

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

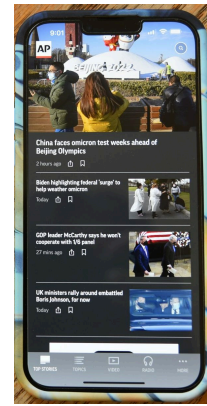
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

March 26, 2024

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Newsletters](#)

[AP Books](#)

[AP News Tips](#)



FILE - Pope Francis tries to catch his cap as wind blew it away while arriving for his weekly general audience in the St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 13, 2024. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, File)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 26, 2024,

We're sorry to report news of the death of our colleague **Scott Green**, a systems manager in the AP's technical center and operations control center in Kansas City. He transferred to Kansas City from the Salt Lake City bureau and was working from home when diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer last year.

This from his friend and colleague **Tom Young**:

"In everything Scott did, he was all in, and one hundred percent committed. He was very proud to work at AP, and was a loyal, and dedicated coworker. He delighted in getting coworkers together for lunch, sharing stories, and taking pictures.

"Scott was very talented technically too, loved a challenge, and enjoyed solving problems. He was full of life, and had so many hobbies and activities going on that the rest of us were amazed by his energy.

"Scott will be missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him."

If you have a favorite memory of working with Scott, please send it along.

An AP photographer snags an unexpected image of the head of the Catholic Church

That's the headline for an AP story by Rome photographer **Andrew Medichini** on one of the most unusual photos ever taken of a Pope.

He writes:

Having covered the Vatican for 27 years — that's three popes — Associated Press photographer Andrew Medichini has mastered snapping images of papal pomp.

To capture this photo, Medichini knew exactly where to position himself based on the wind for a potential candid shot of Pope Francis.

Here is what he said about making this extraordinary photo:

Why this photo

After several years following popes in and out of the Vatican, you get to know where to be and how to anticipate the right frame according to the news or the conditions of the day — windy, sunny, rainy, etc.

The day I took this photo was rather quiet, no big names meeting the pope, no particular weather conditions. So, I decided to go to the spot where he enters St. Peter's Square in the car and gets relatively close to me — and where there is always

some wind channeled from the arch he drives through. I was lucky, his cap flew and, just at the right moment, he tried to catch it.

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

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

Paul

Patricia Lantis – ‘Her friendship made an enormous difference in my life’

[Nancy Shulins](#) - My friendship with Patricia Lantis began -- as so many storied female friendships do -- in the ladies' room. Ours was the one on the sixth floor of 50 Rock, home to AP Newsfeatures and Wide World Photos.

I was new to Newsfeatures and feeling out of place among the owners of some of AP's most formidable bylines. I don't know if it showed, but I needed a friend. Then Patricia walked in, and I had one.

We chatted. We gossiped. We laughed. And from then on, I had someone to visit, to go to lunch with, to talk to, a trusted confidante just down the hall. Her friendship made an enormous difference in my life.

Patricia could charm the leaves off the trees, as eateries throughout Midtown would attest. At restaurants where there had been no table, a table would miraculously open up. Complimentary beverages would arrive. Dour-faced maître ds would beam.

Hers was a rare blend of Midwestern magnetism and big-city refinement, laced with wit and grace. With Patricia in my life, no event went uncelebrated, no problem unexamined, no misfortune un-mourned.

She was among the first to arrive on the train, shlepping the perfect housewarming gift, when my husband and I bought our house. She and her husband welcomed us (and our dog) at their antique country house.

How such good friends drift apart, I can't say. Maybe it had to do with us leaving the AP, no longer just down the hall. Regardless, the effect the news of her passing had on me was no less consequential than if I had seen her last week. All these years later, I still think of her as my friend. My deepest condolences to Mark Moody, and to everyone who knew her.



