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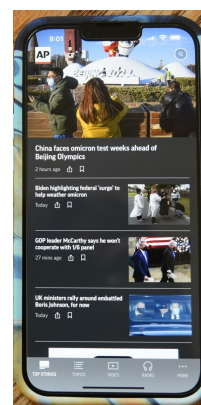
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Connecting

August 23, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Aug. 23, 2022,

Connecting brings sad news of the death of our colleague **Bernd Helling**, who was one of the top engineers in the AP Communications Department for four decades.

He died Aug. 19 at the age of 82.

Our colleague **Bruce Richardson**, who shared the news, noted that besides his many AP accomplishments, Bernd was a great singer and a leader in a Newark choral group.

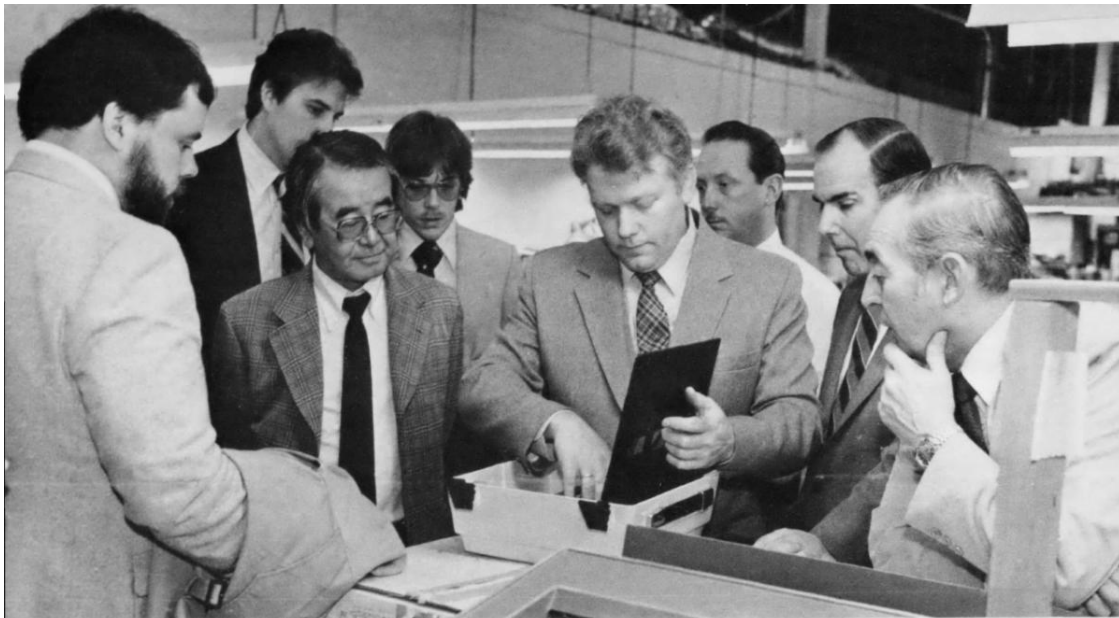
If you have a favorite memory to share of working with Bernd, please send it along.

My thanks to **Peg Coughlin** for her relief work in publishing Monday's issue that featured the memorial for **Marcus Eliason**.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Bernd Helling, 40-year AP communications executive who helped invent portable photo transmitter, dies at 82



Assistant Chief Engineer Bernd Helling demonstrates the workings of a portable picture transmitter for COCs and other communications executives during their visit to the East Brunswick center. From left are Matt Phillips, Milwaukee; Mike Bauer, Chicago; Mas Iwasa, Tokyo (who happened to be in New York and joined his stateside colleagues for the meeting); Bruce Hanselman, technical communications manager at the Carrier Transmission Service in Kansas City; Helling; Bill Lenz, East Brunswick communications executive; Jim Van Sickle, New Orleans; and Don Barry, Boston.

