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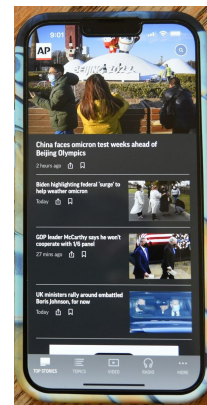
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Connecting

Jan. 23, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Jan. 23, 2024,

For those of us in the path of the ice on Monday, I hope you stayed vertical. The weather prompted our colleague **Gary Sosniecki** to recall a weather experience shared with his wife **Helen** when they were Illinois newspaper editors. Our lead story.

Got a favorite weather- and news-related story to share. Please send it along.

Julie Pace talk online: Some of you were able to tune in live when AP Executive Editor Julie Pace spoke in December at Northern Kentucky University, reflecting on the challenges facing the news media today – from general distrust to the emergence of A.I. Her talk is now available online: [“Journalism in the 21st Century: Rising to the Challenge.”](#) Her talk was the latest in a 15-year partnership with NKU and AP to feature journalists talking about their craft and how they go about. You can watch past lectures by clicking on NKU’s [video archive](#). (Shared by Mark Neikirk)

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

Paul

Neither snow nor rain nor sleet could delay these newspapers publishing



Gary Sosniecki – With so many businesses and agencies closing Monday because of the treacherous roads, Helen and I were reminded of how daily newspapers publish every day regardless of the weather.

Above is our 1975 Pacer, resembling a Hostess Snowball, following a 1978 blizzard in southern Illinois. Helen and I worked for competing daily newspapers — Helen for the Marion Daily Republican, me in the Carbondale main office of the Southern Illinoisan. Both were afternoon papers.

We lived in Marion. Helen remembers that we walked together eight blocks through the snow to a street that had been cleared. Someone from her newspaper picked us up in a truck and delivered us to downtown Marion. Helen went to her office; I went to the Southern Illinoisan's Marion bureau. Fortunately, I had a key.

Our bureau chief couldn't make it to town, so I did the police checks and sent info to Carbondale via teletype. Then, as sports editor, I phoned the sports department in Carbondale and instructed a brand-new sports reporter how to produce that day's sports section.

The next day, the Carbondale office sent a truck to pick me up. By the third day, we had dug out the Pacer, and I probably had put chains on it so I could drive the 16 miles to Carbondale. And, yep, neither paper missed publishing an edition.

Ouray County Plaindealer

[Jim Spehar](#) - Monday's Connecting piece on the travails of the Ouray County Plaindealer accurately captured the competence and convictions of publishers Mike Wiggins and Erin McIntyre. I've admired the couple and their journalism since their days at the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, where I write a Sunday editorial page column. They're exactly the type of people to sustain our faith in small-town journalism and the perfect folks to see this through as "the rest of the story" unfolds. The \$2,000 in contributions since their racks were emptied indicates their community must agree.

Library remembrances

[Norm Abelson](#) - Great piece on the library (in Monday's Connecting). Fantastic research. Great example of why we need local news outlets.

A few library remembrances:

About the first thing my mom did after I learned how to write my name, was to take me to the Malden Public Library to sign up for a card. It soon became my go-to place.

My grandfather Aaron's gifts to me as a young kid were always books – many adventures like “Kidnapped,” and Twain volumes. In later years, he collected all of his own books (about two thousand) and opened a free circulating library at his home.

My late wife, Dina, the greatest reader in my memory, established a library at an elementary school in Concord, N.H., and remained its librarian for 27 years. After her death, the library was named “The Dina Abelson Media Center” in her honor.

Drone shot of Zhuhai Opera House



Zhang Wanli, the wife of retired AP newsman Patrick Casey, used her DJI Air drone to recently photograph the \$158 million Zhuhai Opera House located on an island across from Zhuhai (population 2.4 million people) in China's southern Guangdong Province. The opera house, shaped like two scallops, was completed in 2017 and features a total building area of 59,000 square meters, including a 1,550-seat opera house, a 550-seat multi-function theater and a 350-seat outdoor theater.