Mourning the loss of AP's Scott Green – 'The Bearded Runner'



From the family of Scott Green, systems manager in AP's Kansas City Technical Center and Operations Control Center, and an avid member of the Kansas City running community for years:

It is with a profound sorrow that we announce that Scott Green passed away at 12:03am on 3/23/24, just two days after his 56th birthday. He was at home,

surrounded by loved ones and a care team that saw him through to his final breath. He knew he was loved, all the way to the end.

We cannot say Thank you enough for everything that has been done for Scott and our family. Please continue to share your favorite memories of the Bearded Runner.

We do ask; Please respect the family's privacy at this time as arrangements are made... We will keep this page updated with any memorial plans.

Lastly, a reminder from Scott himself:

"Take care of yourself and your family... and don't be so serious."

More thoughts on Gannett/McClatchy departure from AP

[Jim Carlson](#) - Shawn Marsh's offering Monday triggered nostalgia for me .It took me back to the time when state coverage was a big part of AP work. It could be connecting with newspaper and broadcast members or using a tidbit of information to develop a story by phone - or getting a tip and dispatching staffers to the scene. I think there was some comfort in knowing that the AP button meant someone with training and experience had put the story together. By the time I retired in 2009, we were a shrinking staff and things were changing fast. That's when I wrote a song called "The Great Journalism Depression." As one might expect, it's kind of a wordy piece, but it's got this interlude that I always liked:

"For every buyout and layoff there are stories left untold,
Stories about the scammers and how their schemes unfold,
Stories to help the helpless and stories just for fun,
Stories that make life richer, we miss them every one."

-0-

[Ken Herman](#) - Monday was the first day that the Austin American-Statesman (the local Gannett paper and my former longtime employer) did not use any AP product. The sad reality: Doubtful that any reader will notice any difference. The daily paper is so slim that there will be no problem filling it with staff copy, stories shared by other Texas papers, USA Today Network products and Reuters dispatches.

This is not to say there is no difference. AP products remain invaluable. But it's doubtful that any readers will miss what they are no longer getting. Truth is, the paper is so thin that there hasn't been much AP product in it for a good while.

The bottom line, of course, is the bottom line these days is the bottom line. Gannett must be saving a bunch of money by dropping AP. Again, a sad reality.

On the other end, will readers elsewhere suffer because AP will no longer be able to depend on the American-Statesman for local news that is of interest elsewhere?

And will Statesman sportswriters, including the great Kirk Bohls (more than 50 years at the paper and better than ever), be disenfranchised from AP polls?

-0-

Keith Robinson – Lost, or at least buried, in the AP news story about Gannett and McClatchy serving notice that they will not be renewing their AP services when their contracts expire was the fact that Gannett said it has signed an agreement with Reuters “to provide news from around the world in multiple formats, including video.”

There was one sentence on that in the 13th paragraph of the 16-paragraph story. That’s probably OK for a general audience, but we AP alumni and other news hounds know that is a significant development.

It appears to me that the folks at Gannett must think that replacing AP with Reuters is a good business decision: The papers will have access to international and national news at a much lower price. (That’s an assumption on my part, but why else would Gannett switch?) Whether the quality and breadth of the coverage compares well to the AP (at least national news) might not matter – it’s cheaper. Readers won’t notice or care, and we’ll save money!

I have not seen much discussion on that in this forum. Am I over-thinking the importance of that development? Is it not the big deal that I think it is?

AP and Texas Tribune

Peggy Walsh - AP's announcement of the content sharing agreement with The Texas Tribune was a real flashback to my second journalism career after AP.

The New York Times News Service, where I was executive editor, had agreements with many papers providing content to other NYTNS clients.

Among our partners/contributors were: Cox Newspapers, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Daily News, Hearst News Service, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Kansas City Star, The Arizona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette and the then 23 papers owned by the Times as well as the Boston Globe.

Michael Bloomberg also agreed to share Bloomberg News, originally market info for investors which he wanted to expand to news.

The concept of the partners was a natural for two former AP bureau chiefs - John Brewer and me. The more news from good news sources the better the news report.

There are differences. The Tribune has a membership model as does AP.

