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Connecting September 10, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 10th day of September 2020,

We're sorry to learn of the death of **Bill Chevalier** – a Connecting colleague who died last Saturday, a day after he reached his 91st birthday.

His former AP colleague **Gene Herrick** shares the story and some favorite memories of working with Bill. If you have a memory to share, please send it along.

Discussion of the day is whether journalist **Bob Woodward** should have waited until now to reveal President Donald Trump's early concerns about the severity of the coronavirus. See stories below.

In Woodward's upcoming book on Trump, "Rage," the president is quoted saying the virus was highly contagious and "deadly stuff" at a time he was publicly dismissing it

as no worse than the flu. Woodward, the celebrated Washington Post journalist and best-selling author, spoke with Trump more than a dozen times for his book. Woodward told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he needed time to be sure that Trump's private comments from February were accurate.

Got thoughts to share? Send them along.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Bill Chevalier dies a day after 91st birthday



Bill Chevalier celebrating a birthday in 1958. Photo/Gene Herrick

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - William Chevalier, a big man with a smile and personality that would derail a dark storm, and a former Associated Press journalist, died last Saturday in Portland, Oregon. He died one day after his 91st birthday.

Chevalier fell last Friday and broke a hip, and appeared to be recovering, but things suddenly worsened, reported his daughter, Cindy Wallo, who notified me by e-mail today (Wednesday, Sept.9).

There will be a small graveside service next Monday in Portland. Their home address is: 6585 SW Preslynn Dr., Portland, ORE., 97225-2631.

Chevalier and family later went into the advertising business in Portland, and faired well.

MOB (My Ole Buddy) and I were the best of friends, had great respect for each other, and especially like to joke and insult each other. Bill and I first met in the late 1950's, while working in the Minneapolis AP office. He was a writer (and a very good one) and I was the photographer.

Our real friendship began when federal authorities started experimenting with hot-air balloon flights out of the iron mines (Mesabi Range) near Hibbing Minnesota, in the mid-50's. Bill and I covered many of them, including the last, in an enclosed gondola beneath a giant balloon, launched from down in the mine. The last balloon flight was the Joseph W. Kittinger ride to 102,000 feet – just over the edge of space. He was the first man to do so.

Preceding, and following the flights, Bill and I would stay at the sight and watch the balloon rise and go east, go up into westward-bound winds, and fly back across where we were. We would then follow the balloon flights until they landed – somewhere in Minnesota, North Dakota.

These excursions often brought on strange events. On one of the flights, Bill and other journalists found out it was my birthday. So they went into town, found the baker, went to the bakery, got a cake and candles, and presented it to me deep in the iron mine. Another time, while lying on our backs atop the trunk of my car, watching the balloon very high overhead, people would walk by and stare wonderingly. Later, all of the media traveling and following the balloon, parked next to each other. One writer lay on the front seat sound asleep. He suddenly and frightfully awakened to a big dog on his chest, licking his face.

No one would eat my cake at the mine, so I carried it, in the box, and it rode on the back seat, until we all stopped and ate together. Upon opening the cake box, we found the cake covered with iron ore dust! I compelled some to eat some of the cake without the orange dust. Chevalier finally joined in.

Later, at the Thanksgiving holiday (most often I would shoot some kind of feature picture to go with the day, I sent to a Turkey restaurant and talked them out of a great big turkey leg, then to the Chevalier home, where I wanted to take pictures of Bill and Gerri's two tiny children with the turkey leg. I had to ask Gerri to leave the room and quit interfering! Two pictures resulted, and both got national attention.





Those were highlight points in our early relationship. NY transferred me to the Chicago bureau as a photo editor. That was tough giving up the camera. A few years later, through Connecting, we resumed our joking/insulting on-line and telephone comradeship. We often joshed about old times, and that he made me a good photographer, and, of course I responded. Politics was one of our regular long-distanced battles. Bill had a great memory, a great sense of humor. We need more William Chevaliers today in this crazy world.

-30-'s, my old buddy.

Grateful for guidance of Ralph Izard

Brian Friedman ([Email](#)) - Ralph Izard was my professor for basic reporting and reporting public affairs when I attended Ohio University in the 1970s, but his guidance extended well beyond the classroom. He was my adviser and a mentor to me when I was a reporter and later editor of the student daily, The Post. If I had a problem, he was among my first calls.