Teaching an old photo new tricks



A dog romps through heavy snow. (AP Photo/William J. Kole)

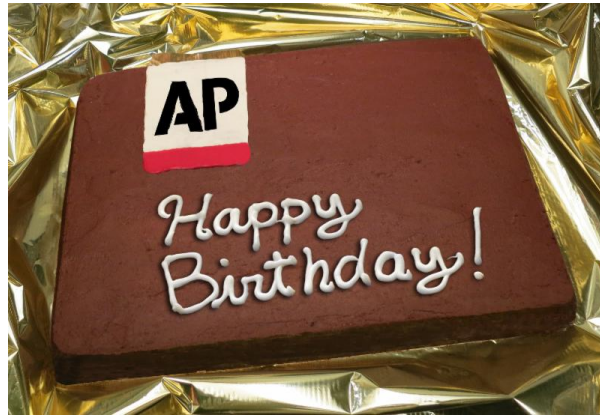
No word on whether Abby, the 10-year-old dog of Bill and Terry Kole, will be looking for royalties from the use of her picture taken eight years ago when they lived in Cape Cod. Biscuits, maybe?

But her owners were amused when this photo of her romping in the snow appeared Monday on an Iowa news site, presumably from AP Photo Archives. Her photo was used with a story from WHBF – OurQuadCities.com headlined, [“Now you can license pets online in Muscatine.”](#)

The original caption:

A dog romps through heavy snow in Bourne, Mass., on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015. A storm brought a new round of wind-whipped snow to New England on Sunday, threatening white-out conditions in coastal areas and forcing people to contend with a fourth winter onslaught in less than a month. (AP Photo/William J. Kole)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Lisa Greathouse](#)

[Lisa Pane](#)

Stories of interest

First Black Women to Cover the White House Are Honored in the Briefing Room (New York Times)

By Erica L. Green
Reporting from the White House briefing room

On her first day covering the White House, Alice Dunnigan had every reason to stand out.

She was the first Black woman to be credentialed to join the White House press corps, and she had even arrived an hour early to cover her first news conference with President Harry S. Truman. But as she sat in the lobby of the West Wing, she may as well have been invisible.

"I sat there alone and apparently unnoticed, taking in all the activity while glancing now and then at my newspaper," she wrote in her autobiography, "Alone Atop the Hill." "If anyone wondered who I was or why I was there, they made no effort to find out."

More than 75 years later, Ms. Dunnigan's memory is being honored in the same setting where her colleagues once ignored her.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

-0-

Tensions Erupt at Los Angeles Times as Owner Weighs Deep Cuts (New York Times)

By Benjamin Mullin and Katie Robertson

Around twilight on Thursday, Los Angeles Times journalists gathered at Flora, a rooftop bar not far from the paper's headquarters, to toast their departing editor, Kevin Merida.

As reporters and editors sipped cocktails under a darkening sky, the talk was focused on why Mr. Merida, the paper's editor for nearly three years, had decided to suddenly leave — and about the prospect of deep layoffs discussed in emergency meetings earlier that day, according to four attendees.

In the days since, internal negotiations between the company and the employee union have included talk of about 100 job cuts, or about 20 percent of the newsroom, according to two of the people, who also have knowledge about the discussions. It has put journalists at The Times at odds with their owner, the biotechnology billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong. Those relations reached a nadir on Friday when employees walked off the job, in the newsroom's first union-organized work stoppage in the 142-year history of the newspaper.

The tensions escalated even further on Monday, after several of the state's congressional representatives sent Dr. Soon-Shiong a letter raising concerns about the scope of the cuts and employees received a note informing them that two other senior editors had departed.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

AND...

US Representatives weigh in on Los Angeles Times negotiations (Politico)

By CHRISTINE ZHU

Members of the California congressional delegation penned a letter to Los Angeles Times leadership on Monday expressing concerns about impending newsroom cuts.

The letter encouraged collaboration to reach an agreement between the publication and its union after more than 300 members of the Los Angeles Times Guild walked out across multiple cities on Friday.

It was the first newsroom work stoppage since the publication began printing in 1881, according to the Guild, which represents about 400 editorial employees at the Times.

The letter, addressed to Times owner Patrick Soon-Shiong and Media Guild of the West President Matt Pearce, stressed the value of news outlets and preserving democracy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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AI is destabilizing 'the concept of truth itself' in 2024 election (Washington Post)

By Pranshu Verma and Gerrit De Vynck

Experts in artificial intelligence have long warned that AI-generated content could muddy the waters of perceived reality. Weeks into a pivotal election year, AI confusion is on the rise.

Politicians around the globe have been swatting away potentially damning pieces of evidence — grainy video footage of hotel trysts, voice recordings criticizing political opponents — by dismissing them as AI-generated fakes. At the same time, AI deepfakes are being used to spread misinformation.

On Monday, the New Hampshire Justice Department said it was investigating robocalls featuring what appeared to be an AI-generated voice that sounded like President Biden telling voters to skip the Tuesday primary — the first notable use of AI for voter suppression this campaign cycle.

