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Connecting
October 28, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Oct. 28, 2021,

News that **Marty Crutsinger** plans to retire from his Business News duties with AP in December prompted some great memories from Connecting colleagues, including this from **Bill Kaczor** from their working days in Florida:

Marty pounded out a six-graph urgent lede and then an add to flesh out the story. "Wire-service writing, oftentimes, you know, is just thinking through your fingers," Marty observed.

I hadn't seen that definition of wire-service writing before. It prompts me to reach out to you for your own thoughts on a definition of writing for and editing of the wire. Your own experiences, observation of others? Please send them along.

AUTHORS ALERT! 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 November – 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. Also, if you have a book in the works for near-future publication, include it. Send along the information soon.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Burning Passion: Photographer Noah Berger on Shooting Fire



Noah Berger // Detail of photo courtesy of Stuart Palley

By Glen Martin California Magazine

Noah Berger admits he wasn't the most diligent student when he attended UC Berkeley back in the early 1990s. He simply didn't feel cut out for academe. In fact, there was only one thing that really engaged his interest during his freshman year in 1992: taking photographs for the Daily Californian.

Berger dropped out of Cal in 1995, but his passion for photography remained. For the past 24 years, he has been working as a freelance photographer, gaining widespread recognition for both his corporate and news work. He has long been considered a gifted utility shooter who can take images of a corporate CEO sitting serenely at his desk one day and gritty crime scenes the next.

But over the past few years he has gained particular renown for his wildfire images. The Rim Fire, the Valley Fire, the North Bay Complex Fires—Berger has shot them all, delivering powerful photos of devastation, chaos, hope, and heroism.

With Associated Press staff photographer John Locher and freelance photographer Ringo Chiu, Berger was a finalist in the breaking news photo category for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize. California recently interviewed him on his career and craft.

First, congratulations on the Pulitzer nomination. When did you first determine that you wanted to pursue photography professionally?

I had taken one class in photography in high school—that was the extent of my training. On the day I showed up at the Daily Californian, a protestor (Rosebud Denovo) broke into the Chancellor's house with a machete and was shot and killed by police. So I was sent to cover that. And the day after that there were protests—riots, really—on the streets because of the shooting, and I covered that as well. It was incredibly exciting, plus I made \$130 from the photos, and that got me juiced. I dropped out of school by 1995 and never looked back. I began freelancing for the Berkeley Voice. I had a darkroom in there, and I interned at the ANG [Alameda News Group] papers. And I've just stayed at it. I do a lot of corporate work because that pays the bills, but I really love covering breaking news. I've also done a lot of work for the university—UC public affairs, Haas, also the Cal Alumni Association.

Read more **here**. Shared by Allen Matthews.

Memories of the soon-retiring Marty Crutsinger

A heat-seeking missile



Bill Kaczor (<u>Email</u>) - Marty Crutsinger may be a mild-mannered AP reporter covering the dismal science in Washington, D.C., but

during the time I knew him in Tallahassee he once was compared to a "heat-seeking missile" and had been the honoree at the wildest bachelor party I'd ever attended.

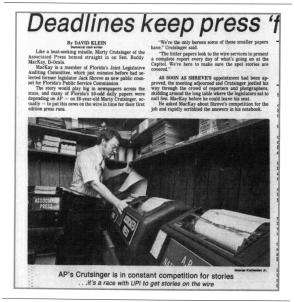
In June 1977, I was working for Gannett News Service and Marty was with the AP when the men of the Tallahassee press corps gathered in the back room of a steakhouse to celebrate his upcoming marriage. After a few drinks, a couple reporters from Fort Lauderdale, one from the News and other with the Sun Sentinel, exchanged words. Then one emptied his water glass on the other, receiving a slap in the face in return. At this point one of the few non-

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Tallahassee Democrat (Tallahassee, Florida) · Sun, Apr 2, 1978 · Page
Printed on Oct 27, 20



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press guests, Florida Deputy Attorney General Jim Whisenand, bolted for the door and paid his tab without touching his dinner that had been served moments earlier. "The Whiz," as he was affectionately known, later told a reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat, "I was late, and I suddenly remembered I had other plans." Then he asked, "You're not really going to put that in the paper, are you?" Check out the June 20, 1977, edition for the answer.

