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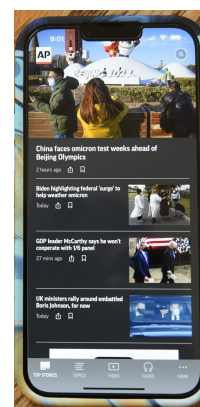
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Connecting

Dec. 14, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Dec. 14, 2023,

A great idea from a Connecting colleague:

“For us slackers who have waited until the last minute to make charitable contributions for 2023, maybe you could ask the Connecting family to suggest nonprofit journalism organizations that need our support.”

I love the idea – and look forward to your suggestions.

Colleague **Mike Holmes** has this suggestion about how to present manipulated AI images: “How about simply calling them “artificial illustrations”?”

With that, we hope for you a great day – be safe, stay healthy and live it to your fullest.

Paul

'Times change and you have to change with them'



Peggy Walsh - The end of the News Leaders Association reminded me of a highlight of Daddy's life - being president of APME in 1963, 60 years ago.

At the time he (Mason Walsh) was managing editor of the now defunct Phoenix Gazette. He later became publisher of both The Arizona Republic and the Gazette.

Without getting into a long family history (which I don't want to do!), I'll just say our family was full of journalists, two at AP, me and my youngest brother Kevin.

Above are a picture of him wearing a newspaper tie I gave him and a cartoon by his longtime friend Bil Keane, famous for his Family Circus comic.

He told me many times how much APME meant to him - the organization, the members and being honored to head it.

But as with his bow tie I know he would say what he always did. "Times change and you have to change with them."



A musical Merry Christmas, colleagues!



Marty Steinberg - Merry Christmas to my former AP colleagues! [This video](#) was from a Dec. 10 performance at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, New Jersey. My quartet played in advance of a concert by the pop group Girl Named Tom. Morristown was a stop on the group's national tour.

Remembering a mentor



The Marriage of Dean and Leona in 1953

[Doug Pizac](#) -- Here is an [obit](#) for famed National Geographic photographer Dean Conger who died in September. He was 96. I was at Geographic in the '70s where he was one of my mentors. I found him to be a wonderful and kind man, and a terrific shooter who was willing to share his knowledge to newbies like me. His wife passed away last July at age 95.

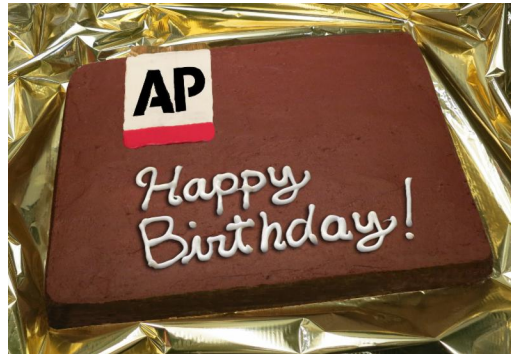
Playing a little catch with Bills' Stefon Diggs



[Charlie Riedel](#) – *AP staff photographer, Kansas City* - Buffalo Bills wide receiver Stefon Diggs likes to have fun with fans before a football game. The Dec. 10th game against the Kansas City Chiefs was no different. Diggs was making his rounds playing catch with fans on the field and in the stands and seemed to take pleasure in catching people off guard. While I was shooting the interaction with the fans, Diggs decided to make me his next target, lobbing the football straight at me. The pass was gentle enough I knew it wouldn't hurt me or damage my camera, so I just focused on

shooting the unique situation and batted the ball aside as it neared my camera. In all, I shot about a 35-frame sequence of the pass.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Joan Mower](#)

Stories of interest

Reporting on war and conflict (Editor and Publisher)

Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher

Tragically, the year comes to an end with the world under the pall of war.

It has been a difficult and deadly year for journalists covering war-torn nations and conflict zones. As of mid-November, 42 journalists had been killed in Gaza; nine others were seriously injured; three journalists were still missing; and 13 journalists had been arrested and detained while covering the war there, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Reporting on war is inherently high-risk, dangerous and challenging in many other ways — logistics and communications, sourcing and finding trustworthy fixers. Sifting through misinformation and disinformation is a daily challenge, as exemplified on Oct. 17 when an explosion leveled Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. Initial reporting in The New York Times and other news media cited Hamas claims it was the result of an Israeli airstrike. In the days following, that proved false, forcing newsrooms to issue contrite corrections.

The New York Times and Associated Press, which enlisted the services of at least two Palestinian freelance photojournalists, felt the public's ire when photos of the reporters circulated online, seemingly showing them among the Hamas militants kidnapping and murdering Israelis on Oct. 7. They — and the outlets that bought their work — were accused of being complicit in the attack. Senator Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) threatened a Congressional investigation.

Like war itself, reporting on it is messy and volatile.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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Started journalism career at AP-Salt Lake City
Former Denver Post journalist Kirk Mitchell remembered as “a dogged reporter,” devoted family man (Denver Post)

By NOELLE PHILLIPS and ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ

Kirk Mitchell relished making sense of a mystery.

It’s no secret how the longtime Denver Post reporter earned himself the nickname Kirk “Cold Case” Mitchell following years of dedicated coverage of unsolved criminal investigations across Colorado, along with writing about the state’s most sensational murders and other mayhem.

