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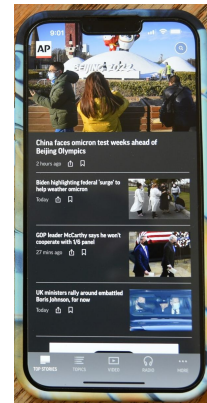
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# Connecting

Dec. 7, 2023

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A rescue boat picks up a crewman from the burning USS West Virginia at Pearl Harbor. AP Photo.

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Dec. 7, 2023,

Happy Hanukkah to all who celebrate. May we find that light in each of us that brings us together in hope and in peace. Hanukkah begins tonight and continues through Friday, Dec. 15.

Today is **National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** – commemorating that Sunday morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and thrust the United States into World War II.

Everyone old enough to remember that day has a story to tell about where they were and what they were doing on that day. My dad was a newspaper editor in Minnesota and later that Sunday, it published a rare Special Edition. How about any of you – memories to share?

**AUTHORS! AUTHORS!** – The annual Connecting issue featuring books published in the past year that were written by Connecting colleagues will be published next week. So...if you have written a book in the past year and would like to share it with colleagues, please send me: 350-word summary of the book and a jpg image of the cover, and a jpg headshot image of you. **DEADLINE is Friday, Dec. 8.**

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

Paul

## Working in NYC bureau was best job I had in 46 years in journalism

**Joyce Rosenberg** - I spent five years in the New York City bureau as night supervisor, from 1981 to 1986. It was the best job I had in all the 46 years I spent in journalism -- even though I went on to more than three amazing decades in Business News.

Working in the bureau was all about breaking news, exciting, thrilling; you never knew what was going to happen next. I had started my career in 1975 at WINS radio, one of the two all-news stations in New York, and my time in the bureau brought me back to the immediacy of news after my time in AP Broadcast, writing newscasts (a wonderful job, but it was several layers away from the news).

I loved the work and many of the people I worked with. This was at a time when midnight strike deadlines on city labor contracts were not infrequent and New York did have walkouts that could and occasionally did shut operations like the transit system down. I worked with a veteran reporter, Tom Crane, who still in his late 60s had the enthusiasm of a newbie. I had bulletins written for every possibility -- strike, settlement, stop-the-clock, no word yet -- as the deadline approached and I waited to hear from Tom. He and I were like a machine. And this was pre-cell phones.

There were some huge stories -- the Brink's robbery that members of the Weather Underground were involved in; the rubout of mobster Paul Castellano and the corruption scandal that took a bizarre turn when the Queens borough president, Donald Manes, committed suicide. He had tried unsuccessfully to kill himself once, and when he succeeded the second time, during my shift, the phone system had crapped out and we had one working phone that we had to beg one another to use. Somehow we got the story covered. Again, pre-cell phones.

I worked with amazing people -- reporters including Jerry Schwartz, Rick Hampson, Larry Kilman, Ula Ilyntzky and Kiley Armstrong, Larry McShane, Tom Kelly, John Pomfret, and editors including Sam Maull, Bob Monroe and Jim Fitzgerald. We had a lot of fun too -- I sent John Pomfret to Shea Stadium for the last game of the 1986 World Series and asked him to bring me back a piece of the turf if fans ripped it up to celebrate the Mets' win. They did and he did, and we watered it and kept it growing for weeks. I had great mentors, especially my bureau chiefs, Jim Donna and Sam Boyle. I learned so much from them. There were a lot of characters too, the kind of characters that I'm afraid are much harder to find in journalism in this era. You know the kind; the ones you tell stories about long afterward. For example, the reporter who I sent on a story, didn't hear from for hours, not only till she walked back into the bureau. You didn't call, I said to her. I couldn't find a phone, she said. This was when there were pay phones on every other street corner. Her tenure with us was mercifully short.

In the fall of 1986, Sam called me into his office and started talking about the Staffer of the Year award. Oh, cool, I thought to myself, Sam is about to ask me who I think should get it. I remember the stunned feeling I had when Sam said, it's you. I feel great joy and pride when I look back on my time in the bureau. I miss it.

