

AP World

2016, ISSUE 2

Tapping into AP News

Q&A: Sally Buzbee

A day in the life of 'Bullit' Marquez

COUNTING THE VOTES

AP's exclusive on election night

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COVER PHOTO:

An elections clerk cuts from a strip of “I voted” stickers at a polling place in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, June 28, 2016.

AP PHOTO / SUE OGRICKI

FROM LEFT:

Members of the elections team – from left: Hope Yen (seated), Michele Salcedo, Stephen Ohlemacher, Magan Crane, Laurie Kellman, Vivian Salama (seated), Chad Day, David Scott and Vaughn Morrison (seated) – listen as News Editor for Race Calls and Special Projects David Pace, seated far right, talks about plans and timing for possible race calls in the Washington bureau on primary night, Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

AP PHOTO / JON ELSWICK

Alberto “Bullit” Marquez, chief photographer for Manila, Philippines.

Part of the Athens bureau staff – clockwise from top left: regional sales executive Agnes Aliberti, Southeast Europe Chief of Bureau Elena Becatoros, office manager Rinetta Petropoulou, video producer Theodora Tongas, photo technology manager Nikos Seimenakis and reporter Nicholas Paphitis – atop their office building Thursday, June 16, 2016.

AP PHOTO / PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

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Editor: Bryan Baldwin

Writer: Kristi McNair

Designer: Hal Hilliard

Staff: Nicole Timme, Chuck Zoeller, Santos Chaparro

For submissions, contact:

AP World
The Associated Press
450 W. 33rd St.
New York, NY 10001
212.621.1720
apworld@ap.org

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A MESSAGE FROM GARY PRUITT



AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt, speaks to staff members of the Tokyo bureau, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016.
AP PHOTO / EUGENE HOSHIKO

Bravery in the battlefield and beyond

ON MAY 27, AP BROKE THE NEWS that Donald Trump would be the presumptive Republican presidential nominee in the U.S. presidential race. He had obtained the required 1,237 delegates to clinch the nomination.

We stand firm in the objectivity of our reporting even when we know some people will not like hearing the truth.

On June 6, AP reported Hillary Clinton had confirmed commitments from enough delegates to become the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee. According to AP's count, she reached the required 2,383 delegates that day, lifted by a win in Puerto Rico's primary and a burst of late support from Democratic superdelegates.

Based on our extensive analysis, we reported the news as soon as we had it.

AP surveyed superdelegates throughout the primary season to track whom they planned to support at the July convention. Only superdelegates confirming their unequivocal support for a certain candidate were added to the tally.

Some individuals, especially supporters of Bernie Sanders, perceived the timing of the Clinton news — the night before primaries in California and five other states — as an affront to the democratic process. We don't schedule the news. We report the facts when we know them. Nothing in our efforts prevented voters from exercising their right to cast their primary ballots, and California polling numbers tell us voter turnout was higher than expected.

Reporting the news takes a unique kind of bravery. It necessitates standing up for our news values and principles and not being swayed by opinion.

Many AP staffers exhibit bravery on a daily basis covering news in dangerous situations around the world. Danger can be man-made in war zones, at protests and demonstrations, or following terrorist attacks, which now seem to come with regrettable frequency. Natural disasters and disease can present additional forms of environmental or biological dangers when covering the news.

But bravery is at times required to report news when there is no danger of physical harm. We are not swayed by opinion or threat. We stand firm in the objectivity of our reporting even when we know some people will not like hearing the truth.

It is this bravery that defines AP even in our 170th year. Strength and commitment to our mission has built a gutsy brand that reports news worthy of sharing.

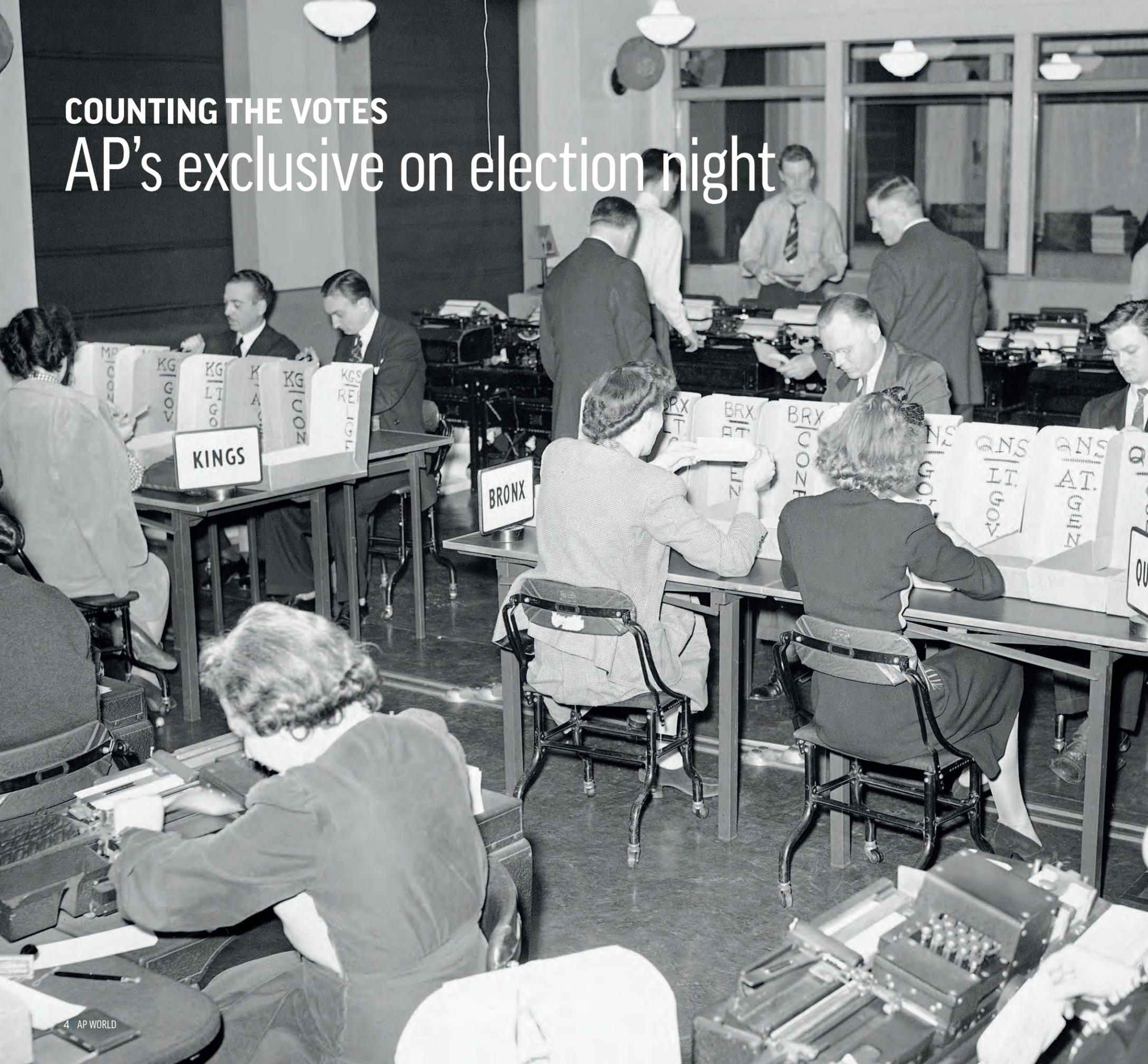
Our dedication to informing the world maintains AP's relevancy to customers everywhere. We do things no one else can do. Sometimes it is freeing thousands of slaves from appalling conditions in the Southeast Asian fishing industry. Sometimes it is developing deep knowledge over time and working the phones to confirm delegates for a presidential race.

