

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

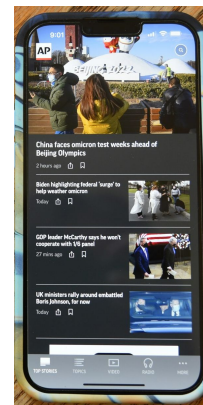
[View as Webpage](#)



# Connecting

Nov. 6, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)  
[Top AP Photos](#)  
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)  
[AP Newsletters](#)  
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Nov. 6, 2023.

Do you use artificial intelligence? Artificial intelligence (AI) is defined as the intelligence of machines or software, as opposed to the intelligence of humans or animals. It is the field of study in computer science that develops and studies intelligent machines.

In a column linked below and distributed by Editor & Publisher, Seattle Times Free Press Editor **Brier Dudley** says AI could be the "death blow for local newspapers, depending on how it evolves." Just last week President Biden issued an executive order laying out ground rules for AI systems.

Colleague **Ed Staats** opines that "Artificial intelligence seems to be the next Big Thing. For many it is already here. I would find a special category in Connecting for AI offerings to be of considerable interest and value. I would like to read about what the AP is doing in this new world. Also, I am sure retiree experimentation would make for fascinating reading."

So what are you doing to supplement your own intelligence artificially through machines or software? Connecting would like to know. Send your responses to [markmitt71@yahoo.com](mailto:markmitt71@yahoo.com).

---

Meanwhile, today's issue includes more thoughts on the demise of the News Leaders Association, which was created out of the 2019 merger of the Associated Press Media Editors and the American Society of News Editors. Both long-time journalism organizations, experiencing their own financial difficulties, hoped the combined membership and resources of one organization would allow their continued journalism betterment efforts to continue. Four years later the association sent wording to members on a vote to dissolve the group.

Colleague **George Stanley**, NLA president in 2021, described the association's plans to dissolve as sad news. "The conventions were so important to APME, ASNE and NLA -- learning from others, getting to know them, having someone to talk to as things got more lonely in leadership," he told Connecting. "Pandemic did her in."

Then managing editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Stanley was a key organizer as the newspaper hosted APME's annual conference in Milwaukee in October 2001, less than a month after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Stanley helped APME revise its program to include sessions on terrorism, journalists' first-hand accounts of covering the collapse of the World Trade Center towers and the aftermath, and helping journalists deal with the physical and emotional toll of covering terrorism and war. The paper also arranged a live feed with their state's former governor, then President Bush's U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, to discuss the anthrax attacks that began a week after Sept. 11.

Stanley said NLA thought it could revive "with a great gathering in Nashville but a new string of COVID came out and budgets had been cut so much that editors didn't want to spend money on their own travel and needed it to cover news."

On Friday Connecting Editor **Paul Stevens** explained that in addition to the national APME, many states had their own similar editors' groups. They were vital providing feedback to AP bureau leaders and creating a spirit of sharing news and photos to the cooperative for the benefit of other members. In today's issue, colleague **Sally Hale**, AP's former bureau chief in Philadelphia, recalls the work her group did to strengthen relationships between members and AP.

---

A reminder that Paul is off for the next couple of days. Send stories, thoughts, ideas, photos to [markmitt71@yahoo.com](mailto:markmitt71@yahoo.com).

Have a great day!

- *Mark Mittelstadt*



Last season's AP Player of the Year, Zach Edey is returning to lead Purdue. He speaks at a press conference during the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament on April 1, 2023, in Houston. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

## AP to start naming Players of the Week for men's and women's college basketball

### The Associated Press

The Associated Press for the first time will name players of the week for men's and women's college basketball throughout the upcoming season.

The AP Player of the Week for men's and women's basketball will be selected by a panel of AP college basketball beat writers, based off the players' performances from the previous week. The winners, both men's and women's, will be announced every Tuesday throughout the regular season, starting Nov. 14.

"The Associated Press covers Division I basketball like no one else and our expert journalists are primely positioned to call out the best players of each week," said Barry Bedlan, global director of text, data and new markets products for AP. "We hope this becomes a tradition that players, teams and conferences will embrace, much like the AP Top 25 polls and our year-end awards."

