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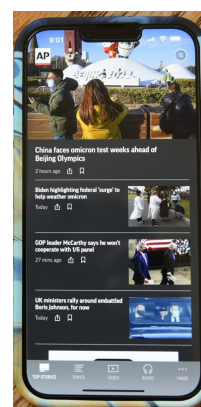
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Connecting

July 14, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this July 14, 2023,

The Associated Press announced Thursday that it has reached an agreement with OpenAI to share access to select news content and technology as they examine potential use cases for generative AI in news products and services.

The release said:

The arrangement sees OpenAI licensing part of AP's text archive, while AP will leverage OpenAI's technology and product expertise. Both organizations will benefit from each other's established expertise in their respective industries, and believe in the responsible creation and use of these AI systems.

The collaboration builds upon AP's efforts over nearly a decade to use automation to make its journalism more effective, as well as help local news outlets integrate the technology into their operations.

AP continues to look closely at standards around generative AI and does not use it in its news stories.

We lead with an AP wire story on the announcement, as well as the news release and related stories.

AP HISTORY IN CONNECTING: Connecting often contains nuggets of AP culture and history. **Linda Deutsch's** recollections Wednesday of covering the Manson murder trials and Leslie Van Houten, and **Peter Arnett's** account of **Eddie Adams**, his work and their experiences certainly enrich that foundation of strong journalism. (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Such nuggets of AP culture and history, I might add, are preserved for future generations, as the content of each Connecting issue is recorded in the AP Archives system.

PETER ARNETT ON EDDIE ADAMS: Not only is Peter Arnett's account of Eddie Adams's "Boat of No Smiles" an impressive story about the photographer, but also it is an impressive reminder of Peter's writing skills. A great report well told. (Shared by Henry Bradsher)

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

ChatGPT-maker OpenAI signs deal with AP to license news stories



FILE - The logo for OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, appears on a mobile phone, in New York, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and The Associated Press said Thursday that they've made a deal for the artificial intelligence company to license AP's archive of news stories. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

BY MATT O'BRIEN
The Associated Press

ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and The Associated Press said Thursday that they've made a deal for the artificial intelligence company to license AP's archive of news stories.

"The arrangement sees OpenAI licensing part of AP's text archive, while AP will leverage OpenAI's technology and product expertise," the two organizations said in a joint statement.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

OpenAI and other technology companies must ingest large troves of written works, such as books, news articles and social media chatter, to improve their AI systems known as large language models. Last year's release of ChatGPT has sparked a boom in "generative AI" products that can create new passages of text, images and other media.

The tools have raised concerns about their propensity to spout falsehoods that are hard to notice because of the system's strong command of the grammar of human languages. They also have raised questions about to what extent news organizations and others whose writing, artwork, music or other work was used to "train" the AI models should be compensated.

On Thursday, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission opened an investigation into OpenAI and whether it violated consumer protection laws by scraping public data and publishing false information through its chatbot, according to reports in the Washington Post and the New York Times. The FTC did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Along with news organizations, book authors have sought compensation for their works being used to train AI systems. More than 4,000 writers --- among them Nora Roberts, Margaret Atwood, Louise Erdrich and Jodi Picoult --- signed a letter late last month to the CEOs of OpenAI, Google, Microsoft, Meta and other AI developers accusing them of exploitative practices in building chatbots that "mimic and regurgitate" their language, style and ideas. Some novelists and the comedian Sarah Silverman have also sued OpenAI for copyright infringement.

"We are pleased that OpenAI recognizes that fact-based, nonpartisan news content is essential to this evolving technology, and that they respect the value of our intellectual property," said a written statement from Kristin Heitmann, AP senior vice president and chief revenue officer. "AP firmly supports a framework that will ensure intellectual property is protected and content creators are fairly compensated for their work."

The two companies said they are also examining “potential use cases for generative AI in news products and services,” though didn’t give specifics. OpenAI and AP both “believe in the responsible creation and use of these AI systems,” the statement said.

OpenAI will have access to AP news stories going back to 1985.

The AP deal is valuable to a company like OpenAI because it provides a trove of material that it can use for training purposes, and is also a hedge against losing access to material because of lawsuits that have threatened its access to material, said Nick Diakopoulos, a professor of communications studies and computer science at Northwestern University.

