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Connecting

October 15, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 15, 2021,

Our congratulations to colleague **Elise Amendola**, newly retired after a career of 38 years, five months as an AP photojournalist – all in the Boston bureau of The Associated Press.

Elise's last days on the job involved big events in the Boston area: a shooting assignment on Oct. 3 when the Bucs and Brady visited the Patriots and Belichick and a night shift on her last work day, remote editing Yanks at Red Sox Wild Card game.

We are sorry to report news of the death of **Steven DuBois**, an AP reporter in the Portland, Ore., bureau where he spent two decades sharing Oregon's biggest news and quirkiest neuroticisms with readers worldwide. He died Tuesday at the age of 53 after a three-year battle with cancer.

Longtime Portland news editor **Terry Petty** offers a remembrance, and notes, "I could not possibly pay greater tribute to Steven DuBois than did **Gilly Flaccus** in her beautiful obit for him. But I can offer this for Connecting."

Let me second that. It is a remarkable obituary, a wonderful remembrance of a life and career well done, cut way too short. If you have a favorite memory of working with Steven, please send it along.

AUTHORS ALERT! WRITTEN A BOOK IN THE PAST YEAR?

If you have written a book in the past year, Connecting would like to feature it in our annual listing of books authored by Connecting colleagues. The book issue will appear in a couple weeks – so this is an invitation to send me the following: Name of book, jpg image of the cover and your headshot, and 300 words on the book including where it can be purchased. Send along the information soon.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Elise Amendola retires after 38-plus years as AP Boston photojournalist



Elise on the Patriots Jumbotron during her last game (the Brady comeback to Gillette game). Photo/Matt Lee. At right,

Patriots VP of Communications Stacey James presents Elise with a Patriots' jersey at halftime. Photo/Mary Schwalm.

Elise Amendola (Email) - Vin Alabiso (Photo Editor in Boston) hired me as a "summer relief" photographer at first, and then transitioned me into full-time staff photographer at the Boston bureau in 1983. Technically, Hal Buell (Director of Photography in NY) hired me, but I don't think he would have heard of me if it wasn't for Vin.



I first met Vin while shooting tennis at the Virginia Slims event at Boston University's Case Center as a stringer. I shot B/W film and shipped it by taxi to the bureau where Vin, as the new night photo editor, processed, edited and put pictures on the wire. After a week of covering the tennis and speaking to Vin on the phone, we met in person. He offered me more assignments - especially spot news. I remember many phone calls in the early morning or late nights for big fires during the early 80's because there was an active arson ring in Boston that took years to solve. Vin was my first and most significant mentor. He was a taskmaster and totally schooled me in the ways of journalism. I had been more of a PR-ish photographer (with an interest in sports), and he saw that I needed some toughening up! Vin was a fabulous editor over the lightbox, and also had an uncanny ability to foresee how events would unfold, which I think is an important skill for a photojournalist.

Other mentors over the years supported me and gave me opportunities to learn and improve, both locally and on travel assignments. I learned lots from Toby Massey during NH primaries, conventions and in DC. David Ake was super supportive while I was on the Hillary campaign in 2008. Brian Horton assigned me to many tennis and golf majors, including 10 Masters, and numerous post seasons of baseball, football and basketball, and was often on the scene as the editor in charge. Mike Feldman and, after him, Denis Paquin continued to offer those great sports assignments for me, including overseas coverage of a dozen Olympics and five World Cups. Working with photo editor Tony Hicks at British Opens, Wimbledon, Olympics and World Cups was an absolute dream. It was wonderful to be part of those assignments that required immense amounts of planning and technology. AP's teamwork is truly amazing!

I enjoyed many travel assignments during my 38 years and 5 months as an AP photographer, but was always glad to come home to Boston. I never gave a thought to transferring to another bureau because I had the most awesome colleagues here and we continued to work hard on interesting and important stories. Starting out in the 80's with Dave Tenebaum, Paul Benoit, and Peter Southwick.....continuing with more "transient" photo colleagues as Jim Gerberich, Susie Walsh, Lawrence Jackson, Chitose Suzuki.....and ending after many years with Bill Sikes, Stephan Savoia, Steven Senne, Charlie Krupa and Michael Dwyer. They've all been like brothers and sisters to me! Highlight stories for me included the fall of the Berlin Wall; NH Primary coverage and other election coverage in general; 9/11 aftermath; Boston Marathon bombing.



