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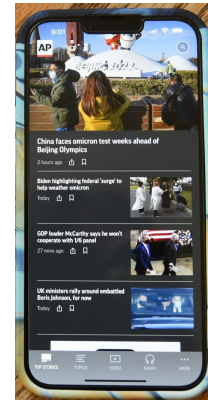
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# Connecting

May 9, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this May 9, 2022,

When The Associated Press announced in late April that **Gracia C. Martore**, former president and CEO of Gannett/Tegna, is the new chair of the AP board of directors, AP history was made.

It is the first time in the 176-year history of the cooperative that the positions of chair and of president/CEO are both held by women. **Daisy Veerasingham** took over Jan. 1, 2022, as AP's president and CEO.

Martore, elected to the board in 2013, had been vice chair. She succeeds **Steven R. Swartz**, president and CEO of Hearst Corporation, who completed a five-year term as chairman.

Martore is the former president and CEO of Gannett/Tegna, one of the nation's largest local media companies, a position she held from 2011 to 2017. She held various leadership roles over her 32-year career, including as president and chief operating officer from 2010 to 2011, executive vice president and chief financial officer from 2005 to 2010, and senior vice president and chief financial officer from 2003 to 2005. Prior to joining Gannett, she worked for 12 years in the banking industry.



Martore was president and CEO of Gannett when it announced in 2014 that it planned to separate into two publicly traded companies: a broadcasting and digital company under the name Tegna and a publishing company that retained the name Gannett Co., Inc. When the separation occurred a year later, Martore became president and CEO of Tegna, from which she retired in 2017. That year, she became an independent director of Omnicom Group, a global collective of three of the top global public relations agencies worldwide and specialist agencies in areas including public affairs, marketing to women, global health strategy and corporate social responsibility.

In 1984, **Katharine Graham** of The Washington Post was the first woman elected to the AP board. And in 2012, **Mary Junck** of Lee Enterprises was the first woman to serve as chairman of the board. Martore is the second woman to hold that position.

As part of an independent, not-for-profit news cooperative, our U.S. newspaper members elect a board of directors to provide corporate direction. See this link - [The AP Leadership Team](#)

In today's Connecting, we bring you more information on the AP's newest chair who noted in a Forbes story that she is a "total news junkie."

Have a great day – and here's to the week ahead!

Paul

## Gracia Martore: About the AP's new chair



Here are excerpts from two profiles of Gracia Martore:

**How Gracia Martore went on the offensive at Gannett and Tegna** (Washington Business Journal, Dec 8, 2016)

The idea of becoming a CEO was never really on Martore's radar. She graduated from Wellesley College with a double major in history and political science, then launched her career in banking. But she was open to new responsibilities, and when she joined Gannett in 1985 as assistant treasurer, those responsibilities gradually grew until 2011, when she rose to chief executive.

It was Gannett's innovation that drew her to her first post there. "This company was a real meritocracy," she said. "They don't care about your pedigree, they care about the job you do. And if you do a great job, you are going to get other opportunities."

It wasn't always an easy climb. When Martore took her first job at Gannett, her oldest child was just 18 months old. At the time, Gannett was based in Rochester, New York. Martore and her husband lived in Virginia. She thought there was no way she could travel up and back for the few months until the company moved to Virginia. But her husband, Joseph, was supportive. He worked to figure out ways to care for their child — grandparents and friends — to allow her to say yes and embark on a new phase in her career.

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Her biggest piece of advice for a young executive? She refers to her early days in banking, when a vice president told her, "Don't do anything you wouldn't want your mother to read about on the front page of The Wall Street Journal," she said. "That stuck with me on so many levels. And when you read about executives at Enron and others, I wonder if they would have done it if they thought about it that way."

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What can media companies do to build trust with the public? That's something we think about a lot here and particularly in this campaign season — I think media has been, in some ways, unfairly cast as the villain. But none of us can look away from Pew surveys and others that say trust in media is at a bit of an all-time low. As a company and an industry, I think we have to be tremendously careful of what we report and how we report it and fact-check ourselves to make sure we are not just fanning the flames of the issue, but also showing the other side of issues.