Last month, former president Donald Trump dismissed an ad on Fox News featuring video of his well-documented public gaffes — including his struggle to pronounce the word “anonymous” in Montana and his visit to the California town of “Pleasure,” a.k.a. Paradise, both in 2018 — claiming the footage was generated by AI.

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

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In New Hampshire, Trump Isn't the Only Candidate Keeping Reporters Out (Mother Jones)

ABBY VESOULIS

Former President Donald Trump looked out into the red-and-blue-clad crowd at his packed rally in Manchester, New Hampshire Saturday night and pointed toward the back of the arena, where credentialed media were required to sit.

"Biden and his radical thugs have weaponized the DOJ, and his protectors, and the fake news media. Right back there. Look at all of them. Whoa," Trump said as he gestured to the press. "Fake news. The fake news."

For Trump, the media-bashing was a familiar refrain. But what was new was the extent to which his competitors in the Republican field have adopted his anti-media rhetoric and tactics. During the 2016 primaries, Trump's campaign was notorious for barring certain news outlets from attending his events. And I certainly wasn't shocked when his 2024 campaign rejected my requests for media credentials at his New Hampshire events. (In Manchester, instead of joining my media colleagues in the press section, I waited for two hours in the 16-degree weather in the general admission line, where vendors were hawking \$15 t-shirts depicting Trump peeing on a CNN logo.)

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

Today in History - Jan. 23, 2024



Today is Tuesday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2024. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 23, 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to

endorse it.

On this date:

In 1368, China's Ming dynasty, which lasted nearly three centuries, began as Zhu Yuanzhang (zhoo whan-zhahng) was formally acclaimed emperor, following the collapse of the Yuan dynasty.

In 1789, Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War, and would be formally signed four days later in Paris.

In 1977, the TV mini-series "Roots," based on the Alex Haley novel, began airing on ABC.

In 1998, fighting scandal allegations involving Monica Lewinsky, President Clinton assured his Cabinet during a meeting that he was innocent and urged them to concentrate on their jobs.

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, a U.S.-born Taliban fighter, was returned to the United States to face criminal charges that he'd conspired to kill fellow Americans. (Lindh was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to providing support for the Taliban; he was released in May 2019 after serving more than 17 years.)

In 2012, in a rare defeat for law enforcement, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed to bar police from installing GPS technology to track suspects without first getting a judge's approval.

In 2018, LeBron James, at 33, became the youngest player in NBA history with 30,000 career points.

In 2020, Chinese state media said the city of Wuhan would be shutting down outbound flights and trains, trying to halt the spread of a new virus that had sickened hundreds of people and killed at least 17. The World Health Organization said the viral illness in China was not yet a global health emergency.

In 2021, Hal Holbrook, the actor who toured the world for more than 50 years as Mark Twain in a one-man show and appeared as "Deep Throat" in "All the President's

Men," died at 95, and Larry King, known for decades of broadcast interviews with world leaders, movie stars and ordinary Joes, died at 87.

Today's birthdays: Actor Chita Rivera is 91. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 90. Jazz musician Gary Burton is 81. Actor Gil Gerard is 81. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 77. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 74. Rock musician Bill Cunningham (The Box Tops) is 74. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 71. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (vee-yah-ry-GOH'-sah) is 71. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 67. Singer Anita Baker is 66. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 65. Actor Peter Mackenzie is 63. Actor Boris McGiver is 62. Actor Gail O'Grady is 61. Actor Mariska Hargitay is 60. R&B singer Marc Nelson is 53. CBS Evening News anchor Norah O'Donnell is 50. Actor Tiffani Thiessen is 50. Rock musician Nick Harmer (Death Cab for Cutie) is 49. Actor Lindsey Kraft is 44. Singer-actor Rachel Crow is 26.

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.

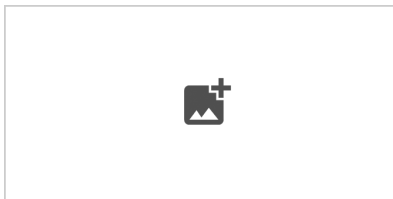
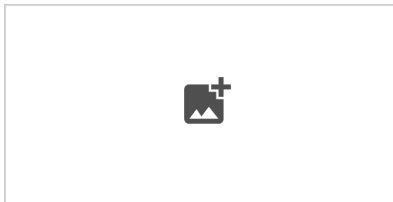
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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