

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

December 18, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)



Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 18th day of December 2020,

We lead with a video report to the AP staff Thursday by President and CEO **Gary Pruitt**, who noted, "We delivered on all fronts this year under challenging circumstances."

You can watch the video by clicking [here](#).

In the video, Pruitt thanked the staff "for your great work and dedication. I hope you enjoy a happy holiday season."

He reiterated that in the coming year, AP has no plans for layoffs, pay cuts or furloughs. "We certainly face challenges in the year ahead but I'm confident we can work through this."

Sixty years ago this month, **Hugh Mulligan** left the AP offices at 50 Rockefeller Plaza to spend a day on Fifth Avenue dressed as Santa. We bring you a story about the experience of the AP Special Correspondent shared by our colleague **Francesca Pitaro** of AP Corporate Archives.

And Ye Olde Connecting Editor recounts his experiences long ago in a Santa suit, feeling older by remembering that those kids who told him their Christmas wishes are now in their 50s and 60s. Tempus fugit!

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Undercover Santa



SIDEWALK SANTA — The man behind the beard is Associated Press feature writer Hugh A. Mulligan who spent nine cold and wearying hours ringing the bell on New York's midtown Fifth Avenue for charity. (AP Wirephoto)

Francesca Pitaro (Email) – In December 1960, AP Special Correspondent Hugh Mulligan (1925-2008) decided to take a deep dive into the world of New York City's bell-ringing Santas. Mulligan, who wrote a Christmas feature for more than 30 years, donned a Santa suit and spent a day on Fifth Avenue, dressed as Santa.

A120
 ADVANCE FOR PMS OF THURSDAY, DEC.15 FROM AP NEWSFEATURES
 - - -
 A SANTA IN THE STREETS (840)
 - - -
 EDITOR'S NOTE: MOST PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS ARE
 CONTENT TO DON THE RED PLAYSUIT AND, PROPERLY FORTIFIED, SING OUT
 JOLLY HO-HO'S IN THE PRIVACY OF THEIR OWN LIVING ROOM. APN WRITER
 HUGH MULLIGAN IS MADE OF STERNER STUFF. HE WENT PROFESSIONAL--AND
 LIVED TO SAY NEVER AGAIN.
 - - -
 BY HUGH A. MULLIGAN
 AP NEWSFEATURES WRITER
 (ADVANCE) NEW YORK, DEC.15 (AP)--I WAS A SIDEWALK SANTA CLAUS.
 FROM 9 O'CLOCK ON A BLUSTERY MORNING TO 6 O'CLOCK ON A RAINY
 NIGHT, I COURAGEOUSLY STUCK BY MY CHIMNEY ON FIFTH AVENUE, RINGUNG
 UP A CYCLONE OF CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH MY LITTLE BRASS BELL.
 BY THE TIME I HANDED BACK MY BEARD AND UNIFORM TO THE VOLUNTEERS
 OF AMERICA, MY LEGGINGS WERE DROOPING AND MY SLED WAS DRAGGING.
 FRANKLY, I'D HAD IT. MY HEAD RANG LIKE THE TITLE PIECE IN A J.
 ARTHUR RANK MOVIE FROM ALL THAT TING-A-LING-ING, AND THERE WASN'T
 THE GHOST OF A HEARTY HO-HO LEFT IN MY REPERTOIRE.

Christmas
DEC 15 1960
Celebration (65)

'Ho, Ho, Ho,' Indeed!...

Playing Santa Claus Proves To Be Something Less Than Fun

Editor's Note: Most people who want to play Santa Claus are content to don the red playsuit and, properly fortified, sing out jolly ho-ho's in the privacy of their own living rooms. AP writer Hugh Mulligan is made of sterner stuff. He went professional -- and lived to say never again.

