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## Connecting

Dec. 13, 2022

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FILE - A police officer walks by the nose of Pan Am flight 103 in a field near the town of Lockerbie, Scotland where it lay after a bomb aboard exploded, killing a total of 270

people, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1988. Authorities in Scotland on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022 say the Libyan man suspected of making the bomb that destroyed a passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 is in U.S. custody. Scotland's Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service said in a statement that the families of those who died had been told the news. (AP Photo/Martin Cleaver, File)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Dec. 13, 2022,

Behind Monday's headline - <u>Libyan accused in Lockerbie bombing appears in US court</u> – is the story of how a horrific act of terrorism nearly 34 years ago had a direct impact on the Associated Press family.

**John Mulroy**, the AP's director of international communications based in New York, and five members of his family, were among the 259 people aboard Pan Am Flight 103 that was brought down by a bomb over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing everyone aboard the Boeing 747, and 11 on the ground. The date: Dec. 21, 1988.

On Monday, a former Libyan intelligence official accused of making the explosive appeared in federal court, charged with an act of international terrorism. The extradition of Abu Agila Mohammad Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi marked a milestone in the decades-old investigation into the attack. His arrival in Washington sets the stage for one of the Justice Department's more significant terrorism prosecutions in recent memory.

Our colleague **Lou Boccardi**, president and CEO of the AP at the time, recalled how he learned of the news in his office at 50 Rockefeller Plaza in New York.

"I recall clearly how I found out," he told Connecting. "We were reporting the crash and someone came to my office door and said simply, 'John Mulroy was on the plane.'"

Boccardi said Mulroy's wife Joan had set a festive Christmas table for a welcoming dinner. "I remember leaving a Christmas gathering at the house here to attend a nighttime memorial service at John's parish out on Long Island," he said. "I can still hear some of the haunting Irish songs/hymns."

We bring you more of this sad chapter in AP history as our lead story in today's Connecting. Thanks to our colleague **Francesca Pitaro** of Corporate Archives for her assistance.

Mulroy's daughter **Siobahn Mulroy** worked for the AP in New York for several years. She died in 2019.

We also bring you news that colleague and former AP journalist **Carson Walker** has been hired as the first chief executive officer of South Dakota News Watch, the state's first nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization.

During his 17 years with the AP, Walker worked in the Dakotas and in Arizona, serving as a reporter, editor and supervisor. He was assigned to the national filing desk in Phoenix and was the final editor of major breaking stories that were distributed worldwide. Walker moved back to Sioux Falls in 2013 and managed the AP's newsgathering team in North Dakota and South Dakota.

And, with all the recent stories about Western Union and the telegraph, how could we not recount – again - one of the most famous AP stories of all time – the victory of "Will Overhead" in the 1933 Indianapolis 500 race.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Remembering John Mulroy



## **John Mulroy**

**John Mulroy**, the AP's director of international communications based in New York, was killed Dec. 21 in the crash of a Pan Am jetliner in southern Scotland.

Mulroy had visited the London communications staff and was returning to New York on Flight 103 from London's Heathrow Airport to JFK Airport. Five members of his family, including his son and sister, also were killed in the crash.

A soft-spoken man with a warm Irish brogue, Mulroy, 59, joined the AP following a 25-year career with Pan Am as director of communications.

"John Mulroy had been with us only four years but his contributions were immense," said Louis D. Boccardi, AP president and general manager.

"He guided the streamlining of our international news and picture communications systems during a time of accelerated modernization. He did that with a wit and warmth that made him a treasured member of our team.

"To say that we will miss him does not begin to describe our sense of loss."

Mulroy joined the AP in August 1984 as staff executive for international communications. He was appointed deputy director of communications in 1986 and in August was named director of international communications. In that position, he was responsible for all AP technical operations outside the United States.

"John loved the AP and the people here; he spoke of that often," said John Reid, AP vice president and director of communications and technology. "His energy and enthusiasm for his work had no limit.

"He was on the go all the time, flying from one country to another at a pace that made it difficult for his traveling companions to keep up with him. Each time he would return to New York, he would regale us with stories about the latest achievements of both the communications and news people in the countries he had just visited. He was very proud of his colleagues in international communications."

A native of County Mayo, Ireland, Mulroy held an associate degree

in electrical engineering from Birmingham University in England. From AP World: 1988 Winter. Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.