1984 AP World, courtesy AP Corporate Archives

After 82 years, with many months of being incapacitated, Bernd Helling went home to the heavens on 08/19/2022. He left his earthly life in peace, surrounded by his family.

Bernd was born just after World War II had started and grew up in Germany, in the city of Mülheim an der Ruhr. After eight years of schooling, he became an apprentice to become an Electro Mechanic and worked in this field until he and his wife immigrated to the USA in 1967. He started his life in the New World in New York City. Moved for 22 months to St. Louis, MO and ended up in Old Bridge, NJ, 50 years ago.

For 40 years he was employed with the Associated Press, working up to the position of Chief Engineer in the Communication Department. Through the 1970's, he worked as part of a team that traveled the world to install the AP's computer systems. He, together with two other engineers, holds a patent for a "Portable Photo Transmitter" - a big deal way back then.



A group of longtime AP employees (most from the communications department) enjoying a dinner together years ago with Bernd Helling (4th from left), Others with Helling are Jack Pace, Earl Martin (deceased), AP Photographer Jack Kanthal (deceased), Larry Larsen (sitting down in front of Helling), David Miessler, Bruce Richardson and Roy Bolch.

Bernd was a member of the Sangerchor Newark and the Schwabischer Sangerbund for many years and had one of the best Tenor voices. He held the position as treasurer for the SCN for many years. And for more than 30 years he belonged to the DCC as a paying member. Where, for many years, you could find him on Wednesday evenings, after chorus rehearsal, entertaining us all at the Hennessy Table.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Inge (Dewitz); daughter Alexandra with husband Glenn Cecchini and their children Melissa, Matthew and Michael; son Nicholas Max with wife Kimberly Helling, and their children Via and Zane; several siblings in Germany, his sisters Helga Schmale with husband Walter and Inge Kluge with husband Hans-Detlef and one brother, Hans Helling; and many nieces and nephews.

A **Celebration of Life** will be held at the DCC at a later date by his family to honor Bernd and reminisce about this wonderful man.

Ich bin nicht tot, Ich tausche nur die Raume. Ich leb' in Euch und geh' durch Eure Traume.

I am not dead; I'm just swapping rooms. I live in you and go through your dreams.

'May his memory be a blessing'

Myron Belkind – I was touched that Charlie Hanley used a quote prominently from my remembrance message in honor of Marcus Eliason in his article for Connecting on Sunday's gathering - and have received messages asking for the full text.

In case you want to use it, here is the text and the introduction by Edie Lederer:

Edie Lederer's introduction:

Before I convey my remembrances of our dear friend and colleague Marcus Eliason, I would like to read a message from AP retiree Myron Belkind, who headed the London bureau in the 1980s and 1990s, which spanned the period when Marcus and I were part of what Charlie Hanley described in his lovely obituary of Marcus as "one of AP's premiere writing bureaus" -and Marcus consistently enhanced that reputation!

Here is Myron's message:

"May his memory be a blessing," is the traditional Jewish message recited on the loss of a loved one.

Those words ring so true for Marcus' two families: starting with his wife Eva, daughter Avital and son David, and his larger AP family of colleagues around the world who themselves were blessed to work with and to be edited by him and to have him as a mentor.

Marcus has sadly left us, but he leaves a legacy of memories -- of outstanding writing and reporting and editing and humor and a zest for life -- that we will never forget.

I was privileged to promote Marcus to London news editor on the condition that he would continue to write his beautiful prose for the AP. He did not disappoint! I was sorry when Marcus left London a few years later but was so proud that he did so to become bureau chief in Israel, where he had begun his AP career as a messenger and trainee telex operator -- a position he once told me enabled him to learn how to write "by punching the copy of great journalists in the AP bureau in Tel Aviv."

How fitting it is that so many journalists now remember Marcus because of how they learned to write and improve their stories by reading the copy of a great AP journalist who rose from messenger to a respected writer and reporter around the world!

