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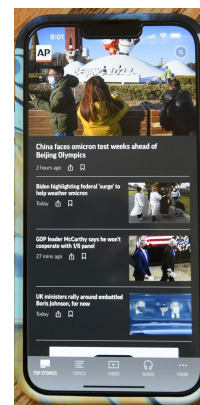
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Connecting

Jan. 25, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Jan. 25, 2024,

Today's issue brings you:

A Q-and-A on a newly released book about AP operations in Germany during World War II.

Naming of our newly retired colleague **Jim Baltzelle** to the board of the Miami Fourth Estate.

Honoring of the late Nashville entertainment writer Joe Edwards.

And more...

AP Oscar nomination: Notes from readers on word of the Best Documentary Oscar nomination for "20 Days in Mariupol," Mstyslav Chernov's harrowing chronicle of the besieged Ukrainian city and the international journalists who remained there after

Russia's invasion. **Gloria Helena Ray** – “Today, very proud for AP and Mariupol.” **Ann Blackman**: “Mike and I just watched 20 Days. It makes you so damn proud of the AP and the dedication of staff around the world. It's raw footage and hard to watch and clearly excruciating to film.”

Boccardi on Tomlin on Osgood: from [Lou Boccardi](#) – “I have to ask Connecting for a correction to Dave Tomlin's piece yesterday about Charles Osgood's appearance at our anniversary dinner. I did NOT ask Dave to ‘throw something together’. Dave never ‘threw anything together’. He was a craftsman at work. Still is.”

Thanks! - And, much appreciation from Ye Olde Connecting Editor for the contributions that have arrived in the mail this week to help finance costs of this newsletter. Thank you very much!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

Q&A: Ann Cooper on the AP in Nazi Germany and the politics of war reporting



A file photo shows Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia, Lieutenant of the Reserve in the German Air Force, wearing a Nazi uniform, taking Louis P. Lochner, chief of the Berlin bureau of the Associated Press and 1939 Pulitzer Prize winner, in his car out to the airport. (AP Photo/File)

By YONA TR GOLDING
Columbia Journalism Review

In 2016, seventy-one years after the end of World War II, Harriet Scharnberg, a German historian, published a report alleging a shocking wartime collaboration: during Adolf Hitler's rise to power, she wrote, the Berlin bureau of the Associated Press not only bowed to Nazi censorship—agreeing to conditions including the omission of material perceived as “calculated to weaken the strength of the Reich abroad or at home”—but itself collaborated with the Nazi propaganda ministry. One of four photographers employed by the AP in Berlin, Franz Roth, worked for a propaganda division of the SS, Scharnberg found. And photos from the AP's archives were used in anti-Semitic literature, including a widespread pamphlet called *Der Untermensch* (“The Subhuman”).

Until Scharnberg's report, these details had largely been forgotten. “Everybody at the AP kind of looked around at each other and said, Did you know about this?” Ann Cooper, coauthor of the forthcoming book *Newshawks in Berlin: The Associated Press and Nazi Germany*, told me recently. “And they didn't.” (At the time, the agency denied ever having “collaborated” with the Nazis.) Cooper's late husband, Larry Heinzerling, and Randy Herschaft, both veteran AP journalists, were tasked with investigating Scharnberg's report; in the process, they discovered extensive records detailing the AP's wartime operations, and ultimately decided to write a book about them. After Heinzerling died in 2021, Cooper—herself a journalist, who served as NPR's Moscow bureau chief during the last years of the Cold War and who taught at Columbia Journalism School—worked with Herschaft to complete the manuscript. It will be published by Columbia University Press in early March.

Newshawks in Berlin delves into choices the AP made in reporting from Nazi Germany, not least the decision to stay inside the country (until the US entered the war) despite strict censorship. Today, foreign journalists have greater power to report remotely on dictatorships and war zones thanks to a preponderance of digital evidence—though this type of coverage remains highly fraught. Last week, I spoke with Cooper about war coverage then and now, the challenges faced by journalists under repressive regimes, and why field reporting is still irreplaceable. Our conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lee Siegel, Linda Kramer Jennings, Paul Colford.

