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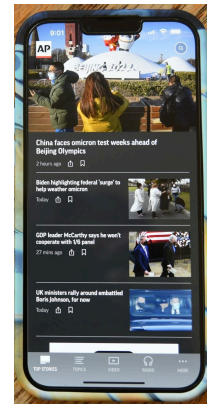
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Connecting

March 19, 2024

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Scenes like this are disappearing slowly from the AP landscape. This photo shows staffers at work in the Albany bureau in 1989. Pictured, from left: Joel Stashenko, Dave Germain, Yvette Blackman, Leslie Zganjar, John Kekis, Dianne Henk and Mike Hendricks.

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 19, 2024,

Our lead obituary in today's issue is for a bureau.

Not just any bureau, but the oldest Associated Press bureau outside of New York City, formed at about the same time that AP New York was born – in 1846.

Albany, the capitol of New York State, has been home for a physical, brick-and-mortar office for The Associated Press for 178 years, until early 2024 – when the AP closed its offices in the Times-Union building. Albany's one news staffer now works remotely and its two statehouse reporters work from space in the State Capitol.

Five decades ago, I began my AP career in Albany as a newsman and sports writer – among some 30 news and communications staffers who worked out of the Times Union and Knickerbocker News building on Albany-Shaker Road, covering Upstate New York. I still take great pride in starting my career there.

Of the six bureaus where I worked during 36 years with AP, only one – Kansas City – is still housed in a bureau office setting. The others – Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque and Indianapolis – no longer are in offices. Staffers work remotely (except for Wichita, which closed).

The AP is not alone in reducing physical office space. It is happening in virtually all industries throughout the country, accelerated no doubt during the covid era when working remotely became a norm and companies (and many employees) discovered that it could be effectively done – with the savings of rent and utilities, parking, commutes and other costs.

“The AP is committed to its 50-state footprint,” said **Lauren Easton**, AP vice president and director of media relations. “This is just the closing of a physical office space. We are not reducing our footprint in any state. As has been the case for the past several years, AP continues to evaluate its global real estate footprint to better align our physical space with how we work today in a hybrid environment.”

Pardon this long lead-in to today’s lead story – a look back at the Albany bureau by one of its longest-serving news editors, our colleague **Mike Hendricks**.

Question: Is a bureau defined as a physical structure or defined as the people who work there, in an AP office building or remotely from home or another location. It’s a bit tricky, methinks. But whatever the reasons, economic, a change in the workplace concept or whatever, it’s a significant moment for many of us who called a bureau like Albany their home.

If you have a story to share regarding your work in Albany or another physical office space that has closed, please send it along. What is lost when a bureau, if you will, is virtual...and what is gained?

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

Paul

RIP, Albany bureau



Albany staffers, from left: Dianne Henk, Rob Goessler, Mike Hendricks, Joel Stashenko and Mary Esch. Dianne is guessing the pose is to show the five had 61 years combined experience.

Mike Hendricks - The closing of the Albany bureau earlier this year should not go without mention.

The bureau was as old as the AP itself.

I had always heard that Albany, known then as ALB, was one of the very first bureaus in the AP. The New York City publishers who started the AP sent correspondents out to Albany and Washington. The bureau closed formally at the end of last year with the remaining reporters working remotely.

Ed Staats was the bureau chief and Brian King was news editor when I joined the staff a week or two before Paul Stevens in 1973. Chuck Green, Lew Wheaton and Robert Naylor were the bureau chiefs during my 27 years on the upstate staff. Albany was a 24-hour bureau on the second floor of the Times Union building in the suburbs. Earlier the bureau operated out of two separate newspaper buildings in downtown Albany.

Albany was the “control bureau” responsible for covering most of New York state north of the New York City region. Upstate New York was pretty much its own state in many ways. New York City members had little interest in upstate news and the upstate members had remarkably little interest in news out of “the city.” We supervised the “state wire” and served upwards of 60 upstate dailies and scores of radio and tv stations. We had correspondencies in Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester, as well as an

office at the state Capitol filing copy to the desk in Albany. At times we had as many as five people in Buffalo and another five at the Capitol. The phones were always ringing and we were expected to answer the phones on the first ring.

