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Connecting May 06, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 6th day of May 2020,

How are you coping with this new life we are all leading in this age of the coronavirus pandemic? Most importantly, I hope and pray you are healthy and covid-free. Nothing trumps that. But...

Have you found silver linings that you might share with your colleagues?

Zoom meetings do not take the place of face-to-face interaction, but I've taken part in recent ones involving fellow AP staffers from three of my former bureaus – Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City. It was the first time I had seen many of these colleagues in decades – and it was fun to catch up.

Tuesday, Cinco de Mayo, would normally have been celebrated at a favorite Mexican restaurant. They're

all closed, of course, but we brought home tacos and chips via carry-out from a favorite eatery and celebrated with neighbors on our driveway.

Today is what Linda and I call Get-Away Wednesdays – and for the past six weeks, we’ve found a new place to drive within an hour or two from home, sightsee and find carry-out. Last week, we (and Ollie) had lunch outside We B Smokin’, a great BBQ restaurant at the airport in tiny Paola, Kansas. The week before, a restaurant on the town square of Harry Truman’s hometown of Independence, Missouri.



Send along any silver linings you are finding in all this. They might spark an idea for a colleague.

So...my friend **Kia Breaux** just obtained an AP Model 15 Teletype - no, not a wedding gift - and I am looking to give her advice on the possible uses it can have in her household. Among them – a flower pot, liquor cabinet, storage container, backdrop for Zoom meetings, perch for a laser printer. So, my Connecting colleagues who have a Teletype in their home, any other ideas?



AP GROUND GAME : The medical community has made it clear that there won't be a vaccine available to curb the spread of COVID-19 for at least a year or 18 months (since January) as research groups move ahead to the early stages of human trials, or are poised to start. AP medical reporter Lauran Neergaard explains the process of creating a vaccine – and the ethical dilemmas that come with it.

Listen [here](#) .

Have a good day – say healthy and safe.

Paul

The story of a life well lived

Reilly Dundon ([Email](#)) – husband of our late AP colleague Ginny Byrne, shares her obituary with Connecting:



BYRNE – Virginia M.

Virginia (Ginny) Byrne, age 62, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2020 in New York, the city that she loved. Cause of death was complications of lung cancer. Ironically, Ginny never smoked. Ginny was born in Manhattan on May 30, 1957 and was raised in the Highbridge and Riverdale sections of the Bronx. She graduated from Cardinal Spellman High School in 1975 and

worked for Standard Brands in New York while attending and ultimately graduating from New York University in 1982. Desiring to be a journalist, as well as a seeker of truth, she became a reporter, and later a broadcast editor for The Associated Press (AP) in New York. In opening the “Police Beat” at 1 Police Plaza for the AP, Ginny covered the drug wars on the streets of New York in the 1980’s and 90’s. Several of the many stories she covered were the shooting of NYPD Officer Steven McDonald; the racially charged death of Michael Griffith in Howard Beach in 1986, the Central Park Jogger case in 1989 and the Happy Land social club fire in 1990. While working for the AP, Ginny served in various positions for the Communications Workers of America-News Media Guild. In addition, she served as an officer and as president of the Newswomen’s Club of New York. One of her last stories for the AP was reporting on the 2010 death of Lt. Colonel Lee Archer, one of the last remaining Tuskegee airmen. She befriended many people in government, journalism and news media during her 28-year career; her wit, humor and intelligence made difficult days bearable for many. After leaving the AP, Ginny did consulting and volunteer work for the NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade and for the National Tartan Day New York City Parade. Ginny was devoted to her immediate family and sought the best of medical and physical care for them, regardless of the circumstances. After being diagnosed with ALK+ Non Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) in 2016, Ginny became a tireless advocate for research into this particular cancer, which primarily strikes healthy, active women under the age of 50. She also lobbied for the destigmatization of lung cancer, traditionally seen as a “smoker’s disease” as increasing numbers of nonsmoking adults, primarily women, are diagnosed. She participated with two advocacy groups, ALK Positive and ALK Fusion, to focus awareness and support for those with this disease. Ginny was predeceased by her mother, Mary C. Doody, her father, James M. Byrne and her first husband, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Joseph Queen. Ginny is survived by her loving husband, Reilly J. Dundon, and their son, Alexander S. Dundon, to whom she became a fantastic Mom; her Aunt Rita Denault, Aunt Terri and Uncle Bob Dowdy, numerous cousins and mourned by many friends and former coworkers. Interment will be private. After the lifting of assembly restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, there will be a celebration of her life. It is requested that donations be made in her name to Massachusetts General Hospital’s Be A Part of The Solution Fund, which benefits lung cancer research. May her memory be a blessing and may she rest in peace.