Relaxing with her collection of press credentials. Photo/Mary Schwalm



On the way to a workout. Photo/Charlie Krupa

Among my favorite hobbies is playing basketball and working out at the Y. I will have plenty to do in retirement! The iPhone 13 Pro has an awesome camera, and I've

already started to shoot with it. My wife, Mary Schwalm, (former AP staffer) is a professional photographer as well, and we have embarked on some great trips. A favorite was our trip to the Galapagos Islands. We're now planning an Alaskan cruise in 2022. In the meantime, our dog, Jpeg, and cat, Megabyte, are glad to have me around the house.

Please keep in touch, everyone - my email is amendolaelise@gmail.com and cell is 617-388-4179.

Steven DuBois, beloved and eclectic AP raconteur, dead at 53



This February 2020, photo shows Steven DuBois in Portland, Ore. DuBois, an Associated Press reporter who spent two decades sharing Oregon's biggest news and quirkiest neuroticisms with readers worldwide, died Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021, after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 53. (AP Photo/Gillian Flaccus)

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Steven DuBois, an Associated Press reporter who spent two decades sharing Oregon's biggest news and quirkiest neuroticisms with readers worldwide, died Tuesday after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 53.

Quiet and self-effacing, DuBois avoided the spotlight during his more than 20 years in AP's Portland bureau but was universally respected by his colleagues for his talent and sensitivity. He wrote and rewrote his own stories, worried they weren't good enough, and frequently didn't put his name on work he felt didn't meet his standards.

As the day-to-day news supervisor, DuBois held others to those standards and mentored dozens of journalists, shaping reporters and future news managers both at the AP and elsewhere.

“If he didn’t think something was up to snuff, he would send it back with just two words at the top: ‘Write better,’” said Peter Prengaman, who began at AP working the night shift with DuBois in 2002 and is now the wire service’s U.S. West news director.

“In those discussions and revisions, I learned so much about leads, structures, word choice and the kind of reporting necessary to make sure you have the pieces to write well,” he said.

Over the years, DuBois was at the center of some of the biggest stories in Oregon, including the armed takeover of a national wildlife refuge by anti-government activists and the federal court cases that resulted from it; a mass shooting at a community college in southern Oregon; and a plot to bomb Portland's downtown square during a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

His favorite stories, though, were the odd ones. He once chronicled a man who ate a 20-ounce steak at Morton’s of Chicago every night for 103 days. He described the man, who tipped 100% on bills that topped \$150, as someone “soft-spoken and down-to-earth, as ostentatious as meatloaf.” The man, an environmental consultant, also fed his German Shepard, Tasha, steaks that cost \$32.95.

“That was one of his best qualities: while pretending to be disengaged from the world, he was actually a great listener,” said Andrew Kramer, who worked with DuBois on Portland’s night shift and is now based in Russia with The New York Times.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Dowling.

Steven, my friend, how I miss you. How we all miss you.

Terrence Petty (Email) - This past Tuesday, my wife and I were picking apples at an Oregon orchard when I got a call on my iPhone. The call was from Gillian Flaccus. My heart sank. I had a feeling that it was bad news about her fellow Portland staffer Steven DuBois, who had been struggling with cancer for three years. I looked at my wife and said “I can’t bring myself to answer it. Not now.” I answered the second call. Sadly, my intuition was correct. At age 53, Steven was gone. I walked to a corner of the apple orchard to compose myself.

Gilly contacted other friends and co-workers as well. Texts, emails and phone calls were shared among us, expressing our deep sadness. Some of us gulped back tears. Or let them flow. Gilly was a guardian angel to Steven during his illness. With his death, she paid him the ultimate tribute by writing his obituary. It is beautifully written. It personifies Steven DuBois. Knowing Steven as well as she did, and having worked with him for many years, Gilly was the perfect person to write his obit. I encourage you to read it. It will move you. You will see what The AP, journalism, and Steven’s friends have lost with his passing.

When Steven worked for me as a sports stringer in Rhode Island in the late 1990s, when I was supervisory correspondent there, he impressed me with his ability to write about any topic, and to write it well. After I became Oregon news editor in 1999, I offered him a full-time reporting job in Portland. Over the next two decades, he became the rock of the Portland bureau. He was speedy. He was creative. He was insightful. He was steadfast. He had the highest of standards. He was indefatigable. I'd deputize Steven to be the boss when I took vacation, because I knew AP Oregon would be in capable hands.

Steven had an iconoclastic side that often made me chuckle. Several years ago, he wore a suit while covering an anarchists' protest downtown. The anarchists were masked and all wore black. When some of them heckled Steven over the suit, he said: "Look at you. Who do you think is the nonconformist?"