“In order to guard against how the courts may decide, maybe you want to go out and sign licensing deals so you’re guaranteed legal access to the material you’ll need,” Diakopoulos said.

The AP doesn’t currently use any generative AI in its news stories, but has used other forms of AI for nearly a decade, including to automate corporate earnings reports and recap some sporting events. It also runs a program that helps local news organizations incorporate AI into their operations, and recently launched an AI-powered image archive search.

The deal’s effects could reach far beyond the AP because of the organization’s size and its deep ties to other news outlets, said news industry analyst Ken Doctor.

When AP decided to open up its content for free on the internet in the 1990s, it led many newspaper companies to do the same, which “turned out to be a very bad idea” for the news business, Doctor said.

He said navigating “a new, AI-driven landscape is deeply uncertain” and presents similar risks.

“The industry is far weaker today. AP is in OK shape. It’s stable. But the newspaper industry around it is really gasping for air,” Doctor said. “On the positive side, AP has the clout to do a deal like this and can work with local publishers to try to assess both the potential and the risk.”

Associated Press writer David Bauder contributed to this report.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. (Shared by Peggy Walsh)

Click [here](#) for AP news release. (Shared by Lauren Easton)

Click [here](#) for Axios story: Exclusive: AP strikes news-sharing and tech deal with OpenAI (Shared by Bill Sikes)

Click [here](#) for New York Times story: F.T.C. Opens Investigation Into ChatGPT Maker Over Technology’s Potential Harms (Shared by Bill Sikes)

Talking and listening in Spain



Group photo of teachers, students and staff at the Pueblo Ingles weeklong Spanish immersion program in Torres, Jaén, Spain. We took over the entire Hotel Rural Puerto Magina on the mountainside overlooking the village of Torres.



The mountainside village of Torres, Jaén, Spain. The region is known for olive orchards, contributing to Spain's world leadership role in olive oil production.

Cliff Schiappa - I just finished a weeklong program in Spain that far exceeded my expectations and allowed me to meet many new friends.

A few months ago, I was having coffee with a friend who told me about Pueblo Ingles (www.puebloingles.com), an ESL program for Spaniards. I applied to be a teacher and was accepted to be one of 10 teachers working with 14 students in a small rural town called Torres, about 200 miles south of Madrid.

It's a great opportunity for retirees to meet people who become colleagues and friends as we take part in an English immersion program. Not only was I teaching, but I also learned so much about Spanish cultures, people, geography, and history.

Knowledge of Spanish is not necessary because the language is never spoken as we start the day with breakfast and end the day 14 hours later with after-dinner socializing. There are group classes, 1-on-1 conversations, presentations, ad-libbing on stage, and discussion groups.

In our particular class, the students were all Vo-Tech teachers, mostly from the Andalusian or Valencian regions. They all had a general knowledge of English, so conversations were possible right from the start.

These classes happen year-round in many different locations (they also offer ESL classes in Germany), with a majority taking place during summer months.

While we do not receive payment, room and board was provided, as was bus transportation to/from Madrid.

The past week was a life-changer for everyone involved as we worked with people who have a passion to teach, learn, share, and live with enthusiasm. I'm already planning to return next year!

WWII Airborne Tribute Photos



AP's Dennis Anderson with Col. Stu Watkins Ret. (Center) and Dutch Marine vets Michel Heezen and Jens Jansen van de Slight in green beret. My correspondent patch above flag.



Boarding WWII C-47 "Aces High."

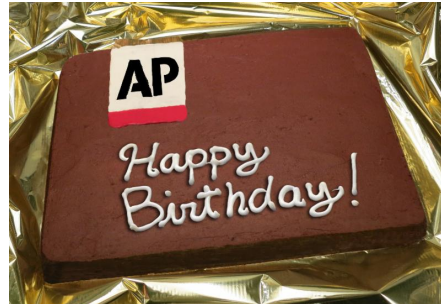
Dennis Anderson - This past weekend six paratrooper veteran commemorative teams organized a unit-scale parachute drop at Toccoa Ga., Camp Toccoa where the "Band of Brothers" trained to participate in D-Day.