Nearly a year later, in April 1978, the Democrat struck again when reporter David Klein wrote a feature story about Crutsinger. His lede: "Like a heat-seeking missile, Marty Crutsinger of the (sic) Associated Press homed straight in on Sen. Buddy MacKay, D-Ocala." The story went on to describe how Marty sought quotes from MacKay and another senator, patiently waiting for the latter to finish speaking with an aide, about a controversial committee vote. It was on the appointment of a public counsel for utility rate cases. His UPI competitor, meanwhile, had left to write her story sans post-meeting comments. With quotes in hand, Marty rushed back to the bureau to write his story. "Crutsinger charged down the modern, fluorescent-lit (sic) marble corridors of the new Capitol, oblivious to the stares of surprised tourists who couldn't understand why a slightly chubby man in full suit and tie was jogging in these hallowed hallways," Klein wrote. "That's the problem with the wires," Marty told Klein. "You always want to stay for the last quote, that one last bit of information, but you got to rush back and meet the deadline."

Marty pounded out a six-graph urgent lede and then an add to flesh out the story. "Wire-service writing, oftentimes, you know, is just thinking through your fingers," Marty observed. Newly appointed Tallahassee Correspondent Tom Slaughter interrupted to ask Marty for the name of a Public Service Commission secretary, which he quickly rattled off, Klein reported. Once the story was written, Marty dug into a 68-page audit of the state Department of Revenue in search of another potential story. The next morning, the big-city papers all had their own stories on the public counsel appointment while the Democrat used the UPI version. Klein wrote that one of his editors told him it arrived first and no one even bothered to look for Marty's. Klein noted the UPI bureau filed directly to the wire while AP stories went to

Miami for editing before being sent to members. Marty told him his version also was delayed for 30 minutes by a computer glitch and then pointed out that The Florida Times-Union of Jacksonville used four other stories he had written that day. "They even used my byline on this one," Marty said as he perused the Times-Union. "Wonder of wonders."

On the personal side, Marty was one of my favorite people in Tallahassee although his tenure there was short. We were friendly competitors at times and participated together in the Sometimes Annual Tallahassee Capitol Press Corps Skits, which raises money for journalism scholarships. After Marty left for WDC, I followed in his footsteps, joining the AP in Tallahassee in 1980, but I'm not sure I ever could fill his shoes. We didn't see each other again until 2019, when I took up his offer to get together on a visit to WDC and then again at a Florida AP reunion last year. He hadn't changed a bit, still going after the news like a heat-seeking missile.

Above are the Democrat's story on Marty and a photo from the skits (Marty is fourth from the left and I'm fourth from the right, photograph by Donn Dughi)

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Battle-scarred master of covering epic stories

David Powell (Email) - former AP Tallahassee correspondent - I am writing to join many others in congratulating Martin Crutsinger on his impending retirement.

Marty and I met while working as reporters on the student newspaper at the University of Texas. He graduated in 1971 and made his way to Florida, where he eventually joined the AP's Miami Bureau. In 1975, COB Reid Miller transferred Marty to the statehouse bureau in Tallahassee and, by coincidence, hired me to be Marty's numerical replacement in Miami. A year later, Reid sent me to Tallahassee too, so I followed in Marty's footsteps for years.

I was disappointed but not surprised that, in his account of his AP career, Marty devoted only one sentence to perhaps his most heroic performance. In January 1978, shortly before he transferred to Washington, Marty was the only AP staffer in town on the weekend that Ted Bundy quietly entered the Chi Omega sorority house at Florida State University and murdered two women.

Correspondent Tom Slaughter and I were both away when the news broke. The story created a national sensation and was all over the "A" wire even though it was Super Bowl weekend. (I was at the game in New Orleans and heard about the murders on the car radio as my wife-to-be and I drove home through the night.) Marty held down the reporting duties for the AP on this huge story while other organizations fielded teams of multiple reporters. Marty, of course, handled it all with aplomb.

Proof positive that Marty is not only a master at the day-to-day behind-the-scenes work that is required to master a complex subject like economics, but also a battle-scarred master at covering an epic breaking news story.

Congratulations, old friend. Best wishes for your next chapter.

