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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Dec. 16, 2021,

Executive Editor **Julie Pace** advised the AP worldwide staff Wednesday that a freelance video producer accredited to the AP in Ethiopia – **Amir Aman Kiyaro** – was under arrest in Addis Ababa.

“Until now, we chose to keep the case out of the public eye while we worked on potential diplomatic channels around the world,” Pace said. “Today, Ethiopian authorities announced the arrest – and as a result we have just published our own story and statement.

“Amir, who has bravely covered both sides of the Ethiopian conflict, was detained on Nov. 28 after returning home from a reporting trip. He has not been charged -- and we continue to work hard to get information on his case and to press for his immediate release. We are in regular contact with Amir’s family, who have been able to visit him twice a week in jail since his detention, and a lawyer in Addis Ababa.

The AP story on his arrest leads today's issue.

Thanks to our colleague **Gene Herrick** for being first responder to our call for your stories on covering news in your hometown. This stemmed from the story in Wednesday's Connecting on AP photojournalist **Charlie Riedel** returning to western Kansas to cover the memorial service in Bob Dole's hometown of Russell, Kan., 25 miles from Riedel's hometown. We would welcome your own story.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Freelance journalist accredited to AP detained in Ethiopia



By **CARA ANNA**

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A freelance video journalist accredited to The Associated Press in Ethiopia has been detained by police in the capital, Addis Ababa, the news organization said Wednesday.

Amir Aman Kiyaro was detained under the country's new war-related state of emergency powers on Nov. 28 after returning home from a reporting trip. He has not been charged.

Officials with the Ethiopian Media Authority, the prime minister's office, the foreign ministry and other government offices have not responded to repeated requests from

the AP for information about him since his detention. State media on Wednesday reported his detention, citing federal police, and said he was accused of “serving the purposes” of a terrorist group by interviewing it. The report said local journalists Thomas Engida and Addisu Muluneh also were detained.

Federal police inspector Tesfaye Olani told state media that the journalists violated the state of emergency law and Ethiopia’s anti-terrorism law and the violations could lead to seven to 15 years behind bars.

In a statement, AP’s Executive Editor Julie Pace urged that Kiyaro be freed: “The Associated Press is extremely concerned that AP freelancer Amir Aman Kiyaro has been detained by the Ethiopian government, accused of promoting terrorism. These are baseless allegations. Kiyaro is an independent journalist who has done important work in Ethiopia on all sides of the conflict. We call on the Ethiopian government to release Kiyaro immediately.”

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

On Charlie Riedel and going home to cover Bob Dole memorial service



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Ray Newton (Email) - Holy smoke. The Charlie Riedel piece stimulated some memories that had gone fallow. I attended the university at Hays and occasionally had pieces in the Daily News. I did some work for KAYS, the local radio station, too. Bob

Dole had been county attorney in Russell, before he was elected to the Kansas Legislature. Riedel must have fond memories of that era and of Dole. I do. Dole was an honorable man.

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John Lee (Email) – That was an interesting piece about Charlie Riedel in Wednesday's "Connecting." He was one of the best of the Hays shooters -- and that's saying a bunch. (Lee was editor and publisher at the Hays Daily News who hired Riedel as a photojournalist and later became president of Harris Enterprises, then the owning company of Hays and other newspapers and broadcast properties).

Assignment back home – Wow!

Gene Herrick (Email) - Twice in my 28-year career as an AP photographer, New York assigned me from Minneapolis to my old hometown of Columbus, Ohio, and Dayton. Both were for PGA golf tournaments.

What an exciting time that was. In both instances I worked with Julian Wilson, the AP photographer in Cleveland. And, for those of you who knew Julian, you know it was an experience in fun. Julian was a character.

Julian picked me up at the airport in Columbus and we went straight to a motel. He missed the driveway, so he got up on the sidewalk and drove to the place we were to stay. That night, after golf coverage, Julian, in Bermuda shorts and shirt, tie and jacket, visited the watering hole at the motel. It was storming, and when there was a huge flash of lightning, and an extra loud thunderbolt, Julian jumped on the bar, leaned toward the bartender, an off-duty police woman, and shouted "Kiss me quick, I'm scared!" She responded by asking me to take Julian to his room, which I did, and for the heck of it, I put a couple of quarters into a machine that rocks the bed.