‘Laid off, Going Hungry’

Michael Rubin ([Email](#)) - The AP story “Laid off, Going Hungry” by Ellen Knickmeyer and Jacquelyn Martin from Washington that appeared in Tuesday’s Santa Rosa Press Democrat is a splendid example of putting faces

on stories and humanizing numbers, in this case a Honduran woman struggling to feed her immediate and extended family despite being laid off from her low wage restaurant job. Call it enterprise reporting or what you will.

What really struck me was the exemplary, creative writing of the lede, then the rest of the story.

‘We don’t know how it will end’: Hunger stalks amid virus



Allison, 5, eats a lunch of refried beans, scrambled egg, and a handmade tortilla, at home, Wednesday, April 15, 2020, in Washington. It is the one meal a day that her mother can cook for their family, outside of cereal from a food bank that is quickly running out. With both of her parents out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic they will look each day for donated food to share. Most days it is a question of whether to pay for food or bills with the dwindling funds they have remaining. Job loss, ineligibility for federal programs, language barriers, unfamiliarity with the charity network, and a lack of access to technology can keep some immigrants from accessing available food aid. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JACQUELYN MARTIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — When all this started — when the coronavirus began stalking humanity like an animal hunting prey, when she and her husband lost their restaurant jobs overnight as the world shut down to hide, when she feared not being able to feed her family — Janeth went outside with a red kitchen towel.

It was Passover. Her pastor had told her about the roots of the Jewish holiday, about Israelites smearing a lamb's blood on their doors as a sign for the plagues to pass them by. So Janeth, an immigrant from Honduras, reached up to hang the red towel over the door of her family's apartment on the edge of the nation's capital. It was close enough, she figured, "to show the angel of death to pass over our home."

Pass us by, coronavirus.

And pass us by, hunger.

Read more [here](#) .

New member profile: Ricardo Reif



Ricardo Reif ([Email](#)) - I studied journalism in Caracas and worked in different local media before landing a job as a local hire at for the AP in 1992.

There, I covered among other stories the coup attempt by a then little-known soldier named Hugo Chavez and later the impeachment of then-President Carlos Andres Perez.

In 1995 I came to New York to study international affairs at Columbia University and later worked for the AP in Bogota.

In 1997 I was hired as an editor and translator on the Spanish News Service at the AP's headquarters in New York City, then in 50 Rockefeller. I feel proud and honored to have worked alongside what I believe to be the best Spanish language journalists in the world, at the AP's Spanish Desk, ever since.

Since 2016 I am also an adjunct professor at CUNY's Journalism School.

I live in Manhattan's Upper West Side with my wife Liz, also a journalist. (She freelances after working at the New York Times for about 20 years.)

In my spare time I play one of my 12 guitars. I am also an avid Tai Chi practitioner.

Connecting mailbox

Moved by Linda Deutsch's account of refugees

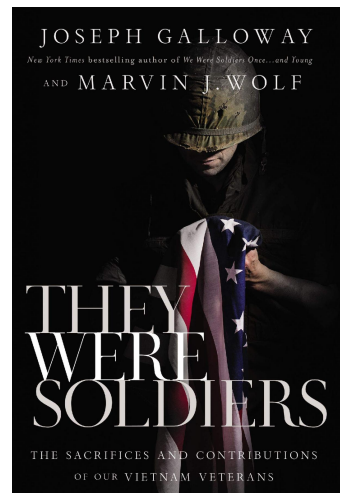
Gary Gentile ([Email](#)) - I was deeply moved by Linda Deutsch's story on the evacuation of refugees to Guam after the fall of Saigon (in Tuesday's Connecting). It reminded me, among other things, of how lucky I was to be a part of the Los Angeles Bureau and to work with people like Linda, Nick Ut, Bob Thomas, Sue Manning, and other AP greats. I don't take that experience for granted.

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Vietnam vets: 'They were the greatest of their generation'

Joe Galloway ([Email](#)) - My new book, co-authored with old friend Marvin J. Wolf, will be released May 12 by Nelson Books/HarperCollins. Title: **THEY WERE SOLDIERS: The Sacrifices and Contributions of Our Vietnam Veterans**. Available for pre-order now on [Amazon.com](#) .

It contains profiles/interviews of 49 Vietnam vets from Colin Powell and Barry McCaffrey to Fred Smith of FedEx to Diane Carlson Evans, the nurse. Focuses less on the war they fought and more on the lives they have lived and the good they have done for their communities and our country since that war.