With about 50 other Airborne veterans, I parachuted from a C-47 onto the air field near Mt. Currahee in the first such event since WWII. We were joined by paratroopers from Canada and the Netherlands.

We also feted Cpl Lloyd Harvey, 99, 101st Airborne Division Paratrooper. We dedicated the air field Drop Zone to Dick Winters who led the Easy Co. "Band of Brothers" from D-Day to capture of Hitler's "Eagles Nest" at Berchtesgaden. As recounted in the book by Stephen Ambrose and miniseries by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, we 50 or so Airborne brothers and sisters moved up to scale Mt. Currahee. Younger veterans, a few, ran up the trail as in WWII. At 70, I hiked it, "Three Miles Up! Three Miles Down!"

When I participate it is never without packing in the legacy of Ernie Pyle, Joe Galloway, Peter Arnett, and Jack Thompson, the correspondent who jumped with paratroopers at North Africa, Sicily, and waded ashore with the Big Red One on D-Day.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Don Waters](#)

On Saturday to...

[Santiago Lyon](#)

[Diane Parker](#)

Stories of interest

Biden says he's serious about pursuing prisoner exchange for WSJ reporter held in Russia (AP)

BY SEUNG MIN KIM AND CHRIS MEGERIAN

HELSINKI (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday said he's serious about pursuing a prisoner exchange for a Wall Street Journal reporter who has been detained in Russia for more than 100 days.

The Kremlin earlier this month suggested that it was open to a possible prisoner exchange that could involve Evan Gershkovich, but it underscored that such talks must be held out of the public eye.

Speaking at a news conference in Helsinki, Finland, Biden made clear that the U.S. is interested.

"I'm serious on a prisoner exchange," said Biden, who was concluding a five-day visit to Europe that took him to the UK, Lithuania and Finland. "And I'm serious about

doing all we can to free Americans being illegally held in Russia or anywhere else for that matter, and that process is underway.”

Gershkovich was arrested on espionage charges in the city of Yekaterinburg while on a reporting trip. He is being held at Moscow’s Lefortovo prison, notorious for its harsh conditions. A Moscow court recently upheld a ruling to keep him in custody until Aug. 30.

Gershkovich and his employer deny the allegations, and the U.S. government has declared him to be wrongfully detained. His arrest rattled journalists in Russia. Authorities there have not provided any evidence to support the espionage charges.

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

-0-

Texas A&M Celebrated a New Journalism Director. Then Came the Complaints. (New York Times)

By Stephanie Saul

Kathleen McElroy, who had recently served as the director of the University of Texas’s School of Journalism, was thrilled to embark on a new assignment: running a similar program at her alma mater, Texas A&M University.

The school celebrated her appointment last month with a signing ceremony, decorated with balloons.

Quickly, though, things started to unravel. Dr. McElroy, who once worked as an editor at The New York Times, said she was notified by the university’s interim dean of liberal arts, José Luis Bermúdez, of political pushback over her appointment.

“I said, ‘What’s wrong?’” Dr. McElroy recalled in an interview. “He said, ‘You’re a Black woman who was at The New York Times and, to these folks, that’s like working for Pravda.’” Dr. McElroy left The Times in 2011.

Within weeks, she said, the terms of her employment had been revised to offer her a one-year contract. She elected to return to her tenured position at the University of Texas. The Texas Tribune first reported the controversy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

Writing guidelines for the role of AI in your newsroom? Here are some, er, guidelines for that (Nieman Labs)

By HANNES COOLS and NICHOLAS DIAKOPOULOS

The emergence of generative AI has highlighted the need for newsroom guidelines for these technologies. In this post, we'll delve into a sample of newsroom guidelines that have already been shared. In the first part, we'll describe some of the more and less prominent themes and patterns we see. In the second part, and based on the analysis, we'll suggest some guidelines for crafting guidelines as a news organization. Whether you're a curious journalist or a newsroom leader, we hope that this "guideline for guidelines" document can function as an overview of potential guardrails for generative AI in newsrooms.