No matter the story and no matter the situation, we report the truth. This is what makes AP great. **APW**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary".

Gary Pruitt
President and Chief Executive Officer

COUNTING THE VOTES AP's exclusive on election night



By Cal Woodward, Brian Scanlon and Valerie Komor

IT TAKES A VILLAGE to report on the votes of a nation. AP is the one and only village.

In the U.S. general election in November, we will perform one of the largest vote-counting efforts anywhere on the planet. We'll deploy more than 5,000 people on the ground, reaching across 4,000 hamlets, villages, towns, cities and counties, feeding returns to an editorial team that will analyze them and declare winners in more than 5,000 races — from the presidency to state legislatures and even some local contests.

In an age of algorithms and automation, it's an astonishing commitment of human capital. And it's unique. No one else counts the full sweep of votes for a new government in real time — not even the government.

That places AP at the heart of democracy's ultimate act, where it's been since carrier pigeons gave way to the pony express and the telegraph.

AP is the only source of national results for the National Election Pool, which consists of the major TV networks and our own newsroom.

“It is a flagship service for the AP that goes back as far as 1848, when Zachary Taylor was elected president, and is tied directly to AP's mission to inform the world without bias,” says Brian Scanlon, director of U.S. Election Services.

In 1848, AP General Agent Alexander Jones coordinated the count from his office at Broadway and Liberty streets in New York, providing results that the Brooklyn Daily Eagle said the next day pointed “with moral certainty” to Zachary Taylor's success.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected, it was the last year the pony express was used to connect far-distant telegraph stations. On Dec. 11, 1860, The New York Times reported from Fort Kearney, Nebraska, that the California Pony Express had thundered by at 5 a.m. on its way to deliver election returns from California that would be telegraphed to AP's headquarters in New York.

Tabulators record the Associated Press election returns in the offices of IBM in New York City on Election Day, Nov. 3, 1942. The returns were received on the teletype machines (background) and recorded with the aid of the numeric punching and printing machines in the foreground.

AP PHOTO / MATTY ZIMMERMAN



AP



“The technology may have changed over the years, but it is a straightforward effort,” says Scanlon.

First, vote-count stringers make contact with about 4,600 locations across the country to collect totals as they are released. They relay those totals to one of four centers where the numbers are entered into AP’s election system.

A quality control team under Don Rehill, director of vote tabulation, verifies votes for accuracy. An automated system looks at past turnout, registration records, the number of absentee ballots issued in a state, vote drops from previous totals, vote entry errors and known problems with certain voting equipment. Researchers also eye returns for anomalies not triggered by the automated checks.

As results are verified, they are released to the world across multiple platforms — raw feeds, auto-updating maps and tables, and print and broadcast-ready formats. After the bluster of a campaign and the blizzard of polling and punditry, the real numbers come in waves, feeding the global frenzy of bulletins, analyses and commentary making up the “first rough draft” of an election’s history.

AP is the only source of national results for the National Election Pool, which consists of the major TV networks and our own newsroom. Any national election returns on television in the U.S. are from AP. Additionally, vote results go out to all AP broadcast and print members.

“A race call isn’t a prediction,” says Scanlon. “It’s a conclusion before all the facts are known, so it had better be right.”

AP’s caution was well placed in the 1948 election that produced the infamous “Dewey Defeats Truman” headline in the Chicago Daily Tribune. Arthur Sears Henning, who wrote the story under that headline, dismissed AP’s hesitancy to declare Thomas Dewey the winner that night.

“Oh, that’s just nonsense,” he said. “Forget it. The AP is all wrong.” He was.

In the 2012 election, AP was one aggravating tenth of a point from perfection, calling the correct winner in 99.9 percent of races.

According to David Pace, news editor for race calls and special projects, AP now has a team of 42 people who call winners in each state on election nights. During national general elections, race callers work with two teams of Washington-based analysts, one focusing on presidential, Senate and gubernatorial elections and the other on all 435 House races.

The decision to call a winner in a presidential race or any top-of-the ballot contest comes out of a collaboration starting with analysis by the state-based race caller and his or her Washington analyst. When they agree a race is ready to be called, they refer it to one of two decision editors: Stephen Ohlemacher or Pace.

“We have the final signoff. With close calls in key races, we’ll consult with Washington Chief of Bureau Sally Buzbee and Political Editor David Scott,” says Pace. “We try to make sure everyone is on the same page before we pull the trigger.”

In a presidential contest, the race-call analysis starts with exit poll data when available and then moves to vote data from a sample of precincts once the polls close. If the race is too close to call based on those early results, attention shifts to AP’s county-based vote count, comparing the current candidates’ vote percentages with those the party’s standard-bearer received in past presidential elections. An estimation is made on the number of votes left to be counted and the percentage of those outstanding votes that the trailing candidate needs to win.

This “need percentage” and the past voting history of the areas with the most votes left to count are used to determine if it’s likely that the second-place candidate could catch up.

“Once we’re confident that’s not going to happen, we call the race,” says Pace.

Mastery of the math is only part of it. On this year’s March 1 Super Tuesday, for example, news editor Ted Bridis in Washington analyzed the incoming exit poll and vote count data from Arkansas and Oklahoma while Barry Bedlan in Dallas contributed his deep knowledge of political history and geography of those states. The payoff: AP beat the closest network competitor by a combined total of 10 minutes in calling both parties’ races in Oklahoma and the Arkansas Republican contest.

Altogether, AP was first or tied for first in 17 of the 22 presidential race calls that night. **APW**

From left:
Video journalist Ted Shaffrey puts out a live video signal for AP clients of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaking at the 25th annual National Action Network convention in New York City, Wednesday, April 13, 2016.
AP PHOTO / RICHARD DREW

Vermont reporter Dave Gram, middle right in gray shirt, asks Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders a question following a rally, Friday, July 1, 2016 in Montpelier, Vermont.
AP PHOTO / WILSON RING

Newsperson Holly Ramer, lower right, shoots video as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump files papers to be on the earliest presidential primary ballot at the Secretary of State’s office in Concord, New Hampshire, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015.
AP PHOTO / JIM COLE

A campaign like no other

THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL campaign has been as crazy as it gets.

An astonishingly large pack of 17 Republican candidates vied for the presidential nomination. Rallies filled with young people supporting Sen. Bernie Sanders on the Democratic side sought a “Feel-the-Bern” political revolution, turning Hillary Clinton’s predicted coronation into a hot contest she eventually won.

Then there’s Donald Trump, the master of jaw-dropping pronouncements, whom people can’t seem to hear enough about.

