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The U.S. flag flies at half staff over the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. The cemetery in the crater of an extinct volcano holds the remains of many who died December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor and in the war in the South Pacific that followed. (Photo by John Epperson)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 7th day of December 2020,

Today is **National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** – honoring those who lost their lives when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. More than 3,500 Americans lost their lives or were wounded on that "Day that will live in infamy."

That day 79 years ago thrust the United States into World War II and touched each one of us, directly or indirectly. My dad, **Walter Stevens**, was the managing editor of the Brainerd (Minn.) Daily Dispatch and told me how the newspaper put together a special edition later that Sunday. Within two months, he was drafted into the Army and would serve 33 months of combat as an artillery officer in the European Theatre.

Many thanks for the birthday wishes. Linda and I ate carryout Gates BBQ in the car, socially distanced except for a watchful Ollie in the back seat snapping up a few morsels. Saturday was also memorable because my latest Spotlight column in my hometown Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa, was published that day. It told the story of a woman whose performance in "Hello, Dolly!" in high school paved the way for a career in the entertainment business. Our colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** was quoted in the story. Click <u>here</u> to view.



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

Paul

How the AP is handling Trump's election denialism

CNN Money



A recent Associated Press story described Trump as "increasingly detached from reality." Julie Pace, DC bureau chief for the AP, says Trump's false claims have caused the news outlet to be "quite assertive in the way that we are describing this." She says "our mission is to come down squarely on the side of the facts."

Click <u>here</u> to view Pace's appearance Sunday on CNN's Reliable Sources. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

EXPLAINER: How does AP choose which lawsuits to cover?

Connecting - December 07, 2020



Former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani, a lawyer for President Donald Trump, speaks during a news conference at the Republican National Committee headquarters, Thursday Nov. 19, 2020, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press has tallied roughly 50 cases brought by the campaign of President Donald Trump and his allies, challenging the result of elections. More than 30 have been rejected or dropped. About a dozen are awaiting action. Trump has gotten one court win. It came in a Pennsylvania case about deadlines for proof of identification for certain absentee ballots and mail-in ballots. It didn't affect the outcome in that state.

While The Associated Press has covered the details of many of these lawsuits, it has not written a story on every one. How do journalists decide which ones to cover, while ensuring fairness and a lack of bias? The answer is straightforward: Stick with the facts.

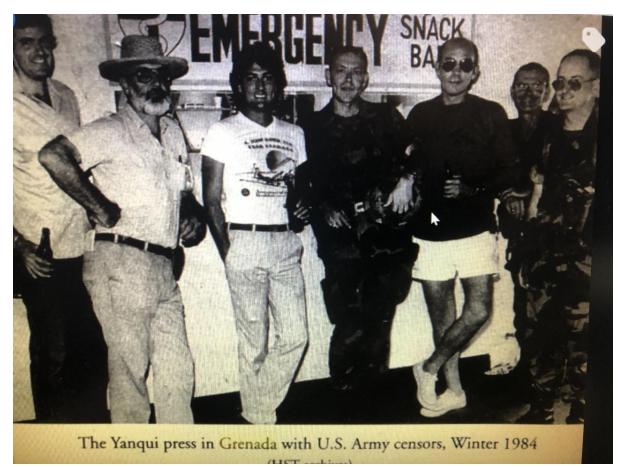
John Daniszewski, AP's vice president for standards, has more:

HOW IS AP COVERING THE LITIGATION?

Even before voting began, AP assigned a team of legal reporters to cover litigation in battleground states and to follow those cases through to the end. We constantly evaluate and assess each piece of litigation, and we monitor every hearing and subsequent press conference.

Read more here. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Inside story of Grenada invasion



At the St. George's School of Medicine. This is a photo I had taken that the late Hunter S. Thompson (sunglasses) appropriated for one of his books. Next to me from left are the late Bernie Diederich, Time magazine; and Nick Madigan, UPI.

Dan Sewell (<u>Email</u>) – Susan Wise's post about her husband John Swart's return to Grenada with her and the posts about Terry Anderson featuring Lou Boccardi prompt me to share some inside stories about our coverage of the 1983 U.S.-led invasion.

First, I chuckled when Susan said in Grenada, they call it the "intervention." Officially, the Reagan administration and Caribbean allies said we were "invited" by the island's governor-general, Sir Paul Scoon. But before he "invited" U.S. forces, he had to be freed from house arrest by Navy SEALS. Also, as the queen's representative on an independent nation, he had only ceremonial powers. And Britain's real leader, Margaret Thatcher, opposed her friend Ronald Reagan's decision.

