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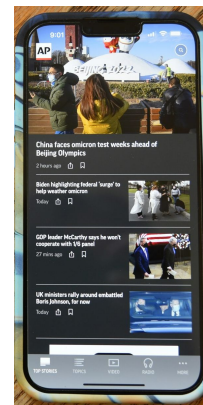
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Connecting

Nov. 16, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Nov. 16, 2023,

When AP Sports Editors president **Jeff Rosen** called **Terry Taylor** in 2018 to let her know she was the recipient of the APSE's top award, it happened to be the day after she had had a tooth pulled.

"If you know Terry Taylor," he said in APSE's March 2018 issue, "you'll appreciate her reaction upon hearing she'd been voted the recipient of the APSE's Red Smith Award for 2018: joy mixed with pain, because it hurt to smile after having a tooth pulled the day before.

"I'll be damned," she said. 'I have stitches in my mouth, and I'm smiling and it's killing me. But this is great. Christmas came in March.'"

Rosen, assistant managing editor/sports for The Kansas City Star and The Wichita Eagle, still recalls that day and her reaction, and when he learned of her death, he said Wednesday night: "I'm saddened to learn of Terry's passing. She was a true pioneer, a

fighter always for the power and importance of journalism of all stripes -- but especially the storytelling opportunities in sports. May she rest in peace.”

Today’s Connecting brings you the sad news of Taylor’s death Tuesday morning at the age of 71, six years after she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. The news came from her husband **Tony Rentschler**, whose first date with Terry came during the 1988 Olympics Winter Games in Calgary where he was a member of the AP technical support team. They rode a cable car to the top of a mountain and had a cup of coffee perched on top. They were married several years later.

In his note to colleagues, Rentschler said, "Terry had a rich and active life, filled with adventure and accomplishment. She spent the best part of her career working for the Associated Press in New York City, and the best part of that time managing the sports department...She traveled the world to organize and plan news coverage of every kind of sports event, from the Super Bowl to the World Series, soccer World Cup, British Open golf and at least a dozen Olympics...

“No flowers for Terry and me thank you, instead buy something nice for yourself or give to a worthy cause. Let your choice make you happy.”

We lead with a heartfelt tribute to Terry Taylor’s life, written for the wire by **Ron Blum**, AP Baseball Writer.

If you would like to join colleagues whose memories of Terry are included in today’s edition, please come ahead.

Today's issue also brings more responses to the AP's announcement that it would seek donations from readers, and to the newest Connecting feature, stories you covered involving a good old-fashioned phone booth. I look forward to your responses to both.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

Terry Taylor, trailblazing Associated Press sports editor, dies at age 71



FILE - Associated Press sports editor Terry Taylor smiles in 2005. Terry R. Taylor, who in two trailblazing decades as the first female sports editor of The Associated Press transformed the news agency's emphasis into multilayered coverage of rigorous reporting, entertaining enterprise and edgy analysis, has died. She was 71. Taylor died Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, at her home in Paoli, Pennsylvania, according to her husband, Tony Rentschler. (AP Photo, File)

BY RONALD BLUM

NEW YORK (AP) — Terry R. Taylor, who in two trailblazing decades as the first female sports editor of The Associated Press transformed the news agency's emphasis into

multilayered coverage of rigorous reporting, entertaining enterprise and edgy analysis, has died. She was 71.

Taylor died Tuesday at her home in Paoli, Pennsylvania, according to her husband, Tony Rentschler. She was diagnosed in 2013 with breast cancer that metastasized three years later. She stopped chemotherapy treatment last December when the side effects became intolerable, he said.

“Terry was truly a trailblazer in journalism, paving the way for so many women to ascend into leadership, both in sports departments and throughout the industry,” said Julie Pace, senior vice president and executive editor of the AP. “Her legacy at AP has been an enduring one, and that will no doubt continue.”

Taylor ran the AP sports department from 1992 until 2013 and believed she was on duty close to 24 hours a day. She arrived in the office around 10 a.m. most weekdays, usually staying until 7 or 8 p.m. and then remained constantly on the phone until West Coast night games ended — or even all night when the America’s Cup sailing took place in Australia. She led the AP’s coverage of 14 Olympics.

“There were, of course, doubters when I appointed her as AP’s first female sports editor, but she soon silenced them, by force of talent and personality,” Louis D. Boccardi, the AP’s president and CEO from 1985 to 2003, said Wednesday. “Beyond doubt, a Hall of Famer.”