### **Recipe For A Female CEO: A Chat With Gannett's Gracia Martore** (Forbes, Jan 11, 2012)

Grant Gracia Martore, the CEO and president of Gannett, this: "I'm an anomaly." For starters, she's one of just 17 women with a CEO title at the top 500 companies. And like Ginni Rometty, who spent 30 years at IBM before being named chief in 2011, Martore, 60, built her career making deals and decisions, revenues and a reputation largely at one company. She started at Gannett in 1985 as assistant treasurer.

Here, the eight steps to Martore's secret sauce for women to get on the road to the C-Suite (excerpted to three in this summary):

#### **Focus On The Job At Hand**

I believe in putting my head down and focusing on the job I had. I found that if I did the very best job I could--and didn't worry about what my next four moves were going to be--that there were people in the organization who would take notice and add more responsibility. Each time I got to the point of, 'OK, now I know this area,' boom!, a new challenge would miraculously come along, a new responsibility and a new opportunity.

#### **Sign On To A True Meritocracy**

It doesn't matter what your pedigree is, who your family is or what degrees you have. What really matters is how you perform your job and how you produce results. Whoever could do the best job, that's who the focus is on--and it definitely doesn't matter if I am a woman or a man. That kind of opportunity allowed me to be unfettered in my ability to take on responsibility, rise in the organization and not to be worried about things like, 'Gee, women can't do this in this organization' or 'Ugh, now I have to crash through this barrier.'

#### **Say Goodbye To Your Comfort Zone**

In 1995 I was asked to take on investor relations responsibilities. My role up to the point had always been a very internal one, and being in investor relations you have to be very externally oriented. You have to worry that if you do something it could have an impact on the stock price. Everybody knows what you've done. It really required me to stretch beyond my comfort zone and I had the opportunity to learn the company in a new way. That gave me some of the skills necessary to become the CFO and ultimately president and CEO.

# Chairmen of the AP Board of Directors 1892 - 2022

*(Note: The office was styled "president" until 1972 and "chairman" thereafter. AP retired the "general manager" title at that time and the operating chief's title was changed to president and CEO.)*

1892--94	William Penn Nixon
1894--1900	Victor Freemont Lawson
1900--38	Frank Brett Noyes
1938--57	Robert McLean
1957--63	Benjamin M. McKelway
1963--77	Paul Miller
1977--82	Jack Tarver
1982--87	Frank Batten
1987--92	William J. Keating
1992--97	Frank A. Daniels, Jr.
1997--2002	Donald E. Newhouse
2002--07	Burl Osborne
2007-2012	Dean Singleton
2012-2017	Mary Junck
2017-2022	Steven R. Swartz
2022-	Gracia C. Martore

*(Courtesy, AP Corporate Archives)*

## Jim Kennedy, War Correspondent

**Bill Handy** - Forty years ago, most of Central America was beset by wars, differing in objectives and intensity, but sharing the result that millions became refugees.

At The Tampa Tribune, we set out to tell their stories, sending a four-journalist team to several countries over a two-month period. Jim Kennedy was one of those selected to report, based on their storytelling ability, and editors' confidence they wouldn't do something stupid in a war zone. (Bill Grueskin, a friend of many reading this, was another.)

One morning in San Salvador, Jim and photographer Dan McDuffie woke up on the floor of their hotel room, thrown from their beds by a Richter Scale 7 earthquake. Afraid the hotel would collapse, they ran down the stairwell, out of the hotel and onto the street.

On this street, at this time, guerrillas were shooting people.

The think-quick question for Jim and Dan: Do we trust God and or the guerrillas?

So, back into the hotel.

As you know, everything turned out well. Jim became the Tribune's business editor a year or so later, and subsequently moved to AP. Others, in Connecting, have picked up the important story of his contributions to our business.

"The Refugees," I might add, was a beautifully reported, written and photographed 32-page, no-ads section published in August 1982.

## Obituary for Luz Soto – former AP journalist

### SOTO, Luz "Lucy"

Luz Marina "Lucy" Soto, a beloved mother, wife and journalist, whose joyful spirit and generous nature touched countless people, died suddenly in Atlanta on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, after a heart attack. She was 52.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on May 11 at 10 AM at The Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta.

At the time of her death, she was an editor at the American Heart Association and wrote regularly about heart health.



"Lucy carried the AHA mission with pride. She also carried us every day – not just through her talents as a journalist and collaborator, but also through her humor and big-hearted friendship. Even as her work reached millions of readers, it was always the people around her who she put first," said Melissa Weber, News Editor at the American Heart Association.

