a national search for the newspaper’s next leader. Farmer, 52, has been the interim executive editor since the departure of Mike Fannin, who stepped down in December.

“Greg has the highest ambitions for this newsroom; in his words, the aim is ‘unrivaled excellence,’” Roberts said. “As interim EE (executive editor), he has led this talented team to produce great journalism, to embrace our service approach and to expand the reach of our work through smart engagement and the kind of urgent, fearless reporting that is our hallmark.”

Born and raised in the Kansas City area, Farmer has held numerous leadership roles over the last 26 years at The Star, where he was the managing editor for the last seven years.

Previously, he was an editor at the Louisville Courier-Journal in Kentucky.

Read more [here](#).

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Boone Newsmedia founder and chairman dies (News Herald)

By Staff Reports

TUSCALOOSA, AL – James B. “Jim” Boone Jr., founder and chairman of the board of Boone Newsmedia, Inc. [BNI], died Monday, Feb. 13, at UAB Hospital-Highlands in Birmingham, Alabama, after a brief illness. He was 87.

Boone, a lifelong newspaperman, succeeded his father, Buford Boone, as publisher of The Tuscaloosa [Alabama] News in 1968 and built over the following half-century a community media company that now owns or manages 91 newspapers and related print and digital products in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Included among those newspapers are the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald and Gates County Index.

The company, which had operated as Boone Newspapers, Inc., since its founding, was renamed Boone Newsmedia, Inc., in 2022 to reflect its considerable progress in serving readers and advertisers both digitally and in print.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

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The OCCRP: Behind the scenes of global investigative projects (Editor and Publisher)

Alyssa Choiniere | for Editor & Publisher

You may not know the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) by name, but you have almost certainly heard of its projects.

The OCCRP has been behind the scenes of most global investigative journalism projects for more than a decade, including the Panama Papers, Laundromats, the Pandora Papers, The Daphne Project, Suisse Secrets, the Pegasus Project, and the Russian Asset Tracker. OCCRP is known best in the United States for the reporting that led to former President Donald Trump’s first impeachment.

What started as a pathway to access investigative reporting tools to support investigative journalism centers in eastern Europe blossomed into a global network that promotes investigative journalism globally.

“OCCRP has always been a very practical organization that addressed specific needs that investigative reporting organizations in the field had. It was not designed to build an empire or to build something new. It just became something new because of how we used it,” said OCCRP Co-Founder Drew Sullivan. “We’re a place where organizations can come in, get all the tools and technical help they need and all the partners they need and some of the money they need, and be able to realize a project in this space. OCCRP is really a space for doing investigative reporting.”

Read more [here](#).

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'New York Times' stories on trans youth slammed by writers — including some of its own (NPR)

By MARY YANG

About 200 New York Times contributors have signed an open letter calling out the legacy newspaper for its coverage of transgender issues.

In the letter addressed to the Times' associate managing editor for standards, the contributors say they have "serious concerns about editorial bias in the newspaper's reporting on transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people."

The list of signatories include a few prominent Times journalists, including opinion contributor Roxane Gay, culture reporter J Wortham and former reporter Dave Itzkoff. It counted a far greater number of writers, such as Ed Yong of The Atlantic and Jia Tolentino of The New Yorker, who contribute only occasionally, and others such as actors Lena Dunham and Cynthia Nixon.

In the letter, they say the Times has treated coverage of gender diversity "with an eerily familiar mix of pseudoscience and euphemistic, charged language," and recent reporting has omitted some sources' associations with anti-trans groups.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Feb. 16, 2023



Today is Thursday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2023. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the moniker "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence from the Russian Empire. (Lithuania, which was occupied by the Soviet Union, then Nazi Germany, then the Soviet Union again during World War II, renewed its independence in 1990).

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1960, the nuclear-powered radar picket submarine USS Triton departed New London, Connecticut, on the first submerged circumnavigation by a vessel.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1996, eleven people were killed in a fiery collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland commuter train in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300 trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus seven on the ground.

In 2001, the United States and Britain staged air strikes against radar stations and air defense command centers in Iraq.

In 2009, in Stamford, Connecticut, a 200-pound chimpanzee named Travis went berserk, severely mauling its owner's friend, Charla Nash; Travis was shot dead by police.

In 2011, bookstore chain Borders filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and said it would close nearly a third of its stores. (Borders closed all of its remaining stores in September 2011.)

Ten years ago: Gunmen attacked a camp for a construction company in rural northern Nigeria, killing a guard and kidnapping seven workers from Lebanon, Britain, Greece and Italy; the kidnappers later claimed to have killed the hostages. Billy Hunter was ousted as executive director of the National Basketball Players Association by NBA players. Tony Sheridan, 72, a British singer who performed with the Beatles during their early years in Germany, died in Hamburg.

Five years ago: In an indictment, special counsel Robert Mueller accused 13 Russians of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. presidential election with a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Donald Trump. The FBI said it had received a tip in January that the suspect in the Parkland, Florida school shooting had a "desire to kill" and access to guns, but agents failed to investigate. Former presidential hopeful Mitt Romney officially launched his political comeback attempt, announcing that he was running for a Utah Senate seat. (Romney would be elected in November, handily defeating Democrat Jenny Wilson.)

One year ago: Ukrainians defied pressure from Moscow with a national show of flag-waving unity, while the West warned that it saw no sign of a promised pullback of Russian troops from Ukraine's borders despite Kremlin declarations of a withdrawal. (Russia would invade Ukraine four days later.) The Catholic Church said baptisms performed by a priest who served in Arizona for 16 years are now presumed to be invalid because he used incorrect wording on a subtle but key component of the sacrament.

Today's birthdays: Jazz/pop singer-actor Peggy King is 93. Actor William Katt is 72. Actor LeVar Burton is 66. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 64. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 62. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 58. Actor Sarah Clarke is 52. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 50. Actor Mahershala Ali is 49. Electronic dance music artist Bassnectar is 45. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 41. Actor Chloe Wepper is 37. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follese (Hot Chelle Rae) is 36. Sen. John Ossoff, D-Ga., is 36. Rock musician Danielle Haim is 34. Actor Elizabeth Olsen is 34.

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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