But it speaks to the changes in the industry that the NYTNS partner/contributor sharing was in the late 80s and early 90s .

Coach Mulkey and the Post

Tim Harper - LSU Coach Kim Mulkey complaining about a Washington Post reporting doing a profile of her: “After two years of trying to get me to sit with him for an interview, he contacts LSU on Tuesday as we were getting ready for the first-round game of this tournament with more than a dozen questions, demanding a response by Thursday, right before we’re scheduled to tip off. Are you kidding me?”

No, Coach, we’re not kidding you. You’re a public figure, and a state government employee. You kept putting off interview requests, and when the paper gave you a chance to comment on specific questions — instead of simply reporting that Mulkey refused interview requests for two years — you turned that down, too.

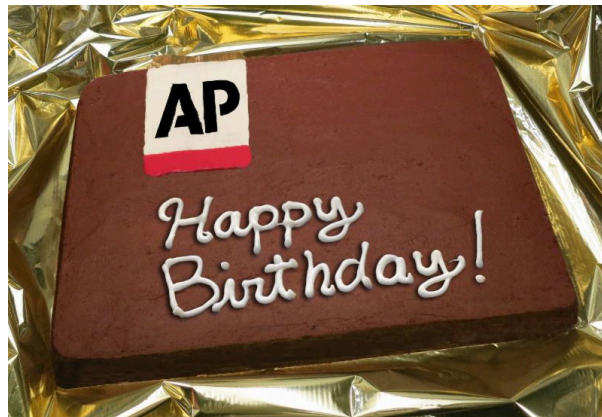
Lights, Cameras, Typewriters





[Linda Sargent](#) - Interesting repurposing of typewriters and cameras by a vendor at Round Top Antique Festival.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Frank Baker](#)

[Jerry Schwartz](#)

Stories of interest

Troubling defections from AP not a surprise as newspapers struggle (Seattle Times)

By Brier Dudley
Seattle Times Free Press editor

Another crack in the foundation of American journalism appeared last week, adding to concerns about citizens becoming less and less informed.

Two of the nation's largest newspaper publishers, Gannett and McClatchy, disclosed they are curtailing use of The Associated Press.

The news was deflating but not surprising, if you've talked to local-news executives about their financial situation and growing frustrations with the AP.

Debt-burdened chains, and smaller publishers trying to navigate economic and technical disruptions, have been trimming news for years and wire services are a significant expense.

Even so, this marks a turn for the worse for local newspapers and the tens of millions of people who still depend on them to provide a comprehensive bundle of the day's news.

"You're not only cutting off the access of communities who have access only to Gannett newspapers, to all of that incredibly vital reporting, you're also potentially weakening this really core piece of our news infrastructure," said Nic Dawes, a veteran publisher now executive director of New York digital news outlet The City.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer.

-0-

Trump's social media company to start trading on the Nasdaq on Tuesday (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Trump Media & Technology Group, whose flagship product is social networking site Truth Social, will begin trading on the Nasdaq stock market on Tuesday.

Shareholders of Digital World Acquisition Corp., a publicly traded shell company, approved a deal to merge with the Trump's media business in a Friday vote.

Shares of Digital World have been volatile. On Friday the stock slumped 13.7% after the merger was approved. On Monday, it soared 35.2% to \$49.95.

Former President Donald Trump is set to own most of the combined company — or nearly 79 million shares, with a value of nearly \$4 billion.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Avoiding the news isn't the same as not consuming it

(Nieman Lab)

By **MARK CODDINGTON AND SETH LEWIS**

Editor's note: Longtime Nieman Lab readers know the bylines of Mark Coddington and Seth Lewis. Mark wrote the weekly This Week in Review column for us from 2010 to 2014; Seth's written for us off and on since 2010. Together they've launched a monthly newsletter on recent academic research around journalism. It's called RQ1 and we're happy to bring each issue to you here at Nieman Lab.

