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Connecting April 16, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 16th day of April 2020,

Lyle Price ([Email](#)) offers this invitation to his Connecting colleagues:

*In these times of worry and uncertainty, I would like to share with my colleagues an idea from **Valerie Komor** and **Linda Deutsch** that I suggest you send to Connecting your favorite short and uplifting text/verse/meditation/poem/song lyric that has affected you in difficult times. My suggestion for a broad expansion via Connecting came after I shared with them the lyrics to the 1919 song "Look for the Silver Lining." The first line of the lyrics and the whole melody goes through my mind these days more and more.*

It was a hit song 100 years ago in the Broadway musical "Sally." I first ran into it at about the age of 10 when it was the theme song of Billie Burke on her radio show at 8 a.m. Saturdays Pacific Time in the 1940s and 50s. Marilyn Maxwell sang it in 1920 on Broadway. You can Google out a number of renditions, including by MM and Judy Garland. An upbeat band version is the version I like best. The song was written by Jerome Kern.

Here it is:

"Look for the silver lining, whene'er a cloud appears in the blue.
Remember somewhere, the sun is shining--
And so the right thing to do
Is make it shine for you.

A heart full of joy and gladness
Will always banish sadness and strife,
So always look for the silver lining
And try to find the sunny side of life."

I look forward to hearing from you with your own suggestions of something that uplifts.

In Wednesday's Connecting, **Jane Gallagher** wrote that she hoped her father was still remembered – her father being **Wes Gallagher**, former AP president and general manager (1962-1976) after a distinguished career as a war correspondent during World War II. Two of his former colleagues – former AP President and CEO **Lou Boccardi** and AP Vietnam Pulitzer winner **Peter Arnett** – assured her in lead stories today that her father will never be forgotten.

Got your own story on working with Wes Gallagher? Please share it with your colleagues.

Today's issue also brings you the final story reported for the AP by **Nick Jesdanun**, deputy technology editor in New York, before he died of complications from COVID-19 on April 2. The story – headlined "Apple rolls out cheaper iPhone as pandemic curbs spending" - moved on the wire Wednesday. Nick's cousin **Prinda Mulpramook** shared these thoughts from her cousin **Risa Harms** who wrote in a Facebook post:

"Nick's final byline. Thank you, Associated Press, for being Anick's home for his entire professional career and surrounding him with the most brilliant, supportive, and inspiring colleagues. We are grateful Nick spent his days doing the work he loved. You're probably a little curious about the new iPhone. Read about it from the best tech writer in the biz."



AP GROUND GAME: In today's "Ground Game" podcast, AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace and Ralph Russo discuss the significance of an AP interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci, his views on the White House daily press briefings and Joe Biden's seemingly low profile.

Listen [here](#).

Be safe, be well, be optimistic.

Paul

Wes Gallagher 'was a giant and giants are not easily forgotten'

Dear Janey:

I am sure hardly anybody calls you "Janey" anymore but that's how your Mom and Dad used to refer to you, so I'm putting myself in their good company.

You need not worry whether the AP family remembers Wes Gallagher. It does. With respect, appreciation and (I think he'd hate the word) fondness. He was a giant and giants are not easily forgotten.

I knew your dad before joining AP from (sadly deceased) newspapers in New York. Even though I held senior posts near the top at the papers, I never dreamed that one day I would fill the chair of the legendary Wes Gallagher. But that's what awaited.

"What would Wes do?" was a question I would come to ask myself many times when a tough problem arose during the 19 tumultuous years I was AP's president.

A saint? No. He was a tough, demanding boss. You may recall that I said at his memorial at 50 Rock that I owed my oft-remarked divinity complex to him because most of his calls to me as executive editor on the office hotline began with my name and some form of the Lord's name.

As you, Brian and Chrissy experienced, AP was Wes' life (add in family and golf) and we were empowered and enriched by his presence. He was a rock of courage and integrity on which later generations have built.

You need not worry about whether he is remembered. I am sure Paul Stevens' Connecting family joins me in welcoming you.

