

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting August 04, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 4th day of August 2020,

Sports played a big role in **Byron Yake**'s 36-year Associated Press career, which began at AP Pittsburgh in 1968 after five years as editor of a weekly newspaper in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

He covered sports for three years, becoming correspondent in charge from 1976 to 1978. He was named bureau chief in Newark in 1978 then general

sports editor in New York from 1980 to 1985. He was assistant to the president twice and director of Human Resources for five years.

Sports returned to his life fulltime two years after Byron retired in 2004 from AP, when he began a second career with the creation of Write on Sports, an educational literacy program to attract and teach middle school students to write through the lens of sports.

His creation is now a teenager, and in our lead article today, our Connecting colleague tells about its operation and how its normal face-to-face learning focus switched to online this year because of COVID-19.

I know you will enjoy the story – and I hope it may prompt you to write your own Connecting story on a second career after the AP. (You're reading mine, btw.)

Finally, apologies to those who did not receive Monday's issue. Our carrier Constant Contact said an inordinate number of bounced deliveries were caused by issues with major internet carriers. Remember to drop me a note if you don't receive your issue, as some of you did, and I will rerun, or if we are linked through Facebook or LinkedIn, I post each day's issue on those platforms.

Here's to a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

2,000 students have benefited from Write on Sports



By BYRON YAKE
Founder, Executive Director
Write on Sports

www.writeonsports.org

Fifteen years ago, as an encore career, I founded Write on Sports, an educational literacy program to attract and teach middle school students to write through the lens of sports.

The WoS model is a two-week summer camp, in partnership with a university and a school district, where students interview guest athletes, sports writers and broadcasters, write spot stories and produce videos. Each student chooses his or her topic for their writing projects. WoS provides students the opportunity to improve writing and research skills, develop critical thinking and build self-confidence. Plus, it's fun.

To date, some 2,000 students have attended the WoS camps, after-school programs and one-day workshops. For 2021, WoS plans to add four or more new camps, including Denver, the Bronx, Jersey City and Paterson locations, and at least two new after-school programs plus additional workshops.

Given COVID-19 this summer. WoS redirected its focus from face-to-face programs to online, and I'm pleased to say it went well, providing WoS with new and flexible hybrid teaching models and options for the future.

In summer 2020, students had the opportunity to choose from one of four areas for their online work: Fiction Feature; Feature story; Podcast; Video Production.

July 31 was the final day of the program, the day when students presented their writings, videos and podcasts to family and friends and co-students.

Wrote the mother of one participant, "...thank you for making this a summer of learning, writing and fun for my son . . . You pivoted beautifully to Zoom . . . smartly to bring in speakers from all over the country and extending the program to run the entire month and to open up subjects from fiction writing to podcast development in addition to feature writing and videos."



ERIK JACOBSON



RYAN RUOCCO



RICHARD JEFFERSON



Participating guests included Jenny Vrentas, writer for *Sports Illustrated*; Matthew Stanmyre, sports writer for the *Star-Ledger* and NJ.com; Richard Jefferson former player on the Brooklyn Nets and Ryan Ruocco of ESPN and MSG, and James Wagner, baseball writer of the *New York Times*.

Meanwhile, WoS continues to expand its workshop concept and will hold monthly programs, virtually or in person, depending on Covid-19. Each workshop mirrors the summer camp program with a sports venue or theme, a journalist, an interview with an athlete and writing a spot story.

WoS workshops also include high school students and give teachers the opportunity to provide mentoring as students work on career preparation for college.

Program Director Dr. Erik Jacobson, a professor at Montclair State University, and Assistant Program Director Andy Beutel M. Ed, and a 7th grade teacher, rewrote the 106-page WoS curriculum for online use. Both have been instrumental in directing WoS programming for 14 years.

WoS recently cancelled plans for its fund-raising Gala this year. Instead a virtual Gala and silent auction will be held in October.

I pinch myself for the good fortune I continue to have as I watch the progress students make with the help of WoS.

