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Connecting

January 28, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 28, 2022,

The Associated Press plans to create a new reporting network aimed at deepening its U.S. education coverage and strengthening education reporting across the news industry.

The AP Education Reporting Network - with philanthropic funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York - will produce stories over the next two years that assess the long-term impact of the pandemic's disruption to the U.S. education system and students, according to an AP news release.

The team will work closely with local news outlets across the U.S. and education journalism organizations to find opportunities to collaborate and share coverage, and will connect local journalists with health and economy reporters, AP reporters in all 50 states, local and national policymakers and diverse experts in related fields.

It's our lead story in today's Connecting.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy! See you in your Inbox on Monday.

Paul

The pandemic disrupted an entire generation's education. The AP wants to help local newsrooms examine the long-term impacts.



By: Angela Fu Poynter

In 2020, the pandemic brought many schools to a grinding halt, marking the start of a tumultuous period of uncertainty that continues to this day.

To evaluate the impact the pandemic has had on a generation of American schoolchildren, The Associated Press is launching a nationwide education reporting network. A full-time team at the AP will work with local newsrooms for the next two years to deepen their education coverage.

"We wanted to raise the bar on the education news that we were putting out into the world. But we also wanted to help our member newsrooms cover this themselves

too," said deputy managing editor for U.S. news Noreen Gillespie. "The way that we are doing education reporting is changing because of the way the story is changing in the U.S."

The AP first started planning to expand its education coverage in 2020 when journalists realized that the pandemic's disruption of the education system could have ramifications for the economy and how schools will be run in the future, Gillespie said. The network will start by focusing on K-12 education before tackling other subject areas like early childhood education and education and the economy.

A team at the AP will work full time on the education reporting network, looking for ways to collaborate with and support member newsrooms. That work could take on many different forms, Gillespie said. For example, the AP could host a news conference with policymakers or a conversation among journalists and experts about educational trends. The AP might also help pair newsrooms to work together on different projects.

"One of the things that we'll really be looking to do with this particular network is, 'What assets can AP bring to local newsrooms that really are in value there?"

Gillespie said. "Can we transfer some of the conversations we've been having around some of the funding distributions, for example, and create a localization guide that we can then (use to) show the reporting process and guide newsrooms along their journey of covering that story?"

The initial team will have seven journalists, and the AP is currently hiring for three of those positions. Gillespie said the team will be ready for a full start by the end of March. The initiative has received \$1 million in funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The AP's education reporters have already started to examine the pandemic's long-term impacts, but there is a sense of urgency to get the reporting network started, Gillespie said.

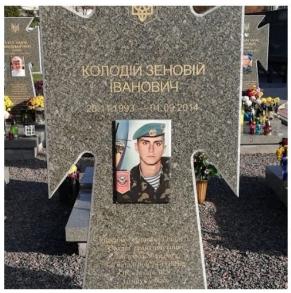
"We can see this story unfolding every day all around us, and that's really motivated us to keep going and get it off the ground."

Click **here** for link to this story

Click <u>here</u> for AP news release: AP to create education reporting network with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York

On Russia and Ukraine









Kevin Walsh (Email) - I read with great interest friend and AP colleague Andrew Selsky's account of his grandmother's flight to freedom from Ukraine during the Russian Revolution. Lisa and I had the great privilege of traveling through Kyiv and Lviv, Ukraine in October 2018. We were in Kyiv during their "Defender's Day" commemoration and saw many examples in both cities (fresh graves and memorials) honoring the dead from the ongoing conflict with Russian paramilitaries in eastern Ukraine.

The photo collage shows just a few of the photos we took during our time in this beautiful country. The people of Ukraine have suffered so much at the hands of Russia. From 1932-1933, an estimated 3.9 million Ukrainian men, women and children died in the "Holodomor" or "terror famine" created by Stalin's collectivism and attempt to destroy Ukrainian nationalism. Since gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine has endured two revolutions, the Russian invasion of Crimea and the ongoing conflict on its eastern border. It would be such a tragedy if the Russians further invade Ukrainian territory.

Cleveland photojournalist Tony Dejak retires from AP



After 24 years as a staff photographer and 10 years before that as a freelancer for AP, all out of the Cleveland bureau, AP's Tony Dejak is set to retire on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Tony plans to spend at least part of his retirement biking, swimming, and enjoying his two grandchildren.

Amy Sancetta, retired staff photographer, stopped by on Thursday to present Tony with a card and some gift cards as a gift from his Ohio colleagues, past and present.

