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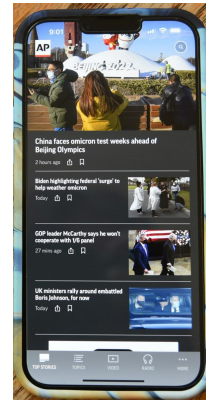
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Connecting

Nov. 7, 2022

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Midterm elections are a day away - and scenes like this in Black Mountain, N.C., are common across the country. Photo/Hank Ackerman.

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Nov. 7, 2022,

When our colleague **Juliet Williams** was hired into the AP's Milwaukee bureau in 2000, she recalls that Chief of Bureau **Lee Hughes** instilled in her "the rigorous 'first AND fast' training!"

That training remained with her throughout her career, most of which was spent in California.

The AP announced Friday that she will be leaving the AP after an outstanding 22-year run – and we bring you that story in today's Connecting.

CONNECTING VETERANS TO BE HONORED: Veterans Day 2022 will be celebrated this Friday, Nov. 11, and Connecting plans to honor in that day's edition all our colleagues who are military veterans (this includes all colleagues, not just those who worked with AP). Between now and Thursday, please send me your branch of service, your years of service and locations of service.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Juliet Williams – 'an AP star departing our galaxy'



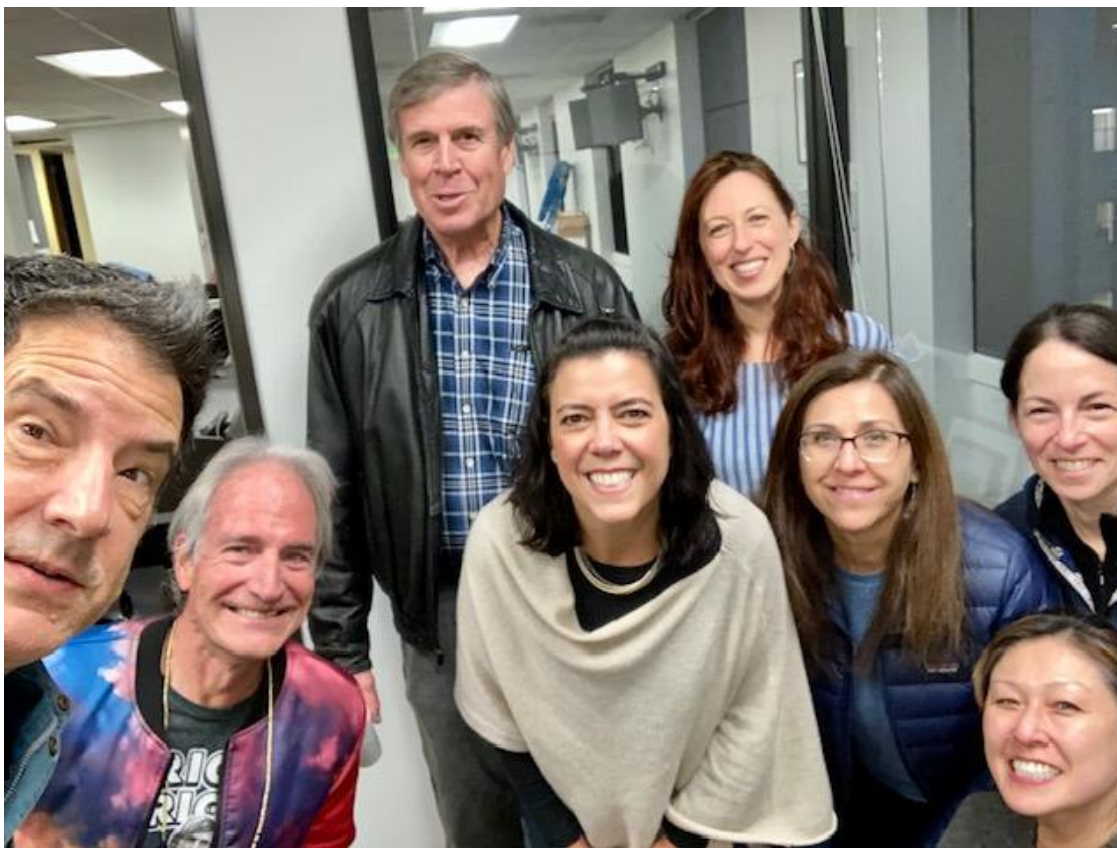
Frank Baker - *Deputy Director, U.S. News, Los Angeles* - Well, I'd say happy Friday, but truth be told it's a very bittersweet Friday as I am writing to let you know that an AP star is departing our galaxy: Juliet Williams will be leaving the company, effective Nov. 16.