He maintained a connection to The Associated Press bureau in Columbus and he would assign students to write a lifestyle feature story in southeastern Ohio, and then offer it to the AP for the Newsfeatures wire. One such story of mine in the summer of 1977 produced a sheaf of clips from newspapers across the country with my byline – a gold mine for my portfolio.

He was instrumental in my getting a stint as a temporary relief staffer in Cincinnati under correspondent Andy Lippman in 1979, which eventually led to my permanent hire by the AP.

Our interactions did not stop there. In 1986, when former President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines for Hawaii, Ralph was doing a temporary assignment in the Honolulu bureau, and covered his arrival. I was on the old General Desk in New York, handling the story. I called Ralph, to get a few more snippets of color from him for the breaking story, which I wove in under his byline.

I will always be grateful to Ralph for everything he did to help me in the profession. His calm, gentle and friendly guidance was always a wonderful lesson in grace.

Connecting mailbox

30,000-word manuscript in a week, with two-finger typing? No problem

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Back in 1990, the late Dan Perkes, then head of AP Newsfeatures, made a deal for a book, *The Pictorial History of Baseball*. and chose me to do the narrative. The deal was on and then it was off and this back and forth went on for a while until a deal was finally struck. The problem was they needed a 30,000-word manuscript within a week. Could I do it? Certainly.

I worked every day for about 12 hours and produced the necessary copy on time and with the great AP photo library it remains one of my proudest books. Oh, and by the way, it was typed with two fingers, just like everything I ever did for The AP and just like this note.

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From the off-the-wall file

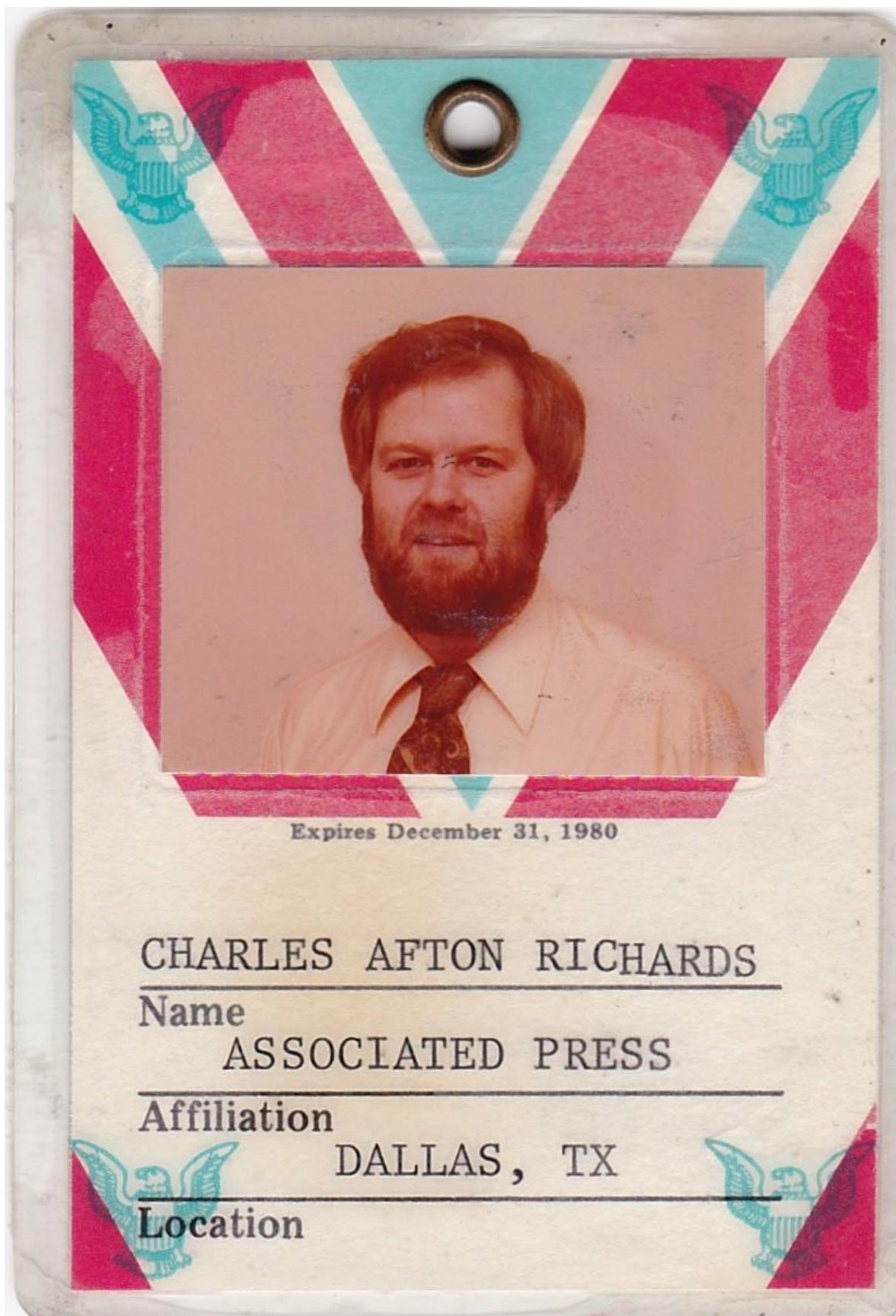
John Nolan ([Email](#)) - The other day, I happened to recall a funny bit from the "other" Tom Eblen, a former Tennessee AP colleague of mine whose tenure included stints as Nashville newsman and Knoxville correspondent. I share this with you in case you can ever use it as a drop-in somewhere. Any credit should go to Tom, a humorous guy.

