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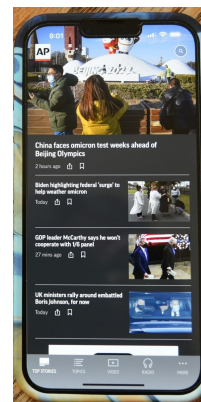
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Connecting

Sept. 26, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Sept. 26, 2022,

Pardon my walk down Memory Lane that leads today's Connecting – but 50 years (and counting) of a friendship is something worth sharing.

Especially if that friend is [Susanne Shaw](#), one of the most respected members of the journalism faculty during her work at the University of Kansas and someone who, through her job as the longest-serving executive director of the accrediting body for journalism schools, is known and respected internationally to this day.

And especially at a pivotal moment of my life when I was trying to figure out what to do with it.

Susanne and I are celebrating just a bit over our football Jayhawks 4-0 start, their best since 2009, after defeating Duke on Saturday.

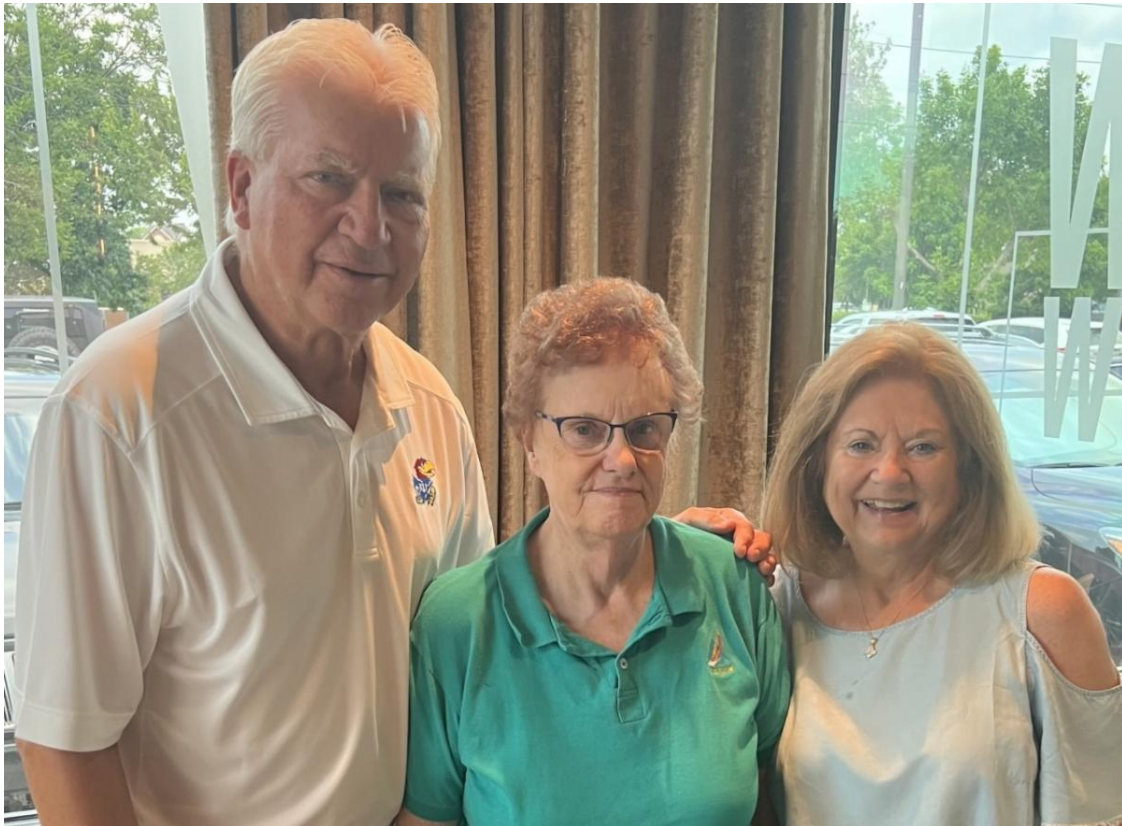
CONNECTING AUTHORS: The time nears for Connecting's annual presentation of books authored by its colleagues in the past 12 months. This gives you the reader a headstart on holiday book buying, for one. So if you have written a book that was published in the past year, send me the following: 300 to 400-word synopsis of the book, jpg image of the book cover and jpg closeup image of you the author.

Please get your submission to me by the end of the week.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Our first meeting at KU's Stauffer-Flint Hall forged a lifetime friendship



From left: Paul Stevens, with two Kansas girls - Susanne Shaw, Linda Stevens

Paul Stevens - Fifty years ago, White House operatives were arrested for burglarizing an office in the Watergate building...11 Israeli athletes were murdered at the Munich Olympics...and NASA's Space Shuttle program was launched.

So the first time I met Susanne Shaw was a footnote in the scheme of things but treasured by me to this day.

I met Susanne on a hot August day in 1972 when I stepped through the doors of Stauffer-Flint Hall, where I had enrolled as a graduate student at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas.

She was in her second year as an assistant professor and I was assigned to be her first graduate student – working under her tutelage in her first year as general manager of the student newspaper, the University Daily Kansan.

