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Connecting - December 13, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 8:58 AM

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December 13, 2018

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Colleagues,

The use of **artificial intelligence** by The Associated Press over the past four years was the lead topic of a story Tuesday by [Journalism.co.uk.](#), which is published in East Sussex, England.

We lead with that story in today's Connecting. Intriguing stuff. The story notes: "The Associated Press has been using AI and algorithms for four years to help journalists to find and break news faster. But are robots the future of journalism?"

Look forward to hearing from you with story or pictures or both of your favorite holiday traditions. Holiday office parties included.

Have a great day!

Paul

Newsrooms must learn how to use AI: 'Trust in journalism is at stake'

By TOM GEORGE

journalism.co.uk

Machine learning, algorithms and natural language processing are now becoming common ways to talk about how we report, produce and distribute the news.

Although artificial intelligence (AI) can be trained to recognise faces and objects, understand languages, solve problems and produce thousands of articles from different data sets, can robots really do the job of a journalist?

Lisa Gibbs, business editor for The Associated Press explained how the publisher has been using artificial intelligence over the past four years.

"We are still at the very early stages of figuring out how to apply this technology to what journalists do," she said, speaking at the Google News Initiative last week (7 December).

"At the Associated Press, we have been experimenting with automation and AI to eliminate routine work, like video transcription, so that our journalists can focus on doing the creative and curious work."



Lisa Gibbs

By the end of next year, the publisher aims to have created 40,000 stories using automated templates, primarily in business news and sports, and is now looking at the potential of image recognition software for the newsroom.

"We want to see how it can help us filter out graphic content from our image feeds, or help us identify athletes in sports photos," she said.

Indeed, the potential of this technology is vast, and other news organisations have also been experimenting in this space.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

Connecting mailbox

Bylines of son and his dad dominated Page One



Larry Margasak (Email) - I enjoyed seeing Ted Anthony's shared byline with his mom. It reminded me of May 18, 2000, when my son, Gabe, and I dominated the front page of the Stuart (Fla.) news, where he worked at the time. We even had a front-page box.

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UPI veteran James Campbell dies at 85

EDMOND, Okla. -- Services were held this week for **James R. Campbell**, who spent 30 years with United Press International before he retired and then covered the Oklahoma statehouse for the Oklahoma Press Association. He died suddenly of pneumonia at the age of 86.



A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where he was editor of the campus daily paper, Campbell served UPI as state editor in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Michigan.

A member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, he served as president of the Oklahoma chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and was twice president of the Oklahoma City Press Club.

Campbell was a former president of the Oklahoma City Gridiron Club and a long-time director, performer and writer for the annual gridiron show.

An avid runner, Campbell competed in the Boston Marathon and multiple times in the Detroit and Oklahoma City Memorial marathons.

A daughter, Jenifer Reynolds, spent many years as a news anchor for Oklahoma City CBS affiliate, KWTV.

Click [here](#) for his full obituary. Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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Recalling the 1964 Alaska earthquake

Sal Veder (Email) - in a note to colleague Lyle Price - Thanx for the memories which now at 92 are a little vague! But, the 1964 Alaska earthquake venture was unique and challenging from its beginning! As I recall, I was working as the night FX photo editor when the quake hit! Within minutes photog Robert (Sammy) Houston, darkroomer Wally Fong and phototech (whose name I cannot recall) and I were assigned!

What stands out...NY photos..."get to Anchorage NOW!!! Ok! Book flight!! ...Ok! Jet! ...Ouch! Anchorage airport closed to large jets, runway failure! Charter takes like forever, with stopover in Seattle where we meet up with Oakland Tribune crew aboard a small Cessna 180 and give them an assist! In Anchorage on the way to the air force base communications center we see whole buildings dropped one level below the street! We reach the Elmendorf AFB communications center where two SE photo techs (two great guys whose names now escape me) have set up our darkroom and wirephoto. We're using melted snow for darkroom processing!

It was a hectic two weeks, with FX-UPI's photog Jack Holper attempting to steal our prints from the Anchorage Times front desk when Jack Cappon caught him going out the door! I cannot describe what happened next, but I know it wasn't pretty!

