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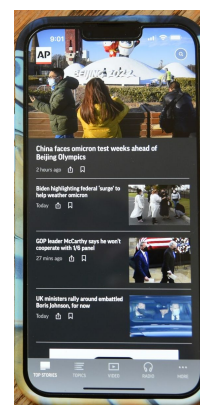
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# Connecting

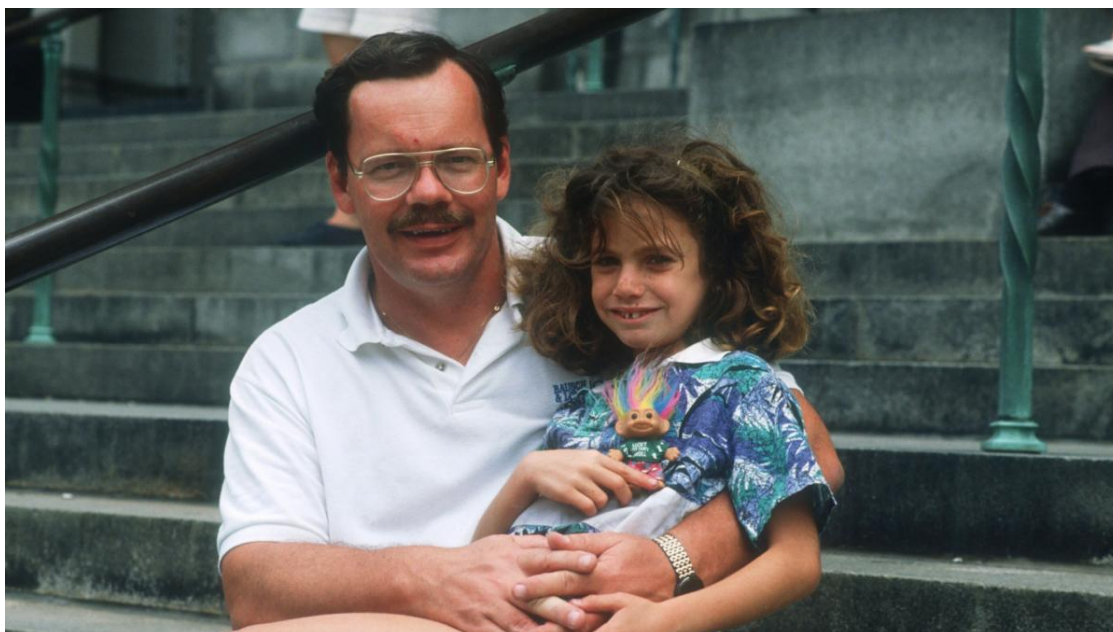
Dec. 4, 2023

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The AP's Terry Anderson and his daughter Sulome after his release from captivity in Lebanon 32 years ago today.

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Dec. 4, 2023,

We're sorry to bring news of the death of our colleague **Roland Prinz**, who spent nearly four decades covering the Cold War and the fall of communism for The Associated Press.

Prinz joined the AP's Vienna bureau in 1967 at a time when the Austrian capital was a hub for coverage of Eastern Europe. He was a mainstay of the bureau until he retired. He died Nov. 20 in Vienna at the age of 85.

**Today is especially significant for one of our colleagues and his Associated Press family and all the journalism world.**

From The History Channel, in its [lead story](#) today that includes a story and two videos:

*On December 4, 1991, Islamic militants in Lebanon released kidnapped American journalist Terry Anderson after 2,454 days in captivity.*

*As chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, Anderson covered the long-running civil war in Lebanon (1975-1990). On March 16, 1985, he was kidnapped on a west Beirut street while leaving a tennis court. His captors took him to the southern suburbs of the city, where he was held prisoner in an underground dungeon for the next six-and-a-half years.*

[Terry](#) is a Connecting colleague, beloved by the many who know him. Daughter [Sulome](#) – pictured with her dad above – is a journalist and author, based between New York City and Beirut.

**AUTHORS! AUTHORS!** – This is to announce the annual Connecting issue featuring books published in the past year that were written by Connecting colleagues. I will be aiming to publish the listing during the second week of the month. Thanks to a half dozen of you who have already submitted material on your book.

So...if you have written a book in the past year, please send me: 350-word summary of the book and a jpg image of the cover, and a jpg headshot image of you. **DEADLINE is Friday, Dec. 8.**

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

**Associated Press correspondent Roland Prinz, who spent decades covering Europe, dies at age 85**



In this undated family handout, Roland Prinz shares a laugh with former Vienna bureau chief Alison Smale in Vienna. Prinz, who was born as armies began marching across central Europe then spent nearly four decades covering the Cold War and the fall of communism for The Associated Press, has died it was announced Friday, Dec 1, 2023. He was 85. (Family Handout via AP)

**BY DANICA KIRKA**

VIENNA (AP) — Roland Prinz, who was born as armies began marching across central Europe then spent nearly four decades covering the Cold War and the fall of communism for The Associated Press, has died. He was 85.