She was demanding with exacting standards, for herself and others. She had a personal shopper at Saks Fifth Avenue and reporters who arrived in the office wearing shorts were sent home to switch into more proper attire.

“You had to work alongside her to appreciate how many barriers she knocked over day after day, and she did it with joy and plenty of humor, but nobody had sharper elbows,” said Jim Litke, an AP reporter from 1978 to 2022 and a national sports columnist starting in 1989. “Whether it was wrangling a generator from a hotel manager in San Francisco the night an earthquake rocked the World Series, or walking into the chairman’s office at Augusta National to deliver her point in person, Terry never stopped trying to make every story she touched better. She dared us to follow her lead, to push and pull at every loose thread, and made all of us better reporters and even better people in the bargain.”

Taylor overhauled beats to make their focus more news oriented and go beyond the scores and on-field action.

“Terry was a history-making and inspirational leader who maintained a laser focus on the news,” said Tom Curley, the AP’s president and CEO from 2003-12. “She had a commanding grasp of the sports world and what the story was. She set high expectations for how AP reporters should cover it. She was a mentor to many and the rare person who made all our days so much better.”

At times, she left her reporters exasperated with her insistence there was one perfect lead sentence that must be found.

“She was demanding as all good leaders are, but it was her friendship and guidance I’ll always cherish most,” said Tim Dahlberg, an AP reporter from 1979 to 2022, the last 19 years as a sports columnist.

If anyone took offense to her calling them at home in the middle of the night, she told them they should consider employment that didn’t require nights and weekends.

“The message ‘pls call’ jolted this young reporter anytime it flashed on my screen,” said Jenna Fryer, the AP’s auto racing writer since 2006. “What story did I get wrong? Did someone break something I didn’t have?”

Taylor shaped coverage of Michael Jordan and Joe Montana, Bear Bryant and Pete Rose, of success and scandal. She was the AP’s point person with member sports editors throughout the U.S.

“She was incredible at her job, but she cared about the people, not just the job,” said Dave Smith, the top sports editor at The Boston Globe from 1970-78 and The Dallas Morning News from 1981 to 2004. “I tried to hire her several times — unsuccessfully.”

Terry Rosalind Taylor was born on Oct. 4, 1952, the daughter of Ann and Thomas Taylor. She grew up in the Philadelphia suburb of Chester reading Ray Didinger in the Delaware County Daily Times, which sparked her desire to become a sports writer. She was a graduate of Temple University and worked at The Charlotte News in North Carolina before joining the AP’s Philadelphia bureau in 1977. Taylor transferred to the New York sports department four years later.



“The AP used to send around these things called ‘dream sheets’ once a year to tell them how you liked your job and what it is you would like to do in your future with the AP,” she remembered in a 2014 interview with The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism. “So kind of as a joke, I said I would like to work in New York sports after only being in Philly for about a year. I never thought anyone would ever look at this. A couple months later, Wick Temple asked if I wanted to come to sports in New York. I was floored.”

Taylor covered figure skating at the 1984 Winter Olympics and in 1985 was appointed assistant sports editor in charge of enterprise coverage. She was promoted to deputy sports editor in 1987 and directed coverage of the 1988 Winter and Summer Olympics.

“Red Smith used to call the AP from Nantucket on summer mornings to get West Coast baseball scores,” Taylor recalled in 2018 to John Leicester, a Paris-based

reporter. "I happened to pick up the phone one day: 'Hello. This is Red Smith. Can somebody read me last night's West Coast scores? My blasted paper didn't get them in.'"

Taylor left the AP from December 1990 to September 1991 to become assistant sports editor of The New York Times. She returned to the AP as assistant chief of bureau in New York, supervised coverage of the 1992 Olympics and took over as sports editor in October 1992, two days after her 40th birthday, when Darrell Christian was promoted from sports editor to managing editor.

"People who knew Terry and I often said we were one and the same and maybe we were," Christian said. "She won over the old school critics of women in sports while inspiring the younger generations."

Taylor announced in August 2013 she was retiring that November and moving to Pennsylvania, and she had surgery that fall to remove a malignant breast tumor. She recovered and was preparing to work for the International Olympic Committee at the 2016 Olympics when she learned the cancer had returned and spread.