## Job interview that was a near disaster

**Tom Kent** - Hilmi Toros' story of his job-seeking interviews with Keith Fuller reminded me of mine, a near disaster, in 1974.

I was just out of college, working in the Hartford bureau, desperate to get to the New York "Cable Desk" and start an international career.

Somehow it was arranged that I would go to 50 Rock, meet Keith, and make my big pitch.

The appointment was set for 9 or 10 in NY. This meant I had to arise at an ungodly hour in Hartford, building in a generous time cushion for delays on what was then the rickety New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

Given the hour, I was barely awake as I got to the station in Hartford and swayed and jolted my way to Grand Central.

Keith was cheery and welcoming, and started our meeting with a little general chat. He was a sailor, he said, and was thinking of going out on Long Island Sound in a day or two. But he was worried about the weather. Had it been raining in Hartford when I came down?

I had no recollection of rain. That said, I've never found weather very interesting, and my somnolent mind that morning in Hartford had had room for nothing more than going over the talking points I'd prepared for Keith. "No, I don't think so," I mumbled, hoping to end the small talk and get on to my exquisite qualifications for a foreign assignment.

But Keith was perplexed. Someone had told him it was raining in Connecticut. Obsessed with his upcoming sail, he asked his secretary to find another executive, who came in every day from somewhere around Hartford. Unfortunately, she did. He appeared in the door and confirmed that yes, it had been raining a good deal in Hartford, including that morning.

Keith swiveled back to me. I could see it in his eyes: here's a guy who wants to be a swashbuckling foreign correspondent, and he can't even tell if it's raining. Visions of myself, chained to the Hartford bureau broadcast desk for all eternity, swam before my eyes.

I don't remember any more of the conversation with Keith. I felt totally humiliated. I also realized he could hit me at any moment with another tough question, like what day of the week it was. I left in despair.

I must have said something right, though. Soon I was transferred to Cables.



# Breaking a blockbuster story

**Nick Penniman** - Linda and I started [Florida Center for Government Accountability](#) two years ago. We have broken some good stories but this one is a blockbuster carried by the NYT, Washington Post, CBS national news, Politico, USA Today etc etc. It has legs, too. More to come once we get corroboration.

**Florida GOP Chair Christian Ziegler, husband of a Moms For Liberty cofounder, accused of battery by alleged menage a trois lover**

**By Bob Norman**  
**November 30, 2023**

Christian Ziegler, Florida's GOP chairman and husband of Sarasota County School Board member and Moms of Liberty co-founder Bridget Ziegler, is under criminal investigation after a woman filed a complaint with the Sarasota Police Department alleging sexual battery, according to multiple sources briefed on the investigation.

The woman alleged that she and both Zieglers had been involved in a longstanding consensual three-way sexual relationship prior to the incident, according to those sources. The incident under investigation by Sarasota police occurred when Mr. Ziegler and the woman were alone, without Bridget Ziegler present, the sources conveyed.

Sources also corroborated that a search warrant was executed on Christian Ziegler's cell phone and that investigators continue to conduct a forensic examination of the electronic device.

Read more [here](#).

# Remembering Carol Nunnelley

**Robert Ingle** - The Birmingham AP bureau was just off the Birmingham News newsroom. From there I saw the leadership and mentoring Carol Nunnelley gave reporters.

Mark Childress, New York Times Best Selling Author, worked with me later at The Atlanta Constitution and shared his thoughts on Carol's passing 43 years after he worked with her:

"Carol was my first editor in the world of professional journalism. She set the standard by which I have measured all editors since. None of them surpassed her in smarts, kindness, shrewdness, humor, or humanity.

Carol began her own career as a groundbreaking civil rights reporter at the Birmingham News. As a writer, then City Editor and Managing Editor, she helped turn that newspaper from an arm of the Bham white-supremacy power structure into a

Pulitzer Prize-winning paper with strong reporting on Alabama in transition out of segregation.