Our memories of Marcus Eliason are indeed a blessing, and may Eva, Avital and David find comfort in knowing his legacy will live on even beyond our own lifetimes.

Memories of the Ohio AP staff of mid-1980s

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Chalfant, John Glunis, Mary	1995 Heathcliff Dr., 43209 GBE, 215 W. Pershing, Kansas City, MO 64108-1850	815-421-4844 457-5711 895-7041
FitzHenry, Anne Gardiner, Gary	779 Brittainham Ct., 43214 1100 Timberbank Ln., Westerville, 43081	761-1150 291-9192
Grace, Beth Heintz, Jim	2978 Donnylane Blvd., 43220 2054 Iuka, B, 43201	313-965-9500 861-1830
Hoff, Matt Kinney, Terry	BE, 660 Plaza Dr., Detroit, 48226 7704 Broadwin Dr., Reynoldsburg, 43068	274-1796 871-1820
Leach, Dale Lewis, Bob	356 S. Huron, 43204 1647 Rock Creek Dr., Grove City, 43123	451-6641 469-0864
McKnight, Joe Miller, Bob	1142 Rockport Ln., 43220 400 Thurber Dr. W., Apt. 4, 43215	489-0425 235-2120
Miller, Rusty Orton, Al	1436 Bayshore Dr., Apt. 1C, 43204 1132 Elderwood Ave., 43227	459-7948 461-1628
Park, Lindsey Parker, Barbara	5039 Dierker Rd., #B-1, 43220 584 City Park Ave., 43215	864-1480 864-3369
Fuest, Tim Robinson, Keith	7353 Rodebaugh Rd., Reynoldsburg, 43068 2493 Shore Blvd. E., 43227	291-8018
Weisgerber, Andrea	1247 Pennsylvania Ave., 43202	
<u>CINCINNATI</u> Behrman, Al	624 Rushton Rd., 45226	513-321-3531
Kay, Joe	4660 Howard Ave., #2, 45223	541-1794
Nolan, John	9462 Farmcourt Ln., Loveland, 45140	891-9167
Vale, Bill	1470 Linneman, 45238	451-6697
<u>CLEVELAND</u> Conrad, Dennis	9675 Fernwood Dr., Olmsted Falls, 44138	216-235-9038
Duncan, Mark	26105 Hickory Ln., Olmsted Falls, 44138	235-5990
Greene, Robert	11850 Edgewater Dr., #314, Lakewood, 44107	226-0189
Kropko, Marv	1617 Hawthorne Dr., #6, Mayfield Hts., 44124	461-1899 687-0314
Melvin, Chuck	1700 E. 13, #13F, 44114	226-6557
Nano, Stephanie	11735 Lake Ave., #17, Lakewood, 44107	
<u>DAYTON</u> Isher, Doug	8 Napoleon Dr., Kettering, 45429	
<u>TOLEDO</u> Cross, Sue	2711 Powhattan Pkwy, 43606	419-471-0738
<u>WASHINGTON, D.C.</u> Hannah, Jim	8360 Uxbridge Ct., Springfield, Va., 22151	702-978-2142

Dennis Conrad - Reviewing old files in my closet, I came across this rather impressive contact list for the Ohio AP staff circa 1985 that was prepared shortly after I started with the cooperative as a Cleveland newsman with nearly a decade of experience with Florida newspapers.

At least my colleagues worked out!

Congratulations to all on their wonderful careers.

I see a good number of bureau chiefs in the making here.

Makes me wonder what state holds the record for having at one point on its roster the most future COBs.

Going to work while on vacation

Gene Herrick - My wife and I were vacationing some years ago, and vehicling across Texas. One night, while in a motel, we were awakened by a horrendous noise. I jumped out of bed, and noticed hail stones pouring down the room heater vent, and beating against the room door.

Being a good journalist, I ran through the storm to the motel office, and then looked out of the window to see a police cruiser at the street. I joined him, with camera in hand, and we went into town to observe damage.