When I became news editor in 1982, one of the first conflicts I was confronted with was the annoyance of non-smoking editors upset by their co-workers who left dirty ashtrays on the desk after their shift. As culture and technology evolved, I remember complaints from some on the nightshirt about someone turning the bureau television from CNN to MTV and turning up the volume after I left for the day.



Capitol staff (date unknown): from left, Elizabeth Edwardsen (went from Albany to become Portland, Me, correspondent), Dave Bauder (went on to become, and still is, AP's star TV/media writer in NYC), Marc Humbert and Robert Bellafiore (who left AP for a career that included being press secretary to then-Republican Gov. George Pataki).

The one common interest for upstate and downstate members was news out of the state Capitol. When I joined the Albany staff, Howard Clark headed the Capitol coverage. Charlie Hanley worked with Howard. Later David Shaffer and Mary Fiess worked together at the Capitol, followed by Marc Humbert, who worked many years with such reporters as Dave Bauder, Jesse Holland, Joel Stashenko, Mike Hill, and Michael Gormley.

The first wirephoto in AP history was of an airplane crash in the Adirondacks.

Steve Starr, Albany's staff photographer at the time, won a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography in 1970. Jim McKnight took over the bureau's photography duties after Starr left Albany.

Christine McKnight (Jim's wife) reported from the Capitol and was bureau news editor for a while before leaving the AP.

Charlie Hanley, who went on to play a major role in a Pulitzer prize for investigative reporting, covered the Capitol and served as bureau news editor.

I cannot speak for the people who came before or after my time in Albany, but I was privileged to work with so many talented and fiercely determined journalists who left their mark in many ways. The bureau was a training ground for scores of talented journalists on their way to wonderful careers.

Dianne Henk, who later became news editor, and Mary Esch pioneered job sharing that enabled working mothers to continue their AP careers.

In the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s' the Albany bureau was heavily involved in the AP's diversity program, working with 15 consecutive internships.



Tracking Down Enterprise in Upstate New York

By LEW WHEATON
Albany bureau chief

Upstate New York. To many New York City residents, it's a medium-sized cow pasture that begins north of Yonkers and ends in the Buffalo suburbs. The Adirondack Mountains and the Catskills hold down the edges.

To Buffalo residents, upstate ends somewhere east of Rochester, with the appearance of the "downstate" mentality.

Upstate is a sprawling region without cohesion or easy definition. It contains the largest park in the contiguous 48 states, sprawling suburbs, abandoned mile-long steel mills along Lake Erie, robust farmlands, booming high-tech centers and tiny wilderness settlements far from the nearest road.

The AP team charged with covering this territory spreads far and wide.

Recent months found:

—Mel Reisner on a B-52 flight line as the first squadron of nuclear-tipped cruise missiles became operational, or cruising the St. Lawrence Seaway.

—Donna Cassata high above the ice at the NCAA national hockey championships at Lake Placid, or at the scene of the 1968 Woodstock happening.

—Terry Petty in a blizzard-swept weather tower atop a mountain in the Adirondacks, or interviewing author William Kennedy BEFORE the latter won the Pulitzer Prize.

—Mary Esch atop a sheer cliff just scaled by a man with no legs, or in the steel and concrete warrens of Attica prison.

—Ben de Forest on the Seneca Indian reservation, or examining fam-

Swathed in layers of wool and down, Albany photographer Jim McKnight (left) and newsman Terry Petty stand in front of the all-terrain vehicle that took them up to the top of Whiteface Mountain, scene of the 1980 winter Olympics in New York's Adirondack mountains. They were visiting the mountain for a story on the weather station that perches on top.

ily tragedies caused by a steel plant shutdown that cost 6,000 jobs.

—Jay Bonfatti in frozen muck, carnage and devastation left by a propane blast that leveled a Buffalo city block, or interviewing the NFL's youngest head coach following a Buffalo Bills game.

—Peter Coy in the boardrooms of Eastman Kodak and the Xerox Corp., or talking with the woman whose words are heard by millions who call computer-driven directory assistance numbers.

—Jim McKnight directing the efforts of a half-dozen photographers from a leaking darkroom/photo center shaken by the roar of race cars at Watkins Glen.

—Randy Picht aboard the locomotive of the Batten Kill Railroad, one

When satellite transmission and computers freed the AP from the 66-words a minute teletypes, the Albany bureau became very aggressive in enterprise reporting as a strategy to make the national report. During that time, the bureau was an especially prolific contributor to the Sunday AP Newsfeatures report.