As many news organizations have worked in recent years to reach audiences that have at times felt increasingly fickle and apathetic, a lot of attention has focused on news avoidance. A great deal of excellent research has been published on news avoidance, some of it highlighted in this newsletter, looking especially at who avoids news, why, and how. (Some of the best of this work, including a new book, has been done by the international team of Benjamin Toff, Ruth Palmer, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen.)

So who are the consistent news avoiders?

On one level, news avoidance is an extremely simple concept that's exactly what it sounds like — people avoiding the news. Yet it's easy to think of low (or nil) news consumption as a proxy for news avoidance. And it makes basic sense as a proxy — avoiding the news means you don't consume much of it, so news avoidance is a good way to think about the non-consumers that news organizations are trying to reach, right?

Not quite. Not only are news avoidance and low-to-no news consumption not the same thing, but most people who avoid the news are actually consuming quite a bit of it. And most people who consume very little news aren't actively avoiding it.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Illinois House speaker's office orders Democratic lawmakers to remain silent over Tribune questions

(Chicago Tribune)

By **RICK PEARSON and OLIVIA OLANDER**

Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch's office issued an order instructing his 78-member Democratic supermajority not to speak to a Chicago Tribune reporter about "political matters" at the State Capitol or elsewhere, citing highly dubious grounds that such discussions could be an ethical breach.

One former veteran statehouse journalist described the order as a “goofy” and “stupid” attempt to try to stifle legitimate news-gathering activities, while the head of the state’s press association said reporter conversations with lawmakers about politics are legal “constitutionally protected” free speech.

The order was issued Thursday after Welch’s team apparently became irked by questions being asked of the speaker’s leadership team by Tribune reporter Jeremy Gerner about tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions that they made in support of Michael Crawford’s candidacy for an Illinois House seat in Tuesday’s primary. Crawford was the successful Welch-backed primary challenger to longtime Democratic state Rep. Mary Flowers of Chicago, the longest serving Black House member.

In a memo distributed in a blast email to House Democrats on Thursday afternoon, the lawmakers were instructed that they should not respond to Gerner’s questions nor should they “call him back or give him a number for him to reach you to discuss political matters as it is also ethically dubious.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

-0-

Understanding the skills necessary to lead the newsrooms of tomorrow (Editor and Publisher)

Episode 230 of "E&P Reports" - A Vodcast series hosted by Mike Blinder

While attending the Executive Program in News Innovation and Leadership at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York, Laura Krantz McNeill decided to interview 26 separate media leaders she considered to be “change-makers and innovators” and asked them what they think the essential skills that the next generation of news leadership will need to move us closer to a healthier and more sustainable future for the news media industry.

The result of that work is a research project entitled "New Skills for a New Era: Five Crucial Skills for the Next Generation of Media Leaders in the Era of Community-centric Journalism," an excerpt of which was recently published by NiemanReports.

McNeill, who began her journalism career at the Vermont Digger, also spent seven years as a reporter at The Boston Globe and is now the senior editor of subscriber products at The Chronicle of Higher Education. She lists within the study the essential skills as:

Read more [here](#).

-0-

New chapter for Hawaii's newspaper: Star-Advertiser's owners purchased (KNON)

By: Bryce Moore, Elizabeth 'Ufi

HONOLULU (KHON2) — Carpenter Media Group announced that its acquisition of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser's owners Black Press Media has been completed on Friday, March 22.

Talk of changes started back in January and on Friday, CMG sealed the deal with BPM in a stock purchase together with Canadian financial partners Canso Investment Counsel, LTD and Deans Knight, LTD.

The Star-Advertiser's union unit chair said employees are cautiously optimistic about the new ownership, but with the acquisition comes layoff concerns.

"We just don't know enough yet to know if that's going to be an issue, we've been told that there aren't any plans for layoffs moving forward," chair Kevin Knodell said. "I say that we're cautiously optimistic about the sale, but candidly, morale is low and it's been kind of low for a while.

