

Newsweek To Cease Print Edition After 80 Years

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — *Newsweek* will end its print publication after 80 years and shift to an all-digital format in early 2013.

Its last U.S. print edition will be its Dec. 31 issue. The paper version of *Newsweek* is the latest casualty of a changing world where readers get more of their information from websites, tablets and smartphones. It's also an environment in which advertisers are looking for less expensive alternatives online.

Newsweeklies have been in an especially tough spot at a time when people don't want to wait a week to read commentary and news digests of big stories, given a flood of instant content available online.

The announcement of the change was made Thursday by

Jason Aldean Makes Surprise Announcement In Boston

BOSTON (AP) — Jason Aldean will be making history at one of baseball's most historic sites.

Aldean will be the first country music star to play a concert at Fenway Park, the iconic home of the Boston Red Sox. The July 13 appearance will be the initial stop on his first stadium tour. Aldean made the announcement Thursday in the shadow of the Green Monster with an assist from Red Sox President/CEO Larry Lucchino and members of the team who made a celebratory clip for the singer that played on Fenway's video board.

"Being the first country music artist to ever come here and headline a show is amazing," Aldean said. "It's going to be a fun night. Over the last several years, my career, especially the touring side of that, has been pretty amazing. It's been growing. So thank you guys for having us. I can't wait for July 13."

The Georgia native released his fifth album, "Night Train," this week. That title is an apt metaphor for his career, which has been steaming along on a steep trajectory. About the only thing he hadn't attained yet was a stadium tour, and he's crossing that goal off the list.

Red Sox David Ortiz, Dustin Pedroia and Jarrod Saltalamacchia welcomed Aldean in a video, and he walked out of the dugout to the sound of songs from his new album and signed the wall inside the Green Monster scoreboard.

Aldean is one of country's top draws, but the stadium tour will move him into rare company. Currently, only Taylor Swift and Kenny Chesney have that kind of drawing power. But the hard-rocking singer has earned the status, selling more than 1.9 million tickets on his year-long "My Kinda Party" tour that wraps in Dallas on Oct. 27.

"You think about how long ago he started, you know, playing the small gigs, holes in the wall and honky-tonks. I mean that's what he did. How do you get here? There's no logical path. It has to consume you," said his manager, Chris Parr.

Murder

From Page 1B

one, we had plenty to start with," she said. "It's been great. I have a wonderful cast."

Additional cast for "Dial M for Murder" includes Gene Johnson as Inspector Hubbard and Alex Fields as Thompson. Phone voices include Renee Hansen as Police Dispatch, Michael Haas as Williams and Reporter, Stacie Peitz as Pendleton, Aden Springer as O'Brian and Announcer and Alex Fields as Roger.

Fields said she set a demanding, rigid schedule for the cast, and the group has responded well, exceeding her expectations. She added that the play's stage manager, Randi Jo Devis, has contributed greatly to the cast's success, as a workable set was available for the first rehearsal.

"It made it a lot easier to work with, especially with a thriller. With a musical, you can sing anywhere. But with a thriller, you need to have your props and your different stage areas," she said. "So it's been going great, and we're really excited getting ready for our audience."

Performances of "Dial M for Murder" begin at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25, 26, 27 and 29, with a matinee at 2 p.m. Oct. 28. The half-price showing will be Oct. 25. For tickets, call 605-665-4711.

"It's only showing for a small amount of time, so get in while you can see it," Fields said.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos

Tina Brown, editor-in-chief and founder of The *Newsweek Daily Beast* Co, and Baba Shetty, its CEO. Job cuts are expected.

"In our judgment, we have reached a tipping point at which we can most efficiently and effectively reach our readers in all-digital format," Brown and Shetty said on The Daily Beast website.

Newsweek's decision does not come as a surprise. Barry Diller, the head of the company that owns *Newsweek*, announced in July that the publication was examining its future as a weekly print magazine. Diller said then

that producing a weekly news magazine in print form wasn't easy.

Newsweek isn't the first to drop its print product. *US News & World Report* dropped its weekly print edition years ago and now focuses on the Web and special print editions, such as a guide to best graduate schools. *SmartMoney* announced in June that it was going all-digital. Dow Jones & Co., a unit of News Corp., said at the time that 25 positions at *SmartMoney* would be eliminated.

Brown said staff cuts at

Newsweek are expected, but didn't give a specific figure. She also said that *Newsweek's* editorial and print operations would be streamlined in the U.S. and abroad.

Newsweek's print edition has been losing relevancy over the years as readers flocked to new, digital sources for news. It did become a conversation piece last month when a cover essay, "Muslim Rage: How I Survived It, How We Can End It," spawned a huge response on Twitter. *Newsweek* had invited Twitter users to write about the subject using the hash-

tag "MuslimRage." But most people, many of them Muslim, mocked the subject instead of adopting the article's serious tone. *Newsweek*, for its part, took the jabs in stride and said its covers and hashtags spark debate on big topics.

Newsweek hasn't been doing well for years. Mounting losses prompted *The Washington Post* Co. in 2010 to sell *Newsweek* for \$1 to stereo equipment magnate Sidney Harman. Harman died the following year.

Before he died, he placed *Newsweek* into a joint venture

with IAC/InterActiveCorp's The Daily Beast website in an effort to trim the magazine's losses and widen its online audience.

Brown and Shetty said the all-digital publication will be called *Newsweek Global* and will be a single, worldwide edition that requires a paid subscription. It will be available for tablets and website reading, with certain content available on The Daily Beast website.

"We are transitioning *Newsweek*, not saying goodbye to it," they wrote.

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