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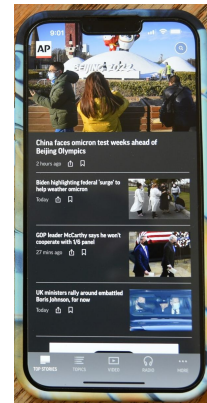
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# Connecting

Dec. 8, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Dec. 8, 2023,

The AP's **Julie Pace** spoke last night as Northern Kentucky University's 2023 AP speaker, continuing a 15-year tradition of bringing an AP journalist to campus to discuss current events, public affairs and how AP covers them.

In our lead story by **Shae Meade** of The Northerner, NKU's student newspaper, we bring you an account of the AP's top editor discussing the challenges facing the AP and the industry from AI.

In the spirit of the season, we share the photo above taken by AP photographer **Anja Niedringhaus** that shows hundreds of U.S. Marines gathered at Camp Commando in the Kuwait desert during a Christmas Eve visit by Santa Claus in 2002.

It was shared by Anja's mother, **Heide Ute Niedringhaus-Schulz**. Anja died in 2014 when an Afghan policeman opened fire on her car in eastern Afghanistan while she was covering the Afghan elections. Her friend and AP colleague **Kathy Gannon** was seriously wounded in the attack but recovered, served as AP news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan before retiring from the AP in 2022, and is a Connecting colleague.

**BOOKS EDITION DEADLINE:** A final reminder that today is the deadline for your submission to the annual Connecting issue featuring books published in the past year that were written by Connecting colleagues. If you have written a book in the past year and would like to share it with colleagues, please send me: 350-word summary of the book and a jpg image of the cover, and a jpg headshot image of you. The books roundup will run next week.

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

Paul

## AP's Julie Pace discusses challenges of AI in speech at Northern Kentucky University



Photo by Sydney Bellm, assistant photo editor, *The Northerner*.

**Shae Meade** - A 15-year long tradition continued Thursday evening as Julie Pace, executive editor of The Associated Press, spoke at the Six@Six Lecture Series, an event run by Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement. At this event, Pace discussed the challenges that the industry of journalism faces, especially in the age of technology.

Before the lecture, Pace met with journalism and electronic media and broadcast students for a question-and-answer session where similar discussion took place. Students were curious to know the connections between theories on cultivation and algorithms, as well as how the Associated Press is working to uphold non-partisan standards with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI).

Many of these students, as well as community members, met in NKU's digitorium that evening to further the discussion and bring in new conversation. Pace broke down three of the main challenges in journalism today:

How does the AP uphold its mission to provide non-partisan news in a divided world?  
With the rise of misinformation, how does the AP prioritize fact?  
What are the positives and negatives to AI and its use in journalism?

Pace started the conversation with a breakdown of the history of the AP. By understanding where the business got its start, Pace was able to showcase how the AP's values are integrated into the work it produces. Emphasis on the business model of the AP and its need to reach audiences of all backgrounds and opinions are key reasons why the business strives for non-partisanship. If a partisan position is taken, the audience that can be reached is lessened. For the Associated Press to succeed, it needs to reach a variety of audiences and to do that is to focus on facts, not opinion.

With that, Pace introduced the discussion of how misinformation, and the rise of it due to technology, can lead to challenges in the focus on facts. Pace brought in the conversation from the student question and answer session about the power of algorithms. Once someone interacts with misinformation, algorithms will continue to show misinformation in their feeds. From there, it “becomes all consuming,” said Pace.

Because misinformation can spread so quickly, Pace and the AP are committed to showing their work to their audiences, not repeating misinformation and reaching people where they are through a variety of platforms.

The added challenge of AI made it to Pace’s list of struggles within the industry of journalism.

“If we were having this conversation a year ago, AI would probably not have been on here as one of the top challenges facing the news industry,” Pace says.

Pace discussed the need to be a part of the conversation with AI companies to help the industry move forward in an ever-changing world of technology, as well as the benefits to the integration of the two.

