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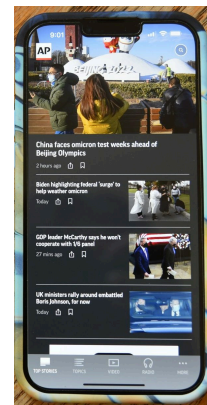
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Connecting

Feb. 27, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Feb. 27, 2024,

More stories of Connecting colleagues' experiences with jury duty lead today's issue.

Included is Donna Tommelleo's account of her call for jury duty - on Sept. 11, 2001, and learning of the terrorist attacks from the presiding judge. Donna worked in AP's Hartford bureau from 1995-2008.

Dave Wallace death - [Owen Ullmann](#) – “So sad to learn of Dave Wallace's death. Bob Dobkin described him perfectly: calm, thoughtful, a truly wonderful colleague. I had the honor to work with Dave both at the AP and Business Week. He was a top-notch journalist and caring editor. I found his counsel wise and his friendship endearing. I will miss him and send condolences to his family.”

Celebration of Life for Hal Buell – Zoom gathering scheduled for Sunday, March 3, at 7 p.m. Eastern. There will be a short program, and participants will be invited to share a favorite memory of Hal, if they wish. If you would like to join, please send an RSVP to

Hal's daughter Barbara at – barbara.buell@gmail.com – and you will receive a Zoom link before the gathering.

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

Paul

Connecting series:

Memories of serving on a jury

Jerry Bodlander - Ed Tobias' recollection of being called for jury duty reminded me of when I had to tell Ed (who was my boss) that I was part of a jury pool for a trial that we were told could last 6-7 weeks. Needless to say, he wasn't thrilled.

It was a murder trial and involved a change of venue from Frederick County, Maryland to Montgomery County, Maryland. I distinctly remember prosecutors saying that it was not a death penalty case.

I had received a card in the mail that I was one of 200 people being called in to make up the jury pool for this trial. I was number 192 on the list. I answered all the basic questions, including telling them that I was a reporter (figuring that would be a reason I would be excluded.)

I remember sitting way in the back of the courtroom, watching as dozens of people said their vacations would be ruined by having to serve for more than a month. Many others said they couldn't take the time off from work. I remember Ed grimacing when I told him how long the trial was projected to take but he didn't say anything else. Ultimately the jurors and alternates were chosen with about 25 or 30 of us still left to be considered and we all sighed with relief as the judge told us we could go.

The only other time I was called I ended up sitting in a room with dozens of other prospective jurors. The idea was to have a pool of potential jurors immediately available in case a lawyer decided to ask for a jury trial in hopes of delaying the proceedings. Fortunately, that didn't happen and we were all free to go after about three hours of waiting.

Overall, not as exciting or interesting as the experiences of others.

-0-

Rick Cooper - I've never served on a civilian jury. In the Army, on active duty, I did sit as a panel member at two General Courtsmartial. One case was for willful destruction of government property and the other was for drug possession, with intent to distribute. Both cases ended in findings of guilt with confinement and dishonorable discharges.

As far as civilian jury went, while I was in Vietnam my father forwarded a jury duty summons addressed to me which he had received. When I got the summons, I took it

to the colonel who was the head of the section of the division staff where I was assigned. I told the colonel the summons said I was required to report and if I failed to show up, I would be arrested. I asked if orders could be cut sending me back home.

The colonel told me, lieutenant, don't worry, he would have the Division Sergeant Major take care of it. I have no idea what the guy with all the stripes on his sleeves did but not only did I not get into any trouble for ignoring that summons, for the next 45 years I never received another. It wasn't until we had moved to Florida that I was ever summoned but since I was over age 70, I could opt out of serving.

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Donna Tommelleo - While called to state jury duty a few times, I never had to actually go to the courthouse. Each time I called the night before and learned I didn't have to report. The one and only time I did have to report was for federal jury in Hartford. I was a newswoman in the Hartford bureau at the time and the courthouse was a few blocks from the bureau.