AP also will continue its longstanding tradition of selecting the AP Player of the Year for both the men and the women at the end of the regular season.

The winners are typically announced in the days leading up to each Final Four.

The men's award has been announced each season since 1960, while the women's dates back to 1995.

Those winners are selected by the same panels of sports writers and broadcasters from around the country that vote on the AP Top 25 polls for each sport. The men's poll has more than 60

voters while the women's poll has more than 30. All voters have an extensive background in covering college basketball.



Then Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors President Bob Heisse hosted member editors at his State College home in 2006 ahead of that year's PAPME conference. Heisse went on to be elected to the national APME board of directors. Photo submitted by Sally Hale.

## Strengthening AP, member relations in Pennsylvania

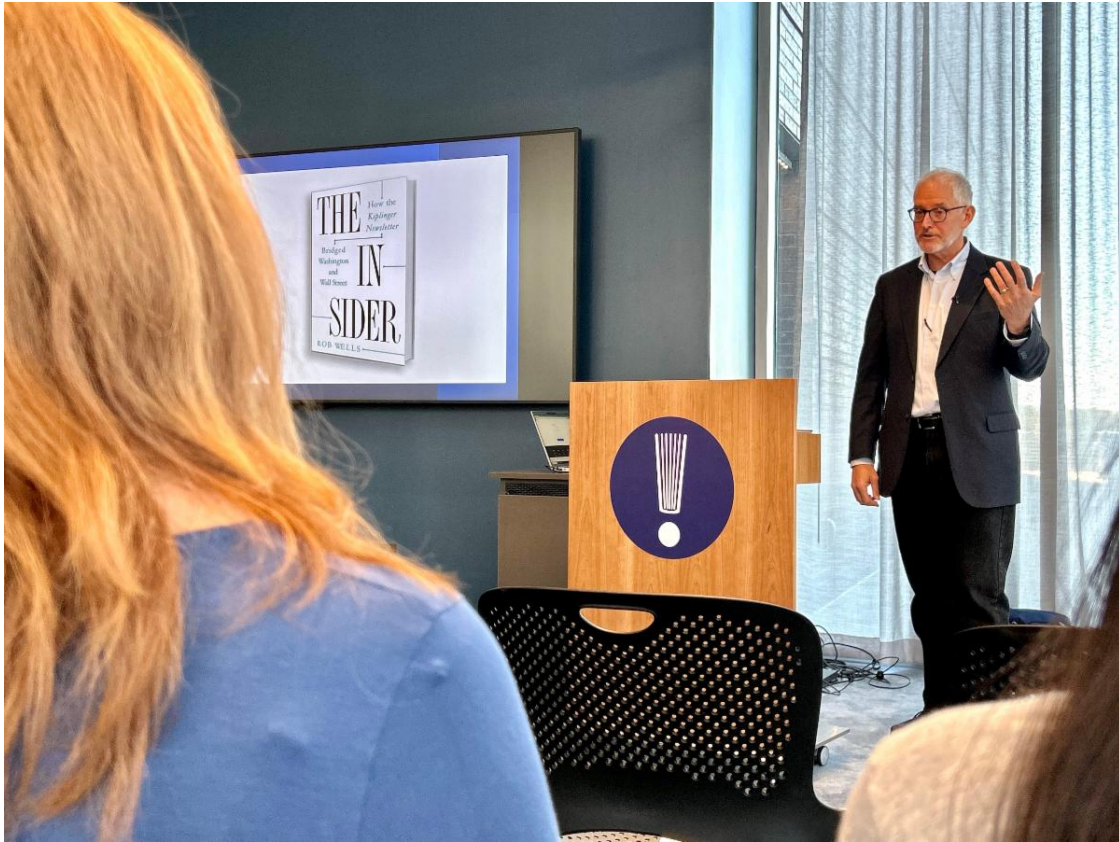
[Sally Hale](#) \_ I was sad to hear the news of the dissolution of the News Leaders Association.

Back in the day, the state APME groups were a wonderful way to strengthen relationships between the AP and member editors. Pennsylvania had a particularly strong group, with representatives of most of the state's 84 daily newspapers -- all AP members -- participating. We conducted statewide Freedom of Information audits and joined forces to pay legal fees to obtain public records in big news stories.