Prinz was a linchpin of the AP's coverage of the turmoil that accompanied the end of the Cold War, starting with the rise of Solidarity in Poland, stretching through the Velvet Revolution in the Czech Republic, the fall of the Berlin Wall and finally the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Throughout his career, Prinz was a gentlemanly presence in the news service's Vienna bureau, helping newcomers navigate life in the Austrian capital and guiding coverage with his broad knowledge of central Europe.

A team player, Prinz, who died on Nov. 20 in Vienna, was always anxious to contribute to stories, regardless of whether he got the byline, said former Vienna bureau chief Robert Reid.

"Roland was an old school Central European, a gentleman of courtly manners and deep personal warmth behind a dignified, sometimes gruff, exterior," Reid said. "He was an accomplished linguist with a deep knowledge of English grammar that sometimes surpassed that of native-speaking reporters and editors."

Born July 11, 1938 in Varnsdorf, a town in what was then Czechoslovakia, Prinz was almost immediately caught up in the geopolitical conflicts that gripped Europe for most of his life. Months later, Nazi Germany sent troops into Varnsdorf and the rest of what was known as the Sudetenland, using the region's large ethnic German population as a pretext for the aggression that later triggered World War II.

The son of a forester, Prinz was the youngest of three children. The family moved to what is now northern Slovenia in 1942 and later to Carinthia, the southernmost state of Austria. As World War II was coming to a close, his father returned to Slovenia. He never came home.

The years that followed were marked by poverty. Prinz's mother, who was deaf, worked in a pencil factory and a school kitchen to support her children. An uncle stepped in to help support Prinz through secondary school.

After military service, Prinz began pursuing his love of languages, taking on a series of jobs to finance six years of study as an English interpreter. He met his future wife, Eva-Maria Trimmel, toward the end of his studies and the two bonded over their shared love of language. They married in 1968, and he remained devoted to her until her death in 1988.

He is survived by the couple's two daughters, Barbara Vanek and Nina Lamel.

Prinz joined the AP's Vienna bureau in 1967 at a time when the Austrian capital was a hub for coverage of Eastern Europe. He was a mainstay of the bureau until he retired.

His career stretched from the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia that stamped out an early drive for reform in 1968 to the mass protests that finally tore down the Iron Curtain two decades later.

Amid these pressures, Prinz considered one of his greatest triumphs to be a story he didn't write, according to former Vienna bureau chief Alison Smale. She recounted the greatest story never told at Prinz's Nov. 28 funeral.

Soon after young people took to the streets of Prague in November 1989 at the start of what became known as the Velvet Revolution, the protesters were gripped with fear amid reports that a student named Martin Schmid had been killed.

While rivals accepted the reports at face value, Prinz and Prague correspondent Ondrej Hejma called every hospital in the Czech capital through the night to find a corpse. There was none. The lie was exposed.



**Roland Prinz is shown in the AP bureau in Vienna, in this undated family handout.**

“He was a stickler for accuracy and fairness,” John Daniszewski, AP’s editor at large for standards, said. “He represented the highest values of AP journalism.”

Prinz tried to instill that same attention to detail to the young reporters he mentored.

When editing a story, he would take time to explain everything that was wrong with it, then soften the critique by saying, “Don’t worry, these are things I can fix,” recalled Andrea Dudik, a former correspondent in Bratislava, the Slovak capital.

“I was at first scared of him, but he was the kindest person,” said Dudik, now the senior reporter for Central and Eastern Europe for Bloomberg News. “He was very caring and protective of me. I always felt so special.”

His difficult early life also gave Prinz sympathy for others suffering similar dislocation.

Former AP Sarajevo correspondent Aida Cerkez recalled her first visit to the Vienna bureau after joining the AP during the siege of the Bosnian capital. Upon arrival, Prinz presented her with a Sacher Torte, the legendary Viennese chocolate cake that comes in a small wooden box.

“Imagine coming from the siege, no water, no food, no electricity ... you come to your superior’s office, you know the names but those names get a face for the first time. You are scared, embarrassed because of your old and ugly clothes and someone puts a cake in your lap,” Cerkez said. “Priceless.”

After his retirement, Prinz devoted time to his passion for foreign languages. He studied French, Italian and Spanish at the same time, making new friends along the way.