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A mentor on economics beat

Dave Skidmore (Email) - In typical fashion, Marty Crutsinger paid tribute to his mentors in his piece in Wednesday's Connecting. Well, as chief economics writer, he was my mentor during my time on the Washington economics beat from 1987 to 1999. He advised me on how to survive my first data lockup: Look at a copy of last month's data release and his story about it; circle the numbers in the story, then find them in the release and circle them. Wise words. But, by example, he showed me and others how to write about the economy. Day after day, in concise, accessible, lucid prose, he spoke to readers around the world who might not have cared whether durable goods orders were up 0.2 percent or 0.3 percent but very much wanted to know how the U.S. economy was doing. More than that, he was a generous colleague, great company, and a good friend. P.S. I very much enjoyed the picture of Marty working at his desk--surrounded by the famous Crutsinger filing system.

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Ordering slab of ham in Paris

Robert Wielaard (<u>Email</u>) - The soon-to-retire Marty Crutsinger is very kind and gracious to thank AP staffers who worked with him on overseas trips. He says he covered 18 consecutive G7 summits with White House correspondent Terry Hunt.

During my many years in Brussels, I remember Marty well and the 1989 G7 in Paris stands out.

One night, I joined a group of AP staffers for dinner in a Paris restaurant. Marty was poring over the menu and settled on something that must have sounded terrific and exotic in French. When the waiter came back, he placed before Marty a plate with a slab of ham on it.

"A slab of ham?," shrieked Marty in that southern drawl of his.

"Did I order a slab of ham? I can't believe I ordered a slab of ham in a Paris restaurant."

And with that, Marty took out his camera and shot a photo of the ham in front of him.

"Mrs. Crutsinger has to see this," said Marty. "I ordered a slab of ham in Paris!"

Connecting mailbox

Harry Truman was her first interview

Tad Bartimus (Email) - Harry S Truman was the first person I ever interviewed. Honest! He came to Belton, Mo., for the dedication of some lodge... American Legion? I think? ... and my mother was working for the weekly Belton Star-Herald and sent me out to interview him for the paper. I must have been about 15, and I remember that I walked right up to him -- we were standing in a sort of field on the edge of town, and there were lots of locals round, and some folding chairs. I called him Mr. President and asked if he would talk to me. He said, "Certainly, young lady, what do you want to know?" I think I asked him how he liked being in Belton and did he miss being president, and some such. It's been about 60 years ago! His family -- grandparents maybe? -- had owned a farm in the area and it turned out my parents built a house on that land a couple of owners later, in the new subdivision. I don't have a photograph of the interview in my possession but someone took a photo and it is buried somewhere in a storage container in Ennis, Montana. I'll never forget him. Legend has it he once asked my grandmother out when she was in Kansas City and a very young woman, but she turned him down. Probably apocryphal story but it's still a good one! What fun to recall this memory!

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Small World Department

Richard Drew (<u>Email</u>) - I went for my Moderna COVID-19 booster vaccination Wednesday at the American Museum of Natural History, a NY City vaccination site. While chatting with the nurse about how I was there as an AP photographer for the facility's opening day, where they administered shots under the giant whale, she replied that her brother-in-law also worked for the Associated Press.

Turns out he's Steve Helber, the AP staff photographer in Richmond, Va., whom she visited the last weekend.

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Noguchi artwork at former AP HQ



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"There are only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe – only two – the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here." - Mark Twain, 1906.

Malcolm Ritter (Email) - The other day I spoke to a journalism class at Columbia University about science writing, and I introduced AP with this slide. It features the 22-foot-tall, stainless-steel artwork by Isamu Noguchi that was unveiled in 1940 over the main entrance to 50 Rockefeller Plaza, where AP used to be headquartered. The key thing to notice, I told the students, is how muscular we journalists are.

Nostalgic AP staffers can learn more about the Noguchi piece here.

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AP's Monte Hayes among 5 alumni honored at Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony



Monte Hayes, BA'66, accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award. Hayes was an Associated Press foreign correspondent and chief of bureau for Peru and Ecuador. (Izzy Myszak | The Media School)

Jenna Williams Indiana Media School

From Caracas to Chicago and New York to California, all roads trace back to Indiana for five Media School graduates. A group of professional leaders in media received The Media School's Distinguished Alumni Awards on Friday for their leadership in journalism and television.

The 10th class of distinguished alumni include Monroe Anderson, BA'71; Stephanie L Becker, BA'82; Dee J. (Michaelis) Hall, BA'82; Monte Hayes, BA'66; and Stephen G. Lucas, BA'80.

"You all are truly an inspiration," senior Grace Ybarra said to the alumni during the introduction at the ceremony.

Hayes boasts more than a 30-year career across several countries. He was an Associated Press foreign correspondent and bureau chief who got his start at the Indiana Daily Student.

