



## AP Alabama Newsletter – January 2009

### Free photos from AP archive

As part of the realignment of AP services for 2009, all members that take AP's Photostream service will have access to most archive photos at no charge.

Your accounts on AP Images, the photo archive server, have been updated to reflect this change – and to make it easy for member photo editors to take advantage of this money-saving change.

The address is [www.apimages.com](http://www.apimages.com).

If your newspaper takes Photostream and you do not have an account on AP Images, contact AP Customer Support: 1-877-836-9477.

**Please be aware that not all photos in the AP Images archive are free. Some third-party images do carry a charge. Photos with a fee or other restrictions are clearly marked.**

Some of the material available on the AP Images server:

- All content delivered via AP PhotoStream, including photos older than 14 days
- AP's historical photos
- Newsmaker headshots and AP's MLB Portrait Package
- Handout photos
- Images supplied by third parties such as Canadian Press, Press Association, UK, Kyodo.
- AP's print graphics

For more information, contact Gary Clark or Maryann Mrowca in the Atlanta bureau.

### Alabama legislators look ahead to session

With the Alabama Legislature returning Feb. 3, **AP political writer Phil Rawls and newsman Bob Johnson** conducted the AP's annual survey of representatives and senators about several key issues they will face in the regular session. For more than a decade, the annual survey has proven to be an accurate forecast of what will happen in the legislative session. Ninety-four percent of senators and 70 percent of House members responded to the AP's annual survey in advance of the 2009 session.

Among the findings: Strong support for removing the state sales tax on groceries, but sharp division over how to do it; lawmakers in both chambers expect cuts in education spending but the largest group in the House favors cutting K-12 schools less than two-

year colleges and four-year universities, while the largest group in the Senate supports cuts in all levels of education equally.

A series of stories on the survey results have been moving. The stories and publication dates are:

- \* SATURDAY, Jan. 24: Removal of the state sales tax on groceries.
- \* SUNDAY, Jan. 25: Likeliest places to make cuts in the state education budget.
- \* MONDAY, Jan. 26: Requirement for using photo IDs to vote.
- \* FRIDAY, Jan. 30: Ban on text messaging while driving.
- \* SATURDAY, Jan. 31: Internet voting for overseas military.
- \* SUNDAY, Feb. 1: Tax on gambling to ease budget cuts.

If you have any questions, please call Alabama News Editor Kendal Weaver at 1-800-821-3737.

### Alabama APME annual newspaper contest

Entries in the Alabama APME contest are due Jan. 26. If you have any question about the contest, your entries or the entry fee, please contact Marylean Miller [mlmiller@ap.org](mailto:mlmiller@ap.org) in the AP Atlanta bureau at 404-523-7314. Copies of the rules and entry forms are moving on the wire in advisories and have been mailed to each newspapers. They also are available at the Alabama AP Web site: <http://www.ap.org/alabama/apmember.html>.

Winners will be announced when the judging is complete in March.

### The Pocatello Project: One day's news, two views

The Innovation Pocatello guidebook is now available and offers an inside look on how the AP used Member Choice to transform the Idaho State Journal and then presented it to the Journal's staff. This guidebook demonstrates how the Idaho State Journal could incorporate the expanded content of Member Choice, compared to its AP Basic service level, to meet the evolving needs of readers. It can be as simple as a single anchor or a single search that adds value to your coverage, but Pocatello shows how powerful Member Choice can be when it's incorporated into the broader philosophy of the newsroom.



Additionally, the Innovation in Action toolkit is available and offers early examples of members doing interesting things with Member Choice content. The downloadable guide continues to be updated as more innovations get started.

Member Choice reflects the biggest change in AP newspaper services in its 162 years. AP is overhauling text services to give newspapers access to a broad database of content,

including stories from all 50 state wires and AP's English-language international reporting, as well as business, sports and entertainment. It introduces content-management and search tools to give access to more locally relevant content that would support niche and targeted local publications in print and online. Expanded licensing makes it easier for members to innovate with new revenue-enhancing products.

