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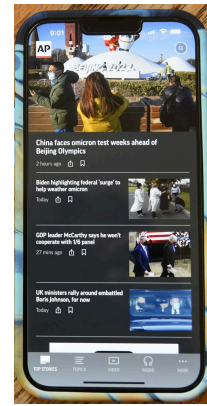
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# Connecting

Feb. 26, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Feb. 26, 2024,

You are invited to join a Celebration of Life for **Hal Buell** on Sunday, March 3 (March 4 in Tokyo). This will be a virtual gathering via Zoom.

Our colleague **Barbara Buell**, daughter of the former AP director of photos and author, said there will be a short program, and participants will be invited to share a favorite memory of Hal, if they wish. Given the far-flung nature of Hal's friends and family, to accommodate as many time zones as possible, we will hold the event at 7 p.m. Eastern (9 a.m. Monday in Tokyo)

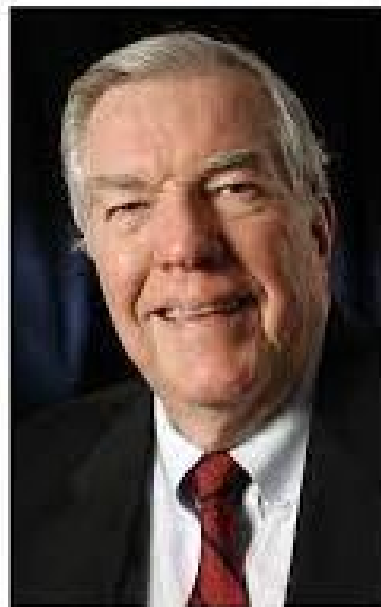
If you would like to join, please send an RSVP to Barbara at – [barbara.buell@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.buell@gmail.com) – and you will receive a Zoom link before the gathering.

What has become Connecting's most popular – and to me, one of the most interesting – series continues today with yet more of your stories of serving on a jury. Join the

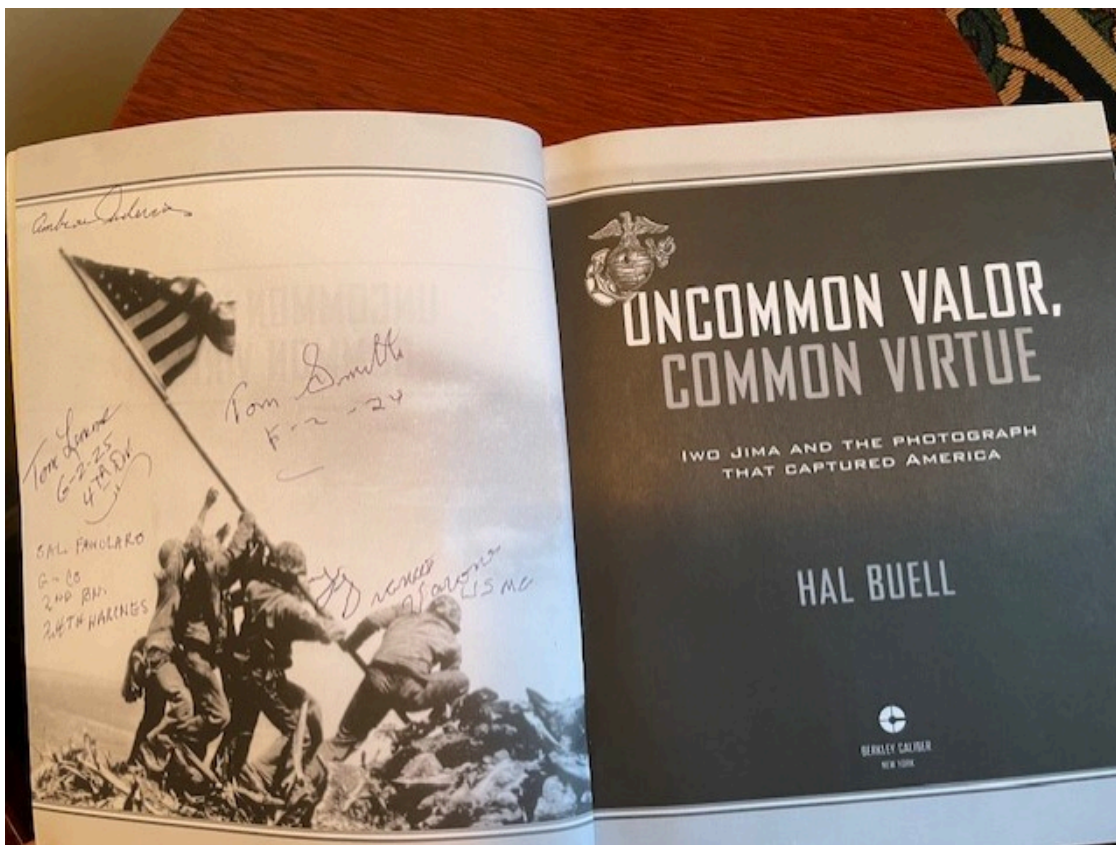
party and share your own, if you have yet to do so. One thing I learned to my surprise: Even **Linda Deutsch**, THE court reporter of court reporters, despite all her contacts in the Los Angeles legal community, wasn't excluded from jury duty.