She taught me to be precise and exact, to never fudge a fact, to double-check everything, to put other sets of eyes on anything I wrote. These are lessons I have carried with me all my writing life.

Carol Nunnelley was a brilliant, sweet, generous woman, a real groundbreaker, and a wonderful mentor.”

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**Carol Nunnelley's funeral** will be at 4 p.m. Monday at Ridout's Valley Chapel, 1800 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, Ala., with a reception following. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the non-profit foundation Carol helped create in 2015 to operate BirminghamWatch, a free, independent site covering news in Birmingham and Jefferson County as well as the Alabama Legislature. The Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism is a federally recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so contributions are tax-deductible. Donations may be made [here](#). Cards and other communications may be mailed to the family: Carol Nunnelley family, 147 Glenview Drive, Birmingham, AL 35213.

## The way we were - 1980s AP LA holiday photo



FRONT ROW, 1 to 4: Technician Pedro Sotomayor, Chief of Communications Russ Thomas, Chief of Bureau John Brewer, Assistant Chief of Bureau/Photos Spencer Jones, newsmen Richard Holguin.

SECOND ROW, 1 to 7: Photographer Nick Buynh, photo editor Dianna Riddle, Night Supervisor Scott Beckard, special writer Linda Deutch, photographer Seung Shing Liu, California Broadcast Supervisor Rachel Ambrose, Broadcast Executive John Kenney.

THIRD ROW, 1 to 7: Technician Nguyen He, photographer Wally Fong, newsmen Richard Jablon (center, with beard), Confidential Secretary Laurence Lowry, newswoman Carolyn Skorneck (with long blonde hair), newsmen Jay Arnold, photographer Doug Fixac.

FOURTH ROW, 1 to 7: Field Engineer Fong Lien, Confidential Secretary Cecilia White, Night Filer Ken Conway, Sports Editor Ken Peters (with Wally Fong), photographer Brad Baker, news clerk Lena Gilliam, newsmen Richard DeBlary and daughter Monica, Day Supervisor Paul Sloan, newswoman Rita Reszakh, TV writer Jerry Buck, News Editor Steve Loeper.

**AP/LOS ANGELES '84-'85**

BACK ROW, 1 to 7: Sports Writer Tim Liotta, news clerk Rob Myers (with beard), Assistant Chief of Bureau/News Brian Tucker, newsmen Dick Benke, business writer Roger Gillott, AP Radio Correspondent Brian Bland.

NOT SHOWN: John Antosak, Yaredna Arar, Lynn Elber, Dan Garcia, Felix Gutierrez, Tom Haggren, Darren Lee, Sue Manning, John Sadal, Andrew Salsky, Lee Siegel, Dan Tedrick, Bob Thomas, Russell Scurlato, Dave Sloan, Magaly Rodriguez, Colleen Albertson, Joe MacPhail, Mike Witskewicz, Lynn Serion, Dan Sloan, Mike Warren, George Takaki, Susan Yon, Paul Harrington, Lenore McLendon, Steve Oalline, Leah Postnow, Jodie Stock, Mark Thayer.

**Lynn Elber** - I was going through my AP memorabilia post-retirement and came across a bureau group photo and message from then-COB John Brewer. When I mentioned to Steve Loeper that our former colleagues would probably get a kick out of the photo, he suggested sending it your way. I'd joined the AP about a year before but missed the photo session, likely because I was paying my dues on the overnight shift. I get tired just thinking about that!

## AP Historian?

**Linda Deutch** – *in a note to Ye Olde Connecting Editor* - I am so grateful that I followed up on getting the Connecting edition I missed --not because it included the photo of Rachel Ambrose and me. More importantly it included your beautiful letter to your dad in Heaven. What a terrific retrospective on your life and his legacy to the news business passed on through you. I'm sure if he was here today, he would laugh and demand a retraction of that comment about you being a slacker. Your second career, publishing "Connecting," has provided a place for the AP family, past and present, to share memories and some finely written stories about the history we all covered. And those with important bylines past who are joining your dad in that great newsroom in the sky get an appropriate sendoff preserving their contributions to the AP legacy. I think by now you deserve a new byline title, perhaps: Paul Stevens, AP Historian.