Questions from the audience revolved around the AP’s coverage of the current wars as well as what the addition of AI could look like in the future.

## Iowa AG Brenna Bird calls for news outlets to cut ties with alleged Hamas-affiliated freelancers

**BY: ROBIN OPSAHL**  
**Iowa Capital Dispatch**

Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird led a coalition of 13 other Republican state attorneys general calling for media organizations to cut ties with Gaza-based journalists with alleged ties to Hamas.

The Republican state attorney general sent a letter Monday to top officials at the New York Times, Associated Press, CNN and Reuters, claiming the news outlets were employing freelancers to assist in coverage of the Israel-Hamas war who have affiliations with Hamas, the Palestinian militant group in control of the Gaza Strip.

The letter cites reporting from the New York Times on Israel’s statement criticizing these four media organizations for employing freelance contributors who Israeli officials claimed had advanced knowledge on the Oct. 7 attack.

Nitzan Chen, the press office director for the Israeli government, wrote a letter in October asking the organizations' Israel bureau chiefs to clarify the behavior of four photojournalists who Israeli officials said arrived at the Israel border "alongside Hamas terrorists, documenting the murder of Israeli civilians, lynching of soldier and kidnappings to Gaza," according to Politico.

The news services have denied allegations that they had any forewarning about the Hamas attack, which killed more than 1,200 people.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

## Thinking about and toasting Jack each Pearl Harbor Memorial day

[Kevin Noblet](#) - I'm too young to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor, but I knew an old army vet in New Orleans who was shot through the butt-cheeks by a Japanese fighter plane that morning.

Jack Loftus would proudly tell anyone who sat next to him in his favorite French Quarter bar how the cavalry still had real horses when he joined it before the war. If he liked you, he'd tell you about how he was stationed in Hawaii when the sneak attack happened, and how he curled up against a street curb when the Zeros swooped down. It was the only protection he saw when they started spraying machine-gun fire.

He might have joked about how that curb "saved his ass," or how it didn't, but that wasn't Jack. He was a grizzled, old-fashioned, ramrod-straight gentleman who blushed when the female bartenders used profanity. (They often did.)

In the early 1980's Jack was one of the colorful regulars at Bonaparte's Retreat on New Orleans' Decatur Street. Another was little Victor, who clerked at the street's adult bookstore. From the Philippines, Victor was full of conspiracies and talked a mile a minute. As a counterbalance to him there was Puddin' Head, an ancient worker at the nearby French Market who always fell asleep on his stool, head drooped over his beer glass, his long red nose dripping into it.

I was a regular, too, because of one of the bartenders, pretty Joan Bolduc, who became my wife.

Back to Jack. I often sat with him as he drank whiskey and lined up the little plastic swizzle sticks, one per glass, on the varnished bar. He grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania, he told me. As a boy, to escape his father's beatings, he got on a bike and rode it hundreds of miles to Boy's Town in Nebraska. They took him in. When he was of age he enlisted and the army became his life.

He was in his 70's when I met him, collecting a paltry pension and getting what passed for medical care at the local VA hospital. He had bad arthritis in his spine. He had a son who lived somewhere in New Jersey, but they didn't speak.

When he had a half-dozen swizzle sticks piled up, he'd call it a night. If he was wobbly, I'd walk him the half-block to his apartment and, if he needed it, upstairs to his room. When I'd take his shoes off, his toes would pop through the holes in his socks.

I said good-bye to him at the bar when I got transferred to AP's headquarters in New York in 1983. I don't think he lasted many more years. His neck was giving him hell—he'd had surgery on it that left a big, raw scar below his hairline—and it was getting hard to walk or climb those stairs.

Bonaparte's didn't last all that much longer, either. Now it's another T-shirt shop. In any case, I still think about him on Pearl Harbor Day. Sometimes I mix up a whisky drink and toast him.

## More memories of NYC bureau

[George Walsh](#) - Reading Joyce Rosenberg's recollection reminded me that much of my career in New York was NYC buro adjacent until it was very direct.