Wes Gallagher a strong defender of AP's Vietnam War coverage in face of Kennedy, Johnson administrations' criticism



WES GALLAGHER (right) with AP staffers Horst Faas (center) and Peter Arnett on a balcony of the Caravelle Hotel in Saigon a few months after the Tet Offensive in 1968. He scribbled on this photo: "Peter, with my best wishes and keep your head down, Wes."

Peter Arnett ([Email](#)) - I can attest that Jane Gallagher's recollections yesterday of her father's love of the AP were reciprocated by the staffers he

sent to Saigon during the Vietnam War, particularly in its early years when our reporting came under fierce criticism by the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. As General Manager and later President of the AP, Gallagher publicly and privately defended our work against rising official attempts to discredit critical reporting and photography from the Saigon Bureau. He waded into the battle for press freedom, orchestrating successful nominations for Pulitzer Prizes for Vietnam coverage in 1964, 1965 and 1966 for Malcolm Browne, Horst Faas and me.

Gallagher was aware that the Johnson Administration was hostile to critical news coverage, as the commitment of large numbers of American combat troops to Vietnam focused public attention on the war. The depth of that animosity was revealed much later. Press secretary Bill Moyers observed in a 1965 memo that the coverage of "CBS reporter Morley Safer and Peter Arnett was irresponsible and prejudiced". Because we were foreign born, we did not have "the basic American interests at heart". Moyers promised to "tighten things up" and Johnson scrawled "good" on the memo. Presidential assistant Jack Valenti wrote a memo to Johnson prior to a planned meeting with Gallagher and other AP officials, "You may want to bring up the problem of Peter Arnett, who has been more damaging to the U.S. than a whole battalion of Vietcong: His stories on defective equipment, antiquated aircraft and the use of poison gas."

Gallagher went prepared to the White House meeting to dispute the President's criticisms, carrying a briefcase filled with photos and facts supporting the disputed stories. But Johnson made no mention of the war or AP coverage. Finally, Gallagher decided to raise the issue himself.

"Mr President, I understand you have been critical of some of AP's stories from Vietnam?" Oh no," Johnson relied as he patted Gallagher on the back. "I think the AP is doing a great job." The AP executive did not challenge him, instead saying "Well I just wanted you to know, Mr. President, the AP is not against you or for you." to which Johnson responded, "That's not quite the way I like it."



**A thousand days...
A hundred battles...**

AP's Peter Arnett in Viet Nam

Peter Arnett went to Viet Nam in July, 1962, to cover "a dirty little war." It's bigger and deadlier now. In October, 1965, it took the lives of two photographers serving Associated Press members, Bernard Kolenberg and Huynh Thanh My.

In a thousand days, Peter Arnett personally has gone through a hundred battles. From the ambush-ridden delta to isolated outposts in the highlands.

His datelines? Song Be and Duc Co, Zone D and An Khe, Bien Hoa, Chu Lai and Ia Drang Valley. And many more.

Peter Arnett, like other AP men serving this newspaper in Viet Nam, believes the place to get the story and the picture is

with the fighting troops. In doing this he has displayed courage and shown initiative and reporting skill in the highest tradition of his profession.

Peter Arnett is not alone. The sixteen AP men reporting and photographing the Vietnamese war are all working with a dedication that, perhaps, only the troops they travel with can fully understand.

But they know you and millions of other Americans want the story and the picture.

They report for you in . . .

THIS NEWSPAPER

A Member of

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Byline of Dependability

WES GALLAGHER authorized this full promotional page be sent to all US newspaper subscribers in 1965 to support my Vietnam coverage. He also ordered up a lengthy profile written by Hugh Mulligan.

Gallagher visited Saigon in 1964 and in March 1968. In the aftermath of the Tet Offensive during his visit he told me, "Peter, you have my total support. But don't make any mistakes in your reporting. If you do, even one mistake, you're finished."

With the continuing support that Wes Gallagher offered me through my Vietnam years, how could I ever allow myself to do that?