While at his home, Tony showed off the signed Darius Garland jersey he received as a parting gift from the Cavaliers at last night's NBA game.

He was also previously given a official Dejak jersey from the MLB Cleveland Guardians. Congratulations Tony!

(Shared by Amy Sancetta)

Fred Frommer returns to journalism

Fred Frommer (Email), a former AP reporter and editor in the Washington bureau from 1999-2015, has returned to journalism after a six-year PR hiatus, where he worked at the Dewey Square Group in Washington. He is now working as a freelance writer and editor.

Frommer is a frequent contributor to The Washington Post, including this story on the Nazi Olympic boycott campaign, which was recognized by The Athletic as among the best writing and reporting for 2021 in a December 2021 article by Richard Deitsch, the publication's media reporter.

Frommer started with AP Washington as a regional reporter - initially for Minnesota and the Dakotas, then Minnesota and Wisconsin. He then created a beat on the intersection of sports and politics, followed by the



environment beat, and the U.S. Courthouse in DC. Among his highlights: writing about the Sioux Indians' attempt to get back the Black Hills from the federal government, and covering the Roger Clemens perjury trial. Before joining AP, Frommer worked at CNN and washingtonpost.com.

AP video recognized for excellence in international coverage



AP video journalist Mstyslav Chernov. (AP Photo)

By Lauren Easton

The Associated Press has been nominated for two Royal Television Society Television Journalism Awards, including one nomination for its international news coverage of Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

"Being nominated for a Royal Television Society award is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the brilliant work of our colleagues in the field and our production teams who handle the content," said Derl McCrudden, vice president and head of global news production. "The AP works in some of the most difficult situations, and in the face of adversity delivers world class journalism. "

The nomination for international news coverage is the work of a large AP team. The journalists told stories of harsh treatment of drug addicts in Kabul, women incarcerated with their babies for choosing to live someone not selected by their family, doctors treating severely malnourished children, and more.

Click **here** to read more.

Palindromes

Bruce Handler (Email) - Here are three more palindromes. No. 1 is a real doozy:

1) "Dennis, Nell, Edna, Leon, Nedra, Anita, Rolf, Nora, Alice, Carol, Leo, Jane, Reed, Dena, Dale, Basil, Rae, Penny, Lana, Dave, Denny, Lena, Ida, Bernadette, Ben, Ray, Lila, Nina, Jo, Ira, Mara, Sara, Mario, Jan, Ina, Lily, Arne, Bette, Dan, Reba, Diane, Lynn, Ed,

Eva, Dana, Lynne, Pearl, Isabel, Ada, Ned, Dee, Rena, Joel, Lora, Cecil, Aaron, Flora, Tina, Arden, Noel, and Ellen sinned."

- 2) "Are we not drawn onward, we few drawn onward to new era?"
- 3) "Doc, note, I dissent: a fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod."

Sad week brings many memories

Kent Prince (Email) - Although retired, Jim Bradshaw, long-time chronicler of Cajun life, still writes a weekly column in Louisiana. I asked him if I could share this one, on two deaths this week:

By Jim Bradshaw

The deaths of Richard D'Aquin and Pete Piazza in the same week unleashed a flood of memories about old newspapering days, and brought a sense of loss. Another, more personal, one touched me in a different way.

D'Aquin was my boss for 30 years. As publisher of the Lafayette Advertiser, he became a legend in the Thomson Newspapers organization for his devotion to the bottom line.

For years The Advertiser was the biggest per capita money maker in one of the biggest newspaper chains in the world — and that included the parent newspaper, the London Times. A fellow that worked at the North American headquarters in Chicago once told me, "The accountants cross themselves and genuflect when he visits."

We had some momentous arguments when, as editor, I pushed for more news space and he, sharp pencil in hand, refused to budge one iota from a strict news-to-advertising ratio. I remember particularly a Monday when we were about to send the first men to the moon. Monday papers were almost always the smallest of the week and there was no way to fit all the news into one.

"This is huge news," I argued, "bigger than Columbus finding the New World."

It didn't sway him.

"If Columbus wanted a big news play," he responded, "he wouldn't land on a Monday."

His unflinching financial stewardship came not because he was a penny-pincher, but from a sense of duty that characterized all of his life. Thomson appointed him to run the newspaper as a business, and he saw it as his duty to do just that. He also did his duty in Korea, where he fought as one of the Army's youngest-ever commissioned officers. He saw it as his duty to work to better his community and contributed time and money to many causes. He also thought it a duty to stand by friends through thick and thin.

I was one of those, and he did.