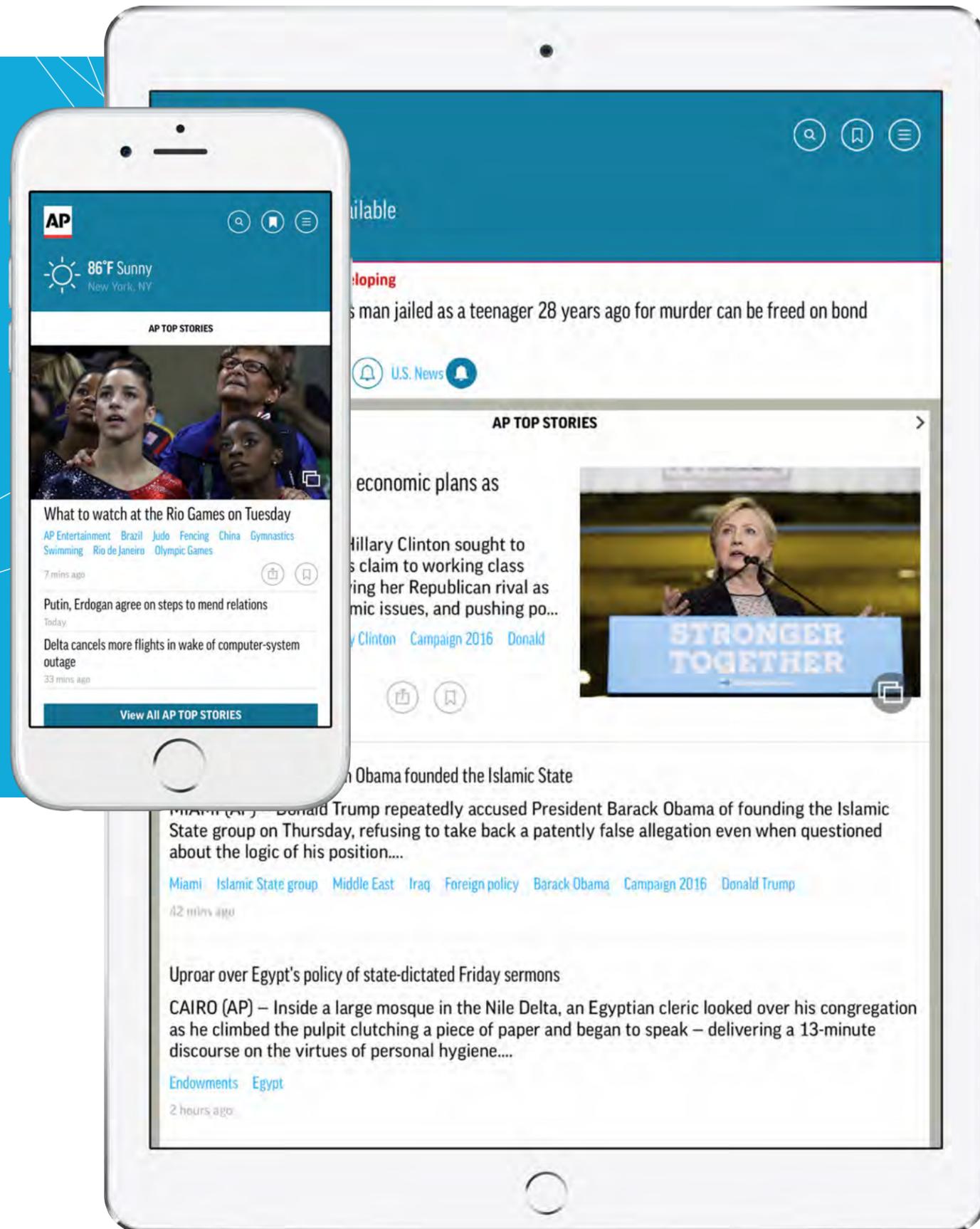
All of this has meant an unusually early full-court press for AP. The writers, photographers and videographers, who have dogged the candidates for months, are at the vanguard of an effort that joins editorial staff across the country and often around the world, in telling a political story like no other.

To cover Trump is to be certain only that the unpredictable will happen, with yesterday’s provocation likely to be supplanted by another. This is overlaid by the prospect of chaos breaking out at rallies where Trump rouses supporters into cheers and protesters into action.

“It’s forcing us to challenge all of our assumptions,” says White House Correspondent Julie Pace. “Every time you think, ‘Well, that will never happen,’ you have to instead think, ‘What if it does?’”

In Washington, Polling Editor Emily Swanson steered AP polling into an exploration of the Trump sensation, discovering, for example, that he is tapping into immense dissatisfaction with the federal government, the political process and the national economy. The tangled dealings both of Trump and Clinton are under the scrutiny of a vetting team and keep AP fact checkers busy.

“I expected a quiet campaign, a debate over policy between Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton,” says David Scott, U.S. political editor. “As I have been in just about all of my predictions in this campaign, I was wrong.” **APW**



TAPPING INTO AP NEWS

An inside look at our new mobile app

By Mike Boord, global director of AP Mobile

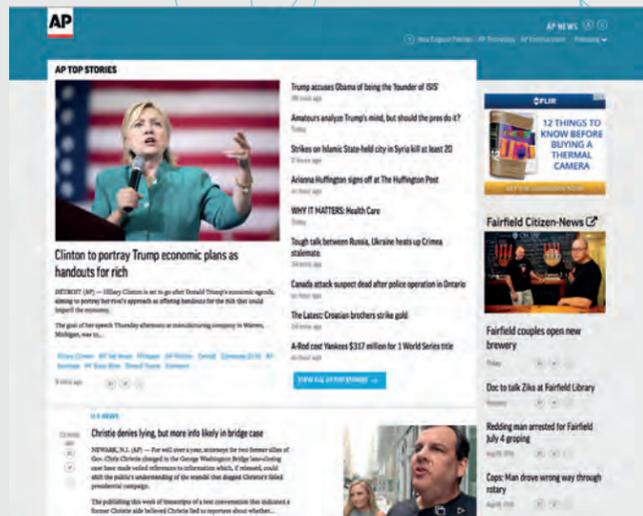
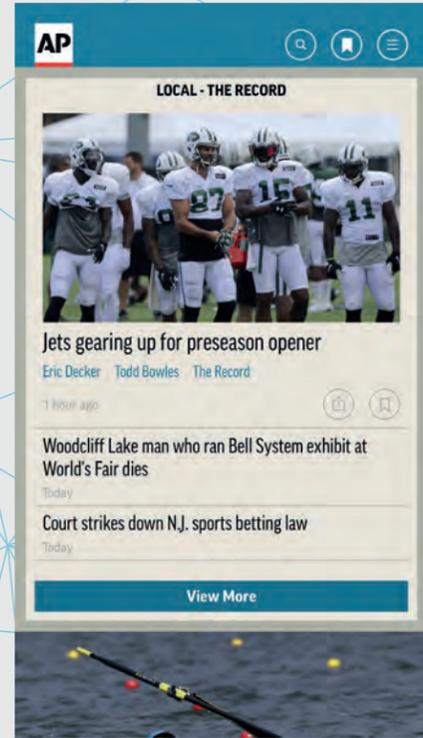
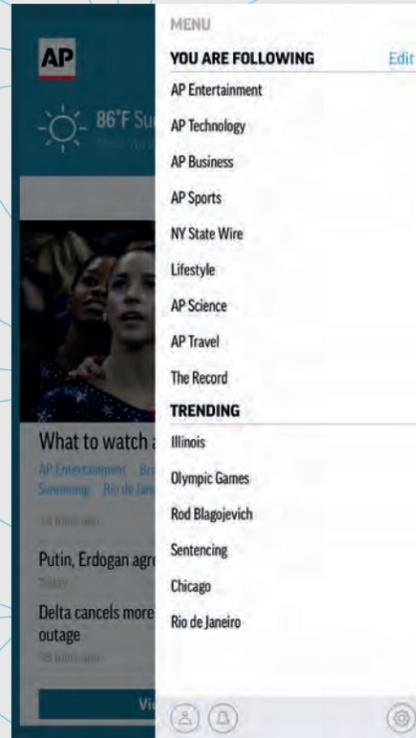
WHEN THE IPHONE arrived on the scene in 2007, Nokia was the undisputed king of feature phones. BlackBerry was the rising star and staple of email junkies worldwide. Times have changed.

