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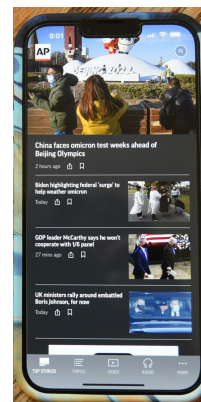
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Connecting

August 12, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Aug. 12, 2022,

Our colleague **Susan Clark** writes from the heart on the recent death of her former boss in the AP's Global Travel Service, **Al Politowski**.

And today's issue includes tributes to **Marcus Eliason** and to the AP Broadcast Wire.

There have been many touching remembrances of Marcus in Connecting issues of this past week, and I am sharing this note that our colleague [Wendy Davis Beard](#) that arrived overnight and had been sent to Marcus' wife **Eva** - and shared by Wendy with Connecting. I think her letter sums up nicely thoughts of those of us not fortunate to have known and worked with Marcus personally:

"We have never met nor had I met your husband who I feel somehow posthumously connected through Connecting. I have no regrets about my decisions that have brought me to where I am now, but I do wish after reading about Marcus, I might have found my writing voice with him as an early editor/mentor. He certainly seems to have

left an amazing legacy amongst all he's met! I send my sincere condolences to you and your family from London."

If you would like to send a note to Marcus' wife, here are addresses: Eva Eliason, 134 West 93rd St, Apt. 9A, New York, NY 10025 or at - evaeliason2@gmail.com

Hope you have a great weekend - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Remembering her former boss and mentor, Al Politowski



Al Politowski on the right in the back row (wearing checkered shirt) and his two best friends Kevin Kemper on the left and Kevin Gilmartin on the right; Susan Clark in middle.

Susan Clark - I received some very unsettling news that Al Politowski, my former boss as director of AP's Global Travel Service and a man who I greatly respected and considered a mentor, died on July 31.

Al taught me about travel, and I had the most wonderful years as his assistant. He treated me personally to dinners for my birthday at De Gustibus Cooking School which is one of the nation's most reputable culinary institutions, I was so lucky and honored to be working for him. I met so many travel colleagues through him; he knew everyone in the business. We were invited to every travel event in NYC.

Al was hired by AP in December 2005 as a Corporate Travel Specialist with a background of more than 25 years in managing business travel operations and travel

spending. He demonstrated the ability to reduce travel and operational costs while increasing service excellence. He selected a Corporate Travel Service provider, Corporate Charge Card selection and implementation, and successfully introduced an Online Self Booking product. He was highly analytical, creative and known for his strong management presentation and oral and written presentation skills. He developed, wrote and implemented Corporate Travel Policies and Procedures and negotiated and purchased travel hospitality services with airline, hotels and car rental companies.

Al loved travel and made the absolute most of it. He enjoyed trips to many wonderful parts of the world. Al loved a good time. If you were going to a show in NYC, he would tell you about the perfect little bar to have a pre-theatre drink and after the show some of the best restaurants.

He always had entertaining conversation and lots and lots of laughter. After he left AP, in August 2013, we kept in touch and met at the New Yorker Hotel for martinis in summer, Manhattan's in winter. And the Delicious Table Pizza.

There will be a celebration of his life at some date at his favorite bar in Hoboken. He wanted that.

May his memory be a blessing.

Boxcar Pun-ishment

[Bill Kaczor](#) - The recent anniversaries of the two A-Bomb attacks on Japan during World War II brought back a pun-ishing memory of another mistake I'd just as soon forget.

The crew of the B-29 that dropped the second bomb on Nagasaki held a reunion in July 1989 in Gulf Breeze, Florida, where I lived then and still live now. In my story about the reunion, I reported that the plane was nicknamed "Boxcar." I lived in blissful ignorance for many years before I found out the plane actually was named "Bockscar" after Fred Bock, one of its pilots, although he did not go on the A-Bomb mission.

When the crew members I interviewed referred to "Bockscar" it, of course, sounded like "boxcar," and that's the way I wrote it. No one told me differently and no one complained after the story ran. That's probably because few if any newspapers outside Florida used it, according to an archive search. That search, though, did show I was neither the first nor last reporter to make the same error including at least two AP and two UPI writers.

I'm sure the Bockscar crew got a good laugh every time their plane's nickname was misreported.

Saddened by shutdown of Broadcast Wire

[Charlie Monzella](#) - The shutdown of the Broadcast Wire is not only a sad moment for me but also a time to reflect on what an important service it used to provide.