That emphasis on enterprise allowed bureau reporters to pursue stories that helped shape their careers.

Dave Bauder, an Albany alum is the AP's television writer and teaches journalism at Syracuse University.

Nekesa Moody started in Albany and went on to become the AP's Global Entertainment editor and is now the editor of The Hollywood Reporter, where she works with Patricia Mays, who also started in Albany. Dave Germain went on to be an AP business reporter covering Hollywood. Chris Carola developed a specialty writing on history topics.

So many young and talented journalists started in the Albany bureau on their way to great success throughout the AP and beyond.

Denene Millner went on to be a prolific author.

Larry Elkin went on to the New York business desk, and has authored books on personal finance.

Yvette Blackman became a General Desk editor and news editor in Miami. Pete Turkel went on to be Detroit news editor.

Jeff Donn became a national correspondent and was a Pulitzer finalist. John Affleck, who went on to serve as the correspondent in Buffalo, then Cleveland before becoming the AP's deputy sports editor and now teaches journalism at Penn State.

Seema Mehta is now a political reporter for the LA Times.

John Kekis bolstered the AP's sports coverage while working in Albany. John covered the first fights of Mike Tyson's boxing career and was sent to cover Olympics as well as other major sporting events.

Ben Walker became AP's titled baseball writer in New York Sports.

Peter Coy is now a business columnist for the New York Times.

Susan Lisovicz left the bureau to work for CNN where she covered the stock market and became a business anchor and hosted her own show. Susan still teaches journalism at Arizona State.

Jim Robbins worked the night desk before his career took him to the New York Times to cover "The New West" and has since authored several books on environmental issues.

Donna Cassata went on to work as an editor at the Washington Post.

Corey Sandler, another Albany alum, went on to become an extremely prolific author.

Steve Bell became city editor of the Buffalo News.

Bureau Chiefs Chuck Green and Lew Wheaton came to Albany after years as foreign correspondents. The Albany bureau became a launching pad for many future foreign correspondents.

Hilary Appelman, Mary Beth Sheridan, (now the Washington Post's Mexico City bureau chief), Denis Gray, Terry Petty, Ed McCullough, Frank Bajak, and Chris Torchia, all became foreign correspondents in their post-Albany AP careers.

In addition to Paul Stevens, Albany had a few alums who became bureau chiefs. Frank Fisher went on to be bureau chief in Mississippi and Iowa. Randy Picht became bureau chief in Kansas City and Minneapolis after a stint as AP's business editor.

When Paul and I started in the bureau, we wrote on typewriters and one of our duties was to go downstairs to the Times-Union newsroom to sift through carbon copies of their stories for AP use. We always suspected the TU editors did not leave carbons of their best stories for us to find. The AP newsroom was surrounded by clattering teletypes that made it hard to hear on the telephone and for generations ALB was driven by people fiercely invested in the AP's mission who worked in the bureau for 30, 40 and even 50 years.

The bureau staff when Paul and I joined included such veteran desk editors as Edmund Pinto, Joe Galu, Pete Jacobs and broadcast editor Bob Hoyt.

In its heyday, there were some 30 people in the Albany/upstate operation. There was a team of skilled "operators" who "punched" our stories into tape — Doris Selig, Marie Randio, Gene and Rob Goessler, and Kenny Kraffert.

The tech staff, headed over the years by Bill Welch, Bob Esposito and Rob Young, kept everything working with the help of capable technicians who would go out at all times of the day or night to keep the AP running in member newsrooms, including climbing up on roofs to sweep snow out of satellite dishes as the technology evolved. Richard Schaefer worked out of the bureau for many years as the AP's regional broadcast executive.

Beth Grace became bureau chief shortly after I left the AP in 2000 and later moved to Kansas City as bureau chief. I lost track of the bureau after that.

The Albany bureau's staffing dwindled over the years, but Michael Hill remains. Michael started right out of college as an editorial assistant and worked his way up and is carrying on the tradition of the Albany bureau, just not from the bureau. The Statehouse correspondents, Maysoon Khan and Anthony Izaguirre, work from office space at the Capitol.

One name that requires mentioning is Dawn Force, who was the bureau's longtime secretary and put her heart and soul into the New York State Associated Press Association and its annual meetings. I have so many memories of those state meetings, especially the smoky hospitality suite after the meetings where we got to really know the personalities of member editors, sometimes with the help of a few drinks late into the night.