He also spent time with his grandchildren Christoph Lamel, Jakob Lamel and Miriam Vanek, often cooking for them after school. Grandpa's apple strudel was a favorite.

"Even though his life was marked by difficult times and strokes of fate, he always fought his way back," his daughter Nina said. "He sought and found balance in his beloved garden. His cherry tree in particular was his pride and joy; he couldn't rest until the last cherry was harvested and preserved."

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Rhonda Shafner contributed from New York

Click [here](#) for link to this story. (Shared by Robert Reid)

## Rose Ann Robertson, former AP newswoman, dies at 72

**Deborah Mesce** - Rose Ann Robertson, who worked for the AP for 10 years in Chicago, Nebraska, New York, and Washington, DC, died on Nov. 28 from complications of kidney cancer. She was 72.

She joined the AP in Chicago in 1983 and later worked as a national editor in New York, news editor in Nebraska, and national editor in Washington, DC. Before the AP, she worked as a reporter for the Charleston Times-Courier, the Mattoon, IL Gazette, the Champaign Urbana News-Gazette, and the Milwaukee Journal.

Rose Ann left the AP in 1993 to join American University in Washington, DC, to teach news writing, editing, and media studies courses. She spent 24 years at the university, rising to senior associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Communication.



She retired in 2017 as senior associate dean and moved to Macedonia, OH, where she spent much of her free time helping transport and rescue abandoned dogs.

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**Dan Day** - Rose Ann and I first crossed paths in Milwaukee, where she was a copy editor at The Milwaukee Journal and I was a rookie in the Milwaukee bureau. A few years later, when I was correspondent and later bureau chief in Omaha, she was news editor.

Rose Ann was an outstanding editor and a steady and reliable colleague who kept her cool no matter what mayhem was happening in Nebraska. In those days, Bob Kerry was governor and had been dating actress Debra Winger. Rose Ann had a crush on

Kerry and finally, gleefully got to meet him one year at the Omaha Press Club's annual gridiron show and ball.

As I headed west and she headed east to the Washington bureau and eventually to American University, Rose Ann and I fell out of touch. But I'll never forget the contributions she made to the AP and her delightful friendship.

Click [here](#) for her CaringBridge page.

## Recalling Justice Sandra Day O'Connor



Justice O'Connor with Sylvia Costelloe.

[Kevin Costelloe](#) - I was covering the Supreme Court with Dick Carelli (one of the AP's truly great correspondents) when Sandra Day O'Connor was nominated by President Reagan in 1981. I was assigned to tail the nominee as she made the rounds on Capitol Hill for talks with various senators on the Judiciary Committee, and at the White House. I even met up with her in hallways and elevators.

One evening around then my wife, Barbara, and I ran into soon-to-be-Justice O'Connor in the television department of the now-defunct Woodward & Lothrop.

Without missing a beat, Mrs. O'Connor looked at me, smiled and said: "Kevin, if you are here, then I know I'm in the right place."

Those were different times: she was just out TV-shopping by herself despite all of the massive news coverage of her nomination.

Postscript: our daughter, Sylvia Costelloe, attended two lectures Justice O'Connor gave when she was studying law at the University of Oxford 28 years later. Sylvia was also able to meet Justice O'Connor and have the picture above taken together.

Sylvia, who lives in Los Angeles, is now an Associate (and soon to be Counsel) at ArentFox Schiff LLP. Nine years into her legal career, Sylvia still remembers feeling very inspired by Justice O'Connor's tenacity and the obstacles she had to overcome as a woman in the legal profession. She is grateful to have met such an impressive woman.

## Remembering my time in the NY Buro

**Kim Mills** - I started my AP career in 1981 as an intern in the NY buro when I was in grad school at NYU. I was privileged to work with some of the greatest – and craziest – AP reporters of that era: Jerry Schwartz, Rick Hampson, Judie Glave, Ula Ilyntsky, Larry McShane, Tom Kelly, Gary Langer, Rick Pieniak, Joyce Rosenberg, John Doyle, Sam Maull, Marlene Aig, Jack Shanahan ... it was a wild and talented bunch. First Jim Donna and later Sam Boyle were the buro chiefs during my tenure. Bob Monroe was the news editor, gruff in the style of "The Front Page." He nearly scared me out of the AP during my internship, but we later became close colleagues.