When Apple's App Store was announced in 2007, Benjamin Mosse, AP's director of mobile at the time, shared the stage with Steve Jobs to discuss how people would consume news on their phones. The App Store opened in July of that year with AP Mobile as the first news app available for download.

AP Mobile was a broad initiative conceived at a time when it was still unclear how all of the world's content could be organized, discovered, consumed and monetized on a few inches of screen real estate. We had a vision that AP could become the absolute news button on phones as an entry

point to content from hundreds, if not thousands, of member news sources. Our app was preloaded on a few flagship devices, helping us reach over 14 million app installs, but this strategy never proved sustainable.

The new AP News app offers users a simplified, personalized news feed tailored to their preferences and behavior, with custom news alerts, exposed tags for deeper engagement and greater content discoverability.



Above:
 These screen shots show the unique features of the AP News mobile app. The experience is personalized – users can access local news and choose to follow topics that are of most interest to them. The story view and topic hubs are flexible and visually appealing, offering our editorial team more freedom to experiment with presentations, curate content around big topics and highlight all of our media from text, video, interactives and photos.

Right:
 The AP News website, which will eventually replace Big Story, reflects a similar experience, allowing users to move seamlessly from mobile to desktop and to drive more app installs.

Many things have changed over the last nine years. Smartphones are now ubiquitous. iOS and Android are the dominant platforms. Content is everywhere, produced by everyone. Consumption has rapidly shifted from paper to digital, and social media, instant messaging and live video are now all the rage.

With shorter attention spans, user expectations have changed not only in how content is consumed, but in the tolerance level for advertising and page loading. Ad-blocking threatens to destroy billions in advertising revenue for publishers that most desperately need it. All the while, revenue from AP Mobile has been steadily growing. But great challenges lie ahead and we need the tools to address these challenges, create sustainability and seize emerging opportunities.

Users of the new app can click member headlines and seamlessly link to member sites, allowing members to monetize this traffic directly.

Last year, AP Mobile merged with the Digital Services Group to combine various ad-supported products and to create a more coherent and consistent consumer-facing advertising strategy. This has been a successful marriage as we work together to build on current platforms and create new revenue streams for AP and our members.

This summer, we introduced AP News, our new mobile app. AP News consists of a new iOS app (Apple Watch compatible) and a new Android app (available later this year), and is accompanied by a new website at apnews.com that has the same look, feel and functionality as the apps.

Designed with the user in mind and built from the ground up, AP News is a personalized news experience, bringing

users news from the AP and its members with a new, dynamic, simplified layout and design.

With AP News focused on engagement through the union of storytelling and design, we must ask ourselves: How do we engage users for longer periods of time and bring them back more often? While AP Mobile users are very loyal, how do we find more of them? If we can answer these questions and provide a respectful and useful user experience, the revenue will follow.

The new app offers users a simplified, personalized news feed tailored to their preferences and behavior, with custom news alerts, exposed tags for deeper engagement and greater content discoverability. There are journalistically curated topic hubs and shareable collections and more local AP member content scattered throughout the experience, thereby presenting localized content to an international audience. Users can click member headlines and seamlessly link to member sites, allowing members to monetize this traffic directly.

The apnews.com site will eventually replace bigstory.ap.org to create greater consistency with social media and the apps. It will also drive user acquisition, optimize user experience and maximize advertising returns.

While the site will still primarily serve as a catchall for social media traffic, it is designed to improve overall user engagement and reduce bounce rates. With over 60 percent of Big Story traffic currently coming from mobile devices, AP News was built with a mobile-first, mobile-optimized design that is also compliant with Google's Accelerated Mobile Pages.

AP Mobile will eventually be retired because the code base has become increasingly challenging to maintain, with little opportunity to expand functionality since it is running off a third-party platform.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will begin to migrate users from AP Mobile to AP News, but it will take some time to complete the transition. Until then, stay tuned as we move into an exciting new era with AP's mobile news capabilities. **APW**

Q&A: SALLY BUZBEE



SALLY BUZBEE, VP and chief of bureau for Washington, joined AP in 1988 from Topeka, Kansas. She has worked as a reporter in California and Washington, as a regional editor based in Cairo overseeing our Iraq war coverage and as deputy managing editor based in New York, where she played a crucial role in the establishment of the Nerve Center. With a tumultuous U.S. presidential election year unfolding, she discusses our coverage and what we can expect strategically in the future.

How would you describe the magnitude of AP's elections coverage? About how many events are covered and how many AP staffers – in Washington and beyond – are dedicated to the operation?

This is a unique, probably presidential election with the rise of Donald Trump and divisions across America. It was last August when we realized: Wow, Trump is for real and it's been full tilt ever since.

We've covered multiple candidates in all formats, plus debates, primary nights, race calling, delegate counting, the conventions and investigative stories. We have a core team, but almost everyone in Washington gets pulled in, some way, and we call on a wide network of video journalists, photographers and reporters across the states and sometimes the world.

It's stretched everyone. I think we feel a responsibility to rise to the occasion and do our best work.

Is there a particular piece of work that's come out of Washington that you've been especially proud of in the last six months?

It's hard to choose. The accuracy and impact of the race calls and nomination calls, of course. The fact-checking in the daily coverage across formats is probably the most important thing we do. The stories about Trump's background have been important too: It turns out he never donated much to charity after all.

And I just loved the clever journalism behind the original Clinton "homebrew" email server scoop: a mix of cutting-edge data skills and good old-fashioned street reporting. Fabulous.

The Obama administration has been criticized for a lack of transparency in government while limiting journalist access. How has this impacted our news report?

For the public it means the president gets more remote and insulated each year. For our news report, it means a struggle to glean insight into the decision making, his real relations with foes or friends. Personally, I don't think the world wants a U.S. leader who rarely has to answer a hard question outside a formal press conference, and whose office keeps us out while tweeting a lot of favorable images. Unfortunately it may not get better, regardless of who's elected next. But we aren't giving up. This will continue to be an important priority for AP.

