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Connecting November 29, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Nov. 29, 2021,

We wish a Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish colleagues – a holiday that began Sunday night and continues into the evening of Monday, Dec. 6.

Our colleague **Claudia DiMartino** lost her father **Arturo Mario DiMartino** last week, the day before Thanksgiving, and funeral services were held Saturday in Plainview, N.Y. Claudia gave a touching eulogy for her dad - who was 93 - and shares it with her Connecting colleagues. We're saddened for her loss. Click [here](#) for his obituary.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

My dad had simple needs



Claudia with her dad for his 91st birthday two years ago.

Claudia DiMartino ([Email](#)) - My dad had simple needs. He loved good food and companionship, but most of all he loved his family. As a young man he worked hard at the construction business and as a young husband he strived to build a home. He and my mom remained an affectionate pair through their 67 years of marriage. I was a sickly baby which sorely tested their bond and then when I was well, my sister was born and life was good. Dad was able to buy their dream house back in the 60s in which he lived by himself until just a few months ago.

Dad's most important wish was that we all get along. There should be peace between myself and my sister and between my three nieces. We all want to be RIGHT! Dad would very often withhold his opinion. He wanted us to love one another. But, more often we each made judgements. Dad had a rough exterior, but he could be deeply hurt. By the time his granddaughters came along he was joyful and with Carson, his great grandchild, he was over-the-moon.

As dad's health deteriorated over the last several years, my sister, Debra, and I visited more often. In fact, we each went every other day to cook, take him to doctors' visits, make sure the house was cleaned and his laundry was done. He appreciated all that we did for him including the long drives Debra did to and from the nursing home. We were very fortunate that Dad had such a good neighbor, John, who could be relied upon to look in on him the many times he fell and he waited for the police and the EMTs to come and assess the damage. The last time ending in dad's hospitalization and move to the nursing home.

I started by saying dad had simple needs. Well, his last need was not so simple, but my nieces Liz and Kris and their mother made it happen – A trip to Aruba! Niece Lauren had the responsibilities of a baby and I had a lung condition which only allowed us to join them in spirit. Dad loved the warm sand and the refreshing Ocean air. I hope in heaven he is holding hands walking the most magnificent beach in God's heaven.



Merriam-Webster chooses vaccine as the 2021 word of the year

By LEANNE ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) — With an expanded definition to reflect the times, Merriam-Webster has declared an omnipresent truth as its 2021 word of the year: vaccine.

"This was a word that was extremely high in our data every single day in 2021," Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor-at-large, told The Associated Press ahead of Monday's announcement.

"It really represents two different stories. One is the science story, which is this remarkable speed with which the vaccines were developed. But there's also the debates regarding policy, politics and political affiliation. It's one word that carries these two huge stories," he said.

The selection follows "vax" as word of the year from the folks who publish the Oxford English Dictionary. And it comes after Merriam-Webster chose "pandemic" as tops in lookups last year on its online site.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Remembering where he was when he heard 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand'

Campbell Gardett ([Email](#)) - The vivid personal memories you got from 9/11 and 11/22/63 have been interesting. I have another one. It must put me in a small subset. But how small, I wonder? I remember when it was, where it was, how the air felt, how the asphalt smelled, the angle and color of the sun (this was Southern California) and how my body and brain were just snatched up the first time I heard the Beatles. It was "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" — which may seem like meager fare now, considering all that followed. But that incredible dissonance when they got to "Hand!" A tribal scream in music. And the drums unapologetically off the main beat. Well, I was 15, I think. And my trigger was, shall we say, pretty light. But somehow, in retrospect, it seems like all the Boys' intelligence and revolutionary promise was there. Maybe a sacrilege to put this next to the other two events — but maybe not.

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Betsy Ross didn't make it

Larry Margasak ([Email](#)) - As a volunteer at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, visitors are always asking me for the Betsy Ross flag. I tell them we don't have a Betsy Ross flag (I don't believe anybody does). But we do have the Star Spangled Banner — the flag that was flying over Baltimore's Fort McHenry in 1814, the banner that Francis Scott Key was watching as he wrote what later became our national anthem. The flag was made by Baltimore's Mary Pickersgill and her family. So imagine my surprise when a New York Times story Friday, about a climate change flooding threat to our precious objects, had in the lead that our flag was stitched by Betsy Ross.

Fortunately, the Times had [this](#) on Saturday:

Because of an editing error, an article on Friday about the threats that climate change and flooding pose to the Smithsonian museums in Washington misidentified the maker of the original Star Spangled Banner, which hangs in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. It was made by Mary Pickersgill, not Betsy Ross.