"Ernie (Pyle) related tales of common folks, showing that every person has a story worth being heard," Hayes said. "I tried to follow Ernie's example in my work as a foreign correspondent in Latin America."

Read more here.

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New inductees to Missouri photojournalism Hall of Fame



Cliff Schiappa (Email) - The Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony took place Thursday, October 21, 2021, at the Missouri State Historical Society in Columbia, Mo. The ceremony included two classes of inductees because last year's event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Those welcomed into the Hall are, from left: Julie Smith of the Jefferson City News-Tribune; Christine M. Canella, formerly of The Kansas City Star; John L. Dengler, formerly of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and the Springfield News-Leader; Odell Mitchell Jr., formerly of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch; John Sleezer, formerly of The Kansas City Star; and Jan Wesley ,representing her late mother Marie Hansen, formerly of LIFE Magazine.

This is the 17th group of inductees since the founding of the Hall of Fame in 2005. Members of the Class of 2020 are Canella, Dengler, and Mitchell while those in the Class of 2021 are Smith, Sleezer and Hansen.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Andy Dalton - adalton@ap.org

Stories of interest

Watchdog: 30 recent cases of violence to Afghan journalists (AP)

By TAMEEM AKHGAR

ISLAMABAD (AP) — More than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists were recorded in the last two months, with nearly 90% committed by the Taliban, a media watchdog said Wednesday.

More than 40% of the cases recorded by The Afghanistan National Journalists Union were physical beatings and another 40% were verbal threats of violence, said Masorro Lutfi, the group's head. The remainder involved cases in which journalists were imprisoned for a day.

One journalist was killed.

Most of the cases in September and October were documented in provinces across Afghanistan outside the capital Kabul, but six of the 30 cases of violence took place in the capital, ANJU said.

Lutfi, in a news conference Wednesday, said while most of the instances of violence — or threats of violence — were perpetrated by Taliban members, three of the 30 cases were carried out by unknown persons.

Read more here. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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High-profile cartoonist Leunig is AXED over cartoon comparing Dan Andrews' vaccine mandates to the

Tiananmen Square massacre (Daily Mail)



By CHARLOTTE KARP and MICHAEL PICKERING FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

Controversial cartoonist Michael Leunig has been axed from his prime spot in The Age newspaper after a cartoon comparing resistance against mandatory Covid vaccines to the fight for democracy in Tiananmen Square was censored.

'Apparently, I'm out of touch with the readership,' Leunig told The Australian's Media Diary of his sacking from providing the editorial page cartoon in Monday editions of the Melbourne-based publication.

Leunig's cartoon, which never made the paper, featured one of his typically fragile, big-nosed figures facing the silhouette of a tank with a syringe in place of the gun turret.

In the top left corner, the 76-year-old copied the iconic 'Tank Man' image showing a Beijing demonstrator standing in the path of a column of tanks in 1989.

He posted the drawing on his Instagram page in late September with the word 'mandate', after it was rejected for publication by The Age editor, Gay Alcorn.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Ex-NYT columnist Kristof announces run for Oregon governor (AP)

By ANDREW SELSKY

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Former New York Times journalist Nicholas Kristof announced his candidacy Wednesday for Oregon governor, saying the state needs a political newbie to solve problems like homelessness and rural despair.

"I've never run for political office in my life," Kristof said in a campaign video, expressing it as an asset. He said he felt compelled to run for governor because, after covering crises around the world, he was heartbroken to see ones afflicting his home state.

Kristof pointed out that many of the kids he grew up with in Yamhill, 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Portland, are dead, their deaths drug- or alcohol-related. Kristof calls them victims of inequality.

Kristof joins a crowded field of Democrats seeking their party's nomination to be the candidate in the 2022 election, including Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek and state Treasurer Tobias Read. Democrats have held the governor's office since 1987.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Local-News Woes Hide a Deeper Civics Problem

(National Review)

By ANTHONY HENNEN

Like a less messy, urbane deer season, the media partake in an annual tradition: the hunt for who killed America's newspapers. This time around, McKay Coppins of The Atlantic zeroes in on Alden Global Capital, a vulture-like hedge fund that treats newspapers like an extractive industry, picking at corpses until only the skeleton is left.