Taylor maintained an active schedule in Philadelphia and New York during retirement. She was given the 2018 Red Smith Award by the Associated Press Sports Editors for outstanding contributions to sports journalism.

Taylor was a 2017 alumni hall of fame honoree of Temple's Klein College of Media and Communication. She received the Association for Women in Sports Media's 2016 Mary Garber Pioneer Award.

"Terry shaped AP Sports into the industry leader and a reference in sports journalism," said Ricardo Zuniga, the AP's current sports editor and a former reporter and editor under Taylor.

For all her accomplishments, Taylor considered herself fortunate.

"I never imagined this life," she told the Povich Center. "I just sort of fell into it because I happened to be in the right place at the right time and knew sports."

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Terry Taylor Appreciation: Former AP Sports Writer remembers 'she was the most everything'

BY BEN WALKER

NEW YORK (AP) — Terry R. Taylor, the first female sports editor at The Associated Press who ran the department from 1992-2013, died Tuesday. She was 71.

Retired AP Sports Writer Ben Walker worked with Taylor throughout her tenure. Here's what he remembers.

She'd come blazing into the office like a comet. Right away, everyone sat up straighter at their desk, fingers poised on keyboards. All of a sudden, it was go time at AP Sports, even before Terry Taylor barked, "What's cookin'?"

And that was on a quiet Tuesday morning when absolutely nothing was happening.

She was universally known as TRT — those were her initials, though few knew her middle name was Rosalind — but TNT was more accurate. At 5-foot-nothing and 100 pounds, wow, could she roar. She became a dynamic force in the world of journalism, the first woman sports editor at The Associated Press at a time when women were rare in the press box or such positions of power.

I remember the first time she went to Fenway Park in the early '90s, she was heading a conference of sports media executives in Boston. As we stood behind the batting cage before the game, an older guard signaled to me. He came over and whispered, "She knows she's not allowed to go on the field now, right?" TRT, however, overheard him. Without a pause, she matter-of-factly said, "Oh, I thought I'd go out and pitch a little batting practice."

Fact is, she wanted to be in the middle of everything when it came to the AP wire.

Read more [here](#).

Memories of Terry Taylor

[Lou Boccardi](#) – The news of Terry's passing fills me with personal and professional sadness—personal because she was easy to like and to admire and professional because she was so good at what she did.

There were, of course, doubters when I appointed her as AP's first female sports editor, but she soon silenced them, by force of talent and personality. Beyond doubt, a Hall of Famer.

I remember her coming to see me to tell me she was leaving for The Times. I predicted to her that she'd be back. Several months later she was again in my office, this time asking if we'd take her back. It wasn't a tough question to answer.

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[Paul Bowker](#) – past president, APSE - When I saw the name "Terry Taylor" in an email from a colleague Wednesday night, I feared the worst. Soon, I was in tears.

Terry was indeed a trailblazer, not only carving a path for females in the sports editing world but showing time and time again just how polished she was. She was a strong leader and took over as AP's national sports editor at a time when that world was certainly a man's world, including me. I met Terry as a national officer with AP Sports Editors and we became friends. I had so much respect and admiration for her.

When I was undergoing cancer treatments two years ago, Terry was one of those who contacted me personally. I'll never forget it. And here she was, battling cancer herself.

I am struggling for the words and I'll settle for the tears.

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[Doug Ferguson](#) - We lost a giant in the sports industry, all 98 pounds of her (figure of speech, of course. I would never ask). Terry Taylor was the first female sports editor of The Associated Press in a male-dominated era without making a fuss about it. Dave Smith at the Dallas Morning News tried to hire her away. The New York Times once tried to hire her, and her mother said, "Why would you leave the AP for a New York City newspaper?"

She had high standards and you needed thick skin. But she cared deeply about the product, even if that meant sending a story back to you and basically saying, "Try harder." She tried to make everyone better, and it wasn't always easy. Not sure it's supposed to be.

I've known this day was coming. She was diagnosed with breast cancer 10 years ago and lived twice as long as doctors thought she would. She called a month ago to say she was dying, and then spent the next several minutes apologizing for dumping that on me and making me promise not to tell anyone. Broke my heart, the news, and another example of how selfless she could be.

