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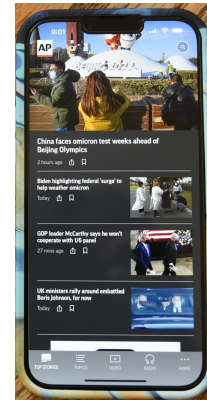
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Connecting

Dec. 1, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Dec. 1, 2022,

Our colleague **Sarah Nordgren**, a deputy managing editor for The Associated Press, said farewell to her colleagues as she retired Wednesday after more than 35 years in the news department.

Nordgren was deputy managing editor for sports, business, entertainment/lifestyles and health/science. She is a former executive director of Associated Press Media Editors. Her previous jobs in the AP included operations director for U.S. news; director of U.S. content development as liaison between AP's newsroom and revenue departments; deputy managing editor overseeing AP beat coverage and the national reporting team; and director of state news. She joined AP in 1982 and also served as a reporter and assistant chief of bureau in Chicago.

Many of you were impacted by her work in Chicago and New York. Smart, professional, always pleasant to work with. She made AP a better place to work. She was always one of my favorite journalists and someone I counted as a friend as we

navigated new roles in the Midwest region – she on the news side, me on the business side - from 2003 to 2009 (when I retired). I loved our teamwork.

It was HammerTime in Falls Church, Va., when our recently retired colleague **Mike Hammer** was treated to a surprise retirement party organized by his wife **Marcia Asquith**. We've got a story and photos, thanks to Connecting correspondent **Michael Weinfeld**.

Here's to the new month of December – have a great day, be safe and stay healthy!

Paul

Sarah Nordgren bids farewell to AP after 35 years

Sarah Nordgren - *in a message to AP staff* - I'm defying AP tradition in being far from first and fastest in the last few weeks to be marking my last formal day at AP today (Wednesday).

I am overwhelmed at my luck in having been able to call AP my work home for the past 35+ years. Through many years in Chicago and slightly more than a decade in New York, it's been a great privilege to work at an organization that prides itself in excellence, reporting and telling the most important and best stories, every day. The importance of the work that we do here just can't be over-emphasized, nor can the hard work that takes from every corner of the AP.

For me, though, it's you – the people of the AP – that provided the staying power and the joy of purpose every day. Thank you – to those I worked with in U.S. News, in Entertainment, Sports, Religion, Business, Health and Science, Partnerships, and, more recently, Climate. Thank you to others in the newsroom and my friends outside News, in Technology, Revenue, Products and beyond, who work to make us successful. I consider many of you close friends, something that won't end at 5 p.m. Eastern this afternoon.

I'm not entirely disappearing, as I likely will continue to work on a consulting basis around grants and implementation of them, so perhaps we'll see each other occasionally. But I'm reachable always at slnordgren@gmail.com

Can I capture three and a half decades of a joyful career in 150 words? Not a chance. But please know my heartfelt thanks for knowing you and calling you my colleagues, now and going forward.



AP Today in History item – Mike Hammer retirement party





From left, front: Barbara Worth, Sandy Kozel, Kathryn Loomans, Pat Fergus, Carol Ochs. From left, back: Mike Hammer, Dave Ochs, Michael Weinfeld.

[Michael Weinfeld](#) - [Mike Hammer](#)'s wife, Marcia Asquith, gave him a surprise retirement party. And boy was he surprised.

And touched.

Dozens of friends, family & former co-workers showed up to celebrate Mike's newly earned freedom. One (me), even flew in from Colorado. Former (and one current) APers were there, including Barbara Worth, Pat Fergus (and her husband Joe), Sandy Kozel, Jennifer Kerr, Kathryn Loomans and Carol and Dave Ochs.

Marcia decorated the restaurant with oversized headshots of Mike and signs that said "Goodbye tension, Hello pension" and "Today in History: Mike Hammer retires." (Mike was editor of Today in History when he retired.)

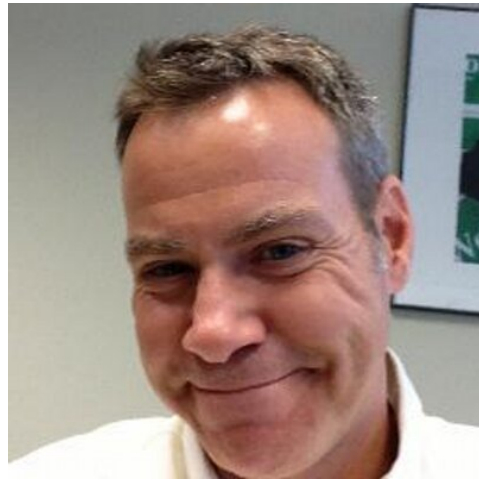
Here's a [video link](#) of him being surprised.