After my internship, I did a few stints on different desks as a vacation relief staffer, which meant I worked for the wire service for six months minus one day before being let go so that AP didn't have to make me a regular employee with benefits. Eventually, however, I was hired onto the General Desk but moved back to the NY buro after a couple of years so I could do some real reporting. There were so many great stories to cover back then – Abbie Hoffman's surrender after years on the lam, the Preppy Murder in Central Park, arrest of the Mayflower Madam, the reopening of the Statue of Liberty after a long refurbishment, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge, a construction crane falling on a tourist in midtown ... I could go on.

One standout during my time in the NY buro wasn't a story I wrote but one I passed on. I was weekend supervisor one Sunday when this stranger sauntered into the bureau – those were the innocent days of no building security at 50 Rock – and approached my desk. He was wearing a jacket and tie but his white shirt was unbuttoned almost to the navel, revealing about a half-dozen gold chains around his neck. "Hi, I'm Sy Presten," he announced, "and I've got a story for you about Madonna." He handed me a press release that looked like it had been typed on a 1935 Royal McBee whose ribbon had not been changed in a decade. Every a, o and e was filled in and the lines were jagged, but the letterhead said Sy Presten Public Relations. The release claimed that Penthouse was about to publish nude pictures of Madonna, who had just released her second album the year before. Presten claimed he represented Bob Guccione, Penthouse's publisher.

"Do you have a copy of the magazine?" I asked.

No, he said, not yet.

"Can you send our desk copies of the photos?"

No, he said.



I thanked him for the release and the “news.” Given that it was a Sunday and this was 1985, there was no easy way to check out Presten’s claim -- and I had no idea who this sketchy PR guy was – I left the equally sketchy press release for the desk to check out on Monday.

When Monday came, I got a call from an angry Bob Monroe. “Why did you pass on the Madonna photos? Everyone else has the story today.” I said the supposed PR guy didn’t seem legitimate to me and the release looked like a joke. (These were also the days when many news desks got pranked by Alan Abel.) “You don’t know who Sy Presten is?” he asked, sounding horrified. Presten was a well-known press agent even back then – he just died last year at age 98.

My punishment for this huge miss was to be placed on the Madonna beat for the next several months, covering her failed attempts to buy apartments in Manhattan because no co-op boards wanted to have to deal with the anticipated publicity.

I left the city desk the next year for AP Washington, where I covered “real” news – like Congress. I never saw Sy Presten again.

## 'Black Sunday' and hijack of Goodyear blimp

[Michael Rubin](#) - I had a good laugh thanks to a recollection spurred by the mention of the 1975 book by some AP staffers, “Black Sunday,” with a plot based on hijacking the Goodyear Blimp.

Less than six months into my time with Associated Press, I had my first AAA wire byline in 1968 with a story about a young man loaded on something or other trying to hijack the Goodyear Blimp from its mooring site near Los Angeles. Dan Tedrick, then the night editor, coached this then-rookie through it and onto the Pms AAA budget.

I can still sort of remember the lede...”In hippie-happy Hollywoodland it was bound to happen — someone tried to hijack the Goodyear Blimp.”

Hope my AP colleagues had some fun and profit from the book and movie, which I guess they can say was based on a true story.

## On Kissinger and censorship

[Henry Bradsher](#) - A problem with Kissinger was his efforts to censor bad news.

I first covered him during President Nixon's 1972 visit to China, meeting him on Air Force One as we flew into China. In 1975, on Air Force One leaving a conference in Helsinki, he fell asleep while we poolers interviewed President Ford.

Three times in the early 1970s, during my post-AP incarnation as an Asia correspondent for The Washington Star, Kissinger phoned my Star editor. He asked

that my reports not be published, or, if run at all, be buried among the grocery ad instead of running on the front page. My editor kept them on the front page.

The first time was in 1971 during West Pakistan's bloody attempt to hold onto the East during the Bangladesh war. Kissinger put out the word in Washington that the USSR was urging India, then helping Bangladeshi rebels, to attack West Pakistan as a distraction.

At the time, the bureau chief in New Delhi for the Soviet agency TASS (and probably a KGB officer) was an old acquaintance of mine. During the 1962 India-China border war, when I was AP bureau chief in Delhi, as president of the South Asia Correspondents Association I had to negotiate coverage access with the Indian government (getting little). A then junior TASS correspondent was my inactive vice president. Later he came back to Delhi as bureau chief.

When I talked with him in 1971, he checked with his embassy officers and assured me that Moscow was not seeking an Indian attack on West Pakistan (as senior State Department officials later wrote that they knew, but Kissinger had insisted on publicly pushing the anti-Soviet line). So I reported, based on unspecified sources with good access, that Kissinger's line was wrong. Kissinger tried to get this killed. He failed.