Reflections are the little things. Don't think I ever saw her happier than when she was walking down to Amen Corner, and particularly one Saturday morning at St. Andrews when she went down to the loop and sat in a grandstand for two hours, soaking in the Old Course and the auld toon. And this is really small — the shuttle from Merion. These were brutally long days of usual angst (apologies to the USGA, but the US Open typically is the toughest test in golf, and I'm sure the players feel the same way). Each evening she would gaze out the bus window and marvel at the landscaping of all the homes in the neighborhood. I hate shuttles as much as the next writer, but ever since I've made it a point to take in the surroundings. There can be a lot there if you take time to look.



The photo above is my favorite photo — Terry at her desk, administrative assistant Lisa Lorey in the foreground. Terry was drinking out of her Masters water bottle — she loved those and always asked in recent years for me to send her more. And socks, too. Of course, I often wonder what email she had on her screen and who was about to get hammered if the work was lacking, or who was going to get the two-word message: “call trt.” She wrote the most entertaining (some would say blunt) emails. Well, they were entertaining as long as you weren’t the recipient. As I said, high standards, and she passed them on to a great many people.

A sad day, fond memories.

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Mike Harris - Hearing about the death this week of Terry Taylor hit me hard. Not only was TRT the best boss I had in my 41 years at The Associated Press, she always treated me like a colleague and friend - not an employee.

Terry could be tough, too. Like the time I wrote a lead about Dale Jarrett beating Dale Earnhardt in the Daytona 500. TRT was upset that I mentioned Jarrett first, since the big story was really Earnhardt's continued failure to win NASCAR's biggest race at that point in his career. It was one of the few times we really disagreed about a story I wrote.

When I first began covering auto racing in 1980, Terry was deputy sports editor. That meant she oversaw the schedule for NY Sports. I was on the road almost every week, but still had to come into the office in Rockefeller Center on the few weeks I was home. My wife wasn't pleased about the situation and asked me to talk to Terry about it.

I arranged a lunch with her and told her that my schedule was causing problems at home. Terry agreed to let me work from home on those few weeks when I wasn't on the road for a race, telling me, "I'll only call you into the office if I need you for an emergency." She lived by that unwritten agreement for the rest of my 30 years covering auto racing.

Some of my favorite work memories are the race weekends at Indy when TRT would oversee that coverage of the Indy 500. The best times, though, were the staff dinners the night before the race when Terry would act as host. After dinner, she always asked me for my prediction of the race winner. I was wrong more often than not. But I loved the personal touch.

I was not able to come into NY Sports for a retirement party when I finally left the company in 2009, but Terry made sure to do a conference call with everyone in the NY office on hand to thank me for my work and wish me well in retirement.

We kept in touch periodically since then by email and I'm very sad that she is gone. RIP, TRT.

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Lindel Hutson – Like many of us, I first met Terry Taylor by phone. I was working nights on the General Desk in New York and she was working nights in Philadelphia. Many AP staffers in the field were hesitant to call NY with questions, problems, etc., but not Terry. It didn't take long to realize she would become an AP shining star.

I second the words of praise from others who were quoted in Ron Blum's excellent obit. She was a trailblazer, a tireless worker, a perfectionist, a delight.

I got to know her personally and professionally during my years as news editor in Indianapolis as she began her rise in sports. Indy carried a heavy sports load and we

had many heavy phone calls about coverage of the Indy 500, the NFL, the NBA and Bob Knight's never-ending shenanigans.

When I became bureau chief in Oklahoma City, Terry mentioned that her dad was originally from Oklahoma. Her parents divorced when she was young and she had little (if any) contact with him.

She thought she had relatives in Woodward in northwest Oklahoma, but was not sure. I mentioned this to editors at the member daily, the Woodward News. Somehow, they connected her with relatives in the area.

"My aunt Betty called and said they had been looking for me for 50 years," she told me. Terry made a trip to the state and spent a weekend with relatives she never knew she had.

She was a special lady. My condolences to Tony and all who were close to her.

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Warren Levinson - I loved Terry Taylor. Though I saw her pretty much every day of my working life at the AP, it was really during the Olympics that she stepped up for us in Radio.

AP Radio's Olympics coverage ran as a kind of guerrilla operation, with the broadcast rights holders (ABC, CBS and in recent years NBC) constantly on alert to declare our news coverage a violation of their contract with the International Olympic Committee. Terry was always in our corner, even when it would have been easy to let them get away with limiting our coverage.

