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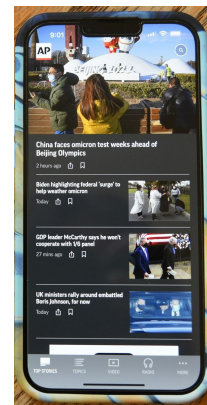
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# Connecting

Nov. 30, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Nov. 30, 2023,

The New York Bureau has long been an integral part of the AP’s presence in New York – separate from the national desks and tasked with covering news from the New York City metropolitan area of 19 million. Only a handful of states have a greater population.

Did you once work in the NYC bureau? How about sharing your favorite memories, and if it was a launching pad to greater responsibilities, how did it prepare you?

What sparked this idea was a post by former NYC bureau newswoman **Beth Harpaz** on a party held Tuesday in a celebration of our colleague **Deepti Hajela’s** promotion to a national position.

I look forward to hearing your story.

The death of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, at 100 years of age, prompts a call to those of you who covered him to share your memories. Look forward to them.



**CORRECTION:** In the above photo published Wednesday in Connecting, the identities of the two journalists in the photo were reversed. The late AP foreign correspondent Jennifer Parmelee is at right and her friend and fellow AP journalist Susana Hayward is at left.

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

Paul

## Grads of the NYC bureau celebrate one of their own



**Beth Harpaz** - These old timers from the New York City AP bureau showed up Tuesday at a party celebrating the inimitable goddess of journalism, **Deepti Hajela**, who is ascending to a fantastic new role as a national writer at AP, leaving the NYC buro where everyone in this crew cut their teeth. Deepti's new role is reporting for AP's first Trends + Culture team. No place on earth like the buro -- no matter where we were before, it's where we all grew up, covering all the crazy stuff the city threw our way, leaning on each other and learning to be journalists.

Clockwise starting rear left: Samantha Gross, Dino Hazell, Karen Matthews, Deepti Hajela, Beth Harpaz. Karen still works in the New York bureau; Dino is at AP Washington; Beth is at the Forward and Samantha has a content strategy business, Focal Content. More than a dozen other alumni and current members of the New York City Bureau showed up to wish Deepti well in her new gig.

## New-member profile: John Reiser

**John Reiser** - With some help from college friend and sports clerk Tom Canavan (the longtime AP Sports Writer in Newark), I joined the AP as a baseball dictationist in March 1977, moved to Broadcast (then in NYC) in October of 1977 but left in September 1983 when the department moved to Washington (partly because the late Virginia Byrne, a buddy from Broadcast, had introduced me to my future wife; Helen and I have five grown children and two grandchildren).

I rejoined the AP in November 1985 and remained for almost 10 years, splitting time between Special Services and Sports. I left to join InformationWeek (a biz-tech magazine on Long Island) in 1995 and rode the tech boom as copy chief before leaving



in 2004. I spent 18-month stints at Sports Illustrated For Kids (copy chief) and CBSNews.com (copy editor) before joining NHL.com as managing editor in 2007, and stayed there until retiring at the end of 2020.

We lived in Floral Park (the Nassau County side) for 35 years before moving to Dunedin, Florida, in mid-2021. I'm now semi-retired -- but proving that, as Harry Chapin sang, "All my life's a circle," I have become the AP's backup stringer for Tampa Bay Lightning coverage, doing 10-12 games a season. I've also authored several books on hockey, as well as numerous magazine and online pieces.



## Speaking of AP memorabilia



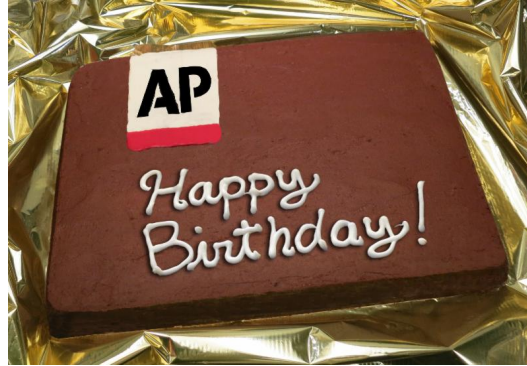
Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a



limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jim Sterling](#)

### Stories of interest

#### *The global news media is critical in wartime*

*During national traumas the media in any country -- including the United States -- tends to become a cheerleader indifferent to the big picture*

**DAN PERRY**

Many people know that Israel is a major global hub of technological innovation, indeed top-three by some accounts. Fewer know that its news media is also comparatively superb. Yet in the current conflict with Hamas it has become largely a cheerleader for its side. There is an important lesson there for the global media and its detractors.