Jim Baltzelle, Florida journalism leader, joins Miami Fourth Estate board

Key Biscayne Independent

Jim Baltzelle, a veteran journalist and press freedom advocate, joined the board of directors of Miami Fourth Estate earlier this month.

Baltzelle recently retired from The Associated Press after nearly 20 years, more than a decade of which was spent in Miami as Florida bureau chief and Caribbean business manager.

“We are honored to have someone with Jim’s broad experience join our board as we expand hyper-local news coverage into other Miami-Dade municipalities. His deep knowledge of both the editorial and business side of newsrooms will be a great asset to the organization and our readers,” said Tony Winton, the president of Miami Fourth Estate.

Baltzelle came to AP in 2004 as an assistant bureau chief in Dallas where he helped oversee coverage of Hurricane Katrina. He was appointed interim bureau chief for Louisiana and Mississippi in the aftermath – then was named bureau chief in Miami.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Tony Winton.

The Late Joe Edwards recognized by Nashville entertainment weekly

[Adam Yeomans](#) – The AP staff in Nashville was pleasantly surprised to see the late Joe Edwards recognized In Memoriam in a recent edition of the Nashville Scene, the city’s well-read news and entertainment weekly. The Scene’s listing commemorated “some of the irreplaceable Nashville figures we lost in 2023.”

Joe worked more than 40 years as an AP newsman in Nashville, much it covering country music, before he retired in 2012. He passed away in February 2023.

Wrote the Scene:

When Joe Edwards started his Nashville-based journalism career in the 1970s, it was in smoke-filled newsrooms; a pen, notebook, typewriter, landline telephone and dogged pursuit of a good story were the tools.

The AP bureau was at 1100 Broadway (as were UPI’s bureau, The Tennessean, and the Nashville Banner), but Edwards’ reporting took him to Music Row, where he covered a timeline of stars from Loretta Lynn to Taylor Swift; baseball fields and basketball courts; the Hee Haw television studio; the state Capitol; and the Jack Daniels Distillery; and to Memphis to cover Elvis Presley’s death and funeral. A story he wrote about Felice and Boudleaux Bryant’s song “Rocky Top” started the ball rolling on its path to being immortalized as the state song. In the early ‘70s, he spearheaded efforts to include girls’ high school basketball scores on the AP wire.

Personally, one of his proudest achievements was serving as a past president of Nashville’s So What Club, which he described as “a group of men who get together once a month and do absolutely nothing.”

On Charles Osgood

[Mike Holmes](#) - I always hoped to find a brite that would tickle Charles Osgood's fancy. I don't think I ever did; but the Des Moines bureau accomplished it in the mid-1970s with a story about then-Gov. Bob Ray's telephone problem after he moved into the

remodeled governor's mansion. Ray's unlisted private number was only a digit or two removed from a local pizza parlor's to-go line. The story led to this Osgood gem:

"The duties of a governor are heavy ones indeed
And an extra little burden that he surely doesn't need
Is to wake up close to midnight to the ringing of the phone
And have somebody order pizza with a little pepperone."

The poem recounted the whole goofy story and said of the popular governor:

"To serve the people is a cause to which he's firmly bent,
But Ray explained that's not the kind of service that he meant."

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Warren Levinson - Charles Osgood made me want to write rhymes on the radio, an ambition the AP tolerated and subtly encouraged in the nearly 40 years I was the radio correspondent in New York.

I am eternally grateful to both.

Here's an example:

1991 in Review

There's a three-year old at our house, and I don't know how we got her.
I recall a sterile room, a cry and someone saying a daughter
Is born to you — to build, to mold, to shape, and maybe ruin,
But that was what? Six months ago? Hey, big kid: who let you in?
And so it is with '91, this year that now is past.
Sit down and let me check, because I think my watch is fast.
Oh sure, we have been busy, with a hundred hours' war,
And the stories of a superpow'r that isn't anymore
And the Kennedys and dots, Chuck Keating and his missing loot;
And a bunch of guys released at last from dungeons in Beirut.
But 12 whole months? A year? And now you're telling us it's through?
And you're leaving us this stranger? This — this — infant, '92?
We'll, if that's how you feel about it, go ahead. Go fast.
And let us who remain resolve to make the new one last.
Two messages I have for you who eye that Champagne cork:
Happy New Year. Carpe diem.
Warren Levinson, New York.