When I arrived at 50 Rock in 1965 to join what then was called the Radio Department, many of the writers there had been on hand to inaugurate the wire in the 1940s. The head of the department was John Aspinwall and some of the editors were Jim Wessel, Bill Phillips, Bill Fitzgerald, Ed Busyn, Prudence Heller, Ken Likes, Charlie Morey and Marv Schneider.

Every one of them was a talented writer. During my 15 years in the department, many more talented writers came through. Each of us took great pride in writing those hourly news summaries that were the mainstay of many rip-and-read radio stations (TV was just beginning to come on the scene).

When I look back on my 43-year career at the AP, I consider those years working with so many very talented writers some of the best times. I feel fortunate to have crossed paths with a number of those shown in the Connecting photo taken at the recent farewell gathering.

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Philip Rosenbaum - I was saddened to learn about the broadcast wire's demise. The remembrance in Connecting by Jim Hood inspired me to write an obit lede I wanted to share:

NEW YORK (AP) - The AP Broadcast Wire, which The Associated Press launched during World War II, as demand for timely, accurate and unbiased radio news reports grew rapidly, has died. It was 82.

More memories of Marcus Eliason

Eddie Lederer - From our first meeting in the AP bureau in Tel Aviv in the late 1960s when he was a fledgling reporter, I knew that Marcus would bring something special to the Associated Press. I first learned how extra special his talent with words was when I was sent to Israel to help cover the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Every story he wrote sang.

We lived very near each other when Marcus became news editor in London, and I watched his children grow up. At work, he made everyone's copy better -- including mine. In Hong Kong, his mastery of words produced beautiful copy on Britain's handover of its colony to China, which I helped cover. And his editing skills were legendary when he came to New York.

Marcus was an amazing human being. He overcame so much, educated himself to a degree that most people never reach, and had an insatiable curiosity about the world. His words remain his legacy, along with the many young journalists he mentored. And there is a big hole in the lives of his many, many friends across the globe.

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Barry Shlachter - It was early January 1980, shortly after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Marcus was part of the AP contingent, which included Michael

Goldsmith, Bob Reid and Paris photographer Marcel Lipschitz, with whom I had hitchhiked from Pakistan through the Khyber Pass.

One night, Marcus and I found ourselves huddled on a freezing press bus. It was ferrying us back to the center of Kabul from the first news conference given by Babrak Karmal, the recently installed Afghan puppet leader. With Hermes Baby typewriter on my lap, we knocked together a story and headed to the telex office.

Several Western correspondents leaving the building told us the operators were under orders only to send reports from Tass reporters.

Marcus suggested we pose as Soviets, thinking the Afghan punchers would be convinced by our made-up gibberish, tying together the scraps of Russian we knew – “Tovarish,” “Russka babushka” and “dasvidaniya...” – as if we were engaged in a serious, and loud, discussion of world events.

The tape punchers, initially startled, looked up from their machines, then began laughing. “Mr. Barry, we know you and you’re not ‘Shuravi.’” (I had used the telex office frequently over the past two years. “Shuravi” was Dari for Soviet.) We realized that the Soviets had used us as props at the news conference, but anything Karmal said was still news.

Back at our hotel, Marcus and I dictated bits and pieces to London, an eavesdropping censor repeatedly cutting us off because we violated the rule of only personal calls. Other stories and rolls of film were “pigeoned” to New Delhi. Marcus, who had never been to Afghanistan, stayed a few months longer than I did and wrote some of the best copy out of that corner of the Hindu Kush.

Ragha Vadarevu joining The Marshall Project

[Raghu Vadarevu](#) is leaving the AP to become the new storytelling editor at The Marshall Project. Our colleague **Ted Anthony** - AP's global director of new storytelling and newsroom innovation - wrote this note to the staff:

For years now, the name Raghu Vadarevu has been synonymous with intuitive and elegant storytelling at AP. As our platforms have developed, he and his team have delivered some of the organization’s finest, most noteworthy work.

After nearly 17 years at AP, Raghu will be leaving us next month to be senior editor, storytelling at [The Marshall Project](#), a nonprofit online journalism organization focusing on criminal justice issues. When he goes, he will carry our good wishes and an immense amount of talent

that will surely elevate that organization as it has ours.

During his time at AP, he has served in many roles, including top stories editor and enterprise editor for the U.S. West, and was lead editor on the region's biggest stories, including the Colorado movie theater massacre and the crash of Asiana airlines in San Francisco.

In his latest role, he has contributed to our Pulitzer-winning coverage of the Yemen civil war and to two Pulitzer finalists. He co-led the Dart Award-winning "Lives Lost" pandemic series and directed the presentation for the Scripps Howard visual journalism award-winning "Gaza's Toll." He also led the development of the APNews feature template, and he and his team used it to help the Health & Science department deliver a series of visually stunning stories called "What Can Be Saved?"