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

Paul



## Remembering Hal Buell



**Chris Carola** - I don't know how I missed seeing Hal Buell's AP obituary, but I did, mostly because I hadn't been reading Connecting on a regular basis lately. It wasn't until I read last Friday's edition that I saw he had died at his daughter's home in California on Jan. 29 at age 92.

I knew who Hal was from my first stint with the AP at the former HQ at 50 Rockefeller Plaza from 1982-85, working my way up the newsroom ladder in the editorial department on the fourth floor. As a former student publication photographer in college and an avid history buff, I knew AP photographers had produced some of the

most famous news photos in the history of the business, including multiple Pulitzer Prize winners snapped while under Hal's leadership in AP global photos.

A few years ago, I was in the bookstore at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, N.Y, when I spotted a copy of Hal's 2006 book, "Uncommon Valor, Common Virtue: Iwo Jima and the Photograph That Captured America."

It's an excellent book, and it confirmed what I had believed for quite some time from reading interviews with Hal and the many articles he had written on Rosenthal's famous AP Iwo Jima flag-raising photo: No one alive knew more about that image – the man who took it, how it was selected and transmitted, its impact on the nation, the controversies surrounding it -- than Hal Buell.

A year ago today – Feb. 26, 2023 – I interviewed Hal over the phone for a story I wanted to do for Leatherneck Magazine, published by the Marine Corps Association. A few months earlier I was doing freelance writing when a WWII book author I had met put me in touch with the magazine's executive editor, who suggested I do a story on iconic combat photographs of U.S. Marines.

I knew I had to start with the Rosenthal photo, one of the best-known in history and revered by the USMC, and I knew Hal Buell had to be my first source for info, not the least because of his longtime friendship with Joe.

I reached out to Francesca Pitaro at AP Archives, who said Hal was still living in Queens. She sent me Hal's email address, and I reached out to him on Feb. 25, 2023, asking to interview him on the phone for my freelance story. He got back to me right away, and we talked the next morning.

I started out by mentioning my first stint with AP at 50 Rock in the 1980s, later followed by my 31 years as a reporter in the Albany bureau. I mentioned the AP photographers I had worked with during that time. Hal, of course, knew them all.

We talked for about an hour that morning of Feb. 26, 2023 – three days after the 78th anniversary of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi. Hal's mind was still sharp, and he recalled how his friendship with Rosenthal grew over the decades both long-distance – Joe lived in San Francisco – and in person when Hal's AP travels brought him to the West Coast. Separated by a whole continent, "We weren't pool-shooting buddies," Hal said.

Here's some other insights Hal offered on Joe Rosenthal, his famous Iwo Jima photo and the enduring legacy of that image.

On Joe Rosenthal: "As a human being he was a combination of modesty – Joe was painfully modest – and generous. Anybody who wanted a copy of a print of the (Iwo Jima) photo, he'd make them one and sign it."

On oft-repeated claims the photo was "staged" or otherwise posed, including rumors Rosenthal hauled to the top of Mount Suribachi the pipe the flag was attached to: "The posed thing still comes up all the time. He could hardly get himself up the mountain let alone carry up a pipe."

On historians in recent years finally correcting the names of the six Marines who are in the Rosenthal photo: "It has been corrected so many times, I think they finally got it right. Joe was chagrined he didn't get the names (of the Marines) in the picture. He told me they raised the flag and walked away."

On USMC officers viewing the Rosenthal photo's original negative at AP HQ: "It's hard to believe because these guys are pretty tough customers, but some of them would break into tears and tell what it means to them and the Marine Corps."

I eventually had to put my intended freelance story for Leatherneck Magazine on hold as my work doing public relations for a national organization went from a temporary, part-time position through 2023 to full-time employment this year.

Four years ago on Feb. 19, the 75th anniversary of the flag raising, I went to a WWII-themed diner outside Albany that hosted an annual gathering of USMC veterans of the Iwo Jima battle. I brought along Hal's book and asked the last five surviving Marines in attendance to autograph the title page with Rosenthal's flag-raising photo. They all did, including a veteran who had been one of my Little League coaches.

Recently, the last of the five, Ambrose Anderson (signature, upper left in photo), passed away at 98. He was one of the last surviving members of the Montford Point Marines, an all-Black USMC unit named for the camp in North Carolina where they trained.