Long Island community of East Northport and also maintained a \*\*Herworked hard but with joy — yes, if you The crash killed all 259 people aboard the plane. Traveling with insist, vartwinkle ean, 25, and Sean's wife, Ingrid, who lived in Sweden; Mulroy's sister, Bridget Concannon, her husband, Lou Boccardi, -and Ap world objustice to john Mulroy's manipurb. accomplishiments foods in communications technology But Crementoer Biol for more. He worked hard but, with joylayes, if you insist, a twinkle. I said at the impromptu memorial gathering we had for him in the AP board room that tragic afternoon that "John was the only 6-foot-tall leprechaun any of us would ever know." That's still true.

Long after John died at Lockerbie, World Services' Larry Heinzerling told me that when they would walk down the long 7th floor corridor to my office on the way to seek my support for some expensive project John wanted to undertake, John was fond of reciting a line in Latin from his Catholic worship: "Introibo ad altare Dei"-- "I go now unto the altar of God."

That was the Mulroy we came to know and treasure--full of skill and ambition for AP but never without a touch of Irish humor.

I'm sorry he never said that to me directly because I would have finished the citation for him: It is, "I go now unto the altar of God, to God who giveth joy to my youth." We can't know what John's deflating reply would have been. I know only that it would have been memorable, as he was.

### Remembering the agony

Michael Putzel - Our daughter and son were 9 and 12 at the time, living with us in Moscow, and I sent them this note Monday after I learned of the break in the case:

You may remember that our second winter in Moscow, just as we arrived in Lech for Christmas, I got a phone call from an AP staffer in Frankfurt telling me that our colleague John Mulroy was aboard Pan Am Flight 103 when it blew up over Lockerbie on Dec. 21, 1988. John, a communications executive in New York, had come to Moscow shortly after my arrival as chief of bureau to help negotiate a deal with TASS to bring the AP bureau into the digital age with personal computers and a satellite link to New York that enabled us to write, edit and communicate as if we were in the real world. John was more than just a communications wizard; he became a dear friend. Losing him cost us months and months of frustration and friction before we managed to implement his plan and connected the Moscow bureau directly to New York by telephone, high-speed text and photos to cover the biggest running story in the world at that time. So I take some satisfaction that 34 years later, the United States took custody of and will finally try and, one hopes, convict the Libyan intelligence agent who has bragged of building the bomb that blew up that plane and killed 270 people, including John Mulroy and several members of his family. I could never forget that

night or the agony it caused so many people around the world whose loved ones died with John.

## 'If You Need Anything at All. ...'

By WALTER R. MEARS From AP Wire, Dec. 26, 1988

NEW YORK (AP) – John Mulroy, described by a colleague as a balding leprechaun six feet tall, was a man who made things work.

An emergency electrical system for The Associated Press in Lima, to use when guerrilla actions led to blackouts.

A satellite setup that carried AP accounts of the Olympic games in Seoul to a receiver in London, and on to the world's newspapers and broadcasters.

A balky communications link in Hong Kong - with repairs prescribed long distance while he was in a hotel room in Istanbul.

"Morning, how's everything?" he said before he talked the Hong Kong correspondent through the problem, apologizing that the telephone conversation would have to share his attention with a hasty shave so that he could get to the airport.

Many days, John Mulroy lived on airplanes.

Last Wednesday he died on one.

Mulroy, 59, director of international communications for the AP, was one of 258 people killed aboard Pan Am Flight 103 when it crashed into a village in southern Scotland, across the Irish Sea from his native Ireland.

Read more **here**.

# South Dakota News Watch hires Carson Walker as first CEO

South Dakota News Watch, the state's first nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization, has hired veteran journalist and communications professional Carson Walker as its first chief executive officer, effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Walker will assume the company's top management role, succeeding News Watch cofounders Randell Beck and Jack Marsh, who have overseen staff, news and business operations since the launch of News Watch as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2017. Though Beck and Marsh are handing off operational leadership to Walker, they intend to remain active on the 13-member governing board of directors.

Walker has more than 30 years' experience in South Dakota, as a broadcast and newspaper journalist, a reporter, editor and manager for The Associated Press, a media relations specialist and journalism instructor at the University of South Dakota, and in corporate communications with Sanford Health.

