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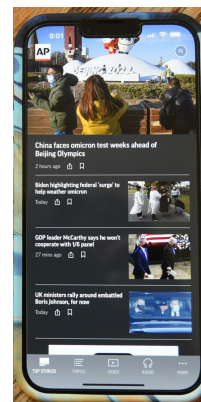
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# Connecting

Nov. 25, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Nov. 25, 2022,

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving Day. I believe, or hope anyway, that all of us have much to be thankful for...and I thank two colleagues for heeding the Connecting call asking for what makes them thankful.

**Hal Bock** - I am thankful most of all for my family (as I am sure so many others are). My son is associate general counsel with the NLRB in Washington DC. My daughter-in-law is an accomplished writer with two novels to her credit and several published short stories. My grandson graduated Magna Cum Laude from Virginia Tech and is a software engineer with Lockheed Martin. My granddaughter is a senior in high school and accomplished clarinetist and now submitting college auditions. My wife is a retired psychologist and the center of my universe. I continue to write columns and do library presentations in retirement. I am thankful for it all.

**Dodi Fromson** - I'm grateful that 52 years after my late husband conceived and created The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, it is doing work at least as important as when it began during the Chicago 7 (or 8) Trials! Additionally, there are RCFP lawyers based in five states to help journalists, thanks to the Knight Foundation. Murray Fromson would be so proud! Onward, upward!

We lead today's issue with behind-the-scenes detail from Semafor on the firing of AP investigative reporter **James LaPorta** after an erroneous report that a "senior U.S. intelligence official says Russian missiles crossed into NATO member Poland, killing two people," and noting that leaders in Poland were "holding an emergency meeting due to a 'crisis situation.'"

We also bring you a communication to AP staff by **John Daniszewski**, vice president for Standards. Let me note that both stories mention Slack – and for some of us, this is a new term. **Slack** describes itself as "a messaging app for business that connects people to the information they need. By bringing people together to work as one unified team, Slack transforms the way organizations communicate."

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

Paul

## AP fired a reporter after a dangerous blunder. Slack messages reveal a chaotic process.

**Max Tani**  
**Semafor**

A 10-minute miscommunication on Slack between journalists at the Associated Press resulted in an erroneous report last week that appeared momentarily to bring tensions between NATO and Russia to their highest point since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Last Tuesday, AP posted a news alert saying that a "senior U.S. intelligence official says Russian missiles crossed into NATO member Poland, killing two people," and noting that leaders in Poland were "holding an emergency meeting due to a 'crisis situation.'"

The report, which would have represented a Russian missile striking a member of NATO, immediately sparked fear of a dramatic escalation of tensions between the US and Russia.

But national security officials said the report was false, and the Associated Press retracted the piece a day later. On Monday, it fired James LaPorta, the national security reporter for the wire service who got the initial tip that set the story in motion.

LaPorta's firing was first reported by the Daily Beast, and confirmed by the Washington Post. Both stories quoted AP sources and put the blame squarely on the reporter. The Beast reported that LaPorta left "the impression that the story's sourcing had been approved."

But the slack messages on which the incident played out tell a different story, of honest mistakes, internal confusion, and a lack of a clear process that led to a disaster for one of the few news organizations whose Twitter presence is an authoritative account of world affairs.

On Tuesday afternoon at 1:32 PM ET, LaPorta wrote in an internal Slack channel that he'd been told by a senior US intelligence source that Russian missiles crossed into Moldova and Poland. LaPorta described the source as an "official (vetted by Ron Nixon)," referring to the publication's VP of news and investigations.

But while Nixon had approved the use of that specific anonymous source in the past, people involved said, Nixon was not aware of that tip or that story. LaPorta did not exactly claim that Nixon had approved the source in this case, but his words were interpreted by the editors to mean that he did.

Lisa Leff, an editor on the European desk, immediately asked if the wire service could send an AP alert, or if they would need confirmation from another source.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

## Subject: From the Standards Center: A note on standards around anonymity and putting anonymously sourced information into Slack

From John Daniszewski, AP Vice President for Standards and Editor at Large, Nov. 22 note to AP staff:

Colleagues:

AP's standards on the use of anonymous sources are spelled out in the AP statement of news values and principles, and these should be known by every AP reporter and editor.