As former WoS student Kevin Lopez, now in law school, said several years ago: "Write on Sports helped me not be afraid of a blank piece of paper."

On the death of Gerry McLaughlin

Richard Chady ([Email](#)) - I'm saddened to learn of the passing of Gerry McLaughlin, but grateful for having known him for so long. Thanks to Marc Humbert, Joel Stashenko and Bob Bellafiore for the fine obit. Gerry would approve.

When I was a green reporter for UPI in Albany around 1970, Gerry, an AP veteran then newly working for the state, took me under his wing. Not only did he give me some professional guidance, eventually he sponsored me into my first state job, with the State Consumer Protection Board. He had recently worked with the new head of that agency. This launched my 22-year PR career with the state and became the core of my retirement benefits.

Whenever I periodically ran into Gerry over 40 years, it was always as though we had just parted. He'd always ask about family and friends.

A further word on Gerry's impish invention of fictitious colleges when he was at The AP. I believe the ruse went undetected for a time because he had fictitious schools only play each other in the list of scores. I believe one was Mother Cabrini; another was Brydges Tech, named after the state Senate Republican leader, Earl Brydges. As the obit explains, he was eventually outed. (The late Bill Stevens, another APer, used to relish telling this story with a grin and a twinkle in his eyes-- just like I'm doing now.)

RIP Gerry. We're all richer for having known you.

McLaughlin Poly 35, Mother Cabrini 3

-0-

Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - Monday's Humbert/Stashenko/Bellafigliore tribute to the departed Gerry McLaughlin captured wonderfully the Irish wit who, spotting this Albany newbie in 1968 puzzling over his first annual AP "My Ambition" form, advised, "Tell 'em you want to be Honolulu RME, and tell 'em that every year until you get it."

Donations covered Sue Manning cutout, with much leftover for AP Emergency Relief Fund

Rachel Ambrose ([Email](#)) - The late AP pet writer/editor/supervisor Sue Manning is being remembered in the Los Angeles Dodgers stands by very generous friends and former colleagues. At pandemic home games, Sue's cutout can be seen in the front row of the MVP bullpen seats. An idea conceived by John Willis led to contributions from all over the United States. The \$300 cost was quickly met and, by agreement and in Sue's name, the whopping leftover \$470 is being sent to the AP Emergency Relief Fund for AP staffers with special financial needs. The Dodger money goes to the Dodger Foundation, an organization dedicated to the formation of boys and girls.

Here's a list of contributors (in no special order): John Willis, John Brewer, Linda Deutsch, Rachel Ambrose, Susan Helm, Jo Steck, Gary Gentile, David Wilkison, Denise Petski, Marty Steinberg, Scott Charton, Mike Harris, Justin

Pritchard, Chelsea Carter, Mark Terrill, Julie Aicher March, Bob Macy, Michelle DeArmond Baumgartner, Dan Day, Andy Lippman, Jeff Wilson, Herb Hemming, John Rogers, Carolyn Fox, Marty Thompson, Bill McCloskey, Mark Thayer, Cecilia White, Lee Siegel , Andrew Dalton, Reed Saxon, Paul Stevens, Peggy Walsh and Cliff Schiappa.

California wildfire through Nick Ut's lens





Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - An out-of-control wildfire burning in Cherry Valley, California, east of Los Angeles, has grown to over 20,000 acres, forcing thousands of people to evacuate, according to the US Forest Service.

The Apple Fire began Friday shortly before 5 p.m. PST and has forced about 7,800 people to evacuate, Riverside County Fire Department said.

As of Sunday, the Apple Fire has burned over 20,516 acres and has no containment, the Forest Service said. Much of the northeast and eastern edge of the fire is in steep, rugged hillsides, making it inaccessible to firefighting vehicles. Currently, there are 20 hand-crews, 6 helicopters, 178 engines, and 19 water tenders fighting the fire.

More stories of your first or favorite vehicle



Martha Malan ([Email](#)) - All these fancy cars! And all these men! Here's a woman's perspective.