Tom envisioned years ago, in the era of AP's teletypes and slow-speed wires, how the AP might handle the movement of a story about the arrival of the Second Coming. Here was his concept:

BC-Second Coming,
Eds: No AMer planned.

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The beard changed colors



Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - Just came across this government-issued press pass from 1980, shortly before I went from Dallas to Washington to report on the Texas congressional delegation in the first two years of the Reagan administration.

The second picture is of me earlier this year with my 4-year-old great-granddaughter. The beard changed colors!

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Snow in Colorado

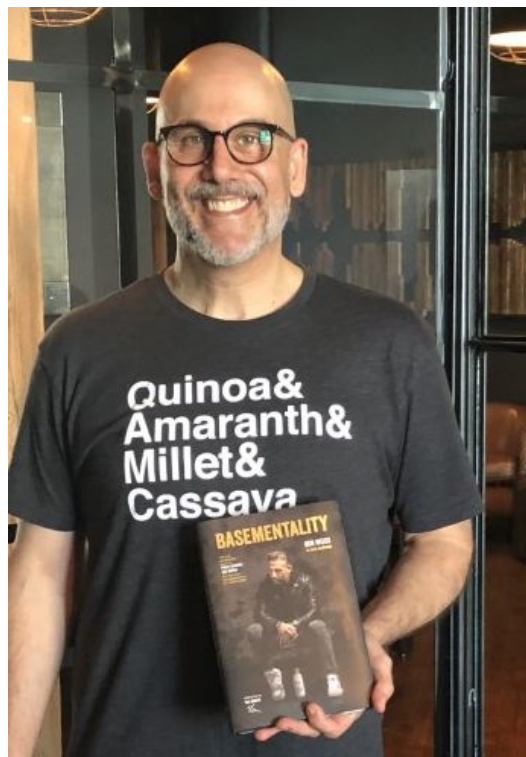


Norm Clarke ([Email](#)) - Woke up to more than a foot of snow on the Ranch house patio and on the balcony railing at the bunkhouse. I found a distressed dove so cold it couldn't get its wings working. This is at my wife's family ranch near Westcliffe, Colorado, a few miles from the Sangre de Cristo mountains.

Helping tell the story of the launch of Bai

Eric Quinones ([Email](#)) - I'm thrilled to announce the release of *Basementality*, the story of how my friend Ben Weiss, a lifelong beverage entrepreneur, built Bai Brands from a basement startup to a \$1.7 billion brand. As a co-author, I'm proud to help Ben tell his remarkable story.