The U.S. claim that we needed to rescue American students at the St. George's School of Medicine was questionable because the first-wave troops didn't know there were two campuses. They "rescued" the one nearest the airport, but inadvertently left students at the "True Blue" campus vulnerable to the hostage-taking or executions the Reagan administration had warned about _ and that didn't happen.

Thanks to Lou's confidence in me, which I hadn't always been sure about, The AP was well-positioned to swamp all competitors on invasion coverage.

A well-placed source told me the Saturday evening four days earlier that plans were being made. I called Caribbean Bureau Chief Kernan Turner to share that information. He called Foreign Editor Nate Polowetzky at home, and Nate then called Lou.

Meanwhile, I joined my colleagues for dinner at the Trinidad Hilton where the Caribbean Community leaders were holding an emergency meeting after the bloody coup that had led to the execution of Grenada's charismatic leader Maurice Bishop, a pro-Castro socialist deposed by his jealous deputy, shocking and scaring Caribbean leaders unused to such bloodshed. As overseas correspondents know, it's very common for competitors to dine together, to share tales and keep an eye on each other.

So when the waiter kept interrupting us by bringing me a telephone with a very long cord, they knew something was up. By the third time, my professed complaints about "an editor in New York screwing with my story" were no longer believable.

So I signed my bill and retreated to my room to continue our discussions.

Lou, more so than Nate, saw the opportunity. We flooded the region with AP reporters, including the late John Platero and Gary Clark going to Cuba from Miami. Hank Ackerman was sent to run the San Juan office while Kernan met up with me on Barbados.

While the Reagan administration played dumb. Kernan and I got an exclusive the day before the invasion when we happened to be at the Barbados airport trying to interview the prime minister, Tom Adams, who we could see in a room there with U.S. military in uniform. Suddenly, hangar doors opened, and U.S. Army helicopters started flying out.

The invasion began before dawn the next morning.

The AP swept play for days.

Another very AP story: when I finally returned to San Juan a couple months later, I found a "rocket" letter from a bureau chief sharing a member radio station news director's complaint that I had refused to give him the phone number I was using to get direct word on what was happening at the offshore medical school from a school official.

BTW, some "Connecting" readers know who my source was. Remember, he was promised anonymity in 1983, and that stands today.

Susan Wise shared some Grenada travel tips with me. I've always wanted to go back, but it's priced itself as a high-end destination.

Maybe when I retire, The AP will send my wife and I there as a going-away gift?

More memories of the tree lighting in Rockefeller Center

Richard Drew (<u>Email</u>) - I always remember it being referred to as TFT. I'm sure people can fill in the blankety-blanks.

I also recall being asked to shoot it from LDB's (AP President Lou Boccardi's) office window for the AP annual card one year.

The real pain was the Disneyland-style line for the Radio City Music Hall show. Until they changed ticketing procedures, the line went up 50th Street from 6th Avenue, then snaked back and forth in front of 50 Rock. There were many times I was snarled at for allegedly trying to cut in line on my way into headquarters.

-0-

Lynne Harris (<u>Email</u>) - Everyone has pretty much covered what it was like to celebrate the tree lighting in Rockefeller Center: the crowds the actual lighting of the tree, the office parties and that great view we all had from Lou Boccardi's office. But no one has mentioned the camels......

During the time of the tree lighting, Radio City Music Hall (which is right next door to 50 Rock) was staging their Christmas Spectacular. Anyone who has seen the show knows that there's a Nativity scene in the show with live animals. Early in the morning, they would walk the animals out of the theater to 51st Street and then exercise them on the plaza in front of 50 Rock. So there you are, head down, thinking about what you need to do that day and suddenly you look up and find yourself nose-to-nose with a camel......ah...only in New York!!

-0-

Tom Kent (<u>Email</u>) - My memory of the Rockefeller Center tree lighting is bringing our twin sons, then about 4, to watch the tree lighting from Bill Ahearn's office. The real tree, and about a million people, were right outside the window. But Bill had the TV on and that's where the boys' eyes were glued as the tree was lit. To them, the fact it was on TV made it a genuine event!

Correctives remembered

Marc Wilson (Email) - My most memorable corrective involved Boris Badenov.

This happened in 1981 or 1982 when I was ACOB in Dallas.



A member newspaper, the Tyler Telegraph, profiled an East Texas DJ who claimed to be the original voice of Boris Badenov, the legendary villain on the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoon series. The DJ filled his show with voice impersonations of Boris, Rocky, Bullwinkle and Natasha.

