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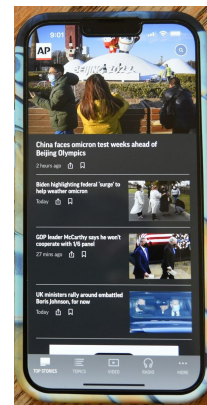
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Connecting

Feb. 2, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Feb. 2, 2024,

We bring you more memories of longtime AP photo director **Hal Buell** in today's Connecting.

The newsletter is coming to you from a hotel room in Iowa where Linda and I will be attending the memorial service today for longtime family friend, Judge Albert Habhab.

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

Paul

Memories of Hal Buell

Wendy Davis Beard - I am deeply saddened by the passing of Hal Buell as he had a profound effect on my life although we actually worked together a relatively short time. Hal hired me as a photo researcher straight out of University until a position became available on the photo desk, when he appointed me as an editor. I remember his encouragement and kindness and remarkably, despite his already renown international reputation and responsibilities, revealing that he was learning magic tricks to entertain his first grandson!

When the Union representing all AP workers was threatening to strike, I took the opportunity to hand in my notice and take a half gap year to travel in Europe. As soon as I returned, I began freelancing for Hal and others outside the AP, which allowed me the freedom to accept his offer to photo research his book Moments In Time, celebrating 50 years in AP photos which was an education in itself with Professor Buell, before he offered me the plum position working for the International Olympic Photo pool in LA in 1984, where I was lucky enough to work with Horst Faas and Brian Horton.

When I told Hal I was planning to return to Europe with the money I'd saved since my last sojourn there, he suggested I consider opening my horizons to Asia instead, beginning in Hong Kong where AP photos thanks to Hal's introduction, kick-started my brother and my photographic journey and enduring interest in Asia. When I returned to America working as a photography director at a PR agency specializing in corporate news photos, I brought in a photo one quiet Saturday afternoon of then President Ronald Reagan's son Ronnie in an American Express "Do you know me?" commercial. Hal immediately saw the potential membership interest. It was the first photo I directed which Time, Newsweek and People magazine all ran besides many newspapers, which was great for me.

Forever grateful for Hal's help, advice and friendship.

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Jim Gerberich - Hal was so many things to so many people. I had the privilege to work for him on the editorial side and then transitioned to his team when he started the introduction to digital delivery and photography. He saw things in people that others didn't; you might say he was like the conductor of a fine jazz band pulling out the best from everyone.

He was a visionary pushing on the edge to do better and go faster but never losing sight of AP's mission to tell the story and tell it well.

He pushed AP to look at digital photography despite a host of notable people in the industry saying it wasn't time. That changed when photographers like Ron Edmonds, David Longstreath, Stephan Savoia, Eric Draper and many others began using digital cameras on big stories and winning.

He's a legend, yet for everything he did and was responsible for he was a modest person. To me he was a mentor, a friend, a Dutch uncle and importantly a man of his word.

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From left, Steve Gillon, Brad Kalbfeld and Hal Buell with a collection of vintage teletype and audio equipment.

Brad Kalbfeld - I was so sorry to hear about Hal Buell's passing. He defined a hugely important era in AP photography.

The news reminded me that, though Hal's superpower was overseeing the gathering and editing of images of other people, he was also a talented spokesman for AP. I was lucky enough to share an episode in which he was in front of the lens. In November of 2002, Hal and I appeared together in a History Channel program called HistoryCenter, which did a half-hour show about the history of AP. It was taped at the CBS studio on West 57th Street in New York and was hosted by historian Steve Gillon.

Many of our AP colleagues played a role in producing the episode, most notably Kelly Tunney and Laurie Morris of Corporate Communications. The amazing collection of equipment we worked with on set was courtesy of several AP people. Ken Mellgren, then affiliate relations manager at AP Broadcast, provided equipment from his own collection, including a Marconi crystal set and a Morse telegraph key. He also made this photo. Tim Donnelly, then New York Photo Support Manager, provided a photo transmitter and cameras. Emile Conrad, then COC in New York's Broadway Shop, located an M-15 and used a laptop to run Pearl Harbor stories on it. Ted Raynes of the New York technical staff kept the M-15 and the photo transmitter alive and clicking throughout the taping.

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Frank Russell - I had the pleasure and honor to work for Hal while a editor in the Washington photo bureau, one funny story is I was in NY to help out at one of the political conventions and was in the bureau and Hal said do you want share a cab to the convention hall at the Garden. On the way the cab was going so fast Hal said he is going to kill us.He made the cab stop and we got out and walked the rest of the way. A great friend and AP colleague and will be missed.

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Cliff Schiappa - I believe Hal Buell was one of those lucky people who had more than 24 hours in his day. How else could he have juggled so many balls at once, solved problems, noodled new ideas, be concerned for the well-being of his staff, all while being the pre-eminent leader and voice of visual journalism in the second half of the 20th century and beyond.