To view copies of these guidebooks and to see updates and new success stories, visit [www.ap.org/choice](http://www.ap.org/choice). If you have an idea you are trying to put in action or need specific content, contact Assistant Chief of Bureau Maryann Mrowca to help set up the saved searches in AP Exchange for the content you want. To share your best examples of Member Choice in use, e-mail [digitalcooperative@ap.org](mailto:digitalcooperative@ap.org) and [mmrowca@ap.org](mailto:mmrowca@ap.org).

### **AP WebFeeds deliver custom searches from AP Exchange into your system**

Once you have set up saved searches in AP Exchange to find the locally relevant content you want, those saved searches can become a "custom wire" delivered to your newsroom via an AP WebFeed. AP WebFeeds are secure ATOM feeds of AP content that can be captured in a production folder on your server or computer system. From there, it can be fed into your content management system. AP has been working with more than two dozen major vendors of content management systems so they can integrate these feeds into the systems used by newspapers.

AP WebFeeds can deliver multiple content formats – from JPEG files of photos to text in NITF or ANPA formats. They also can deliver the kind of customized feeds you can create through saved searches in AP Exchange that draw from a wider array of AP content than can readily be delivered via satellite. To learn more about AP WebFeeds, please join us – and invite your IT, production or editorial systems manager -- for training sessions held every Wednesday at 1 p.m. ET or contact Maryann Mrowca [mmrowca@ap.org](mailto:mmrowca@ap.org).

To join the training sessions, go to:

[www.webdialogs.com/join](http://www.webdialogs.com/join)

Conference ID: 95552

Then dial 866-206-0240 with conference ID 965 385#.

### **AP appoints Barrett deputy editor of new East desk**



Amanda Barrett, content coordinator for Multimedia and Graphics for The Associated Press, has been promoted to the new position of deputy East editor, helping lead the news organization's new regional desk in Philadelphia. Working with East Editor Larry Rosenthal, Barrett will lead a staff of multi-format editors who will edit content from AP bureaus in 10 states from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey north to Maine. The East desk is the second of four planned regional desks. The South desk

opened in Atlanta in April, and desks will open next year in Chicago for the Central region and in Phoenix for the West.

Read Barrett's complete announcement at [http://www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/wn\\_120408a.html](http://www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/wn_120408a.html).

## Special Editions

The "Taxes" Special Edition, moving in January, will include stories on what's new in taxes this year; paying taxes in tough economic times; electronic filing; the AMT; and the recovery rebate credit, among others.

Special Editions move on the first or second Tuesday of each month. Upcoming Special Editions are:

- Feb. 3 – Get Started: How to Tackle the New Year
- March 3 – Pets
- April 7 – Your Career
- May 5 – Outdoors
- June 2 – Weddings
- July 14 – Back to School
- Aug. 4 – Fall Homes/Housekeeping 101
- Sept. 1 – Cars
- Oct. 6 – Diet/Exercise
- Nov. 3 – Holidays
- Dec. 1 – Weddings

## OTHER ENTERPRISE HIGHLIGHTS

- **AP Birmingham Correspondent Jay Reeves** teamed up with the AP's **Jessica Gresko** in Florida and AP writers Rick Callahan, Ken Kusmer and Jeni O'Malley in Indianapolis, and Harry Weber in Atlanta to tell the story of how a missing pilot's three-day run from authorities — and personal and financial ruin — ended when authorities found him inside an isolated campground tent in North Florida, bleeding from his wrist after an apparent suicide attempt. Federal marshals arrested the Indiana businessman and amateur daredevil pilot who apparently tried to fake his own death in a plane crash. Authorities believe he parachuted to the ground and later sped off on a motorcycle he had stashed in a central Alabama storage shed.
- **Reeves** reported on the Morgan County sheriff who made \$212,000 in the last three years by feeding inmates what a judge said were skimpy portions. Although the law allows sheriffs to any money they can make by feeding inmates for less than the amount they receive in state funds for meals, a federal judge ordered the sheriff arrested and jailed until he submitted a plan to feed prisoners meals that were "nutritionally adequate."