The Dallas bureau picked up the story, and the General Desk carried it on the A Wire.

The story was published in southern California where the real voice of Boris Badenov, Paul Frees, lived. Frees was (he died in 1986) a

legendary actor known as the "Man of a Thousand Voices."

Frees complained and we filed a corrective.

But we decided to go beyond a corrective.

We wrote another story, and the lead went something like this:

DALLAS (AP) - Boris Badenvov was bad enough, but a bogus Boris went beyond belief.

That story got wider play than the original.

That was the only corrective I ever enjoyed, or want to discuss publicly.

-0-

Tom Kent (Email) - I remember two occasions when the AP launched campaigns to improve accuracy and reduce the number of corrections. There were bureau-by-bureau correction counts to shame those who had a lot of them. It apparently didn't occur to anyone in authority that a lot of corrections don't come from outside complaints, but were self-reported by staffers who realize themselves that they got something wrong. With corrections suddenly unhealthy for careers, self-reporting took a nose dive, correction figures plummeted and AP's news leaders congratulated themselves on their success.

Connecting mailbox

Fondly remembering Betsy Wade

John Terino (<u>Email</u>) - The passing of Betsy Wade brought a memory from the past. In the summer of 1957, at 16 I had just graduated from Bryant High School in Queens and secured a summer job as a copy boy at the Times when the other copy boys were Columbia J-School students or college grads. I remember Betsy Wade as a beautiful woman and a member of the newsroom staff who was highly respected by everyone.

Seems like only yesterday.

-0-

Telling the story of Army sergeant wounded in Vietnam

Michael Putzel (<u>Email</u>) - Army Staff Sergeant Ed Keith was supposed to be tending a secure, intelligence communications link during the U.S. and South Vietnamese invasion of Laos in 1971. Instead, he managed to get himself aboard a legendary cavalry commander's helicopter and flew numerous dangerous reconnaissance missions until a 51-caliber machine gun bullet pierced the chopper's skin and tore off his leg.

Keith suffered for decades from "phantom limb pain," the sensation that the lost limb still hurt, sometimes severely and indefinitely. Ed Keith never expressed regret about his ill-fated mission, but the



drugs he was given for his pain took their own toll. My story about Staff Sgt. Keith's war and lifelong struggle is told in "Going Rogue" in the December issue of Vietnam magazine published by Historynet.com.

Click here to view.

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Zoom invite to Jeff Baenen's retirement party

Here is an invitation from Doug Glass, upper Midwest news editor, to a Zoom retirement party on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at noon CST, for longtime newsman Jeff Baenen. Jeff retired after a 42-year AP career that started in Bismarck in 1978 before moving to Minneapolis in 1981.

Hey all, at long last, after getting past the election and (nearly) all the litigation, we'll meet to celebrate Jeff's long tenure with Associated Press. Please join us if you can. We'll prod Jeff to spin tales about what retirement is like three months in – and we can share with him our own updates about the generous raises, relaxed work rules and holiday gift baskets the company pushed through shortly after he left.

Doug Glass is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://ap.zoom.us/j/8724470066