"Carson Walker ranks among the most respected, accomplished and versatile media professionals in South Dakota," said board chair Jack Marsh. "Carson has earned the confidence of the News



Watch board, because of his vast experience, principles, exemplary character, intellect, and leadership qualities, and his appreciation for the role and responsibilities of a vigilant free press in a well-functioning democracy."

Read more here.

# Will Overhead, and the typo heard round the world



By Nancy Christofferson World Journal Walsenburg, CO

WALSENBURG, Colo. – June 3, 2011 - All of us suffer from some degree of "foot in the mouth-itis", but imagine having a case so severe it lasts 78 years! Such was the case that infected an unnamed reporter for the Walsenburg World-Independent. The case

was so severe, in fact, that at the recent annual meeting of the Colorado Press Association, that august body not only remembered the mistake but hailed it as one of the most embarrassing ever to hit a newspaper. It now serves as an example, albeit, an example of what not to do.

The mistake used to be fairly well known in this area. It was the famous headline of May 30, 1933, "Overhead Wins Indianapolis Race." The headline was followed by three brief paragraphs, but their content resonates yet. The first paragraph was the killer, "Will Overhead won the Indianapolis Memorial Day race today. At the 250-mile post Babe Stapp was leading the string of roaring cars, but gave way to Overhead on the last half of the 500 mile grind."

Well, Will Overhead did not win the Indianapolis 500 in 1933. A simple glance at the World Almanac shows us Louis Meyer captured that honor.

The problem can be traced to a simple error probably made by a rookie typesetter. It's easy to visualize – a holiday weekend, the bosses off enjoying warm weather and a picnic with the family, perhaps, but certainly far from the office. His instructions for learning the results of the race would have been to refer to what was called a pony wire, used instead of teletype at the time, that resembled today's conference call. When he spoke with the Associated Press on its pony wire about midway through the race, he heard the words "Will Overhead." This obscure term meant the results were not yet known, and would be sent along when available. The AP thought it was telling the typesetter it would telegraph the winner's name when the race was finally over, but our rookie did not know that, and thought one Will Overhead was the winner of the race.

One honest mistake, and one makes history. Of course, it wasn't our rookie who went into the newspaper annals, but Will Overhead, the auto racer who never was.

Read more here.

## Favorite newspaper movie

**Bruce Lowitt** - There is a moment late in The Paper when Managing Editor Alicia Clark (Glenn Close) is reading her paper in a hospital and a nurse says something like "Can I have that when you're finished?"

The film had just come out and my wife and I were watching it in a movie theater and I said to the screen, "Buy your own."

And Glenn Close said to the nurse, "Buy your own."

It was the only time Arlene and I high-fived each other in a movie theater.

A great memory of my very favorite newspaper movie.

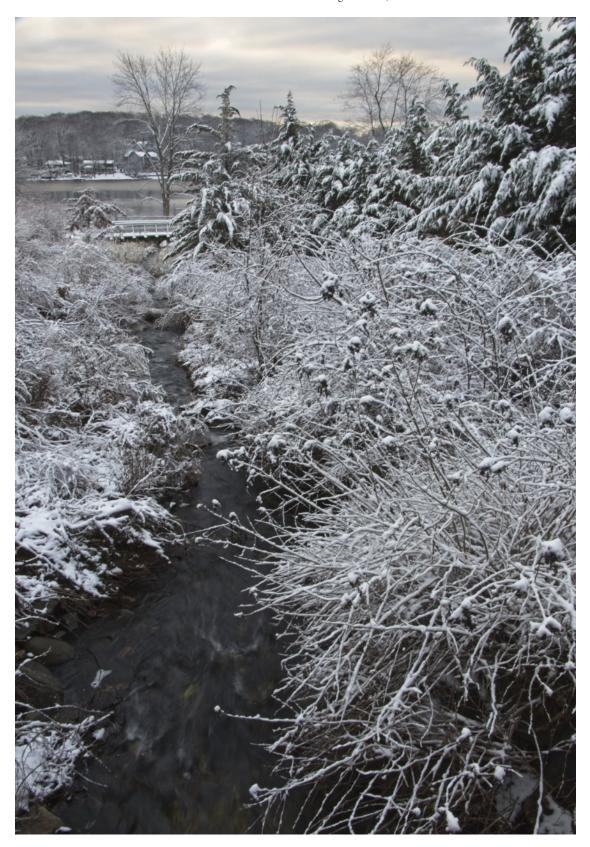
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<u>David Marcus</u> - Did I miss someone's mention of "His Girl Friday," which is my favorite newspaper movie? It's in a different vein than the others that folks have mentioned, but still.