And as staff cuts (the radio Olympics team went from about a dozen to two in the 11 Olympics I covered) made it imperative for us to get sound recorders into the hands of text reporters, Terry was with us every step of the way.

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Andy Lippman - The holidays were always not complete without sending a note to Terry, and she never really gave any updates on her cancer, because I know she didn't want that to define her.

Cancer could never define Terry. She was not only one of the best and hardest working editors in the AP, but she is one of the most graceful and gracious people I have met in the AP.

I tell a story about how when I was COB in Indianapolis, Terry came out to handle the Pan Am Games. She practically lived in the same sweatshirt. I think Lindel Hutson had to give her anti-acid tablets, she spent so much time there. I think it might have been one of her first big events as assistant sports editor under Darrell Christian

And I can only reflect on how she impacted people like Julie March and Beth Harris as a mentor, and how wonderful she was to me personally as long as I have known her.

The world has lost a wonderful, wonderful person.

But the world has not lost the imprint she has made nor the memories she has left behind.

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Dave Lubeski - I never had to report to Terry, but in many ways I did. We were part of a travel team that met with Olympic organizers several times beginning two years before the actual event. Terry represented editorial, Brian Horton was photo chief, Bud Weydert was our logistics maven and I represented AP Broadcast, We had to make sure they knew who we were and that everything would be in place when the rest of the AP showed up. When restrictions on broadcasters got tighter and tighter Terry had our backs. She didn't hesitate to jump in with her support and suggestions for handling sticky situations. I don't think she was ever off the clock and she was always the consummate professional.

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Paul Newberry - I was so sorry to hear about the death of Terry Taylor, the longtime AP Sports Editor who had such a big influence on my career. She was extremely demanding and could stir up plenty of fear when she sent one of her dreaded "call pls" messages. But no one worked harder, no one was a better editor and no one inspired me more to be a better journalist. She truly was a giant of the industry.



From left: Paul Newberry, his son Hudson, Terry Taylor and Paul's wife Linda.

I am so glad we surprised her in 2018 when she received a well-deserved Red Smith Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Associated Press Sports Editors. We were also traveling with my mom, who had struck up a pen-pal relationship with Terry and was so honored to be there. I always said, only half-jokingly, that TRT liked my mom better than me. Smart woman. After the awards ceremony, we went to the Grand Ole Opry with my whole family, as well as Terry and Ben Walker. What a night!

There's far too many other stories to share here, but those memories will remain. I'm forever grateful to Terry for showing confidence in a young punk of a sports writer based in Montgomery, Ala., all those years ago. She changed my career and my life.

RIP, TRT.

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Peggy Walsh - Terry touched so many lives and careers I know many are mourning her loss and celebrating her life.

We joined AP about the same time, bonded over the challenges women faced in journalism and were amazed we had the same birthday.

Over the years we worked together many times, mostly long distance until the 1989 World Series earthquake when I was San Francisco bureau chief and she came to manage the sports coverage. Before the shaking, we had some fun eating, visiting and catching up. The coverage was SO elevated by her love of what she did.

Our paths crossed again at the New York Times when we had offices across the hall on the horrible old fourth floor on West 43rd Street.

I left AP seven months before she did to be executive editor of the NYT News Service. Her time as assistant sports editor was brief and she returned to AP to go on to become sports editor.

We spent a lot of time in my office talking about the past, present and future. She went home to AP.

Terry set the mark for excellence and dedication to her calling. Both women and men benefited from the doors she opened and the ground she laid.

My sympathy to Tony and all whose path she crossed. My condolences to those who never got the chance.

More thoughts on AP seeking donations from readers

Robert Burns - I find myself agreeing with Mike Holmes' reaction to the news that the AP will solicit donations. It is disturbing. Mike raises exactly the right questions about transparency. What's more, I can't escape a feeling of dread that AP finds it necessary to do this.

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Tom Fenton - On AP passing the hat for donations: Seems like a desperate move perhaps triggered by the decline in member newspapers, leading to a decline in assessments and other non-member sales. Also explains AP's push to sell advertising competing against members. That said, AP has held my rates to minimal increases for several years. Hope it continues.

PS: Wonder if individual retail subscriptions to AP will be next.

