CURRENT EVENTS SECTION

1. For four days this summer, the world watched and waited as a massive search and rescue mission tried to find a missing submersible carrying a small group to see the wreckage of a ship in which ocean?
    a. Arctic
    b. Atlantic
    c. Indian
    d. Pacific
    e. Southern

    Answer: B

2. The Wall Street Journal's Evan Gershkovich was detained on March 29 while on a reporting trip and accused of espionage by which country?
    a. China
    b. North Korea
    c. Russia
    d. Turkey
    e. Saudi Arabia

    Answer: C

3. AB InBev became the target of a boycott after an image of was posted on Instagram by transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney. What was the image?
    a. A custom can of Bud Light
    b. A Drag Queen Story Hour
    c. A pride shirt
    d. A pride flag
    e. none of the above

    Answer: A

4. A ProPublica investigation raised questions about influence and ethics at the nation's highest court when it reported on undisclosed lavish trips, financial arrangements and gifts paid for by a billionaire Republican donor. Which U.S. Supreme Court Justice was the subject of the report?
    a. Neil Gorsuch
    b. Brett Kavanaugh
    c. John Roberts
    d. Antonin Scalia
    e. Clarence Thomas
    f. None of the above

Answer: E

5. What caused hazy skies and extremely unhealthy air quality levels in large swaths of the northeast this summer?
    a. Hurricane Dora
    b. Wildfires in Canada
    c. Pollution from a chemical refinery in New Jersey
    d. Exhaust fumes from a truck blockade
    e. None of the above

    Answer: B

6. How much was Fox News ordered to pay Dominion Voting Systems in the most-watched media libel case in decades?
    a. $10 million
    b. $87 million
    c. $787.5 million
    d. $1.2 billion

    Answer: C

7. On May 27, President Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached an agreement to suspend the debt ceiling for two years. What is the debt ceiling?
    a. Limits the amount of money the government can borrow
    b. Limits the income the government can collect taxes on
    c. Sets the maximum amount individuals can charge to a credit card
    d. Limits the U.S. government's debt-to-income ratio

    Answer: A

8. The Supreme Court struck down affirmative action at U.S. colleges. Which two universities' admissions policies were at the heart of the case?
    a. Harvard University
    b. Princeton University
    c. University of North Carolina
    d. University of Texas
    e. University of California, Berkeley

    Answer: A & C (1 point each)

9. The spy balloon shot down over the Atlantic Ocean in early February was suspected to be sent from which country?

a. Canada
b. China
c. Iran
d. Russia
e. North Korea

Answer: B

10. This summer WGA and SAG-AFTRA went on strike, causing a shutdown and impacting what industries?
    a. Mining and farming
    b. Autos and trucks
    c. Government and private mail delivery
    d. Hotel and restaurant
    e. Television and film
    f. Gas and oil

    Answer: E

11. Who is the football quarterback who helped lead his team to victory at Super Bowl LVII (in 2023) and was named MVP?



a. Tom Brady
b. Jalen Hurts
c. Patrick Mahomes
d. Eli Manning
e. Aaron Rodgers

Answer: C

12. Identify this iconic, Grammy-winning singer who passed away this year. She was twice elected into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.



a. Aretha Franklin
b. Diana Ross
c. Dionne Warwick
d. Tina Turner

Answer: D

13. This two-time Women's World Cup winner announced in July she will retire at the end of the 2023 National Women's Soccer League season.



a. Coco Gauff
b. Mia Hamm
c. Megan Rapinoe
d. Lia Thomas
e. Abby Wambach

Answer: C

14. Who is this actress who made history this year as the first Asian woman to win an Oscar for lead actress?



a. Simone Ashley
b. Hong Chau
c. Jamie Lee Curtis
d. Stephanie Hsu
e. Michelle Yeoh

Answer: E

15. This activist and scion of a famous American political family announced he was running for president. Who is he?



a. Hunter Biden
b. George P. Bush
c. Jeb Bush
d. Joseph Kennedy III
e. Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
f. Chris Sununu

Answer: E

16. In February, the Democratic Party approved the reordering of its presidential primary. Which state will be the first to vote in the 2024 Democratic presidential primary?



- 31
- 32
- 33
- **34 (South Carolina)**
- 35
- 39

Answer: 34 (South Carolina)

17. What was the first state to ban the popular social media app Tik Tok?



- 7
- 8 (Montana)
- 12
- 13
- 17
- 33

Answer: 8 (Montana)

18. Which state rejected an Advanced Placement course on African American studies, saying it's filled with critical race theory.