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN
 NEW YORK (AP) -- I was a sidewalk Santa Claus. From 9 o'clock on a blustery morning to 6 o'clock on a rainy night, I courageously stuck by my support the other charitable works and not eating garlic or onions. I watched myself, all right. Nei-

chimney on Fifth Avenue, ringing of the Volunteers of America, and not partaking of the wasanall the Tiffany's nor Bonwit's had provide excellent cover, for com- although several giggled and in the same block seems to three
 with my little brass bell. which annually puts 2,500 Santas bowl during working hours. any complaints about my carillon- centralized girl watching. asked for husbands, and one, who them.
 By the time I handed back my beard and uniform to the Volun- on the sidewalks of some 25 cities. I graduated magna cum rous-work, although they'd spot the dis- didn't giggle, asked to have last. "He's my helper," I always ex-
 teers of America, my legging, across the country. tache and was assigned a post on train other reservations. It seems most, earrings in Tiffany's wit- year's taken back. A boy push-plained until one high IQ, spee-
 were drooping and my sled was My take didn't cause any bell fays' and hard by Bonwit Tel-opat at their cash registers, be-that's what I want for Christmas. ing a garment rack wanted a Eo-men tried to top me up on apple
 dragging, Frankly, I'd had it. My ringing down at headquarters. The Jer's. is ruled off limits in their wash. Some said they were even willing rousa cruise, a cop asked for examination.
 head rang like the title piece in box had a quota of \$18 on even "Watch yourself in that hoity-rooms. to settle for the down payment, something appropriate for the. "The other Santa said you're
 a J. Arthur Rank movie from all the worst of days, which shows toy neighborhood," a fellow San- Collection were slow at the be. A luccous blonde saw an as-commissioner--like a fall off a his helper," he said. "I thought
 that ting-a-linging, and there that you don't become a top chimo- wased as we stood final in- joining but picked up around noon. mored truck pull up across the ledge--and a horse player put real one is down at Macy's
 wasn't the ghost of a hearty ho-ho my Santa overnight. spection down at headquarters, when thousands of girls poured erret and immediately made her in for "just one fat one at Aqua- Oh, well, even Santa can't
 left in my repertoire. As a matter of fact, you have "Last year I was outside a ritzy out of the nearby office build-Christmas wish. "Bring me that, Santa," she don't even have to be the double, lefts shaken when he leaned too
 But I had the consolation of to go college for three nights shoe shop, and the manager came inga for lunch and a quick round. "Bring me that, Santa," she don't even have to be the double, lefts shaken when he leaned too
 knowing that \$170 had been down on the Bowery to master out and said I was ringing my of window shopping. It was a horribel, "and I'll get my own Kids still get a big boot out of far out on his soggin. His barfing
 From 9 o'clock on a blustery morning to 6 o'clock on a rainy habilitate Bowery directicts and like not leaning on your chimney, set the customers' eyes of a sidewalk Santa, especial. Minks, diamonds and sports street corner, but sometimes the unseasonable remarks from the
 night, I courageously stuck by my support the other charitable works and not eating garlic or onions. I watched myself, all right. Nei-ly since the beard and mustarbcars topped the list for most girls, presence of two or more Santas mother.

Mulligan had this to say about his holiday output:

“For the harried columnist, the feature writer or everyday humble scrivener – and Charles Dickens himself served all these capacities – the only thing more frantic than Christmas shopping at the last minute is shopping for a Christmas story at any time.”

Using material from the Corporate Archives, the AP published “Mulligan’s Christmas Stew,” in 2015. Click [here](#) for a link to the book.

In his 49 years at the AP, Mulligan visited 146 countries on assignments that included wars in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Ireland, Cyprus, Angola and the secessionist Nigerian region of Biafra. He covered President John F. Kennedy’s Cold War visit to the Berlin Wall in 1963 and was there again in 1989 when the wall was torn down. He wrote about space shots and political conventions and he attended the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer.

Mulligan died in 2008 and our late Connecting colleague Richard Pyle wrote an exceptional wire obituary for our beloved colleague. Click [here](#).

'Is that my dad?'





Photo/John Paul Filo, AP

Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – I couldn't come close to matching Hugh Mulligan's Santa story for the wire when I too donned a Santa suit while serving as AP's Wichita correspondent, but I wouldn't trade the experience or the photo above for the world.

I spent several hours one Saturday morning in 1978 playing the lead role in a "Breakfast with Santa" sponsored by a group (Beta Sigma Phi) to which my wife Linda belonged – and listened to the Christmas gift wishes of hundreds of girls and boys. I wrote a story for the wire afterward. It made the AAA. See below.

Kansas City AP photographer John Paul Filo was on hand to take pictures for the story, but it was the above image he shot - after the last child had shared her wishes - that I treasure to this day. Linda brought along our daughters Jenny, 4, and Molly, 18 months, and the photo shows Molly in my lap no doubt wondering, "I think this is my dad but I'm not so sure."



Molly with her children Brennan and Sophie, and our photo-bombing Ollie.

