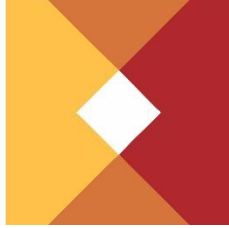


**Coachella
Valley
Journalism
Foundation**



April 2024 Newsletter

A primary goal of the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation is to celebrate journalism and bring attention to the great work being done by journalists. In this month's newsletter, we are sharing information about a wonderful podcast being produced by the Pulitzer Prize organization as it prepares to announce this year's winners on Monday, May 6.

At the same time, we want to make you aware of a concerning development Google is threatening against news organizations in California.

Finally, we hope to see you one week from today when we present our next event – a history of political cartoons and newspaper opinion pages.

[The History of Political Cartoons and Newspaper Opinion Pages](#)

Please join us one week from today for a free, engaging presentation by award-winning editorial cartoonist Mike Thompson and Desert Sun Opinion and Engagement Editor Nicky Loomis as they trace the history of political cartoons and opinion pages in American newspapers and discuss the role they've played in the national dialogue through the years.

Thompson is the winner of the 2017 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for cartooning; a two-time winner of the Society of Professional Journalists' national award for cartooning; and winner of the Overseas Press Club Award, the National Press Foundation Award, the National Headliner Award, the Scripps Howard Award, and the national Women in Communications Clarion Award. He has been a finalist four times for the Pulitzer Prize.

Loomis has been the Desert Sun's Opinion and Engagement Editor since 2022. Her position is funded by the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation. She has worked as a reporter and columnist for the Pasadena Star News and The Associated Press and has been published in the Los Angeles Review of Books, New York Daily News, and the Los Angeles Times.

The event is from 2-3 p.m. next Tuesday, April 30, at the Rancho Mirage Library, 71-100 CA-111. **Admission is free.**

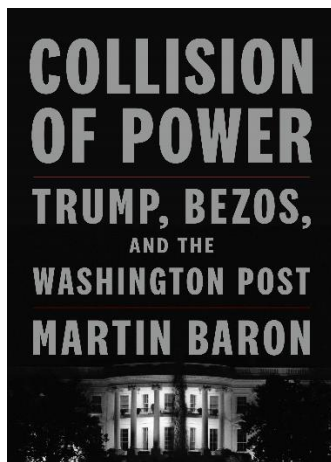
[CVJF issues call for news organizations to apply for internship funding](#)

Thanks to donor support during last month's Coachella Valley Giving Day, CVJF can once again fund internships/fellowships in local newsrooms. We have notified local news organizations that they can apply for funds, and we'll announce in next month's newsletter which news sites have been selected.

This marks the third year CVJF has been able to invest in the future of local journalism by providing a chance for student journalists to receive on-the-job training. Previous grants have gone to *The Desert Sun*, *KESQ*, and the *Coachella Valley Independent*.

CVJF has funded five student internships since its inception, and we're especially pleased that most of these experiences have gone to Coachella Valley students. With your ongoing support, we hope to make this an annual tradition.

Signed copies of Marty Baron's book available for sale



Following our successful Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame event in late February, we have about a dozen signed copies of Marty Baron's book, *Collision of Power: Trump, Bezos and The Washington Post*, available for sale.

Marty's keynote remarks were a highlight of the event, and his book provides fascinating insights into his time leading *The Washington Post*.

If you are interested in purchasing a signed copy of the book for \$30 (it retails for \$34.50) please send me an email at cvjournalismfoundation@gmail.com

What does it take to produce quality journalism? New podcast celebrates Pulitzer winners

The Pulitzer Prizes are considered the gold standard for quality journalism. It's an honor every journalist strives to achieve.

Now, a new podcast explores the story behind the story and explains what it takes to produce award-winning work. Released weekly through April 29, the six *Pulitzer on the Road Podcast* episodes feature interviews with 2023 winners in journalism and books.

Listen to the podcast at [Apple](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

Google claims it's removing news links for some Californians. Why?

Last week, Google made what sounded like a [shocking announcement](#): The tech giant said it was removing links to California news websites in its search results. In a blog post, a Google

executive claimed the company was running this test “to prepare” for the “possible implications” of a bill making its way through the California Legislature.

The measure, called the [California Journalism Preservation Act](#) (CJPA), would require large tech companies — Google and Facebook for starters — to pay a “journalism usage fee” for linking to news stories.

Tech giants have fought similar legislation in Europe, Australia, and Canada. They are concerned that if California passes such a measure, other states or the federal government could follow suit — costing them hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars.

It was not immediately clear what links — if any — Google really blocked. Anecdotally, a few California publishers reported significant dips in web traffic, but others said their number of visitors remained consistent, or even went up, on the first day of the supposed blockade.

What was clear was the move thrust the CJPA, which was introduced in early 2023 and passed the state Assembly but has been pending in the state Senate since then, back into the spotlight.

Scores of publishers printed editorials, with [the L.A. Times saying](#) Google’s action showed the company had abandoned its “don’t be evil” motto and was now displaying “its super villain side.” Others called for the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice to probe whether Google was violating federal law.

Not all publishers, however, are fans of the CJPA as currently written. Critics contend it would benefit large publishers over smaller newsrooms and violate copyright law by diminishing long-held principles of fair use.

There is at least one other alternative brewing. California State Sen. Steven Glazer recently introduced a bill that proposes an employment credit for California newsrooms. In the bill, local media organizations that employ local, California-based staff could get credit for state taxes. But how such credits would be paid for — especially when the state is facing a large budget deficit — remains unclear.

Whether either of these measures will be passed by both houses of the Legislature remains to be seen. Further amendments and substantial revisions to these bills could still happen, though time is ticking before the legislative session ends this summer.

So what’s a local news consumer or community news outlet to do? For their mutual benefit, news producers and consumers can strengthen their direct relationship. If you often find yourself reading your favorite news sites via links posted on Facebook or served to you by Google, you can:

- Visit your preferred news outlet’s website directly or tune in specifically to that TV or radio station. Consider adding a bookmark on the home screen of your phone.
- Follow your preferred publications or stations on social media.
- Sign up for email digests from your favorite news outlets to get news right in your inbox.
- Sign up for push notifications and breaking news alerts from your preferred news outlet.
- If your news outlet has an app, download it and view articles on that platform.
- If your outlet has a podcast, listen to their feed on your preferred platforms like Apple Podcasts, Spotify or Stitcher.

Taking these steps now will make it less likely that you will miss any important news, regardless of whether Google or Facebook eliminate news links. At the same time, the news outlets that you care about will benefit from your direct engagement.

To be sure, news continues to be a rough business. Northwestern University’s [“The State of Local News” report](#) said that by the end of this year, the United States will have lost a third of its newspapers and two-thirds of its journalism jobs since 2005. More than 500 journalists have lost their jobs in 2024 so far.

Will California lawmakers come to consensus and pass legislation? Will publishers get a fresh lifeline, or will the online news ecosystem be thrust into disarray? Maybe big tech and publishers will craft a last-minute bargain that would make legislation moot. Or perhaps nothing will happen, and we will be left with the status quo.

The good news is local news outlets that have close relationships with their community — with readers, viewers, advertisers, subscribers, and donors — have the best chance of not just surviving but thriving. No matter what big tech or the folks in Sacramento do, we can have a significant say in shaping and sustaining the local journalism that makes us a more informed and more connected Coachella Valley.

Thanks. Until next month...

Randy Lovely, Board President
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To donate go to our website and click the donate button using a credit or debit card or send a check to the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation to PO Box 207, Palm Springs, CA 92263.