Lucy's pursuit of a story led her in 1999 to interview Atlanta real estate developer Stephen Macauley. After a whirlwind romance, they married and had four children who became the focus of Lucy's life. She was widely admired as a mother who brought deep love, joy and support to each of the children - Lucas, Sofia, Joseph and Gabriela— through each stage of childhood. She was present at all of her children's activities, which included lots of soccer games.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dan Sewell and by Mike Precker, who wrote, "I'm told she was with the AP in South Carolina from '90 to '93. Sadly, I only knew her remotely as an editor with the American Heart Association, but she was delightful and really good. Everybody there is stunned and sad."

## Death of a Friend and Ukraine

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - The "oh no!" at news in the obituary that Manuel Marquez-Sterling was dead eventually turned into a smile as I recalled the bond based on our shared refugee background and love of opera. We met half a lifetime ago as board members of what was Opera League of New Hampshire (now Opera New Hampshire).

Manny, a professor of history, had an intricate familiarity with opera and periodically appeared on "Opera Prelude," my New Hampshire Public Radio show. He persuaded me to revisit the operas of Giacomo Meyerbeer. "Meyerbeer was Wagner before Wagner was Wagner," he'd say. During ONH offerings at the Palace Theater in Manchester, Manny spoke eruditely at pre-performance lectures.

During Ken Burns' Public TV documentary series on baseball, I marveled at Manny's wit and facile intellect as he compared the intricacies and rewards of baseball to those of opera.

Born continents apart, Manny and I shared the 20th-century political virus of communism. During an opera group tour of Italy, we couldn't hold back tears at La Scala during "Nabucco's" chorus of the Hebrew Slaves. "Oh mia patria, si bella e perduta!" the exiled slaves in Babylon pined for their birthland. "Oh my homeland, so beautiful and lost!" – Manny's Cuba under Fidel Castro; my Lithuania under Moscow's totalitarian tentacles.

This particular memory underscores the horrible truth that history is repeating itself in Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini!

## Connecting mailbox

### *Secretariat*

[Hal Bock](#) - The running of the Kentucky Derby reminded me of my visit with the great Triple Crown champion Secretariat.



I was at Churchill Downs to cover the Derby when it was suggested that I visit Secretariat, who was living in retirement at a farm on the outskirts of Louisville. We drove out and walked around the grounds for a while before heading out to a meadow where Secretariat was hanging out.

The big red horse was grazing, very content with his situation, glancing ever so often at the knot of visitors who were watching from a safe distance. After a few minutes, he looked up and decided to have some fun.

This huge, beautiful animal started galloping across the field, coming at full speed, and headed for your faithful correspondent. My God, I thought, he's going to run me over. I am going to get killed while on the job for The AP. I was frozen, scared stiff as Secretariat closed ground. I am a dead man, I thought.

The horse was maybe 10 feet away when he pulled up and laughed -- or what I thought was a laugh -- reversed ground and trotted off, leaving me to catch my breath. I later learned that this was a daily routine for the great horse to amuse himself and scare the daylights out of his visitors.

Just another day in my 40-year AP odyssey.

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## *Lend-loan*

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - In defense of my buddy Norm Abelson, one lends money, but loans stuff other than money, such as books. Merriam Webster say loan indeed is a verb.

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## *Newspapers in art*





**Bill Kaczor** - I came across this mixed media titled "These Times" by John Holden at the Artel Gallery in Pensacola. A description with the piece says the burned background represents world news and "faintly" reads "world news ugh." It is too faint for these old eyes, but other background lettering includes these phrases and words: "help others," "say thank you," "give it away," "love" and "forgiveness." The head has only good news.

### *Best of the Week*

**Flawless source work, preparation deliver all-formats scoop on US-Russia prisoner swap**



Photo: JONATHAN FRANKS via AP

In a textbook display of outstanding source work and planning, Eric Tucker and Matthew Lee broke the news of a U.S.-Russia prisoner exchange that happened despite heightened tensions between the countries.

Tucker and Lee did more than score a massive scoop; they also showed the rewards of careful, long-term source-building, a model of how to prepare in all formats to put the AP ahead of the competition the moment the news broke, and examples of how to build on a big story with smart sidebars in-cycle and a compelling follow-up story that offered new, behind-the-scenes details.