We regularly had 200 attendees at the annual PAPME awards banquet, the highlight of a conference that provided training and panel discussions pondering the road ahead for journalism.

All of this was made possible by a strong board of directors. We used to take them out for dinner the night before our conference, along with the AP managers and correspondents from across the state, renting a bus so that no one had to worry about over-imbibing. In this 2006 photo, our bus is parked in the cul-de-sac of then-PAPME president and Centre Daily Times editor Bob Heisse. He hosted a happy hour at his home in State College, site of that year's conference.





Rob Wells talks about his new book *The Insider: How the Kiplinger Newsletter Bridged Washington and Wall Street*. Photo shared by former AP correspondent and news editor David Speer.

## Catching up with ex-APer Rob Wells on his new book on the Kiplinger Newsletter

[David Speer](#) \_ I had the good fortune last week of getting to hear my friend Rob Wells discuss his new book *The Insider: How the Kiplinger Newsletter Bridged Washington and Wall Street* when Rob returned to Fayetteville, Ark., for a visit, lecture and reading.

*The Insider* is the story of how Willard M. Kiplinger — a former AP reporter himself — launched his Kiplinger Washington Letter in 1923, changing his life along with the direction of the New Deal and the country itself.

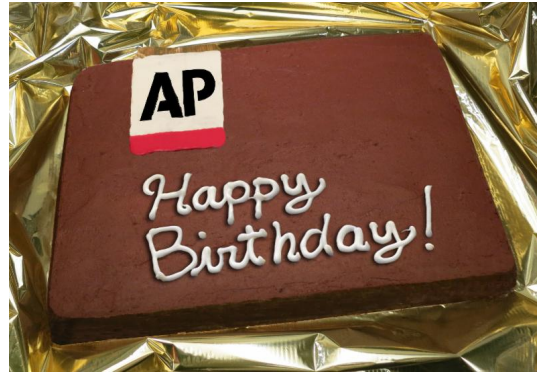
Some of you will know Rob, who worked for the AP from 1986 in Carson City until leaving in 1998 when he was the Tax Writer in D.C., better than I do. We became friends when he was teaching journalism and running the department's graduate studies at the University of Arkansas. Rob wrote most of the book while in Fayetteville and came back for a reading and lecture, mostly attended by university j-faculty and students. He's now associate professor at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland. Rob is also the former deputy bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal's Washington Bureau, bureau chief of the Dow Jones Newswires Washington Bureau and reporter for Bloomberg News.

Rob has packed *The Insider* with information from original sources. Much of that is from letters, clippings, notes and files that Kiplinger's grandson Knight allowed Rob to examine, copy and ask questions about. Rob's introduction says the book sheds light on commercial newsletters, the trade press, and business journalism in general but does more than just that. "The untold history of The Kiplinger Washington Letter and its influence during the New Deal is relevant as our society grapples with questions about the role of journalism in a democratic society," he writes. Questions

from students in the audience focused in on the book's recounting of Kiplinger's insider interaction with notables of the New Deal and its take on similar issues in journalism today.

The [book is available on Amazon](#) (not an affiliate link) but I'd urge you to do what I did and buy it through your local independent bookstore.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Gene Baker](#)

[Elaine Thompson](#)

## Stories of interest

### *William Lewis is named Washington Post CEO and publisher*

(The Washington Post)

By Elahe Izadi and Jeremy Barr

William Lewis, a reporter-turned-executive who spent years working in British media and for Rupert Murdoch-owned companies, has been named the CEO and publisher of The Washington Post. As CEO of Dow Jones and publisher of the Wall Street Journal from 2014 to 2020, Lewis was credited with increasing the Journal's digital subscriber base. In an email to staff late Saturday, Post owner Jeff Bezos cited Lewis's background as both a journalist and executive in making him a "strong fit" for the job.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady, Myron Belkind, Sibby Christensen

(Politico)

Veteran media executive and former business journalist William Lewis is the new CEO and publisher of the Washington Post, according to a story published on the Post's website Saturday. Lewis, 54, served as publisher of the Wall Street Journal and CEO of Dow Jones after a career in British media, including as editor-in-chief of London's Daily Telegraph. He worked at Rupert Murdoch-owned News Corp. in the aftermath of the company's phone-hacking and police bribery scandal.