I have vivid and wonderful memories of the people I worked with. Each one is a story in themselves.

Those were great times. Everything we did in the bureau during those years was important to someone in some newsroom across the state. We did not realize it would not be that way forever.

To quote Winnie the Pooh: “We didn’t realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun.”

And it was fun. Well, maybe not the overnight shift, so much...or taking dictation of minor league hockey boxes. It was definitely fun beating on UPI.

I am sure I left out many deserving names. I hope others who passed through ALB can fill out the picture.

Remembering Jim Willis

Robert Burns - I am saddened to hear of Jim Willis’s passing. I have nothing but fond memories of working for him in the Jefferson City bureau. He was a witty and charming man and a devoted AP correspondent. My brief time in Jefferson City (3 months) as an AP legislative relief hire in December 1977 began with a phone call to Jim’s home shortly after arriving in the capital and checking in to the Governor Hotel. It was a few days before Christmas, and Jim (and virtually everyone else at the Capitol) was on vacation. He was surprised to hear from me. I told him I had just arrived from Seattle, where I had graduated from the University of Washington in early December, and was reporting for duty. He chuckled and asked what the heck (or words to that effect) I was doing by arriving during Christmas break when there was no work to be done. Kansas City COB Fred Moen, who had hired me by phone several days earlier, insisted I get to Jefferson City as fast as possible. Christmas traditions didn’t seem to be a consideration, so I drove across the country as fast as my VW bug would carry me. Gracious as always, Jim invited to me his home to watch the Rose Bowl on New Years Day, so I got to see my UW Huskies beat Michigan — a game I would have attended in person if not for the rush order to get to Jefferson City. Jim was a gem.

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Tom Cohen - I was saddened to learn of the passing of Jim Willis, one of the best bosses I ever had at AP or anywhere. Always known as Willis, not Jim, he was a very smart and hard-nosed journalist with a wicked sense of humor, almost a stereotype of the old-fashioned AP man who smoked on the job and uttered profanities with the ease of breathing.

It was Willis who first hired me at AP as an intern in the Jefferson City bureau during the 1982 Missouri Legislature session. I was a graduate student in journalism at the University of Missouri seeking a career path to become a foreign correspondent, and the AP seemed like the best option.

Willis had me write the AP test in his office, and he let me know a few days later that I'd done fine but took too long. So he gave me a second, informal test, asking me to write up a news release from the Missouri governor's office. I smiled internally because I had done a story on that news release for the university newspaper, so I was

able to rap out a quick report to his satisfaction. Maybe he knew that and was giving me a break.

I returned as an AP intern in Jefferson City for the 1983 legislative session, then worked for a year at the Columbia Daily Tribune. Willis knew I wanted to join AP again, and one day in 1984, he told me of a pending vacancy in the St. Louis bureau. Thanks to Willis insisting that I immediately call Fred Moen, the Kansas City bureau chief who oversaw the region, I got the job to launch my 20-year career with AP.

I'll always be thankful that I started my AP life under Willis. While he could be gruff, he was honest and fair as a boss, and you always knew where you stood with him. And he was a really good journalist who taught me a lot in my earliest AP days.

Harry Culver – my union brother

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - Connecting colleague Lindel Hutson's piece on UPI's Harry Culver, American union leader, World War II bomber pilot and Oklahoma journalism icon, refreshed my memory of the quiet, strong southern gentleman, my union brother.

Harry and I served on several councils of The Newspaper and Wire Service guilds for many years. When I met Harry, he was the chairperson of TNG (then known as the American Newspaper Guild, now NewsGuild and president of WSG, now News Media Guild); I was just entering the union at lower AP leadership levels.

It became clear soon in our conversations that Harry and I shared the World War II period, he as bomber pilot whose plane dropped explosives on Germany, I as a three-year-old war refugee from Lithuania in Bavaria being hustled by my parents into bunkers and basements to hide from the Allied B-17s.

It was clear that Harry's commitment to the union was shaped by the war and growing up during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years. Harry, reticent to discuss the bombings, would rather reminisce about growing up in Oklahoma during a time, he would recall, that his family often had no more to eat than turnips for supper.