Released in 1940 with Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell, I think it was the best of many remakes of 1931's early talkie, "The Front Page."

Also: Even though it's not really a newspaper movie, I offer "It Happened One Night" with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert featured Gable as a rogue newspaper reporter trailing a socialite. Released in 1934, it was the first movie to win the top five Oscars.

### **Snowfall**



<u>Guy Palmiotto</u> - Photographed during my daily walk, Monday morning, 12/12/22. The first snowfall of the season had fallen o-nite, and this was the scene looking out towards White Meadow Lake, Rockaway Township, NJ. It has been my ongoing project this past year to create photograph daily, ultimately, 365 images for year-end.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



**Ned Seaton** 

### Stories of interest

## Emma Tucker Is Named New Editor of The Wall Street Journal, Succeeding Matt Murray (WSJ)

By Jeffrey A. Trachtenberg and Alexandra Bruell

News Corp named veteran U.K. journalist Emma Tucker as the next editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal, succeeding Matt Murray, who oversaw significant digital growth and guided the news organization through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Tucker, 56 years old, will assume her new position on Feb. 1, the company said Monday. Mr. Murray, also 56, will work with Ms. Tucker during a transition period until March 1. He will then continue in a senior position at News Corp, where he will work on new projects and report to Chief Executive Robert Thomson.

"As a long-time admirer and reader of the brilliant journalism of The Wall Street Journal, it is my honor to edit this great newspaper," Ms. Tucker said in a statement. "I can't wait to work with the entire team at the Journal and my new colleagues at Dow Jones, who have done so much in recent years to publish journalism that matters and set new records along the way."

Ms. Tucker, who will be the first woman to lead the Journal, has served as editor of the Sunday Times, another News Corp publication, since January 2020. Among her achievements was the outlet's coverage of the pandemic, which began early in her tenure, including a widely read article examining the British government's missteps in preventing the spread of the virus.

As editor, Ms. Tucker has supported deeply reported investigations, tackling difficult subjects. Earlier this year, for example, the Sunday Times investigated the use of the epilepsy drug sodium valproate and its impact on unborn children.

Read more **here**.

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## In a Future Filled With Electric Cars, AM Radio May Be Left Behind (New York Times)

### By Michael Levenson

For nearly 100 years, drivers have been listening to AM radio, an American institution crackling with news, traffic, weather, sports and an eclectic variety of other programs.

But that dashboard staple could be going the way of manual-crank windows and car ashtrays as electric vehicles begin to grab more of the American marketplace.

An increasing number of electric models have dropped AM radio in what broadcasters call a worrisome shift that could spell trouble for the stations and deprive drivers of a crucial source of news in emergencies.

Carmakers say that electric vehicles generate more electromagnetic interference than gas-powered cars, which can disrupt the reception of AM signals and cause static, noise and a high-frequency hum. (FM signals are more resistant to such interference.)

Read more **here**.

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## Putin Skips Annual News Conference, Avoiding Possible Questions on War (New York Times)

### By Neil MacFarquhar

It has been an annual ritual of Vladimir V. Putin's Russia: The president holds a wideranging, marathon news conference in December, making a somewhat choreographed show of openness to questioning and demonstrating his command of an array of topics.

But after a series of military setbacks in his war in Ukraine, with Russia's casualties mounting and its economy faltering under sanctions, Mr. Putin has decided to skip the tradition. Dmitri S. Peskov, Mr. Putin's spokesman, did not offer a reason when he told reporters during a daily briefing on Monday that the event would not take place this month; he held out the possibility that it might be rescheduled for the new year.

Mr. Putin first held the year-end news conference in 2001, two years into his presidency. He suspended the practice after becoming prime minister in 2008, but resumed it after returning to the presidency in 2012. The last time he opted out of the event, as president, was in 2005.

Read more **here**. Shared by Sibby Christensen, Dennis Conrad.

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## Qatari journalist 'dies suddenly' at World Cup, shortly after Grant Wahl's death (New York Post)

### By Yaron Steinbuch

A Qatari photographer has died while covering the World Cup — the second journalist to lose his life at the global event following influential US soccer writer Grant Wahl's death.