National security reporter Tucker has carved out a niche in hostage and detainee matters, developing contacts with detainee families, government officials and others engaged on the issue. Lee, a longtime State Department reporter, has an extensive source network throughout the world of diplomacy.

Read more [here](#).

*Second winner:*

## **Sourcing, expertise enable AP to break news on the death of Grammy-winner Naomi Judd**



At left, Wynonna Judd, left, and Naomi Judd arrive for the CMT Music Awards at the Municipal Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., April 11, 2022. At right, Ashley Judd, left, cries as she speaks beside sister Wynonna during the Country Music Hall of Fame Medallion Ceremony in Nashville, May 1, 2022. Naomi Judd, whose death was announced the previous day, was to have been inducted into the Hall of Fame with her daughter Wynonna at Sunday's ceremony. AP PHOTOS / JOHN AMIS (LEFT); WADE PAYNE, INVISION

Video journalist Kristin Hall, who covers entertainment from Nashville, has for years cultivated sources throughout country music and the broader music world.

One of those sources called her Saturday afternoon with stunning news: Naomi Judd was dead. Judd died a day before she and her daughter were to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the family wanted to break the news with a trusted outlet that would handle the story correctly and sensitively. That meant the AP.

The family's statement said Naomi Judd was lost "due to the disease of mental illness." The publicist, who had worked with Hall to break news previously, waited until AP's story had posted before putting anything out on the family's social media accounts.

An alert went out at 3:39 p.m. EDT and by 3:42 p.m. AP moved a 250-word story with a photo. Two minutes later, a writethru was sent with better images, as Hall built the story using her knowledge of The Judds and country music.

Read more [here](#).

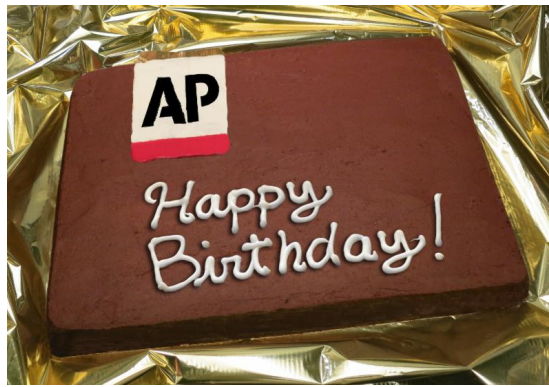
## Connecting sky shot - NYC





**Hal Ritter** – After a dreary weekend in the Big Apple, the sun pops out just before sunset. 20th Street and Seventh Avenue with my favorite building in the distance.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Thom Callahan](#)

[Marc Humbert](#)

[Anita Miller Fry](#)

## Stories of interest

### Detailed 'open source' news investigations are catching on (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the more striking pieces of journalism from the Ukraine war featured intercepted radio transmissions from Russian soldiers indicating an invasion in disarray, their conversations even interrupted by a hacker literally whistling “Dixie.”

It was the work of an investigations unit at The New York Times that specializes in open-source reporting, using publicly available material like satellite images, mobile phone or security camera recordings, geolocation and other internet tools to tell stories.

The field is in its infancy but rapidly catching on. The Washington Post announced last month it was adding six people to its video forensics team, doubling its size. The University of California at Berkeley last fall became the first college to offer an investigative reporting class that focuses specifically on these techniques.

Two video reports from open-source teams — The Times’ “Day of Rage” reconstruction of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot and the Post’s look at how a 2020 racial protest in Washington’s Lafayette Square was cleared out — won duPont-Columbia awards for excellence in digital and broadcast journalism.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Supreme Court Leak Inquiry Exposes Gray Area of Press Protection*** (New York Times)

By Jeremy W. Peters

There is a well-established but uneven pattern in American law that applies to government secrets and the journalists who uncover them. The First Amendment generally protects the publication of a leak, but not the leaker.

An authority no less than the Supreme Court has made it this way. In 1971, as the justices prepared to rule that the government could not prevent The New York Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers — one of the biggest leak cases in history — the source of that leak, Daniel Ellsberg, was indicted by a federal grand jury for theft.

The court is now grappling with one of the most significant disclosures of a government secret since then: the release of a draft opinion that sets the framework for overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Only this time the leak came from inside the building. And there is no law or written code of conduct that suggests how an investigation into such a breach should proceed, or whether the journalists at Politico who brought the draft to light will be swept up in the kind of criminal investigation that top Republican lawmakers have demanded.