## A tribute to Bob Port



An April 28, 2000, photo of the AP's No Gun Ri team (l-r): Charlie Hanley, Martha Mendoza, Bob Port, Randy Herschaft, Sang-hun Choe.

**Charlie Hanley** – Like other colleagues and friends, I was deeply saddened to learn last week of the death of Bob Port, who headed AP's investigative Special Assignment Team in the late '90s (Connecting, Feb. 22).

As was widely reported at the time, the No Gun Ri story, product of Bob's 50 Rock shop, had to navigate an extremely difficult, year-long path to publication and the eventual 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting.

Bob was the able navigator.

It wasn't easy for some to accept shocking allegations of a mass U.S. atrocity in the Korean War, long held up as an example of American selflessness in defending others. But Bob eagerly embraced the story, putting two brilliant journalists on the case – reporter Martha Mendoza and researcher Randy Herschaft – to collaborate with the superb Sang-hun Choe of Seoul AP; quietly finding the money to support travel to archives and interviews, and then guiding the writing of an explosive, highly sensitive story. (An account of the challenges that subsequently followed can be found in Bob's essay in the book *Into the Buzzsaw*.)

Others had been instrumental in keeping the story alive when it was barely hanging on – Kevin Noblet, Reid Miller, the late Tom Wagner – but Bob's was the inspiration that brought it fully to life on the AP wire. He was a serious, methodical, quiet and self-effacing editor, but a fighter, a guy who wouldn't let go. After years of investigative work at the St. Pete Times, he came to the AP clearly relishing the vocation of exposing wrongdoing, calling out wrongdoers.

## RIP, G. David Wallace

**Bob Dobkin** - It is with much sorrow and deep sadness that I share with Connecting the passing of my longtime friend and former colleague G. David Wallace, a mainstay of the Washington AP economic team in the 1970s.

Dave and I joined AP in Pittsburgh in January 1968, shared an apartment for nearly two years to cut expenses during those lean years, and moved on to Washington at separate times in 1968. I covered the Pentagon and then Labor while Dave took on the Treasury and Federal Reserve. Dave's always calm and unassuming manner belied his ability to deftly handle complicated economic issues and make them easily understandable to the readers.

His obituary is written by his son, Kevin Wallace, an attorney for the New York State Attorney General and the lead prosecutor in former President Donald Trump's recent corruption trial. Click [here](#) to read.



***Connecting series:***

## More stories of serving on a jury

**Dan Day** - I've only been on a jury once, and the case was settled after opening statements and testimony from one witness. Typically, if I got to voir dire during my news career, I was an immediate tossee.

The time I did get picked was for a criminal case in New Jersey Superior Court at Elizabeth during one of the years I was working in New York Membership. Somehow, I managed to clear voir dire after the judge asked me if I'd ever been the victim of a crime.

"Yes," I replied.

"When?" the judge asked.

"Yesterday — " I said, pausing for a beat, "in the juror parking lot. Somebody broke into my car."

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**Linda Deutsch** - This is a story from long ago and far away that had a transformative effect on my views covering the justice system. I would place it in the 1970s or early '80s. I was already well known in Los Angeles court circles as the AP reporter who covered all the trials. Thus, it seemed unlikely that I would ever serve on a jury myself. I figured I might be summoned but would quickly be disqualified when the attorneys found out what I did for a living.

My summons arrived in the mail ordering me to report to municipal court for jury selection. In those days, muni court (which no longer exists) was the best place to do jury duty because the cases were usually misdemeanors or white-collar crimes and did not take long. I told my AP supervisors I would report for duty and expected to be dismissed. In an odd twist, my best friend and fellow reporter Theo Wilson was summoned at the same time for a different jury pool. Since she did not drive, we headed for our Hollywood neighborhood court together and went to our separate courtrooms. Two reporters on jury duty? Would anyone trust us?

As court convened in my case we were greeted cordially by a woman judge. The prosecutor and public defender were quite young, and I would find out later that for each of them this was their first criminal case.

The defendant, a very young slender Black man, was brought in wearing a jail uniform. He looked terrified.

Jury selection commenced and my name was chosen to enter the jury box. The young woman defender and the male prosecutor both asked me a number of routine questions and then got around to what I did for a living. I told them I was a reporter. Did I know anyone in government, they asked. Well, yes, I knew the district attorney, the attorney general, many judges, the governor, the mayor and other officials, I said. They asked if I could be fair and I said yes.

Amazingly, they did not challenge me and I was approved for the jury. Wow!

Down the hall, Theo was encountering a similar situation and was accepted for her jury which included our Hollywood postman.