I have said over and over in speeches of that cohort of young Americans: They may not have been The Greatest Generation but by God They Were The Greatest of Their Generation.

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Covering Don Shula

Richard Carelli ([Email](#)) – In the early 1970s, Don Shula was a god in Miami. When the Miami AP's resident sports writer took ill, I covered a Dolphins training camp, where a 1972 Olympic sprinter was one of the most closely watched rookies. The Dolphins had picked him pretty high up in the draft despite his scant football experience in college. He was cut early on in camp, and at one of Shula's press briefings I asked about that disappointment, apparently in a way that sparked Shula's legendary temper. He let me, and all others present, know he was unhappy with me. Later that same day, assistant coach Vince Costello (a former NFL linebacker and fellow Ohio U. alum with whom I had bonded) invited me onto the practice field to watch a scrimmage. While I stood beside Vince, a voice came down from on high (Shula in a tower with a bull horn), profanely asking what I was doing on the field. By the time Shula approached me to make further inquiry, Vince had disappeared. Realizing that I currently was under a bus, I obediently retreated to a field-side area where other reporters stood, Shula told me I needed to leave the compound entirely; that I no longer was welcomed. I did so, finding a phone booth to let my AP boss know what had happened. My boss and the Dolphins PR folks talked, and the next day I was invited into Shula's office so we could resolve this situation (even though I wasn't sure just what the situation was). Our meeting followed a team workout, and as Shula sat behind a desk that to me seemed the size of an aircraft carrier, he removed his shoes and put his dusty-socks-clad footsies about three feet from my face. There was no apology, but also no recrimination. It was as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened the previous day. "I have no problem with the AP," the coach told me.



Photo credit John S. Stewart.

Karen Testa Wong ([Email](#)) – I'm not sure what we were laughing about here but I love this photo, taken during Coach Shula's first post-retirement interview. He was open and cordial, and just slightly less intimidating than when he was on the job. We were backstage at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson, Mo. I'd moved to Missouri as AP's Springfield correspondent from Miami, where I'd helped cover his final season with the Dolphins. RIP Coach.

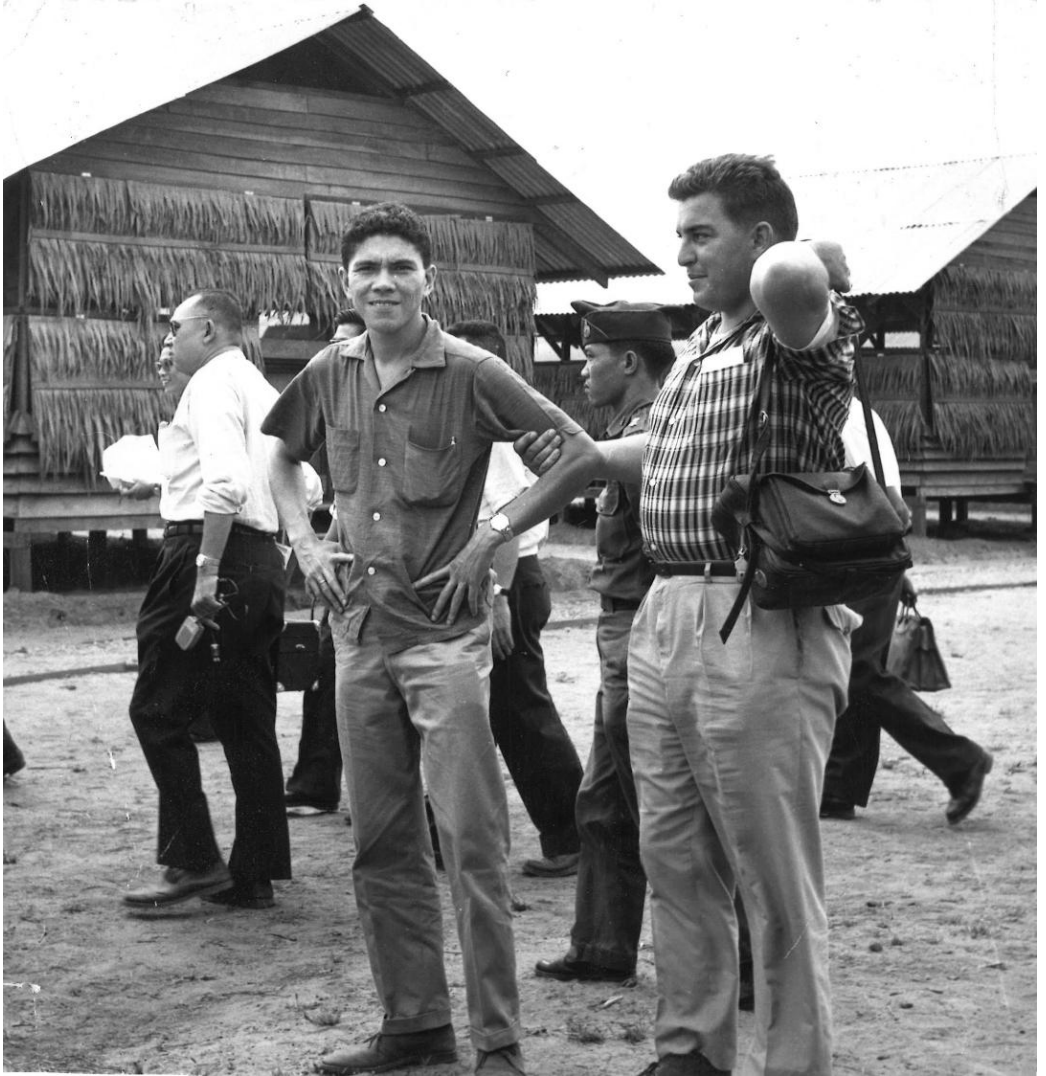
'When Truth Mattered' - I was glad to be part of it