- 3
- 12
- 22
- 33 (Florida)
- 4

Answer: 3 (Florida)

19. This August, the deadliest wildfire in modern U.S. history destroyed much of the historic town of Lahaina in which state?



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 12
- **50 (Hawaii)**

Answer: 50 (Hawaii)

20. In which country has the fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war been happening?



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- **7 (Ukraine)**
- 8
- 9

Answer: 7 (Ukraine)

GRAMMAR SECTION (2 points each)

1. Neither reporter nor their editor (is/are) leaving before the election results are tabulated.
2. The house (that/which) we grew up in was torn down.
3. If I (were/was) editor in chief, things would be different.
4. There were 15 (persons/people) involved in producing the story and graphics.
5. The publisher had a profound (affect/effect) on all who knew her.
6. He was the reporter (who/whom) the editor chose to run the bureau.
7. Either my mother or my father (is/are) visiting me at school.

8. While working in the London bureau she went on a (whirlwind/worldwind) tour of Europe.

9. It is (she/her), not me, you wanted for the job.

10. Members of the newspaper staff won multiple awards for (there/their/they're) online newspaper.

AP STYLE SECTION (2 points each)

1. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

   The New York City (fire department/Fire Department) responds quickly.

2. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

   The car was traveling 30 (miles per hour/mph).

3. True or false? According to the AP Stylebook, Dr. is used before the name of a person who holds an honorary doctorate.

   Answer: False

4. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

   (Governor/Gov.) Ron DeSantis won reelection in Florida.

5. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

The thunderstorms are moving from the (**Midwest/midwest**) to the East Coast.

5. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

   The student was from Marietta, (GA./Ga./Georgia).

6. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

   Company revenues range from ($10 to $12 million/$10 million to $12 million).

7. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?

   The _____ girl started a newspaper on her street.
   a. **9-year-old**

b. nine-year-old
c. 9 years old
d. nine years old

Answer: A

8. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?
A. The road is closed from 9 p.m. Friday, May 19, to 5 a.m. Monday, May 22.
B. The road is closed from 9 p.m. Fri., May 19 to 5 a.m. Mon., May 22.
C. The road is closed from 9 PM Friday, May 19, to 5 AM Monday, May 22.

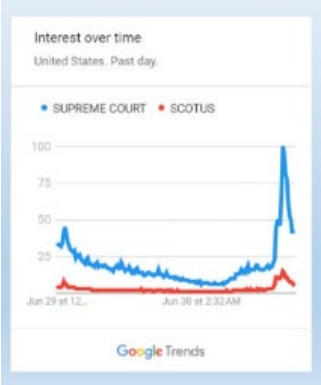
Answer: A

9. According to the AP Stylebook, which is correct?
A. California gets 77 cents back from each dollar it sends to Washington.
B. California gets 77¢ back from each dollar it sends to Washington.
C. California gets $0.77 back from each dollar it sends to Washington.

Answer: A

SEO/HEADLINES SECTION

1. Factoring in this Google Trends report and your knowledge of SEO best practices, which headline is the most SEO Friendly?



A. Supreme Court strikes down Biden plan to forgive student loan debt
B. In Resounding Setback for Biden, Justices Say Administration Overstepped
C. Nearly 1.4 million Texans could be impacted by U.S. Supreme Court decision blocking student loan forgiveness
D. SCOTUS blocks debt forgiveness

Answer: A

2. One headline is written for print, the other for digital. Which is the digital headline?

A. ChatGPT Is Target Of Probe By FTC
B. ChatGPT Comes Under Investigation by Federal Trade Commission

Answer: B

3. Which headline works best for both print and SEO for this story?

Former Fox News host Tucker Carlson and former White House adviser Neil Patel are seeking to raise funds to start a new media company that would potentially use Twitter as its

backbone, according to people familiar with the matter. The new company would be anchored by longer versions of the free videos that Carlson has been posting regularly on Twitter since shortly after his departure from Fox News, but would ultimately be driven by subscriptions, some of the people said.

(Story source: The Wall Street Journal)

A. Carlson and Patel Raising Funds for New Media Company
B. Former Fox Host Launching New Venture
C. Tucker Carlson Is Creating a New Media Company
D. Tucker to Develop A New Company Post Fox

Answer: C

4. Which three statements are true about SEO headlines? (select three)

A. Headlines should be under 180 characters.
B. Headlines should be under 70 characters.
C. Front-load your main-focus keywords.
D. Keywords should go at the end of the headline.
E. The best headlines focus on search algorithm.
F. The best headlines are written with readers in mind.

