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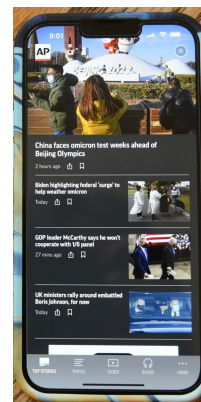
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Connecting

August 15, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 15, 2022,

For AP journalist **Joshua Goodman**, it was a matter of being in the right place at the right time when author Salman Rushdie was stabbed onstage while speaking at a lecture in upstate New York.

Goodman, an Associated Press correspondent for Latin America based in Miami, thought he'd have a peaceful week away from the news when, vacationing with his family, he attended a lecture Friday by the author, whose 1988 book "The Satanic Verses" was viewed as blasphemous by many Muslims and led Iran's then-leader to issue an edict calling for the author's death.

When the stabbing occurred, the journalist said goodbye to his wife and asked her to pick up their two children before he began to work, equipped only with his mobile phone. He dictated words, took photos and sent video that told the world someone had attacked Rushdie.

Goodman said, "It was very surreal is the only way you'd describe it. This was the last place you'd expect something like this."

Goodman, naturally, did what a reporter does in such a situation. He went to work. "I don't take any satisfaction in witnessing tragedy. I do take satisfaction in informing others."



We bring you the story in today's Connecting. (Rushdie's agent said Sunday that the author was ["on the road to recovery"](#) following news that the lauded writer was removed from a ventilator Saturday and able to talk and joke.)

Have you had an experience similar to what Goodman faced - being drawn into a story while on vacation? Please share.

A major restructure in the way the AP covers U.S. news was announced last week by Executive Editor **Julie Pace** – one change being the elimination of the regional news bureaus that were established 15 years ago. Several of you wrote Connecting with questions and we posed them to Pace, who provided comment that we bring you in this issue.

Finally, the layoffs announced by Gannett (see Stories of Interest) on Friday were bad enough for all those affected and their families, colleagues and friends, but particularly so for a Missouri photographer with the Columbia Daily Tribune.

On Thursday, **Don Shrubshell** learned that he was one of five who were named to the [Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame](#). On Friday, he got the news that he had been laid off. Sadly, you can't make this up.

Hope you have a good week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

By chance, AP reporter on scene to witness Rushdie attack



Author Salman Rushdie is tended to after he was attacked during a lecture, Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, N.Y., about 75 miles (120 km) south of Buffalo. (AP Photo/Joshua Goodman)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Reporter **Joshua Goodman** traveled with his family to the Chautauqua Institution in western New York for a peaceful week away from the news. Instead, the news found him.

Goodman, an Associated Press correspondent for Latin America based in Miami, was attending a lecture by author Salman Rushdie on Friday when Rushdie was stabbed onstage.

The journalist said goodbye to his wife and asked her to pick up their two children before he began to work, equipped only with his mobile phone. He dictated words, took photos and sent video that told the world someone had attacked Rushdie, whose 1988 book “The Satanic Verses” was viewed as blasphemous by many Muslims and led Iran’s then-leader to issue an edict calling for the author’s death.

It was a remarkable example of being in the right place at the right time to witness an unexpected event.