Apple rolls out cheaper iPhone as pandemic curbs spending

By Anick Jesdanun

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple is releasing a new iPhone that will be vastly cheaper than the models it rolled out last fall when the economy was booming and the pandemic had yet to force people to rethink their spending.

The second-generation iPhone SE introduced Wednesday will sell for as little as \$399, a 40% markdown from the most affordable iPhone 11 unveiled last year. Higher-end versions of the iPhone 11 sell for more than \$1,000. Online orders for the iPhone SE will begin Friday, with the first deliveries expected April 24.

Even before the pandemic, many people had begun to balk at the substantial price tags for smartphones that weren't that much better than the ones they already owned. That pushed Apple to step up its emphasis on music and video services to the more than 1 billion people who carry around at least one of their internet-connected devices.

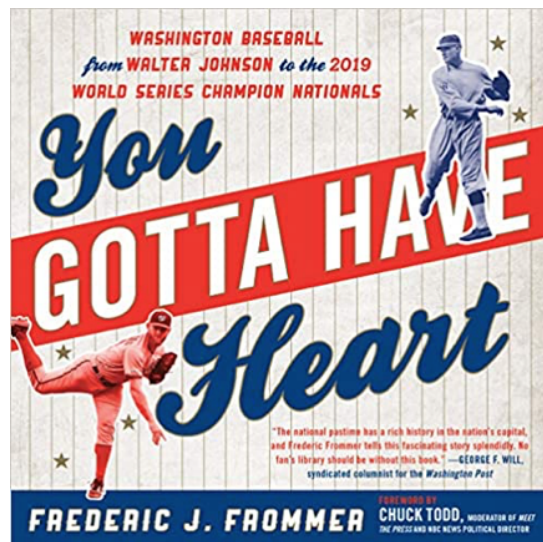
Read more [here](#) . Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

And click [here](#) for a story Tuesday in MarketWatch, titled, "Anick Jesdanun, an Associated Press editor and avid runner, is remembered as humble, quiet, always questioning."

Connecting mailbox

New edition on Washington baseball is out

Fred Frommer ([Email](#)) - This week, a new edition of my book on Washington baseball is out, [You Gotta Have Heart: Washington Baseball from Walter Johnson to the 2019 World Series Champion Nationals](#) , with a foreword by Chuck Todd. This is the third edition of the book – the first one came out in 2006, a year after the Expos moved to Washington from Montreal; and the second one came out in 2013, a year after the Nats won their first division title.



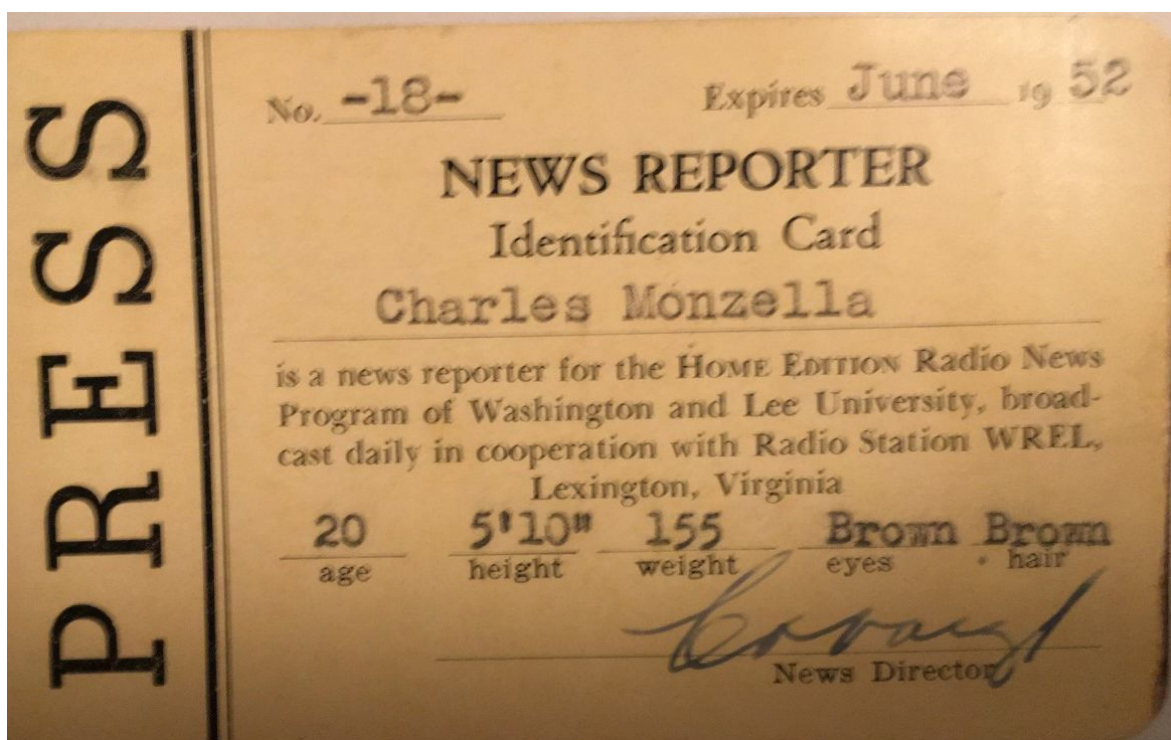
After that second edition, my publisher had a standing offer for me to do a new version if/when the Nats made the World Series. But after their multiple playoff meltdowns in the 2010s, I was starting to worry that might never happen. When my last edition came out, it had been 89 years since DC's last World Series title. And the number kept climbing, hitting a nice round 95 last year when the Nats finally ended the drought.