The second time was in November 1972. Days before the presidential election as Nixon sought to stay in office, Kissinger proclaimed that "peace is at hand" in Vietnam. He had been negotiating secretly with Hanoi. For an American public weary of the war, this was good news that helped Nixon win.

I was in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), reading translations of the local press and talking to long-cultivated sources high in the South Vietnamese government. I learned that it was angry at Kissinger for arranging peace terms with Hanoi, without Saigon's knowledge or approval, that did not assure South Vietnam's survival. But the terms required Saigon's concurrence -- that I reported it would not give.

So peace was not at hand, I cabled. Again, Kissinger was angered, phoning my editor. But the fact that peace was not at hand ran big on The Star's front page.

That deal collapsed, to be followed by Kissinger and Nixon's ordered the heaviest bombing yet of Hanoi. The U.S. withdrawal from the Vietnam war came early the following year, after new negotiations and Washington promises of continuing aid to Saigon that it did not keep.

The third time was in 1973, after the United States had opened a "liaison office" in Beijing (then spelled Peking), headed by George H. W. Bush. (I happened to be vacationing there with my family at the time to see the opening but did not report on it, by the restrictive terms of my vacation visa.) Bush knew nothing of China; Kissinger sent a couple of State Department officers to this office to report on Chinese politics.

From my base in Hong Kong, I closely monitored Chinese affairs (when not reporting wars in Indochina and developments in other Asian countries). I spent hours every day reading official Chinese materials (in English), transcripts of provincial broadcasts, and other pertinent things (unlike most correspondents in Hong Kong who, instead of doing homework, relied on their consulates to interpret developments for them).

By 1973 the Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution that Mao Zedong (then spelled Mao Tse-tung) had unleashed in 1966 to wreck China was widely assumed to be over. Quiet unity existed in China, according to most observers. I saw otherwise. My lonely analysis was that a power struggle continued between Mao's radicals (its leaders were labeled "the gang of four" and jailed when the Cultural Revolution ended after Mao's death in 1976) and administrators headed by Premier Zhou Enlai (then Chou En-lai), who were laboring to keep the country running.

My articles about this conflict, citing evidence that included obscure criticism of the U.S., were contrary to the calm unity that the State Department acolytes that Kissinger had sent to Beijing were reporting.

Kissinger wanted the public to believe that his policy of quiet, unquestioned relations with a unified China was working well. He asked my editor to kill my reporting. The editor did not.

Incidentally, at the time some Star material was distributed as part of The New York Times News Service. Hong Kong's leading English-language newspapers that received it, wary of reporting trouble in the mainland, began using my bylined reports. Pass the blame.

## A shot of Peg Simpson



**Barbara Worth** - As a follow-up to your posting about the Nat Geo doc featuring witnesses to the JFK assassination and Oswald killing, I thought you might like this picture of Peg Simpson. I snapped it last week after she spoke to and answered questions from members of Dupont Circle Village here in DC.

## Today in History ... and the rest of the 'story'

**Bruce Lowitt** - I read Connecting every day, including Today in History.

And because I have a twisted sense of humor (my brain belongs in formaldehyde in a jar in a lab), I go through the history, pick out a few items once in a while and add a sentence or two to them for my own amusement and that of some friends.

(This could go in the "What we do after we retire Department" but not really.) I call them Today in Hystery.

Anyway, I thought you'd like to see examples of my mustiness. These came from Tuesday's Connecting:

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began conferring in Tehran during World War II. (Mostly they bitched about the Iranian food, especially the Tahchin, which gave them heartburn.)

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet. (It was flying at 39 miles per second, which is why it missed the "Mars, 1 mile" sign and exit ramp.)

In 2016, the first commercial flight from the United States to Havana in more than 50 years arrived in Cuba as the island began week-long memorial services for Fidel Castro. (The 50-year delay was caused by passengers arguing with flight attendants over bringing their emotional support chickens on board.)

***BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER***

**AP lives from Gaza, Israel, West Bank, Egypt, Lebanon border provide footage for media around the world**



Since the beginning of the war, maintaining live coverage from Gaza, Egypt, Israel, the West Bank and the Israel-Lebanon border has been challenging. But our journalists in the region have risen to the challenge, using creative solutions to provide customers with round-the-clock coverage.

Once the ground operation started and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians evacuated northern Gaza, including our own crew, having a live of the north of the Gaza Strip where much of the fighting was taking place was key from a journalistic and competitive point of view.

With no options inside of northern Gaza, the team secured a position in southern Israel, from which it was possible to see the airstrikes, the destruction of buildings and the devastating effects of the war in Gaza. The live has remained up 24/7 for more than a month.