Well, at least they fixed it. Mary's descendants would have been very unhappy without the correction.

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AP meet-up at Albany coffeehouse



Joel Stashenko ([Email](#)) - Here is a photo of five one-time colleagues who got together on Nov. 26 at a coffeehouse not far from the bureau in Albany, N.Y., where they were all colleagues together at the same time from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. From left to right are Chris Carola, John Kekis, Joel Stashenko, Dave Bauder and Mary Esch. Carola, Stashenko and Esch are retired. Kekis is still a sports writer for the AP and Bauder is the AP's New York-based media writer.

Though the numbers are a little painful to add up, there were 173 years of AP experience represented at the table, with Kekis and Bauder still putting in their time.

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Newspapers in art



Shared by Paul Albright

Connecting series:

Where you were when JFK was assassinated?

Malcolm Barr (Email) - Where was I the day of President John F. Kennedy's assassination? I was at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, awaiting the arrival of a plane bearing the best part of the President's cabinet, en route to meetings in Japan. The plane was turned around in the mid-Pacific and made a quick fueling stop at Hickam Field where press secretary Pierre Salinger de-planed to make a brief statement to the awaiting press. That was me! I don't recall any other reporter at planeside.

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Gene Herrick (Email) - Journalists are hard-nosed, but when that bulletin rang the bells on the teletype in the Minneapolis AP office which said that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated, I felt a lump in my throat.

During my 28 years with AP as a photographer, I had been with Kennedy just a week before when he was in Duluth, Minnesota.

I had spent a fair amount of time covering him during the primary when he was battling Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, for a spot of the presidential ballot.

I remember when he was in Duluth, he spoke at a hotel, which had a large lobby, and an opening going up so that one could see many floors. There was a crowd in the lobby, and crowds lining the railings for the open floors going up.

I positioned myself in the lobby crowd so that I could get their heads in the picture as Kennedy was escorted through and into a lobby door, and also showing the people hanging over the upper railings. I started having difficulty getting out when a hand reached in, grabbed my coat, and pulled me out. It was a secret service agent I knew, and he said, "Come on Gene, if you don't make it through that door now, you'll never make it." I did, and everything was okay.

But when Kennedy was shot, people everywhere listened for the news, and watched the TV, and all of the reruns of the incident.

A sad day.

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Jeffrey Ulbrich (Email) - On Nov. 22, 1963, I was driving from Fort Benning, Ga. to Fort Riley, Kan. to take up my new assignment with the 1st Infantry Division. En route I stopped in to see my grandfather who lived in southern Illinois. He met me at the door and his first words were "The president's been shot!" We didn't know at that moment if he was dead or alive and spent the rest of the day following events on television. The next day I left for Kansas. Arriving too late to report in to Fort Riley, I took a motel room in Manhattan, Kan. where, the following morning, lying on my motel room bed watching the news, I saw Jack Ruby murder Oswald live on TV.

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Ed Williams (Email) - The assassination of President Kennedy. I have vivid memories of that day 58 years ago.

I was 10 years old, a fifth grader at Evergreen Elementary School, Evergreen, Ala., Mrs. Iva Kendall's class.

Our principal Mr. Marcus O'Gwynn came to the door out of breath and said, "Have you heard the news? The president is



dead." One boy in the classroom shouted, "I'm glad he's dead." Then he said some other bad things.

Mrs. Kendall ordered him, and all of us, to sit down. She gave us a stern lecture. I was frightened. Mrs. Kendall said that our country may be under attack by a foreign government. No telling what was going to happen next, she warned. Then we lined up and went to a Thanksgiving assembly in the school auditorium.

I drove by the old abandoned school, still standing, this week and thought about that day.

President John F. Kennedy, dead at age 46, Nov. 22, 1963.

Gen. Patton and the slaps heard 'round the world



Marc Lancaster
World War 2 on Deadline

At 7 p.m. ET on Sunday, Nov. 21, 1943, Drew Pearson opened his regular 15-minute radio program on the Blue Network with a typically sensational story.

The multimedia muckraker reported the shocking news that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton had struck a soldier in a field hospital in Sicily and had been "severely reprimanded" for the act by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Pearson added that he didn't expect Patton to be used in "important combat" again.

The Associated Press contacted the War Department for a reaction that evening and got a "no comment." The following day, Eisenhower's headquarters in Algiers released a statement saying, among other things, "General Patton has never been reprimanded at any time by General Eisenhower or by anybody else in this theater." The statement did not directly address the report of an altercation with a soldier.