Harry, quoted by Lindel from a piece in The Oklahoman, said he hated “hurting people ... but Hitler had to be stopped.” As a union member and leader Harry focused on helping people, and his community and country as a journalist.

2024 Roy Reed Lecture features AP's Chad Day

AP's Chad Day will be the guest lecturer on April 3 in the Roy Reed Lecture Series at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

The lecture series brings noteworthy media professionals to campus each year to discuss their careers and issues in their professions. The lecture was created by the School of Journalism and Strategic Media in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

to honor Roy Reed when he retired from the journalism faculty. The event is free and open to the public.

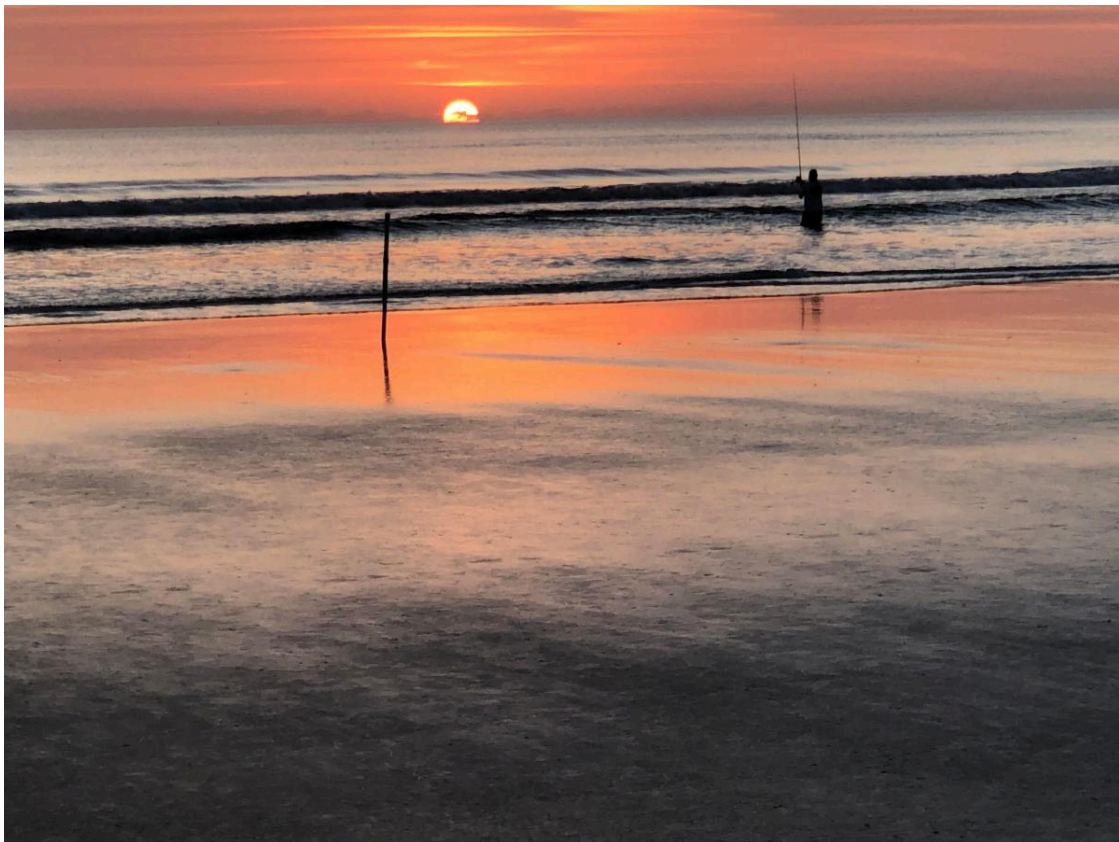
Day is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a member of the Associated Press' Decision Desk who writes about politics and elections. He rejoined the AP in February 2023 after several years at The Wall Street Journal, where he was the lead data reporter on the national politics team, covering presidential campaigns, elections, demographics and money in politics.



He also specialized in building tools to help reporters tell deeper stories using data, particularly about the American electorate.