The charge against my defendant was possession of drug paraphernalia, a tiny piece of glass that was used as a cocaine pipe. The only witness was a gruff policeman who swore that he had seen the defendant throw the item into some bushes on a residential street. He arrested him about a block away. But having allegedly found the glass in the bushes he found no evidence in the possession of the defendant. On cross-examination he was asked how he saw this item being discarded and he said he had training in the LAPD on how to see sun glinting off glass. He claimed to have seen the glare from this inch-long item flying into the bushes and retrieved it. On cross-examination the public defender asked if the house in question was a known drug hangout where such items were often found. He reluctantly agreed that was true.

In closing arguments, the prosecutor urged jurors to believe the policeman and the public defender said that police often scooped up people in the vicinity of drug houses and sometimes they grabbed the wrong people.

The judge gave legal instructions, told the jury to select a foreperson and begin deliberations. And yes, my fellow jurors chose me as the foreperson right away. It was an interesting panel, racially mixed and including a career diplomat, city employees, a couple of retirees and a man who made it known to everyone that he was a former U.S. Marine. I suggested discussing the case before we took a vote. Most people were sympathetic to this young man and said they would not like to see such a case give him a criminal record. But when we took our first vote it was 9 to 3 for acquittal. Who were the three holdouts? Well, it turned out that the Marine believed the story about glass glinting in the sun. By then he had developed a relationship with two jurors who were classic followers. They lined up behind him.

The entire trial had taken about one hour. We were nearing the end of the court day when I decided to give an impassioned speech about the importance of physical evidence and possession being a critical element. We voted again. Nothing had changed. It was time to go home. We would go into a second day of deliberations.

I met up with Theo outside. Her case was over. The defendant, a bank employee who embezzled funds, was clearly guilty and was convicted. I couldn't discuss the facts of my case but told her I was afraid I was going to be disgraced by presiding over a hung jury in a misdemeanor case. She advised me to just explain the law to the jury. I spent that night writing a Clarence Darrow-like speech to deliver the next morning. But when the jury convened again, the Marine stopped me. He said I didn't need to give more advice.

"I listened to you yesterday and last night I tried to watch Monday Night Football but I couldn't keep my mind on it," he said. "All I could think of was this little guy and you were right. There's not enough evidence against him."

His two followers nodded agreement. Our next vote was unanimous — Not Guilty. Back in court, I read our verdict. I looked at the young man and he mouthed the words: "Thank You." He seemed close to tears.

The judge thanked us for our service and said if anyone had any questions they should come to her chambers. I accepted her invitation.

“Your honor,” I said, “ knowing what you did about my experience in courts, why did you allow me to remain on that jury?” She replied, “I have always felt that reporters covering trials should know the system from the inside out. This is the only way you will ever see what happens in a jury room.”

I would be summoned for jury duty in the future but never made it onto a panel again.

In subsequent years I would encounter the public defender who always thanked me for helping her win her first case. She never forgot that small seemingly insignificant defendant. Neither did I.

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**Joe Galu** - I've been on Grand Juries THREE times and found that the DA routinely seeks to expand state laws through the indictment process. I vote 'no', but I rarely prevail. The other jurors do not seem to realize that they are putting the prosecutor in the position of needing to prove what we allege in our indictment, even though 90% of the cases are settled by plea bargains. We indicted one guy on three good counts and two that amounted to nothing but acting crazy. I pointed out that acting crazy is not a crime and that the indictment would be stronger without the extraneous counts, but it was our last case and they voted for all five counts. It was settled with a plea deal.

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**Mike Graczyk** - I was in a large pool of prospective jurors in a case where the defendant was charged with capital murder and facing a possible death penalty.

The initial group juror questioning failed to eliminate me and those of us still left were ordered to return to court for voir dire where the judge said we would be questioned individually for as long as 90 minutes.

When I went back a few days later, I was sworn in again and took the witness stand to answer questions from attorneys. Someone from the court gave me a cup of coffee.

I told them I was an AP reporter who covered Texas prisons as part of my duties in Houston and had attended dozens of executions. Both prosecutors and defense lawyers immediately stood and I was dismissed from consideration. Never even finished the coffee.

Years later I interviewed the defendant on death row and was a media witness at his execution.

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Steve Loeper - I enjoyed John Rogers' jury piece, but I certainly hope I wasn't that LA editor who told him to willfully throw away his summons. I think I said something like just accidentally leave it outside and let the wind blow it away.

Seriously, though, my usual suggestion to staffers with a summons -- with varying degrees of insistence on my part -- was to take advantage of LA County's delay policy, where prospects could request up to two postponements to a more convenient time within a nine-month period. This nicely pushed jury calls out of the way of staff shortages, event coverage or other scheduling conflicts, i.e. the stuff that really mattered. Through the years, as I recall, there was minimal impact on operations. And it was legal.

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Kelly Kissel - I came to know a handful of Little Rock judges, mainly through execution challenges, and figured my job as an AP news editor and the connections I had developed over the years would see me bounced early from any panel.