NEWSLETTER

AP STYLEBOOK

[AP Stylebook January 2024](#)

Like many people, it took me a little adjusting to return from holiday mode to focusing on work. Less eggnog, more Excel.

Now things are cranking hard here in AP Stylebook World. We're preparing to publish our new print edition in May. Mark your calendar for launch day on May 29.

Of course it's promising to be a busy year at the AP, with the Paris Games and the national election in addition to everything else happening in the world. The Stylebook is here to help you with all you cover in 2024.

Colleen Newvine, product manager, AP Stylebook

Snopes Fact Check: Is This a Real Image of Barron Trump?



The teen was photographed towering over his family at his maternal grandmother's funeral.

By Taija PerryCook

Claim:

An image shared in January 2024 authentically depicted 17-year-old Barron Trump, who is 6 feet, 7 inches tall.

Rating:

True

True

About this rating

On Jan. 18, 2024, an image went viral on Reddit depicting former U.S. President Donald Trump standing alongside former first lady Melania Trump and their 17-year-

old son, Barron Trump, as well as the former first lady's father, Viktor Knavs. In the image, the teen appears to tower over the others. The post received 36,000 upvotes and 6,800 comments less than 24 hours after its posting, as of this writing.

"I thought this was photoshop, what the hell?!" One of the top comments read. "Wasn't that the little kid fighting to stay awake at Trump's inauguration? That was.... 7 years ago. Oh."

The image is indeed real; it was taken as a part of a 16-photo series by Associated Press photographer Rebecca Blackwell on Jan. 18, 2024.

The occasion was the funeral of Melania's mother, Amalija Knavs, who died of an undisclosed sickness at the age of 78 on Jan. 9, 2024.

The image was shot as the four family members exited the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida, where the funeral was held.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Embry.

Around the AP world



Jerusalem-based journalists Julia Frankel, left, and Moshe Edri, center, prepare to interview freed Israeli hostage Sharon Aloni-Cunio in the ruins of her family home in Nir Oz, a kibbutz in Southern Israel, Jan. 15, 2024. She and her daughters were kidnapped by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

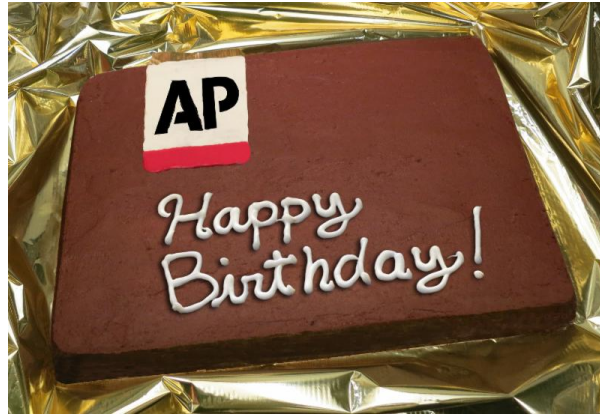


Staffers support Orlando-based correspondent Mike Schneider’s book, “Mickey and the Teamsters: A Fight for Fair Unions at Disney,” signing event at Books and Books in Coral Gables, Fla., Jan. 12, 2024. From left: Marta Oliver Craviotto, news editor; Mike Schneider, correspondent; Freida Frisaro, chief correspondent; Lynne Sladky, photographer; Terry Spencer, correspondent; Giovanna Dell’Orto, newsperson. (Photo courtesy of Mike Schneider)



Photographers Sayyid Azim and Khalil Senosi celebrate their retirement at a lunch with Nairobi bureau colleagues, Jan. 20, 2024. Azim and Senosi won the Pulitzer Prize in 1999 for their coverage of the deadly bombing of the U.S. embassy. (AP Photo/Cara Anna)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Gibbons](#)

[Steve Hendren](#)

Stories of interest

The News About the News Business Is Getting Grimmer (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum, John Koblin, Benjamin Mullin and Katie Robertson

Even by the standards of a news business whose fortunes have plummeted in the digital age, the last few weeks have been especially grim for American journalism.