The California staff and the coverage they provide to the world are rightly seen as among the best in AP. For nearly two decades Juliet has been part of the bedrock of the California operation and beyond, as a reporter, correspondent, news editor and interim deputy for the West region.

As usual, this Election Day sees her in a critical role overseeing the coverage in Nevada, where the potential is high for razor-thin races and vote-counting shenanigans.

That she would be tapped for such an important assignment, and throw herself into it, is indicative of her stature in AP and commitment to the product we deliver. That she would readily commit to staying a week (and maybe more, though hopefully not) in Las Vegas to make sure everything runs smoothly even as she prepares to leave AP tells you everything you need to know about her character and work ethic.

It's just the latest of innumerable major stories and figures for which Juliet has directed coverage or covered herself. Even under the most trying conditions, Juliet never lost her drive, sense of purpose, compassion, collegiality or, thankfully, her sense of humor.



This photo was taken last Dec. 10, the last staff gathering before the San Francisco bureau moved to its new location. From left: Business desk editor Richard Jacobsen, business writer Mike Liedtke, global environment team editor Tim Reiterman, Juliet Williams, global investigative reporter Garance Burke, San Francisco reporters Olga Rodriguez, Janie Har and Jocelyn Gecker.

I'll step aside now, to let Juliet tell her own AP story:

I arrived in Milwaukee in August 2000 after driving 1,500 miles from Canada in a car without air conditioning to a sweaty Wisconsin summer. I always say the Midwest was a good place for a Canadian girl to land because the Midwesterners were so friendly to me and always open to answering questions from nosy reporters.

And AP staffers are also the kindest souls I've met.

I got my intro to American politics covering the contested 2000 presidential election, which introduced me to AP's election machine with my first all-nighter presidential race call. (Wisconsin was overshadowed by Florida in the closeness of its race.)

After covering courts, education, Native American issues and, naturally, writing some stories about cheese, I packed up my car (by then one with air conditioning!) and moved to Sacramento, just a few months after a new governor had been elected: Arnold Schwarzenegger!



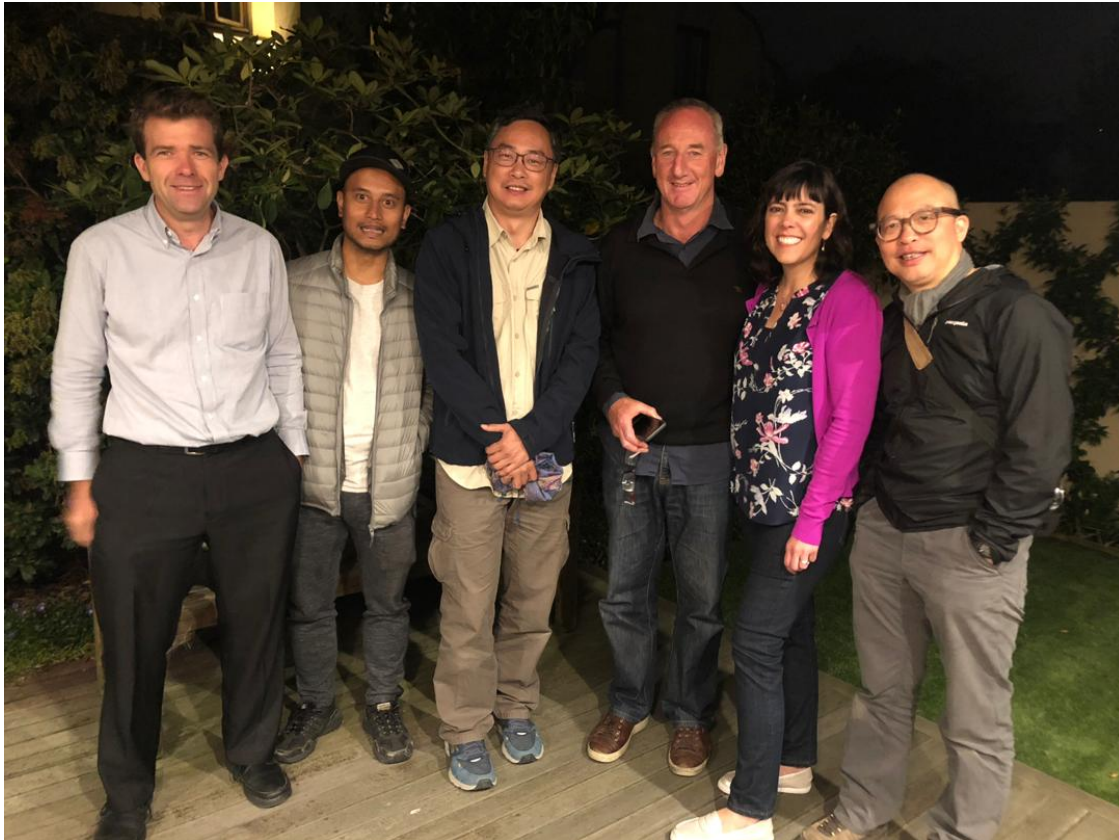
Then-Sacramento Correspondent Tom Verdin taught me how to fight back when the governor's flacks called to scream at us and nitpick over every story. Tom would stand up in the office and argue at full volume why AP's story was right.