John-Paul Filo ([Email](#)) – This [link](#) is to the Robert Giles (who was the curator of the Knight Nieman Fellowship at Harvard) discussion about his new book "When Truth Mattered" – a book pursuing the truth of the Kent State shootings on May 4, 1970. I think it is a great intro for J -Students about ACCURATE deadline reporting. Give it look please.

I was glad to be part of it.

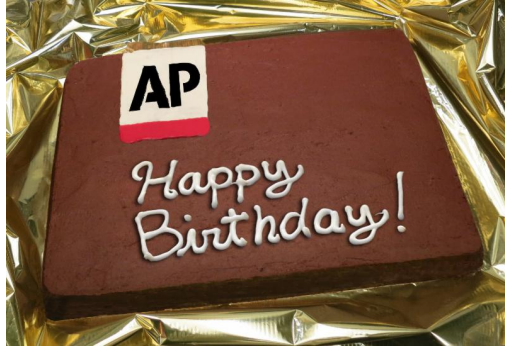
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A memory of Horst Faas and Tony Escoda



Arnold Zeitlin ([Email](#)) - Here is a photo of Horst Faas (right) and Tony Escoda that may interest you. Tony was the first Filipino to be named bureau chief in the 60s in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Manila. He died in September 1981 at the age of 51 and was buried in New Haven CT, near Yale University, which he attended. His widow, Betty Escoda, today sent me the photo, which she found in her files. knew Tony when I was in Manila for AP. After years in Hong Kong, Betty now lives in Cebu, the Philippines, from which she writes for several Philippine newspapers.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Greg Nokes – g_nokes@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting



Randy Carman - Randyc10@aol.com

Larry Paladino - rto173rd@wowway.com

Stories of interest

Old Ebbitt Grill, One Of The City's (Washington's) Oldest Restaurants, Is Barely Hanging On



By Eliza Berkon, WAMU

“You unlock that revolving door, and the world comes through,” David Moran says.

The one-time general manager of Old Ebbitt Grill has hosted his share of power brokers, entertainers and tourists (he remembers the time Bono popped in for oysters and a Guinness). But the revolving door is locked now.

With sales limited to to-go orders during the coronavirus pandemic, revenue at Old Ebbitt Grill has fallen about 95%. Some 270 employees, or 90% of its staff, are out of work. The dent in the restaurant’s financial situation is “massive,” Moran says.

“It’s not sustainable,” he says. “The Old Ebbitt Grill is not going to continue to be a takeout and delivery-only business.”

Like it is with many restaurants across the city, the bleak reality now facing Old Ebbitt is unprecedented—even for a restaurant that predates the telephone. In the last century-and-a-half, Old Ebbitt has grown from a boarding house to a destination for tourists and politicians alike. Everyone from Ulysses S. Grant and Teddy Roosevelt to Paula Abdul and Stevie Wonder have stopped by what’s considered the oldest restaurant in Washington. The business has changed locations. It’s been bought and sold by various individuals and companies. And in the last month, it’s gone from being one of the most profitable independent restaurants in the country to its current state — barely hanging on.