In general, we use anonymous material with great caution and in limited circumstances. Among our standards, the anonymous material must be factual, critical for the story, unobtainable except under conditions of anonymity, and we must explain in the story as much as we possibly can the reason that the source insisted on anonymity and describe how the source knows the information.

Quoting from the [AP's statement of News Values and Principles](#): To use anonymously sourced reporting, reporters "must get approval from their news manager before

sending the story to the desk. The manager is responsible for vetting the material and making sure it meets AP guidelines. The manager must know the identity of the source, and is obligated, like the reporter, to keep the source's identity confidential. Only after they are assured that the source material has been vetted by a manager should editors and producers allow it to be used.”

This is vital because the credibility of the AP is on the line with any use of anonymity, and it is the responsibility of managers to ensure that both the source and information are solid before we distribute it to customers and audiences.

There is another caveat to the use of anonymous material. It needs corroboration. As AP’s standards state: “The AP routinely seeks and requires more than one source when sourcing is anonymous. Stories should be held while attempts are made to reach additional sources for confirmation or elaboration.”

The exception to this two-source rule is when the material at issue comes directly from “an authoritative figure who provides information so detailed that there is no question of its accuracy.”

That is a high bar, and any such single-source reporting should be approved by a senior editor at the level of news director or above.

While these rules are straightforward, they can become muddled if reporting from anonymous sources is put directly into a Slack channel or conversation with other editors and reporters assembling a piece of AP journalism, especially in a breaking-news situation.

So here are two other rules of thumb:

Never put anonymously sourced material into a Slack channel before it has been vetted and approved by the editor or manager as described above.

When anonymous information is approved, according to our standards, only then may it go into Slack channel. But it must be labeled to indicate how or if it may be used, e.g., “publishable,” “non-publishable,” or “needs 2nd source before using.”

If you have questions about these policies, please contact me, Amanda Barrett or Karen Mahabir directly. We also will hold a Standards & Style training on the practice of anonymity in early December.

Amanda Barrett, Karen Mahabir and John Daniszewski

## Connecting mailbox

### *News copter crash*

[Malcolm Barr](#) - Regarding the most recent news helicopter crash recorded below my late wife's cousin, Francis Gary Powers, whose spy plane crashed over the USSR in the

1960s, died in a similar tragedy over Los Angeles shortly after his release from a Soviet prison in the 1970s. He, too, was identifying the weather and traffic for various news organizations.

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## *Why we got into journalism*

Keith Robinson - To continue your series on why we got into journalism and if we had chosen a different field what would it be:

I worked on my high school newspaper in Philadelphia and felt a sense of importance with it. I considered it as a possible career at the time but didn't follow through.

After graduation, I had no direction for myself and worked as a clerk in a paint store. (Think the main character in "Saturday Night Fever.") At the time I was working there, I enlisted in the Navy Reserve and a year later went on active duty for two years in the Mediterranean. Going into the Navy turned out to be the best decision in my life.

After completing my time on active duty, I went back to the paint store to get my job back – by law, they had to reinstate me – but I had the nerve to tell a company hiring exec that I'd like to come back as assistant store manager. To this day, I remember almost verbatim what he then said to me: "Keith, we value you as an employee and want you back, but assistant manager at this time is out of the question."

It was devastating. But looking back on it now, it was almost comical for he would never know that he actually did me a favor by turning down my request. With that rejection, I decided to take the advice of a Navy friend and attend the university where he was. (He remains a close friend today.) I majored in journalism.

If I had to choose a different career, it would have been in music, which is my passion in retirement. But I have no "natural" talent for it; it's a lot of work for me. But, as the saying goes, it's a labor of love, and I am glad I have given myself a chance at it, with some successes and some frustrations as a performer.

But once in a while in deep thought, I think that had I gone back to the paint store I almost surely could have retired as assistant store manager, maybe, I can just barely imagine, even store manager!