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Denis Gray - I totally agree with all my colleagues who disagree with the AP seeking donations. If the AP can't come up with other, more traditional and appropriate ways of gathering revenue then as one of our colleagues said, we are in deep doo-doo. And I also agree that responses will be few from folks who are bombarded daily with GoFundMe, Please Donate and similar fund-raising tactics.

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Paul Harrington - Maybe if the world's largest News Service cut a few of its POSH executives slots they wouldn't need to "Pass The Hat".

Just my humble opinion.

Dan Sewell - Wondering if a better approach would be to charge readers to access certain premium content such as major enterprise stories.

First responses: Stories of covering news from a phone booth

Dan Day - While Paul Stevens was phoning in to KX or New York Membership from a phone booth in central Kansas, I was doing much the same 150 miles or so north of him in central Nebraska.

Traveling in the pre-cell phone era, I knew the location of just about every pay phone along Interstate 80 and other main highways between the Nebraska Panhandle and the Missouri River.

My favorite was one tucked on the side of a motel in Halsey along state Route 2 in the Sandhills. I'd gone there to do a feature on the Nebraska National Forest. (That's right, a national forest smack in the middle of the Cornhusker State!)

The motel didn't have phones in the rooms, and I had to call the bureau and home from the pay phone — no booth, just an egg-shaped housing bolted to a pole. My calls were interrupted by big rigs roaring along the highway on one side and by

hotshot freight trains blasting along the Burlington Northern railroad tracks on the other.

As goofy as that visit was, it remains one of my favorite assignments for AP.

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Mark Mittelstadt - I used a pay phone along the highway near Atlantic, Iowa, to call the Des Moines bureau in the 1980s with details of flooding in the southwestern part

of the state. The standing water was from heavy rain that led to the flooding and not the overflowing river itself. The photo above was taken by Iowa-Nebraska photographer Bob Jarboe, one of the best traveling buddies an AP reporter could have. (Note: the print for this scan was repaired after it was damaged by the paws of a new dog in the Mittelstadt house.)

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Dan Sewell - On the subject of pay phones, a couple of stories about how to beat the competition. Legendary Miami reporter Milt Sosin, who was The AP's federal courts stringer into his 90s, was known during the time when courthouse reporters relied on pay booths to carry a pad of yellow "Our of Order" stickers he would slap on phones before heading into the courtroom.

Another old-timer who had worked as a newspaper reporter in New York said he carried a pair of scissors with him on the day of a big verdict, raced to the phone and dictated his story, then cut the phone cord.

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Jim Spehar - As a radio reporter in Phoenix and Denver, I became pretty familiar with the intricacies of removing pay phone mouthpieces and clamping wire clips or attaching various devices over the mouthpiece for audio reports. But as a Broadcast Executive in pre-cell phone days, also adept at finding the best spots for pay phones. Hotels along the road were great, Holiday Inns particularly, with phone banks usually located in relatively quiet hallways and the added advantage of a restaurant (or bar) closeby. But one appreciated spot was outside a gas station in Douglas WY, where a pay phone on a post at the edge of the property allowed me place calls at driver-window height without exiting the AP-mobile. My favorite memory is calling the NY headquarters from a hamlet up in the Bighorns west of Buffalo WY (I always took the scenic route from Sheridan to Buffalo) for no reason other than to tell Roy Steinfort's assistant that from the pay phone on the wooden sidewalk in front of the general store I could see a wolf (most likely someone's pet hybrid) napping in the middle of the dirt street, something you couldn't see outside 50 Rock.

LA's Thanksgiving gathering



[Linda Deutsch](#) – The caption of the photo above by Damian Dvorganes might be, “If you feed them they will come.”

That’s a joke. The lure was actually the feeling of a family reunion. But the food is always great. From the beginning of the tradition of a feast before Thanksgiving, the turkey and soft drinks were supplied and everyone brought a dish to go with it. This year’s array was as impressive as ever. Appetizers included quiche, prosciutto-wrapped string cheese, a cheese and meat tray and chips and dips. Main dish sides were a big tub of mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, grilled vegetables, persimmon salad, green salad, cranberry sauce, fruit salad, puffy rolls, and some exotic offerings. Justin Pritchard’s spicy chicken curry and Cliff Decatrel’s mom’s recipe for Haitian chicken pate in Filo are perennial hits. My own contribution is always my famous corn bread casserole. This year I made two of them due to the crowd and both were gobbled up.