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Patience, several layers of clothing made this photo worthwhile



J.B. Forbes ([Email](#)) - chief photographer, St. Louis Post-Dispatch - I took my kayak to my favorite lake - Simpson Lake - in Valley Park (in St. Louis County). Most of the lake had a layer of ice on it, so I couldn't go far. But I was able to park on a sandbar and face the eagles nest. I was there for three hours. It takes lots of patience and several layers of clothing to make it worthwhile.

New-member profile: James Raia

(James Raia is Editor/Publisher: TheWeeklyDriver.com; host, TheWeeklyDriver.com/podcast, and automotive columnist, Bay Area News Group/Gulfshore Business Magazine.)

James Raia (Email) - As a former veteran reporter for three dailies, I have been a full-time freelancer since 1987.

I have never been on staff with the AP, but I have been a sports stringer for more than 30 years. I feel like I am on staff, but I've only met a few APers through the years, Rob Gloster, Janie McCauley, Terry Taylor, Chris Sheridan, Doug Ferguson and Josh Dubow. I've spoken with dozens of editors.

Through the years, I've reported on cycling, football, rowing, basketball, track and field, golf, long-distance running, alpine skiing and a few other odds and ends. The AP gigs have been a staple for me as a freelancer, through appreciative editors and tough ones I've caught on bad days. The requirements have changed dramatically, from straight ledes and write-thrus to PM ledes and follow-ups. It's been streamlined for a few years. I've filed to different bureaus and with multiple formats. For nearly a decade, I was the AP stringer reporting the Sacramento Kings' home games. I broke a few stories.



I freelance to many publications, including a weekly syndicated automotive column for Bay Area News Group, a steady gig with the Monterey Herald and periodic assignments with magazines and websites. I own and operate an automotive site, www.theweeklydriver.com.

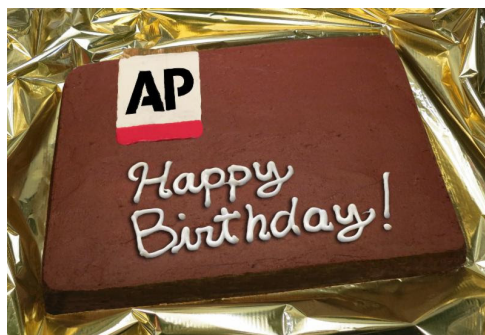
I've worked for the AP in several countries. One of the most unusual experiences I had with AP wasn't an assignment but it involved another AP stringer, Salvatore Zanca. I haven't heard about the guy for many years. But he was based in Europe and often covered the Tour de France, Formula One and other major sporting events overseas. He was the Peter Falk (Columbo) of sportswriters, disheveled and scattered at best. But he was really good at what he did as a reporter and IT expert.

In the mid-1980s, the laptop of choice was the Radio Shack Model 100 (eight lines of type and cuplers than transmitted over landline phone lines. It cost about \$300. The elaborate Model 200 had a flip-up screen and 16 lines of type. Imagine that! The system worked except for when it didn't. If you owned a Radio Shack built in the U.S., it wouldn't work in many European countries.

Sal Zanca was the fixer. If he saw a reporter in a press room about throw a Radio Shack out of the window in frustration, he would offer taking the machine home, reconfiguring it to European specs and bringing it back the next day. He saved quite a few reporters, who otherwise might have had to dictate, send faxes or who maybe soon decided on another occupation. It's 30 or so year ago now, and how far we've come.

I don't work for AP as much as I once did. But this year, I reported on the U.S. Amateur Golf Championship, the Safeway Open, the first event on the PGA Tour, and the PURE Insurance Championship, a PGA Tour Champions event, for the wire service and all in California.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Ned Seaton - nseaton@themercury.com

Stories of interest

Sarah Huckabee Sanders Wants To Be Remembered For Being 'Transparent And Honest' (Huffington Post)

By DAVID BARDEN

Sarah Huckabee Sanders hopes to be remembered for being "transparent and honest" when her tenure as White House press secretary comes to an end.

As HuffPost has reported previously, Sanders has a well-documented history of giving false and misleading information to the press.