Pete and I shared hundreds of assignments over 20 years and together produced Our Acadiana. We drove more than 5,000 miles together working on that book, down every back road we could find, sometimes looking for something specific, sometimes just to see what we would see.

He was a consummate professional with an unfailing eye for the picture that captured an event or topic. He climbed towers in winter winds, hiked up tall bridges on hot summer days, did what needed to be done to get the picture right.

I still laugh about an event that showed his devotion to getting the picture. We were driving in his truck on Highway 14 between Abbeville and Delcambre on a stormy summer day. I looked out across a field and saw a tornado coming out of a cloud.

"Pete," I said, "that's a tornado," thinking he would want to drive away from it.

"It sure is," he said, turning into the field, grabbing a camera, and running toward it.

He came running back just a few seconds later. "Hang on," he said. "That thing's going to my Momma's house."

At one point, as we sped down the highway, I noticed that he had one arm out the window, shooting with an automated camera he was holding on the truck roof. He was dialing his mother on his cell with the other hand, and was steering the truck with his knees. I thought I might die that day, but not from the tornado. We somehow made it down a rural road to the house and came to a skidding stop on her gravel driveway. But Pete, camera in hand, began running away from the house, not toward it.

He hollered to me as he ran, "Go throw Momma in the bathtub. I've got a great shot from the fence line."

Luckily, that wasn't necessary. The tornado lifted with little damage to anyone. Pete got a great shot.

Other memories: He made a mouth-watering spaghetti sauce. He was regularly honored as the community's leading blood donor. Even his dogs reflected his devotion to photography. They were named Nikon and Leica.

Those deaths bring a sense of loss. There was no obituary for the third one, but it added immeasurably to a sad week.

Nellie was a little black cat who fit in the palm of my hand when we found her in the back yard. She was blind in one eye, her neck was twisted at a strange angle, a snaggle tooth poked above her lower lip. I didn't think she would last a week. I was wrong. She greeted me each morning for 21 years.

From force of habit, I took out her food dish this morning. She set priorities, insisting that each day should begin with her getting fed, then I could start the coffee. Those things stay with you.

You can contact Jim Bradshaw at <u>jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com</u> or P.O. Box 1121, Washington LA 70589.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Christopher Bacey

Vahe Gregorian

Robert Kimball

On Sunday to ...

Charlie Bruce

Rich Oppel

Welcome to Connecting



Richard Borreca

Henry Gottlieb

Larry Ryckman

Stories of interest

In Mexico, 3 journalists killed this month, impunity is 90%(KCRW)



Photos of murdered journalists are displayed in front of the Cathedral of San Cristóbal de las Casas, during a nationwide protest against violence against journalists in Mexico. Journalist Lourdes Maldonado Lopez was shot dead on January 24, 2022 in her car outside her home in Tijuana, marking the third murder of a journalist in the country this year. Photo by Artur Widak/NurPhoto.

Written by Amy Ta, produced by Angie Perrin

Mexican journalists staged protests throughout the country on Tuesday over concerns that they are being targeted. It's in response to the murders of three journalists this month alone. The most recent was Lourdes Maldonado López, who was fatally shot in Tijuana on Sunday. A few years ago, she told Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that she feared for her life as a journalist. Now journalists are asking him for protection.

It's tough to say who's carrying out the killings because the impunity rate is above 90%, says Chris Sherman, AP news director for Mexico and Central America.

He notes that organized crime controls large swaths of Mexico, and disputes between cartels draw a lot of media attention, so journalists who cover that are extremely exposed to dangers. "They're often in a situation of deciding of how they can make a livelihood and what degree of risk they're able to subject themselves and their families to."

He says late Tuesday, the government announced that federal and state authorities will be forming a special team to investigate the recent murders, but considering the impunity rate, journalists don't have much confidence that change will come.

This violence mainly targets journalists from Mexico, not abroad.

Read more **here**. Shared by Howard Goldberg.

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Mexico offers bodyguards and bulletproof vests to vulnerable journalists. It hasn't been enough.

(Washington Post)

By Alejandra Ibarra Chaoul and Kevin Sieff

MEXICO CITY — Veteran news reporter María de Lourdes Maldonado López knew there were people who wanted her dead, so she applied for the only protection she knew: an unusual Mexican government program that promised to defend vulnerable journalists with state-funded bodyguards, bulletproof vests and other safety measures.

Maldonado López seemed certain to qualify. She was a well-known broadcast journalist in Tijuana, where for years she had received threats, including two attacks on her car and multiple promises to hunt her down.