I have known Raghu for much of my AP life, and he is one of the kindest, most generous colleagues and friends I've had the pleasure of working with. He has been an unswerving ally of creative visual journalism, spreading it around the organization in fresh and unexpected ways that help our work shine and help our people grow.

Along the way, he has planted uncounted seeds of smart storytelling across an entire generation of AP staff – seeds that will germinate in our journalism for many years to come.

An important note: The immersive storytelling team is absolutely crucial to our success in telling stories for existing and new audiences. We are starting the discussions and recruitment for a successor immediately, and we will be looking both internally and externally – and figuring out the best ways to build the team into a well-resourced operation that keeps doing the kind of high-end work it is known for across the organization.

For all that, we will want and value – and need – your continuing input.

As always, I and the Global Enterprise management team – Enric, Anna Jo, Chris, Jerry (who is on vacation) and Janelle – are of course available for questions or conversations.

(Shared by Matt Volz)

Remembering Sue Manning

Robert Macy - Belated Kudos to Andy Lippman and his beautiful tribute to Sue Manning and her deep affection for the

Los Angeles Dodgers and her meeting with the team's legendary Voice of the Dodgers Vince Scully. Our Sue was the epitome of the Dodger Blue phenomenon. Sue loved Las Vegas, and Melinda and I couldn't wait for her Vegas Visits, almost always with one or more LA Staffers in tow. There was one trip in particular with her beloved brother, Danny. We wanted to take them out to dinner at a nice hotel, and Sue politely insisted to our waiter that our foursome be seated facing a big-screen TV. Her beloved Dodgers were in the playoffs and the slots be damned. The Dodgers won — thankfully!



Another time, when she was applying her Manning Magic to animal stories that were captivating, particularly to Melinda and me. We have raised five German Shepherds in a 53-year span that Mrs. Macy has also raised me. On one of her Vegas Visits, we invited Sue out to the house to meet our latest Shepherd. Max became Mad Max when any stranger came to the Macy door. We warned Sue to beware of Max and were stunned when she began petting and hugging him. You just didn't do that with Max. We watched, amazed, as Sue and Max hit it off as if they were longtime friends. Days later, we got an envelope of photos she had taken of her friend, Max. They have a special place in our home and our hearts. Max is gone now, to that Rainbow Bridge in the Sky. Melinda and I are just sentimental enough to believe that our friends Sue and Max are Connecting in the Sky.

(Photo of Max Macy taken by Sue Manning)

Two AP Radio staffers were once play-by-play announcers

Dave Lubeski - We may have exhausted the subject of baseball announcers here in Connecting, but I want to point out that two AP Radio sports staffers were, at one time, big league play-by-play announcers.

Former Baltimore Orioles announcer Fred Manfra worked at AP Radio in the 1970s. He called Orioles games in his native Baltimore for 24 years beginning in the early 90s. He worked in the booth with Jon Miller, Chuck Thompson and Joe Angel and was inducted into the Orioles Hall of Fame. Fred retired in 2016 and now lives in Florida.

The late Shelby Whitfield, who was one of the originals at the network, called Washington Senators games for a couple of years before the team moved and became the Texas Rangers in 1971. He wrote a book titled Kiss It Goodbye about his time

working for team owner Bob Short. Kiss It Goodbye was also Whitfield's signature home run call.

AP reporters win NABJ awards

AP Connections

White House reporter Darlene Superville and Race and Ethnicity and Investigations team members received awards at the NABJ-NAHJ Convention and Career Fair in Las Vegas last week.

Superville received the NABJ Outstanding Book Award while reporters Aaron Morrison, Kat Stafford, Helen Wieffering, James LaPorta and video journalist Noreen Nasir won the National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Award for their "Racism in the Ranks" series.

Nick Ut, Kim Phuc in Warsaw





Nick Ut - I am in Warsaw with Kim Phuc after helping 270 Ukraine refugees.

Nick Ut and Kim Phuc with the founder of the NGO Solidaire, Argentine philanthropist and pilot Enrique Pineyro, piloted the Boeing 787 and Oscar Camps from the Spanish organization Open Arms was also aboard. The plane flew from Warsaw to Regina with more than 270 Ukrainians on board. Canada is among many Western countries offering Ukrainian refugees safe haven.