Fast forward to today: Molly has more than 20 years experience as an elementary school teacher and is working in the classroom through covid (and has gotten the virus and recovered from it). Photographer John Filo, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his photo from the 1970 Kent State National Guard shootings, is now retiring from a position as head of photography at CBS News.



CHRISTMAS MAGIC — Two little girls share their secrets and Christmas wishes with Santa Claus during a recent charity event in Wichita. The man behind the beard is Associated Press writer Paul Stevens, who wrote about his experience. (A.P. Wirephoto).

And What Do You Want for Christmas?

EDITOR'S NOTE — Associated Press Writer Paul Stevens spent a day as Santa Claus for a charity event. This is his report on the experience and what the kids told him they wanted for Christmas.

By **PAUL STEVENS**
Associated Press Writer
HARD ROCK Lanes now open. 1612 E. Laurel. 275-4061. —Adv.

Dr. M. D. Niedens
Chiropractic Office
811 Main Garden City
Hours
8:30-5:30
Thurs.-Sat 8:30-12

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Dolls that wet, develop diaper rash and walk in circles topped the Christmas lists of dozens of wide-eyed girls who climbed onto my lap. But not little Marcie's.

The 6-year-old, freckle-faced brunette knew exactly what her doll should — or should not — do when I asked her, "What do you want from Santa for Christmas?"

"Santa," she replied, looking earnestly into my eyes, "I want a doll that doesn't pee."

In my first experience at donning the white beard, red suit and hearty "Ho, Ho, Ho" of Santa Claus, I was treated

to a number of revelations by the 250 Wichita-area youngsters who whispered their yuletide desires:

—Most children aren't bashful about meeting Santa Claus.

—Such time-honored gifts as dolls and toy trucks have retained their popularity in spite of the advertising blitz for electronic games and the space mania.

—And when a 4-year-old declares that "I have to go potty," you move him along — quickly.

There were some who balked at the thought of nesting up to my big round

belly, but then there were others like 9-year-old Jason who thought nothing of it.

I asked him the magic words, "What do you want for Christmas?" A frown wrinkled his forehead for a moment, then he replied, "Gosh, there's so many things to choose from, I don't know where to start." And for the next five minutes he didn't know where to stop.

A little doll that wets and develops a diaper rash that disappears when a lotion is applied was the most popular item among the doll set.

With the boys, the hottest

items were trucks, trains and toy guns.

Interest in "Star Wars" memorabilia seems to be diminishing. And "Battlestar Galactica" hasn't caught the kids' buying fancy, maybe — if the few who mentioned it are indicative — because it's too hard for the 5-year-old tongue to pronounce.

Santa's reindeer still intrigue the younger minds. "How's your reindeer?" asked browneyed Julie.

Another little girl was fascinated to learn who shines Rudolph's nose. "Santa has a special elf who handles that,"

I told her with a reasonably straight face.

Three hours in the hot disguise did impart some cherished rewards.

"Daddy, take another picture. I'm going to give him a big kiss," was the memorable exclamation of 7-year-old Marsha. My own 20-month-old Molly climbed on my lap and squealed, "Daddy, Daddy," while kids in line frowned in confusion.

And when I asked blonde-haired Jennifer what she wanted for Christmas, she pointed to me and declared, "You!"

Images above courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

A Colorado Christmas



Norm Clarke (Email) - My wife Cara and I are spending our first Christmas at the family ranch near Westcliffe Colorado, a few miles from the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Happy holidays to the AP family.

It'll always be Chanukah to me

Michael Weinfeld (Email) – I agree with Joyce Rosenberg. No matter what the AP Stylebook says, it'll always be Chanukah to me. That's the way I was taught to spell it when I was a kid and I've stuck with it.

Of course, there are enough variations to open 2 on each of the 8 nights of Chanukah.

According to Mr. Google:

“With the exception of a few wildcards, there are 16 different spellings, based on four phonetic variations: The word starts with “H” or “Ch” Second consonant is “nn” or “n” Third consonant is “kk” or “k.”

I'd be curious to hear if anyone knows how the AP landed on “Hanukkah .”

Connecting series:

Is there a Dr. in the house, or classroom?

Jim Carlson (Email) – Re the “Dr” controversy, there's only one thing to do: ask “Dr.” Phil about it.

So why didn't the WSJ writer do a simple search for all the males using the title when they are not medical doctors? It's very common but I guess it didn't fit his narrative.