More than 140 journalists have been killed in Mexico since 2000, making it one of the deadliest countries in the world for members of the news media. A decade ago, authorities attempted a solution: the Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, a government-funded private security service for reporters, photographers and activists under threat.

Read more **here.** Shared by Doug Pizac.

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Entering Beijing's Olympics bubble is a surreal experience (AP)



FILE - A member of airport personnel dressed in protective gear leads passengers into the customs area at the Beijing Capital International Airport ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, Jan. 24, 2022. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

BEIJING (AP) — For the thousands of athletes, journalists and others descending on Beijing for the Winter Olympics, China's strict pandemic measures are creating a surreal and at times anxious experience.

China is isolating everyone coming from abroad from any contact with the general public for the duration of the Games, which open next week. That means being taken from the Beijing airport in special vehicles to a hotel surrounded by temporary barricades that keep participants in and the public out.

"I know the only experience of Beijing I'm going to experience is the Beijing I will see out of my bus window and my hotel window," said Associated Press photo editor Yirmiyan Arthur, who arrived this week. "I'm not really going to experience China, I'm just going to experience the Olympics within the bubble."

The experiences of AP journalists who have arrived or are preparing to depart offers a glimpse into life inside the bubble.

Photographer Jae Hong said he had been warned about the bubble but seeing it in effect in Beijing was still a shock. He described seeing passengers met by workers in white, full-body protective gear. Everyone is tested for COVID-19 at the airport before being transported to their barricaded hotels, the entrances protected by round-the-clock guards.

Read more **here**.

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Slain Virginia journalist's dad announces bid for Congress (AP)

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The father of a Virginia journalist fatally shot during a live broadcast in 2015 announced his bid for Congress on Thursday.

Andy Parker plans to seek the Democratic nomination in Virginia's newly-drawn 5th District and challenge Rep. Bob Good, a first-term Republican closely allied with former President Donald Trump, The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

Parker said he will have a running mate in the race — his daughter, Alison, a reporter at Roanoke's WDBJ-TV who was killed by a former colleague during an interview at Smith Mountain Lake.

"She'll be with me every step of the way," he said of his 24-year-old daughter.

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

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USS Kitty Hawk headed for the scrapyard (Navy Times)



The former aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk left Bremerton, Washington, Saturday and is now en-route to a Texas shipbreaker to be turned into scrap. The last oil-fired carrier, Kitty Hawk was decommissioned in 2009. (Navy)

By Geoff Ziezulewicz

Kitty Hawk, the last oil-fired Navy aircraft carrier, departed Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Washington, Saturday for its final transit to a ship-breaking facility in Texas.

Kitty Hawk served for 48 years before it was decommissioned in 2009, earning the nickname "Shitty Kitty" among some crew members assigned to its aged, non-nuclear-powered hull.

It sat at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard since retirement and was moved into dry dock for a time early last year to remove marine growth from the hull before it began its trip south.

Kitty Hawk was reportedly sold to the Texas ship-breaking company for a cent and will have to go all the way down to the tip of South America and back up because it is too big to get through the Panama Canal.

Named after the North Carolina site where the Wright brothers took flight in their "heavier-than-air machine" in 1903, Kitty Hawk was hailed as the first in a "new and greatly improved line of carriers" by then-Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Arleigh Burke in 1961, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

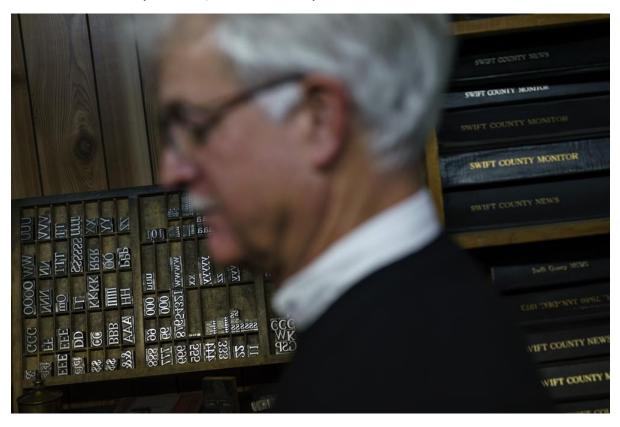
Read more here.