Answer: B, C, F

DIGITAL MEDIA SECTION

1. What type of file supports images with transparent backgrounds?

a. .bmp
b. .jpg
c. .png
d. .raw

Answer: C

2. The "Let's go, Brandon!" and “Dark Brandon” memes are references to which politician?

a. Donald Trump
b. Joseph Biden
c. Ron DeDantis
d. Rudy Guiliani
e. Barack Obama

Answer: B

3. Several new microblogging competitors have been launched to compete against X (formerly known as Twitter). Which one of these apps is not considered an alternative to X?

a. Mastodon
b. Threads
c. ChatGPT
d. Bluesky
e. Spil

Answer: C

4. Which Adobe program is best for mixing and mastering audio?

a. After Effects
b. Audacity
c. Audition
d. GargageBand
e. Premiere

Answer: C

5. What does IP stand for in IP address?

a. information processor
b. intellectual property
c. interconnected portals
d. internet power
e. internet protocol

Answer: E

6. Which one of these would NOT be considered a method to measure audience engagement?

a. Bounce rate
b. Click-through rate
c. Conversion rate
d. Dwell time
e. Freshness
f. Time on page/site

Answer: E

BUSINESS SECTION

1. In March, the U.S. experienced the second-biggest bank failure in its history. What was the bank that failed?

a. Silicon Valley Bank
b. Capitol One
c. Discover Bank

d. Alliant Credit Union

Answer: A

2. True or False? The Federal Reserve typically raises interest rates to control inflation and lowers rates to help accelerate economic growth.

Answer: True

3. What is the primary purpose of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission?

a. Maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets
b. Serves to charter, regulate, and supervise all national banks.
c. Oversees the U.S. Mint.
d. Sets the foreign exchange rate
e. None of the above

Answer: A

4. What type of entities do VCs typically fund?

a. B-Corps
b. Hedge Funds
c. Nonprofits
d. **Start-Ups**
e. Universities
f. Political Campaigns

Answer: D

5. What is the prime rate?

a. The interest rate that banks use as a basis to set rates for different types of loans.
b. An agreed upon rate between you and a lender that allows you to borrow money to purchase or refinance a home.
c. A rate at which one currency will be exchanged for another currency.
d. The net gain or loss of an investment over a specified time period.
e. None of the above

Answer: A

6. If a company has 2 million shares currently held by shareholders, and the current share price is $5, what is the market capitalization?

a. $400,000
b. $2 million
c. $10 million
d. $1 billion
e. none of the above

Answer: C

7. Who is the secretary of the United States Treasury?

a. Ben Bernanke
b. Steven Mnuchin
c. Jerome Powell
d. Elizabeth Warren
e. Janet Yellen

Answer: E

8. Factual or opinion statement? Increasing the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour is essential for the health of the U.S. economy.

Answer: Opinion

DATA JOURNALISM SECTION

2. What does FOIA mean?

a. Federal Operating and Informing Act
b. Foreign Operations Investigations Act
c. Freedom of Information Act
d. Freedom of Internet Act

Answer: C

2. Which type of chart or graph would be the best to demonstrate the relationship between Medicaid expansion and the infant mortality rate?

a. Bar graph
b. Line graph
c. Pie chart
d. Histogram
e. Scatter plot

Answer: B

3. What is the correct formula for calculating percentage increase?

A. (new value- old value)/old value X 100
B. (old value- new value)/100
C. (new value- old value)/new value
D. (old value - new value)/100 X 100

Answer: A

4. Which of the following is NOT a valid function in Excel?

a. =COUNTIF()
b. =IFERROR()
c. =GETDATA()
d. =SUMIF()

Answer: C

5. What is the median of this set of numbers?

50, 50, 50, 50, 300, 400, 500, 500, 500, 1,000, 5,000

a. 50
b. 300
c. 400
d. 500
e. 4,950

Answer: C

6. Pandas is a software library written for _____.

a. SQL
b. Python
c. C++
d. R

e. PC computer

Answer: C

7. What is it called when you take something out of a HTML page, to make use of it for another purpose somewhere else? For example, finding and copying names and telephone numbers, companies and their URLs to a list.

a. Google search
b. Web scraping
c. Meta Tagging
d. ListServ
e. Front end development
f. Web crawler

Answer: B

8. _____ is software with source code that anyone can inspect, modify and enhance.

a. Open Source
b. GitHub
c. SQL
d. Python
e. Wikimedia

Answer: A