Doug Glass joining AP Climate and Environment team

Peter Prengaman - News Director, Climate & Environment - I am very happy to announce that Doug Glass, news editor for Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas, is joining the Climate and Environment team as an editor.

As our team has grown the last year, and we have worked with many AP journalists around the globe, our volume of stories has increased substantially. We are not just editing stories from our team, but also stories from many regions and departments. That is because climate increasingly crosses into many aspects of life and our team works closely with several departments across the AP.

Doug will bring both extra editing firepower and much experience handling major stories. Doug is a versatile, fast editor, able to jump on breaking news, file, make calls and direct reporters, all at the same time.



As news editor, Doug has been at the center of many of the biggest stories in America the last years. Those have included the killing of George Floyd and protests that spread nationwide, the trial of Derek Chauvin, the Kyle Rittenhouse shootings, the Waukesha parade attack, the Minneapolis bridge collapse and many, many more.

Over the years, Doug has become increasingly interested in the story of climate change. Indeed, his passion and interest in the topic came through during the interview process, and he said was the driving force for him to leave management and focus on editing. He is eager to build his knowledge by working on the myriad kinds of stories our department does.

Doug joins a very strong editing core and leadership team: accountability editor Ingrid Lobet, news editor Dana Beltaji, photo editor Alyssa Goodman, video editor Teresa de Miguel, environmental editor Tim Reiterman and collaborations editor Cherelle Jackson.

Doug is off next week for vacation, and then will start with Climate on Dec. 12. He will remain based in Minneapolis. As U.S. news is in the middle of a reorganization, Amy Forliti will run the region until Doug is replaced.

Please join me in welcoming Doug to the team.

What happened to days when AP had your back?

[Brent Kallestad](#) - What happened to the day at AP when someone had your back? Where was that professional support and loyalty that was inspiring for so much of my lengthy AP career? James LaPorta must have been a pretty damn good reporter to be assigned to arguably the most important story of the year globally.

Slack association

[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - You've told the story of Walt's reaction to your retirement (early in his view!) before but it's still humorous to read.

My association with AP's apparent new communication platform (Slack) is my oldest son's experience running cross country in high school.

His team had several strong runners and usually scored at the top or near the top in county and regional meets. Matthew, regrettably, shared his father's lack of running ability (I hated running the uneven, rickety city sidewalk surrounding the old North Junior High athletic fields) and typically was in a large group of runners finishing near end.

In the last meet of the season his senior year, Matt and a group of his friends did not appear for many minutes coming out of a last grove of trees. Worried parents were looking around wondering what happened; their coach just rolled her eyes figuring something was up -- likely a senior prank.

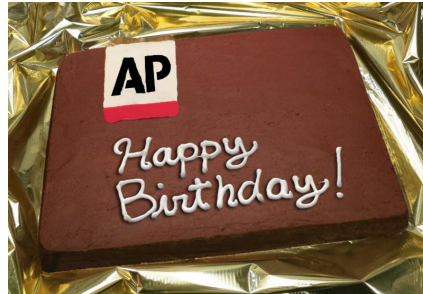
Pretty soon they started to appear. Each runner had a large letter in masking tape on their running shirt. As they approached the crowd could read what the letters spelled: S L A C K E R S.

Connecting sky shot – Colorado



[Norm Clarke](#) - I couldn't find the name of this stunning elongated cloud. Maybe a cloud expert among the Connecting family has the answer. Spotted it near Westcliffe, Colorado on Sunday.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Amanda Barrett](#)

[Kathy Rizzo](#)

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

90s:

Norm Abelson
Henry Bradsher
Hal Buell
Albert Habhab
George Hanna
Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Joe McGowan
Sam Montello
Charlie Monzella
Jack Pace
Bob Petsche
Arlon Southall
Sal Veder
Doris Webster
Arnold Zeitlin

80s:

**Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Frank Aukofer
Malcolm Barr
Myron Belkind
Ed Bell
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Brian Bland
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Ford Burkhart
Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Steve Crowley
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Don Deibler
Mike Doan
Bob Dobkin
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Dodi Fromson
Joe Galu
Bill Gillen
Steve Graham**