Until 2019, the only time Washington won a pennant since FDR's first year as president was literally fiction. In the Broadway musical *Damn Yankees*, a middle-aged Washington Senators fan sells his soul to the devil to be transformed into twenty-one-year-old slugger Joe Hardy, who leads the team to the pennant. The Senators manager tells his players that while baseball takes skill, it also takes "something bigger," before famously belting out, "You Gotta Have Heart."

One of the things I most enjoyed about writing this book was the unique intersection of sports and politics. Not just the tradition of presidents throwing out the first ball, but the relationships presidents had with players – Stan Musial campaigning for JFK, for example, and the longtime friendship between Ted Williams and Richard Nixon, and Nixon scheming on secret White House tapes to get a new team for Washington after the Senators moved to Texas in 1971.

And it was while at AP, when I covered sports and politics, that I really got an appreciation for this interesting intersection.

First press pass – from college in the '50s



Charles Monzella ([Email](#)) - Belatedly, here's my first press pass: While in college in the 1950s, we journalism students scoured the town for news for our

nightly radio program so these passes gave us easy access to police, fire and other agencies. Fortunately, there was no photo needed back in the "old days."

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Sky shot – Great Smokies in North Carolina



Carolyn Carlson ([Email](#)) - I took this photo Monday morning from my front deck just outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, following the big storms that swept through the South. You can see the last rain shower moving off, down Maggie Valley, while the sun comes over the mountain behind me, shines down on Jonathan Creek Valley and graces us with a rainbow.

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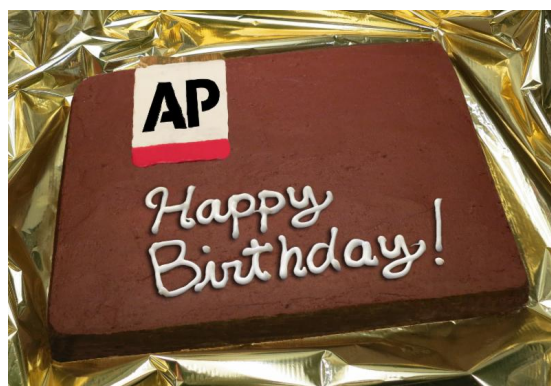
Spotting a lone pelican while getting in my 10,000 steps



Carl Robinson ([Email](#)) – We're sorta' locked down here in Sydney, Australia, but I'm more determined than ever to get in my 10,000-steps a day, my camera a constant companion – capturing this solitary pelican on the Georges River in southwest Sydney.