Prominent newspapers like The Washington Post are shedding reporters and editors, and on Tuesday, The Los Angeles Times laid off more than 20 percent of its newsroom. Cable news ratings have fallen amid an uncompetitive presidential primary contest. Esteemed titles like Sports Illustrated, already a shadow of their former selves, have been gutted overnight.

As Americans prepare for an election year that will feature disinformation wars, A.I.-generated agitprop and a debate over the future of democracy, the mainstream news industry — once the de facto watchdog and facilitator of public discourse — is struggling to stay afloat.

The pain is particularly pronounced at the community level. An average of five local newspapers are closing every two weeks, according to Northwestern University's Medill School, with more than half of all American counties now so-called news deserts with limited access to news about their hometowns. Of 1,100 public radio stations and affiliates, only about one in five is producing local journalism.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Sikes, Doug Pizac, John Wylie, Myron Belkind.

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Trump's live appearances pose a riddle that news executives still haven't solved (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Even as Donald Trump seeks his third straight Republican presidential nomination, his live appearances still present an unsolved riddle for many news outlets: How do you cover him?

The question hung in the air as CNN, MSNBC and some streaming outlets started — then stopped — showing Trump's speech following Tuesday's New Hampshire primary. There was little hand-wringing at Fox News Channel and Newsmax, networks that appeal to Trump supporters. They carried the former president's remarks in full.

Outlets weigh whether an event's newsworthiness justifies live coverage when there's a risk Trump will make false statements that are difficult, if not impossible, to correct in real time — or go completely off script with something entirely unexpected.

And as a year of campaign and courtroom events loom, news executives will face similar decisions again and again.

Read more [here](#).

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Jerry Warden Friedheim 1934 – 2024

Jerry Warden Friedheim, 89, a resident of the Washington, DC area since 1962 and a former assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, died on January 20, 2024 at Falcons Landing in Sterling, Virginia.

Mr. Friedheim was born October 7, 1934 in Joplin, MO to Volmer Havens and Billie Alice Friedheim and grew up in Joplin. He was a 1952 graduate of Joplin High School and earned a bachelor of journalism degree in 1956 and a master of arts degree in 1962 from the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he taught journalism in 1961 and 1962.

Jerry married Shirley Margarett Beavers in Joplin October 17, 1956; she died September 15, 2003. He married Jacqueline Wade Grant Friedheim April 24, 2004; she survives.

Mr. Friedheim earned an ROTC commission at the university and served two years on active duty in Germany and 11 years in the Army reserve as an artillery captain. In his early career, he was a newspaper reporter, photographer and editor for the Neosho (Mo.) Daily News, The Joplin Globe and Columbia Missourian and also worked for the Associated Press.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Don Cooper.

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Small-town Colorado newspaper theft was to protect victim, not police chief (Ouray County Plain Dealer)

Marisa Kabas

When a small town Colorado newspaper published a frontpage story on Thursday about a rape that had allegedly occurred at the police chief's house, more than 200 copies of the print edition were reportedly stolen.

The initial response from the paper's owners indicated they believed it was an attempt to silence them. "It's pretty clear that someone didn't want the community to read the news this week," Erin McIntyre, who co-owns the Ouray County Plaindealer with her husband Mike Wiggins, said in a statement.

The interpretation of events picked up by national news outlets such as HuffPost, CNN, and The New York Times seemed to draw the conclusion that the theft was in some way connected to the chief, Jeff Wood, his stepson—who is one of the young men accused of sexually assaulting a local 17-year-old girl—and/or one of the other two suspects. The story included gruesome details of the alleged rape from a Colorado Bureau of Investigation affidavit that the three defendants, who were arrested in December for suspected felony sexual assault, would likely not want to be made public.