As someone who is a part of the AP2020 strategic planning team, what can you tell us about the road ahead? Any updates on what staffers can expect within the next few years?

To me, the key to the future is holding onto our traditional strengths — accuracy, strong coverage across formats, our global footprint — but aggressively modernizing how we tell stories, how we present our journalism. We talk about social- and mobile-friendly content, and that's the immediate challenge. But the real trick is becoming more nimble overall so we can constantly evolve.

The good news, as I see it, is that when AP has unique, compelling journalism, our usage spikes. People want our best stuff. The challenges, to me, are: Create our core report as efficiently as possible, dominate on big stories and then rev up that unique, compelling journalism and tell it in fresh ways. We want to make emerging media, in addition to current customers, really need us.

I do think close cooperation between our news, sales, product and technology arms is pretty key.

When you're not involved with the frenzy of vote counting, race calling and political coverage, what do you like to do away from work?

My husband and I have two teenage daughters, so home life is a little hectic. But they're at great ages, really starting to get interested in the wider world. I get pummeled by campaign questions each night, and they won't eat shrimp because of AP's fish slaves stories. We all like to cook, hike and travel. Occasionally, homework even gets done. **APW**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF 'BULLIT' MARQUEZ

Meet the chief photographer of Manila, Philippines



Clockwise from left:

A Filipino voter walks past election posters outside a polling precinct in the front-running presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's hometown of Davao in southern Philippines, Monday, May 9, 2016.

AP PHOTO / BULLIT MARQUEZ

Alberto "Bullit" Marquez, chief photographer for Manila, Philippines.

A supporter pinches the cheek of front-running presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as he leaves Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School in Matina district, his hometown, after voting in Davao city in southern Philippines, Monday, May 9, 2016.

AP PHOTO / BULLIT MARQUEZ

Filipinos queue up to vote in the country's presidential elections in the front-running presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's hometown of Davao city in southern Philippines, Monday, May 9, 2016.

AP PHOTO / BULLIT MARQUEZ

ALBERTO MARQUEZ, chief photographer in Manila, Philippines, joined AP in 1984. Nicknamed "Bullit," which is derived from the Tagalog word "bulilit" meaning "little one" for his 5'4" height, Marquez has been deployed to 31 countries, covering the U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, three Olympics, and APEC and G-7 summits. Days after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, Chinese troops briefly detained him in Beijing after he was seen snapping images of the political turmoil. In 2004, after an earthquake and tsunami hit Indonesia, he led photo coverage of the corpse-littered city of Banda Aceh.

We follow him as he chronicles presidential elections in the often politically volatile Philippines.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016

4 a.m. An alarm rouses Marquez from his hotel bed in southern Davao city, where front-running candidate and longtime mayor Rodrigo Duterte will vote later. He readies about 20 kilos (44 pounds) of photography gear, including a satellite phone, a three-step ladder and three bottles of Gatorade.

5:30 a.m. After a heavy breakfast, Marquez mumbles a prayer and heads to General Emilio Aguinaldo National High School, about 20 minutes away. After lunch, Duterte will vote here in a classroom-turned-polling precinct. Expecting a huge media mob, Marquez reserves a spot next to APTN colleague Joael Calupitan by strapping his three-step ladder to a window's iron grill with a carabiner before heading back downtown.

6:06 a.m. A few minutes after polls open, Marquez snaps images of colorful campaign posters of smiling candidates. In a Muslim community in the Santa Ana district, villagers line up while others search for their names on a list at a voting center. He films with his iPhone, sending video to senior APTN video editor Kiko Rosario in Manila, the Philippine capital nearly 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) to the north.

8 a.m. Marquez heads back to the school to send his first photos. It's a national public holiday, and many downtown shops and mosques are closed, but poll centers are swarming with people.

10 a.m. The long wait for Duterte begins. Hundreds more journalists, policemen and Duterte supporters converge outside the tiny voting room. Marquez is soaked in sweat as the damp room swelters in the summer heat. He asks why two electric fans are not working, and an elections officer replies in jest, "They're just decorations."

3 p.m. Duterte's convoy arrives and security escorts push the crowd aside to allow Duterte; his girlfriend, Honeylet; and daughter Veronica into the room.

Marquez manages to snap a few shots before photographers are ordered out of the room. He then rushes to the back of the building where his ladder is waiting, squeezing next to a window grill to photograph Duterte voting.

The huge crowd makes photographing Duterte's exit impossible, so Marquez climbs over a fence, dashes toward the entry gate and struggles to set up his ladder as Duterte is whisked to his van. Above the melee on his wobbly ladder, Marquez captures a sweet moment of a supporter's hand pinching Duterte's left cheek.

3:20 p.m. As Marquez's taxi races to the hotel where Duterte will hold a news conference, he prepares to transmit his "cheek-pinching" shot, which becomes the "Image of Asia" that day in the AP Mobile app.

5 p.m. Marquez alerts APTN's Calupitan about Duterte's press conference, which Manila staffers monitor partly through Marquez's iPhone placed near a speaker.

7 p.m. Afterward, he arranges an AP interview with Duterte and gives APTN and the bureau a heads up.

9 p.m. From the hotel's second floor, Marquez takes final shots of Duterte, who is mobbed like a rock star in the hotel lobby while leaving. His photo of a woman taking a selfie with Duterte is later prominently featured in the International New York Times.

10:40 p.m. Nearly 19 hours after waking up, Marquez transmits his final shot, sans dinner, rounding out his gallery of 39 photos. Asia Regional Photo Editor Charlie Dharapak's messages provide a fitting cap for the long, grueling day. Addressing him as "Super Bullit," Dharapak writes: "Thank you for your cross-format thinking and contribution! ... Great work today." **APW**

What job / role would you like to see spotlighted?

Email apworld@ap.org

BUREAU SPOTLIGHT: ATHENS, GREECE

The small European country producing huge stories



By Elena Becatoros, chief of bureau for Southeast Europe

FOR A SMALL COUNTRY on the edge of Europe, Greece makes a lot of news.

The continent's perennial problem child has been at the heart of its biggest stories for the last six years, including the debt crisis that threatened the dream of monetary union and Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II.

Coverage has been multifaceted and nonstop.

The Athens bureau's staff of three reporters, two photographers and a TV crew dug behind the numbers to reveal the impact of the financial crisis on the country and its people, alternating between spot and enterprise stories to illustrate exploding unemployment and homelessness, the dramatic rise of the extreme right, the country's crumbling hospitals and prisons, and an alarming spike in HIV infections.

With a small staff handling a story with global implications, reporters, photographers and TV staffers work closely together, maximizing coverage capabilities of the debt crisis. TV producer Theodora Tongas and cameraman Srdjan Nedeljkovic call in quotes and color; reporters Derek Gatopoulos and Nicholas Paphitis shoot photos and video; and photographers Thanassis Stavrakis and Petros Giannakouris alert other formats to breaking news developments.