Australia's doing relatively well and talking of lifting restrictions. Even so, as a retiree for some years already, the lockdown hasn't changed my lifestyle all that much. However, I do miss our monthly lunches of The William Boot Society, our lively group of former foreign correspondents, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Opera House. Should be back soon. But our annual return back to Vietnam will likely take much longer.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Ted Anthony – tanthony@ap.org

Stories of interest

The News Is Making People Anxious. You'll Never Believe What They're Reading Instead.

(New York Times)

By Taylor Lorenz

Though it can be hard to see past the daily deluge of devastating headlines, there is plenty of good news in the world right now — and a great deal of interest in reading it.

Instagram accounts dedicated to good news, such as @TanksGoodNews and @GoodNews_Movement, have seen follower counts skyrocket in recent weeks. At the end of March, the actor John Krasinski introduced a “news network for good news” on YouTube; within a week, Some Good News had surpassed 1.5 million subscribers and 25 million views. Google searches for “good news” spiked a month ago and have only continued to rise.

“We’ve seen an unprecedented level of growth in the past four weeks,” said Lucia Knell, the director of brand partnerships at Upworthy, who noted that the company saw a 65 percent growth in followers on Instagram and 47 percent increase in on-site page views in March, compared to the previous month.

Read more [here](#) .

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The Short, Strange Tale of Stephanie Grisham (Washington Post Magazine)

By Simon van Zuylen-Wood

In the sweep of things, March 9 wasn't so long ago. In the coronavirus era, it's an eternity. Back then, the White House press secretary was still Stephanie Grisham and the White House was still minimizing the threat of the new virus. That morning, the day the number of reported American covid-19 cases jumped from 423 to 647, Grisham appeared on Fox News's “Fox & Friends” remotely from Palm Beach, Fla. “Right now, we're telling people to act as if this is a severe flu season,” she said. “And, you know, wash your hands often.” The president wasn't worried, she added, because he “is quite a hand washer.” Grisham critiqued those using the virus as “a tool to politicize things and to scare people.”

More remarkable than what she said was that she said it at all. Unlike her overexposed predecessors, Sean Spicer and Sarah Sanders, Grisham was infamous for being invisible. In her nine months on the job (her tenure lasted from July until her firing on April 7), Grisham never held a White House press

briefing. This makes her unique among the roughly 35 people who have held her position. She rarely conducted the smaller informal briefings known as “gaggles” and almost never appeared on TV, unless it was Fox News.

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

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As it covers the coronavirus, this small newsroom is reminding readers ‘this is a local business’ (Poynter)

By Kristen Hare

How is your local newsroom telling the story of the coronavirus? Let us know.

This was supposed to be a story chronicling the infancy of a local news site born from the death of the local newspaper. In Youngstown, Ohio, Mahoning Matters launched shortly after The Vindicator stopped printing and closed in all but name and domain.

In early March, I spoke with the publisher Mandy Jenkins about what the four-person team, who all came from The Vindicator, was learning about making a local site work.

It had been a slow start, she said then, but so far the site was finding success in getting revenue from underwriting and newsletter sponsorships with local businesses instead of display ads.

In February, the site had its best month yet, she said, but “we didn’t build this site for scale, and I think talking about that and being honest about that with local advertisers is great, and it’s not what they’re used to.”

Read more [here](#) .

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Workers at Hollywood Reporter and Billboard Vandalize Website After Getting Laid Off (Gizmodo)

By Matt Novak

Valence Media, the corporate owner of the Hollywood Reporter and Billboard magazine, laid off several writers, editors, and its entire IT staff on Tuesday.

But some workers apparently still had access to the company's websites on Tuesday night. Billboard magazine's website was vandalized with an image from the movie Animal House and a sarcastic message about the layoffs.

"In the wake of Covid19 pandemic, Valence Media has decided to lay off their entire web IT staff. Effective today," the Billboard website read in a post credited to "devops."