We always let Tom take the incoming fire from them, but later I prided myself on taking over that role on behalf of other reporters when they needed it.

I also covered education and was part of a massive AP investigation into teacher sexual misconduct. My reporting on the lax, inconsistent state standards that allow abusers to slip through led to legislation tightening the teacher credentialing process.

We also were dogged in reporting on transparency issues and holding lawmakers to account.

Those who have worked with me know I seem to have a knack for being where news is. I have called in color, interviewed witnesses and sent photos from many scenes. Among my favorite pics I've contributed to the AP report is one of an impending hurricane while I was on vacation in Cabo San Lucas.



The AP crew at Christchurch

I was in New Zealand on vacation in March 2019 when the AP NewsAlert came across my iPhone about the mosque attack in Christchurch. I immediately reached out to offer to jump in and help. Because of the weird way the country put airport restrictions in place, I arrived before our lone NZ resident text reporter.

Photographer Mark Baker, who I knew from AP's Future Leaders program and had hoped to connect with on my travels, picked me up at the airport and I stayed at his house for a week as we covered the deaths of 51 people.

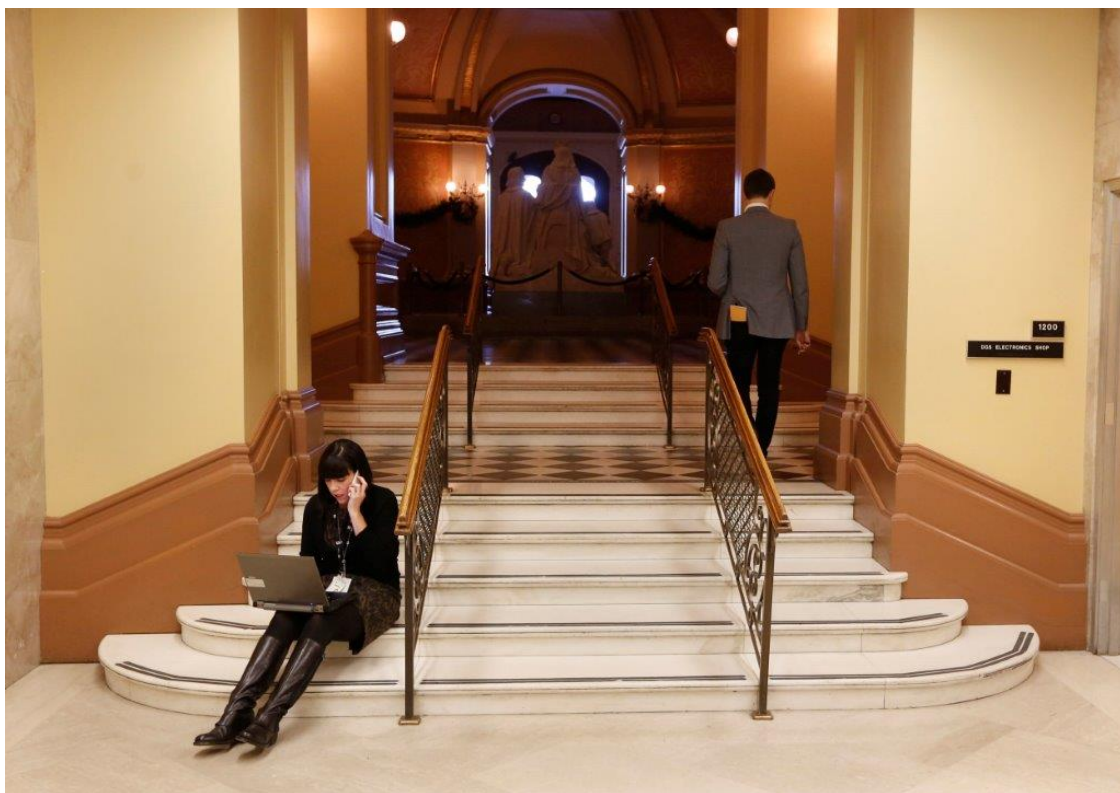
As San Francisco news editor, I led our coverage of many major stories, including what's become an annual series of massive wildfires, including the one in Paradise that killed 85 people. As usual, the staff rose to the occasion and produced award-winning work on that tragedy. When COVID arrived in North America in early 2020, the San Francisco Bay Area counties were the first area in the country to order a lockdown and again the staff excelled in covering a hugely difficult story.