- **Reeves** also teamed up with Associated Press writers **Juanita Cousins** in Nashville, Tenn., **Duncan Mansfield** in Knoxville and **Bill Poovey** in Chattanooga, Tenn., to report on the problems plaguing the Tennessee Valley Authority. “As nearby residents await lab tests on the safety of drinking water, tempers are unsettled. Electric rates at the nation's largest utility have soared. A dike burst in Tennessee destroyed several homes, and on Friday, as much as 10,000 gallons of waste spilled into Widows Creek in northwestern Alabama. The nation's largest utility, once was viewed as a savior to the region, bringing lights, thousands of jobs and progress since its creation as a New Deal program in 1933, has had a rocky few months.”

## Bailout billions

Twenty-one banking organizations received at least \$1 billion each as part of a massive bailout funded by taxpayers. So Washington investigative reporter Matt Apuzzo thought the public ought to know what the banks were doing with all that money. Not a single one of them would say. The exclusive AP story, reported and written by Apuzzo, Washington business writers Chris Rugaber and Dan Wagner and New York business writer Stevenson Jacobs, revealed that the banks can't or won't tell anyone what they've done with their bailout billions.

The story triggered immediate outrage. It was plastered across newspaper front pages, on the Internet, on radio and on television. It received more than 1,000 comments on USA Today's home page, and was featured on MSNBC's morning show and on NPR's Morning Edition. AP reporters were invited to discuss it on Jim Lehrer's NewsHour, C-Span, CNN International and several radio stations. Sens. Diane Feinstein and Olympia Snowe demanded accountability from the Treasury, as did House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.



## Hurling shoes



When an Iraqi TV journalist hurled his shoes at President George W. Bush at a Baghdad news conference, numerous video cameras were trained on the scene. But only APTN's Wameed Muwfaq Fathi got clear, dramatic images that made for a major AP beat in video and stills. Fathi had the presence of mind to pull out to a wide shot and stay wide, capturing all the action. Other crews either zoomed in or tried to grab their cameras off their tripods, missing key moments.

Fathi's video showed an astonished Bush ducking as the shoes flew past his head, and the assailant's arm in motion just before he was overpowered. AP frame grabs from Fathi's video scored 66 front pages in competitive checks of U.S. newspapers. AP photographer Evan Vucci also contributed to photo dominance with his front-angle photo

of the assailant hurling a shoe. Iraqi security sealed off the room and checked cameramen as they left. Fearing the tape could be confiscated, Wameed hid it in his trousers and got past security. APTN producer Ahmed Sami Fattah dispatched a car and a bike messenger to the venue to rush the tape back to the AP bureau, feeding it to London and the world within minutes.

### **Driving to Washington**

Determined to show they had learned their lesson, the CEOs of Detroit's Big Three automakers returned to Washington not on corporate jets but in hybrid cars. But the auto titans kept details of their 525-mile drive to Washington secret. Still, through resourceful teamwork, Detroit Auto Writer Tom Krisher, Cleveland reporter Joe Milicia and Washington photographer Gerald Herbert enabled AP to capture the image that told the story - General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner behind the wheel.

The effort began with a stakeout of Wagoner's home, but Wagoner apparently left from his office. Krisher learned what time Wagoner had left, and that he would be traveling in a three-car convoy. He found out the car models and suggested staking out the Ohio Turnpike's east toll booth. Milicia quickly positioned himself just beyond a toll booth, eventually spotted the cars and stayed on their tails through Pennsylvania. Herbert met the convoy on a freeway near Frederick, Md., and took his exclusive photos, showing Wagoner in the passenger seat. Herbert trailed the caravan to the JW Marriott, where he got photos of Wagoner leaving the car and workers taking his bags. The New York Times, the Chicago Sun-Times and the Los Angeles Times ran the photos on the front page. They also were played prominently on multiple Web sites.