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## *Snaps from Bill Kole retirement party*



AP New England News Editor Bill Kole, left, watches his wife Terry cut a congratulatory cake during his retirement party, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, in Providence, R.I. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)



AP New England News Editor Bill Kole, center, laughs between Concord correspondent Michael Casey, left, and retired Boston statehouse correspondent Bob Salsberg, right, during Kole's retirement party, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, in Providence, R.I. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

# Live from Qatar: AP covers the World Cup



Japan's goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda makes a save during the World Cup group E soccer match between Germany and Japan, at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Nov. 23, 2022. (AP Photo/Petr Josek)

By Nicole Meir

As the 2022 FIFA World Cup kicks off in Qatar, AP journalists are covering the action in text, video, live video and photos for customers around the world.

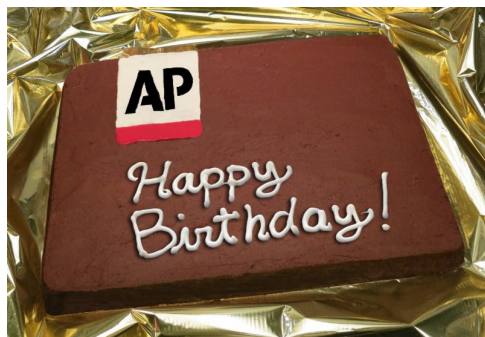
For the first time in nearly 10 years, AP photographers will be stationed on the catwalk of the World Cup matches, delivering rare access photography of the biggest games within minutes of being taken.

AP Global Media services will also deliver host country broadcast services from locations across the city and directly outside the stadium.

“At its heart, the World Cup is a sporting event, but it is about so much more than that as well,” said Paul Haven, vice president of global news gathering. “There are questions around human rights, religion, climate, sustainability and geopolitics. Our footprint in Qatar and around the world allows us to hit all of those issues in a global and authoritative way, using the full breadth of AP’s expertise.”

AP’s on-site coverage continues through the end of the tournament on Dec. 18.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Joe Frazier](#)

[Bill McCloskey](#)

*On Saturday to...*

[Pierce Lehmbeck](#)

*On Sunday to.*

[Ann Joyce](#)

**Welcome to Connecting**



[Michelle Chapman](#)

[Shawn Marsh](#)



## Marc Tuno

# Stories of interest

## ***6 Apple Daily staff plead guilty to collusion in Hong Kong*** (AP)

By KANIS LEUNG

HONG KONG (AP) — Six former executives of a now-defunct Hong Kong pro-democracy newspaper on Tuesday pleaded guilty to a collusion charge under the National Security Law that has silenced and jailed most opposition voices in the southern Chinese territory.

The staff members of Apple Daily were arrested last year during a crackdown on dissent after Beijing imposed the sweeping security law in response to the widespread anti-government protests in 2019. They were charged with conspiracy to commit collusion with foreign forces to endanger national security.

The law criminalizes acts of succession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces. Its maximum penalty is life imprisonment. But the six were expected to receive lesser penalties because of their guilty pleas.

Publisher Cheung Kim-hung, associated publisher Chan Pui-man, Editor-in-Chief Ryan Law, Executive Editor-in-Chief Lam Man-chung, and editorial writers Fung Wai-kong and Yeung Ching-kee, admitted they had conspired with the newspaper's founder Jimmy Lai to call for an imposition of sanctions or blockade, or engage in other hostile activities against Hong Kong or China.

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

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## ***Press Corps Explodes As KJP Publicly Berates Daily Caller Reporter*** (Daily Caller)

BRIANNA LYMAN

The White House press corps exploded Tuesday after press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre berated the Daily Caller's White House correspondent Diana Glebova.

Dr. Anthony Fauci was partaking in a press briefing when he went to step away from the podium. Glebova said she had asked several times what Fauci had done to investigate the origins of the virus, prompting Jean-Pierre to step back to the podium and snap at Glebova.

“Hold on one second, we have a process here. I’m not calling on people who yell. You’re being disrespectful to your colleagues and you’re being disrespectful to our guest. I will not call on you if you yell, and also you’re taking time off the clock,” she said.

The Grio reporter April Ryan also told her she was “being disrespectful.”

Glebova tried to respond but Jean-Pierre immediately silenced her, saying she would not get into a “back and forth with you.”