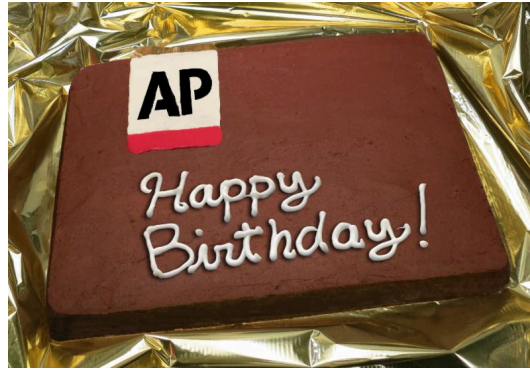
(Shared by Linda Sargent)

Connecting sky shot – Florida



Jo Steck - Wilbur by the Sea, Fla., devastated during the hurricanes 1-1:2 years ago, but coming back!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bruce Nathan](#)

[Rick Rogers](#)

And...from March 16 –

[Roland Rochet](#)

Stories of interest

On Fox News, Steve Doocy has become the unexpected voice of dissent (Washington Post)

By Jeremy Barr

It was just after 6 a.m., and Steve Doocy was already going against the grain.

“We don’t have any privacy!” his “Fox & Friends” co-host Ainsley Earhardt was fretting.

“It’s unbelievable!” concurred another co-host, Lawrence Jones.

Their outrage was sparked during that mid-January broadcast by a new allegation that federal officials had asked banks to monitor purchases from outdoors-gear retailers like Dick’s Sporting Goods — in an effort to flag potential extremists who might have participated in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. On a network like Fox News that employs pundits who have downplayed the violence at the U.S. Capitol, this was troubling stuff. Earhardt deemed such scrutiny “an invasion”; a fourth co-host, Brian Kilmeade, mused about government intimidation.

But Doocy, a host of Fox's enduring morning show since 1998, simply did not share their alarm.

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

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Supreme Court seems favorable to Biden administration over efforts to combat social media posts (AP)

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court seemed likely Monday to side with the Biden administration in a dispute with Republican-led states over how far the federal government can go to combat controversial social media posts on topics including COVID-19 and election security in a case that could set standards for free speech in the digital age.

The justices seemed broadly skeptical during nearly two hours of arguments that a lawyer for Louisiana, Missouri and other parties presented accusing officials in the Democratic administration of leaning on the social media platforms to unconstitutionally squelch conservative points of view.

Lower courts have sided with the states, but the Supreme Court blocked those rulings while it considers the issue.

Several justices said they were concerned that common interactions between government officials and the platforms could be affected by a ruling for the states.

Read more [here](#).

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Sports Illustrated will continue operations after agreement reached with new publisher (AP)

BY JOE REEDY

Sports Illustrated will continue operations after the company that owns the brand agreed with a new publisher for its print and digital products.

Minute Media took over on Monday after reaching a licensing agreement with Authentic Brands Group. On Jan. 19, Authentic announced that it was revoking The Arena Group's publishing license after Arena failed to make a quarterly payment.

Authentic had been in negotiations with Arena, Minute Media and other publishing entities over the past two months.

Authentic will acquire an equity stake in Minute Media, which also publishes the online sites The Players' Tribune, FanSided and 90min. Other terms, including the length of the deal, were not announced.

"Sports Illustrated is the gold standard for sports journalism and has been for nearly 70 years across both print and digital media. The weight and power of that distinction cannot be understated. At Minute Media, our focus will be to take that legacy into new, emerging channels, enhancing visibility, commercial viability, and sustainable impact, all while ensuring that the SI team is inspired to flourish in this new era of media," Minute Media founder and CEO Asaf Peled said in a statement.

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

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Potemkin suffrage: The media should call out fake elections

By DAN PERRY

All over Russia this past weekend, subjects of Vladimir Putin travelled to places called polling stations where they went through motions that looked a lot like voting. There were ballots with names on them, one of whom was Putin – but an election it was not. As a longtime journalist, I'd like to propose that language be respected.

The news media dislikes controversy. The business model is battered already, and while taking sides may please some readers, it could upset others. The arc of editors bends toward least resistance, which is to accept what's on the label. Dictators exploit this well.

In olden days, when despotic regimes were the norm, they owned their evil without complaint. Genghis Khan may have held some consultations, but he proudly was an autocrat. There is some honor there. Putin, like others today, prefers to play games. Hence his Potemkin suffrage.

Putin's regime does not brook free speech nor allow others a shot at replacing him. The first public figure who dared challenge him, energy tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was thrown in jail for a decade by a kangaroo court and is now in respectful exile, having been being released in 2013. The last was opposition activist Alexei Navalny, similarly jailed on nonsense charges, who "died" in an Arctic prison last month.