Late last month, the press secretary was fact-checked live on air by CNN as she defended President Donald Trump's rejection of the government's National Climate Assessment.

Politifact currently cites five times when Sanders has given objectively false information.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

Mapping the future of local news, together

(Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

Maggie Cassidy officially starts her job as the editor of the (West Lebanon, New Hampshire) Valley News next week. But the 30-year-old has been helping that daily newspaper change for years now.

As web editor, she didn't make sweeping pronouncements promising a return to less turbulent times.

She didn't suggest anything that she wasn't willing to try and report out herself.

And she never used the word pivot.

Instead, Maggie has approached change in a very old-school journalism kind of way - deliberate, driven by evidence and fueled by the thrill of breaking news.

Read more [here](#).

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Poisoning claims, divorce spat in Arizona journalism saga



AP Photos/Ross D. Franklin

By FELICIA FONSECA

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP) - An award-winning Arizona newspaper publisher and his wife are locked in a bizarre divorce case that has morphed into something more: a journalism ethics saga.

Joseph Soldwedel has accused wife Felice Soldwedel in a lawsuit of trying to kill him by poisoning him, and detailed the allegations in one of the small-town newspapers he owns, the 13,000-circulation Prescott Daily Courier.

None of the three news stories in the paper named his wife. But the Courier ran an ad accusing her by name, with a photo of her, bordered with images of skulls and rats. The ad said she had an unnamed accomplice, and it offered a \$10,000 reward for tips.

Soldwedel's wife of eight years calls the poisoning claims ludicrous and says he is retaliating against her for seeking a divorce.

"I've had people call me, text me, 'Felice, is that you in the paper? Oh my god,'" she told The Associated Press. "It almost makes you feel like you want to leave town. He made me look like this horrible person."

The lawsuit alleging poisoning seeks \$18 million from Felice Soldwedel and was filed a week after a prosecutor said there was no evidence of a crime and declined to file charges.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - December 13, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2018. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

On this date:

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces during the Sino-Japanese War; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains that up to 300,000 people were killed; Japanese nationalists say the death toll was far lower, and some maintain the massacre never happened.)

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1977, an Air Indiana Flight 216, a DC-3 carrying the University of Evansville basketball team on a flight to Nashville, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 29 people on board.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan (KOH'-fee AN'-nan) of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

In 1997, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Los Angeles for the 1 billion-dollar Getty Center, one of the largest arts centers in the United States.

In 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

In 2002, Cardinal Bernard Law resigned as Boston archbishop because of the priest sex abuse scandal.

Ten years ago: The White House weighed its options for preventing a collapse of the troubled U.S. auto industry. Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford won the Heisman Trophy after guiding the highest-scoring team in major college football history to the national championship game.

Five years ago: North Korea's state-run media announced the execution the day before of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, portraying Jang Song Thaek as a morally corrupt traitor. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian filed for divorce from Lamar Odom after four years of marriage.

One year ago: Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to fill the Senate seat of fellow Democrat Al Franken until a special election in November, 2018. Congressional Republicans reached agreement on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans; middle- and low-income families would get smaller tax cuts. The New York Times published claims by three women that they had been raped by music mogul Russell Simmons in the 1980s and 1990s; Simmons denied the allegations.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 98. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 93. Actor Christopher Plummer is 89. Country singer Buck White is 88. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 85. Singer John Davidson is 77. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 73. Singer Ted Nugent is 70. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 70. Country musician Ron Getman is 70. Actor Robert Lindsay is 69. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 69. Actress Wendie Malick is 68. Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 68. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 65. Country singer John Anderson is 64. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 64. Singer-actor Morris Day is 62. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 61. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 59. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 56. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 52. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 51. Actor Bart Johnson is 48. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 47. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 44. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 43. Actor James Kyson Lee is 43. Actress Kimee Balmilero (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 39. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 37. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 37. Actor Michael Socha is 31. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 31. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: "The Mayor") is 30. Singer Taylor Swift is 29. Actress Maisy Stella is 15.

Thought for Today: "To know how to say what others only know how to think is what makes men poets or sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think makes men martyrs or reformers - or both." - Elizabeth Charles, British writer (1828-1896).

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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