A colleague and I were in the Nyack newsroom at Gannett's Rockland Journal-News on Oct. 20, 1981, when the scanner lit up with reports of automatic weapons fire and officers down. The hit on a Brinks truck would be my beat for several years as the paper's court reporter. That day I handled the tick-tock and was sent home to take the lead on the second day. Then to the trials in state and federal courts. AP White Plains correspondent Marlene Aig and I spent a lot of time waiting in marble hallways. I drove to work over the Tappan Zee listening to my stories read almost verbatim on the radio. To this day I assume those were straight lifts by the radio newsrooms rather than pickups by NYC.

Anyway, after another couple of decades as an editor and manager at family-owned papers in New York I landed in 2006 at ALN as the day supe. We were, of course, joined closely with NYC and Kiley Armstrong in particular helped me navigate the art of filing to the wire. A few years on I was at the helm in Albany with responsibilities that included state government coverage.

My first visits to NYC were for elections. Then-COB Howard Goldberg schooled me in race calling, an experience I later passed on to Malcolm Ritter. The arc was complete when I was sent down a couple of times to stand in for James Martinez and Amanda Barrett and 'run' the buro. Run in quotes because that crew in any incarnation didn't need running. One morning during my first visit in March 2015 there was an explosion downtown. An explosion. Downtown. Oy. OK. Sent Verena Dobnik with photo staff. Jon Lemire at City Hall asked if he could go as de Blasio was on his way. Ummm. Yes. (Jon sent in the first photo from the scene) Jenn Peltz and Kiley on rewrite. Then I stood there and watched them work, without words, a machine. Keep the bosses informed, photo and video in the loop. Recalled the very able Long Island stringer Mike Balsamo to babysit the scene overnight. The story turned out to be a double-fatal explosion caused by an illegal gas hookup.

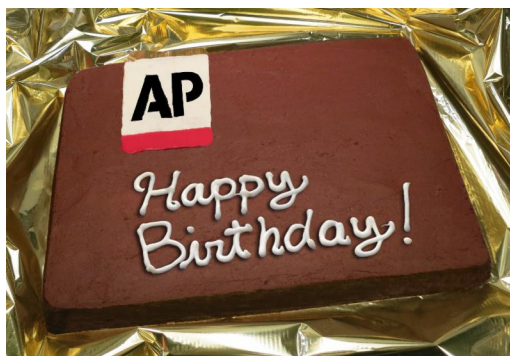
A second stint was more mundane by NYC standards, highlighted by a New Jersey commuter train overrunning its landing and crashing into a station. Finally, Election Night 2016. Walking from my hotel to the HQ, then on the West Side, a bright-eyed young woman asked directions to Hillary Clinton's rally. Head that way, find Lincoln Center and you'll hear the noise. So. As to the question of whether all this led to bigger things. In a sense. My job was eliminated a month later.

## New-member profile: Kevin Goldberg

**Kevin Goldberg** is the First Amendment specialist at the Freedom Forum, where he works to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and oversees the Freedom Forum's network of experts. Prior to joining the Freedom Forum, he served as vice president, legal for the Digital Media Association (DiMA), which represents the world's leading audio streaming companies. Before DiMA, Goldberg spent 25 years in private practice at two law firms where he focused on First Amendment, FOIA and intellectual property issues for clients including the News Leaders Association (the former Associated Press Media Editors and American Society of News Editors), Association of Alternative Newsmedia, World Press Freedom Committee and Global Investigative Journalism Network, providing legislative advocacy, litigation strategy as well as training on free speech, free press and open government issues. Goldberg also taught a class in journalism and First Amendment law for seven years at George Mason University and has spoken at events sponsored by the State Department and nonprofits in more than a dozen countries around the world.



## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



**Dennis Redmont**

*On Saturday to...*

[Howard Goldberg](#)

*On Sunday to...*

[Rachel Ambrose](#)

[Ted Warren](#)

## Stories of Interest

### *Israeli tank fire killed Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah in Lebanon* (Reuters)

By Maya Gebeily, Anthony Deutsch and David Clarke

An Israeli tank crew killed a Reuters journalist and wounded six reporters in Lebanon on Oct. 13 by firing two shells in quick succession from Israel while the journalists were filming cross-border shelling, a Reuters investigation has found.