And there have been many. There's the financial aspect, of course, with details of complicated credit default swaps to decipher, the world's largest debt write-down in history and a massive International Monetary Fund default. Politics have been equally tumultuous, with Greece seeing five general elections, a referendum and seven governments in as

Clockwise from upper left:
Southeast Europe Chief of Bureau Elena Becatoros and cameraman Srdjan Nedeljkovic cover the migration crisis aboard a Greek coast guard patrol boat near Chios, Greece, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016.
AP PHOTO / PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

Athens Chief Photographer Thanassis Stavrakis covers the migration crisis from a patrol plane over the Aegean Sea, Wednesday, May 27, 2015.
PHOTO BY SRDJAN NEDELJKOVIC

APTN producer Theodora Tongas works in the Athens bureau, Thursday, June 16, 2016.
AP PHOTO / PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

Reporter Derek Gatopoulos, left, and cameraman Srdjan Nedeljkovic report on the refugee crisis from the 10.5-kilometer fence along the Greek-Turkish border, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016.
PHOTO BY THEODORA TONGAS

many years, as well as dozens of crucial post-midnight votes in Parliament.

There were also the countless strikes, demonstrations and riots. The height of the crisis saw several violent demonstrations each week, leaving staff dodging Molotov cocktails and hurled chunks of marble while choking on tear gas, with clouds of gas frequently wafting inside the bureau.

The refugee crisis has been no less dramatic. In a year, a million people fleeing war and poverty arrived on the shores of the Greek islands. Dozens of boats and dinghies overturned in the Aegean Sea, leaving hundreds dead.

Staff crisscrossed the country, telling the stories of desperate people leaving behind their homes, putting a human face on the numbers. They spoke with grieving shipwreck survivors and their rescuers on the eastern and southern islands, followed stowaways sprinting to trucks heading onto Italy-bound ferries in the west and slogged through rain-sodden fields in impromptu refugee camps on Greece's northern borders.

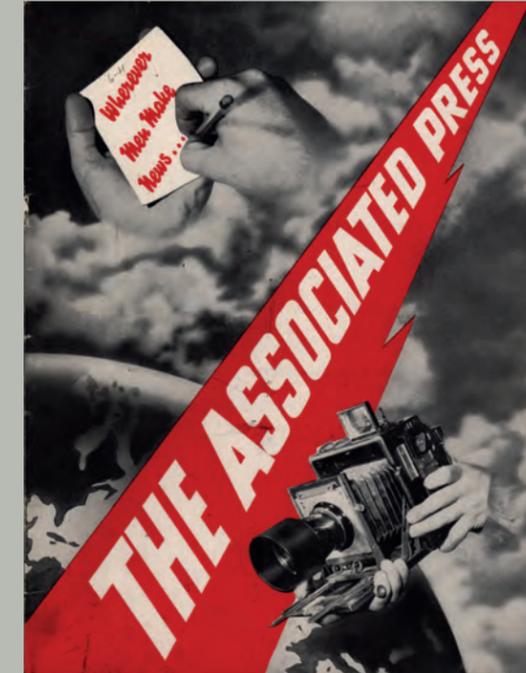
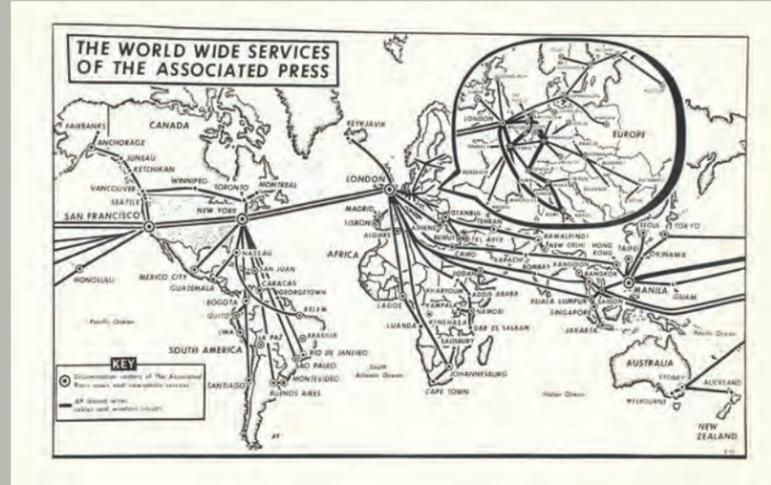
The bureau's region also includes three smaller countries, covered by lone correspondents and photographers: Cyprus, where correspondent Menelaos Hadjicostis and photographer Petros Karadjias handled another dramatic debt crisis in the island nation that is home to the world's last divided capital; Albania, where reporter Lllazar Semini and photographer Hektor Pustina report on a country still dealing with the legacy of its communist past that kept it as Europe's last hermit state until the early 1990s; and Macedonia, where reporter Konstantin Testorides and photographer Boris Grdanoski have covered the refugee crisis and a dramatic political crisis that led to weeks of street demonstrations.

As for Greece, there's more to the country than just riots and refugees. There are also sports, archaeology, papal visits, earthquakes and raging forest fires, hunts for missing children and the occasional plane crash, as well as travel stories and features on food — including one written from a monastic enclave where women have been banned for hundreds of years.

Keeping up with the story has put print, TV and photos in some strange places: reporting from the skies above Athens in a blimp, a seabed for an underwater dance performance and a brothel sponsoring a local football team.

"We help each other all the time: story planning, sharing quotes and information, biking it to a breaking story, even carrying gear," says Tongas. "It would be impossible to cover the region's crises the way we do without working so closely across formats." **APW**

Happy 170th birthday, AP!



By Valerie Komor, director of Corporate Archives

AS WE CELEBRATE the 170th birthday of The Associated Press, we can take pride in the fact that AP is the only 19th century communications system to survive in its original form as a news cooperative.

The idea of sharing the cost of newsgathering among publishers belongs to Moses Yale Beach (1800–1868), a Wallingford, Connecticut, native who invented a rag-cutting machine and became publisher of *The New York Sun* in 1838. Thanks to Beach and his predecessor, Benjamin Day, the *Sun* became the first successful penny paper in New York City.

Looking for innovative ways of doing business, Beach likely seized upon the patenting of the telegraph in 1840 as inspiration for a venture that combined old and new technologies. With the outbreak of the Mexican War, Beach established a pony express to carry war news ahead of the Great Southern Mail between Mobile and Montgomery, Alabama. Riders were not paid unless they gained a 24-hour edge over the mail. In Montgomery, dispatches rejoined the mail coach for the 700-mile journey to the telegraph head near Richmond, where they were put on the wire to New York. At 83 Liberty Street, editors re-wrote the dispatches and sent them out again by telegraph and courier.

Beach’s innovation was offering an equal share in the pony venture to the New York daily papers. This introduced cooperation into a highly competitive race against time. Four dailies accepted the offer — *The Journal of Commerce*, *The Express*, *The Herald*, and *the Courier and Enquirer*. Not long after, *The New York Times* and *the New York Tribune* joined, and soon these seven papers were being called the “associated press of this city.”

The timely combination of Samuel F.B. Morse’s telegraph and Beach’s news service, born a few blocks apart in lower Manhattan, meant information that formerly moved only as fast as the fastest horse, was being sent at nearly the speed of light. For the first time, strangers living far from each other could acquire the same knowledge at the same moment. Historian Menahem Blondheim suggests that the AP “helped Americans accommodate to a common information environment ... by giving news a national orientation.”