I loved Ezekiel, my first car, a brand new, \$2000, 1968, navy blue Volkswagen bug. I had him for 10 years, until it became backbreaking to put our newborn son and his car seat in the back seat. We retired Ezekiel to our Wisconsin lake cabin—where in the first winter mice ate all his wiring and he died.

My current chariot is rHonda, a 2005 Civic. I love her too.

-0-



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Easily my favorite car was a 1969 red Volkswagen Beetle purchased during my first year of college.

It had been preceded by a 1964 Bug that I bought for the princely sum of \$400 from the father of a high school friend. It turned out the car had been in an accident that twisted the frame and rust near the driver's side door post had been covered with paint. Pavement could be seen through rusted-out spots in the floor panel under the rear seat holding the 6-volt battery.

The '69, by contrast, was in great shape. It had been driven by an older friend down the street from us in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and had been well taken care of.

Three other friends also had Beetles and we often raced each other through town. Streets in one particular subdivision were offset, creating a sort of S-curve through which we pursued each other (I'm sure well over the posted speed limit.)

The '69 actually had heat to keep warm for the Iowa winter, and the defrost vents (served off engine heat) did a decent job -- at least as could be expected of a Volkswagen -- of keeping the windshield from fogging up totally.

I drove the car all over: to work, to school, on a college weekend from Columbia, Mo., to New Orleans and back with three other guys. It was loaded to the ceiling when I went to school at the University of Missouri and then to the University of Iowa. I had added a trailer hitch and pulled a small cargo trailer with a box on top to take my drumset to college as well as to gigs in cities around Iowa and neighboring Minnesota and South Dakota. Along with a Fiat 128 SL Sport Coupe her father had purchased for her, it was Mary's and my car when we got married. Very reliable, and it actually started in winter. Unlike Mary's Fiat.

A year or so after starting my post-college job in Cedar Falls, Iowa, we were getting an addition to the family -- a dog -- and decided it was time to trade the Bug for a larger car. We bought a new Toyota Corolla wagon.

A couple nights after getting the wagon, we were returning home from a movie and noticed a familiar red VW Beetle pull alongside us at a stop light. It was the salesman who had sold us the Corolla. I rolled down the window and asked what he was doing in my old car. "We're allowed to borrow the used cars," he said, "and this is the best one on the lot!"

Any photos of the car, if they exist, likely are still in one of the many scrapbooks my mother keeps at home in Iowa. I've included a photo of a 1967 model we found at a 1:32 shop in Omaha years later.



Jim Spehar (Email) - Just a coincidence, I'm sure. But, just as we're in the final stages of a kitchen refresh, Paul asks about favorite rides. And I'm reminded that I've just paid 10x as much for our new refrigerator as I did for my first car!

I'll have to paint a word picture, but it was a mostly red (with splashes of gray primer) '46 Chevy coupe with a '52 GMC "big 6" engine augmented by twin carburetors and dual glasspacks. It'd been owned by at least a couple of my high school elders before I bought it for \$185 off the way-back line at the local Chevrolet dealer just after turning 16. Red and white tuck and roll upholstery with my surprised mother's favorite feature, "Love Buggy" inscribed on the dash. Owned it for only a month or so before she and my uncle found a more appropriate conveyance for the oldest son of the widowed school nurse.

Many others have satisfied my performance and/or unique Jones since then. A turbocharged Corvair Spyder that got me from Grand Junction back to college in Tempe over 600 miles of then-two lane in 8 hours on the same day I was forced to relinquish my Colorado driver's license. Two early Corvettes, a '54 and a '55, back when you could buy 'em for less than \$1000. A yellow and black '49 Willys Jeepster, the cheap second car after purchasing our first Porsche 914 in 1970. Lately, there's a restored old Land Cruiser that takes us camping across the West, including to Palm Springs where the attached photo of Jim Hood, Mark Thayer and me was taken a few years ago.