The two strikes killed Reuters visuals journalist Issam Abdallah, 37, and severely wounded Agence France-Presse (AFP) photographer Christina Assi, 28, just over a kilometre from the Israeli border near the Lebanese village of Alma al-Chaab.

Reuters spoke to more than 30 government and security officials, military experts, forensic investigators, lawyers, medics and witnesses to piece together a detailed account of the incident. The news agency reviewed hours of video footage from eight media outlets in the area at the time and hundreds of photos from before and after the attack, including high-resolution satellite images.

As part of its investigation, Reuters also gathered and obtained evidence from the scene including shrapnel on the ground and embedded in a Reuters car, three flak jackets, a camera, tripod and a large piece of metal.

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

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### *Creating a print chronicle for America's digital age* (Editor and Publisher)

Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher



Keep your eyes peeled for County Highway as you travel around. It'll cost you \$8.50 for a print copy. There is, decidedly, no digital alternative. County Highway is a feature-filled magazine, produced six times a year as a 20-page broadsheet newspaper.

"I had this idea, born out of our flight from the city, due to COVID," Editor David Samuels explained to E&P. As a writer and editor, he's amassed a long catalog of work for magazines like The New Yorker, The Atlantic and Harper's Magazine. "We found ourselves living upstate. It was a really big adjustment for the whole family, but it was also a source of pleasure and made us all rethink who we were and our relation to our neighbors and technology."

At the same time, he was mourning the loss of "print culture" and dreaded much of the toxic "babble" from social sites and corporate-owned media. He wanted to create something fresh, compelling and provocative — a print magazine with the look and feel of a 19th-century newspaper.

He floated the idea by Novelist and Essayist Walter Kirn, who signed on as editor-at-large.

Samuels approached film producer Donald Rosenfeld, someone he'd known for over 25 years, for the publisher role.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion: I reported on Hamas in Gaza for over a decade. Here are the questions I'm asking myself now*** (CNN)

**Opinion by Ilene Prusher**

*Editor's Note: Ilene Prusher is a journalist and author who spent two decades covering the Middle East. She teaches journalism at Florida Atlantic University, where she is the digital director of MediaLab@FAU. The opinions expressed in this commentary are her own. View more opinion on CNN.*

We arrive at Erez Checkpoint. Israeli soldiers thumb through our passports, examine every item in our bags, then wave us through. After a long walk through a barricaded no-man's land, Palestinian officers register our names and passport numbers, then press us for a list of people we're planning to meet. Our Palestinian fixer intervenes, reminds the guys with the guns to be nice to us foreigners, and presto: We're in Gaza. On the list of the three or four people we're scheduled to see in the course of the day is at least one senior official in Hamas.

This is a routine I participated in, on and off, for 16 years of my life while reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the American media throughout the 1990s and 2000s, up until my last trip to Gaza in January 2009 at the end of another Israel-

Hamas war that shocked the world and caused needless death and destruction. Later, in 2014, I covered a far deadlier 50-day Israel-Hamas war for TIME magazine, this time from southern Israel, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, mainly because by then I had two toddlers at home and no longer believed entering Gaza was worth the risk.

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

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## ***Sports Illustrated Owner The Arena Group Cans 2 Execs After AI Debacle*** (The Wrap)

Story by Eileen AJ Connelly

Sports Illustrated's owner fired two top executives in the wake of the scandal that saw the iconic organization post AI-generated content credited to fake authors.

Front Office Sports reported that Andrew Kraft, COO of SI's parent company The Arena Group and Rob Barrett, president of media, were given the boot Wednesday after the organization ended up with egg on its face for not disclosing the nature of the AI-generated reports, first revealed by Futurism.