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Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +14086380968,8724470066# or +16465588656,8724470066#
```

Or Telephone: Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 872 447 0066

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Thanks to Nick Ut

Joni Baluh Beall (<u>Email</u>) - Thanks to Nick Ut for the wonderful pics he has been posting. They are beautiful. I got an autographed copy of his Vietnamese girl photo for my 25th anniversary with AP. I'm honored to have it.

-0-

Sister Donalda replies

Jim Bagby (<u>Email</u>) - Brother Schiappa is not the only Connecting reader fortunate enough to be in correspondence with Sister Donalda, quarantined in Dubuque – the city she describes as "Masterpiece on the Mississippi."

At age 93 ½, this lively member of the Order of St. Francis has much to say and writes it extremely well. "I have been a dedicated reader of Connecting, having sneaked in the back door of its subscribers." She imagines Paul Stevens has posted that she is "pining away in self-isolation. Extrovert that I may be...I surprise myself at not doing too badly."

Sister Donalda writes that meeting reporters, even vicariously, is interesting. "And coming upon this meditation about words, I am not the least bit hesitant to share with you – you in the city where Hallmark cards are created."

But, she worries, "you will note that this typewriter makes mistakes without my permission!"

She considers herself "an avid reader of the written word," so her COVID-enforced isolation, away from normal access to her computer and the Internet is so frustrating. "My Irish father once said to me, 'You're are a woman of few words, but you keep using them over and over."

Best of the Week AP coverage of refugees in Sudan opens a window into Ethiopia's Tigray conflict



AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty

The thousands of refugees spilling over the border into Sudan from Ethiopia's Tigray region are some of the only firsthand witnesses to a worsening conflict that remains out of reach for most of the world's media. Crossing a remote desert area, they recount ethnic-targeted killings, many fleeing at a moment's notice and leaving loved ones behind amid an offensive by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad's government against Tigray separatists.

Dubai-based video journalist Fay Abuelgasim and Cairo photographer Nariman el-Mofty have put individual faces on the complex story since arriving at the SudanEthiopia border area nearly two weeks ago. Along with reporters Sam Magdy in Cairo and Cara Anna in Nairobi, freelance photographer Marwan Ali and video journalist Mohaned Awad, their work has shown the human toll of a conflict to which access remains tightly restricted, even as the United Nations warns of possible war crimes.

Read more here.

Best of the States All-formats package reveals challenges of rural education during the pandemic



AP Photo/Cedar Attanasio

In conversations with the superintendent and the social worker of the Cuba, New Mexico, school district — on the sparsely populated fringe of the Navajo Nation — AP Report for America journalist Cedar Attanasio saw a storytelling opportunity in the bus system that is used to solve some of students' biggest and smallest distance-learning challenges.

Attanasio, based in Santa Fe, was able to tell the story of the pandemic's effects on some of the country's most isolated, vulnerable students by getting a seat on one of the school buses used to transport meals, school assignments and counselors to remote students, a number of whom do not have electricity, let alone internet.

Stories of interest

Trump is leaving press freedom in tatters. Biden can take these bold steps to repair the damage. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan Media columnist

When Donald Trump first started accusing the mainstream media of dealing in "fake news," it was impossible to know the long-term effects of this rhetoric. It seemed like just another of his trademark insults.

But the term — and the bad will behind it — quickly morphed into a political weapon, with ruinous effects both here and overseas.

Officials with an autocratic bent around the globe snatched up the idea to mock the press or to deny ugly truths. By late 2017, for instance, a state official in Myanmar was using the term to deny not only the shameful persecution of a Muslim minority group, but that population's very existence: "There is no such thing as Rohingya. It is fake news."

And here in the United States, the "fake news" slam has been yelled at local TV reporters trying to cover a protest and deployed to diminish newspaper reporters who have uncovered political wrongdoing.

Read more here. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

A murder in Veracruz: Slain journalist's story a portrait of a violent, corrupt era in Mexico (Washington Post)

By Dana Priest, Paloma de Dinechin, Nina Lakhani and Veronica Espinosa

XALAPA, Mexico — Regina Martínez's death was brutal. Someone broke in

through the metal door from her beloved garden patio, the tiny patch of tranquility that kept her from moving from her modest cinder-block home to a safer location.

The intruder probably surprised her in the bathroom, from behind, investigators



believe. At barely 5 feet tall and 100 pounds, she scratched and struggled to fight off her attacker, leaving skin under her fingernails. The assailant broke her jaw with brass knuckles, then wrapped a rag around her neck, squeezing the life out of the region's best hope for accountability and justice.

In articles for the national investigative weekly Proceso, Martínez, who was killed at age 48, told her readers that two successive governors in her home state of Veracruz looted the treasury and allowed cartels to operate freely with the help of local and state police. She sought to prove the traffickers and their accomplices had executed hundreds of people: Teenage dealers and entire families. Farmers and politicians. Even young women who attended their sex parties.

Read more here. Shared by Michael Rubin.

-0-

Hartford Courant, oldest US newspaper, to close its offices (AP)

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Hartford Courant, the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States, plans to close the newsroom and offices it has been operating out of since the mid-1940s by the end of the year.

Though the newspaper will continue to be published, its parent company said it will consider whether it's necessary to open a new office.

"This is a decision about real estate needs amid a difficult and challenging time on both the public health and economic fronts," Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Andrew Julien told staffers in an email Friday.

"It won't change the essence of what we do: Delivering the high-impact journalism readers have come to expect from the Courant and crafting creative solutions that meet the needs of our advertising partners," Julien wrote.