But my favorite is still out in the garage nearly 49 years after purchasing it brand new. Blind dumb luck and a Phoenix dealership without a demo 914 due to a dock strike got us a deal on 9-14-71...\$6,000 minus a generous trade allowance found us driving home a leftover 1970 Porsche 914-6. About 120,000 mid-engine 914s were built over a six-year run, mostly by Volkswagen. Porsche, as part of that ill-fated partnership, took 3300 of the shells and installed their own running gear but found them difficult to move at just \$500 less than list for a "real" Porsche 911.

It was Bonnie's daily driver for six or seven years. For 15 years, after an incredulous "you're going to let your wife drive your car?" at the registration desk for our first Porsche Club of America track day at the old Phoenix International Raceway in early 1972, we consistently won our classes at "driver education" events and that wife went on to become the first female driving instructor for Rocky Mountain PCA.

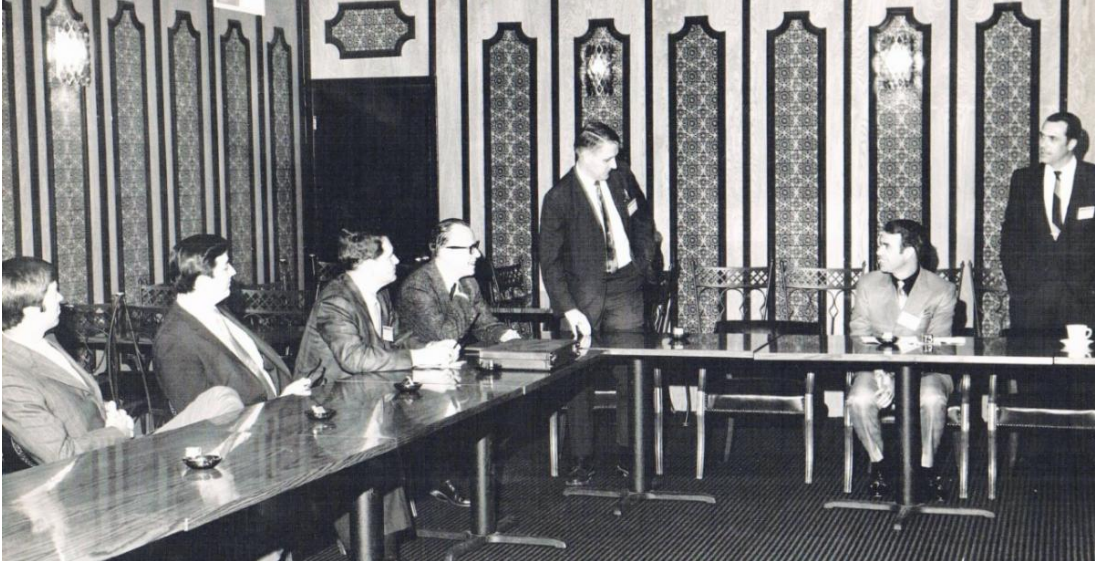
Then came years of very intermittent use and finally a dozen years of inactivity. In 2013 my comment that "If we're ever going to enjoy this thing

again, we'd better get it back on the road while we can still get in and out without assistance" prompted a two-year bare metal redo. The bucket list was to drive it to all four corners of the continental U.S. First leg was a 2015 coastal jaunt from far northwest Washington to south of San Diego that included a memorable Car Week in Monterey/Carmel. The plan next year is to leave for far northeast Maine on the 50th anniversary of our purchase and end up in Key West.

My hope is we'll be able, thanks to my two new bionic knees, to "get in and out without assistance" until my granddaughter is ready for college in another dozen years. At the current rate of appreciation, it ought to be a heckuva start to a college fund. Or a classy casket.

Memories sparked of AP Dallas newsman Ray Holbrook





Top photo: Dorothy and Ray Holbrook; Ray worked for AP from 1951-1976.

Above photo: From the 1970s in Amarillo taken at a regional broadcast seminar for broadcasters in the Texas Panhandle. Doug Kienitz in center, standing, with Texas Broadcast editor Ray Holbrook on his right and Texas AP Broadcast president Gary DeLaune (of KNUZ, Houston) on his left.