-0-

Norm Goldstein (Email) – An excerpt from the entry on titles in one of my favorite old (1964) stylebooks, “A Dictionary of Usage and Style,” by Roy Copperud:

“The reader is likely to assume that a medical man whose name is preceded by Dr. is an M.D. If he is something else – a dentist, a chiropractor, or veterinarian – it is a good idea to say so, and certainly when the context has something to do with the profession.

“Now for the Ph.D.'s and other academic doctors. Whether one of this ilk uses the title Dr. appears to depend on his modesty. Around great universities, where doctors of philosophy abound, it is generally considered sophomoric to affect the title Dr. ... Its use otherwise is commoner in small colleges, just as title-happiness generally is endemic in small towns.

“But let the Ph.D.'s have their Dr.'s. After all, they worked seven or eight years for them, and the title goes naturally with the flaunting of Phi Beta Kappa keys in the world of education. Let us save our purplest scorn for those who adopt the title on the

strength of honorary degrees. Clergymen (usually D.D.'s) are the chief offenders in this respect.”

-0-

Ed McCullough (Email) – An example of the still current and useful AP Stylebook guideline on the proper news media use of “Dr.” only before those with medical (not academic) doctoral degrees: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization. His doctorate is in philosophy (community health), so it would be particularly misleading to refer to him as a doctor when that might indicate a medical training or experience which he lacks; nor does he claim. So far as I can see from a brief check, AP never refers to “Dr.” Tedros though one presumes that might happen on second reference followed by an explanation as to why that honorific is newsworthy and what the doctoral degree was for. Would that be a possible resolution for the Dr. Jill Biden kerfuffle? Mr. Tedros of course can call himself Dr. Tedros whenever he likes, but perhaps not expect or require anyone else to.

-0-

Lee Mitgang (Email) – As an AP education reporter for a decade, I dealt with my share of non-medical docs, and I agree with science writer Lee Siegel that the AP Stylebook is correct in largely limiting the prefix “doctor” to those in the medical field. I certainly get it that holders of academic doctorates worked hard for their titles and can get pretty prickly with those outside their world who would deny them. But I’ve always had the same reaction as Lee and others that this insistence can come off as pompous to non-academics.

All of that said, I also feel strongly that the Journal op-ed’s choice of Jill Biden as exhibit A was snarky, politically motivated and sexist.

My questions for AP stylebook authors or historians: why exactly, did the AP decide to limit “doctor” to medical practitioners? I hear different explanations such as avoiding potential reader confusion. Was that the primary reason for the stylebook guideline? Did other factors enter it? How absolute did the AP intend its rule to be, ie., are there ever acceptable reasons or occasions for a writer to apply “doctor” to an academic and still stay within acceptable stylebook bounds?

Just wondering...

Herman: A Capitol journalist’s Capitol journalist

Ken Herman (Email)
Austin American-Statesman

Now that we know, again, the outcome of this year's presidential race, please give me a few moments today to catch up on some things I've been meaning to tell you about.

The first is a sad one, especially for those who were around the Texas Capitol and its then in-house, just-outside-the-House press room from 1960 to 1986. Lee Jones, my friend and former colleague at The Associated Press Capitol Bureau, passed away on Dec. 7 at age 82.



Though he left the news biz many years ago, Jones is just what the profession and its consumers need right now.

An award-winning, journalist's journalist, he reported the news straight down the middle. No way you could divine Jones' politics from what he wrote during his Capitol stints at the AP (1960-1981, with two years off for Army service) and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram (1981-1986).

All the best words applied to Jones as a journalist; fair, smart, tough, thorough, accurate, malice nor favor toward none.

Read more [here](#).

Thomas Stewart, AP newsman in New England and Washington, dies at 87

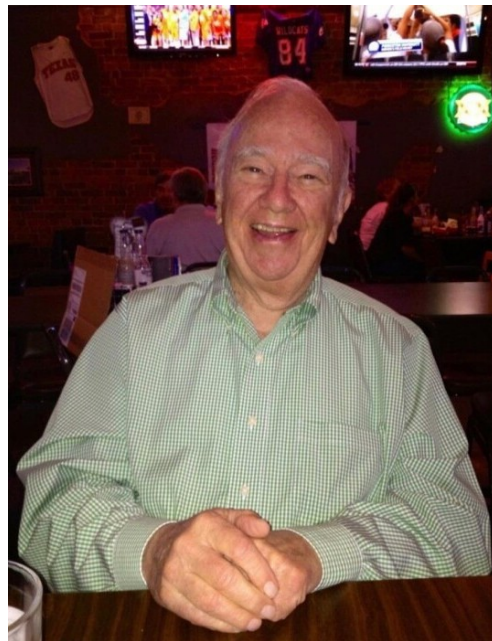
Thomas Michael Stewart, a former reporter and government spokesman, passed away on December 11, 2020 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, where he had made his home since his retirement 24 years ago. He was 87.