As the country moved west, membership increased. By 1900, AP had a membership of around 1,200 newspapers. After World War II, radio and television stations became associate members. Service spread throughout Europe

and South America, while cable circuits connected Asia with San Francisco and London. By 1980, AP was serving 77 percent of daily newspapers as well as international subscribers and broadcasters.

In keeping with AP’s origins in the quest for speed, AP staff have always pioneered state-of-the-art capture and transmission of text, photography, graphics, interactives, audio and high-definition video. The history of AP news technology parallels wider engineering advances.

One of AP’s latest initiatives, Project UNO (AP Newsroom), will create a single content distribution platform, allowing customers to retrieve content across multiple formats from a single portal. Later this year, migration will begin of approximately 200 million documents in the Text Archive from its current platform onto the Amazon Cloud. This will allow AP journalists, product managers, engineers and archivists to access the full repository of digital text, which dates to 1985. AP News, the mobile app launching this summer, will better showcase member content, make more use of social media and allow users to customize their experiences.

While technology evolves, our core mission is unchanging. AP reporters continue to set the standard for fairness, reliability and integrity. “Get it first, get it right, and get it out of town” is still our daily task. **APW**

Submit what working at AP means to you. Visit ap.org/ap170

From left:
Oil painting of Moses Yale Beach (1800–1868).
AP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

1971 map showing AP’s dissemination centers and wires across the globe.
AP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

1866 Broadside honoring Frederick Hudson, a member of AP’s executive committee.
AP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

Publicity leaflet for AP photos from 1943.
AP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

Wirephoto delivery envelope from 1935.
AP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

YEARS OF SERVICE



Bilal Badran, senior technology specialist, marked 20 years with AP, Friday, June 3, 2016, in Beirut.



John Flesher, correspondent in Traverse City, Michigan, celebrated 35 years with AP, Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in the Detroit bureau.



Ed McCullough, director of Spanish media markets, marked 35 years with AP in Miami, Wednesday, May 11, 2016.



Tetsuya Saruta, Tokyo technician, celebrated 20 years with AP, Monday, March 21, 2016.



Diane Chan, director of technology finance, marked 25 years with AP in New York, Thursday June 16, 2016.



Anne Gillen, products entitlement manager, marked 25 years with AP in New York, Thursday, June 16, 2016.



Mark Miller, Global Help Desk technician, celebrated 30 years with AP in Los Angeles, Thursday, July 21, 2016.



Leny Stevense, confidential secretary, celebrated 40 years with AP in Amsterdam, Friday, April 1, 2016.



Susan Clark, global travel and fleet coordinator, marked 35 years with AP in New York, Thursday, April 28, 2016.



Zeina Karam, news director for Lebanon and Syria, marked 20 years with AP, Friday, June 3, 2016, in Beirut.



Edna Mustafa, assistant treasury manager, celebrated 35 years with AP, Thursday, May 5, 2016, in New York.



Photo editor Toru Takahashi celebrated his 30th anniversary with AP, Friday, April 15, 2016, in Tokyo.



Dee-Ann Durbin, correspondent for the auto team, marked 20 years with AP, Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in the Detroit bureau.



Jacqueline Larma, regional photo editor-East, marked 25 years with AP, Tuesday, May 3, 2016, in Philadelphia.



Lou Piezzo, director of finance shared services, celebrated 30 years with AP in New York, Thursday, June 16, 2016.



Roseann Treloar, senior director for customer support, celebrated w25 years with AP, Thursday, June 23, 2016, in New York.



Photo editor Margriet Faber marked 15 years with AP in Amsterdam, Friday, April 1, 2016.



Florida news editor Ian Mader celebrated 25 years with AP in Miami, Wednesday, May 11, 2016.



Sergio Romeo, sales manager for the Southern Cone, marked 35 years with AP during the NAB Show in Las Vegas, Wednesday, April 20, 2016.



Roy Wu, technology specialist, marked 30 years with AP in Los Angeles, Friday, May 13, 2016.

Please note: AP World includes a selection of photos of staff celebrating milestone anniversaries with the AP. As always, Corporate Communications will publish all submitted anniversary photos in Around the AP World on InsideAP.

AROUND THE AP WORLD



Top row from left:
PRISTINA, KOSOVO
 Martin Benedyk, U.K. APTN news editor, right, and Sylejman Kllokoqi, Pristina cameraman, center, meet Prince Charles during a diplomatic reception, Friday, March 18, 2016. Benedyk accompanied Prince Charles and his wife Camilla on a tour of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.
 PHOTO BY JOHN STILLWELL, PRESS ASSOCIATION

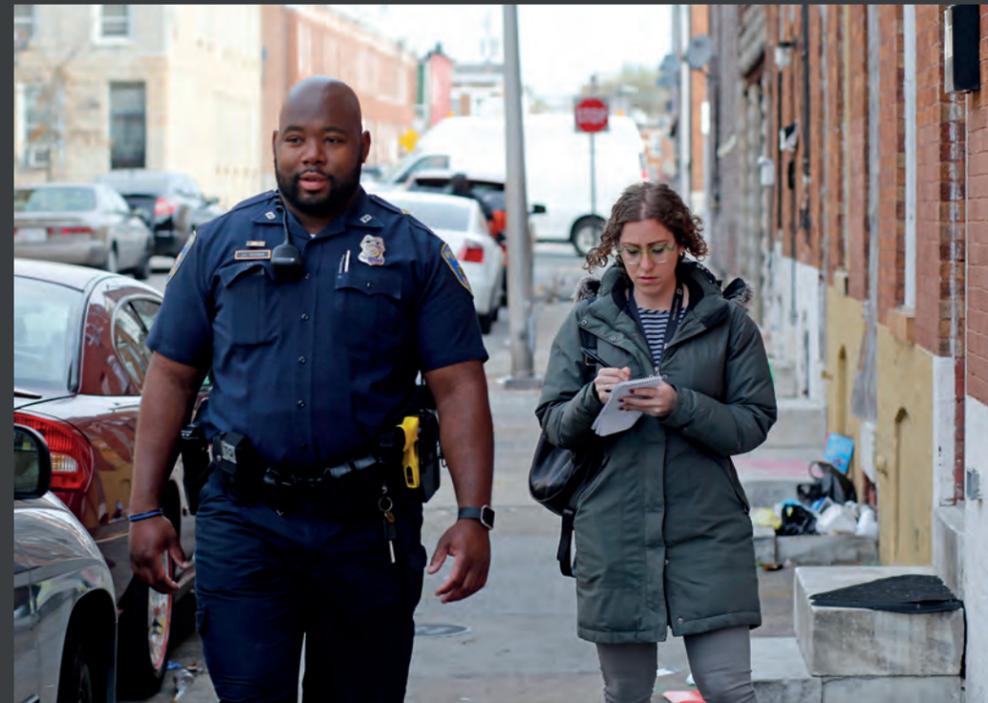
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
 Jon Gambrell, senior Gulf correspondent, interviews a Nigerian laborer, Wednesday, April 6, 2016. As others followed around an Emirati government minister, Gambrell worked through the crowd to seize a rare opportunity to interview laborers about their working conditions.
 AP PHOTO / KAMRAN JEBREILI