Bob Greene
Chick Harrity
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude
Gene LaHammer
Carl Leubsdorf
Bruce Lowitt
David Liu
Jim Luther
John Marlow
Dave Mazarella
Chuck McFadden
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Harry Moskos
Ray Newton
Greg Nokes
Jay Perkins
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Denis Searles
Richard Shafer
Susanne Shaw
Mike Short
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Karol Stonger
Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jeffrey Ulbrich
Jack Walker
Mike Waller
Bob Walsh

Dean Wariner
Jeff Williams
Johnny Yost
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

CNN begins layoffs amid economic insecurity, cost-cutting pressures from parent company



AP Photo/Ron Harris

By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business

CNN on Wednesday informed employees that layoffs had commenced, a move that is expected to impact hundreds of staffers at the global news network and mark the deepest cuts to the organization in years.

Chris Licht, who took over as chief executive of the network in May, described the cuts in an all-staff memo as a “gut punch” to the organization and told employees that “it is incredibly hard to say goodbye to any one member of the CNN team, much less many.”

Employees at the company had been anxiously bracing for the layoffs since Licht informed them last month that “unsettling” changes lie ahead.

Licht said that on Wednesday the company would notify a “limited number of individuals,” largely paid contributors, that they have been let go. He said the company “will notify impacted employees” on Thursday. Licht said at the conclusion of the cuts he will “follow up with more details.”

“It will be a difficult time for everyone,” Licht candidly said in his memo.

CNN declined to say on Wednesday how many employees precisely would be impacted by the layoffs.

The layoffs come as media companies are being battered by brutal economic headwinds that have taken a bat to the advertising sector. Licht noted in October, when he signaled large cuts were coming, that there is “widespread concern over the global economic outlook” and that CNN “must factor that risk into [its] long-term planning.”

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Poynter story on layoffs.

-0-

The Washington Post will end its Sunday magazine, eliminate positions (Washington Post)

By Sarah Ellison

The Washington Post will stop publishing its stand-alone print magazine, one of the last of its kind in the country and which has been published under different names for more than six decades, the newspaper’s executive editor, Sally Buzbee, announced Wednesday.

The Sunday magazine has 10 staff members, who were told in a meeting that their positions have been eliminated, according to Shani George, The Post’s vice president for communications.

“We will end the print Sunday Magazine in its current form as we continue to undergo our global and digital transformation,” Buzbee said in a subsequent email to staff early Wednesday afternoon. She noted that “we will be shifting some of the most popular content, and adding more, in a revitalized Style section that will launch in the coming months.”

“We deeply appreciate the contributions this staff has made to our print readers over the years,” she wrote in conclusion.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Bill McCloskey, Sibby Christensen.

-0-

Wait. Is that right?



The newsroom of the Associated Press headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza in New York in 1939. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

By KRISTEN HARE

Here's something I've never admitted to anyone but the editors I work with – I've really struggled with AP Style in my career.

OK, I didn't have to admit that to my editors.

But something that's helped me get a better handle on all the rules has actually been covering the evolution of AP Style, which I did for years when I was on Poynter's editorial team. The style guide's rulings over the years have been fascinating to watch and cover, from removing the distinctions between over/more than to allowing the percentage sign. (Also, remember when the Los Angeles Times published a Star Wars style guide?)

But the changes that have been the most significant are those that reflect usage and culture, including guidance on the use of the singular they and capital b Black.

The biggest thing I've learned from reporting those stories and others like them is that it's people from the communities we cover pushing for journalists to use language

that more accurately and often humanely reflects them. That was definitely the case when I covered immigration years ago in St. Louis.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

We asked, you answered: Here are your favorite journalism movies (Poynter)

By: Annie Aguiar

What's your favorite journalism movie?

That's the question we asked on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Reddit, and then compiled your votes into a final list of favorites. We've published our own list before from senior media writer Tom Jones, but we wanted to hear from you.

Your favorite journalism movies run the gamut, across genres and decades. The reporters included the intrepid and the treacherous, what the profession can sink down to at its worst and what we hope can be our best.

Something that became obvious pretty quickly: We need a working definition of what is and isn't a journalism movie. We're choosing to go with movies where a character engaging in the practice of journalism is a driver of the plot. Apologies to Die Hard and Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, but we have to draw the line somewhere.

There's a good amount of crossover between the two lists, but plenty of films that Poynter left off our list ended up on yours. And, plot twist: According to your votes, All the President's Men doesn't take the top spot.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

Today in History – Dec. 1, 2022



Today is Thursday, Dec. 1, the 335th day of 2022. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 1, 1991, Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union.