The main street was gushing with flood waters. We parked on high ground, and entered a restaurant to find flood waters inside, the windows broken, and the tables and benches beaten up.

After getting some pictures, I urged my wife to get up and join me for the long driving trip to Dallas, the closest AP Wirephoto bureau.

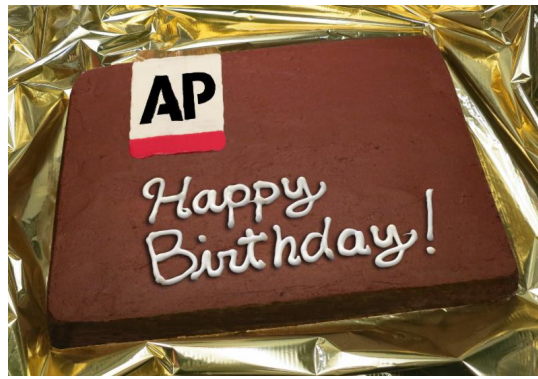
We picked upon our vacation following the film being processed (and some complaining).

Connecting clock shot – Fort Dodge, Iowa



Ed Breen - A landmark familiar to only a few Connecting colleagues ... but beloved by all who passed through Fort Dodge, Iowa. The recently restored clock tower atop the Webster County Courthouse. The view Saturday evening from Central Avenue, with the Fort Dodge Messenger at the left.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[David Tenenbaum](#)

Stories of interest

Journalist killed in Mexico, 15th to die so far this year

(AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A journalist who ran an online local news program was shot to death Monday in southern Mexico, making him the 15th media worker killed so far this year nationwide.

Prosecutors in the southern state of Guerrero said Monday that Fredid Román was gunned down in the state capital, Chilpancingo.

Román's program, "The Reality of Guerrero," focused heavily on state-level politics. He also wrote a column.

Guerrero is a state where drug gangs, armed vigilantes and other groups regularly clash.

2022 has been one of the deadliest ever for journalists in Mexico, which is now considered the most dangerous country for reporters outside a war zone.

Prosecutors did not immediately offer any further details on the killing of Román, who local media said had previously published a newspaper under the same name and was shot inside his vehicle.

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

-0-

Stelter says CNN must hold media accountable as show ends (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — “Reliable Sources” host Brian Stelter insisted Sunday that he’ll still be rooting for CNN even after his show was canceled this week, but stressed that it was important for the network and others to hold the media accountable.

CNN gave Stelter the chance to host a final episode of the 30-year Sunday morning program on the media even after it was learned this week that he and the show would be exiting — a gesture that’s relatively rare in television.

Stelter said that it was not partisan to stand up for decency, democracy and dialogue.

“It’s not partisan to stand up to demagogues,” he said. “It’s required. It’s patriotic. We must make sure we don’t give platforms to those who are lying to our faces. But we also must make sure we are representing the total spectrum of debate and representing what’s going on in the country and the world.”

It was Stelter’s most direct reference to what is believed to be the reason for his demise; CNN hasn’t talked publicly about it. Since he started this spring, new CNN chief executive Chris Licht has made clear he wants to tone down opinion, particularly as it made Republicans resistant to the network.

Read more [here](#).

AND...

The horribly timed defenestration of Brian Stelter

(Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

IN THE SPRING OF 2018, CJR’s Pete Vernon profiled Brian Stelter, CNN’s chief media correspondent. It was the height of the Trump era, so the media—and Trump’s relentlessness in attacking it—was a major story, and Stelter was ubiquitous in covering and analyzing it. On the day Vernon spent with him, Stelter hosted his weekly TV show, *Reliable Sources*; sent out his influential daily newsletter of the same name; and appeared on other CNN shows, not to mention tweeting hyperactively. “I don’t want to waste the moment,” Stelter told Vernon. “I don’t want to waste a show, I don’t want to waste a newsletter edition, I don’t want to waste a day.”