The next day both Julian and I went to the Ohio State Penitentiary for the release of Dr. Sam Sheppard, a Cleveland doctor who had been found guilty of killing his wife. It was a big story then. A couple of days later I found him living with some woman. I sought, and got, a personal interview. During that interview he announced his marriage plans to that lady. I had the story and pictures exclusively.

Another time, in nearby Dayton, I suggested Julian go back to the motel and I would finish at the golf course. When I got to the hospitality room, the bartender was shaking his head, and Julian had his head in the lap of a beautiful woman, who was busy using scissors to trim Julian's beard. Quite a sight.

On both trips "Back Home," I was able to spend a little time with my mother, and also a barbeque with some other relatives.

It was a wonderful adventure to "Go Home."

Stories of interest

Alden goes to court in its takeover battle with Lee Enterprises (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Unsurprisingly, hedge fund Alden Global Capital has turned to the courts to try to gain leverage in its hostile takeover bid for Lee Enterprises.

In a suit filed Wednesday, an Alden affiliate argues that Lee was protecting the jobs of entrenched managers in rejecting three Alden nominees for its board of directors.

The action also says that Lee was improperly abrupt in rejecting Alden's Nov. 22 bid of \$24 a share, while quickly adopting a "poison pill" defense aimed at preventing Alden affiliates from building their share of stock beyond 10% over the next year.

That section of the suit has a noteworthy aside. "While Alden's proposal represented a significant (30 percent) premium for stockholders," the suit says, "it was designed to be a preliminary proposal, with the goal of opening a dialogue to engage constructively with the Company."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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Top Fox hosts lobbied Trump to act on Jan. 6, texts show (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The revelation that Fox News Channel personalities sent text messages to the White House during the Jan. 6 insurrection is another example of how the network's stars sought to influence then-President Donald Trump instead of simply reporting or commenting on him.

Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham and Brian Kilmeade all texted advice to Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, as a mob of pro-Donald Trump loyalists stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, according to Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, vice chair of the congressional committee probing the riot.

"Mark, the president needs to tell people in the Capitol to go home," texted Ingraham, host of "The Ingraham Angle." "This is hurting all of us. He is destroying his legacy."

"Please get him on TV," texted Kilmeade, a "Fox & Friends" host. "Destroying everything you have accomplished."

Hannity, like Ingraham a prime-time host, wondered whether Trump could give a statement and ask people to leave the Capitol.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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How Americans tweet about the news (Pew Center)

BY ELISA SHEARER AND AMY MITCHELL

Most Americans who use Twitter get news on the platform, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey. But how do these Americans engage with the news they see there?

To find out, the Center examined tweets from more than 500 U.S. adults who took part in the May 2021 survey, provided researchers with a valid, public Twitter handle and sent at least one news-related tweet between June 12 and Aug. 31, 2021. Researchers then grouped these Americans' news tweets into major topic areas and examined other aspects of each tweet, such as whether it included the author's personal opinion and whether it was an original tweet, a retweet, a reply or a quote tweet.

Below is a closer look at how the average adult Twitter user in the United States tweeted about the news during this time period, as well as how these patterns have changed since 2015, when the Center last conducted a similar study.

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

The Final Word

I've Tried to Make Travel Better for 20 Years. Mostly It's Gotten Worse. (Wall Street Journal)

By Scott McCartney

I fear I've failed.

When I started covering aviation, flights were expensive, delays were maddening and the coffee on Southwest Airlines tasted like brown water. For the past 20 years, the Middle Seat has endeavored to make travel better for readers, calling out problems and educating travelers on strategies and trends, airline and hotel operations, ticket pricing, frequent-flier programs, baggage, ventilation, piloting, air-traffic control and government oversight. Everything nose-to-tail.