Khalid al-Misslam, a photojournalist for local sports outlet Al Kass TV, died on Saturday, the Doha-based Gulf Times reported.

"Al-Misslam, a Qatari, died suddenly while covering the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. We believe in Allah's mercy and forgiveness for him, and send our deepest condolences to his family," the Gulf Times reported on Twitter.

The circumstances of al-Misslam's death were unclear but the announcement was made on the same day that a security guard was seriously injured when he fell at Lusail Iconic Stadium, the Guardian reported.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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## How The Wall Street Journal hopes to reach young news consumers on TikTok(Digiday)

### By Sara Guaglione

With its recently introduced TikTok channel, The Wall Street Journal has joined a number of other legacy publishers working to reach Gen Z and young millennial audiences on the platform, where many of these consumers are getting their news.

The Wall Street Journal launched its TikTok channel on Oct. 3, and since then the channel has grown to over 37,000 followers and 600,000 likes. It's focused on three core content pillars: careers, personal finance and tech. Some videos also cover trending news stories, like the recent changes at Twitter and Taylor Swift's concert ticket sales.

In a survey published last week, the Reuters Institute and University of Oxford revealed that 25% of people between the ages of 18 and 34 are using TikTok for news. About half of the world's top newsrooms are now regularly posting on TikTok, according to the report. The Washington Post's popular TikTok channel has 1.5 million followers. Vox, Vice, BuzzFeed, The Los Angeles Times and Condé Nast have all recently expanded their efforts on the platform, as well.

Read more here.

### Today in History – Dec. 13, 2022



Today is Tuesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2022. There are 18 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 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.

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

In 1993, the space shuttle Endeavour returned from its mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

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 2001, the Pentagon publicly released a captured videotape of Osama bin Laden in which the al-Qaida leader said the deaths and destruction achieved by the September 11 attacks exceeded his "most optimistic" expectations.

In 2002, President George W. Bush announced he would take the smallpox vaccine along with U.S. military forces, but was not recommending the potentially risky inoculation for most Americans.

In 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.

In 2007, Major League Baseball's Mitchell Report was released, identifying 85 names to differing degrees in connection with the alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

In 2014, thousands of protesters marched in New York, Washington and other U.S. cities to call attention to the killing of unarmed Black men by white police officers who faced no criminal charges.

In 2019, the House Judiciary Committee approved two articles of impeachment accusing President Donald Trump of abuse of power in his dealings with Ukraine and obstruction of Congress in the investigation that followed.

In 2020, the first vials of the Pfizer vaccine against COVID-19 began making their way to distribution sites across the United States.

Ten years ago: U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice withdrew from consideration to replace outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton after running into opposition from Republicans over her explanation of the September attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. (Rice had said the attack stemmed from a spontaneous protest over an anti-Islamic video, an assertion which later proved incorrect.)

Five years ago: 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.

One year ago: The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection voted to pursue contempt charges against former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows; lawmakers also revealed a series of frantic texts he received as the attack was under way, in which members of Congress, Fox News anchors and even President Donald Trump's son urged Meadows to push Trump to act quickly to stop the siege by his supporters. (The House voted to hold Meadows in contempt, but the Justice Department declined to prosecute.) The Air Force said it had discharged 27 people for refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccine; they were believed to be the first service members removed for disobeying the mandate to get the shots. The Supreme Court refused to halt a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for health care workers in New York that did not offer an exemption for religious reasons. The Biden administration released a federal strategy to build 500,000 charging stations for electric vehicles across the country and ultimately transform the U.S. auto industry.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 97. Country singer Buck White is 92. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 89. Singer John Davidson is 81. Actor Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 77. Singer Ted Nugent is 74. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 74. Actor Robert Lindsay is 73. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 73. Actor Wendie Malick is 72. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 72. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 69. Country singer John Anderson is 68. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 68. Singer-actor Morris Day is 66. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 65. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 63. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 60. Actor-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 56. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 55. Actor Lusia Strus is 55. Actor Bart Johnson is 52. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 51. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 48. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 47. Actor James Kyson Lee is 47. Actor Kimee Balmilero (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 43. Actor Chelsea Hertford is 41. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 41. Actor Michael Socha is 35. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: "The Mayor") is 34. Singer Taylor Swift is 33. Actor Maisy Stella 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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