Fast-forward four years and Stelter, suddenly, is out of time at CNN. Last week, the network abruptly canceled his show—the forthcoming episode, we were told, would be its last—and just like that, an omnivorous presence on the media beat was gone, at least for now. “It was a rare privilege to lead a weekly show focused on the press at a time when it has never been more consequential,” Stelter told NPR’s David Folkenflik, who broke the news of Stelter’s departure. He then promised that he would have more to say on air over the weekend.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Philip Newman - 1931-2022

Philip Newman, a retired journalist who covered some of the defining stories that shaped the late 20th century, died Aug. 11 of Covid-19 in the Berkshires. He was 91.

A second homeowner in North Egremont, MA., and a Manhattan resident, he had spent the last year of his life in a Great Barrington nursing home after breaking both hips.

Born in Dodge City, Kan., on May 1, 1931, he grew up during the height of the Dust Bowl. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism in 1953 and served two years in the Army before joining United Press in Kansas City. He was soon sent to Little Rock, Ark., which turned out to have a front row seat to two major news stories.

In 1957 President Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to protect nine black students chosen by the NAACP to integrate the all-white Little Rock Central High School. Phil spent six weeks outside the school covering the confrontation between the troops and segregationists as the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling was put to the test. Twenty-five years later he tracked down eight of the Little Rock Nine for a UPI retrospective on the civil rights milestone.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Google, Meta could be forced to pay for online news under legislation aimed at helping Daily News and other local publishers (New York Daily News)

By Robert Channick

The newspaper industry, which has been struggling with deep ad revenue declines in the digital age, is backing proposed legislation that would force Big Tech to pay publishers for aggregating their news stories online.

The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act seeks to level the playing field by allowing local newspapers, broadcasters and other online publishers to negotiate collectively for an annual content fee from Google and Meta/Facebook, which dominate the digital advertising market.

The full text of the Senate bill, released Monday, cites a power imbalance that has benefited Big Tech at the expense of the shrinking newspaper industry, which has lost thousands of publications and tens of thousands of journalists during the new millennium, creating local “news deserts” across the U.S.

The proposed legislation would both recapture digital revenue and incentivize local news publishers to hire more journalists.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

-0-

Nonprofit news publisher named AHCJ's executive director

BY AHCJ STAFF

Kelsey Ryan, founder of The Beacon, will head AHCJ.

AHCJ has named Kelsey Ryan, the founder and publisher of a nonprofit online news network and a former health care reporter, as the organization's executive director.

Chosen after a national search, Ryan replaces Andrew Smiley, who resigned in January. She will start on Sept. 6.

"Kelsey brings the exact mix of skills that we were looking for," said Felice J. Freyer, AHCJ board president and chair of the search committee. "She has proven ability in running a nonprofit and raising money — and she also has worked as a journalist and shares our commitment to journalistic ethics."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

Thank you for letting me share your stories (Hutchinson KS News)



Photo by Olivia Bergmeier (reporter who was laid off same day)

[Sandra J. Milburn](#)

The Hutchinson News

It's hard to believe my 32-year career as a photojournalist for The Hutchinson News has come to an end. I have now joined the members of the "former Hutchinson News employee club."

I have worked with some of the best people at The News that God has placed on this earth. I would love to thank each and every one of them who have traveled with me on this crazy journalism path.

Fellow former photojournalists Travis Morisse and Lindsey Bauman have seen me through so many hills and valleys and I appreciate them both and others who reached out to me when I told them that Gannett had laid me off on the previous Friday. I am not alone as another co-worker in the editorial department at The News and many other journalists across the country were let go that day.

It is still pretty surreal and hasn't quite sunk in that I won't be working for The News anymore. I can't tell you how much I have loved this job for more than three decades. Sure, there were ups and downs, but I have a love for people and photography that got me up out of bed each morning and kept me working till late at night. Even getting to an assignment at 4 a.m. at Carolyn's Essenhous in Arlington last November to photograph Carolyn Bontrager making pies couldn't deter me; I was excited to go.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Aug. 23, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2022. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 23, 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

On this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1927, amid worldwide protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (On the 50th anniversary of their executions, then-Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation that Sacco and Vanzetti had been unfairly tried and convicted.)