A memorial service will be held in the spring to allow his many out-of-state family and friends to attend.

Tom began his reporting career in 1956 as a Hartford Courant "obit man." After two years of writing up the details of people's lives, he joined the New Haven, Connecticut bureau of the Associated Press. His principal beat for the AP was the Connecticut Legislature. When the AP closed its New Haven bureau in the mid-1960s, Tom transferred to its Washington D.C. bureau. He covered the Treasury Department as well as major events in the

city, such as the riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Tom changed jobs once again in 1969 when he joined the British wire service Reuters. For the next ten years, he had two beats: the United States Department of Justice and the United States Supreme Court. In that era, the Court sent decisions stuffed into pneumatic tubes down to the reporters in the basement pressroom as the justices read the decisions in the majestic courtroom upstairs. The wire service reporters scrambled to put the pages in order, digest the decisions as quickly as possible, and file the story. Tom covered the Justice Department throughout the Watergate scandal, and as the dean of the pressroom, he was the leadoff questioner at the press conference after the Saturday Night Massacre.



While Tom was working as a reporter in Washington, he became very active in the National Press Club. By the end of his reporting career, he was the Chair of the Board of Governors of the National Press Building Association. He also was very involved in the Newspaper Guild, serving as a shop steward when he was at Reuters.

Read more [here](#).

Remembering a friend

Malcolm Barr Sr. ([Email](#)) – Tom and I kept in touch through the years, and I last visited him two years ago during a cross country trip to celebrate my Brit brother's 80th birthday. The Stewarts hosted the party!

A favorite Stewart story that possibly died with the late Barry Schweid who at the time covered the Supreme Court of the United States, assisted by Stewart, for the AP. It concerned Tom's hobby of brewing his own beer, and Barry told of Tom's morning arrival at SCOTUS soaked in beer, bottles of which had exploded on the back seat of his old Volkswagen on the 15-mile bumpy trip from Vienna at around 10 in the morning. The beer was intended for fellow reporters and court staff. Barry pulled double duty on that court decision day!

At the time of the AP strike, Tom assisted me, then president, as treasurer of the Wire Service Guild Local 222, working assiduously to improve employee pensions. In Sulfur Springs, Tom kept busy with the local garden club and later helped the family open Sulfur Springs' first sports bar.

Carolyn plans a ceremony dedicated to Tom's memory, possibly on the Memorial Day 2021 weekend.

Calling me Jose – it's bad enough that my last name is a misspelling

Joe Galu (Email) - I received a statement addressed to Jose Galu and inquired about who had changed my name. It's bad enough that my last name is a misspelling. Was told the computer only prints out the first few letters of a first name but somehow prints the full last name. Odd. The original family name back in Calabria (southern Italy) was Gallo but my grandfather could not read or write. He said whatever he said and the emigration official put it down as Antonio Galu, and he adopted that as his nice new American name. He went on to father 16 children and own lots of properties. I used to hear stories about steering clear of the dining room before a closing when he would practice trying to sign his name. He had a volcanic temper and a good aim. All eight of his sons had scars on their body from being hit by things he threw at them in his various rages.

He and I had a strained relationship, because I had trouble understanding his thick-Italian accent, and I was a speech-handicapped kid with a cleft palate. I liked him and tried to talk to him. He seemed to be willing to try to talk to me, so maybe we liked one another.

He lived a long colorful life including shooting and killing a boarder who may have misbehaved or tried to do so with one of his sons. Boards slept with children during the Depression. The cops went to the house, he explained what his son told him, and the cops told him not to worry about it. END of story.

