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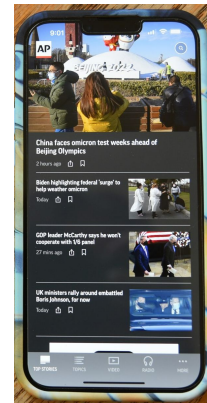
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# Connecting

Jan. 18, 2024

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From left, Marion County Record staff members Phyllis Zorn, Cheri Bentz, Eric Meyer, Deb Gruver and Nicholas Kimball with Kansas Society of Professional Journalists President Molly McMillin.

Colleagues,

My alma mater got it right.

The University of Kansas announced Wednesday that the **Marion County Record** has been selected to receive the 2024 William Allen White Foundation National Citation, marking the first time in the foundation’s history that the award will be presented to an organization rather than an individual.



The family-owned, small-town [Kansas newspaper](#) has long been known for practicing fearless and independent journalism, the [news release](#) said,. Then, in August 2023, city police officers swooped into its newsroom and the home of its owner and publisher with a search warrant to seize computers and cell phones. The raid followed newspaper coverage of a local business owner and perhaps in response to reporting on the police chief himself. The newspaper’s 98-year-old editor emeritus, Joan Meyer, shocked at the police intrusion of her home, died shortly after.

The award, which recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding journalistic services, comes from a vote of the trustees of the William Allen White Foundation, which is named in honor of White. Eric Meyer, editor of the Marion County Record, will accept the award on behalf of the newspaper April 11 at the Kansas Union at the University of Kansas.

“To be mentioned in the same breath as the great journalists who have received this award is an honor beyond comprehension,” Meyer said. “It’s an important motivator to our staff as it continues to struggle to serve as an example for community journalists facing intimidation. This honor – especially being the first news organization selected for the award – has given us all a much needed second wind to continue.”

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

Paul

## Remembering Fay Clark

**Brent Kallestad** - Kathy and I are both still struggling over the loss of such a dear friend.

I first met Fay in the late summer of 1972 at a steakhouse along the Missouri River in Mandan, ND. Gary Clark was correspondent in Bismarck and I was correspondent in Fargo.

Little would I realize then that it was the start of a friendship that lasted over a half century.

We were later together in Minneapolis and Florida, but always in touch during the years our AP assignments took us elsewhere.

Fay was a rock behind Gary’s quick and lasting rise within AP ranks that saw the family move nine times. She was often faced with handling the relocation responsibilities and children’s school schedules in addition to her career as a teacher.

Their three children blossomed fully during the changes and are now wonderful and successful themselves. It would be hard to imagine more attentive or caring parents.

Our hearts go out to Chad, Shannon and Jason and the grandchildren.

Those of us who remain and were fortunate enough to have known Fay well, share in the emptiness we suffer with her passing.

I have long contended the highlight of 40 years with AP was the quality of the folks I was fortunate enough to have worked alongside and getting to know many of their families.

The longest and deepest of those relationships was with Fay and Gary. God bless them and their families and all who were fortunate to have called them friends.

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**Matt Bokor** (Miami news editor, 1982-1986) - In their tribute, Dan and Vickii Sewell mentioned Fay's sense of humor. One example that still makes me chuckle was her telephone answering machine recording: "Hello. You have reached the number you dialed. Please leave a message." A New York exec didn't think it was so funny, so they replaced it with a traditional greeting. (Gary didn't reveal the exec's name with me.)

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**Jim Reindl** - I didn't have as many interactions with Fay as some of my colleagues who actually worked for Gary. I do know she was a strong person, funny in her own right and loyal (we used to get Christmas updates annually). I recall the only time I stayed with the Clarks I awoke early to giggling in the TV room. My investigation revealed Gary watching The Three Stooges so of course I joined the party. I don't recall any specific reaction from Fay but I imagine it was something along the lines of resigned bemusement finding two stooges parked in front of the TV.

## More memories of Le Lieu Browne



**Le Lieu and Mal in a kiss after Mal was honored at an awards ceremony.**

**Tom Herman** - I was struck with sadness when I learned that Le Lieu Browne had died, although I knew from Valerie Komor that Le Lieu was ill and was facing her illness, typically of her, with strength, courage, and grace.