Basementality explores how Ben's entrepreneurial journey set the stage for his greatest success. During the Great Recession in 2009, he launched Bai from the basement of his New Jersey home, disrupting the marketplace with a revolutionary blend of five calories, no artificial sweeteners and unprecedented taste. Bai quickly became the industry's fastest-growing brand by challenging the goliaths of the soda business, leading to its \$1.7 billion acquisition by Dr Pepper Snapple Group in 2017. The book reveals details of how Ben launched and expanded his "bevolution," his decision to put Bai up for sale and his painful exit from his beloved brand.



We're thankful that well-known figures such as Justin Timberlake, Katie Couric, Bill Bradley and Zac Brown have endorsed the book. This project has taken the better part of three years and has been one of the most exciting challenges of my career.

Basementality is [available for sale on Amazon](#) in hardcover, audiobook and eBook formats. Special thanks to Connecting colleagues who have provided advice on the book publishing game along the way!

Connecting sky shots

Red sky shot in Oregon



Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - This is the view from my front porch in Beverly Beach, Oregon, at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The Oregon coast almost always has clean air, but on Monday night winds shifted to easterly and flooded the coast with smoke from big fires in the Cascade Range. The smoke was still bad on Wednesday and not expected to clear until the winds shift sometime Thursday.

At Horseneck Beach in Massachusetts



Chris Carola ([Email](#)) - An offering for a sky shot: taken recently on Horseneck Beach in Westport, Mass.

Stories of interest

Woodward defends decision to withhold Trump's virus comments



FILE - In this April 29, 2017, file photo, journalist Bob Woodward sits at the head table during the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen, File)

By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Woodward, facing widespread criticism for only now revealing President Donald Trump's early concerns about the severity of the coronavirus, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he needed time to be sure that Trump's private comments from February were accurate.

In Woodward's upcoming book on Trump, "Rage," the president is quoted saying the virus was highly contagious and "deadly stuff" at a time he was publicly dismissing it as no worse than the flu. Woodward, the celebrated Washington Post journalist and best-selling author, spoke with Trump more than a dozen times for his book.

"He tells me this, and I'm thinking, 'Wow, that's interesting, but is it true?' Trump says things that don't check out, right?" Woodward told the AP during a telephone interview. Using a famous phrase from the Watergate era, when Woodward's reporting for the Post helped lead to President Richard Nixon's resignation, Woodward said his mission was to determine, "What did he know and when did he know it?"

On Twitter and elsewhere online, commentators accused Woodward of valuing book sales over public health. "Nearly 200,000 Americans have died because neither Donald Trump nor Bob Woodward wanted to risk anything substantial to keep the country informed," wrote Esquire's Charles P. Pierce.

Read more [here](#).

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Book: Trump said of virus, 'I wanted to always play it down'

By KEVIN FREKING and ZEKE MILLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump talked in private about the “deadly” coronavirus last February, even as he was declaring to America it was no worse than the flu and insisting it was under control, according to a new book by journalist Bob Woodward. Trump said Wednesday he was just being a “cheerleader” for the nation and trying to keep everyone calm.

His public rhetoric, Trump told Woodward in March, was part of a strategy to deliberately minimize the danger. “I wanted to always play it down,” the president said. “I still like playing it down because I don’t want to create a panic.”

Trump, according to the book, acknowledged being alarmed by the virus, even as he was telling the nation that it would swiftly disappear.

Coming less than eight weeks before Election Day, the revelations in the book — accompanied by recordings Woodward made of his interviews with Trump — provide an unwelcome return of public attention to the president’s handling of the pandemic that has so far killed about 190,000 Americans. He is currently pushing hard for a resumption of normal activity and trying to project strength and control to bolster his political position in his campaign against Democrat Joe Biden.

Read more [here](#).

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Should Bob Woodward have reported Trump’s virus revelations sooner? Here’s how he defends his decision. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

Two waves of outrage greeted the news on Wednesday of Bob Woodward’s latest White House chronicle, a book titled “Rage.”

The first was Trump's disclosure to Woodward that he knew as early as February — even as he was dismissing the novel coronavirus publicly — that the looming pandemic was far deadlier than the flu.