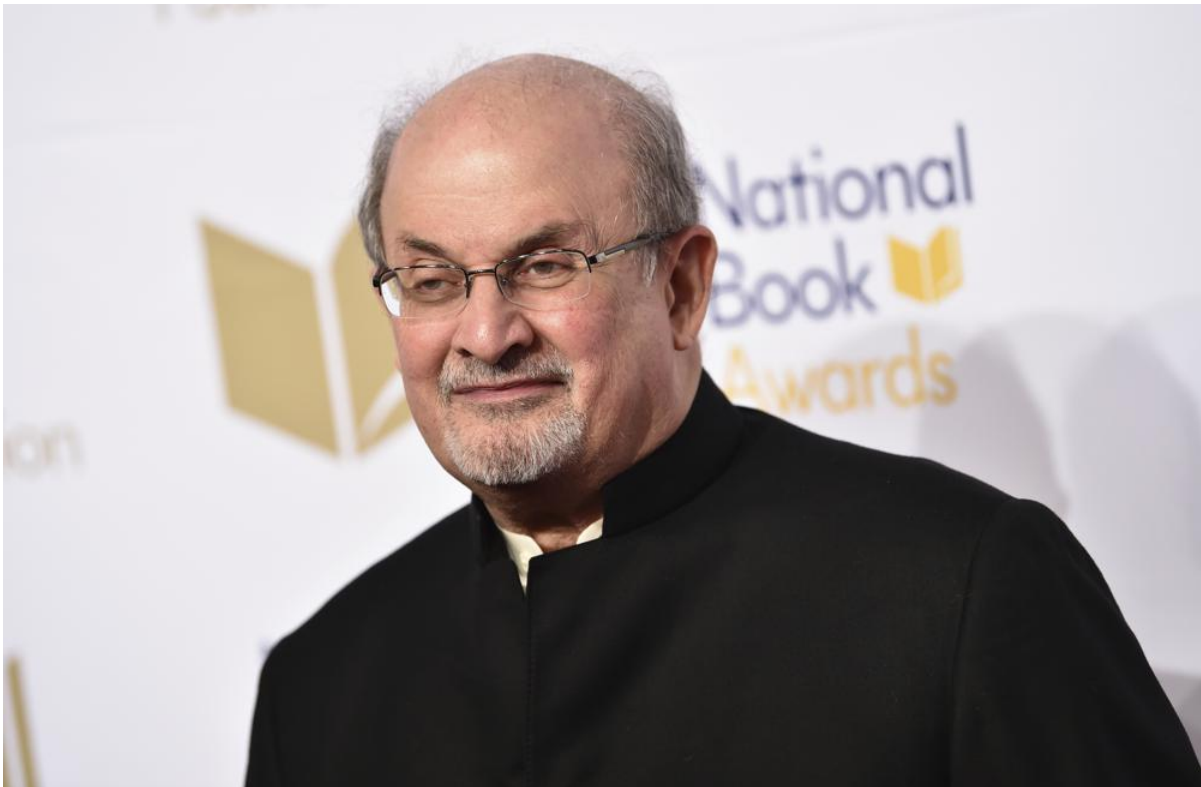
“It was very surreal is the only way you’d describe it,” Goodman said. “This was the last place you’d expect something like this.”

The institution is more than a century old, located over an hour away from the closest major city of Buffalo, N.Y. It is known for its summer retreats where visitors come for spiritual reflection and education. Goodman was one of 13 family members who

rented a house on the grounds for the week. He left his computer behind and ignored emails.

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

20 years ago – covering Salman Rushdie when he talked about living with fear



FILE - Salman Rushdie attends the 68th National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on Nov. 15, 2017, in New York. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

Emily Fredrix Goodman - Seeing the news alerts about the attack on author Salman Rushdie made me recall our conversation years ago about living with fear - my first “big” story as a cub reporter in the St. Louis bureau.

The interview in October 2002 earned me my first byline on the A-wire, three months after I started as a vacation relief newswoman with the AP.

Rushdie was speaking at Washington University in St. Louis as part of its regular Assembly Series of lectures. I had just graduated from WashU that spring and knew an interesting backstory to his appearance there - so I pitched the story and got the OK to cover it and pursue an interview.

He was originally scheduled to speak on campus in the fall of 2001. But it was so soon after the 9/11 attacks, and a dark, worrisome time around the country. Local authorities had said they didn’t have enough support to fully secure his speech. Rushdie’s decade-long fatwa had ended just a few years before, but 9/11 renewed concern for safety - his and the audience. So his visit was postponed to a later date.