Did someone say dessert? Wow. There was home-made pumpkin bread, several different kinds of brownies and chocolate chip cookies, a pumpkin cake, traditional pumpkin pie, cherry crunch, Brazilian-Colombian flan and Baklava.

If I missed anything it was because my plate overflowed.

The turnout was doubly amazing because downtown LA was stunned over the weekend by a devastating fire that destroyed a section of freeway that is very close to the office. Staffers had covered it but no one was scared off. Day supervisor John Antczak analyzed the closures and posted a map with detours available from everywhere in the area. Driving ingenuity prevailed.

We still miss the late Sue Manning who used to organize. But Stephanie Dazio has taken on the job of feast queen and this year she certainly earned her crown, along with her partner in planning, Krysta Fauria. Thanks to all who made this happen!

The fitting last word on the event came from Tami Abdullah who noted everyone greeting former chums with remarks on how great they all looked. She gazed at the assembled group and remarked: "Don't AP people ever look older?"

Your Gourmet Correspondent
Linda

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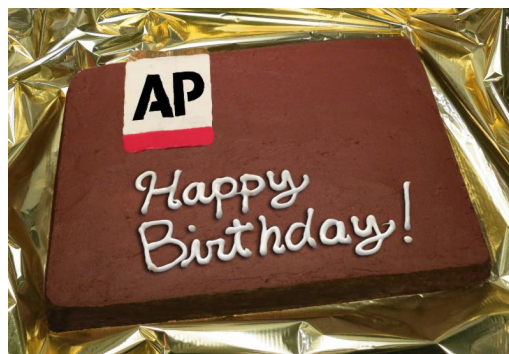
Russ Kaurloto - Andy Lippman will vouch for the AP LA Bureau Thanksgiving potluck but it started when we moved into the new LA Bureau at 221 South Figueroa St. by yours truly. It was the IT department that spearheaded the potluck and I provided the turkeys. We were one on the first to provide back then, the now common, deep-fried turkey. I personally carved the turkeys and served - it was our (my) day to give back to the bureau.

The ceremonial turkey day potluck has gone with me and reproduced while I was at USC, Clemson and now The University of Denver. I've gone from carving 1-2 turkeys at the LA Bureau to 3-5 at USC, 5-10 at Clemson and now ceremonially at the University of Denver (DU). The fun part was to my surprise while at Clemson, my leadership team gave me a monogrammed Clemson chef's outfit, pleated front, and matching hat. Now at DU, my leadership team did the same, providing me with a University of Denver chef's outfit - no way were they going to let Clemson outdo DU. I proudly wear my uniform at our "Day of Thanks" while carving the turkeys. Tomorrow is our 3rd annual.

It was great to see my LA bureau colleagues still keeping the tradition.

The tradition continues...

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Owen Ullmann](#)

Stories of interest

Opinion / How The Washington Post decided to show extremely graphic images of mass shootings

(Poynter)

By: Tom Jones

Today, The Washington Post went further than any mainstream news organization has ever gone before in showing the brutality and devastation of something that plagues this nation: mass shootings.

This morning, The Washington Post published "Terror on Repeat."

It's at this point, you should be warned: The Post piece is extremely graphic and some may find it disturbing. The Post looks back at 11 mass shootings in which the weapon used was an AR-15. Just the names of the places bring back horrific memories: Parkland, Florida, and Uvalde, Texas, and Newtown, Connecticut. The Post's project includes the shootings at a concert in Las Vegas, a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, and a synagogue in Pittsburgh.

To have the most impact, the Post told the story through photos, videos and the words of those who have survived these horrific shootings. The photos are jarring. For example, there are images of schoolrooms at Robb Elementary in Uvalde moments after dead children were removed. Videos are hard to watch, such as one that includes the cries of students inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, as gunshots are heard.

On Wednesday, I spoke with Washington Post executive editor Sally Buzbee. Buzbee told me, "We know it's very sensitive material and very disturbing and we know it will be disturbing to people."

Read more [here](#).

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From TV to TikTok, how we get the news is changing fast (Washington Post)

By Heather Kelly

Right now, you are reading the news.

It might be in a printed paper, but more than likely it's online, probably crammed onto your smartphone's screen. Perhaps someone else will stumble across a social media post summarizing the words below, or hear it talked about it on a local radio or television station.