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

-0-

Saving Community Journalism: The Path Ahead (Local News Initiative)

by PENELOPE MUSE ABERNATHY

Two decades ago, few of us envisioned how quickly and decisively the internet would demolish the economic model that had supported local news in this country for

almost two centuries. In 2004, newspaper stocks were still the darling of Wall Street investors, trading at a premium and delivering consistently above-average returns to shareholders. And many of the nation's 9,000 newspapers — especially those in small and mid-sized markets — were posting profit margins that exceeded 20%. The best of those community papers aspired to the ideals articulated by Ron Heifetz, author, professor and founder of Harvard University's Center for Public Leadership, in the epigraph to my first book on local news, "Saving Community Journalism: The Path to Profitability."

In early 2024, the nation will reach a milestone that illustrates what's been lost since 2004: One-third of the papers that existed then will be gone. Once a vast news and information network that knitted together this diverse country encompassing almost 3.8 million square miles, newspapers are vanishing at a rate of more than two a week. Most of the 6,000 surviving newspapers today get by with slim profit margins in the single digits, and despite the optimism of many in 2004, digital alternatives have failed to fill the void.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh.

The Final Word

As missiles strike, a radio station broadcasts the rage of a battered city (artdaily)

by Andrew E. Kramer and Maria Varenikova

KHARKIV.- It was the middle of the night in early January when a Russian missile streaked in and exploded in the center of Kharkiv, blasting down walls and shattering windows.

The next day, people went shopping and to work, ate out in restaurants and clogged the streets with traffic jams, almost as if nothing had happened.

But behind the business-as-usual veneer, residents of Kharkiv have been seething. Over the past month, Ukraine's second-largest city has taken the brunt of Russia's missile campaign, which has killed and wounded dozens of people, blown up buildings and unnerved everyone.

It's an almost daily torment. To vent, Kharkiv's residents have a dedicated outlet: Radio Boiling Over, a new FM station.

"This is Boiling Over in the Morning," Volodymyr Noskov, the host of the morning call-in show, said on a recent broadcast. "What are you boiling over about today?"

In Kharkiv, a sprawling city of universities and factories, coping has taken many forms.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

Today in History - Jan. 25, 2024



Today is Thursday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2024. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, in 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actor Sharon Tate.

On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1993, Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous century-old catalog.

In 1994, maintaining his innocence, singer Michael Jackson settled a child molestation lawsuit against him; terms were confidential, although the monetary figure was reportedly \$22 million.

In 2004, NASA's Opportunity rover zipped its first pictures of Mars to Earth, showing a surface smooth and dark red in some places, and strewn with fragmented slabs of light bedrock in others.

In 2017, Mary Tyler Moore, who created one of TV's first career-woman sitcom heroines in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," died at the age of 80. Actor John Hurt died at 77.

In 2020, President Donald Trump's defense team opened its arguments at his first Senate impeachment trial, casting the effort to remove him from office as a politically motivated attempt to subvert the 2016 election and the upcoming 2020 contest.

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed an order reversing a Pentagon policy that largely barred transgender people from military service.

In 2022, the Navy said it had discharged 23 active-duty sailors for refusing the coronavirus vaccine; it marked the first time the Navy had thrown currently-serving sailors out of the military over the mandatory shots.

Today's birthdays: Actor Leigh Taylor-Young is 80. Actor Jenifer Lewis is 67. Country musician R&B singer Kina is 55. Actor China Kantner is 53. Actor Ana Ortiz is 54. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') (Mighty Mighty Bosstones) is 52. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 50. Actor Mia Kirshner is 49. Actor Christine Lakin is 45. R&B singer Alicia Keys is 44. Actor Michael Trevino is 39. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds of Summer) is 28. Actor Olivia Edward is 17.

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.

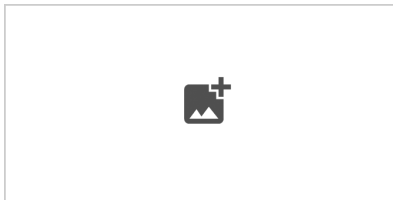
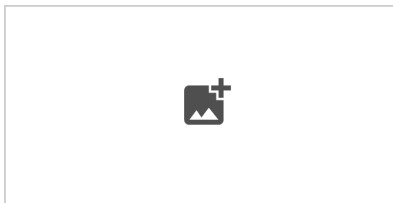
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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