I knew all this because I was supposed to have interviewed him and covered his appearance for the Washu student newspaper in 2001. (I was the arts and entertainment editor, and a literature major, so I made sure that I would be the one to land that interview!)

A year later, I was reporting for the AP in town and still keeping tabs on campus. When I saw Rushdie's appearance was rescheduled for the fall of 2002, weeks after the U.S. marked the first anniversary of 9/11, I knew I had to talk to him and get his take on living with fear. He had spent a decade in hiding and could offer thoughts to Americans who, a year after the attacks, were themselves coming out of their own hiding.

When I spoke with him over the phone days before his speech in St. Louis he shared his advice:

"The thing about fear is you've just got to get over it," he told me over the phone, days before his lecture in St. Louis. "Living with danger is not going to stop you."

A good reminder for us all, these days, about so many things. I wish him all the best on his recovery.

More from Julie Pace on restructure of AP's U.S. News team

In an announcement to worldwide AP staff last week, Executive Editor [Julie Pace](#) unveiled a new structure for the U.S. News team that will deliver to customers a news offering that "is faster and more comprehensive when news is breaking, more visual and more attuned to the needs of digital publishers and their audiences."

She continued: "Beginning this fall, we will move away from four separate U.S. regions to become one news gathering team that covers the country as a single unit. We will also launch a unified text editing desk for the U.S. and a single video production team."

Reaction from Connecting readers included these comments:

I remember when AP did this back in '07 and early '08, and wondering how long this would last before it re-centralized. I guess 15 years was the answer.

Julie Pace's announcement on the folding of the four regionals into one reminds me of the formation of the State Photo Center several years ago.

This looks like an effort to reduce the aggregate size of the national editing staff, now dispersed among four regions, putting maybe a few more at the new desk and converting other slots to photos, video and enterprise.

There are a lot of inefficiencies in the present regional setup but one thing I've liked about it is that it helps prevent a NY/East Coast view from dominating the national report.

Re "new" organization, isn't this much the way we were organized in the past?

We shared these comments with Julie, a Connecting colleague who joined the AP in 2007 at the time when regionalization was implemented. She began her career as a video producer and was the AP's first multimedia political journalist. She became Washington bureau chief in 2017 and executive editor four years later.

She shares these thoughts:

I can't emphasize enough how much this new structure is NOT about having the center of the U.S. report be in New York. It's the opposite. We specifically have leadership jobs posted that can be in any place we have an office and we also are specifically looking to have a leadership presence in the West. Any notion that this is a return to a New York based desk just isn't accurate.

We are ADDING to the production ranks - text editors, photo editors, video producers. We need more of them, not less, and as we do add, we believe this is a structure to allow for more consistency and continuity in their workflow.

More memories of Marcus Eliason

Marty Steinberg - I feel compelled to add my voice to the tributes about Marcus Eliason.

Although I never really worked directly with Marcus during my 28 years at AP, he and I shared the Jewish tribal bond for each other. He was a charming wit, a great writer and editor and a mensch. I miss his Lord Copper/G Samsa emails. His spirit of charmingly innocent astonishment is epitomized by what may have been his final Facebook post, on July 20, 2021.

He wrote: "This is just incredible..." Here is a [link](#) to this post: "7 Palindromes That Will Make Your Head Hurt"

Well, Marcus was "just incredible." We were so lucky to have him. May his spirit live through eternity.

-0-

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.

Vera, Chuck and Dave...in the AP Stylebook

[John Rogers](#) - I was just looking through the new edition of the AP stylebook today when I came across an interesting entry in the section on the AP way to use a comma when naming a series of things. It's the same as I remember, basically don't use a comma before a conjunction unless it's to avoid confusion. (So there, Oxford comma people.)

But it wasn't the Oxford comma argument that interested me. It was this example, cited on Page 326, as the Stylebook points out one circumstance when you wouldn't want to place a comma after a conjunction: "His grandchildren are Vera, Chuck and Dave."