On this date:

In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed among John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. (Adams ended up the winner.)

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, in which he called for the abolition of slavery, and went on to say, "Fellow-citizens, we can not escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

In 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands after his government rejected U.S. demands contained in the Hull Note.

In 1942, during World War II, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States; the goal was not so much to save on gas, but to conserve rubber that was desperately needed for the war effort by reducing the use of tires.

In 1952, the New York Daily News ran a front-page story on Christine Jorgensen's sex-reassignment surgery with the headline, "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty".

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by Blacks.

In 1965, an airlift of refugees from Cuba to the United States began in which thousands of Cubans were allowed to leave their homeland.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II.

In 1974, TWA Flight 514, a Washington-bound Boeing 727, crashed in Virginia after being diverted from National Airport to Dulles International Airport; all 92 people on board were killed. Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 6231, a Boeing 727, crashed near Stony Point, New York, with the loss of its three crew members (the plane had been chartered to pick up the Baltimore Colts football team in Buffalo, New York).

In 2005, a roadside bomb killed 10 U.S. Marines near Fallujah, Iraq.

In 2009, President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 more U.S. troops into the war in Afghanistan but promised during a speech to cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to begin withdrawals in 18 months.

In 2020, disputing President Donald Trump's persistent, baseless claims, Attorney General William Barr told The Associated Press that the U.S. Justice Department had uncovered no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could change the outcome of the 2020 election. Trump filed a lawsuit in Wisconsin seeking to disqualify more than 221,000 ballots in a longshot attempt to overturn Democrat Joe Biden's win in the battleground state.

Ten years ago: Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher fatally shot his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, then drove to Arrowhead Stadium and took his own life in front of the team's coach and general manager. Enrique Pena Nieto took the oath of office as Mexico's new president, vowing to restore peace and security.

Five years ago: Retired general Michael Flynn, who served as President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about reaching out to the Russians on Trump's behalf. (Flynn would be pardoned by Trump after twice pleading guilty to lying to the FBI.)

One year ago: As the Supreme Court heard arguments on a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, members of the court's conservative majority signaled that they would allow states to ban abortion much earlier in pregnancy and possibly even overturn the nationwide right that had existed for nearly 50 years. (In June 2022, the court would use the Mississippi case to overturn its Roe v. Wade decision and remove women's constitutional protections for abortion.) The U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of the omicron variant of the coronavirus, in a vaccinated traveler who returned to California after a trip to South Africa.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Woody Allen is 87. World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 83. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 83. Television producer David Salzman is 79. Rock singer-musician Eric Bloom (Blue Oyster Cult) is 78. Rock musician John Densmore (The Doors) is 78. Actor-singer Bette Midler is 77. Singer Gilbert O'Sullivan is 76. Former child actor Keith Thibodeaux (TV: "I Love Lucy") is 72. Actor Treat Williams is 71. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., is 70. Country singer Kim Richey is 66. Actor Charlene Tilton is 64. Actor-model Carol Alt is 62. Actor Jeremy Northam is 61. Actor Katherine LaNasa is 56. Producer-director Andrew Adamson is 56. Actor Nestor Carbonell is 55. Actor Golden Brooks is 52. Actor-comedian Sarah Silverman is 52. Actor Ron Melendez is 50. Contemporary Christian singer Bart Millard (MILL'urd) is 50. Actor-writer-producer David Hornsby is 47. Singer Sarah Masen is 47. Rock musician Brad Delson (Linkin Park) is 45. Actor Nate Torrence is 45. Rock/Christian music singer-songwriter Mat Kearney is 44. Actor Riz Ahmed (Film: "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") is 40. Actor Charles Michael Davis is 38. Actor Ifenesh Hadera is 37. R&B singer-actor Janelle Monae is 37. Actor Ashley Monique Clark is 34. Pop-rock-rap singer Tyler Joseph (Twenty One Pilots) is 34. Actor Zoe Kravitz is 34. Pop singer Nico Sereba (Nico & Vinz) is 32. Actor Jackson Nicoll is 19.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published
Monday through Friday that focuses on retired

and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

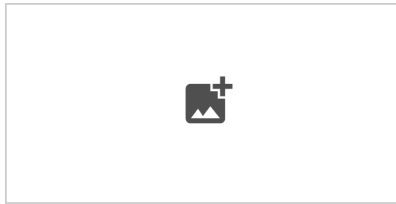


Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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