During my AP career there was always a wall between management and staff. Friendships were discouraged. I was liberated from this when I retired in 2017. Over the next four years, Steven and I became good friends. We talked a lot about music. He was a walking warehouse of information about singers, groups, LPs and music videos. This past summer he turned me on to The Psychedelic Furs, a British post-punk band. Steven's tastes were eclectic. He once told me The Monkees were underrated. A few days ago I texted Steven a link to a story pointing out that it was the 55th anniversary of the release of The Monkees' first album. Steven never responded. And this is why, last Tuesday, when Gilly first called me, I just was not able to answer it the first time around.

Steven, my friend, how I miss you. How we all miss you.

Interviewing William Shatner

Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) -

Following Ted and Lee's photos of William Shatner, here's mine.

I interviewed Shatner in 1993 for his autobiography "Star Trek Memories." The interview took place at the AP Radio studio in Washington, DC in 1993. Most of my interviews as AP Broadcast Entertainment Editor we're 1/2 hour in studio.

Some highlights:

He called himself a "Hamasaurus."

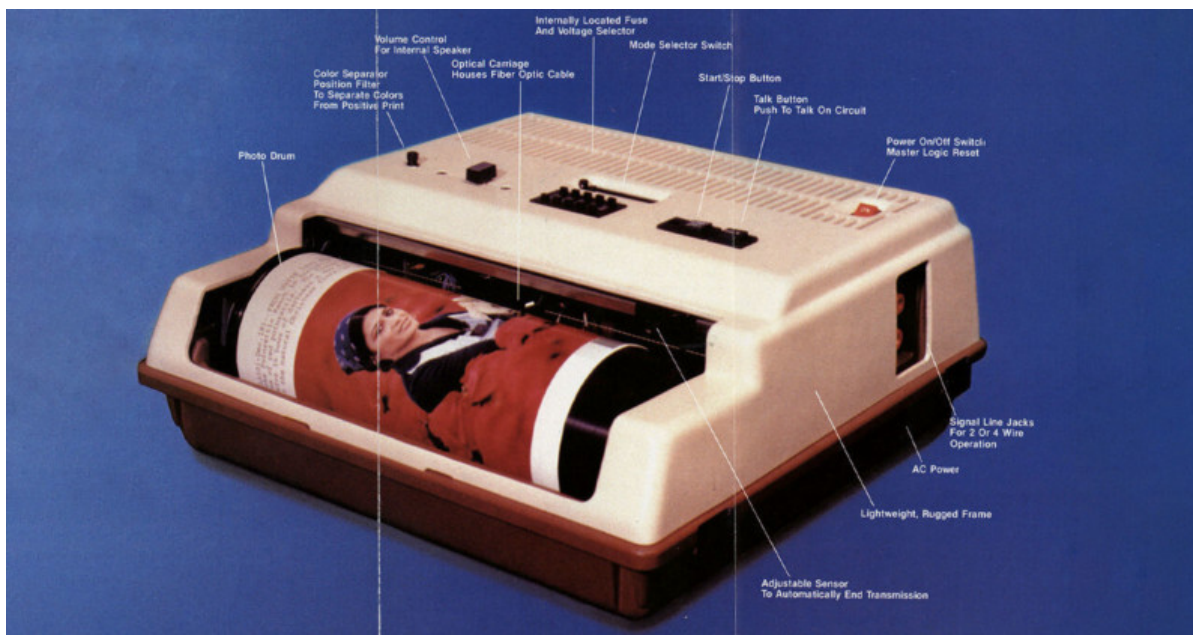
The reason Captain Kirk often ended up with a ripped shirt?

Shatner had been working out and wanted to show off.

The communicator Kirk used was often bought at a toy shop because the Star Trek toys were more durable than the props bought on the show's tiny budget.

I later interviewed Christopher Plummer about the time Shatner was Plummer's understudy in "Henry V" in Canada. Shatner got to go on stage when Plummer developed kidney stones. Plummer said Shatner could've been a great Shakespearean actor.

This is How AP Journalists Sent Photos From the Field in the 1980s



By JARON SCHNEIDER
PetaPixel

Thanks to advancements in modern technology, photojournalists can have a near-instantaneous connection with agencies and outlets with very little downtime between when a photo is captured and when it is published. But it wasn't always like this.