My question has nothing to do with proper usage but whether Paul McCartney and the estate of John Lennon should get a royalty fee. Or maybe a stylebook credit. (For the uninitiated, the reference is taken from the Beatles Song, "[When I'm 64](#)," specifically the verse where Paul sings, "Every summer we can rent a cottage on the Isle of Wight if it's not too dear. We shall scrimp and save. Grandchildren on your knee. Vera, Chuck and Dave.")

I'm a little surprised nobody else has pointed this out.

On the demise of the AP Broadcast Wire

[Mike Holmes](#) - Allow me to add my 2-cents on the death of the radio wire. As did most new staffers, I started on the night radio shift in Des Moines when I joined the AP in

1977. Having come from a newspaper background, it was a valuable learning experience for me: Keep it short. Get to the point. One thought per sentence. Write conversationally.

As I struggled through a nearly 50-word congressional story lead this morning, I thought it's a real loss that today's AP writers aren't going to get that broadcast wire experience.

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[Margaret Lillard](#) - Fifteen years after leaving The AP, I still have the occasional nightmare about waking up after working the night or overnight shift and realizing that I forgot to write the dawn news summary and news minute. Does the Bcast Wire's demise mean this will stop?? It would be the only bright side ...

The power of a single photograph

[Joe Galu](#) - I think we are all well aware of the power of a single photograph -- Emmett Till's body in an open coffin, the flag atop Iwo Jima, Napalm girl in Vietnam, idiot Bull Connor unleashing dogs and aiming fire hoses at civil rights demonstrators (wow, did that backfire on him) and any number of others, but today we do not have the horrifying photo that would tell more of the story of Uvalde. I would never enjoy seeing a picture of a little boy with his head blown off, but until somebody somewhere prints or shows (on TV) what really happened at Uvalde (and many other places, especially schools), will the public ever fully understand the horror? I hope nobody prints them without a big, bold type warning and not on the front page, but I think the pictures would be enormously impactful and would convince many people about just how powerful and destructive these monster rifles are. I am a never-hunter who supports gun safety and hunter rights, including archers.

Every time the TV stations get tired of mass shooting stories, there are additional ones. People need to see the truth. It can be told in words, but a picture is worth ...

Best of the Week

**Deep sourcing and sensitive reporting
deliver blockbuster on Mormon sex abuse
cover-up**



AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills

This groundbreaking project began when AP investigative reporter Mike Rezendes learned there were 12,000 pages of sealed records from a settled West Virginia lawsuit that could reveal important details about sex abuse in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Rezendes obtained the documents from a source, then spent months poring over the pages and starting his reporting.

A tip ultimately led him to evidence from a separate lawsuit filed in Arizona by three child sex abuse victims. The result was a stunning story reported in all formats: A so-called help line that diverted calls to church lawyers and had been used by Mormon leaders to cover-up the sexual abuse of a 5-year-old girl by her father. And not just that: Two Mormon bishops and church officials in Salt Lake City were aware of the abuse and allowed it to continue for seven years, until federal agents arrested the father with no help from the church.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting city shot - Manhattan





Ted Anthony - Dusk falls on Lower Manhattan on Saturday during a perfect New York summer evening. So many years later, it's still weird to look in the direction of downtown and not see two towers.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Dan Perry](#)

[Cindy Saul](#)

Stories of interest

Publisher of USA Today, other papers axes staff to cut costs (AP)

By The Associated Press

Newspaper publisher Gannett Co. confirmed Friday that it's laying off some of its newsroom staff, part of a cost-cutting effort to lower expenses as its revenue crumbles amid a downturn in ad sales and customer subscriptions.

The McLean, Virginia-based company declined to provide details about the number of people losing their jobs. In a statement, Gannett spokesperson Lark-Marie Anton cited a need "to take swift action given the challenging economic environment. These staffing reductions are incredibly difficult, and we are grateful for the contributions of our departing colleagues."