Read more [here](#).

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'Very few have balls': How American news lost its nerve (Semafor)

There's too much to read and watch, too many places to read and watch it. It's enough to distract you from the biggest news in journalism right now: In 2024, it's harder than ever to get a tough story out in the United States of America.

A landscape of gleefully revelatory magazine exposés, aggressive newspaper investigations, feral online confrontations, and painstaking television investigations has been eroded by a confluence of factors — from rising risks of litigation and costs of insurance, which strapped media companies can hardly afford, to social media, which has given public figures growing leverage over the journalists who now increasingly carry their water.

The result is a thousand stories you'll never read, and a shrinking number of publications with the resources and guts to confront power.

One recent example illustrates the difficulty of getting even a modestly negative revelation about a popular public figure into print. Last year, freelance reporter John McDermott discovered that Jay Shetty, a massively popular lifestyle podcaster who recently interviewed President Joe Biden, had fudged biographical details about his life. But months after he began his reporting for Esquire, he wondered: Would any outlet publish it?

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

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Gannett closing local newsrooms in latest cost-cutting measure (Boston.com)

By Molly Farrar

Weeks after Gannett acquired its local predecessor GateHouse Media, country's largest newspaper company began laying off journalists across the country, including in Brockton and Providence. Then, almost 20 weekly newspapers across Massachusetts ceased publication while the rest merged into four digital presences.

Now, Gannett is no longer investing in in-person newsrooms.

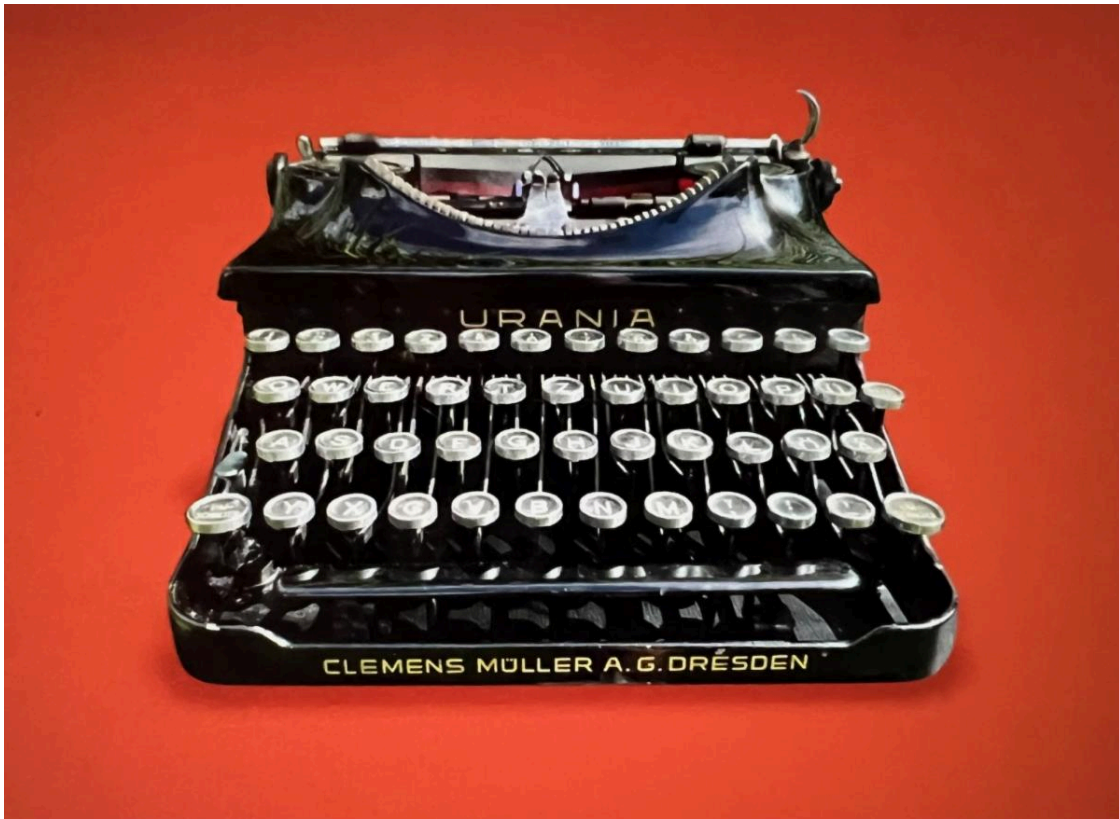
The Patriot Ledger — a South Shore paper with 11 staff members — is one of Gannett's most robust operations in Massachusetts. They are also the latest to ditch a newsroom and work completely remotely, The Boston Globe reported last month.