# Stories of interest

## ***'Washington Post' journalists stage daylong strike under threat of job cuts*** (NPR)

By David Folkenflik

More than 750 journalists and business-side staffers at The Washington Post walked off the job for the day, saying they are angered by the company's decision to embark on massive job cuts while contract negotiations have stalled.

"We did not come to this decision to do this walkout lightly," says Post reporter Marissa Lang, who covers housing and serves on the union's bargaining team. "We all work at The Washington Post because we believe in its mission and we believe in what we do. And we care deeply about the work we do, the people, the communities, the stories we cover.

"I think this indicates how seriously we all are taking this, how deeply felt a lot of these concerns are in the Washington Post newsroom and in the company at large," she says.

The strike Thursday is the most serious labor action at the paper in decades. It follows months of worker activism throughout the nation. While some of those have led to wins for labor, the media industry has suffered sharp layoffs this year.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Google launches Gemini, upping the stakes in the global AI race*** (AP)

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE AND MATT O'BRIEN

Google took its next leap in artificial intelligence Wednesday with the launch of project Gemini, an AI model trained to behave in human-like ways that's likely to intensify the debate about the technology's potential promise and perils.

The rollout will unfold in phases, with less sophisticated versions of Gemini called "Nano" and "Pro" being immediately incorporated into Google's AI-powered chatbot Bard and its Pixel 8 Pro smartphone.

With Gemini providing a helping hand, Google promises Bard will become more intuitive and better at tasks that involve planning. On the Pixel 8 Pro, Gemini will be able to quickly summarize recordings made on the device and provide automatic replies on messaging services, starting with WhatsApp, according to Google.

Gemini's biggest advances won't come until early next year when its Ultra model will be used to launch "Bard Advanced," a juiced-up version of the chatbot that initially will only be offered to a test audience.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Russia Rejects 'Significant Proposal' to Trade for WSJ's Gershkovich, Whelan, U.S. Says*** (Wall Street Journal)

By Louise Radnofsky and William Mauldin

WASHINGTON—U.S. negotiators made a fresh offer to Russia in recent weeks to secure the release of detained Americans Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan, but Moscow rejected the American proposal, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday.

The offer involved trading prisoners, people familiar with the matter said, but they didn't offer further details.

"In recent weeks, we made a new and significant proposal to secure Paul and Evan's release," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters Tuesday. "That proposal was rejected by Russia."

The U.S. hasn't previously acknowledged making a concrete offer seeking to bring home both Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter who has been imprisoned for more than 250 days in Russia, and Whelan, a former U.S. Marine and Michigan corporate security executive held in Russia since late 2018.

Moscow and a representative for the Russian Embassy in Washington didn't respond to a request for comment.

The Journal in a statement Tuesday said: "We are disappointed with Russia's response to the offer from the U.S. At the same time, we encourage the administration to continue to push strongly for Evan's release."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Most readers want publishers to label AI-generated articles — but trust outlets less when they do*** (Nieman Labs)

By SARAH SCIRE

An overwhelming majority of readers would like news publishers to tell them when AI has shaped the news coverage they're seeing. But, new research finds, news outlets pay a price when they disclose using generative AI.

That's the conundrum at the heart of new research from University of Minnesota's Benjamin Toff and Oxford Internet Institute's Felix M. Simon. Their working paper "'Or they could just not use it?': The paradox of AI disclosure for audience trust in news" is one of the first experiments to examine audience perceptions of AI-generated news.

More than three-quarters of U.S. adults think news articles written by AI would be "a bad thing." But, from Sports Illustrated to Gannett, it's clear that particular ship has sailed. Asking Google for information and getting AI-generated content back isn't the future, it's our present-day reality.