My personal experience with Hal started in 1977. I knew someone who knew someone who helped me get my foot in the door of Hal's office at 50 Rock. I was heading west to attend J-School at the University of Missouri and Hal thought I could be AP's stringer in Columbia covering MU sports and the nearby state capitol. Thus began a 30-year relationship with AP as a freelancer and then staffer based in Kansas City that could not have happened without Hal's confidence in a wet-behind-the-ears college kid.

Good fortune provided me with so many opportunities at AP, one of the highlights being part of the PhotoStream Advisory Team led by Hal which transitioned the industry from analog to digital. We trainers logged thousands of hours and miles visiting every photo member in the country, knowing Hal had our backs as we met with publishers, cajoled production managers, tutored editors then collapsing back at our hotel rooms (but not before filing our progress reports) each night over a span of 18 months. It was Hal's vision that kept us moving forward.

There are literally billions of people around the globe who have been exposed to Hal Buell's influence, expertise, and passion by viewing an AP Photo somewhere in the world over the past 70+ years. That's what I call a legacy.

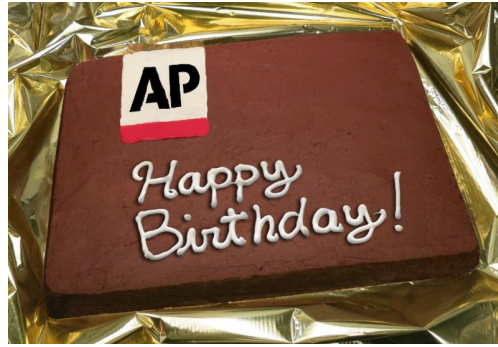
May he rest in peace.

AP sighting



“AP” is everywhere – shared by [Mike Holmes](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bill Witt](#)

Stories of interest

Think the news industry was struggling already? The dawn of 2024 is offering few good tidings (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — On Friday, the National Press Club is offering solace — and a free meal — by giving recently laid-off journalists tacos in recognition of a brutal stretch that seems to offer bad news daily for an already struggling industry.

For anyone who works in the news media, the list is intimidating — and unremitting.

The news website The Messenger folded on Wednesday after being in operation since only last May, abruptly putting some 300 journalists out of work. The Los Angeles Times laid off more than 100 journalists in recent weeks, Business Insider and Time magazine announced staff cuts, Sports Illustrated is struggling to survive, the Washington Post is completing buyouts to more than 200 staffers. The Post reported Thursday that The Wall Street Journal was laying off roughly 20 people in its Washington bureau; there was no immediate comment from a Journal representative. Pitchfork announced it was no longer a freestanding music site, after digital publications BuzzFeed News and Jezebel disappeared last year.

And journalists at the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, New York Daily News and the Conde Nast magazine company have all conducted walkouts to protest how management was dealing with business problems.

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

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Over 500 journalists were laid off in January 2024 alone (Politico)

By KIERRA FRAZIER

Over 500 journalists were laid off from news outlets in January, according to a new report released Thursday, as many organizations continue to struggle financially.

The layoffs reflect the grim state of the news business. In January alone, the industry — including print, broadcast and digital media — saw 538 announced layoffs, according to the report from Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

The job cuts come after an already bleak year. The news industry shed 3,087 digital, broadcast and print news jobs in 2023 — the highest annual total since 2020, when 16,060 cuts were recorded.

In the last month, dozens of layoffs were announced at outlets including NBC News, Time magazine, Business Insider and The Los Angeles Times — the last of which saw more than 100 employees cut. Pitchfork is also facing layoffs as it's being folded into men's magazine GQ, and Sports Illustrated is shedding a "significant reduction" of its 100-member workforce. Staffers at Condé Nast walked off the job over the company's plan to lay off staff.

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

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Our Redesigned Byline Pages (New York Times)

The New York Times is introducing a new format to its byline pages. Read more in this note from managing editor Marc Lacey and assistant managing editor Matt Ericson.

Our journalists are what set The New York Times apart. This morning we published hundreds of byline pages in a new format that highlights the experience, expertise and ethics of our reporters, photographers, editors, and audio, video and data journalists from across the newsroom and Opinion.

The new format, which we call enhanced bios, was designed to bolster trust with readers by letting them know who we are and how we work.

Research has shown that the more readers know about our reporters, the more likely they are to understand the rigors of our journalistic process and trust the results.

Enhanced bios present an opportunity to explain to the world how journalists operate. Readers are often surprised to learn that we have rules and guidelines, that we don't accept gifts from people we write about, that we don't donate to political campaigns, or that we don't own stock in companies we cover. During our reporting our experts keep an open mind and follow the facts wherever they lead.