In recent days, when the ceasefire and exchange of hostages for prisoners began, the crews in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel were deployed to cover all possible points to be able to see the live release of hostages/prisoners and reunions with families.

Read more [here](#).

***BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER***

**AP scores major scoop on prison stabbing of former officer Derek Chauvin**



Strong sourcing on the federal prisons beat led to a major scoop on the Derek Chauvin stabbing, putting AP ahead of all other news organizations for nearly an hour and becoming the most-read news story on APNews.com for the week, with nearly 1 million page views.

It started with a call from a longtime source to law enforcement reporter Michael Sisak, alerting him that yet another high-profile inmate had been attacked in a federal prison. Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd, had been stabbed at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Arizona. Sisak, whose reporting has exposed myriad issues in the federal prison system, quickly worked to gather additional details and fleshed out a story providing key context about prior incidents at the prison and security and staffing concerns that preceded the attack.

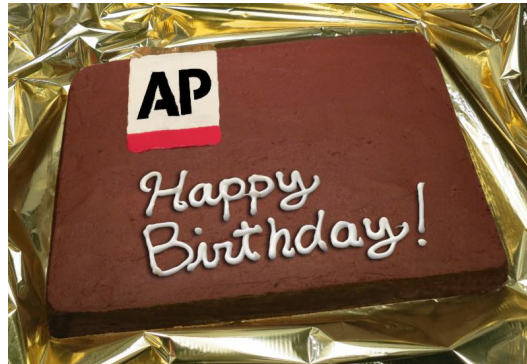
When he received the tip, Sisak reached out to law enforcement editor Mike Balsamo, and the two began calling additional sources for additional details. At the same time, Sisak began preparing a story with the information he had and important background about systemic issues in the federal prison system, many of which have been exposed by AP reporting.

The Bureau of Prisons confirmed an inmate had been attacked at the prison but would not provide any other information. Sisak went back to the source and learned additional details, including that Chauvin had been stabbed by another inmate and was seriously injured. AP's news alert moved to the wire at 8:53 p.m., with a 750-word story moving less than a minute later.

AP's news alert echoed around the world, with nearly every major news organization in the U.S. crediting the AP for the scoop. It took nearly an hour for any other news organization to match the AP's reporting, and NBC News, ABC and CNN credited the AP on air. Reuters also attributed the news to the AP in their reporting.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bill Winter](#)

## Connecting '80s/'90s/100 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  
Malcolm Barr  
Henry Bradsher  
Hal Buell  
Joseph Carter  
Phil Dopoulos  
Albert Habhab  
Hoyt Harwell  
Gene Herrick  
Joe McGowan  
Charlie Monzella  
Bob Petsche  
Arlon Southall  
Lou Uchitelle  
Sal Veder



**Doris Webster  
Joe Young  
Arnold Zeitlin**

**80s:**

**Hank Ackerman  
Paul Albright  
Rachel Ambrose  
Peter Arnett  
Harry Atkins  
Frank Aukofer  
Jim Bagby  
Myron Belkind  
Ed Bell  
Dan Berger  
Adolphe Bernotas  
Brian Bland  
Lou Boccardi  
Hal Bock  
William Roy Bolch Jr.  
Ed Breen  
David Briscoe  
Ben Brown  
Charles Bruce  
Ford Burkhart  
Harry Cabluck  
Sibby Christensen  
Shirley Christian  
Norm Clarke  
Steve Crowley  
Don Dashiell  
Bob Daugherty  
Linda Deutsch  
Mike Doan**

**Bob Dobkin**  
**Bob Dubill**  
**Harry Dunphy**  
**John Eagan**  
**Claude Erbsen**  
**Mike Feinsilber**  
**Dodi Fromson**  
**Joe Galu**  
**Bill Gillen**  
**Steve Graham**  
**Bob Greene**  
**Jerry Harkavy**  
**Paul Harrington**  
**Mike Harris**  
**Chick Harrity**  
**Merrill Hartson**  
**Frank Hawkins**  
**Monte Hayes**  
**Jerry Jackson**  
**Spencer Jones**  
**Doug Kienitz**  
**Dean Lee**  
**Pierce Lehmbeck**  
**Warren Lerude**  
**Edie Lederer**  
**Carl Leubsdorf**  
**Jim Limbach**  
**Bruce Lowitt**  
**David Liu**  
**Jim Luther**  
**Larry Margasak**  
**John Marlow**  
**Dave Mazzarella**  
**Chuck McFadden**  
**Yvette Mercourt**  
**Reid Miller**  
**Karren Mills**