NEW YORK
 Video journalist Ted Shaffrey interviews actress Julianne Moore about her support for universal background checks for gun purchases, Saturday, May 7, 2016. She marched with the group Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.
 AP PHOTO / JULIE WALKER

NEW YORK
 Mexico City-based reporter Christopher Sherman, left, Deputy News Director for Production in Latin America and the Caribbean Eduardo Castillo, center, and photo editor Dario Lopez-Mills pose for a photo before speaking to staff members, Thursday, April 28, 2016. Castillo, Sherman and Lopez-Mills received the Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for their series exploring Mexico's "The Other Disappeared."
 AP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Bottom row from left:
NEW ORLEANS
 New Orleans photographer Gerald Herbert photographs food at Shaya restaurant, Tuesday, May 31, 2016, for a story about how the Israeli restaurant was named Best New Restaurant by the James Beard Foundation.
 PHOTO BY REBECCA SANTANA

DOHUK, IRAQ
 Lori Hinnant, international security correspondent, talks with Yazidi girls at the Khanke camp for displaced persons, Wednesday, May 18, 2016, during a reporting trip to investigate how Islamic State militants are keeping 3,000 women and girls enslaved.
 AP PHOTO / MAYA ALLERUZZO



Top row from left:
OLD HAVANA, CUBA
Julie Pace, chief White House correspondent, walks past a 1950s-era Plymouth sedan parked on the street, Sunday, March 20, 2016. Pace traveled with President Barack Obama and his family during a visit to Cuba. Obama became the first U.S. president to visit the island in nearly 90 years.
PHOTO BY PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

BAGHDAD, IRAQ
Photographers Karim Kadim, left, Hadi Mizban, right, and Baghdad Chief Photographer Khalid Mohammed, center, pose with a Matterport 3-D camera in the Islamic Hall of the Iraq National Museum, Sunday, March 13, 2016. The team created a virtual 3-D tour of the museum, which houses some of the only treasures from sites now looted and destroyed by the Islamic State group in northern Iraq.
AP PHOTO / MAYA ALLERUZZO

BALTIMORE
Baltimore newsperson Juliet Linderman follows a member of the Baltimore Police Department, Thursday, March 31, 2016, for a story ahead of the first anniversary of Freddie Gray's death.
AP PHOTO / PATRICK SEMANSKY

HIT, IRAQ
Baghdad correspondent Susannah George, Baghdad Chief Photographer Khalid Mohammed, back center, and cameraman Ali Abdul Hassan, back right, cover displaced people fleeing following clashes between Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces and the Islamic State group, Wednesday, April 13, 2016.
AP PHOTO

Bottom row from left:
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service habitat specialist Hal Jones, left, unwraps an adult alligator gar in a transportation tank as video journalist Jay Reeves uses a GoPro camera to film a close-up of the fish at the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery, Wednesday, July 6, 2016.
AP PHOTO / ROGELIO V. SOLIS

PALMYRA, SYRIA
Video journalist Maeva Bambuck films Roman-era ruins from a hill, Friday, April 15, 2016.
PHOTO BY ZEINA KARAM



Top row from left:

HOLDEN, LOUISIANA

New Orleans reporter Chevel Johnson poses with actor John Schneider – best known for his role on “The Dukes of Hazzard” TV series – after an interview at John Schneider Studios, Thursday, April 7, 2016.

AP PHOTO / GERALD HERBERT

HAARLEM, NETHERLANDS

Muhammed Muheisen, chief photographer for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, takes photos while working on a story about former Dutch prisons and jails now housing asylum seekers, at the former prison of De Koepel, Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

AP PHOTO / ROSANNA WIJNGAARDS

INDIANAPOLIS

Assistant regional sports editor Dave Zelio presents the Associated Press Coach and Player of the Year trophies to University of Connecticut player Breanna Stewart and head coach Geno Auriemma during a news conference at the NCAA Women’s Final Four Tournament, Saturday, April 2, 2016.

AP PHOTO / DARRON CUMMINGS

CLEVELAND

Staff members edit and file stories from the AP workspace at the Republican National Convention, Thursday, July 21, 2016.

AP PHOTO / J. DAVID AKE

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

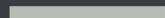
San Diego correspondent Elliot Spagat, left, interviews a Marine following remarks by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus at Camp Pendleton, Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Secretary Mabus discussed the recent directive to allow women in military combat roles.

PHOTO BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

NEW YORK

Chief of Bureau for North Korea Eric Talmadge, far left, and Vice President for International News John Daniszewski, center, greet North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong at the North Korean Mission to the U.N., Saturday, April 23, 2016. Talmadge and Daniszewski conducted an interview with Ri, who asserted Pyongyang’s longstanding position that the U.S. drove North Korea to develop nuclear weapons as an act of self-defense.

AP PHOTO / JULIE JACOBSON



BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Photographer Richard Drew photographs Instagram-famous dogs during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the kennels area aboard the Queen Mary 2 ship, Wednesday, July 6, 2016. It is the only long-distance passenger ship that carries pets at sea. PHOTO BY BETH HARPAZ

JAGODINA, SERBIA

Belgrade staffers, from left, Dusan Stojanovic, Darko Vojinovic and Ivana Bzganovic, pose with a wax statue of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Tuesday, April 12, 2016. The cross-format team is looking into Russia's influence in the country ahead of parliamentary elections on April 24. AP PHOTO

NEW ENGLAND

Michael Casey (in the red jacket), administrative correspondent for northern New England, receives instruction on steering the 61-foot Hokule'a, a full-scale replica of a Polynesian double-hulled voyaging canoe, as it sails from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Portland, Maine. The Hokule'a is the type of vessel that brought the first people to Hawaii. The canoe is making an around-the-world voyage and was passing through New England on its way to Nova Scotia, Canada, when Casey boarded. AP PHOTO / ROBERT F. BUKATY

TAVSANCIBAG, TURKEY

During a shoot for Horizons, Istanbul-based video journalist Bram Janssen and freelance producer Neyran Elden pose for a selfie, Tuesday, May 17, 2016. The camels belong to a nomadic family who annually migrates hundreds of kilometers from the country's southern Mediterranean coast to its central Anatolian mountains. PHOTO BY BRAM JANSSEN

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Nashville entertainment reporter Kristin Hall interviews country music star Jake Owen on his wakeboard boat on the Cumberland River, Tuesday, June 21, 2016. AP PHOTO / MARK HUMPHREY

NEW YORK

The AP team that investigated seafood caught by slaves poses at the George Polk Awards luncheon, Friday, April 8, 2016. From left, Mary Rajkumar, Martha Mendoza, Robin McDowell, Esther Htusan and Margie Mason. AP PHOTO / RICHARD DREW

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BACK STORY

RAMADI, IRAQ

Baghdad correspondent Susannah George stands inside a room at the University of Anbar used as a headquarters by the Islamic State group, Sunday, March 20, 2016. George visited Ramadi for a groundbreaking AP investigation into the destruction of the city during the military operation to liberate it from the Islamic State group.

AP PHOTO / MAYA ALLERUZZO