Of course, some flag-waving is understandable in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 invasion and massacre by Hamas, whose terrorists murdered about 1,200 people, the vast majority civilians, with a butchery that almost defies human understanding and which I will not detail here. Most of Israel's media are commercial enterprises that must take the audience's preference into account, and the audience in Israel overwhelmingly has no patience at present for anything but a victim narrative.

The result is that most of the Israeli audience has not benefitted from a necessary discussion of the devastating consequences of Israel's response to the massacre, which has been a ground invasion of the northern half of the Gaza Strip and a massive bombardment campaign.

The purpose of that operation has wide support in the world; but the result has been many thousands of Palestinians killed (15,000 by one count which Israel does not strenuously deny) – and that does not. There are moral, strategic and political aspects

of the war as Israel is conducting it – including the practical concern that massive global pressure may cause the effort to be aborted with Hamas still intact.

Read more [here](#).

## ***Opinion | Don't miss — or dismiss — Donald Trump's rant about MSNBC*** (Poynter)

By TOM JONES

For years now, Donald Trump has considered the media to be his enemy. Not just his enemy, but the “enemy of the people.”

He says it over and over, so much so that it has become something of a catchphrase for him. And so much so that we practically have become numb to it.

Which is very troubling.

Sometimes we have to remind ourselves just how dangerous and undemocratic (note the small d in democratic) it is to have someone who was president, and wants to be again, constantly attack a profession specifically mentioned in the U.S. Constitution.

While Trump has been known to go on unhinged rants, both in speeches and on his Truth Social, it doesn't mean his threats can just simply be brushed off as, well, unhinged rants. His words should be taken seriously.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Audiences are declining for traditional news media in the U.S. – with some exceptions*** (Pew Research)

BY MICHAEL LIPKA AND ELISA SHEARER

A declining share of U.S. adults are following the news closely, according to recent Pew Research Center surveys. And audiences are shrinking for several older types of news media – such as local TV stations, most newspapers and public radio – even as they grow for newer platforms like podcasts, as well as for a few specific media brands.

Pew Research Center has long tracked trends in the news industry. In addition to asking survey questions about Americans' news consumption habits, our State of the News Media project uses several other data sources to look at various aspects of the industry, including audience size, revenue and other metrics.

The latest data shows a complex picture. Here are some of our key findings:

For the most part, daily newspaper circulation nationwide – counting digital subscriptions and print circulation – continues to decline, falling to just under 21 million in 2022, according to projections using data from the Alliance for Audited Media (AAM). Weekday circulation is down 8% from the previous year and 32% from five years prior, when it was over 30 million. Out of 136 papers included in this analysis, 120 experienced declines in weekday circulation in 2022.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Fake babies, real horror: Deepfakes from the Gaza war increase fears about AI's power to mislead*** (AP)

**BY DAVID KLEPPER**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Among images of the bombed out homes and ravaged streets of Gaza, some stood out for the utter horror: Bloodied, abandoned infants.

Viewed millions of times online since the war began, these images are deepfakes created using artificial intelligence. If you look closely you can see clues: fingers that curl oddly, or eyes that shimmer with an unnatural light — all telltale signs of digital deception.

The outrage the images were created to provoke, however, is all too real.

Pictures from the Israel-Hamas war have vividly and painfully illustrated AI's potential as a propaganda tool, used to create lifelike images of carnage. Since the war began last month, digitally altered ones spread on social media have been used to make false claims about responsibility for casualties or to deceive people about atrocities that never happened.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***In Mexico, five journalists were shot in one day*** (AP)

**By Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY — Prosecutors in Mexico confirmed Wednesday that a reporter was shot and wounded the previous day in the western state of Michoacán, the fifth journalist shot in the country in one day.

Maynor Ramón Ramírez was wounded along with a companion in the attack Tuesday in the city of Apatzingan, the newspaper ABC of Michoacán said. Earlier Tuesday, four news photographers were shot in the neighboring state of Guerrero.



The four in Guerrero were shot near a military barracks after they returned from a crime scene. They had been covering one of the many homicides that occur on a near-daily basis in the violence-wracked city of Chilpancingo.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Musk uses expletive to tell audience he doesn't care about advertisers that fled X over hate speech*** (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Billionaire Elon Musk said Wednesday that advertisers who have halted spending on his social media platform X in response to antisemitic and other hateful material are engaging in “blackmail” and, using a profanity, essentially told them to go away.