Coppins's general argument is good — Alden has little regard for journalism, or for the role that reporting plays in keeping government honest and restrained — but the story is a bit too convenient. It places the death of the journalism industry at the hands of Wall Street fatcats. As the financial bros take over, the story goes, the loss of local or regional owners means there's little concern for a newspaper as a sustainable entity. It's an implicit justification of the quixotic newsroom campaigns of late to unionize as a way to boost wages or save the paper.

If only the demise of local journalism as a for-profit industry were so simple. Alden deserves the scorn it gets for its brutish (but profitable) approach. But American journalism faces a crisis bigger than nefarious hedge funds.

The real problem comes from the fall of America as a republic of letters. American civic education hasn't emphasized the vital role of journalism as the fourth estate, as important to the good society as the separation of powers or checks and balances in the federal government.

Read more **here**. Shared by Richard Lipsey.

The Final Word

I'm having people over to stare at their phones later if you want to come by...



Celebrating AP's 175th

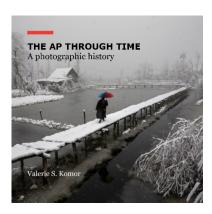
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 28, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 28, the 301st day of 2021. There are 64 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

On this date:

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

In 1914, medical researcher Jonas Salk, who developed the first successful polio vaccine, was born in New York.

In 1922, fascism came to Italy as Benito Mussolini took control of the government.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broadcast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

In 1996, Richard Jewell, cleared of committing the Olympic park bombing, held a news conference in Atlanta in which he thanked his mother for standing by him and lashed out at reporters and investigators who'd depicted him as the bomber, who turned out to be Eric Rudolph.

In 2001, the families of people killed in the September 11 terrorist attack gathered in New York for a memorial service filled with prayer and song.

In 2002, American diplomat Laurence Foley was assassinated in front of his house in Amman, Jordan, in the first such attack on a U.S. diplomat in decades. A student flunking out of the University of Arizona nursing school shot three of his professors to death, then killed himself.

In 2012, airlines canceled more than 7,000 flights in advance of Hurricane Sandy, transit systems in New York, Philadelphia and Washington were shut down, and forecasters warned the New York area could see an 11-foot wall of water.

In 2013, Penn State said it would pay \$59.7 million to 26 young men over claims of child sexual abuse at the hands of former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

Ten years ago: NBA Commissioner David Stern canceled all NBA games through November after labor negotiations broke down for the second time in a week. The St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, beating the Texas Rangers 6-2 in Game 7.

Five years ago: The FBI dropped what amounted to a political bomb on the Clinton campaign when it announced it was investigating whether emails on a device belonging to disgraced ex-congressman Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of one of Clinton's closest aides, Huma Abedin, might contain classified information.

One year ago: Miles Taylor, a former chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security, revealed that he was the former Trump administration official who had written a scathing anti-Trump op-ed and book under the pen name "Anonymous"; the White House labeled him a "low-level, disgruntled former staffer." Hurricane Zeta pounded New Orleans and much of the Gulf Coast with heavy rain and howling winds before making its way through Mississippi and Alabama. France announced a full nationwide lockdown for the second time in 2020, and German officials imposed a partial four-week lockdown as governments across Europe sought to stop a fast-rising tide of coronavirus cases.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 94. Actor Joan Plowright is 92. Actor Jane Alexander is 82. Actor Dennis Franz is 77. Actor Telma Hopkins is 73. Caitlyn Jenner is 72. Actor Annie Potts is 69. Songwriter/producer Desmond Child is 68. Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates is 66. The former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ahmuh-DEE'-neh-zhahd), is 65. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 64. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 63. Actor Mark Derwin is 61. Actor Daphne Zuniga (ZOO'-nih-guh) is 59. Actor Lauren Holly is 58. Talk show host-comedian-actor Sheryl Underwood is 58. Actor Jami Gertz is 56. Actor Chris Bauer is 55. Actor-comedian Andy Richter is 55. Actor Julia Roberts is 54. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 53. Actor Jeremy Davies is 52. Singer Ben Harper is 52. Country singer Brad Paisley is 49. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 47. Actor Gwendoline Christie is 43. Singer Justin Guarini (TV: "American Idol") is 43. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 42. Actor Charlie Semine is 41. Actor Matt Smith is 39. Actor Finn Wittrock is 37. Actor Troian Bellisario is 36. Singer/rapper Frank Ocean is 34. Actor Lexi Ainsworth (TV: "General Hospital") is 29. Actor Nolan Gould is 23.

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