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

-0-



President Joe Biden delivers remarks about government regulations on artificial intelligence systems during an event in the East Room of the White House, Oct. 30, 2023, in Washington. (Evan Vucci / AP)

## *AI's challenge and opportunity for news* (Editor and Publisher)

By Brier Dudley, Seattle Times Free Press Editor

Generative artificial intelligence could be the death blow for local newspapers, depending on how it evolves.

It could also present opportunities, judging from several developments this week.

One was President Joe Biden's executive order on Monday laying out AI standards. Among the many things it aspires to do is improve how artificially generated content is labeled, so it's consistently and clearly identifiable.

The other development was an aggressive new push by the news industry to secure fair payment from tech companies exploiting their work to build AI systems.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski

-0-





Steve Bradley, of Rochester, N.Y., is one of five named plaintiffs in a proposed class-action lawsuit that claims Gannett “discriminated against non-minorities” to achieve diversity goals. (Matt Burkhardt for The Washington Post)

## ***A newspaper giant tried to diversify its staff. White workers sued*** (The Washington Post)

By Taylor Telford

After more than 20 years of working for his hometown newspaper, the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester, N.Y., Steve Bradley was laid off amid pandemic-induced cost-cutting in May 2020.

He was crushed, but he eventually took a communications job for a local school district. Then, two years later, he received a startling message. Sitting in the bleachers at the school softball field in July 2022, Bradley took a phone call from an unknown number. He listened as J. Nelson Thomas, an employment lawyer he’d never met, presented a jarring claim: Bradley was laid off because he is White.

Now, Bradley is one of five named plaintiffs in a proposed class-action lawsuit that claims the country’s largest newspaper publisher “discriminated against non-minorities” to achieve diversity goals.

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

-0-

## ***After founding Amazon in a Seattle garage three decades ago, Jeff Bezos packs his bags for Miami*** (AP)

## The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeff Bezos is leaving Seattle, where the billionaire founded Amazon out of a garage nearly three decades ago. In a Thursday night Instagram post, the 59-year-old Bezos announced plans to return to Miami — where he spent his high school years — to be closer to his parents and his partner, Lauren Sánchez.

Bezos stepped down as the CEO of Amazon, still based in Seattle, almost three years ago and said in his social media post that operations for his rocket company, Blue Origin, are “increasingly shifting” to Cape Canaveral. Miami is about 200 miles south of Cape Canaveral.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## *She wasn't there to make friends* (New York Times)

By Joanna Scutts

As recounted in Jennet Conant's biography, Marguerite Higgins played the high-stakes game of journalism in a man's world.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen, Michael Rubin

-0-

## *NYT writer resigns after reprimand for open letter declaring Israel committing genocide in Gaza* (Mediaite)

By Caleb Howe

Writer Jazmine Hughes has resigned from The New York Times after being reprimanded for signing an open letter that declares Israel is engaged in “genocide against the Palestinian people,” the publication's magazine editor Jake Silverstein informed staff on Friday. “While I respect that she has strong convictions, this was a clear violation of The Times's policy on public protest,” Silverstein wrote. “She and I discussed that her desire to stake out this kind of public position and join in public protests isn't compatible with being a journalist at The Times, and we both came to the conclusion that she should resign.”

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

-0-

## *David Mitchell, Weekly Editor Who Exposed a Corrupt Cult, Dies at 79* (New York Times)

By Sam Roberts

David Mitchell, a muckraker whose tiny California newspaper challenged the violent drug rehabilitation cult Synanon and, as a result, became one of only a handful of weeklies to win a Pulitzer Prize, died on Oct. 26 at his home in Point Reyes Station, Calif., in Marin County. He was 79. His wife, Lynn Axelrod Mitchell, said the cause was complications of Parkinson's disease.

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



-0-

## ***Chicago suburb tickets reporter for asking too many questions, in latest First Amendment dustup*** (AP)

By John O'Connor

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Officials in a suburban Chicago community have issued municipal citations to a local news reporter for what they say were persistent contacts with city officials seeking comment on treacherous fall flooding.