Not as clear as the 'hunting accident' death of his second wife's fiancée. He went back to Italy as a rich American with a bunch of children and a deceased wife. He zeroed in on a stunning 19-year-old woman who was all set to get married. Then there was a hunting trip, and he was able to marry Maria Sophia, known as Sophie, who bore him his last five children, one of whom is still alive and in her 80s. Sophie was younger than his five oldest children -- imagine the conflicts there. His sons did not make a fuss, not so the daughters one of whom removed a young son from the house where 'that woman' was going to be running the show. Like his first wife, she could read and write.

I have a fascinating family and had 48 first cousins on my father's side. Quite a few have died, but no one in this huge family died in war.

AP Sighting



Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - In Natchez, Mississippi.

The Traveling Shirt Arrives!

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - The U.S. Postal Service, finally, after hundreds of hours, and thousands of mile moving around the country, delivered that lost package containing a Christmas shirt.

It arrived Thursday, and stuffed in our mail box, with no comment. Maybe they read the story about the shirt's travels. Which was used in Connecting on Dec. 14.

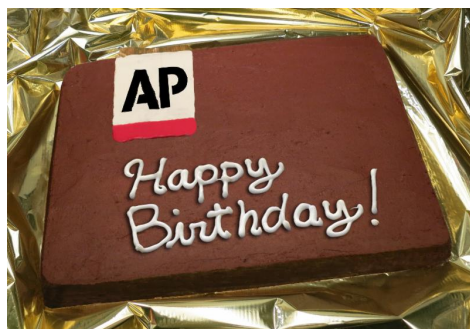
On the envelope, it appears that the last place it resided was Owasso, OK. The earlier tracking said the package was in "The U.S.A."

I feel we need to add 16 hours to the total time for a total travel time of 104.17 hours, and 1,078 miles, for a total of 12,209!

In the meantime, this week, Kitty ordered another shirt, and it was delivered today as well!

Thanks to the Travel God.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Hillel Italie - HItalie@ap.org

Will Lester - wjlester@aol.com

On Saturday to...

Sibby Christensen - sibbyc@msn.com

On Sunday to...

Lynn Elber - lelber@ap.org

Rik Stevens - rikstevens1220@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Anti-vaccination groups target local media after social media crackdowns (NBC)

By Brandy Zadrozny

Friday night's newscast on WFXG-TV in Augusta, Georgia, a Fox affiliate, featured some exciting news: The Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in the city would be among the first Veterans Affairs locations to receive initial doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine. Shots would be in arms this week.

But then, the story quickly pivoted to a small group of "concerned mothers" holding large black and red signs outside the hospital with messages familiar to people who

have followed the anti-vaccination movement and its dangerously misleading position.

One young girl held up a sign with a message long since discredited by medical experts: "Vaccines can cause injury and death." A woman interviewed for the segment falsely claimed the vaccine's ingredients were unknown and that its makers "skipped over" steps in its trial. The station's website also featured the segment, adding a directive to readers to find out more about the "known and unknown risks of the vaccine," and a single link that took users to an error page.

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

-0-

The 100k Club: Most popular subscription news websites in the world revealed (Press Gazette)

By WILLIAM TURVILL

Two dozen English-language news publishers and publications have collected 100,000 or more digital-only subscriptions, new research by Press Gazette has found.

Between them, the 24 news brands share more than 20m online subscriptions, a number that has been boosted significantly since the start of the Covid-19 crisis.

US giants the New York Times (6.1m), Washington Post (3m) and Wall Street Journal (2.4m) lead the way in our 100k Club league table.

We also today exclusively reveal new figures for the Financial Times, the Guardian, Barron's, McClatchy, the Los Angeles Times and the Minneapolis Star Tribune, which has emerged as a digital leader among traditional US metropolitan daily newspapers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

-0-

News and information disorder in the 2020 presidential election (Knight Foundation)

Throughout the 2020 election campaign, there were increasing concerns about the spread of false information on social media, as well as discussions regarding the role of platforms in resolving information disorder (i.e., misinformation, dis-information

and malinformation). Now that the election is over, we must evaluate the effectiveness of diverse strategies that platforms or media organizations have used, along with the associated ethical and legal ramifications, to address misinformation and disinformation during the election. The Information Society Project at Yale Law School invited leading scholars on misinformation from different disciplines—including communication, computer science, law, psychology and political science—to write about their reflections on important questions that were raised during the presidential campaign and the 2020 Election, particularly related to information disorder created and aggravated by algorithms on social media. You can find the 18 essays below. The essays appear in the order in which they were presented at the Yale ISP conference this fall. Click here to watch the speaker presentations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

-0-

Facebook will resume political ads just for Georgia's Senate runoff election (The Verge)

By Nick Statt

Facebook on Tuesday said it would make an exception to its political ad ban to let campaigns and other political organizations run advertising for the upcoming Georgia runoff elections.