Le Lieu and I (and Mal) got to know each other and became friends during the filming of "Dateline-Saigon"; my friendship with Le Lieu and Mal grew in

subsequent visits with them in New York and Thetford and continued with Le Lieu after Mal's death with regular emails, phone calls, and visits.

I particularly remember with great fondness accompanying Le Lieu and Mal to Amsterdam for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the World Press Photo Awards, of which Mal was the first winner for his chilling "Burning Monk" photograph. The clip of the two of them kissing (above photo) after Mal was honored at the awards ceremony is one of my favorite images in the film.

One afternoon during that visit as the three of us walked around central Amsterdam, Mal reminisced about his trip there 50 years earlier to collect the award and its \$5,000 prize. "I'd never before had \$5,000 at one time in my life," he recalled. "I immediately went out and spent it to buy this engagement ring for Le Lieu and gave it to her as soon as I landed back in Saigon," he said holding up Le Lieu's hand to show the ring to me. A few minutes later, as we were crossing a canal bridge, Mal suddenly stopped and pointed at a building across the water, "And there's the shop where I bought it!"

(Repeated from Wednesday to include photo.)

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[David Andelman](#) - Mal Browne was my predecessor as East European bureau chief of The New York Times. Lieu was, of course, his amazing wife.

As it happens, Mal also preceded me in what was supposed to have been my previous posting--as a New York Times correspondent in Saigon. The problem was, I never got to Saigon (though The Times sent me to total immersion language training in Vietnamese at Berlitz in NY before I headed for Saigon). I never got to Saigon because when I landed in Paris on my way there, Jim Greenfield, The Times's foreign editor, sent me a telex (remember those?) via The Times' Paris bureau, saying I should stop off in Phnom Penh en route and touch base with Syd Schanberg for a week or so since I'd likely have to spell him at some point.

That was January 1975. I never got to Saigon. Spent some months in PP, then via Clark Airbase in the Philippines and Vientiane to Bangkok where I set up The Times bureau and spent the next couple of years til Abe Rosenthal sent me to Belgrade.

Mal and Lieu were just winding up there. I remember all that so vividly, despite those many years distant. The Times bureau in Belgrade, as it happens, was a room located in the AP bureau. Which was fortuitous because the Rome bureau "controlled" Belgrade, which meant Victor Simpson and especially Dennis Redmont (Rome bureau chief) would often swing through there. Dennis and I became fast friends. And want to know more coincidences? Three years later, I left The Times to replace Dennis's father, Bernard Redmont, as Paris correspondent for CBS News!

But Mal left me an amazing legacy--especially all the brilliant interpreters and fixers across Eastern Europe--Teddy in Warsaw (who CBS later lured away), Hela Bartlova in Prague, but especially Marina Komaretsky in Belgrade! And then there was the great

Yugoslav dissident, Milovan Djilas and his wife, Stefi, both great friends of Mal & Lieu and who would become my small son's godparents (the Djilases !)

In short, how could I ever forget either Mal or Lieu !!!

SO sorry to learn of her passing.

## Troubling trend

[Ken Herman](#) - I'm sure I'm not the only Connecting fan who's old enough to remember the days of yore when the business side of a newspaper and the news side of a newspaper were distinct operations in order to maintain editorial independence from economic considerations.

[Today's Exhibit A](#) about the current state of play includes this troubling phrase noting the new GM "will work closely with the executive editor to strengthen local connection points with businesses and brands to drive community-based strategies and engagement effective February 5."

And does anybody care to translate "will work closely with the executive editor to strengthen local connection points with businesses and brands to drive community-based strategies and engagement effective February 5."

About all I can glean from that corporate speak (which should never appear in a newspaper, especially when it's about that newspaper) is that whatever it is will begin Feb. 5.

Such is the plight of newspapers in survival mode.

## Search for 1961 ID of likely AP photographer

09:42



Mal Langsdon is with Dave Burnett and 2 others.



5d · 👤

Hey there. Calling ex UPI and AP photogs. Anyone able to identify the snapper at right walking with Che G and UPI's Charlie McCarty? Is likely to be an AP shooter methinks..