**David Minthorn**  
**Peggy Mooney**  
**Bill Morrissey**  
**Harry Moskos**  
**Ron Mulnix**  
**Bruce Nathan**  
**Greg Nokes**  
**Larry Paladino**  
**Jay Perkins**  
**Lyle Price**  
**Charles Richards**  
**Bruce Richardson**  
**Carl Robinson**  
**Mort Rosenblum**  
**Frank Russell**  
**Denis Searles**  
**Richard Shafer**  
**Susanne Shaw**  
**Mike Short**  
**Victor Simpson**  
**Rick Spratling**  
**Ed Staats**  
**Karol Stonger**  
**Barry Sweet**  
**Mark Thayer**  
**Marty Thompson**  
**Hilmi Toros**  
**Kernan Turner**  
**Jeffrey Ulbrich**  
**Jack Walker**  
**Mike Waller**  
**Bob Walsh**  
**Dean Wariner**  
**Don Waters**  
**Lew Wheaton**  
**Jeff Williams**  
**Byron Yake**

**Johnny Yost**  
**Kent Zimmerman**

## Stories of interest

***Opinion What Sports Illustrated's BotGate really means for journalism*** (Washington Post)

By Josh Tyrangiel

If you still think of Sports Illustrated as a paragon of stylish longform journalism, I have two terrible pieces of news for you: 1. SI is down to just a few flimsy issues a year. It lurches forward mostly on online listicles and the last few people who think swimsuits are the apex of erotica. 2. Paid subscribers no longer receive a sneaker phone.

SI has been a zombie title long enough that it's worth recapping why it's suddenly in the news: Reporter Maggie Harrison of the tech site Futurism discovered multiple stories on SI.com that featured bylines with artificial-intelligence-generated headshots. Harrison then raised the very logical possibility that the stories fronted by AI-generated people were also written by AI.

The Arena Group, which leases the husk of the Sports Illustrated brand from an equally careless company, Authentic Brands Group, released a dubious statement claiming the stories were not AI-written and blamed the existence of the fake people on a contractor, AdVon Commerce. AdVon's business model appears to be licensing crappy editorial pieces to lazy websites to run near ads you might accidentally click on. Oh, and its founder has bragged about his machine-learning and AI skills. The tl/dr version of this paragraph is: Yuck.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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***'Bad Press' Review: Defending Journalism in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation*** (New York Times)

By Nicolas Rapold

In "Bad Press," you witness the moment when the Muscogee (Creek) Nation loses true freedom of the press. It happens with shocking speed: the Muscogee National Council, in a listless 7-6 vote in 2018, repeals the tribe's Free Press Act. The battle to claw back this right is the nerve-racking subject of this civic-minded documentary directed by Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, a Muscogee journalist, and Joe Peeler.

The film's scrappy hero is Angel Ellis, a reporter for Mvskoke Media who has faced intimidation tactics while covering cases of embezzlement and sexual harassment. When the repeal puts her employer under tribal government oversight and its radio show shuts down, she makes the risky decision to speak out and rally for a constitutional amendment to enshrine freedom of the press. Such protections, the film explains, are rare among North American tribes.

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

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## ***The lost story of World War II's US troop newspapers***

(Orange County Register)

By Peter Larsen

The Orange County Register (TNS)

"The War of Words" by Molly Guptill Manning. Blackstone. 250 pages. \$25.99..

They gave their newspapers names like the Snarkyville Gazette, Bull Sheet, Scars and Gripes, and the Sunday Mud and Mildew.

Their stories clackety-clacked out of battle-scarred typewriters in war zones around the world to be published on beatup mimeograph machines.

And yes, enemy bombing raids sometimes delayed publication and ingenuity was often required to keep the presses running. Insect repellent mixed with black shoe polish might take the place of ink. When newsprint ran out, the blank backs of company memos and motor pool invoices filled in nicely.

"It just shows you how precious freedom of the press really is," says Molly Guptill Manning, author of "The War of Words: How America's GI Journalists battled Censorship and Propaganda to Help Win World War II."

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

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## ***News outlets turn to Reddit as Musk's X descends into chaos***

(Washington Post)

Story by Taylor Lorenz

Last week, Business Insider published a lengthy story about Parade, an underwear start-up that was sold to lingerie manufacturer Ariela & Associates International this past summer. The piece focused on Parade's young CEO, Cami Téllez, and her struggles running a start-up while being held to high standards as a female founder and woman of color.

Much of the piece centered on the journalist's conflicted feelings about writing the story itself and how she struggled to balance her role as a reporter against her concerns about takedowns of female founders.

So it surprised many when Business Insider began promoting the story in a well-known influencer "snark" subreddit this week. Most subreddits are harmless, but snark communities have been tied to stalking, doxing, and mob behavior. While snark subreddits ostensibly are dedicated to gossip, they frequently devolve into networked harassment against women.