To celebrate its 175th birthday in 2021, the Associated Press (AP) has published a series of detailed blogs that dig deep into its corporate archives and explain as well as show the history of the organization. In part seven of the eight-part series, the AP shared a scan of an old brochure that advertises the latest of 1970s technology: the AP Portable Picture Transmitter.

This large device is basically a portable fax machine that would be able to send both black and white or color photographs over long distances using telephone lines. It could also be used to send drawings or printed materials of any kind that could fit on its scanning spool.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Bill Mauldin at 100

Lee Mitgang (Email) - The great Bill ("Willie and Joe") Mauldin would have been 100 this year and I'm attaching a brief encomium in an online column called The Daily Heller in printmag.com. [The piece](#) has special resonance for me. It mentions my father, the late NY Times writer Herbert Mitgang, whose lifelong friendship with Mauldin began during World War II when both served as newsmen-in-khaki for the Mediterranean edition of Stars and Stripes. One of the many pleasures of growing up as "son of Mitgang" was that I, too, got to know Bill in his later years. If he were still here, he'd still be drawing priceless cartoons capturing the political absurdities that surround us as he did for many decades. At any rate, Bill Mauldin is a name that should not be forgotten in the news world.

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Awaiting start of competition



Guy Palmiotto ([Email](#)) – I had volunteered as a Marshal for the LPGA’s Cognizant Founders Cup golf tournament held last weekend at the Mountain Ridge CC in West Caldwell, NJ. Walking the course early Friday morning during a fog delay I happened upon this unidentified golfer engrossed in her phone while awaiting the start of the day’s competition.

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AP recognized with Religion News Association awards

From Connections

AP staffers across all formats were honored by the Religion News Association last week.

The AP photography staff earned first prize in the photo galleries category for coverage of the nationwide protests following the death of George Floyd in May 2020. Video journalist Jessie Wardarski received the second place award in the same category, for her look inside churches at the height of the pandemic.

Religion reporter Peter Smith received first place for excellence in religion news for work he did at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and news editor Holly Meyer won the Cornell Award for excellence in religion reporting at midsize newspapers for work done at The Tennessean.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Matt Bokor - mattbokor@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Brian Bland - blandcbhs@aol.com

Marty Crutsinger - mcrutsinger@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting

Amy Guthrie - amy_guthrie@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

A SECRETIVE HEDGE FUND IS GUTTING NEWSROOMS - Inside Alden Global Capital (Atlantic)

By McKay Coppins

The tribune tower rises above the streets of downtown Chicago in a majestic snarl of Gothic spires and flying buttresses that were designed to exude power and prestige. When plans for the building were announced in 1922, Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime owner of the Chicago Tribune, said he wanted to erect “the world’s most beautiful office building” for his beloved newspaper. The best architects of the era were invited to submit designs; lofty quotes about the Fourth Estate were selected to adorn the lobby. Prior to the building’s completion, McCormick directed his foreign correspondents to collect “fragments” of various historical sites—a brick from the Great Wall of China, an emblem from St. Peter’s Basilica—and send them back to be embedded in the tower’s facade. The final product, completed in 1925, was an architectural spectacle unlike anything the city had seen before—“romance in stone and steel,” as one writer described it. A century later, the Tribune Tower has retained its grandeur. It has not, however, retained the Chicago Tribune.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty, Richard Chady, George Arfield, Sonya Zalubowski, Doug Pizac.

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Nicholas Kristof Leaves New York Times as He Considers a Political Run (New York Times)

By Marc Tracy

After 37 years at The New York Times as a reporter, a high-level editor and an opinion columnist, Nicholas Kristof is leaving the newspaper as he considers running for governor of Oregon, a top Times editor said in a note to the staff on Thursday.

Mr. Kristof, 62, has been on leave from The Times since June, when he told company executives that he was weighing a run for governor in the state where he grew up. On Tuesday, he filed to organize a candidate committee with Oregon’s secretary of state as a Democrat, signaling that his interest was serious.

In the email to the staff announcing his departure, Kathleen Kingsbury, The Times’s opinion editor, wrote that Mr. Kristof had redefined the role of opinion columnist and credited him with “elevating the journalistic form to a new height of public service with a mix of incisive reporting, profound empathy and a determination to bear witness to those struggling and suffering across the globe.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Missouri gov slams paper for uncovering data security flaw (AP)

By SUMMER BALLENTINE and JIM SALTER

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Republican Gov. Mike Parson on Thursday condemned one of Missouri's largest newspapers for exposing a flaw in a state database that allowed public access to thousands of teachers' Social Security numbers, even though the paper held off from reporting about the flaw until after the state could fix it.