Mitchell, who retired from The Post in 2020 after 22 years at the newspaper, died this week in Pennsylvania after battling prostate cancer since 2016. He was 64.

His byline can be found on stories about subjects ranging from the Aurora theater shooting to therapy dogs in prisons to the drug kingpin “El Chapo.”

Oldest son Vance Mitchell said his father was never afraid to meet with convicted killers or interview someone from any walk of life.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Burdick.

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Homeless man allegedly holds Atlanta news crew hostage, threatens to shoot them — before cops show up 90 mins later (New York Post)

By Yaron Steinbuch

A homeless Georgia man has been charged with making terroristic threats for allegedly holding two TV station journalists hostage for 90 minutes – and threatening to shoot them if they called cops or refused to order him food.

Atlanta News First reporter Asia Wilson and photojournalist Lauren Swaim were about to go live from a sheriff’s office parking lot in Jonesboro late Monday when they say

they were cornered by a drunk man claiming to have a handgun.

Despite raising the alarm, it took more than 90 minutes for police to respond and arrest the suspect, Brandon Logan, according to their outraged station.

During that time, Logan “made verbal threats to shoot the victims if they did not order food” or “if they called law enforcement,” Judge Latrevia Kates-Johnson said at his initial court hearing Tuesday, WSB-TV reported.

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

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Researchers compare AI policies and guidelines at 52 news organizations around the world (The Journalist's Resource)

by Clark Merrefield

In July 2022, just a few newsrooms around the world had guidelines or policies for how their journalists and editors could use digital tools that run on artificial intelligence. One year later, dozens of influential, global newsrooms had formal documents related to the use of AI.

In between, artificial intelligence research firm OpenAI launched ChatGPT, a chatbot that can produce all sorts of written material when prompted: lines of code, plays, essays, jokes and news-style stories. Elon Musk and Sam Altman founded OpenAI in 2015, with multibillion dollar investments over the years from Microsoft.

Newsrooms including USA Today, The Atlantic, National Public Radio, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Financial Times have since developed AI guidelines or policies — a wave of recognition that AI chatbots could fundamentally change the way journalists do their work and how the public thinks about journalism.

Research posted during September 2023 on preprint server SocArXiv is among the first to examine how newsrooms are handling the proliferating capabilities of AI-based platforms. Preprints have not undergone formal peer review and have not been published in an academic journal, though the current paper is under review at a prominent international journal according to one of the authors, Kim Björn Becker, a lecturer at Trier University in Germany and a staff writer for the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

The analysis provides a snapshot of the current state of AI policies and documents for 52 news organizations, including newsrooms in Brazil, India, North America, Scandinavia and Western Europe.

Notably, the authors write that AI policies and documents from commercial news organizations, compared with those that receive public funding, “seem to be more

fine-grained and contain significantly more information on permitted and prohibited applications.”

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Dec. 14, 2023



Today is Thursday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2023. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 14, 2020, the largest vaccination campaign in U.S. history began with health workers getting shots on the same day the nation's COVID-19 death toll hit 300,000.

On this date:

In 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, home at age 67.

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died at Windsor Castle at age 42.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (ROH'-ahl AH'-mun-suhn) and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1939, the Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations for invading Finland.

In 1961, a school bus was hit by a passenger train at a crossing near Greeley, Colorado, killing 20 students.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, ruled that Congress was within its authority to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against racial

discrimination by private businesses (in this case, a motel that refused to cater to Blacks).

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1985, former New York Yankees outfielder Roger Maris, who'd hit 61 home runs during the 1961 season, died in Houston at age 51.

In 1986, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 2006, a British police inquiry concluded that the deaths of Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, in a 1997 Paris car crash were a "tragic accident," and that allegations of a murder conspiracy were unfounded. Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun died in New York at age 83.

In 2012, a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, then took his own life as police arrived; the 20-year-old had also fatally shot his mother at their home before carrying out the attack on the school.

In 2013, actor Peter O'Toole who achieved instant stardom as Lawrence of Arabia and was nominated eight times for an Academy Award without winning, died in London at age 81.

In 2020, the Electoral College decisively confirmed Joe Biden as the nation's next president, ratifying his November victory in a state-by-state repudiation of President Donald Trump's refusal to concede he had lost; electors gave Biden 306 votes to Trump's 232.

In 2021, Stephen Curry set a new NBA career 3-point record; the Golden State Warriors' guard hit his 2,974th 3-point shot against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-actor Abbe Lane is 92. Actor Hal Williams is 89. Pop singer Joyce Vincent Wilson (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 77. Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz is 77. Actor Dee Wallace is 75. R&B singer Ronnie McNeir (The Four Tops) is 74. Rock musician Cliff Williams is 74. Actor-comedian T.K. Carter is 67. Rock singer-musician Mike Scott (The Waterboys) is 65. Singer-musician Peter "Spider" Stacy (The Pogues) is 65. Actor Cynthia Gibb is 60. Actor Nancy Valen is 58. Actor Archie Kao is 54. Actor Natascha McElhone is 54. Actor-comedian Michaela Watkins is 52. Actor-comedian Miranda Hart is 51. R&B singer Brian Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 48. Actor KaDee Strickland is 48. Actor Tammy Blanchard is 47. Actor Sophie Monk is 44. Actor-singer-musician Jackson Rathbone is 39. Actor Vanessa Hudgens is 35. Rock/R&B singer Tori Kelly is 31.

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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