"[Snark subreddits] are for the express purpose of taking out your annoyance on someone," said Kate Lindsay, co-founder of the online culture newsletter Embedded. "They're a place where the most horrible things about women are allowed, especially in recent years."

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

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## ***Pioneering Latina public radio journalist Maria Martin dies at 72*** (NPR)

Radio journalist Maria Emilia Martin, a former NPR colleague who created the radio show Latino USA, has died in Austin, Texas. She was 72 years old, and died after a recent operation.

For nearly half a century, Martin brought the voices of Latin Americans and Latinos in this country to public radio. She reported on politics, violence and resilience of indigenous communities in Central America. Most recently, she filed reports from Guatemala.

Martin was born in Mexico City and grew up in California. She got her start at KBBF in Santa Rosa, Calif., the first Latino-owned community radio station in the U.S. Later, she was an editor on NPR's national show Latin File, before becoming the network's first and only Latin American affairs editor on the national desk.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - Dec. 4, 2023**



**Today is Monday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2023. There are 27 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlights in History:**

On Dec. 4, 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins gathered for the first and only time for a jam session at Sun Records in Memphis.

### **On this date:**

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles (vehr-SY') Peace Conference.

In 1942, during World War II, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in a raid on Naples.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1980, the bodies of four American churchwomen slain in El Salvador two days earlier were unearthed. (Five Salvadoran national guardsmen were later convicted of murdering nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel, and lay worker Jean Donovan.)

In 1986, both houses of Congress moved to establish special committees to conduct investigations of the Iran-Contra affair.

(In 1991, the AP's Terry Anderson is released from captivity. See above.)

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush ordered American troops to lead a mercy mission to Somalia, threatening military action against warlords and gangs who were blocking food for starving millions.

In 1995, the first NATO troops landed in the Balkans to begin setting up a peace mission that brought American soldiers into the middle of the Bosnian conflict.

In 2000, in a pair of legal setbacks for Al Gore, a Florida state judge refused to overturn George W. Bush's certified victory in Florida and the U.S. Supreme Court set aside a ruling that had allowed manual recounts.

In 2016, a North Carolina man armed with a rifle fired several shots inside Comet Ping Pong, a Washington, D.C., pizzeria, as he attempted to investigate an online conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were harboring child sex slaves at the restaurant; no one was hurt, and the man surrendered to police. (He was later sentenced to four years in prison.)

In 2017, President Donald Trump scaled back two sprawling national monuments in Utah; it was the first time in a half century that a president had undone that type of public land protection.

In 2018, long lines of people wound through the Capitol Rotunda to view the casket of former President George H.W. Bush.

In 2021, CNN fired anchor Chris Cuomo less than a week after new information emerged about how he assisted his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as the politician faced sexual harassment allegations earlier in the year.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Wink Martindale is 90. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 87. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 86. Actor Gemma Jones is 81. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 81. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 79. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 76. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 75. Actor Jeff Bridges is 74. Actor Patricia Wettig is 72. Actor Tony Todd is 69. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 68. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 68. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 61. Actor Marisa Tomei is 59. Actor Chelsea Noble is 59. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 57. Rapper Jay-Z is 54. Actor Kevin Sussman is 53. Actor-model Tyra Banks is 50. Country singer Lila McCann is 42. Actor Lindsay Felton is 39. Actor Orlando Brown is 36. MLB pitcher Joe Musgrove is 31. Actor Scarlett Estevez (TV: "Lucifer") is 16.

## 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 Central Region 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?

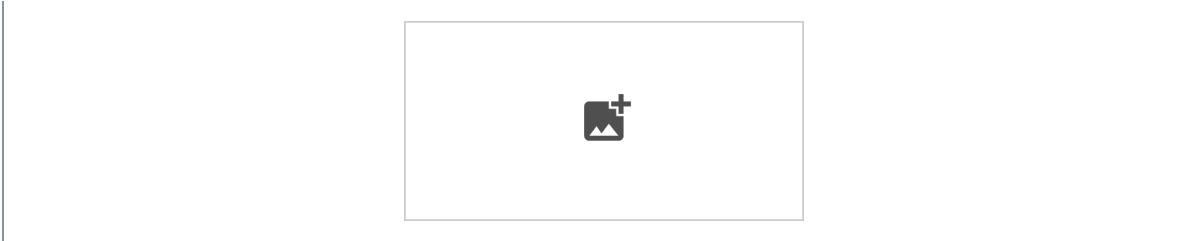
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

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