Much of the existing research on perceptions of AI in newsmaking has focused on algorithmic news recommendation, i.e. questions like how readers feel about robots choosing their headlines. Some have suggested news consumers may perceive AI-generated news as more fair and neutral owing to the "machine heuristic" in which people credit technology as operating without pesky things like human emotions or ulterior motives.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***A New Trump Administration Will 'Come After' the Media, Says Kash Patel*** (New York Times)

By Jonathan Swan, Maggie Haberman and Charlie Savage

A confidant of Donald J. Trump who is likely to serve in a senior national security role in any new Trump administration threatened on Tuesday to target journalists for prosecution if the former president regains the White House.

The confidant, Kash Patel, who served as Mr. Trump's counterterrorism adviser on the National Security Council and also as chief of staff to the acting secretary of defense, made the remarks on a podcast hosted by Stephen K. Bannon, Mr. Trump's former strategist, during a discussion about a potential second Trump presidency beginning in 2025.

"We will go out and find the conspirators, not just in government but in the media," Mr. Patel said. "Yes, we're going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens, who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections — we're going to come after you. Whether it's criminally or civilly, we'll figure that out." He added: "We're actually going to use the Constitution to prosecute them for crimes they said we have always been guilty of but never have."

Earlier in the interview, when asked by Mr. Bannon whether a new administration would "deliver the goods" to "get rolling on prosecutions" early in a second term, Mr.



Patel noted that the Trump team had a “bench” of “all-America patriots,” but he said he did not want to name any names “so the radical left-wing media can terrorize them.”

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Dec. 7, 2023



Today is Thursday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2023. There are 24 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched an air raid on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as well as targets in Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines and Wake Island; the United States declared war against Japan the next day.

### On this date:

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States.

In 1917, during World War I, the United States declared war on Austria-Hungary.

In 1963, during the Army-Navy game, videotaped instant replay was used for the first time in a live sports telecast.

In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral.

In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Jr. became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas.

In 1988, a major earthquake in the Soviet Union devastated northern Armenia; official estimates put the death toll at 25-thousand.

In 2001, Taliban forces abandoned their last bastion in Afghanistan, fleeing the southern city of Kandahar.

In 2004, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeye) was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

In 2017, Democratic Sen. Al Franken said he would resign after a series of sexual harassment allegations.

In 2018, James Alex Fields Jr., who drove his car into counterprotesters at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Virginia, was convicted of first-degree murder.

In 2020, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Yeager, the World War II fighter pilot ace and quintessential test pilot who in 1947 became the first person to fly faster than sound, died at 97.

In 2022, Aaron Judge signed a nine-year, \$360 million contract – baseball's biggest free agent deal in history to that point – to remain with the New York Yankees.

Today's Birthdays: Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 95. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 92. Actor Ellen Burstyn is 91. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 76. Actor-director-producer James Keach is 76. Country singer Gary Morris is 75. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 74. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 71. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 67. Actor Priscilla Barnes is 66. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd Hall is 65. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 65. Actor Patrick Fabian is 59. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 58. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 57. Actor Kimberly Hébert Gregory (TV: "Kevin (Probably) Saves the World") is 51. Producer-director Jason Winer is 51. Former NFL player Terrell Owens is 50. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 49. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 48. Latin singer Frankie J is 47. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 47. Actor Chris Chalk is 46. Actor Shiri Appleby is 45. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Bareilles (bah-REHL'-es) is 44. Actor Jennifer Carpenter is 44. Actor Jack Huston is 41. MLB first baseman Pete Alonso is 29.

## 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.

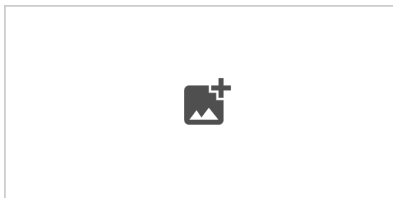
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

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



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