Kraft joined the company in 2018 as chief revenue officer. Barrett, a veteran of Hearts Newspapers and Yahoo News, was named Arena Group president in 2021.

Futurism reported that a representative said the dismissals were unrelated to the AI scandal. The company said in a statement to Future of Sports that "some adjustments to the business have been made to improve efficiency and revenue, and also some changes to senior management have been made."

The company claimed the reports and fake profiles of the "writers" behind them were licensed content from a third-party company called AdVon Commerce. They were assured the authors were humans, The Arena Group said. The company's finance site TheStreet was also caught up in the scandal. The company also owns Parade and Men's Journal, along with a number of smaller titles, and is in the process of combining with Bridge Media Networks.

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

## **Today in History - Dec. 8, 2023**



**Today is Friday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2023. There are 23 days left in the year.**

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**On this date:**

In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1980, rock star and former Beatle John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by Mark David Chapman.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1991, AIDS patient Kimberly Bergalis, who had contracted the disease from her dentist, died in Fort Pierce, Florida, at age 23.

In 2001, the U.S. Capitol was reopened to tourists after a two-month security shutdown.

In 2008, in a startling about-face, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told the Guantanamo war crimes tribunal he would confess to masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks; four other men also abandoned their defenses.

In 2011, the 161-day NBA lockout ended when owners and players ratified the new collective bargaining agreement.

In 2014, the U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to

topple the Taliban-led government.

In 2016, John Glenn, whose 1962 flight as the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth made him an all-American hero and propelled him to a long career in the U.S. Senate, died in Columbus, Ohio, at age 95.

In 2020, the Supreme Court rejected Republicans' last-gasp bid to reverse Pennsylvania's certification of President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the electoral battleground; the court refused to call into question the certification process in the state.

In 2012, Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.

In 2017, Japanese pitching and hitting star Shohei Ohtani announced that he would sign with the Los Angeles Angels.

In 2022, Russia freed WNBA star Brittney Griner in a high-profile prisoner exchange with the U.S., which released Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 84. Singer Jerry Butler is 84. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 82. Actor Mary Woronov is 80. Actor John Rubinstein is 77. Actor Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 70. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 67. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 66. Country singer Marty Raybon is 64. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 62. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 61. Actor Wendell Pierce is 60. Actor Teri Hatcher is 59. Actor David Harewood is 58. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 57. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Mussina is 55. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 51. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 47. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 45. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 44. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 41. Actor Hannah Ware is 41. Country singer Sam Hunt is 39. MLB All-Star infielder Josh Donaldson is 38. Rock singer-actor wa (VOH'-gehl) is 37. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 34. NHL defenseman Drew Doughty is 34. Actor Wallis Currie-Wood is 32. Actor AnnaSophia Robb is 30.

## 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.

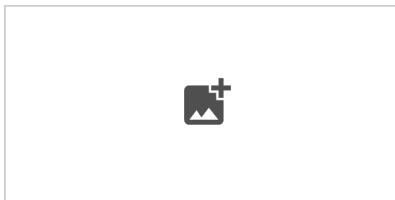
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

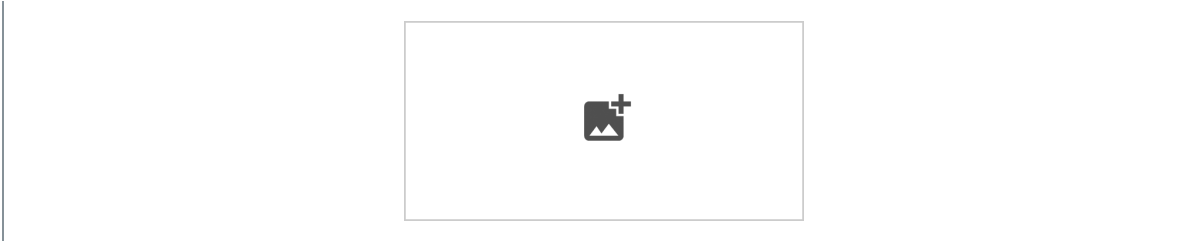
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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



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