“Don’t advertise,” Musk said.

He appeared to specifically call out Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger, saying, “Hey Bob, if you’re in the audience ... that’s how I feel.”

In an on-stage interview at The New York Times DealBook Summit, Musk also apologized for endorsing an antisemitic conspiracy theory in response to a post on X that helped fuel an advertiser exodus.

The comments come just two days after Musk visited Israel, where he toured a kibbutz attacked by Hamas militants and held talks with top leaders.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**



Shared by Steve Graham.

## Today in History - Nov. 30, 2023



Today is Thursday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2023. There are 31 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 30, 2013, actor Paul Walker star of the "Fast & Furious" movie series, died with his friend, Roger W. Rodas, who was at the wheel of a Porsche sports car that crashed and burned north of Los Angeles. Walker was 40.

### On this date:

In 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris for ending the Revolutionary War; the Treaty of Paris was signed in September 1783.

In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.

In 1874, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, England.

In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

In 1982, the motion picture "Gandhi," starring Ben Kingsley as the Indian nationalist leader, had its world premiere in New Delhi.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which required a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

In 2000, Al Gore's lawyers battled for his political survival in the Florida and U.S. Supreme Courts; meanwhile, GOP lawmakers in Tallahassee moved to award the presidency to George W. Bush in case the courts did not by appointing their own slate of electors.

In 2004, "Jeopardy!" fans saw Ken Jennings end his 74-game winning streak as he lost to real estate agent Nancy Zerg.

In 2010, the Obama administration announced that all 197 airlines that flew to the U.S. had begun collecting names, genders and birth dates of passengers so the government could check them against terror watch lists before they boarded flights.

In 2011, an Arizona jury sentenced convicted "Baseline Killer" Mark Goudeau (goo-DOH') to death for killing nine people in the Phoenix area. (He remains on death row.)

In 2012, Israel approved the construction of 3,000 homes in Jewish settlements on occupied lands, drawing swift condemnation from the Palestinians a day after their successful bid for recognition by the United Nations.

In 2017, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi called on veteran Democratic congressman John Conyers to resign in the face of multiple accusations of sexual misconduct. (Conyers resigned five days later.)

In 2018, former President George H.W. Bush, a World War II hero who rose through the political ranks to the nation's highest office, died at his Houston home at the age of 94; his wife of more than 70 years, Barbara Bush, had died in April.

In 2020, two battleground states, Wisconsin and Arizona, certified their presidential election tallies in favor of Joe Biden, even as President Donald Trump's legal team continued to dispute the results.

In 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a 15-year-old sophomore, opened fire at a Michigan high school, killing four students and wounding seven other people.



In 2022, House Democrats elected Rep. Hakeem Jeffries to be the first Black American to head a major political party in Congress as long-serving Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her team stepped aside.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 86. Movie director Ridley Scott is 86. Screenwriter Geoffrey C. Ward is 83. Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 80. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 78. Playwright David Mamet (MA'-meht) is 76. Actor Mandy Patinkin is 71. Musician Shuggie Otis is 70. Country singer Jeannie Kendall is 69. Singer Billy Idol is 68. Historian Michael Beschloss is 68. Rock musician John Ashton (The Psychedelic Furs) is 66. Comedian Colin Mochrie is 66. Former football and baseball player Bo Jackson is 61. Rapper Lilil (Whodini) is 60. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 58. Rock musician Mike Stone is 54. Music producer Steve Aoki is 46. Singer Clay Aiken is 45. Actor Billy Lush is 42. Actor Elisha Cuthbert is 41. Actor Kaley Cuoco (KWOH'-koh) is 38. Model Chrissy Teigen is 38. Actor Christel Khalil is 36. Actor Rebecca Rittenhouse is 35. Actor Adelaide Clemens is 34. World chess champion Magnus Carlsen is 33. Actor Tyla Harris is 23.

## 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:

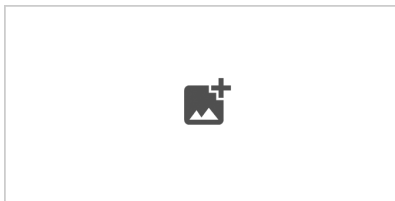
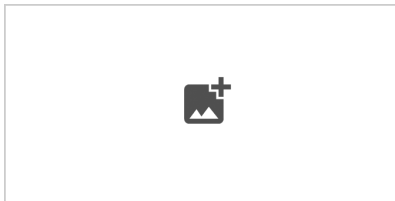
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **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

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