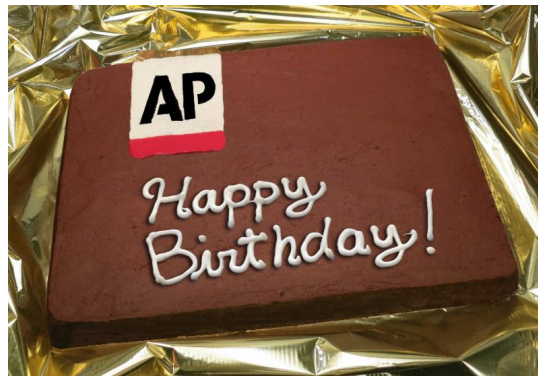
My First Pet: From Fiction to Reality



Paul Albright - "Blacky," was my favorite childhood book as I was growing up in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in the 1940s. So, when a stunningly black cat was enticed to reside part-time with us, I tagged him with the name of the book, although I always spelled the name as, "Blackie."

We resided in a housing project built in World War II adjacent to the Frontier Days rodeo grounds in Cheyenne. Housing rules prohibited ownership of dogs and cats. I found this feral cat living in one of the rodeo's horse barns. Blackie conceded to live with us as long as he could still roam across the rodeo grounds searching for mice. I learned a lot about caring for a pet from Blackie, and our family has adopted a number of these very independent but comforting felines during the past 80 years.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jim Clarke](#)

[Brad Martin](#)

On Saturday to...

[Mike Hendricks](#)

[Deb Peterson](#)

[Ed Tobias](#)

On Sunday to...

[George Garties](#)

Stories of interest

The maddening coverage of the Mar-a-Lago search

(Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

“GARLAND VOWED TO DEPOLITICIZE JUSTICE. Then the FBI raided Trump’s safe.” That was how the Washington Post chose to headline a story on Tuesday, one day after federal law enforcement searched Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence in apparent connection with classified documents that he took with him when he left the White House. The top of the Post’s story noted that “supporters” of Merrick Garland, the current attorney general, said he would try to “rebuild trust” after the “tumultuous”

Trump years by convincing “the public and lawmakers” that he is “apolitical” — “but” that the search had landed him “square in the middle of a huge political firestorm,” drawing “praise from Democrats who have been hoping the Justice Department would seriously investigate Trump and the ire of conservatives who decried the search as an abuse of power.” Two expert sources quoted further down characterized Garland’s conduct as appropriate, but a third said the Justice Department’s reputation would suffer if it didn’t yield blockbuster evidence. “Part of it depends on what happens hereafter,” they said.

“The search of former President Donald J. Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate is a high-risk gamble by the Justice Department, but Mr. Trump faces risks of his own.” That was the subheading on a “news analysis” piece that the New York Times published about the search, also on Tuesday. The gamble, the top of the piece explained, is whether the search will “stand up to accusations that the Justice Department is pursuing a political vendetta” against a political opponent; the piece noted in the following paragraph that Trump’s own “demonization” of federal law enforcement during his time as president has made Garland’s task more sensitive, but then characterized Garland as having put his department’s “credibility on the line.” “If the search for classified documents does not end up producing significant evidence of a crime,” the piece continued, “the event could be relegated by history to serve as another example of a move against Mr. Trump that backfired.” The piece then assessed what the risks for Trump might be. In its sixth paragraph, it noted that “a number of historians” viewed the search as appropriate.

These two stories—and, in particular, the headline on the first and subheading on the second—quickly drew the ire of media critics: the former for insinuating that the search was, as the media professor Jay Rosen put it, “unduly politicized” and that Garland had thus U-turned on a commitment not to be unduly political; the latter for equating the risks faced by Garland and Trump when the latter is the one under investigation, and for neglecting, as Rosen also put it, to consider the risk to the country should Trump be suspected of wrongdoing but allowed to escape consequences.

These were just two articles of many, of course, both at their own papers and across the wider media landscape. But the criticism seemed to reflect a much broader frustration with the sweep of coverage as a whole since the search. (The NYT Pitchbot Twitter account, which has shot to viral fame by satirizing lame headlines in the Times and elsewhere, has been working overtime.) That coverage has been voluminous, and, as always when that’s the case, generalizing about it is perilous. We’ve seen some smart analysis of the stakes of the search, and reporting that has sought to expand our understanding of how it went down. Newsweek, for instance, reported yesterday that a confidential FBI source tipped agents off as to where Trump was keeping classified materials. The Wall Street Journal later confirmed this.

Read more [here](#).

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Opinion Study: CNN, MSNBC took sharp left turns during Trump’s presidency (Washington Post)

By Erik Wemple

Former CNN boss Jeff Zucker made waves at the outset of the Trump era by hiring commentators willing to defend the real estate mogul as he mounted his campaign for the presidency. The result was many embarrassing and awkward moments on and off the air.