The city of San Francisco is its own news world and the local government and politicians have produced any number of unusual stories since I arrived here: The

mayor collapsed and died while shopping at Safeway. The public defender was found dead while enjoying drugs in the company of someone other than his wife. The very liberal district attorney was recalled along with several members of the school board. And Nancy Pelosi's husband was attacked in the middle of the night.

We tried to tell all those stories and more with the context and nuances they deserved.

I'll add one more thing to Juliet's impressive list. About two weeks after she was named San Francisco news editor but before she moved there, a late-night fire broke out at a vacant Oakland warehouse that had been illegally transformed into a colony for artists. When the smoke cleared, 36 people were dead. Juliet dropped her packing boxes and went to SF to run the coverage.



Juliet's work has earned her a National Headliner Award and been recognized by the Associated Press Media Editors, the Society of Professional Journalists of Northern California and CapitolBeat. She is past president and a board member of the Sacramento Press Club, a nonprofit organization that awards scholarships to aspiring journalists. She also is on the board of the First Amendment Coalition, which advocates for a free press, freedom of expression and the people's right to know.

All these experiences and accomplishments are deserving of the break Juliet plans to take to plot her next course. Please join me in wishing her nothing but success in whatever comes next.

Juliet Williams' email - julietawilliams@outlook.com

Kia Breaux honored by her alma mater



Kia Breaux, AP regional director based in Kansas City, was honored Friday by her alma mater, the University of Missouri, with its Faculty Alumni Award. First celebrated in 1968, the awards “highlight the contributions of exceptional individuals to the university's growth and core mission, through their professional accomplishments, teaching and research excellence or service to the institution.” Among others honored in the 2022 class was Claire McCaskill, former U.S. senator from Missouri who is an analyst for NBC/MSNBC.

Among those on hand for Kia's honor were present and former AP colleagues – shown in the photo above, from left: Paul Stevens, retired AP; Randy Picht, executive director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute; Kia; her husband Rod Richardson, a former AP journalist, and Andale Gross, Chicago-based news editor of AP's Race and Ethnicity team.

‘Grow old with me’

Henry Bradsher - Norm Abelson's striking thoughts on life in Friday's Connecting, with his thanks for friends and loves, somewhat reflect the philosophy of the English poet Robert Browning.

My father, a university professor of English literature, used to quote Browning's 1864 poem Rabbi Ben Ezra, about a celebrated 12th-century scholar. Its concept of old age may seem appropriate to many a retired journalist:

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be.
The last of life,
For which the first was made.

Lots of things to do in the last of life. Everyone's community needs volunteers to improve civic life.

Things such as tutoring school children who need special in-person help. Teachers appreciate having a volunteer take slow ones for personal attention, like the helping kindergartners master the alphabet (but I'm having less success in teaching them to tie their shoes).

And volunteering to help foreign students. The ones nearby at LSU (Yeah LSU! Beat Alabama!) need various kinds of help adjusting and settling in, and doubtlessly so do international students elsewhere.

Also, enriching neighbors with knowledge acquired while working by teaching adult education courses. Not just career knowledge, either. Journalists know now to collect information beyond their original backgrounds and relate it in easily comprehensible ways. One can acquire a lot of interesting new knowledge in researching lectures. And one probably can acquire followings of impressed neighbors in adult education programs run by nearby universities, which are always looking for material.