Gannett, which owns USA Today and more than 200 other daily U.S. newspapers with print editions, ended last year with more than 16,000 employees worldwide, according to the company's annual report. The payroll included more than 4,200 reporters, editors and photographers,.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas, Sibby Christensen, Peggy Walsh.

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Defamation Suit About Election Falsehoods Puts Fox on Its Heels (New York Times)

By Jeremy W. Peters

In the weeks after President Donald J. Trump lost the 2020 election, the Fox Business host Lou Dobbs claimed to have “tremendous evidence” that voter fraud was to blame. That evidence never emerged but a new culprit in a supposed scheme to rig the election did: Dominion Voting Systems, a maker of election technology whose algorithms, Mr. Dobbs said, “were designed to be inaccurate.”

Maria Bartiromo, another host on the network, falsely stated that “Nancy Pelosi has an interest in this company.” Jeanine Pirro, a Fox News personality, speculated that “technical glitches” in Dominion’s software “could have affected thousands of absentee mail-in ballots.”

Those unfounded accusations are now among the dozens cited in Dominion’s defamation lawsuit against the Fox Corporation, which alleges that Fox repeatedly aired false, far-fetched and exaggerated allegations about Dominion and its purported role in a plot to steal votes from Mr. Trump.

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

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Aspen’s Tangled Summer Saga: The Rich Developer vs. the Local Paper (New York Times)

By Jack Healy

ASPEN, Colo. — Summers in Aspen are usually a breezy idyll of sunny hikes and ice-cream socials, a season when rich tourists fly in to attend jazz festivals and soak up mountain views from their \$1,000-a-night hotel rooms.

But, lately, a tangled saga of wealth and the free press has become Aspen’s summer obsession. It erupted after a wealthy real-estate developer sued The Aspen Times, the town’s oldest newspaper, for libel last spring, saying that the paper defamed him and

falsely referred to him as a Russian oligarch in the charged days after Russia invaded Ukraine.

A lawsuit by a powerful out-of-town developer might have been big news for the 140-year-old Aspen Times. The paper is a beloved institution that has chronicled scandals and squabbles from Aspen's silver-mining days through its transformation into a gilded skiing and cultural mecca in the Rockies.

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

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DeSantis spokeswoman Christina Pushaw makes sure reporters feel the burn (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

When Florida Republicans held their annual conference last week, party leaders decided to bar a large swath of the press corps from the event. While the hosts declined to discuss their reasoning, one unelected official applauded it.

"My message to [journalists] is to try crying about it," tweeted Christina Pushaw, whose job as spokeswoman for Gov. Ron DeSantis is to communicate with reporters. "Then go to kickboxing and have a margarita."

The derisive tone was typical of Pushaw, 31, a state employee who earns \$120,000 a year. In the 14 months since joining DeSantis's staff, she has transformed the typically button-down role of gubernatorial press secretary into something like a running public brawl — with Twitter as her blunt-force weapon. Her usual targets: Democrats, the news media and anyone else she deems insufficiently supportive of DeSantis's agenda and her own conservative politics.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber.

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Joy Billington Doty, veteran Washington Star reporter, dies at 91 (Washington Post)

By Patricia Sullivan

Joy Billington Doty, a British-born journalist who worked at the Washington Star from 1967 until the paper folded in 1981 and covered first ladies, society news, Embassy Row functions and visiting dignitaries, died Aug. 11 at her home in Washington. She was 91.

Her son, Nigel Billington, confirmed the death but said the exact cause was not yet known.

During her six decades as a writer, starting as a stringer for a Singapore newspaper, Ms. Doty interviewed five American presidents and their wives, the kings of Jordan and Thailand, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and child film star-turned-diplomat Shirley Temple Black.

“I like interviewing people. I like to do scenes that describe an evening at the White House and make people feel as if they were there,” she said in a 2005 interview for this obituary. She also liked prompting world leaders to expose a bit of their humanity.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word



Shared by Paul Albright

Today in History – Aug. 15, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 15, the 227th day of 2022. There are 138 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 15, 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in upstate New York.