John Lumpkin ([Email](#)) - The Press Club of Dallas sent around an email to members this past week noting the following story about the late Ray Holbrook, long-time AP news staffer in Dallas. When I joined AP in 1971, Ray was in late stages of his career, serving as Texas Broadcast Editor.

I didn't learn about other aspects of his journalism career during the brief time we worked together in the early 70s and perhaps the newer staffers of that era didn't either.

This link might make some interesting reading for them and others. Click [here](#).

AP's top editor: It's our role to factually report election results

By Patrick Maks

In an interview Sunday on CNN's "Reliable Sources," Executive Editor Sally Buzbee explained why the public can trust The Associated Press to accurately deliver the results of the U.S. presidential election in November.

"We are completely non-partisan, and what we do is report the facts and that's why people can trust us. We will be entirely transparent on election night," Buzbee said. "It is not our role to say who should win this election. It is our role to factually report to the United States and to the world what has happened and that is what we will do"

She pointed to AP's history of accuracy in counting the vote in U.S. elections for more than 170 years:

"We have been doing this since 1848. We have done it through the Civil War, we've done it through the pony express, we've done it through the troubles of the 60s, we did it through World War II. On election night in 2016, we were the first people to declare that Donald Trump had been the winner."

The public should be prepared for slower election results this year, Buzbee said, due to an influx of mail-in and absentee voting in response to the coronavirus pandemic. She also made clear voters should not conflate delayed results with election fraud, as states grapple with mail-in voting for the first time:

"There are going to be additional states this year that are dealing with this for the first year and it probably means that they will go slower. It does not at all mean that there will necessarily be fraud or anything like that. Those two things are not connected. They probably — to be careful and to have accurate vote counts — will probably tabulate the results more slowly, so we are anticipating for that reason that the vote will probably be slower this year."

Asked how AP is preparing for the 2020 election, Buzbee said:

"What we're doing is an enormous amount of research to make sure that we understand how each state is going to handle its election, what its laws and procedures are going to be, how they're going to handle mail-in voting and things like that, so that we can communicate that to our customers and the news organizations that depend on us for that vote count on election night so that everyone can have as clear and factual and transparent of an idea of how this election will work as possible."

See how AP counts the vote: click [here](#).

See how AP calls winners: click [here](#).

AP mistakenly sends photo meant to illustrate SpaceX return

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press mistakenly ran a year-old photograph that had been taken during a NASA test mission to depict Sunday's splashdown of two astronauts returning from the International Space Station aboard a SpaceX capsule.

The news service on Monday deleted the photo from its system and ran a “kill advisory,” telling customers about the error and urging them not to use it in the future.

J. David Ake, the AP's director of photography, said he was alerted to the mistake on Monday by a NASA photographer who had seen the incorrect photo being used by newspapers.

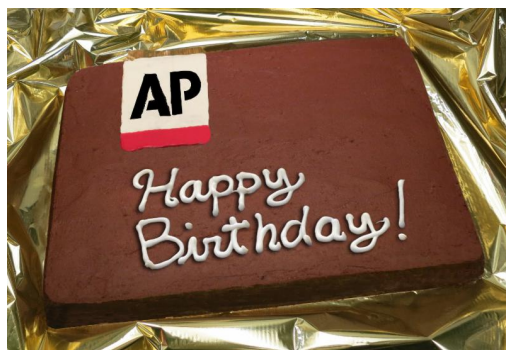
Read more [here](#).

AP Photo of the Day



People enter a shopping mall through passages equipped with disinfectant sprays in Moscow, Russia, on Monday, Aug. 3. | Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP Photo

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bob Petsche – rpetsche@kc.rr.com

Stories of interest

‘Sobering’ report shows hardening attitudes against media

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The distrust many Americans feel toward the news media, caught up like much of the nation’s problems in the partisan divide, only seems to be getting worse.

That was the conclusion of a “sobering” study of attitudes toward the press conducted by Knight Foundation and Gallup and released Tuesday.

Nearly half of all Americans describe the news media as “very biased,” the survey found.