One jury summons ordered me to report on Election Day. I forget whether it was a primary or a general election. I believe the case involved a homicide, and at that time we had a policy of writing at least something about every killing — so there was a pretty good chance I had had at least one role in our coverage.

I was called up in the first or second wave, and a judge I knew from various trials asked everyone if we had any obligations we absolutely had to tend to, I mentioned that day's election and the nighttime vote count. After hearing from everyone, his next question asked whether there was anything he could do as a judge to make it easier for us to serve.

Pulaski County judges have primary jurisdiction over Arkansas' state government, so I noted he could issue an injunction and delay the election so I could stay and serve.

I like to think he at least considered it because he kept me in the box for a few hours before releasing me.

I intend to fully behave if I'm ever called again.

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Jim Spehar -

***"When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty."*** **Norm Crosby**

I don't suppose my reaction was unusual. I wasn't exactly doing cartwheels. Joy and anticipation were not among the emotions that resulted from the notice to report for jury duty.

There were no good reasons to put it off. It wasn't an option to head down to the Justice Center and plead the case to be excused. I'll confess to hoping that my number

wouldn't be included when I called late last Friday evening to see if I actually had to show up Monday morning. No such luck.

So there I was just before 9 a.m., filing in with quite a few of my fellow citizens and heading for the third floor jury assembly room. There were a couple of familiar faces, but for the most part this cross section of Mesa County's populace seemed to have little else in common but the questionnaire we were required to turn in when we reported. There were the young and old, doctors and truck drivers, young teachers and retired engineers. Male and female, Hispanic and Caucasian, perhaps a few other races also in the mix.

More bad news came during the briefing by Jury Commissioner Rose Ann Kelley. We were called to be in the pool for a criminal trial, one that could last three days. After being initiated into the intricacies of jury service, we headed up to the fourth floor and filed into the courtroom.

This wasn't my first rodeo. I'd been called before but excused either because trials had been canceled or I just didn't make the cut. So it was the first time I'd actually been part of the pool filing into a courtroom to be part of an actual selection process. Curiosity and interest began replacing those other emotions.

Judge Dave Bottger's patient and detailed explanation of this form of civic involvement spelled out the legal niceties of determining the fate of the defendant in this case. Bottger also gave us the history of the jury system and discussed why this form of citizen service is so important in our society. Twenty-two of the 45 of us who filed in were randomly selected to fill seats at the front of the courtroom to begin the selection process.

Even though I was not one of that initial pool, I was hooked.

Bottger's initial discussion with potential jurors resulted in a few being excused for various reasons. Others were told they'd have to stick around awhile longer. A couple of substitutes from among my fellow occupants of the cheap seats moved up to the front as replacements.

Prosecution and defense attorneys also had the opportunity to question jurors. I found myself following their queries just like I followed the Club 20 political debates a few days earlier...silently considering how I might have handled the various issues had I been a participant. It was a little different than Saturday...the groans were inaudible and the occasional "YES!!!" suppressed as the Q&A went back and forth.

There were the occasional lighter moments. One came as a potential juror was asked if she'd ever made a court appearance. Yes, she had, for a traffic offense. "A serious one?" the judge asked. "Ninety-five in a 45," the young woman replied. While we all laughed, I suspect we also thought that was plenty serious.

Seven hours after first reporting, the judge and attorneys completed their questioning. Bottger explained that the 12 jurors and necessary alternates would come from the pool of 22 that had been directly examined. The rest of us in the back were excused. The judge acknowledged the smiles on the faces of a few in the pool who'd already figured that out.

That brought back another emotion, disappointment. That had been my initial reaction out at the mailbox when I first found the summons. Jury duty was not my idea of the best way to spend part of the nicest time of year in western Colorado. Now, having seen in real life rather than on television a bit of how our legal system worked, I found myself wishing I could see the process through to conclusion.

And I walked into the bright sunshine outside the Mesa County Justice Center on Monday afternoon having a little more direct knowledge and a lot more respect for our legal system than when I walked in.

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**Ed Tobias** - My first call for jury duty was in Montgomery County, MD in the late 1970s. It was a suit brought by a woman who had claimed to have been harmed by using a Dalcon Shield intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD). There were about 40 of us in the jury pool and I was called to the bench several times to answer questions.

“Could you judge this case fairly?” Of course. Back to my seat.

“What do you do for a living?” I said I was the News Director at WTOP Radio. Again, I remained in the pool.

Finally, “Do you have an opinion of the Dalcon Shield?” “Well, I wouldn’t want my wife to use one,” I answered. Bye-bye.

Amazingly, I was only called one other time over the years. It was in Worcester County, MD, after I’d retired. That was a criminal case, and when I told the judge I’d spent a couple of years, back in the 70s, as a reserve police officer in Washington, DC I was given my walking papers.