The selection of guidelines we analyzed covers a range of larger and some smaller organizations mostly in Europe and the U.S. with a few from other parts of the world.¹ The current sample of 21 can be found [here](#)²; please be in touch via email if your organization has published guidelines on generative AI that we should add to our list. We'll regularly update the list of guidelines, and our analysis here, as it grows.

The guidelines we analyzed vary in specificity, and are sometimes named differently as "editor's note," "protocol," "principles" or even "deontological charter." The tone of some of the guidelines are restrictive where specific uses are banned. Other documents are more examples of governance, where news organizations are committing to specific responsibilities to make AI less risky. Below, we will discuss some of these overarching patterns with examples from specific guidelines.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

-0-

Three Pulitzer-winning cartoonists let go in one shocking day (Washington Post)

By Michael Cavanaugh

Jack Ohman cannot recall another day like it, even amid decades of brutal cuts in the field of newspaper political cartooning.

On Tuesday, three Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonists — Ohman of the Sacramento Bee, Joel Pett of the Lexington Herald-Leader and Kevin Siers of the Charlotte Observer — were all let go by McClatchy newspapers.

Ohman and Siers confirmed their firings to The Washington Post. Pett, who noted that he was a freelance employee, said his last day will be later this month.

Even in a field accustomed to scores of layoffs in recent decades, the triple hit Tuesday sent shock waves through the newspaper cartooning industry.

Speaking as president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, Ohman told The Post by phone Wednesday: "This is just another brick in the wall" of continuing layoffs in the field. "But we haven't had three Pulitzer [cartoon] winners go out the door on the same day before."

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

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Government-funded journalism fellowships are taking off in three states (and counting) (Nieman Labs)

By SARAH SCIRE

In New Mexico, recent college grads are matched with newsrooms to complete 9-month fellowships. In California, 40 fellows will work for two years in newsrooms that operate in underserved communities around the state. And the legislature in Washington State just allocated \$2.4 million to start its own two-year program to boost local journalism.

The most established — but least expensive — of these state-funded fellowship programs is in New Mexico, where lawmakers recently approved \$125,000 from the state's Department of Workforce Solutions to effectively double the number of fellows. (The California program, in contrast, was allotted \$25 million over three years.) New Mexico's comparatively tiny program has an outsized impact in their local news scene; the 31 newsrooms that applied this year to host fellows or interns represent the vast majority of news organizations in the state.

Since 2019, the initiative in New Mexico has placed 16 journalists in newsrooms. The new funding will allow the program to expand to seven fellows and eight summer interns for the coming year alone.

Nearly three-quarters of the fellows and interns selected have been journalists of color and more than half are women, according to the New Mexico Local News Fund. Though the fellowship itself is short, the majority of fellowship alumni are currently working full-time in New Mexico newsrooms.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

The Final Word

NYT Sports: An obituary

Lynn Zinser | for Editor & Publisher

When the death of the New York Times sports department finally came this week, it sent shockwaves through an industry so regularly traumatized that it should be shock-proof by now. But still, it was thoroughly sad, with an unapologetically cruel end, killed from within by people meant to care about news and journalists. But what most people don't realize about the Times is, even back in the "good old days," before the Internet age came for us all, the sports department always felt like it lived on borrowed Times time. We lived with the feeling that the journalism blue bloods at the

top barely tolerated us, believed sports frivolous, forgot about us entirely most days because in the old Times building on 43rd Street we were on a separate floor.

It survived as long as it did because readers loved Dave Anderson and George Vecsey and William Rhoden (my era; Red Smith and Robert Lipsyte and all the others before them) and because editor Neil Amdur scoured the country for the most talented journalists he could find that wrote about sports. When Tom Jolly hired me in 2003, I felt like I hit the top of my profession. I was a Times journalist for 11 amazing years, bridged the jump to the internet age, which also probably saved us then because sports readers were everywhere and could find us now with the click of a mouse. I joined the little sports web team in 2009, when we experimented with everything, did our own blogs and videos and I wrote a web column called Leading Off for five fun years before everything started to homogenize.