And, let's hope, in the last of life continuing to enjoy good partnerships, as I've been enjoying a good marriage for almost six decades.

As Browning said, the first of life was made to be the last best in many ways.

Looking for Nov. 9 flash on fall of Berlin Wall

[Kevin Costelloe](#), the Frankfurt news editor in 1989, has a query for his Connecting colleagues, as follows:

With the 33rd anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall coming up on Wednesday, Nov. 9, I am reminded that pretty much everything that can be said about that momentous day has been said. But there is one piece missing on the AP side: hard copies of the flash that I filed on World Wires (the old 288) on Nov. 9, 1989, to say the wall had been breached seem to have vanished. I have checked around here and there but have been unable to find the Nov. 9 flash.

So, here is a plea for help. If you saved the World Wire flash or maybe know someone who did, could you let me know? Even Larry Heinzerling many years ago expressed frustration that AP headquarters didn't have a paper copy. So, please look through piles of memorabilia, check your shelves, ask old colleagues. It should say at the end: (ns-kc). I seem to recall someone on the old French service may have had a copy or known someone who had a copy. Tracking that down would mean the world to so

many people, and I am sure AP archives would like to have it as well. Thank you so much, Kevin (k.costelloe@hotmail.com)

AP Radio reunion



From left: John Doman, Jim Limbach, Jack Briggs, Shelley Adler, Dave Lubeski, Dave Ferry, Mike Gracia, Richard Uliano.

[Dave Lubeski](#) - I left the DC area nearly 10 years ago, so it was quite a treat to meet up with these former AP Radio colleagues at a Northern Virginia restaurant recently. Two of them currently report the news on DC radio stations (Domen and Uliano) Two of them still collect an AP paycheck (Ferry and Adler) and four of them (Limbach, Briggs, Lubeski and Gracia) collect AP pension checks.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

At the edge of the world, AP reports on resilient, defiant Alaska Native islanders facing climate change



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

More than 600 Inupiat Natives live in the village of Shishmaref, just a few miles from the Arctic Circle, watching climate change slowly shrink their small Alaskan island home. In early October, reporter Luis Andres Henao and video journalist Jessie Wardarski, both of AP's Religion team, and Los Angeles photographer Jae Hong, visited the village to document how the warming world inexorably threatens their way of life.

The project was part of an ongoing AP series exploring the lives of people around the world who may be displaced by rising seas, drought, searing temperatures or other effects of climate change.

Through advance, long-distance outreach, and tactful overtures after their arrival, the journalists earned the trust of residents and civic leaders who have sometimes been wary of visitors. The ultimate result: a moving tribute to the villagers' resilience and community spirit. The visuals included hunters setting out in their boats at dawn, schoolchildren learning early words in their elders' Inupiat language, a pastor bottle-feeding his infant child, and drone video dramatically depicting the island's precarious setting.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

South Korea staff puts AP ahead with rapid response, sharp coverage of Halloween crowd tragedy



AP Photo/Lee Jin-Man

When word broke Saturday night that a crushing crowd surge had killed dozens in a Seoul nightlife district where tens of thousands were attending a Halloween celebration, an all-formats AP team responded urgently to one of the nation's worst disasters. More than 150 people died.

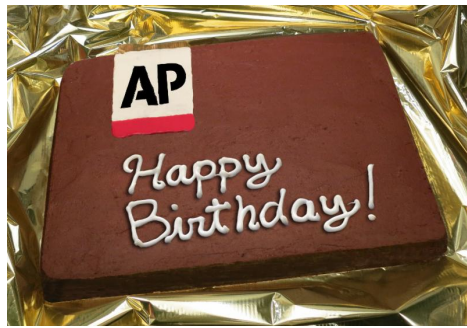
Speed and depth of coverage won the day, as AP beat rival agencies and even Korean media with live video, news alerts, photos and sourced video.

Photographer Jin-man Lee was the first to secure a crucial overhead position at the scene. In the streets of Itaewon below, people performed CPR on the dying and carted bodies to ambulances.

Video journalist Yong-ho Kim beat a major AP competitor to the neighborhood, where he and fellow video journalist Yong Jun Chang set up series of live shots providing first video. Senior producer Jung Yoon Kim, working on no sleep, eventually handled about two dozen video edits as well as the live streams.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



A day late...