The second was that Woodward, long associated with The Washington Post, didn't reveal this to the public sooner.

The fact that this second outrage mostly circulated among journalists talking to one another made it no less furious: If the famous Watergate reporter knew that Trump was lying to the public about a matter of life and death, why didn't he reveal it immediately?

Read more [here](#).

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National newswire AAP turns to crowdfunding after finding itself under early financial pressure (Guardian)

By Amanda Meade and Anne Davies

A month after Australian Associated Press 2.0 was launched as a not-for-profit company the 85-year-old newswire is under financial pressure and appealing to the public for monetary contributions.

AAP's chief executive, Emma Cowdroy, has revealed some clients have signed for "much shorter periods" as they may be "testing the service and they also know there is a new entrant coming into the market".

"It's probably fair to say that things have been a lot tougher than we thought," Cowdroy told Guardian Australia ahead of the launch of the AAP crowdfunding appeal.

"It's been hard for our customers and we end up with downstream pressure from our clients' business."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

Today in History - September 10, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 10, the 254th day of 2020. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a Black student.

On this date:

In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. (Afterward, Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours.")

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1919, New York City welcomed home Gen. John J. Pershing and 25,000 soldiers who'd served in the U.S. First Division during World War I.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot in the Louisiana state Capitol, allegedly by Dr. Carl Weiss.

In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a dangerous Category 4 storm eventually blamed for 364 deaths, struck the Florida Keys.

In 1963, 20 Black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2005, Cadaver dogs and boatloads of forensic workers fanned out across New Orleans to collect the corpses left behind by Hurricane Katrina; cleanup crews towed away abandoned cars and even began readying a hotel for reopening.

In 2006, Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts defeated Eli Manning and the New York Giants 26-21 in the first NFL game to feature two brothers starting at quarterback.

In 2016, John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981, was released from a Washington mental hospital for good.

In 2018, Florence exploded into a potentially catastrophic Category 4 hurricane as it closed in on North and South Carolina with winds up to 140 mph. The Trump administration ordered the closure of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington, citing the refusal of Palestinian leaders to enter into peace talks with Israel.

Ten years ago: During a White House press conference, President Barack Obama blamed Republicans and election-year politics for thwarting his efforts to do more to spur a listless national economy. Juan Mari Bras, 82, an elder statesman of Puerto Rico's independence movement, died in Rio Piedras.

Five years ago: Senate Democrats voted to uphold the hard-fought nuclear accord with Iran, overcoming ferocious Republican opposition. New York State approved gradually raising the minimum wage for fast-food workers to \$15 an hour [–] the first time any state had set the minimum that high.

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly forced out his national security adviser, John Bolton, with whom he had strong disagreements on Iran, Afghanistan and other global challenges. Conservative Republican Dan Bishop won a special election for an open House seat in North Carolina by a little more than two percentage points, averting a Democratic capture of a district held by the GOP for nearly six decades. Apple announced the launch of its own streaming television service, while also unveiling three new iPhones boasting an additional camera for taking pictures from extra-wide angles.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Philip Baker Hall is 89. Actor Greg Mullavey is 87. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 80. Actor Tom Ligon is 80. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 78. Singer Jose Feliciano is 75. Actor Judy Geeson is 72. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 72. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 71. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 70. Country singer Rosie Flores is 70. Actor Amy Irving is 67. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 66. Actor Kate Burton is 63. Movie director Chris Columbus is 62. Actor Colin Firth is 60. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 60. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 57. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 57. Actor

Raymond Cruz is 56. Rock musician Robin Goodridge (Bush) is 55. Rock musician Stevie D. (Buckcherry) is 54. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 54. Actor Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 53. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 52. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 52. Actor Johnathan Schaech (shehk) is 51. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 48. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 46. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 45. Actor Jacob Young is 41. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 40. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel (GAY'-bul) is 40. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 38. MLB All-Star first-baseman Joey Votto (VAH'-toh) is 37. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 36. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 34. MLB All-Star first-baseman Paul Goldschmidt is 33. Singer Sanjaya Malakar (san-JY'-uh MA'-luh-kar) ("American Idol") is 31. Actor Chandler Massey is 30. Actor Hannah Hodson is 29. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 16.

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.**



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