"We're embracing our flexible working model by investing more in our people and technology — rather than real estate," Gannett said in a statement. "We remain firmly committed to the sustainable future of local journalism and the communities we serve as we adapt to a progressively digital world."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Where My Continental Standard Spent the War (Slate)



BY MARK LAWRENCE SCHRAD

“It’s a Urania Klein,” my friend said, as he lifted the shapely antique typewriter from his car trunk. “German-made portable. Nazi-era. Built in 1939.”

It was a stunning machine—he certainly knew how to close a trade with a fellow typewriter collector.

To the uninitiated, it looks quite like any of the countless outmoded typewriters that are gathering dust in antique malls across the country. Their brand names became the vernacular of the 20th-century American office: Royal. Underwood. Remington. Smith-Corona. But this wasn’t one of those. It had a history far more tumultuous than anything *Mad Men* could devise, and its existence shows how those troubling historical legacies resonate into the present day.

You don’t have to be a connoisseur of antique office machinery to identify the Urania as a Nazi-era typewriter; it has that particular aesthetic. The shine from chrome-ringed, glass-topped keys accents its stern profile. From the keyboard, the high-gloss curves accelerate smoothly upward toward the basket of typebars. The position of every knob, lever, and button has been well thought-out and positioned most logically, and engineered to maximize utility.

It has the contours of a Darth Vader helmet, and shines just as black.

This machine just looks Nazi, and unapologetically so.

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

Today in History - March 19, 2024



Today is Tuesday, March 19, the 79th day of 2024. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 19, 1995, after a 21-month hiatus, Michael Jordan returned to professional basketball with his former team, the Chicago Bulls. (He would go on to win three more NBA championships to go with the three he and the Bulls had already won.)

On this date:

In 1859, the opera "Faust" by Charles Gounod premiered in Paris.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling in the state.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered men between the ages of 45 and 64, inclusive, to register for non-military duty.

In 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan (the ship was saved).

In 1977, the series finale of "Mary Tyler Moore" aired on CBS-TV, ending the situation comedy's seven-season run.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1991, Polish President Lech Walesa arrived in Washington for his first state visit to the United States.

In 1997, artist Willem de Kooning, considered one of the 20th century's greatest painters, died in East Hampton, New York, at age 92.

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

In 2007, a methane gas explosion in a Siberian coal mine killed 110 workers.

In 2012, the Justice Department announced it had begun an investigation into the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida by a neighborhood watch captain, George Zimmerman. (No federal civil rights charges were filed; Zimmerman was acquitted of a state charge of second-degree murder after claiming self-defense.)

In 2013, Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican.

In 2020, President Donald Trump focused attention on a malaria drug, chloroquine, as a possible coronavirus treatment; the FDA issued a statement saying that there were "no FDA-approved therapeutics" to treat COVID-19.

In 2022, Russian forces pushed deeper into Ukraine's besieged and battered port city of Mariupol, where heavy fighting shut down a major steel plant and local authorities pleaded for more Western help.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Renee Taylor is 91. Actor Ursula Andress is 88. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 87. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 78. Actor Glenn Close is 77. Actor Bruce Willis is 69. Actor-comedian Mary Scheer is 61. Playwright Neil LaBute is 61. Actor Connor Trinneer is 55. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 54. Rapper Bun B is 51. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 48. Actor Virginia Williams is 46. Actor Abby Brammell is 45. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 36. Actor Craig Lamar Taylor is 35. Actor Philip Bolden is 29.

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.

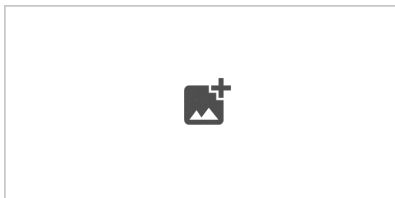
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

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



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