Here in Florida, they exempt people who are 70 or older. I think my days as a possible juror are over.

## Moment of Zen.



**J. David Ake** - I used to make a habit of posting the quiet little pictures I saw from time to time in the AP slack channel. With retirement I can't do that anymore, so I guess you get to be the recipient of the "Moment of Zen" if you want them. This one shot through the willow trees along the Potomac River at sunset Friday night.

## Standin' on the corner in Winslow, Arizona



**Mark Mittelstadt** - Grandson Moises is a geography enthusiast and also a pretty fine photographer for 12 years old. Making good on a Christmas gift from Abuela and Abuelo, we took him and his parents to northern Arizona to see the Meteor Crater, nearly a mile in diameter and 550 feet deep in the middle of the desert. He enjoyed learning about the national treasure and also taking photos. The night before, we dined in downtown nearby Winslow, where of course we had to take photos of standing on “the” corner, next to a bronze statue of Jackson Browne, who with Glenn Frey wrote the Eagles’ debut single “Take It Easy” that made the corner famous.



## ***BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER***

# **AP responds when gunfire erupts at Kansas City Chiefs’ Super Bowl parade**



Kansas City's AP staff was just wrapping up what was supposed to be a day of fun as the city was celebrating the Chiefs' Super Bowl win with a parade and rally. They were regrouping in the office — and some had family nearby at the parade — when shots rang out.

Photographer Charlie Riedel and video journalist Nick Ingram rushed out the door, while correspondent Heather Hollingsworth tried to confirm what happened. After she alerted that shots had been fired — the first of many alerts on this story — she also raced outside, and days of exhaustive coverage began.

Riedel and stringers sent in photos showing the reality of the shooting's aftermath — people on stretchers, bloodied and shocked. Ingram went live, interviewing people who were stunned by the violence and gathering background video, or b-roll. Hollingsworth sought out witnesses, while other AP staffers helped from afar, including Oklahoma City correspondent Sean Murphy, who jumped in to help stitch the story together as it was developing.

AP's coverage was a collaboration across teams and formats for the next several days. Topeka correspondent John Hanna profiled the woman who died, and from Jefferson City, Summer Ballentine and David Lieb put together a smart piece on Missouri gun laws.

Read more [here](#).

## ***BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER***

# **Fast, smart and comprehensive coverage as Russia's opposition leader Alexei**

# Navalny dies in prison



The announcement by Russia's prison agency that Alexei Navalny had died in the frigid penal colony where he was serving a 19-year sentence came as a shock, but one that the Moscow team had prepared for in all formats. The first version of the obituary of Putin's most prominent opponent moved five minutes after the alert. Video journalist Kirill Zarubin offered the only live images from the Navalny memorial in Moscow shortly after the death was announced. AP's photo team had 25 images ready to go.

Reacting quickly, cameraman Sergey Karelin flew to a remote area in Yamal where Navalny died in the Polar Wolf prison. He trailed after Navalny's mother for several days showing her desperate search for information on her son — and filmed lives showing her in her car going from one place to the other in search of her son's body. Karelin also provided an exclusive from Salekhard of Navalny's mother laying flowers at a memorial there — all strong coverage coordinated by senior producer Tanya Titova and news director Harriet Morris. Hundreds of video clients used the footage thousands of times in the days that followed.

Photographers Zemlianichenko and Lovetsky worked late into the night on Friday and all weekend producing images from memorials in Moscow and St. Petersburg, including police detaining protesters. Writers Volodya Isachenkov, Emma Burrows, Katie Davies and Dasha Litvinova provided a steady stream of insightful pieces and analysis — with Litvinova and Burrows also providing digital explainers.

Read more [here](#).

## Stories of interest

## ***It's Not Just the End for Journalism. It's a Beginning.***

(Mother Jones)

**MONIKA BAUERLEINF**

It's been a brutal month for journalism. How many times have I written that sentence now, and how many more times will I need to write it? Enough that I wasn't going to write it again, despite the headlines about an "extinction-level event" for our profession.

But as the immortal xkcd reminds us, you must weigh in when someone is wrong on the internet, and there's a particular kind of wrong that surfaces at moments like this: the dream of a savior. Surely there is some smart man, somewhere, who will think of a direction, a new model, "something that can grow big we haven't even thought of yet."

Sir Will Lewis, the new CEO of the Washington Post, is a smart man and also, in the words of media columnist and entrepreneur Ben Smith, who interviewed him for his Semafor column, "a relentlessly charming Brit whose uniform is sleek sweaters and expensive-looking sneakers." After beginning the interview with a pitch to "do some business" together, Lewis shares his take on what's wrong with said business: "My hunch is that the existing model is creaking."