Glebova then said to Jean-Pierre that she “calls on the same people all the time.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

## The Final Word

*The 100 Greatest TV Theme Songs of All Time* (Rolling Stone)

BY DAVID BROWNE, SEAN T. COLLINS, JON DOLAN, ELISABETH GARBER-PAUL, ANDY GREENE, JOE GROSS, TATIANA KRISZTINA, MICHAELANGELO MATOS, NOEL MURRAY, MOSI REEVES, ALAN SEPINWALL, ROB SHEFFIELD

WE APOLOGIZE IN advance for all the TV theme songs we are about to lodge back into your heads. Or maybe we should preemptively accept your thanks?

Despite periodic attempts to contract or outright eliminate them, theme songs are a crucial part of the TV-watching experience. The best ones put you in the right mindset to watch each episode of your favorite, and can be just as entertaining in their own right as any great joke, monologue, or action sequence. So we’ve decided to pick the 100 best theme songs of all time — technically 101, since there are two as inextricably linked as peanut butter and jelly — and attempted to rank them in order of greatness.

How did we figure this out, beyond just arguing about it over Slack, Zoom, ham radio, etc?

First, we assembled a massive list of great songs from throughout the entire long history of TV. We then pared that down by looking for diversity in terms of style of music, style of show, and era. (Honestly, the entire 100 could have been made up of shows from the Seventies. Apologies to *The White Shadow*, *What’s Happening??*, and many more that did not make the final list.) Some were written expressly for that show, while others were pre-existing songs given new life through their association with a particular series.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History – Nov. 25, 2022



**Today is Friday, Nov. 25, the 329th day of 2022. There are 36 days left in the year.**

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

On Nov. 25, 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

### **On this date:**

In 1783, the British evacuated New York during the Revolutionary War.

In 1914, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was born in Martinez, California.

In 1915, a new version of the Ku Klux Klan, targeting blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants, was founded by William Joseph Simmons.

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke.

In 1961, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise, was commissioned.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif, becoming America's first combat casualty of the conflict.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

In 2009, Toyota said it would replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals could get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

Ten years ago: Rioters stormed a Muslim Brotherhood headquarters building in northern Egypt on the third day of street battles following a power grab by President Mohammed Morsi. YouTube announced that "Gangnam Style" by South Korean rapper PSY had become the site's most viewed video to that time, with more than 805 million viewings.

Five years ago: On what was designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, President Emmanuel Macron launched an initiative to combat violence and harassment against women in France and change what he described as France's sexist culture. A volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali rumbled to life, temporarily disrupting some international flights to the popular tourist destination. Veteran Hollywood actor Rance Howard, the father of director Ron Howard, died at the age of 89.

One year ago: France launched a plan to give COVID-19 booster shots to all adults. A methane explosion in a coal mine in Siberia quickly filled the mine with toxic smoke; authorities said 46 miners and five rescuers were killed. Giant balloons once again wafted through miles of Manhattan as the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade returned in full, a year after being crimped by the coronavirus pandemic. Italy's government said National Geographic magazine's famed green-eyed "Afghan Girl," Sharbat Gulla, had arrived in Italy as part of the West's evacuation of Afghans following the Taliban takeover of the country.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kathryn Crosby is 89. Actor Christopher Riordan is 85. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 82. Singer Bob Lind is 80. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 78. Actor John Larroquette is 75. Actor Tracey Walter is 75. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 75. Author Charlaune Harris is 71. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 71. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 67. Singer Amy Grant is 62. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 59. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 58. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 58. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 57. Actor Steve Harris is 57. Actor Billy Burke is 56. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 56. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 56. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 54. Actor Jill Hennessy is 53. Actor Christina Applegate is 51. Actor Eddie Steeples is 49. Actor Kristian Nairn is 47. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 46. Actor Jill Flint is 45. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 43. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 43. Actor Valerie Azlynn is 42. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 41. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 41. Actor Katie Cassidy is 36. Actor Stephanie Hsu is 32. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 31.

## 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.

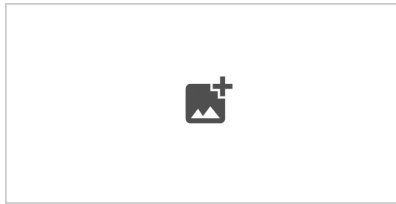


Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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