But the War Department and Eisenhower were well aware of what had happened. In early August, Patton slapped not one but two soldiers in separate incidents a week apart. A week after the second encounter, Eisenhower sent Patton a strongly worded letter expressing shock at the allegations but telling him he had no plans to open a formal investigation.

The correspondents covering Seventh Army knew about all of this, too. They just didn't report it until Pearson forced their hand.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Sterling - sterlingj@missouri.edu

Stories of interest

Local News Outlets Could Reap \$1.7 Billion in Build Back Better Aid (New York Times)

By Marc Tracy

For The Storm Lake Times, a family-run paper in northwestern Iowa, it could mean \$200,000 in federal subsidies the first year and nearly \$500,000 over the four years

after that.

For EO Media, which publishes more than a dozen community newspapers in the Pacific Northwest, it could amount to \$1.2 million the first year and \$2.9 million over the next four.

And Gannett, the largest newspaper chain in the country, could receive \$37.5 million the first year and tens of millions after that.

The relief would come in the form of a payroll tax credit earmarked for local news organizations, a small part of the Build Back Better bill that the House passed on Nov. 19.

“It acknowledges democracy starts at home,” said Penelope Muse Abernathy, a visiting professor at Northwestern University’s Medill School who studies the decline of local journalism.

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

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Sin and Confession: Newsrooms Revisit Some Major Failures (BirminghamWatch)

Tom Arenberg

The Washington Post on Nov. 12 took the highly unusual step of overhauling two articles that had been posted on its website since 2017 and 2019, respectively. Recent events had suddenly called into question the accuracy of the articles, which reported on the identity of a confidential source who supposedly contributed salacious information about Donald Trump that was contained in the infamous and since discredited “Steele dossier.” The Post removed large portions of the articles, changed the headlines, removed a companion video, and appended editor’s notes. About a dozen other, related stories were corrected, as well. The Post’s editor offered public explanations on various platforms.

This got me to thinking about previous famous situations in which a news organization belatedly found fault with its coverage of a high-profile subject and decided it needed to take corrective action. I’m not thinking about individual stories that proved faulty – though there are many – nor am I thinking about discoveries of plagiarism and fabrication committed by reporters (Janet Cooke, Jayson Blair, Stephen Glass, Jonah Lehrer, Jack Kelly, Mike Barnicle – shall I stop now?)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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News crew guard dies after being shot in attempted robbery (AP)

By DAISY NGUYEN

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A security guard has died after he was shot while he protected a San Francisco Bay Area television news crew covering a smash-and-grab theft, part of a rash of organized retail crime in the region.

“We are devastated by the loss of security guard and our friend, Kevin Nishita. Our deepest sympathy goes to Kevin’s wife, his children, his family, and to all his friends and colleagues,” KRON-TV’s vice president and general manager, Jim Rose, said in a statement issued Saturday.

Nishita was an armed guard for Star Protection Agency and provided security for television news crews in the region, who are often targeted by robbers for their equipment.

He was shot in the abdomen during an attempted robbery of KRON-TV’s camera equipment near downtown Oakland on Wednesday, police said.

The news crew was covering a recent robbery where a group of thieves broke in and stole from a clothing store.

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

The Final Word

After 50 years, the mystery of these Vietnam War photos of ‘Donut Dollies’ is solved (Washington Post)



Karen K. Jankowski, at her home in Peachtree City, Ga., shows a photo of herself from the Vietnam War, when she was one of the “Donut Dollies” who visited the troops. (Michael A. Schwarz/For The Washington Post)

By Manuel Roig-Franzia

It took half a century to get a chance to say the words. Just “thank you.” That’s all.

For Jim Roberts, this desire had become a fixation, part of a years-long process of coming to terms with the darkness he’d seen as an Army lieutenant in the Vietnam War.

The women he wanted to thank were “Donut Dollies,” two among 600 women working with the American Red Cross who traveled to Vietnam to give a few hours of respite to troops longing for home, to play word games or just sit and chat. A forced landing by a helicopter with mechanical problems brought the Dollies to the remote village where Roberts was a lonely and forlorn adviser to Vietnamese troops, along with two other soldiers.

The handful of hours he spent with the Dollies — a short walk, lunch, some small talk — had mostly faded from his memories. Even their names were lost to time. But that feeling they gave him lingered. A few moments of joy.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [Here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History" - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New

Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

Today in History - Nov. 29, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 29, the 333rd day of 2021. There are 32 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 29, 2001, former Beatle George Harrison died in Los Angeles following a battle with cancer; he was 58.

On this date:

In 1864, a Colorado militia killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.

In 1910, British explorer Robert F. Scott's ship Terra Nova set sail from New Zealand, carrying Scott's expedition on its ultimately futile — as well as fatal — race to reach the South Pole first.