Read more <u>here</u>. Shared by Sibby Christensen, Doug Pizac, Valerie Komor, Adolphe Bernotas.

Germany stripping words with Nazi ties from phonetic alphabet (New York Post)

By Melanie Gray

Germany is restoring Jewish names that Nazis stripped from its phonetic alphabet more than 75 years ago.

Adolf Hitler changed the alphabet in 1934, a year after he ascended to power — subbing, for example, Dora for the letter D instead of David and Nordpol (North Pole) for the letter N instead of Nathan, the German website DW reported.

Only a handful of countries have their own version; most rely on the well-known NATO version — "a is for alpha," "b is for bravo" and so on.

Most Germans don't even realize their alphabet has Nazi overtones because it has been used for so long.

Read more here. Shared by Paul Albright.

The Final Word

How to Help Kids Create an 'Our Street Herald' (New York Times)

By Danielle Pergament

In this era of working from home and schooling from home and exercising from home and making sourdough from home, the question will soon present itself: What else is there to do from home?

For kids, the answer might be to publish a newspaper from home. And now there are ample apps and websites to turn their ideas into real publications.

Kids starting their own paper is like a dam with a crack. And the moment they realize they have complete agency to report what they want, write what they want, as well as add comics? That's the flood. The upsides to a homegrown newspaper are myriad. Kids learn how to investigate and listen, differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources, research and fact-check, and, perhaps most importantly, learn that their own interests have value. Plus a kitchen-table newspaper does wonders for a child's writing and editing skills.

Read more here.



Today in History - Dec. 7, 2020

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 7, the 342nd day of 2020. There are 24 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

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

On this date:

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

In 1909, in his State of the Union address, President William Howard Taft defended the decision to base U.S. naval operations in the Pacific at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, instead of in the Philippines.

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

In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral. Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, was stabbed and seriously wounded by an assailant who was shot dead by her bodyguards. In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Jr. became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas.

In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the pilots and himself, causing the plane to crash. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Ronald Reagan.

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

In 1993, gunman Colin Ferguson opened fire on a Long Island Rail Road commuter train, killing six people and wounding 19. (Ferguson was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison.)

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

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

In 2017, Democratic Sen. Al Franken said he would resign after a series of sexual harassment allegations; he took a parting shot at President Donald Trump, describing him as "a man who has bragged on tape about his history of sexual assault." Republican Rep. Trent Franks of Arizona said he would resign, after revealing that he discussed surrogacy with two female staffers.

In 2018, the man who drove his car into counterprotesters at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Virginia was convicted of first-degree murder; a state jury rejected defense arguments that James Alex Fields Jr. acted in self-defense. President Donald Trump announced that he would nominate William Barr to succeed Jeff Sessions as attorney general. (Barr would be confirmed and sworn-in in February.)

Ten years ago: Elizabeth Edwards, the estranged wife of former U.S. Sen. John Edwards, died at her home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, at 61 after fighting breast cancer. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange surrendered to authorities in London, where he was jailed for nine days before being freed on bail as he fought extradition to Sweden for questioning in a rape investigation.

Five years ago: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," an idea swiftly condemned by his rival GOP candidates for president and other Republicans. The federal government opened an investigation into the Chicago Police Department, the same day authorities announced they would not charge an officer in the shooting

death of 25-year-old Ronald Johnson, a Black man who authorities said was armed with a gun as he ran away from officers.

One year ago: In a rare diplomatic breakthrough between Tehran and Washington, Chinese-American graduate student Xiyue Wang, who'd been held for three years in Iran on widely-criticized espionage charges, was freed as part of a prisoner exchange that saw the U.S. release a detained Iranian scientist. At the shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, Caroline Kennedy christened a new aircraft carrier named after her late father, President John F. Kennedy. A dozen frail survivors of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor returned to honor those who died in the 1941 bombing that launched the U.S. into World War II.

Today's Birthdays: Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 92. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 89. Actor Ellen Burstyn is 88. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 80. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 73. Actor-director-producer James Keach is 73. Country singer Gary Morris is 72. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 71. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 68. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 64. Actor Priscilla Barnes is 63. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd (cq) Hall is 62. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 62. Actor Patrick Fabian is 56. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 55. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 54. Actor Kimberly Hebert Gregory (TV: "Kevin (Probably) Saves the World") is 48. Producer-director Jason Winer is 48. Former NFL player Terrell Owens is 47. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 46. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 45. Latin singer Frankie J is 44. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 44. Actor Chris Chalk is 43. Actor Shiri Appleby is 42. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Bareilles (bah-REHL'-es) is 41. Actor Jennifer Carpenter is 41. Actor Jack Huston is 38. Singer Aaron Carter is 33.

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

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