The Final Word

In one small prairie town, two warring visions of America



A customer carries a box of baked goods from a bakery at sunrise in Benson, Minn., Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. One little town. Three thousand people. Two starkly different realities. It's another measure of how America's divisions don't just play out on cable television. It has seeped into the American fabric, all the way to Benson, where two neighbors, each in his own well-kept, century-old home, can live in different worlds. (AP Photo/David Goldman)



Reed Anfinson, publisher of the weekly newspaper, The Swift County Monitor-News, walks by old printing press block letters and past editions at the paper's office in Benson, Minn., Monday, Nov. 29, 2021. Most weeks Anfinson, the publisher, editor, photographer and reporter, writes every story on the paper's front page. While his editorials lean left, he works hard to report the news straight. But in an America of competing visions, some here say he has taken sides. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

By TIM SULLIVAN

BENSON, Minn. (AP) — The newspaper hit the front porches of the wind-scarred prairie town on a Thursday afternoon: Coronavirus numbers were spiking in the farming communities of western Minnesota.

"Covid-19 cases straining rural clinics, hospitals, staff," read the front-page headline. Vaccinate to protect yourselves, health officials urged.

But ask around Benson, stroll its three-block business district, and some would tell a different story: The Swift County Monitor-News, the tiny newspaper that's reported the news here since 1886, is not telling the truth. The vaccine is untested, they say, dangerous. And some will go further: People, they'll tell you, are being killed by COVID-19 vaccinations.

One little town. Three thousand people. Two starkly different realities.

It's another measure of how, in an America increasingly split by warring visions of itself, division doesn't just play out on cable television, or in mayhem at the U.S. Capitol.

It has seeped into the American fabric, all the way to Benson's 12th Street, where two neighbors -- each in his own well-kept, century-old home -- can live in different worlds.

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

Today in History - Jan. 28, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2022. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 28, 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

On this date:

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1813, the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court's first Jewish member.

In 1922, 98 people were killed when the roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C., collapsed under the weight of nearly two feet of snow.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1977, actor-comedian Freddie Prinze, 22, co-star of the NBC-TV show "Chico and the Man," shot and mortally wounded himself at the Beverly Comstock Hotel (he died the following day).

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1982, Italian anti-terrorism forces rescued U.S. Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier, 42 days after he had been kidnapped by the Red Brigades.

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

In 2011, chaos engulfed Egypt as protesters seized the streets of Cairo, battling police, burning down the ruling party's headquarters and defying a military curfew.

In 2020, the United States and several other nations prepared to airlift citizens out of the Chinese city at the center of a virus outbreak that had killed more than 100 people.

Ten years ago: The Arab League halted its observer mission in Syria because of escalating violence. Victoria Azarenka routed three-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova 6-3, 6-0 to win the Australian Open.

Five years ago: A federal judge in New York issued an emergency order temporarily barring the U.S. from deporting people from nations subject to President Donald Trump's travel ban. Serena Williams won her record 23rd Grand Slam singles title, defeating her sister Venus 6-4, 6-4 at the Australian Open.

One year ago: A new variant of the coronavirus emerged in the United States, posing yet another public health challenge in a country already losing more than 3,000 people to COVID-19 every day. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration confirmed that thousands more nursing home residents died of COVID-19 than the state's official tallies had previously acknowledged. Cicely Tyson, the pioneering Black actor who gained an Oscar nomination for her role as the sharecropper's wife in "Sounder," won a Tony Award in 2013 at age 88 and touched TV viewers' hearts in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," died; she was 96.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nicholas Pryor is 87. Actor Alan Alda is 86. Actor Susan Howard is 80. Actor Marthe (cq) Keller is 77. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 75. Actor-singer Barbi Benton is 72. Evangelical pastor Rick Warren is 68. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') is 67. Actor Harley Jane Kozak is 65. Movie director Frank Darabont is 63. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 63. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 60. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 59. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 55. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 54. Rapper Rakim is 54. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 54. Actor Kathryn Morris is 53. Humorist Mo Rocca is 53. Rock/soul musician Jeremy Ruzumna (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 52. R&B singer Anthony Hamilton is 51. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett is 50. Singer Monifah is 50. Actor Gillian Vigman is 50. Retired MLB All-Star Jermaine Dye is 48. Actor Terri Conn is 47. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. ('N Sync) is 45. Rapper Rick Ross is 45. Actor Rosamund Pike is 43. Actor Angelique Cabral is 43. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 42. Actor Vinny Chhibber is 42. Actor Elijah Wood is 41. Rapper J. Cole is 37. Actor Alexandra Krosney is 34. Actor Yuri Sardarov is 34. Actor Ariel Winter is 24.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after

a 36-year career in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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:

- Connecting "selfies" a word and photo selfprofile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **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?
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

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