“That’s a bad thing for democracy,” said John Sands, director of learning and impact at the Knight Foundation. “Our concern is that when half of Americans have some sort of doubt about the veracity of the news they consume, it’s going to be impossible for our democracy to function.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

-0-

Detroit News to offer subscriber-only content starting Aug. 12

By Breana Noble, The Detroit News

The Detroit News will begin offering a digital subscription next week when it launches a redesigned detroitnews.com for readers who seek full access to all digital content.

It's the first time in the 25-year history of the newspaper's website that it will charge for coverage. The initiative launches Aug. 12 with a refreshed design that loads faster and includes a new reader comment system, said Editor and Publisher Gary Miles.

While much of the newspaper's breaking news content will remain available for free, some of the most unique, in-depth and original stories will be available to subscribers only, he said. The special introductory rate of a full-access digital subscription will be as little as \$3 for the first three months.

"We need our most loyal readers to support the reliable local journalism they've come to know and expect," Miles said. "Long-term, revenue from digital subscribers is an essential part of maintaining our place as the most trusted news source in Michigan."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Charles Hill.

The Final Word



**Doctor, when do you think
covid 19 will be over?
Doctor: I don't know, I'm
not a Journalist.**

(Shared by Claude Erbsen)

**Today in History - August 4,
2020**



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 4, the 217th day of 2020. There are 149 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 4, 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

On this date:

In 1792, English romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was born at Field Place near Horsham, England.

In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany for invading Belgium; the United States proclaimed its neutrality in the mushrooming world conflict.

In 1916, the United States reached agreement with Denmark to purchase the Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1972, Arthur Bremer was convicted and sentenced in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to 63 years in prison for his attempt on the life of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace (the sentence was later reduced to 53 years; Bremer was released from prison in 2007).

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

In 1993, a federal judge sentenced Los Angeles police officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating Rodney King's civil rights.

In 1996, on the final day of the Atlanta Olympics, Josiah Thugwane became the first Black South African to win a gold medal as he finished first in the marathon.

In 2001, thousands of admirers turned out in London for what would prove to be the last birthday celebration for Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth, who had turned 101. (The Queen Mother died in March 2002.)

In 2009, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Ten years ago: BP PLC reported the broken well head at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico was plugged up with mud; President Barack Obama said the battle to contain one of the world's worst oil spills was "finally close to coming to an end." Eight days after turning 35, Alex Rodriguez hit his 600th home run, becoming the youngest player to attain the milestone. (A-Rod's two-run, first-inning drive off Toronto's Shaun Marcum put New York ahead, and the Yankees coasted to a 5-1 victory over the Blue Jays.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made dueling appeals to the American Jewish community as they sought to rally support for their opposing positions on the Iranian nuclear deal; Netanyahu made his case against the agreement in a live webcast with more than 10,000 participants, according to the U.S. Jewish groups that organized the event, while Obama held a private meeting at the White House with Jewish leaders.

One year ago: A masked gunman fired on revelers enjoying summer nightlife in a popular entertainment district of Dayton, Ohio, leaving nine people dead and 27 wounded; police said officers shot and killed the shooter within 30 seconds of the start of his rampage. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell suffered a fractured shoulder in a fall outside his Louisville, Kentucky home.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Tina Cole is 77. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 76. Football Hall of Famer John Riggins is 71. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 65. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 65. Actor Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 62. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 62. Actor Lauren Tom is 61. Former President Barack Obama is 59. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly & Ryan") is 59. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 58. Actor Crystal Chappell is 55. Author Dennis Lehane is 55. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 52. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 52. Actor Michael DeLuise is 51. Former race car driver Jeff Gordon is 49. Rapper-actor Yo-Yo is 49. Country singer Jon Nicholson is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Marques (MAR'-kus) Houston is 39. Britain's Duchess of Sussex, the former actor Meghan Markle, is 39. Actor Abigail Spencer is 39. Actor/director Greta Gerwig is 37. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 35. Rock singer Tom Parker (The Wanted) is 32. Actors Dylan and Cole Sprouse are 28. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") is 25.

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
paulstevens46@gmail.com