Like



Comment



Send

👍 44

**Dick van Halesma** - Some photojournalist acquaintances on Facebook are trying to identify a likely AP photographer in a historical photo of Ché Guevara.

Based on the handwritten location at in the left margin of this image, this appears to be at the Organization of American States summit which was held in Punta del Este in Uruguay in August of 1961. The photographer in the center with Guevara is confirmed to be UPI's Charlie McCarty. The question is — who is the photographer at the far right?

Please drop me a note if you can help.

## Think Twice Before Starting a Non-Profit

**Jim Hood** - I've noticed several articles in Connecting recently that extol the idea of starting a non-profit news outlet and others (Connecting AP, Jan. 15) that tell of start-ups gone wrong. I've done both and my advice is: think long and hard before making the leap and maybe even talk to a few people who've done start-ups of both varieties – for-profit and non-profit.

The non-profit route sounds virtuous and noble but in my experience, readers don't notice or care and neither do employees, landlords or advertisers. And anyone who thinks it's easy to raise money from grants or individual philanthropists should beware. It's a lengthy and bureaucratic process and one that can take time and energy better spent chasing a story. They're also not normally sustainable; you're not encouraged to come back with hand extended a few months later.

Since we are living in the age of the listicle, here's a list of a few non-profit drawbacks:

- **Difficult and expensive to set up.** You can start an LLC in an hour or two for \$500. Getting a 501(c)(3) set up can take months and cost a few thousand dollars.
- **Caring and feeding of accountants.** Many, perhaps most, accountants won't handle non-profits because of the complexities they present. Those who do, charge a lot. I know non-profit executives who do their own returns but CPAs tell me this is insane and dangerous.
- **You still need money.** Just being a non-profit doesn't make you solvent. You have to cadge funds out of your readers, local bigwigs and, very rarely, large philanthropy funds. Borrowing money isn't easy either. Just as with an LLC, you will have to pledge your personal assets. Repaying yourself if you're ever able to do so while also staying right with the IRS isn't easy.
- **You're taking money from orphans, refugees and animals.** A traditional for-profit outlet makes its money by selling ads and maybe subscriptions, thus competing with other ad outlets. Do you really want readers to pay you instead of St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the Red Cross or the ASPCA?



- **You have a lot of bosses – your supporters.** If you're selling ads, it's a clean transaction. Business A pays for X ads at \$Y per click. If donors take pity on you and drop a little in your cup, you will hear from them forever. It's easy to tell advertisers to get lost if they object to a story or offer some dumb suggestion, but not so easy with philanthropists.
- **You don't build any equity.** I know, it's virtuous to work for nothing. I've done it and I felt noble but also hungry. Founders should always pay themselves last, which usually means not at all. Your only chance of escaping penury in your old age is to build a thriving business. Someone may just come along and buy it from you for \$1 million or so someday. Don't laugh. It happens.

Now, my friends tell me that I'm not a very nice person and don't deal with people very well. This may be true but if so, it didn't stop me from earning an honest living at AP and elsewhere, and being a bit hard-nosed came in handy when nurturing my struggling start-ups. It didn't work as well in my non-profit ventures, where one is expected to kiss the ring and parrot the party line.

One of my heroes is a guy named Tony Stevens. He was a bureau chief and, basically, local manager for The Southern Illinoisan, a small daily newspaper that had been created by the merger of three or four dailies in, you guessed it, southern Illinois, where I was a somewhat lackadaisical student for awhile.

I ran a small weekly in Tony's town and was hanging around his office one day when an angry car dealer came in, complaining that the paper had run a story about the district attorney suing the dealership for consumer fraud. The guy demanded an apology and a retraction and said he would never advertise again unless he got them.

Tony got up, put his cigar down, shoved his golf clubs out of the way and pulled the dealer's contract out of the filing cabinet, ripped it up and threw it down on his desk.

"Fine, don't. Now get the hell out," Tony said. The dealer bumbled out spewing curses. He was back a few weeks later, sales having dried up in the interim. This struck me as the finest thing I had seen so far in my callow existence and taught me more about journalism than any of the somewhat dog-eared courses I sat through.