The Senate races, which will determine which US political party controls that chamber of Congress under President-elect Joe Biden, take place on January 5th. Facebook says advertisers authorized to run ads on social issues, elections, or politics will be allowed to run those ads starting tomorrow, December 16th at 12PM ET.

Facebook initially faced pushback over the political ad ban and its implications for races as vital as the Georgia runoffs. Democratic campaign officials criticized the platform for hampering its efforts to fight misinformation about the election and voting fraud, while Republicans expressed concern that a lack of advertising would leave them flat-footed in efforts to register voters and combat their own brand of online misinformation encouraging Republicans to abstain from voting in protest.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

Today in History - Dec. 18, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 18, the 353rd day of 2020. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

On this date:

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, whose first wife, Ellen, had died the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt, a widow, at her Washington home.

In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors" and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government's wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast while at the same time ruling that "concededly loyal" Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1956, Japan was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)

In 1987, Ivan F. Boesky was sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a major Wall Street insider-trading scandal. (Boesky served about two years of his sentence).

In 1998, the House debated articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. South Carolina carried out the nation's 500th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

In 2000, the Electoral College cast its ballots, with President-elect George W. Bush receiving the expected 271; Al Gore, however, received 266, one fewer than expected, because of a District of Columbia Democrat who'd left her ballot blank to protest the district's lack of representation in Congress.

In 2003, two federal appeals courts ruled the U.S. military could not indefinitely hold prisoners without access to lawyers or American courts.

In 2008, W. Mark Felt, the former FBI second-in-command who'd revealed himself as "Deep Throat" three decades after the Watergate scandal, died in Santa Rosa, Calif., at age 95.

In 2018, the Trump administration banned bump stocks, the firearm attachments that allowed semi-automatic weapons to fire like machine guns, and gave gun owners until late March to turn in or destroy the devices. The president authorized the Defense Department to create a new Space Command, an effort to better organize and advance the military's operations in space.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Senate approved repeal of the military's 17-year "don't ask, don't tell" ban on openly gay troops in a 65-31 vote. (President Barack Obama later signed it into law.) Skier Lindsey Vonn was named the 2010 Female Athlete of the Year as chosen by members of The Associated Press.

Five years ago: Congress ended a chaotic year on a surprising note of bipartisan unity and productivity as it overwhelmingly approved a massive 2016 tax and spending package and sent it to President Barack Obama, who promptly signed it. United Nations Security Council members unanimously approved a resolution endorsing a peace process for Syria.

One year ago: The U.S. House impeached President Donald Trump on two charges, sending his case to the Senate for trial; the articles of impeachment accused him of abusing the power of the presidency to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election and then obstructing Congress' investigation. At a Michigan rally that took place as the House voted to impeach him, a defiant Trump declared that the vote was a "suicide march" for the Democratic Party. Trump also suggested that the late Democratic Rep. John Dingell was "looking up," rather than down, from beyond the grave; some Republicans joined Democrats in calling for an apology.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Cicely Tyson is 96. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 93. Actor Roger Mosley is 82. Rock musician Keith Richards is 77. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 77. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 74. Blues artist Rod Piazza is 73. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 70. Movie reviewer Leonard

Maltin is 70. Rock musician Elliot Easton is 67. Actor Ray Liotta is 66. Comedian Ron White is 64. R&B singer Angie Stone is 59. Actor Brad Pitt is 57. Professional wrestler-turned-actor "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is 56. Actor Shawn Christian is 55. Actor Rachel Griffiths is 52. Singer Alejandro Sanz is 52. Actor Casper Van Dien is 52. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 50. Rapper DMX is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is 49. DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit) is 48. Pop singer Sia is 45. Country singer Randy Houser is 44. Actor Josh Dallas is 42. Actor Katie Holmes is 42. Actor Ravi Patel is 42. Singer Christina Aguilera is 40. Actor Ashley Benson is 31. NHL defenseman Victor Hedman is 30. Actor-singer Bridgit Mendler is 28. Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. is 23. Electro-pop singer Billie Eilish is 19. Actor Isabella Crovetti is 16.

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.



Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com

Visit our website