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 2000, A Gulf Air Airbus crashed into the Persian Gulf near Bahrain, killing all 143 people aboard.

In 2003, former priest John Geoghan (GAY'-gun), the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church

nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison.

In 2004, President George W. Bush criticized a political commercial accusing Democratic nominee John Kerry of inflating his own Vietnam War record, and said broadcast attacks by outside groups had no place in the race for the White House.

In 2008, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama introduced his choice of running mate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, before a crowd outside the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois.

In 2011, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake centered near Mineral, Virginia, the strongest on the East Coast since 1944, caused cracks in the Washington Monument and damaged Washington National Cathedral.

In 2013, a military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death. Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, the U.S. soldier who'd massacred 16 Afghan civilians, was sentenced at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to life in prison with no chance of parole.

In 2020, a white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, seven times as officers tried to arrest Blake on an outstanding warrant; the shooting left Blake partially paralyzed and triggered several nights of violent protests. (Blake, who was shot as he was about to get into an SUV with a pocketknife that had fallen from his pants, later said he'd been prepared to surrender after putting the knife in the vehicle. Officer Rusten Sheskey was not charged.)

Ten years ago: First lady Michelle Obama consoled relatives of worshippers gunned down at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee. Lance Armstrong chose not to pursue arbitration in the drug case brought against him by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, setting the stage for his Tour de France titles to be stripped and his name to be all but wiped from the record books of the sport he once ruled.

Five years ago: City workers in Charlottesville, Virginia, draped giant black covers over two statues of Confederate generals to symbolize the city's mourning for a woman killed while protesting a white nationalist rally. A federal judge again blocked a set of voter ID requirements in Texas, rejecting a weakened version that had been backed by the Trump administration. (An appeals court later allowed the law to stay in effect; it allowed voters without any acceptable photo ID to cast a ballot as long as they sign an affidavit.)

One year ago: The U.S. military was able to increase its evacuation flights out of Afghanistan; some 17,000 people were flown to safety in more than 40 flights over a period of 36 hours. The leader of the Proud Boys extremist group, Enrique Tarrio, was sentenced to more than five months in jail for burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington and bringing two high-capacity firearm magazines into the nation's capital two days before the Jan. 6 riot. U.S. regulators gave full approval to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine; more than 200 million Pfizer doses had been administered in the U.S. under emergency provisions since December 2020. The Pentagon announced that it would press ahead with plans to force members of the military to get vaccinated.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Vera Miles is 92. Actor Barbara Eden is 91. Political satirist Mark Russell is 90. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 88. Actor Richard Sanders is 82. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 80. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 78. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 75. Actor David Robb is 75. Singer Linda Thompson is 75. Actor Shelley Long is 73. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 73. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 73. Queen Noor of Jordan is 71. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 71. Actor Skipp Sudduth is 66. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 61. Actor Jay Mohr is 52. Actor Ray Park is 48. Actor Scott Caan is 46. Country singer Shelly Fairchild is 45. Figure skater Nicole Bobek (BOH'-bek) is 45. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 44. Actor Joanne Froggatt is 42. Actor Jaime Lee Kirchner is 41. Actor Annie Ilonzeh is 39. Dance musician Sky Blu is 36. Actor Kimberly Matula is 34. Basketball player Jeremy Lin is 34.

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:

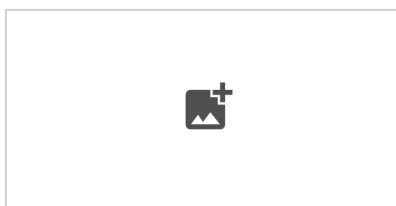
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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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