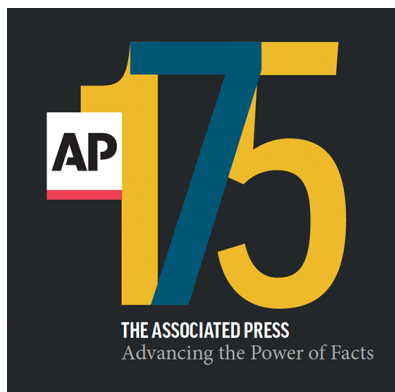
And yet travel has gotten to be even more of a slog. We're squeezed closer together on planes. Meals have disappeared for most (not that anyone's too sad about airplane

food). Tickets are more complicated; fees are everywhere and frequent-flier programs are far less rewarding.

For a time, I thought maybe things were getting better. Then United Airlines had a customer dragged out of his seat in 2017. Outrage has continued: Some airlines, hotels and tour companies refused to pay refunds owed to customers in the pandemic. Complaints have soared. So, tragically, have punches thrown in cabins.

This is my next-to-last Middle Seat column. I'm retiring from the Journal after 29 years. I wish I could say that travel has improved since we started the Middle Seat in January 2002. I'd even like to think that somehow, some way the Middle Seat did just a little something to push airlines and other travel companies into better service and more customer focus.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [Here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

Today in History - Dec. 16, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2021. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1811, the first of the powerful New Madrid (MAD'-rihd) earthquakes struck the central Mississippi Valley with an estimated magnitude of 7.7.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1982, Environmental Protection Agency head Anne M. Gorsuch became the first Cabinet-level officer to be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to submit documents requested by a congressional committee.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.

In 2001, after nine weeks of fighting, Afghan militia leaders claimed control of the last mountain bastion of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, but bin Laden himself was nowhere to be seen.

In 2012, President Barack Obama visited Newtown, Connecticut, the scene of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre; after meeting privately with victims' families, the president told an evening vigil he would use "whatever power" he had to prevent future shootings.

In 2014, Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run school in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, killing at least 148 people, mostly children.

In 2019, House Democrats laid out their impeachment case against President Donald Trump; a sweeping report from the House Judiciary Committee said Trump had "betrayed the Nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections." Boeing said it would temporarily stop producing its grounded 737 Max jet as it struggled to get approval from regulators to put the plane back in the air; it had been grounded since March after two deadly crashes.

Ten years ago: In San Francisco, eight years of being investigated for steroid allegations ended for home run king Barry Bonds with a 30-day sentence to be served at home. (Bonds never served the sentence; his conviction for obstruction of justice was overturned.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama put Russia's Vladimir Putin on notice that the U.S. could use offensive cyber muscle to retaliate for interference in the U.S. presidential election, his strongest suggestion to date that Putin had been well aware of campaign email hacking. John Glenn's home state and the nation began saying

goodbye to the beloved astronaut and former U.S. senator starting with a public viewing of his flag-draped casket inside Ohio's Statehouse rotunda in Columbus.

One year ago: The first COVID-19 vaccinations were underway at U.S. nursing homes, where the virus had killed 110,000 people. Tyson Foods said it had fired seven top managers at its largest pork plant after an investigation confirmed allegations that they had wagered on how many workers at the plant in Iowa would test positive for the coronavirus. (An outbreak centered around the plant infected more than 1,000 employees, at least six of whom died.) Major League Baseball reclassified the Negro Leagues as a major league and said it would count the statistics and records of its 3,400 players as part of major league history.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center Morris Dees is 85. Actor Joyce Bulifant is 84. Actor Liv Ullmann is 83. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 80. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 76. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 75. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 72. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 70. Actor Xander Berkeley is 66. Actor Alison LaPlaca is 62. Actor Sam Robards is 60. Actor Jon Tenney is 60. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 58. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 58. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 56. Actor Miranda Otto is 54. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 51. R&B singer Michael McCary is 50. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 46. Actor Krysten Ritter is 40. Actor Zoe Jarman is 39. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 39. Actor Theo James is 37. Actor Amanda Setton is 36. Rock musician Dave Rublin (American Authors) is 35. Actor Hallee Hirsh is 34. Actor Anna Popplewell is 33. Actor Stephan James is 28.

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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