Creaking?? We are losing newspapers at the rate of 10 a month. Some of the biggest newsrooms of the digital age have shut down or are circling the drain. Layoffs are happening at a record pace (at least 800 of them this January alone, on top of a record layoff year in 2023). The Washington Post, Vice, Time, Sports Illustrated, the Los Angeles Times. Even the Wall Street Journal. Not to mention the Baltimore Sun, purchased by the conservative billionaire who owns Sinclair Broadcasting (of anchors-reading-canned-editorial fame). Propaganda is overwhelming people's social feeds. Fox News is radicalizing a large part of the conservative movement toward authoritarian and fascist ideas. And the existing model is creaking? It's creaking in the way that a house is creaking after it's collapsed.

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

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***The Barents Observer called Nikolai Patrushev and asked him about Navalny. "He sounded a bit anxious," journalist Olesia Krivtsova says*** (Barents Observer)

**By Atle Staalesen**

Journalist Olesia Krivtsova managed to find the telephone number of Nikolai Patrushev and gave him a call on Saturday morning. The powerful security hawk that plays a key role in Putin's Russia picked up the phone and engaged in a more than one minute conversation.



The Barents Observer publishes the talk between the journalist and the Kremlin hardliner. Olesia has written her own article about the conversation in the Russian version of the Barents Observer.

Patrushev: Hello

Krivtsova: Nikolai Platnovich?

Patrushev: Yes

Krivtsova: Good day. This is Olesia Krivtsova, journalist at the Barents Observer, calling. Could you please comment on the situation that they do not release the body of Navalny to his mother?

Patrushev: No, I can not comment on that. Why would you need such a comment?

Krivtsova: Well - I am a journalist, I look for comments.

Patrushev: You have to address the ones that are engaged in all of those issues. You have to ask the ones that are involved.

Krivtsova: Well - they accuse the Russian FSB and therefore I called.

Patrushev: As you know, I do not work with the FSB at the moment and the accusations are completely irresponsible and the ones that have an interest in the life of Navalny are actually in America. So please address your attention and investigations there and you will get to know what happened. Thank you.

Krivtsova: Good bye.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dick Lipsey.

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## ***With Wit and Understatement, a Press Veteran Reflects on His Trade*** (New York Times)

By Dwight Garner

**THE LEDE: Dispatches From a Life in the Press, by Calvin Trillin**

“People feel so special, so wise, when somebody they know drops dead,” Ottessa Moshfegh wrote in “Homesick for Another World,” her 2017 story collection. The newly dead might have felt special and wise in advance of their demises if they were friends with Calvin Trillin and could be reasonably sure he would speak at their wakes.

Trillin has long been more in demand as a eulogist, in Manhattan’s interlocking journalism and literary worlds, than probably anyone alive. The reasons are apparent

to anyone who has heard or read him. He has a) a fundamental decency, b) a phlegmatic manner and c) a deadpan wit that delivers, like an inoculation, hurt and healing at the same time. I've known people to attend the funerals of people they've never met because word had spread that Trillin would be speaking, in the manner that an N.B.A. nonfan might attend a Knicks game solely because he'd heard that Chaka Khan would be singing the national anthem.

Trillin's new book is called "The Lede: Dispatches From a Life in the Press." It's an assortment of profiles, essays, columns and a few examples of light verse, all of them about journalism, written originally for The New Yorker, The Nation, Time and other outlets. A few go back as far as the early 1970s. New money for old rope, in other words. But it makes sense to have this material in one place, and this book is buoyant and crunchy from end to end.

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

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## ***WAMU shuts down local news site DCist, lays off reporters*** (Washington Post)

**By Elahe Izadi and Will Sommer**

The Washington-area NPR affiliate WAMU shut down local news site DCist on Friday morning, immediately following an all-staff meeting where employees were informed that layoffs are imminent.

Station general manager Erika Pulley-Hayes made the announcement during a roughly 10-minute meeting, during which no questions were taken. She told staffers that the shift was part of a new strategy to focus more on audio products rather than the written journalism that WAMU had hoped to bolster when it acquired DCist six years ago.

She cited a "ripple effect across media consumption habits" created by the pandemic, a declining advertising market and a difficult philanthropic climate.

Pulley-Hayes did not detail in the meeting how many staffers would be laid off, but she spoke to Axios, which reported 15 staffers would be cut while an undetermined number of others will be hired, mostly in audio-production roles.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jim Hood, Bill McCloskey.

## **Today in History - Feb. 26, 2024**



**Today is Monday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2024. There are 309 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 26, 1993, a truck bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others. (The bomb failed to topple the North Tower into the South Tower, as the terrorists had hoped; both structures were destroyed in the 9/11 attack eight years later.)

### **On this date:**

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba and headed back to France in a bid to regain power.