I was among a large pool of potential jurors being picked for a civil case. Several times during the proceedings, court officials would enter through a side door and have quiet conversations with the judge. Never having been on jury duty before, I assumed this was usual.

It took most of the morning to choose a jury. There were a few dozen of us. We never left the spacious courtroom and were cut off from any outside communications. I was not chosen, which was just fine with me. Heck, I had the day off and it was a spectacular late summer day in New England. In excusing us, the judge began with thanks to all and then said, "Now, I have to tell you some horrible news." The date of my jury duty? September 11, 2001.

In a few short minutes, he updated us on just about everything that had happened. We didn't have to watch it tragically unfold as so many did. Stunned, the only thing I knew to do was get out my notebook, try to write down everything he said and take in the reactions of those around me. He explained that he chose to keep us all in the courtroom to finish jury selection because we are Americans and we were taking part in an honored process of the U.S. justice system. He wasn't going to cede that to terrorists. Finally, he told us that federal courthouses are now closed. "Go home."

And then we all walked out into the unknown.

How this AP photographer captured a unique splash at the swim worlds with an underwater camera



Carles Coll Marti of Spain competes in the men's 200-meter breaststroke heat at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

BY LEE JIN-MAN

While covering the World Aquatics Championships in Qatar, AP Photographer Lee Jin-Man looked for standout photo opportunities in the pool. He worked with divers and colleagues to make sure his underwater camera was always in the right spot.

Here, he shares how he captured this extraordinary image.

Why this photo

I'm always thinking of ways to take a different photo. I'm looking for things like new angles and exposures, in sports as well as in general news.

Because there are multiple players involved in sports, you have to take as many pictures as possible in one location, which can result in a lot of similar photos. Swimming had already been going on for several days at the World Aquatics Championships when I decided to change things up to see what I could get.

In the preliminary round, I planned to take shots outside the marquee middle lanes - 3, 4, and 5 - we usually focus on. After adjusting the underwater camera location and test-shooting a few times, I could predict that certain positions would give me the diverse, new photos I wanted.

How I made the photo

During heats in the morning - the races for qualifying in the finals - I took the initiative to test other camera placements.

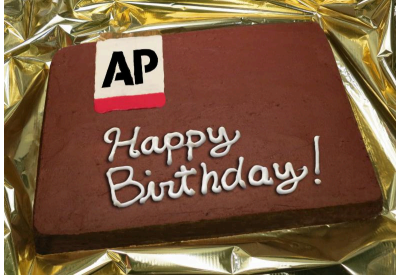
Read more [here](#).

Nick Ut in Saigon

Nick Ut - I am here in Vietnam and send you two pictures. Visit After Tet Vietnamese New Year in Saigon.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Doug Crews](#)

[Sam Heiman](#)

[Dave Tschantz](#)

Stories of interest

Supreme Court casts doubt on GOP-led states' efforts to regulate social media platforms (AP)

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court cast doubt Monday on state laws that could affect how Facebook, TikTok, X, YouTube and other social media platforms regulate content posted by their users. The cases are among several this term in which the justices could set standards for free speech in the digital age.

In nearly four hours of arguments, several justices questioned aspects of laws adopted by Republican-dominated legislatures and signed by Republican governors in Florida and Texas in 2021. But they seemed wary of a broad ruling, with Justice Amy Coney Barrett warning of “land mines” she and her colleagues need to avoid in resolving the two cases.

While the details vary, both laws aimed to address conservative complaints that the social media companies were liberal-leaning and censored users based on their viewpoints, especially on the political right.

Differences on the court Wednesday emerged over how to think about the platforms — as akin to newspapers that have broad free-speech protections, or telephone companies, known as common carriers that are susceptible to broader regulation.