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

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Inside Donald Trump's curious relationship with Fox News — and what it means for other candidates (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — At this moment in the 2024 election cycle, complaining about Fox News — even if for different reasons — may be what unites Donald Trump, Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis the most.

At conservative America's favorite news source, the Republican nomination process is essentially over and has been for awhile, leaving DeSantis and Haley annoyed at perceived favoritism to Trump. Hardly grateful, the former president regularly tears into Fox for what he sees as disloyalty, even ripping his former White House press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany, now a Fox contributor.

The discontent illustrates the ongoing importance of Fox News as an agenda-setter that frequently drives, and not simply reflects, Republican politics. No one can get to the top of the GOP's hill without it.

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

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Wall Street Journal shakes up D.C. bureau with big layoffs (Washington Post)

By Will Sommer

The Wall Street Journal took a hatchet to its Washington bureau on Thursday, laying off roughly 20 staffers in a restructuring that adds to brutal start to 2024 for the journalism industry.

The cuts focused on the bureau's economics reporters in Washington, which will be folded into the newspaper's New York-based business team. The bureau's team covering U.S.-China news will be shuttered.

In an email to staffers that was reviewed by The Washington Post, Editor in Chief Emma Tucker said the Journal's Washington bureau will now focus specifically on "politics, policy, defense, law, intelligence and national security." Laid-off staffers will be allowed to apply to some new jobs created to replace the coverage, according to Tucker.

"It is imperative that we have the right structure in Washington to deliver trusted, ambitious reporting for our readers in an election year and beyond," Tucker wrote.

Tucker, who was named to the prominent business paper's top job in 2022, has sought to shake up its coverage, once reportedly describing the writing in its articles as "stiff

and unappealing” and expressing concerns that the paper has too many layers of editors.

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

Today in History: Feb. 2, 2024



Today is Friday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2024. There are 333 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On Feb. 2, 2013, former Navy SEAL and “American Sniper” author Chris Kyle was fatally shot along with a friend, Chad Littlefield, at a gun range west of Glen Rose, Texas; suspect Eddie Ray Routh was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

On this date:

In 1536, present-day Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1913, New York’s rebuilt Grand Central Terminal officially opened to the public at one minute past midnight.

In 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short “Making a Living” was released by Keystone Film Co.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman sent a 10-point civil rights program to Congress, where the proposals ran into fierce opposition from Southern lawmakers.

In 1980, NBC News reported the FBI had conducted a sting operation targeting members of Congress using phony Arab businessmen in what became known as "Abscam," a codename protested by Arab Americans.

In 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa's Black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

In 2006, House Republicans elected John Boehner (BAY'-nur) of Ohio as their new majority leader to replace the indicted Tom DeLay.

In 2016, health officials reported that a person in Texas had become infected with the Zika virus in the first case of the illness being transmitted within the United States.

In 2017, using a backhoe to smash through a barricade of water-filled footlockers, police stormed Delaware's largest prison, ending a nearly 20-hour hostage standoff with inmates; one hostage, a guard, was killed.

In 2018, at a sentencing hearing in Michigan for former sports doctor Larry Nassar, a distraught father of three girls who the doctor had sexually abused tried to attack Nassar before being tackled by sheriff's deputies and hauled out of court. (Randall Margraves later apologized; the judge said there was "no way" she would fine him or send him to jail for trying to attack Nassar.)

In 2020, the Philippines reported that a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan had died in a Manila hospital from the new coronavirus; it was the first death from the virus to be recorded outside of China.

In 2021, the Senate approved Pete Buttigieg (BOO'-tuh-juhj) as transportation secretary, making him the first openly gay person confirmed to a Cabinet post.

In 2022, four men were charged with being part of the drug distribution crew that supplied a deadly mix of narcotics to actor Michael K. Williams of "The Wire," who had overdosed five months earlier.

In 2023, a huge, high-altitude Chinese balloon sailing across the U.S. drew Pentagon accusations of spying while sending excited or alarmed Americans outside with binoculars.

Today's birthdays: Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 82. Television executive Barry Diller is 82. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 78. TV chef Ina Garten is 76. Actor Jack McGee is 75. Actor Brent Spiner is 75. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 75. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 72. The former president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye, is 72. Model Christie Brinkley is 70. Actor Michael Talbott is 69. Actor Kim Zimmer is 69. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 62. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 58. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 58. Actor Jennifer Westfeldt is 54. Rapper T-Mo is 52. Actor Marissa Jaret Winokur is 51. Actor

Lori Beth Denberg is 48. Singer Shakira is 47. Actor Rich Sommer is 46. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 38. Actor Zosia Mamet is 36.

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.

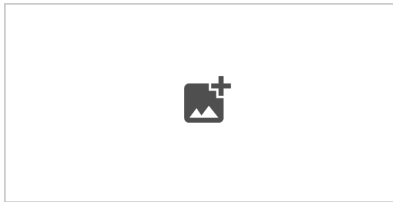


Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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