[Elaine Thompson](#)

Stories of interest

NBC retracts erroneous Paul Pelosi story that fueled conspiracy theories (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

NBC News reporter Miguel Almaguer had what seemed like a scoop on Friday about an intruder's attack last week on Paul Pelosi. The curious new details he presented on the "Today" show quickly went viral on right-wing sites and social media accounts.

One problem: Much of Almaguer's account was inaccurate, based on flawed information provided by a source who was unnamed in the report, according to people at the network. Those people said Almaguer was incorrect when he reported that the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) gave police no indication he was in danger when he answered the door. In fact, San Francisco police have said that Pelosi was struggling with the intruder, David DePape, when they first saw him.

But before NBC News's hasty removal of the video from its website — accompanied by a vague note that the story "did not meet NBC News reporting standards" — it spawned a sinister new narrative.

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

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How Molly Jong-Fast Tweeted Her Way to Liberal Media Stardom (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbbaum

Molly Jong-Fast had just finished interviewing Vice President Kamala Harris for her podcast when she hopped in an Uber S.U.V. headed to the Century, the Manhattan

literary club where she was throwing a book party for the media critic Margaret Sullivan, a friend. The editors of Rolling Stone and Vanity Fair greeted her with hugs. The owner of The New Republic, Win McCormack, stopped to say hello.

“I just interviewed the vice president!” Ms. Jong-Fast gushed.

“The vice president?” Mr. McCormack replied, brow furrowing. “ ... Of the United States?”

For much of her life, Ms. Jong-Fast, 44, was known for being the daughter of her mother, Erica Jong, whose novel “Fear of Flying” is a feminist classic. Ms. Jong-Fast went to rehab at 19, married at 23, and wrote a couple of novels and a book of essays about her bohemia-by-way-of-Park-Avenue upbringing.

Now, within a certain rarefied slice of American political life, she is a star. On Wednesday, she joined Vanity Fair as a special correspondent. One million people follow her on Twitter. The first guest on her new podcast, distributed by the mega network iHeartMedia, was President Biden’s chief of staff. In the run-up to Tuesday’s midterm elections, she has interviewed Senators Bernie Sanders and Chuck Schumer, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, John Fetterman and Ms. Harris — a lineup rivaling MSNBC.

Read more [here](#).

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These are the men running Elon Musk’s Twitter

(Washington Post)

By Gerrit De Vynck and Hamza Shaban

Late last month, Elon Musk completed his acquisition of Twitter and immediately fired four of the company’s most senior executives.

In their place, he’s installed a small council of lieutenants to assess the company and begin implementing his vision. The group includes Musk’s personal lawyer, his chief of staff, a couple investor friends and a former Twitter executive who left the company years ago.

The new regime has already started mass layoffs, discussed the company’s content moderation plans and sent out orders to employees to begin working on a paid verification feature. They also met with advertisers who provide Twitter with most of its revenue and have shown concern over how Musk might run the company.

It’s not clear long this group will be running Twitter, but for now, they’re tasked with keeping the company going and ramping up its revenue. Here’s a run-down of who they are.

Read more [here](#).

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Newspapers are in a battle for the truth and they must innovate to win it, weekly publisher says in accepting award (Rural Blog)

By AL CROSS

The loss of community newspapers "has left our country ripe for an invasion of mistruth," and the remaining newspapers must adapt to the digital age to survive, an innovative weekly editor-publisher told an audience of journalists and their supporters Thursday night in Lexington, Ky.

Chris Evans and his wife, Allison Mick-Evans, of The Crittenden Press in Marion, Ky., received the Al Smith Award for public service through community journalism from the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues (publisher of The Rural Blog) and the Bluegrass Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The award citation mentions that the Press was an early adopter of online journalism and uses it frequently to serve Crittenden County, pop. 9,000.

Evans recalled a statement attributed to World War II Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto: "You cannot invade [the] mainland United States. There would be a rifle behind every blade of grass."

"We are losing community newspapers, one blade of grass at a time," Evans said. "Losing those town criers has left our country ripe for an invasion of mistruth. Study after study has found that the most trusted media are local. . . . Forces that are eroding national trust in media can be blamed on two things. One if that blurred line between commentary and news, and No. 2 is that there is a decline in rural journalism. Myths are finding a foothold in our society because there isn't a journalist in every county and every parish in the country. There's not a journalist behind every blade of grass.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Katy Perry sings the praises of newspapers over breakfast (Times of London)

By DAVID SANDERSON

Katy Perry may be a queen of modern pop music but her morning tastes are quite traditional.