Parson told reporters outside his Capitol office that the Missouri State Highway Patrol's digital forensic unit will be conducting an investigation "of all of those involved" and that his administration had spoken to the prosecutor in Cole County, which includes the state capital, Jefferson City. He didn't elaborate as to what he meant by "involved" or whether investigators would be looking into whether the St. Louis Post-Dispatch broke the law during the course of its reporting on the data vulnerability.

The Post-Dispatch broke the news about the security flaw on Wednesday. The newspaper said it discovered the vulnerability in a web application that allowed the public to search teacher certifications and credentials.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

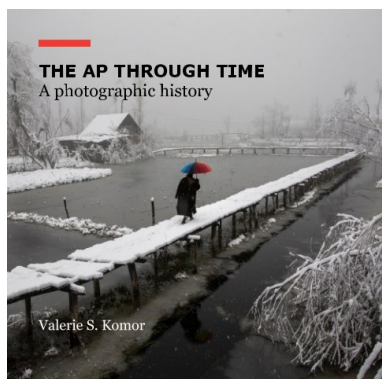
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [Here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History" - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

Today in History - Oct. 15, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2021. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 15, 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

On this date:

In 1783, the first manned balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier ascended in a basket attached to a tethered Montgolfier hot-air balloon, rising to about 75 feet.

In 1928, the German dirigible Graf Zeppelin landed in Lakehurst, N.J., completing its first commercial flight across the Atlantic.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel made landfall on the Carolina coast as a Category 4 storm; Hazel was blamed for some 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, 95 in the U.S. and 81 in Canada.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill creating the U.S. Department of Transportation. The revolutionary Black Panther Party was founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In 2003, eleven people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to eleven counts of manslaughter.)

In 2009, a report of a 6-year-old Colorado boy trapped inside a runaway helium balloon engrossed the nation before the boy, Falcon Heene (HEE'-nee), was found safe at home in what turned out to be a hoax. (Falcon's parents served up to a month in jail.)

In 2015, President Barack Obama abandoned his pledge to end America's longest war, announcing plans to keep at least 5,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan at the end of his term in 2017 and hand the conflict off to his successor.

In 2017, actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status; within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced 10 years earlier by social activist Tarana Burke.)

Ten years ago: Iran's Foreign Ministry dismissed U.S. accusations that Tehran was involved in a plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in Washington, saying the claims had no "legal logic." The Texas Rangers finished off the Detroit Tigers to become the American League's first repeat champion in a decade with a 15-5 win in Game 6 of the ALCS.

Five years ago: Republican Donald Trump sought to undermine the legitimacy of the U.S. presidential election, pressing unsubstantiated claims that the contest was "rigged" against him. Secretary of State John Kerry announced that Yemen's Houthi (HOO'-thee) rebels had released two U.S. citizens as part of a complicated diplomatic arrangement.

One year ago: With their debate in Miami canceled following the president's coronavirus infection, President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden squared off in dueling televised town halls. Biden hedged on whether he would require all Americans to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Responding to a New York Times report citing tax returns showing he had business debts exceeding \$400 million, Trump said, "\$400 million is a peanut," and insisted that he didn't owe money to Russia or to any "sinister people." YouTube said it was taking more steps to limit QAnon and other baseless conspiracy theories that could lead to violence. The sobering musical "Jagged Little Pill," which plumbed Alanis Morissette's 1995 album to tell a story of an American family spiraling out of control, earned 15 Tony Award nominations as Broadway took the first steps to celebrate a pandemic-shortened season.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Barry McGuire is 86. Actor Linda Lavin is 84. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 76. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 75. Actor Victor Banerjee is 75. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 70. Singer Tito Jackson is 68. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 68. Actor Jere Burns is 67. Movie director Mira Nair is 64. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 62. Chef Emeril Lagasse (EM'-ur-ul leh-GAH'-see) is 62. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 59. Singer Eric Benet (beh-NAY') is 55. Actor Vanessa Marcil is 53. Singer-actor-TV host Paige Davis is 52. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 52. Actor Dominic West is 52. R&B singer Ginuwine

(JIHN'-yoo-wyn) is 51. Actor Devon Gummersall is 43. Actor Chris Olivero is 42. Christian singer-actor Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 42. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 41. R&B singer Keyshia Cole is 40. Actor Vincent Martella is 29. Actor Bailee Madison is 22.

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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