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

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Israel Condemns US Award For Handing Prize to Photographer with ' Hamas Ties' (PetaPixel)

By PESALA BANDARA

Israel has condemned a U.S. journalism award for handing a top prize to a photographer who was allegedly embedded with Hamas during the October 7 attack.

Last week, Photographer Yousef Masoud won the prestigious George Polk award for photojournalism for his images of the Israel-Hamas conflict for The New York Times.

Masoud was awarded the prize alongside another freelance photojournalist named Samar Abu Elouf.

“The award for Photojournalism goes to Samar Abu Elouf and Yousef Masoud of The New York Times for chronicling Israel’s bombardment and invasion of their homeland, Gaza,” writes the committee for the George Polk award.

“The two photographed the conflict from its opening hours on Oct. 7 until they escaped the territory exactly two months later.”

However, according to The Times of Israel, Israel’s Foreign Ministry has slammed the committee of the U.S. photojournalism award for giving the prize to Masoud — claiming that he has public connections to Hamas and allegedly knew the terrorist organization’s plans to attack the country on October 7 in advance.

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

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Top News Orgs And Funders Convene To Address Dire State Of News Media (Forbes)

Meg Little Reilly

More than six hundred leaders from news organizations, civic advocacy groups and philanthropies gathered in Miami in February with the common goal of shoring up journalism and civic information in the U.S. Hosted by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Knight Media Forum is an annual event that examines the intersection of journalism and charitable giving. This year’s program felt more urgent than past years with an emphasis on creating sustainability through historic investments in local news.

“We are well past time to just be talking about solutions,” said Knight Foundation President and CEO Maribel Pérez Wadsworth in her opening remarks. “We need a bias toward action.”

Over several overcast days in Miami, a downtown hotel swarmed with journalism school deans, foundation presidents, and the CEOs of large and small news organizations. They met in conference rooms for formal speaking events and gathered around coffees to identify collaborative strategies for strengthening the news industry against compounding economic and technological threats.

The agenda featured speakers from news innovators including MLK50, Tiny News Collective, and ProPublica. It also included civic advocacy and research organizations like Solutions Journalism Network, the Center for Public Integrity, the Center for Christianity and Public Life, and the Institute for Nonprofit News. Universities had a large presence at the event with speakers from large and small schools on the agenda. On stage and in the audience, philanthropic groups were also a major presence — and the engine behind many of the initiatives in the rooms.

Read more [here](#).

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Gannett's 2024 priorities include 'rebooting' small newsrooms and keeping voters informed (Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

Gannett grew its digital revenue to 41% of its total revenue last quarter and is hoping to increase that percentage to 55% by 2026 and break even, the company announced Thursday.

Gannett — the largest newspaper company in the country — ended the fourth quarter of 2023 with a \$22.9 million loss. Its total loss for fiscal year 2023 was \$27.8 million, an improvement from 2022, when it reported a \$78 million loss. Executives on the company's earning call struck an optimistic tone, noting that Gannett had grown its digital audience and revenues. They expect the company to hit its "inflection point" — when revenue flips from declining to growing — near the end of 2024.

"We expect digital revenues to grow approximately 10% versus 2023 and importantly, begin to outpace the declines we see in our legacy revenue streams," CEO Mike Reed said during an earnings call with investors. "Our digital revenue strategy, and the foundation for anticipated future growth, is to expand our audience and improve engagement and improve the platform monetization at each point in the customer journey with us."

Gannett grew digital revenue 2.9% year-over-year to \$277.1 million last quarter. Average revenue per user was a little more than \$28 a year, suggesting many subscribers benefit from deeply discounted rates. Gannett had roughly 2 million digital subscribers last quarter, up 1.6% from the previous quarter.

Read more [here](#).

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Scripps Howard Fund, AEJMC recognize administrator and teacher of the year

CINCINNATI – The Scripps Howard Fund, in partnership with the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), is recognizing higher education leaders who help inspire and train the next generation of journalists and communication professionals.