When I sold one of my ventures – a website that sort of pioneered the practice of publishing consumer reviews while muckraking exposes of odious practices – I was told by the purchaser, an eager young MBA from a San Francisco private equity fund – that everybody he had spoken to during his due diligence hated me.

"You don't know how happy I am to hear that," I assured him.

# Non profits: Allbritton Journalism Institute

**AJI** is a one-of-a-kind institution in Washington: a nonprofit educational organization that is training the political journalists of the future — and has created a new publication to accomplish that goal. Every September, AJI welcomes a cohort of 10 early-career reporters to D.C. for a two-year fellowship. Fellows are paid \$60,000 per year to take classes with some of the country's best journalists and to write for AJI's publication, NOTUS, where they work alongside a staff of established reporters and editors to cover politics, policy and government.

AJI is a nonprofit organization backed by a \$20 million grant from Robert Allbritton, the founding publisher of Politico. The institute is staffed by a group of veteran journalists who are committed to improving journalism and democracy. We enrolled our first class of fellows in September 2023 and will launch our publication, NOTUS, in January 2024.

We created the AJI Reporting Fellowship because...

\*Trust in the media is near an all-time low

\*Americans' news consumption has become as divided as our politics. We rely on news outlets and social media feeds that reinforce our own opinions. And journalists are too stuck in legacy thinking to get the news to the people who need it most.

\*Our newsrooms are too monolithic

\*You can't report fairly on people you don't understand. But we still have too few reporters with different backgrounds and beliefs.

\*It's still too hard to break in

\*Reporters used to get on-the-job training in local news, but those opportunities are disappearing fast. Graduate journalism programs don't offer that practical experience — and they can be prohibitively expensive.

## AJI's Curriculum

The program begins with a four-week immersion course in the practical application of journalism skills, from ethics and newsgathering to writing and distribution. After four weeks, fellows balance ongoing classwork with hands-on experience: reporting and producing stories for NOTUS while honing their skills through seminars, weekly group critiques and staff mentorship. The formal program runs for 18 months, after which fellows are invited to stay for an additional six months as we support them in seeking their next opportunity. By the end of the program, graduates will have the background necessary to cover the inner workings of Washington — and will be ready to take on reporting jobs at the country's best outlets.

## Who is Eligible?

We are looking for applicants of all backgrounds who want to work in journalism; who have a keen interest in policy and politics; and who believe journalism can and should play a critical role in our democracy. Some fellows may be just out of school; others may be looking for a career transition; still others may be working journalists who are early in their careers. A passion for journalism is a prerequisite, but actual journalistic experience is not.

(Shared by Cynthia Denham)

## Stories of interest

### *CNN's new chief says the network needs to recapture the "swagger and innovation" of its youth*

(AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN's new chief executive says the company needs to recapture the "swagger and innovation" of its early days — and that, he says, increasingly means embracing a future outside of television.

Mark Thompson, appointed CNN's chief executive last fall after stints at The New York Times and BBC, outlined a strategy to his staff Wednesday that included a corporate restructuring but few external specifics on how that transformation will take place.

Once a "scrappy outsider," CNN has been slow to respond to the reality of its primary television business shrinking, Thompson said in his memo. He was not made available for an on-the-record interview with The Associated Press.

"There's currently too little innovation and risk-taking," Thompson said in the memo. "Like so many other news players with a broadcast heritage, CNN's linear services and even its website can sometimes have an old-fashioned and unadventurous feel as if the world has changed and they haven't."

CNN needs to follow the audience, and smartphones are where most people under 40 first turn for news, he said.

To change the thinking, Thompson said the current national, international and digital teams need to be combined into one unit, under the leadership of Virginia Moseley as executive editor. Mike McCarthy will become CNN's managing editor.

Read more [here](#).

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### *How the demise of The Union-Tribune's Spanish-language edition impacts San Diego Latinos* (KPBS)

**By Amita Sharma / Investigative Reporter**

Latino journalists and news industry observers say Alden Global Capital's quiet cancellation of The San Diego Union-Tribune's Spanish-language weekly is a blow to the region's second largest population at a critical time.