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

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‘The last thing I thought would happen’: Editor of small East Texas newspaper wins Pulitzer Prize (Houston Chronicle)

By Julian Gill and Andrew Dansby

Jeffery Gerritt fell to his knees and broke down crying in the parking lot of the Palestine Herald-Press, the small east Texas paper where he has served since 2017 as editor.

He had just returned from a coffee run Monday afternoon when the publisher, Jake Mienk, met him at his car. Mienk swallowed him in a bear hug and shared the news: Gerritt had just won the Pulitzer Prize, journalism’s most prestigious award, for editorial writing.

“When I came down here, the last thing I thought would happen was winning this award at this tiny little paper in east Texas,” Gerritt told the Houston Chronicle.

Today in History - May 06, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 6, the 127th day of 2020. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1915, Babe Ruth hit his first major-league home run as a player for the Boston Red Sox.

On this date:

In 1863, the Civil War Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia ended with a Confederate victory over Union forces.

In 1882, President Chester Alan Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese immigrants from the U.S. for 10 years (Arthur had opposed an earlier version with a 20-year ban).

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg caught fire and crashed while attempting to dock at Lakehurst, New Jersey; 35 of the 97 people on board were killed along with a crewman on the ground.

In 1941, Josef Stalin assumed the Soviet premiership, replacing Vyacheslav (VEE'-chek-slav) M. Molotov. Comedian Bob Hope did his first USO show before an audience of servicemen as he broadcast his radio program from March Field in Riverside, California.

In 1942, during World War II, some 15,000 American and Filipino troops on Corregidor island surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he'd sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand (frahn-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2004, President George W. Bush apologized for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers, calling it "a stain on our country's honor"; he rejected calls for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation.

In 2013, kidnap-rape victims Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, who went missing separately about a decade earlier while in their teens or early 20s, were rescued from a house just south of downtown Cleveland. (Their captor, Ariel Castro, hanged himself in prison in September 2013 at the beginning of a life sentence plus 1,000 years.)

Ten years ago: A computerized sell order triggered a "flash crash" on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones industrials to a loss of nearly 1,000 points in less than half an hour. Conservatives captured the largest number of seats in Britain's national election but fell short of a majority. (Conservative leader

David Cameron ended up heading a coalition government.) A court in India sentenced to death the only surviving Pakistani gunman in the bloody 2008 Mumbai attacks. (Mohammed Ajmal Kasab was hanged on November 21, 2012.)

Five years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu completed formation of a new governing coalition. The NFL released a 243-report on “Deflategate” that stopped short of calling Patriots quarterback Tom Brady a cheater, but did call some of his claims “implausible” and left little doubt that he’d had a role in having footballs deflated before New England’s AFC title game against Indianapolis and probably in previous games. Former U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright, 92, died in Fort Worth, Texas.

One year ago: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump’s former personal lawyer, reported to federal prison northwest of New York City to start a three-year sentence for crimes including tax evasion and campaign finance violations related to hush-money payments made to protect Trump. (A Justice Department official said that because of the coronavirus pandemic, Cohen would serve the remainder of his sentence at home, following a 14-day quarantine period.) Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin notified the Democratic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee that the administration would not turn over the president’s tax returns to the House, saying the request “lacks a legitimate legislative purpose.” The co-owner of Maximum Security, disqualified from first place in the Kentucky Derby, said the horse would not run in the Preakness, the middle jewel of the Triple Crown; the announcement came hours before the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission denied an appeal of the disqualification. In a Rose Garden ceremony, President Donald Trump awarded golfer Tiger Woods the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. CBS News announced that Norah O’Donnell would become anchor and managing editor of the “CBS Evening News” and that Gayle King would get two new morning show co-hosts. Britain’s Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle became parents as Markle gave birth to a boy who would be named Archie.

Today’s Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays is 89. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 86. Rock singer Bob Seger is 75. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 75. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 74. Actor Alan Dale is 73. Actor Ben Masters is 73. Actor Richard Cox is 72. Actor Gregg Henry is 68. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 67. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 65. Actress Roma Downey is 60. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 60. Actress Julianne Phillips is 60. Actor-director George Clooney is 59. Actor Clay O’Brien is 59. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 56. Actress Leslie Hope is 55. Actress Geneva Carr (TV: “Bull”) is 54. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 53. Rock musician Chris

Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 49. Actress Stacey Oristano is 41. Model/TV personality Tiffany Coyne is 38. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 37. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 37. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 34. Rapper Meek Mill is 33. Houston Astros infielder Jose Altuve is 30. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 27. Actor Noah Galvin is 26.

Thought for Today: “To know your ruling passion, examine your castles in the air.” [-] Richard Whately, English clergyman (1787-1863).

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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