What we on the inside, and the readers who read our work, understood was that none of it was frivolous. Sports is overwhelmingly popular for a reason: it is real life drama, every day, without a script or a predictable conclusion. It's full of true human effort, the kind that shows losing doesn't equal failure, that trying against all odds is the courage everyone wants to emulate. Sure, it's sometimes silly, overwrought, corrupt, overcommercialized, run by corporate robber barons, but that just as easily describes politics or business or any other "respectable" news. There's a reason why, in the "new" Times building when Sports was no longer quarantined on our own floor, reporters and editors from throughout the building would gather in front of the TVs in our department to watch exciting ends to World Cup games, or the Olympics or NCAA Tournament games. Every section had televisions. They came to watch ours. With us.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 14, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 14, the 195th day of 2023. There are 170 days left in the year.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

On July 14, 2004, the Senate scuttled a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, with 48 senators voting to advance the measure — 12 short of the 60 needed — and 50 voting to block it.

On this date:

1789 — In an event symbolizing the start of the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

1798 — Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the United States government.

1881 — Outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias “Billy the Kid,” was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner in present-day New Mexico.

1912 — American folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie was born in Okemah, Okla.

1933 — All German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed.

1945 — Italy formally declared war on Japan, its former Axis partner during World War II.

1976 — Jimmy Carter won the Democratic presidential nomination at the party’s convention in New York.

1980 — The Republican national convention opened in Detroit, where nominee-apparent Ronald Reagan told a welcoming rally he and his supporters were determined to “make America great again.”

2009 — Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff arrived at the Butner Federal Correctional Complex in North Carolina to begin serving a 150-year sentence for his massive Ponzi scheme.

2015 — World powers and Iran struck a deal to curb Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

2016 — Terror struck Bastille Day celebrations in the French Riviera city of Nice as a large truck plowed into a festive crowd, killing 86 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State extremists; the driver was shot dead by police.

2020 — Researchers reported that the first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the US revved up people’s immune systems as scientists had hoped; the vaccine was developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

Ten years ago — Thousands of demonstrators across the country protested a Florida jury’s decision the day before to clear George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a TV interview, called for tougher European and global rules on data protection amid fallout from recent revelations about US surveillance programs.

Five years ago — Angelique Kerber beat Serena Williams in the women’s final for her first Wimbledon title. A firefighter, Braden Varney, was killed while trying to prevent a wildfire near California’s Yosemite National Park from spreading. Thousands of people in Scotland staged colorful, peaceful protests against Donald Trump as the US president played golf at his Scottish golf resort at Turnberry ahead of his summit in Finland with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One year ago — President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid stood side-by-side at a joint news conference and declared they would not allow Iran to become a nuclear power. They parted ways on how to get there, however, with Biden saying he still wanted to give diplomacy a chance while Lapid insisted that words alone wouldn’t thwart Tehran’s nuclear ambitions. Ivana Trump, the first wife of former President Donald Trump and mother of his three eldest children, died in New York City at age 73. The National Galleries of Scotland said a previously unknown self-portrait of Vincent Van Gogh was discovered behind another of the artist’s paintings when experts took an X-ray of the canvas ahead of an upcoming exhibition.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS - Actor Nancy Olson is 95. Former football player and actor Rosey Grier is 91. Actor Vincent Pastore is 77. Music company executive Tommy Mottola is 75. Rock musician Chris Cross (Ultravox) is 71. Actor Jerry Houser is 71. Actor-director Eric Laneuville is 71. Actor Stan Shaw is 71. Movie producer Scott Rudin is 65. Singer-guitarist Kyle Gass is 63. Actor Jane Lynch is 63. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 62. Actor Matthew Fox is 57. Rock musician Ellen Reid (Crash Test Dummies) is 57. Rock singer-musician Tanya Donnelly is 57. Former child actor Missy Gold is 53. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Ross Rebagliati is 52. R&B singer Tameka Cottle (Xscape) is 48. Country singer Jamey Johnson is 48. Hip-hop musician “taboo” (Black Eyed Peas) is 48. Actor Scott Porter is 44. Actor/writer/producer Phoebe Waller-Bridge is 38. Rock singer Dan Smith (Bastille) is 37. Actor Sara Canning (TV: “The Vampire Diaries”) is 36. Rock singer Dan Reynolds (Imagine Dragons) is 36.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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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