The 38-year-old American performer has said one of her favourite sounds is "a crisp new newspaper being read over breakfast".

Writing on social media, Perry issued a plea for the survival of “romantic” printed media, expressing her hope that it “never goes out of fashion in our digital world”.

Sales of newspapers have dropped dramatically over the past ten years with millions of readers turning to digital subscriptions and others relying on free news websites.

The decline has been even more dramatic in the regional media with many local titles having gone entirely online or stopped publishing.

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

Today in History – Nov. 7, 2022



Today is Monday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2022. There are 54 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 7, 2013, shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion. (The company would go private again in October 2022 after Elon Musk purchased the social media platform for \$44 billion.)

On this date:

In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed “Galloping Gertie,” collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm just four months after opening to traffic.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was reelected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected Black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's first Black mayor.

In 1991, basketball star Magic Johnson announced that he had tested positive for HIV, and was retiring. (Johnson would go on to play again, in the NBA and the Olympics.)

In 2001, the Bush administration targeted Osama bin Laden's multi-million-dollar financial networks, closing businesses in four states, detaining U.S. suspects and urging allies to help choke off money supplies in 40 nations.

In 2011, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Michael Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, of involuntary manslaughter for supplying a powerful anesthetic implicated in the entertainer's 2009 death. (Murray was sentenced to four years in prison; he served two years and was released in October 2013.)

In 2015, the leaders of China and Taiwan met for the first time since the formerly bitter Cold War foes split amid civil war 66 years earlier; Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou hailed the meeting in Singapore as a sign of a new stability in relations.

In 2018, a gunman killed 12 people at a country music bar in Thousand Oaks, California, before apparently taking his own life as officers closed in; the victims included a man who had survived the mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas.

In 2020, Democrat Joe Biden clinched victory over President Donald Trump as a win in Pennsylvania pushed Biden over the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes; the victory followed more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in ballots. Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting. Chanting "This isn't over!" and "Stop the steal," Trump supporters protested at state capitols across the country, echoing Trump's baseless allegations that the Democrats won by fraud.

Ten years ago: One day after a bruising election, President Barack Obama and Republican House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) both pledged to seek a compromise to avert looming spending cuts and tax increases that threatened to plunge the economy back into recession. A 7.4-magnitude earthquake killed at least 52 people in western Guatemala.

Five years ago: Democrats Ralph Northam in Virginia and Phil Murphy in New Jersey were the winners in their states' gubernatorial elections. President Donald Trump arrived in South Korea, saying efforts to curb the North's nuclear weapons program would be "front and center" of his two-day visit. Former star baseball pitcher Roy Halladay died when the small private plane he was flying crashed into the Gulf of

Mexico; the 40-year-old was an eight-time All-Star for the Blue Jays and Phillies. Twitter said it was ending its 140-character limit on tweets and allowing nearly everyone 280 characters to get their message across.

One year ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi survived an attack by armed drones on his residence in Baghdad; officials said seven of his security guards were wounded. Dean Stockwell, a former child actor who gained new success in middle age in the sci-fi series "Quantum Leap," died at 85. Eighty-three-year-old M.J. "Sunny" Eberhart of Alabama strode into the record books as the oldest hiker to complete the Appalachian Trail. John Artis, who was wrongly convicted with boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in a triple murder case made famous in a song by Bob Dylan and a film, died at his Virginia home at age 75.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota is 92. Actor Barry Newman is 84. Actor Dakin Matthews is 82. Singer Johnny Rivers is 80. Former supermodel Jean Shrimpton is 80. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 79. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 70. Jazz singer Rene Marie is 67. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 65. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 62. Actor Julie Pinson is 55. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 54. Actor Michelle Clunie is 53. Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock is 52. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 50. Actors Jeremy and Jason London are 50. Actor Yunjin Kim is 49. Actor Adam DeVine is 39. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 39. Actor Lucas Neff is 37. Rapper Tinie (TY'-nee) Tempah is 34. Rock singer Lorde is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking [Connecting Archive](#) in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to [Ye Olde Connecting Editor](#). And don't forget to include photos!

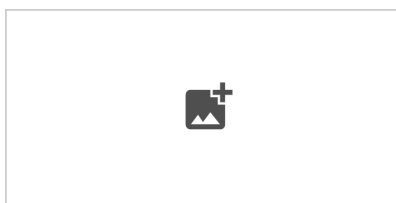


Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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