News is consistent in that as long as humans and all their complexities exist, it will never stop happening. The ways we follow it, however, are changing quickly, and that can impact everything from how stories are covered to the way people feel about unfolding events.

A new poll of news habits by the Pew Research Center released Wednesday shows that half of Americans sometimes get their news from social media, and vastly more people get it on their digital devices than from television, radios or printed publications.

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

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Harsh Visuals of War Leave Newsrooms Facing Tough Choices (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum and Katie Robertson

Gruesome photographs of Palestinian children killed in rocket strikes and Israeli infants murdered by terrorists. Digitally doctored images that whip around social media before they can be verified. Accusations — since rejected by multiple news outlets — that photojournalists had advance knowledge of the Hamas surprise attack on Oct. 7.

The visual chronicle of the war between Israel and Hamas has become its own disturbing case study of the age of disinformation, when photographs, and the act of photojournalism itself, are weaponized by both sides of a highly charged conflict. For newsrooms in the United States and Europe, the question of which images to publish — and which are too graphic or misleading to be published — has rarely been more complex.

“In every war, there is a war of narratives,” said Jonathan Levy, the executive editor of Sky News. “You’ve got to be really mindful, not just of the potential harm to the audience of being exposed to some of that imagery, but also how you manage it.”

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

Today in History - Nov. 16, 2023



Today is Thursday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2023. There are 45 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

On this date:

In 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

In 1960, Academy Award-winning actor Clark Gable died in Los Angeles at age 59.

In 1961, House Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn died in Bonham, Texas, having served as speaker since 1940 except for two terms.

In 1982, an agreement was announced in the 57th day of a strike by National Football League players.

In 1989, six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter were slain by army troops at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas in El Salvador.

In 1991, former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards won a landslide victory in his bid to return to office, defeating State Rep. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader.

In 2001, investigators found a letter addressed to Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont containing anthrax; it was the second letter bearing the deadly germ known to have been sent to Capitol Hill.

In 2004, President George W. Bush picked National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to be his new secretary of state, succeeding Colin Powell.

In 2006, Democrats embraced Nancy Pelosi as the first female House speaker in history, but then selected Steny Hoyer as majority leader against her wishes.

In 2017, Democratic Sen. Al Franken became the first member of Congress to be caught up in a wave of allegations of sexual abuse and inappropriate behavior, after a

Los Angeles radio anchor accused him of forcibly kissing her and groping her during a 2006 USO tour. (Franken would resign weeks later.)

In 2018, a U.S. official said intelligence officials had concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had ordered the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee).

In 2020, President-elect Joe Biden warned of dire consequences if President Donald Trump and his administration continued to refuse to coordinate with his transition team on the coronavirus pandemic and kept blocking briefings on national security policy issues and vaccine plans.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 88. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 84. Actor Joanna Pettet is 81. Actor Steve Railsback is 78. Actor David Leisure is 73. Actor Miguel Sandoval is 72. Actor Marg Helgenberger is 65. Rock musician Mani is 61. Former pro tennis player Zina Garrison is 60. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 59. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 59. Actor Harry Lennix is 59. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 57. Actor Lisa Bonet is 56. Actor Tammy Lauren is 55. Actor Martha Plimpton is 53. Actor Michael Irby is 51. Actor Missi Pyle is 51. Rock musician Corey McCormick (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 47. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul (ahk-SAH'-nah by-OOL') is 46. Actor Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ehn-hahl) is 46. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 44. Former NBA player Amare Stoudemire (ah-MAR'-ay STOW'-duh-my-ur) is 41. Actor Kimberly J. Brown is 39. Rock singer Siva Kaneswaran (The Wanted) is 35. Actor-comedian Pete Davidson is 30. Actor Casey Moss is 30. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 28.

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.

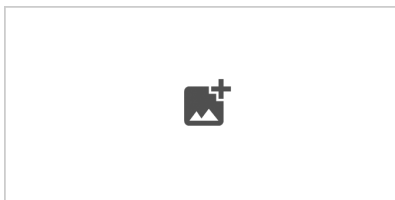
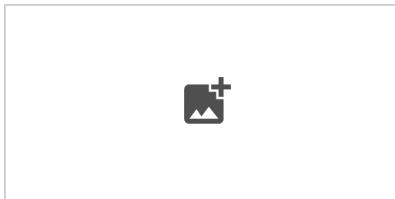
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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