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

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## ***Court leak is catnip for those who love a juicy DC whodunit*** (AP)

By NANCY BENAC

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington loves a whodunit. And the latest one comes with the stunning plot twist of a leak from the famously buttoned-up Supreme Court.

The publication this past week of a draft opinion that said *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion in the United States, was wrong from the start and should be overruled, has set off sleuthing from every corner of the capital.

Who could possibly be behind such a glaring breach of trust? Why did that person choose to leak the draft? Why did that person choose a reporter from Politico? Who will investigate the matter? Will there be consequences? What will the court's ultimate opinion say?

Washington, by nature, abhors a vacuum. So the two months before the court actually issues a final ruling will be filled with guesses, surmise, false starts — and maybe even the truth about who is behind the leak.

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

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## ***Journalist killed in northern Mexico, 9th so far this year*** (AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Another journalist was found dead in northern Mexico on Thursday, the ninth media worker killed in the country so far this year.

Prosecutors in the northern state of Sinaloa said the body of Luis Enrique Ramírez Ramos was found on a dirt road near near junkyard in the state capital, Culiacan.

Prosecturs said his body was wrapped in black plastic, and that he died from multiple blows to the head.

Ramírez Ramos, 59, was the ninth reporter or photographer killed this year in Mexico, making the country the most dangerous place in the world for the press outside war zones.

Ramírez Ramos' news website, "Fuentes Fidedignas," or 'Reliable Sources,' said that he had been abducted near his house hours earlier. Prosectors said that he had not been reported missing to police.

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

## **Today in History - May 9, 2022**



**By The Associated Press**



**Today is Monday, May 9, the 129th day of 2022. There are 236 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 9, 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first Black president.

### **On this date:**

In 1860, writer J.M. Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan, was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a 225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon.

In 1965, Russian-born American pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed publicly for the first time in 12 years with a recital at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon made a surprise and impromptu pre-dawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial, where he chatted with a group of protesters who'd been resting on the Memorial steps after protests against the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 2016, Filipinos went to the polls to elect Rodrigo Duterte, the controversial, tough-talking mayor of Davao city, to be their country's next president.

In 2019, Pope Francis issued a groundbreaking new church law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities.

In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration approved a coronavirus antigen test that could quickly detect virus proteins from swabs that were swiped inside the nasal

cavity. Rock 'n' roll pioneer Little Richard, known for his piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour, died in Tennessee at the age of 87 after battling bone cancer; he had helped shatter the color line on the music charts while introducing Black R&B to white America.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama declared his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage in a historic announcement that came three days after Vice President Joe Biden spoke in favor of such unions on NBC's "Meet the Press." Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney repeated his opposition to gay marriage, telling reporters in Oklahoma City, "I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman." Hair stylist Vidal Sassoon, 84, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an FBI investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's meddling in the election that sent him to the White House.

One year ago: The Biden administration loosened regulations on the transport of petroleum products on highways, as part of an effort to avoid disruptions in the fuel supply in the wake of a ransomware attack that shut down a major fuel pipeline system across the East Coast. Joyous reunions among vaccinated parents and children across the country marked Mother's Day, the second one to be celebrated during the coronavirus pandemic. A man fatally shot six people at a Colorado birthday party before killing himself; police said he was upset after not being invited to the gathering thrown by his girlfriend's family. Trainer Bob Baffert announced that Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit had tested positive for an excessive amount of a steroid. (State racing stewards disqualified Medina Spirit in February 2022, ten weeks after the horse's death from a heart attack; they declared second-place finisher Mandaloun the Derby winner.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 88. Actor and politician Glenda Jackson is 86. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 85. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 85. Singer Tommy Roe is 80. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 78. Actor Candice Bergen is 76. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 76. Actor Anthony Higgins is 75. Singer Billy Joel is 73. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 73. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 72. Actor Alley Mills is 71. Actor Amy Hill is 69. Actor Wendy Crewson is 66. Actor John Corbett is 61. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 60. Actor Sonja Sohn is 58. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 52. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 47. R&B singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 47. Actor Daniel Franzese is 44. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 43. Actor Rosario Dawson is 43. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 43. Actor Rachel Boston is 40. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 37. Actor Grace Gummer is 36.

## 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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in 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 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.
- **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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