On this date:

In 1057, Macbeth, King of Scots, was killed in battle by Malcolm, the eldest son of King Duncan, whom Macbeth had slain.

In 1769, Napoleon Bonaparte was born on the island of Corsica.

In 1914, the Panama Canal officially opened as the SS Ancon crossed the just-completed waterway between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

In 1935, humorist Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post were killed when their airplane crashed near Point Barrow in the Alaska Territory.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces landed in southern France in Operation Dragoon.

In 1945, in a pre-recorded radio address, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced that his country had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II.

In 1947, India became independent after some 200 years of British rule.

In 1961, as workers began constructing a Berlin Wall made of concrete, East German soldier Conrad Schumann leapt to freedom over a tangle of barbed wire.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon announced a 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents.

In 1989, F.W. de Klerk was sworn in as acting president of South Africa, one day after P.W. Botha resigned as the result of a power struggle within the National Party.

In 1998, 29 people were killed by a car bomb that tore apart the center of Omagh (OH'-mah), Northern Ireland; a splinter group calling itself the Real IRA claimed responsibility.

In 2003, bouncing back from the largest blackout in U.S. history, cities from the Midwest to Manhattan restored power to millions of people.

Ten years ago: Felix Hernandez pitched the Seattle Mariners' first perfect game and the 23rd in baseball history, overpowering the Tampa Bay Rays 1-0; it was the third perfect game and sixth no-hitter of the season.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump, who'd faced harsh criticism for initially blaming the deadly weekend violence in Charlottesville, Virginia on "many sides," told reporters that there were "very fine people on both sides" of the confrontation and that groups protesting against the white supremacists were "also very violent." (In

between those statements, at the urging of aides, Trump had offered a more direct condemnation of white supremacists.)

One year ago: The Taliban swept into Afghanistan's capital after the country's government collapsed and the embattled Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, joined fellow citizens and foreigners in fleeing the country; the collapse marked the end of a two-decade U.S. campaign to remake the country. As U.S. military helicopters whisked American diplomats to the airport in Kabul, the U.S. military said it was taking charge of air traffic control at the airport, where thousands of foreigners and Afghans were desperately trying to leave. The American flag was lowered at the embassy, where smoke rose as staff destroyed important documents. Afghans rushing to leave the country lined up at cash machines to withdraw their life savings. Rescuers raced to find survivors from a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in Haiti, searching the rubble ahead of a potential deluge from the approaching Tropical Storm Grace.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jim Dale is 87. Actor Pat Priest is 86. Retired Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is 84. U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., is 84. Musician Pete York (Spencer Davis Group) is 80. Author-journalist Linda Ellerbee is 78. Songwriter Jimmy Webb is 76. Rock singer-musician Tom Johnston (The Doobie Brothers) is 74. Actor Phyllis Smith is 73. Britain's Princess Anne is 72. Actor Tess Harper is 72. Actor Larry Mathews is 67. Actor Zeljko Ivanek (ZEHL'-koh eh-VAHN'-ehk) is 65. Actor-comedian Rondell Sheridan is 64. Rock singer-musician Matt Johnson (The The) is 61. Movie director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (ihn-YAH'-ee-tu) is 59. Philanthropist Melinda Gates is 58. Country singer Angela Rae (Wild Horses) is 56. Actor Peter Hermann is 55. Actor Debra Messing is 54. Actor Anthony Anderson is 52. Actor Ben Affleck is 50. Singer Mikey Graham (Boyzone) is 50. Actor Natasha Henstridge is 48. Actor Nicole Paggi is 45. Christian rock musician Tim Foreman (Switchfoot) is 44. Actor Emily Kinney is 38. Figure skater Jennifer Kirk is 38. Latin pop singer Belinda is 33. Actor Courtney Hope is 33. Rock singer Joe Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 33. Actor-singer Carlos PenaVega is 33. Actor Jennifer Lawrence is 32.

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.**

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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