They argue the end of The Union-Tribune en Español comes in an era when more Spanish-language media is needed, not less, as the nation gears up for local, state and federal elections this year.

"It's especially important during an election year for a publication to have information in both languages," said Hiram Soto, former staffer and columnist of the U-T en Español when it was called Enlace. "(The closure) generates a gap in information that leads to less informed voters and leads to less engaged voters. It's just really a slap in the face of the community."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dan Berger.

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## ***New Baltimore Sun owner insults staff in meeting, says paper should mimic Fox45*** (Baltimore Banner)

**Cody Boteler, Lee O. Sanderlin and Giacomo Bologna**

In a tense, three-hour meeting with staff Tuesday afternoon, new Baltimore Sun owner David Smith told employees he has only read the paper four times in the past few months, insulted the quality of their journalism and encouraged them to emulate a TV station owned by his broadcasting company.

Smith, whose acquisition of the paper from the investment firm Alden Global Capital was announced publicly Monday evening, told staff he had not read newspapers for decades, according to several people who attended the meeting but were not authorized to speak publicly.

While the terms of The Sun sale are private, Smith told staff he paid "nine figures" — meaning at least \$100 million — for the paper, along with several community publications, including the Capital Gazette in Annapolis.

That price would be a significant premium at a time when local newspapers are struggling to make a profit because of declining print advertising and circulation. In 2021, Maryland businessman Stewart Bainum had entered a nonbinding agreement to purchase The Sun for \$65 million. That deal fell through and Bainum went on to launch The Baltimore Banner as a nonprofit.

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - Jan. 18, 2024



Today is Thursday, Jan. 18, the 18th day of 2024. There are 348 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 18, 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the "Sandwich Islands."

## On this date:

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane in for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

In 1913, entertainer Danny Kaye was born David Daniel Kaminsky in New York City.

In 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion.

In 1975, the situation comedy "The Jeffersons," a spin-off from "All in the Family," premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1990, a jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 child molestation charges.

In 1991, financially strapped Eastern Airlines shut down after more than six decades in business.

In 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

In 2005, the world's largest commercial jet, the Airbus A380 "superjumbo" capable of flying up to 800 passengers, was unveiled in Toulouse, France.

In 2012, President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL project, a Canadian company's plan to build a 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries.

In 2013, former Democratic New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was indicted on charges that he'd used his office for personal gain, accepting payoffs, free trips and gratuities from contractors while the city was struggling to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. (Nagin was later convicted and released from prison in 2020.)

In 2019, Jason Van Dyke, the white Chicago police officer who gunned down Black teenager Laquan McDonald in 2014, was sentenced to nearly seven years in prison.

In 2020, ahead of opening statements in the first Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, House prosecutors wrote that Trump had "used his official powers to pressure a foreign government to interfere in a United States election for his personal political gain," while Trump's legal team denounced what it called a "brazen and unlawful attempt to overturn the results of the 2016 election."

In 2023, a helicopter carrying Ukraine's interior minister crashed into a kindergarten in a foggy residential suburb of Kyiv, killing him and about a dozen other people, including a child on the ground.

Today's birthdays: Movie director John Boorman is 91. Former Sen. Paul Kirk, D-Mass., is 86. Singer-songwriter Bobby Goldsboro is 83. Comedian-singer-musician Brett Hudson is 71. Actor-director Kevin Costner is 69. Country singer-actor Mark Collie is 68. Actor Mark Rylance is 64. Actor Alison Arngrim (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") is 62. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is 61. Actor Jane Horrocks is 60. Comedian Dave Attell (uh-TEHL') is 59. Actor Jesse L. Martin is 55. Rapper DJ Quik is 54. Rock singer Jonathan Davis (Korn) is 53. Former NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous is 51. Singer Christian Burns (BBMak) is 50. Actor Derek Richardson is 48. Actor Jason Segel is 44. Actor Samantha Mumba is 41. Country singer Kristy Lee Cook (TV: "American Idol") is 40. Actor Devin Kelley is 38. Actor Ashleigh Murray (TV: "Riverdale") is 36. Tennis player Angelique Kerber is 36. Actor Mateus Ward is 25.

## 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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