In 1929, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd, pilot Bernt Balchen, radio operator Harold June and photographer Ashley McKinney made the first airplane flight over the South Pole.

In 1947, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the partitioning of Palestine between Arabs and Jews; 33 members, including the United States, voted in favor of the resolution, 13 voted against while 10 abstained. (The plan, rejected by the Arabs, was never implemented.)

In 1961, Enos the chimp was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited earth twice before returning.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson named a commission headed by Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1972, the coin-operated video arcade game Pong, created by Atari, made its debut at Andy Capp's Tavern in Sunnyvale, California.

In 1981, film star Natalie Wood drowned in a boating accident off Santa Catalina Island, California, at age 43.

In 1987, a Korean Air 707 jetliner en route from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok was destroyed by a bomb planted by North Korean agents with the loss of all 115 people aboard.

In 2000, bracing the public for more legal wrangling, Vice President Al Gore said in a series of TV interviews that he was prepared to contest the Florida presidential vote until "the middle of December."

In 2008, Indian commandos killed the last remaining gunmen holed up at a luxury Mumbai hotel, ending a 60-hour rampage through India's financial capital by suspected Pakistani-based militants that killed 166 people.

In 2017, "Today" host Matt Lauer was fired for what NBC called "inappropriate sexual behavior" with a colleague; a published report accused him of crude and habitual misconduct with women around the office. Garrison Keillor, who'd entertained public radio listeners for 40 years on "A Prairie Home Companion," was fired by Minnesota Public Radio following allegations of inappropriate workplace behavior.

Ten years ago: Eurozone ministers sent Greece an 8 billion-euro (\$10.7 billion) Christmas rescue package to stem an immediate cash crisis. Hard-line Iranian protesters stormed British diplomatic compounds in what began as an apparent state-approved show of anger over the latest Western sanctions to punish Tehran for its nuclear program. American Airlines' parent company, AMR Corp., filed for bankruptcy protection, citing high labor and fuel costs and the weak economy. (American Airlines emerged from bankruptcy protection in December 2013 as it merged with US Airways.)

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump continued to fill out his Cabinet, choosing former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin (mih-NOO'-shin) as secretary of the Treasury Department, Georgia Rep. Tom Price to oversee the nation's health care system, and Elaine Chao, a former labor secretary and the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, to lead the Department of Transportation. Regional leaders and tens of thousands of Cubans jammed the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana, celebrating the late Fidel Castro on the spot where he delivered fiery speeches to mammoth crowds in the years after he seized power.

One year ago: Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that New York City would reopen its school system to in-person learning, and increase the number of days a week many children attend class, even as the coronavirus pandemic intensified in the city. Nearly 1.2 million people went through U.S. airports, according to the Transportation Security Administration; it was the highest daily number since before the pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Hall of Fame sportscaster Vin Scully is 94. Blues singer-musician John Mayall is 88. Actor Diane Ladd is 86. Songwriter Mark James is 81. Composer-musician Chuck Mangione is 81. Country singer Jody Miller is 80. Pop singer-musician Felix Cavaliere (The Rascals) is 79. Former Olympic skier Suzy Chaffee is 75. Actor Jeff Fahey is 69. Movie director Joel Coen is 67. Actor-comedian-celebrity judge Howie Mandel is 66. Former Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano (neh-pahl-ih-TAN'-oh) is 64. Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is 62. Actor Cathy Moriarty is 61. Actor Kim Delaney is 60. Actor Tom Sizemore is 60. Actor Andrew McCarthy is 59. Actor Don Cheadle is 57. Actor-producer Neill Barry is 56. Pop singer Jonathan Knight (New Kids on the Block) is 53. Rock musician Martin Carr (Boo Radleys) is 53. Actor Jennifer Elise Cox is 52. Baseball Hall of Famer Mariano Rivera is 52. Actor Larry Joe Campbell is 51. Rock musician Frank Delgado (Deftones) is 51. Actor Paola Turbay is 51. Contemporary Christian singer Crowder is 50. Actor Gena Lee Nolin is 50. Actor Brian Baumgartner is 49. Actor Julian Ovenden is 46. Actor Anna (AH'-nuh) Faris is 45. Gospel singer James Fortune is 44. Actor Lauren German is 43. Rapper The Game is 42. Actor Janina Gavankar is 41. Rock musician Ringo Garza is 40. Actor-comedian John Milhiser is 40. Actor Lucas Black is 39. Actor Diego Boneta is 31. Actor Lovie Simone (TV: "Greenleaf") is 23.

Got a story or photos to share?

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:

- **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?



- **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.

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com