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

Today in History - March 26, 2024



Today is Tuesday, March 26, the 86th day of 2024. There are 280 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 26, 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

On this date:

In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna at age 56.

In 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following a final, desperate attack by Japanese soldiers.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Baker v. Carr*, gave federal courts the power to order reapportionment of states' legislative districts.

In 1973, the soap opera "The Young and the Restless" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In 1982, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington, D.C., for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1988, Jesse Jackson stunned fellow Democrats by soundly defeating Michael S. Dukakis in Michigan's Democratic presidential caucuses.

In 1992, a judge in Indianapolis sentenced former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to six years in prison for raping a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson ended up serving three years.)

In 2010, the U.S. and Russia sealed the first major nuclear weapons treaty in nearly two decades, agreeing to slash the former Cold War rivals' warhead arsenals by nearly one-third.

In 2013, Italy's top criminal court overturned the acquittal of American Amanda Knox in the grisly murder of British roommate Meredith Kercher and ordered Knox to stand trial again. (Although convicted in absentia, Knox was exonerated by the Italian Supreme Court in 2015.)

In 2014, Osama bin Laden's son-in-law, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith (SOO'-lay-mahn AH'-boo gayth), was convicted in New York for his role as al-Qaida's fiery chief spokesman after 9/11. (He was later sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2018, a toxicology report obtained by The Associated Press revealed that the late pop superstar Prince had levels of fentanyl in his body that multiple experts described as "exceedingly high."

In 2020, the U.S. surpassed official Chinese government numbers to become the country with the most reported coronavirus infections.

In 2021, Dominion Voting Systems filed a \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News, saying the cable news giant falsely claimed that the voting company rigged the 2020 election.

In 2022, President Joe Biden said in Poland that Vladimir Putin "cannot remain in power," dramatically escalating the rhetoric against the Russian leader after his brutal

invasion of Ukraine.

In 2023, Ukraine's government called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail" after Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

Today's Birthdays: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is 89. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is 84. Author Erica Jong is 82. Journalist Bob Woodward is 81. Singer Diana Ross is 80. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 76. Singer and TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 75. Actor Ernest Thomas is 75. Comedian Martin Short is 74. Country singer Ronnie McDowell is 74. Movie composer Alan Silvestri is 74. Rock musician Monte Yoho is 72. Former Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is 71. Radio talk show host Curtis Sliwa is 70. Country singer Dean Dillon is 69. Country singer Charly McClain is 68. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 67. Actor Ellia English is 65. Actor Jennifer Grey is 64. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen is 64. Actor Billy Warlock is 63. Actor Eric Allan Kramer is 62. Basketball and College Basketball Hall of Famer John Stockton is 62. Actor Michael Imperioli is 58. Rock musician James Iha is 56. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 56. Movie director Martin McDonagh is 53. Actor Leslie Mann is 52. Actor T.R. Knight is 51. Rapper Juvenile is 49. Actor Amy Smart is 48. Actor Bianca Kajlich (KY'-lihk) is 47. Moderator Margaret Brennan (TV: "Face the Nation") is 44. Actor Sterling Sulieman is 40. Actor Keira Knightley is 39. Rapper J-Kwon is 38. Actor Carly Chaikin is 34.

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!

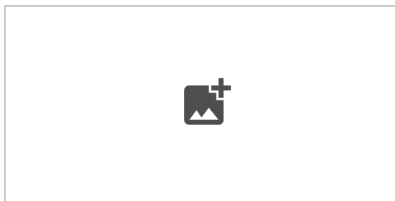
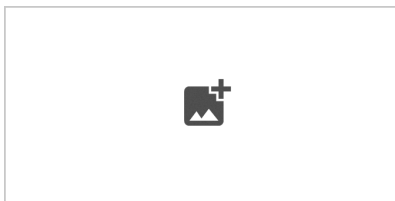
Here are some suggestions:

- **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
paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:unsubscribe_stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paul@connectingnewsletter.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!