In 1904, the United States and Panama proclaimed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to undertake efforts to build a ship canal across the Panama isthmus.

In 1942, "How Green Was My Valley" won the Academy Award for Best Picture of 1941, beating out nine other films, including "The Maltese Falcon" and "Citizen Kane."

In 1945, authorities ordered a midnight curfew at nightclubs, bars and other places of entertainment across the nation.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1966, South Korean troops sent to fight in the Vietnam War massacred at least 380 civilians in Go Dai hamlet.

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which had probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1998, a jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an \$11 million lawsuit brought by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

In 2005, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered his country's constitution changed to allow presidential challengers in an upcoming fall election.

In 2012, Trayvon Martin, 17, was shot to death in Sanford, Florida, during an altercation with neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, who said he acted in self-defense. (Zimmerman was later acquitted of second-degree murder.)

In 2013, a hot air balloon burst into flames during a sunrise flight over the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor and then plummeted 1,000 feet to earth, killing 19 tourists.

In 2014, Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed a bill pushed by social conservatives that would have allowed people with sincerely held religious beliefs to refuse to serve gays.

In 2016, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie stunned the Republican establishment by endorsing Donald Trump for president.

In 2017, At the Academy Awards, "Moonlight," an LGBT coming of age drama, won three Oscars, including best picture of 2016 (in a startling gaffe, the musical "La La Land" was mistakenly announced as the best picture winner before the error was corrected).

In 2018, President Donald Trump, who had been highly critical of the law enforcement response to the Florida school shooting, told a roomful of governors at the White House that if he had been there, he would have rushed in, unarmed.

In 2020, the World Health Organization reported that the number of new coronavirus cases outside China had exceeded the number of new infections in China for the first time.

Today's birthdays: Actor-director Bill Duke is 81. Singer Mitch Ryder is 79. Actor Marta Kristen (TV: "Lost in Space") is 79. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 74. Singer Michael Bolton is 71. The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn), is 70. Actor Greg Germann is 66. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is 66. Bandleader John McDaniel is 63. Actor-martial artist Mark Dacascos is 60. Actor Jennifer Grant is 58. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 56. Singer Erykah Badu (EHR'-ih-kah bah-DOO') is 53. Actor Maz Jobrani (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 52. R&B singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 52. Olympic gold medal swimmer Jenny Thompson is 51. R&B singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 49. Actor Greg Kinnear is 47. Rock musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 45. R&B singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 45. Pop singer Nate Ruess (fun.) is 42. Former tennis player Li Na is 42. Latin singer Natalia Lafourcade is 40. Actor Teresa Palmer is 38.

## 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.

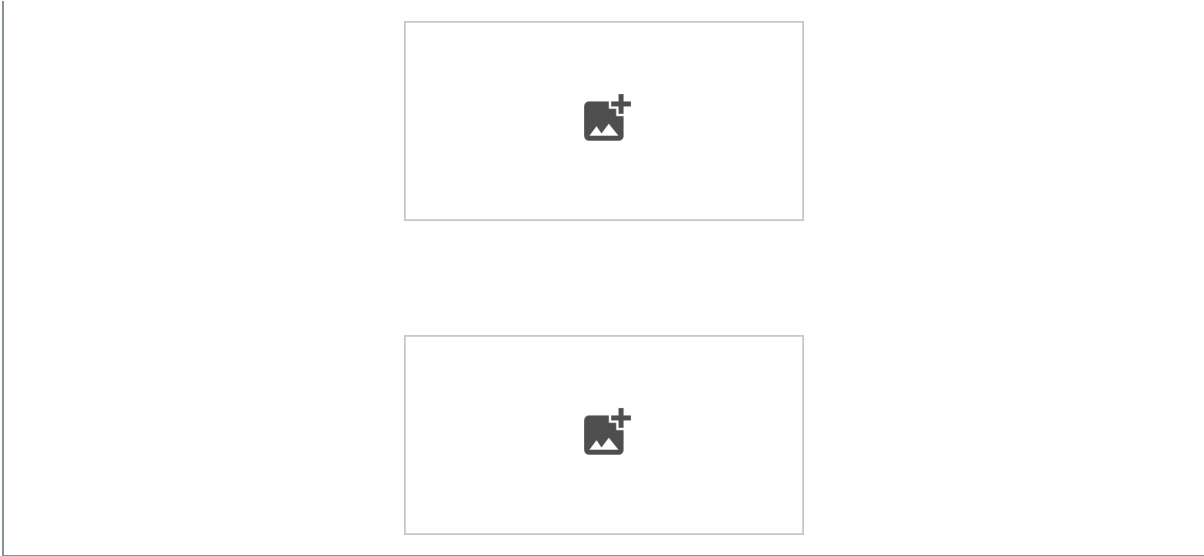
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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