The tickets from Calumet City, a city of 35,000 located 24 miles (39 kilometers) south of Chicago, allege “interference/hampering of city employees” by Hank Sanders, a reporter for the Daily Southtown, the Chicago Tribune reported Friday.

It’s the latest of several recent First Amendment dust-ups involving city officials and news outlets around the country, following this week’s arrest of a small-town Alabama newspaper publisher and reporter after reporting on a grand jury investigation of a school district, and the August police raid of a newspaper and its publisher’s home in Kansas tied to an apparent dispute a restaurant owner had with the paper.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## **Today in History - Nov. 6, 2023**



**Today is Monday, Nov. 6, the 310th day of 2023. There are 55 days left in the year.**

### **Today’s Highlight in History:**

On Nov. 6, 1984, President Ronald Reagan won reelection by a landslide over former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic challenger who won just one state, his native Minnesota.

### **On this date:**

In 1860, former Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln of the Republican Party was elected President of the United States as he defeated John Breckinridge, John Bell and Stephen Douglas.

In 1861, James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.

In 1928, in a first, the results of Republican Herbert Hoover's presidential election victory over Democrat Alfred E. Smith were flashed onto an electric wraparound sign on the New York Times building.

In 1947, "Meet the Press" made its debut on NBC; the first guest was James A. Farley, former postmaster general and former Democratic National Committee Chair; the host was the show's co-creator, Martha Rountree.

In 1977, 39 people were killed when the Kelly Barnes Dam in Georgia burst, sending a wall of water through Toccoa Falls College.

In 1990, about one-fifth of the Universal Studios backlot in southern California was destroyed in an arson fire.

In 2001, billionaire Republican Michael Bloomberg won New York City's mayoral race, defeating Democrat Mark Green.

In 2012, President Barack Obama easily won reelection, vanquishing Republican former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney 332 electoral votes to 206.

In 2014, the march toward same-sex marriage across the U.S. hit a roadblock when a federal appeals court upheld laws against the practice in four states: Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. (A divided U.S. Supreme Court overturned the laws in June 2015.)

In 2015, President Barack Obama rejected the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, declaring it would undercut U.S. efforts to clinch a global climate change deal at the center of his environmental legacy.

In 2016, FBI Director James Comey abruptly announced that Hillary Clinton should not face criminal charges related to newly discovered emails from her tenure at the State Department.

In 2018, Democrats seized the House majority in the midterm elections, but Republicans gained ground in the Senate and preserved key governorships.

In 2019, Democrats announced that they would launch public impeachment hearings against President Donald Trump the following week.

In 2020, the federal agency that oversees U.S. election security pushed back at unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud from President Donald Trump and others, saying that local election offices had detection measures that "make it highly difficult to commit fraud through counterfeit ballots."

In 2022, Duran Duran, Lionel Richie, Pat Benatar and Eminem were among those inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Actor June Squibb is 94. Singer P.J. Proby is 85. Actor Sally Field is 77. Singer Rory Block is 74. Jazz musician Arturo Sandoval is 74. TV host Catherine Crier is 69. News correspondent and former California first lady Maria Shriver is 68. Actor Lori Singer is 66. Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan is 59. Rock singer Corey Glover is 59. Actor Brad Grunberg is 59. Actor Peter DeLuise is 57. Actor Kelly Rutherford is 55. Author Colson Whitehead is 54. Actor Ethan Hawke is 53. Chef/TV judge Marcus Samuelsson is 53. Actor Thandiwe (tan-DEE'-way) Newton (formerly Thandie (TAN'-dee)) is 51. Model-actor Rebecca Romijn (roh-MAYN') is 51. Actor Zoe McLellan is 49. Actor Nicole Dubuc is 45. Actor Taryn Manning is 45. Retired NBA star Lamar Odom is 44. Actor Patina Miller is 39. Actor Katie Leclerc (LEH'-klehr) is 37. Singer-songwriter Ben Rector is 37. Singer-songwriter Robert Ellis is 35. Actor Emma Stone is 35. U.S. Olympic swimming gold medalist Bobby Finke is 24.

# 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.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
**paulstevens46@gmail.com**

Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!