The Fund's 2023 Administrator of the Year and Teacher of the Year recipients provide students with innovative ways to get real-world experiences in the industry. Winners receive a trophy and \$10,000.

The Scripps Howard Fund recognizes the Administrator and Teacher of the Year as part of the Scripps Howard Awards, one of the nation's most prestigious American journalism competitions.

Administrator of the Year winner: Ann Brill, University of Kansas

Teacher of the Year winner: Nicole Kraft, The Ohio State University

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Feb. 27, 2024



Today is Tuesday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2024. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 27, 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until the following May.)

On this date:

In 1807, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, was gutted by fire; Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire to justify suspending civil liberties.

In 1939, the Supreme Court, in *National Labor Relations Board v. Fansteel Metallurgical Corp.*, effectively outlawed sit-down strikes.

In 1942, the Battle of the Java Sea began during World War II; Imperial Japanese naval forces scored a decisive victory over the Allies.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1991, Operation Desert Storm came to a conclusion as President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

In 1997, divorce became legal in Ireland.

In 1998, with the approval of Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's House of Lords agreed to end 1,000 years of male preference by giving a monarch's first-born daughter the same claim to the throne as any first-born son.

In 2006, former Newark Eagles co-owner Effa Manley became the first woman elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 2010, in Chile, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake and tsunami killed 524 people, caused \$30 billion in damage and left more than 200,000 homeless.

In 2013, Van Cliburn, the internationally celebrated pianist whose triumph at a 1958 Moscow competition launched a spectacular career that made him the rare classical musician to enjoy rock star status, died in Fort Worth, Texas, at age 78.

In 2020, President Donald Trump declared that a widespread U.S. outbreak of COVID-19 was not inevitable, even as top health authorities at his side warned that more infections were coming.

In 2021, the U.S. got a third vaccine to prevent COVID-19, as the Food and Drug Administration cleared a Johnson & Johnson shot that worked with just one dose instead of two.

In 2022, President Vladimir Putin dramatically escalated East-West tensions by ordering Russian nuclear forces put on high alert, while Ukraine's embattled leader agreed to talks with Moscow as Putin's troops and tanks drove deeper into the country.

Today's birthdays: Actor Joanne Woodward is 95. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 91. Actor Barbara Babcock is 88. Actor Debra Monk is 76. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 71. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 68. Actor Timothy Spall is 68. Rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 65. Country singer Johnny Van Zant (Van Zant) is 65. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 64. Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy is 64. Actor Adam Baldwin is 63. Actor Grant Show is 63. Actor Noah Emmerich is 60. Actor Donal Logue is 59. R&B singer Chilli (TLC) is 54. Rock musician Jeremy Dean (Nine Days) is 53. Country-rock musician Shonna Tucker is 47. Chelsea Clinton is 45. Actor Brandon Beemer is 45. Rock musician Cyrus Bolooki (New Found Glory) is 45. Rock musician Jake Clemons (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 45. R&B singer Bobby V is 45. Singer Josh Groban is 44. Banjoist Noam Pikelny is 44. Rock musician Jared Champion (Cage the Elephant) is 51. Actor Kate Mara is 42. TV personality JWwow (AKA Jenni Farley) is 39. Actor Lindsey Morgan is 35.

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.

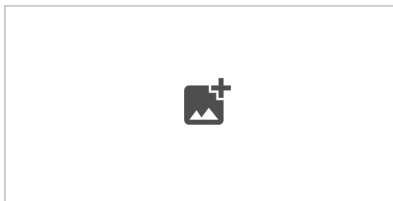
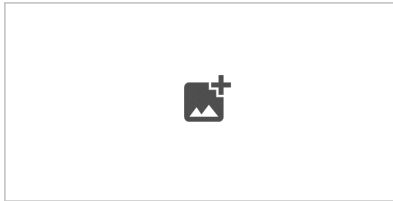
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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