"The online Billboard Charts are essentially perfect, so IT staff are no longer needed. Fat drunk and stupid is no way to go through life...
#SavingABuckAtYourExpense"

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

Today in History - April 16, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 16, the 107th day of 2020. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 16, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

On this date:

In 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Virginia, for his inauguration in New York.

In 1889, comedian and movie director Charles Chaplin was born in London.

In 1917, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin returned to Russia after years of exile.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. troops reached Nuremberg. U.S. forces invaded the Japanese island of Ie Shima (ee-eh shee-mah).

In 1947, the cargo ship Grandcamp, carrying ammonium nitrate, blew up in the harbor in Texas City, Texas; a nearby ship, the High Flyer, which was carrying ammonium nitrate and sulfur, caught fire and exploded the following day; the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people. At the South Carolina statehouse, financier Bernard M. Baruch declared: "Let us not be deceived – we are today in the midst of a cold war."

In 1960, shortly before midnight, rock-and-roll performer Eddie Cochran, 21, was fatally injured in a taxi crash in Chippenham, Wiltshire, England (he died the next day).

In 1962, New Orleans Archbishop Joseph Rummel excommunicated three local Roman Catholics for fighting racial integration of parochial schools. Bob Dylan debuted his song "Blowin' in the Wind" at Gerde's Folk City in New York.

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

In 1977, Alex Haley, author of the best-seller "Roots," visited the Gambian village of Juffure, where, he believed, his ancestor Kunte Kinte was captured as a slave in 1767.

In 1986, dispelling rumors he was dead, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi (MOO'-ah-mar gah-DAH'-fee) appeared on television to condemn the U.S. raid on his country and to say that Libyans were "ready to die" defending their nation.

In 2003, the Bush administration lowered the terror alert level from orange to yellow, saying the end of heavy fighting in Iraq had diminished the threat of terrorism in the United States.

In 2007, in one of America's worst school attacks, a college senior killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

Ten years ago: The U.S. government accused Wall Street's most powerful firm of fraud, saying Goldman Sachs & Co. had sold mortgage investments without telling buyers the securities were crafted with input from a client who was betting on them to fail. (In July 2010, Goldman agreed to pay \$550 million in a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but did not admit wrongdoing.)

Five years ago: U.N. Security Council members were moved to tears as a Syrian doctor, Mohamed Tennari, an eyewitness to suspected chlorine attacks on civilians in Syria, gave a graphic eyewitness account of dying children during a closed-door briefing. The NFL reinstated Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, clearing the way for him to return after missing most of

the previous season while facing child abuse charges in Texas for disciplining his son with a wooden switch.

One year ago: French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to rebuild Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral "even more beautifully," a day after a raging fire destroyed the cathedral's spire and roof; he said he wanted to see the renovation of the landmark completed within five years. France's richest businessman, Bernard Arnault, and his luxury goods group LVMH pledged more than \$220 million for the reconstruction of Notre Dame; other French companies pledged aid totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars. U.S. health regulators halted sales of a type of surgical mesh used to repair pelvic conditions in women, after years of patients' reports of injuries and complications. The Seattle Seahawks and quarterback Russell Wilson announced agreement on a \$140 million, four-year extension that made him the highest-paid player in the NFL.

Today's Birthdays: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is 93. Actor Peter Mark Richman is 93. Singer Bobby Vinton is 85. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 80. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 73. Former Massachusetts first lady Ann Romney is 71. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 68. Rock singer and former politician Peter Garrett is 67. Actress Ellen Barkin is 66. Actor Michel Gill is 60. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 58. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 57. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 56. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 55. Actor Jon Cryer is 55. Rock musician Dan Rieser is 54. Actor Peter Billingsley is 49. Actor Lukas Haas is 44. Actress-singer Kelli O'Hara is 44. Actress Claire Foy (TV: "The Crown") is 36. Figure skater Mirai Nagasu is 27. Actress Sadie Sink is 18.

Thought for Today: "We think too much and feel too little." – Charles Chaplin, English actor-comedian-director (born this date in 1889, died in 1977).

Got a story or photos to share?

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:

- **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?

- **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.

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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