Now, it appears the Jeffrey Lords and Scottie Nell Hugheses of the world have grounds to argue that they actually deserved more airtime! According to a study published this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, both CNN and MSNBC swerved radically to the left between 2016 and 2021.

A sharp cable-news divergence opened up during prime-time hours, the study found: “Polarization was driven by all three channels, but there was a sharper turn to the left in 2016 among MSNBC and CNN than there was a right turn [at] Fox News,” says one of the study’s co-authors, Yphtach Lelkes, an associate professor of communication at the University of Pennsylvania, speaking to the prime-time gap under Trump.

Read more [here](#).

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Bream selected as Fox Sunday host; Wallace gets CNN show (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Shannon Bream, a Fox News Channel veteran who is the network’s chief legal correspondent, is the new anchor of the “Fox News Sunday” political talk show, filling a role left vacant when Chris Wallace left last December.

Meanwhile, CNN said Thursday that Wallace’s interview program will air on the network Sundays at 7 p.m. Eastern.

Bream was among the rotating guest anchors of Fox’s Sunday show over the past several months. Fox said that each time Bream hosted, viewership was up 20% over the 2021 average — when Wallace was host.

She will relinquish her role anchoring a weeknight newscast that airs at midnight on Fox News Channel, the network said.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Aug. 12, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2022. There are 141 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 12, 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

On this date:

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson sparked a move to impeach him as he defied Congress by suspending Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, with whom he had clashed over Reconstruction policies. (Johnson was acquitted by the Senate.)

In 1898, fighting in the Spanish-American War came to an end.

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1960, the first balloon communications satellite — the Echo 1 — was launched by the United States from Cape Canaveral.

In 1964, author Ian Fleming, 56, the creator of James Bond, died in Canterbury, Kent, England.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI, who had died Aug. 6 at age 80, was buried in St. Peter's Basilica.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.

In 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

In 1994, in baseball's eighth work stoppage since 1972, players went on strike rather than allow team owners to limit their salaries. (The strike ended in April 1995.)

In 2000, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and its 118-man crew were lost during naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

In 2013, James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted in a string of 11 killings and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. (Bulger was sentenced to life; he was fatally beaten at a West Virginia prison in 2018, hours after being transferred from a facility in Florida.)

Ten years ago: With a little British pomp and a lot of British pop, London brought the curtain down on the Olympic Games with a spectacular pageant. Before the closing ceremony, the U.S. men's basketball team defended its title by fighting off another huge challenge from Spain, pulling away in the final minutes for a 107-100 victory and its second straight Olympic championship. The victory by the men's basketball team gave the United States its 46th gold medal in London; the U.S. initially won 104 medals overall, but was later stripped of a silver medal after a men's relay team member tested positive for steroids. Rory McIlroy won the PGA Championship with a 6-under 66 for an eight-shot victory at Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

Five years ago: A car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The attacker, James Alex Fields, was sentenced to life in prison on 29 federal hate crime charges, and life plus 419 years on state charges.) President Donald Trump condemned what he called an "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides."

One year ago: The Taliban captured two major Afghan cities – Kandahar and Herat – and a strategic provincial capital, further squeezing the country's embattled government. The Pentagon said an additional 3,000 U.S. troops would go to Afghanistan to assist in the evacuation of some personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. U.S. health regulators authorized an extra dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in people with weakened immune systems to better protect them from the virus. The Chicago White Sox beat the New York Yankees 9-8 in the first Major League Baseball game ever played in Iowa; the teams combined to hit eight home runs into the cornstalks beyond the outfield fence, next to the site used for the 1989 movie "Field of Dreams."

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Hamilton is 83. Actor Dana Ivey is 81. Actor Jennifer Warren is 81. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 73. Actor Jim Beaver is 72. Singer Kid Creole (of Kid Creole and the Coconuts) is 72. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 68. Actor Sam J. Jones is 68. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 66. Country singer Danny Shirley is 66. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 61. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 59. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 57. Actor Brent Sexton is 55. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 51. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 51. Actor Yvette Nicole Brown is 51. Actor Rebecca Gayheart is 51. Actor Casey Affleck is 47. Actor Maggie Lawson is 42. Actor Dominique Swain is 42. Actor Leah Pipes is 34.

Actor Lakeith Stanfield is 31. NBA All-Star Kris Middleton is 31. Actor Cara Delevingne (DEHL'-eh-veen) is 30. Actor Imani Hakim is 29.

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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