I was just a month back in civilian life after four years of military service and had been offered a graduate assistantship by Professor John Bremner, head of the school's graduate program. I knew him when he was on the journalism faculty at the University of Iowa, where I earned my bachelor's degree before entering the Air Force, and six months earlier had written him for advice on graduate schools. "Come to Kansas," he wrote in reply.

It was a decision I never regretted – and the friendship that developed with Susanne, just five years older than me, has extended now for a half century and is still going strong.

Much life has happened for us in those 50 years.

Except for two brief stints when she left Lawrence for newspaper work, Susanne has been on the faculty of the school and has mentored hundreds upon hundreds of students over those years. She brought international attention to the program when she served for 33 years as executive director of the agency charged with accrediting journalism schools worldwide – the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

From a base at the journalism school, where she also continued to teach classes, Susanne traveled throughout the United States and to dozens of other countries – she's a member of United Airlines' 3-Million-Mile Club - and was widely known by journalism educators and professionals throughout the country and world. Among the countries she visited: China, Australia, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates.

"Susanne Shaw is the Michael Jordan of journalism education," once said David Boardman, past president of the council and former dean of the School of Media and Communication at Temple University. He explained: "Name most any major institution, and you will instantly conjure one individual whose name will be forever associated with its success. For the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, that person is Susanne Shaw."

My wife Linda and I left Lawrence in 1973 after I earned my master's degree to begin a 36-year career with The Associated Press that took us to Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City. As Kansas-Missouri bureau chief for the AP, I relied on Susanne and two now-departed friends, Dana Leibengood and Tom Eblen, for their counsel in hiring KU graduates for positions with the news cooperative. There were many, but perhaps most notable was Sally Buzbee, who joined AP in Topeka and rose to executive editor of the AP before joining The Washington Post as executive editor, the first woman ever to hold that position.

I worked in the Kansas City bureau, as bureau chief and Central Region vice president, before retiring in 2009. Settlers, Linda and I, living in the same Lenexa house that we moved into in 1984, we added two more KU graduates to the Stevens fold: Linda earned a degree from the School of Business and our daughter Jenny (Volanakis), a bachelor's degree in journalism. For the past nine years, I have been publishing a daily newsletter for retired and former AP colleagues, as well as newspaper and journalism school friends, and Susanne is one of my most avid readers.

For many years, Susanne and I have gotten together for lunch regularly, and on our most recent meeting, we were joined by Linda, also a Kansas-born girl (Susanne in Wellington, Linda in Great Bend). But wait, there's a further tie: Linda was a sophomore at Wichita Heights High School in 1961-62 when Susanne was hired there for her first fulltime job as a journalism teacher.

Fond memories of working with Times' Al Siegal

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Seeing the New York Times obituary for Al Siegal brought back many memories of how much he helped an outsider fit in and thrive at the Times.

When I left AP in 1990 to become the first female executive editor of the New York Times News Service I made the rounds meeting top editors. All were welcoming but many in those days were extremely protective of the hard copy newspaper.

Al helped me negotiate the Times maze to start transmitted graphics and photo services. When we started moving parts of the Times on AOL, its first online venture, Al helped ease concerns at the paper.

He was everyone's go-to guy. The exit from the press room to restaurant and theatre row? How to work with various unions? Best restaurants? Whose wheels needed greasing? Al knew the answers.

And it wasn't a one-way street. He was always eager to hear suggestions. When "resonate" began appearing in Times copy with increasing regularity, I pointed it out. Next thing I knew Al wrote one of his exceedingly clever missives noting the numbers of times the word appeared and saying reporters needed to expand their vocabularies.

His career at the Times helped shape things for decades to come.

Westmoreland City Council Puts Notices Back in Newspaper

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ned Seaton is a Connecting colleague and a former AP newsman in Kansas City who is publisher and editor-in-chief of The Manhattan (Kan.) Mercury.

By Emmie Atwood, Column

Editor and Publisher

On Thursday August 11, the City of Westmoreland, Kansas, decided to reverse their previous decision to remove public notices out of their local paper, The Times of Pottawatomie County, and onto the city's government website. In most places in the United States, law requires that all public notices — important information given to the public regarding certain types of legal proceedings — are published by a third party independent journalistic record. This idea tracks back to the earliest days of American government, and codifies the principle that in a democracy, the public has a right and need to know about substantial actions that the government is taking or contemplating — such as budget changes, rezoning of property, enactment of new ordinances, etc. Public notices educate the electorate about what's going on in their local communities so that citizens can cast informed votes.



A loophole in Kansas state law, however, allows certain city governments to opt out of this long-standing rule. This loophole permits the publication of charter ordinances, such that certain communities can declare home-rule in exemption from the state law that requires the publication of notices in the local newspaper. In the last year, a handful of Kansas communities have decided to take advantage of this loophole as a way to save money.

On August 11, Ned Seaton — editor-in-chief of the Manhattan Mercury, a daily newspaper in Manhattan, Kansas — testified in front of Westmoreland's city council to ask them to reconsider their decision. He addressed three key implications of the government's choice to remove notices from newspapers: budget, transparency and liability. Seaton reminded the council that the cost of publishing these legals, especially when stacked against the cost of the event that required the notice in the first place, is a mere rounding error — the same cost per year as a couple of stop signs. He also explained that independent newspapers relieve government of the responsibility to be their own counterbalancing, regulatory check; by keeping newspapers as the required distributors of public notice, government officials are not liable for the mistakes they might make running the process themselves.

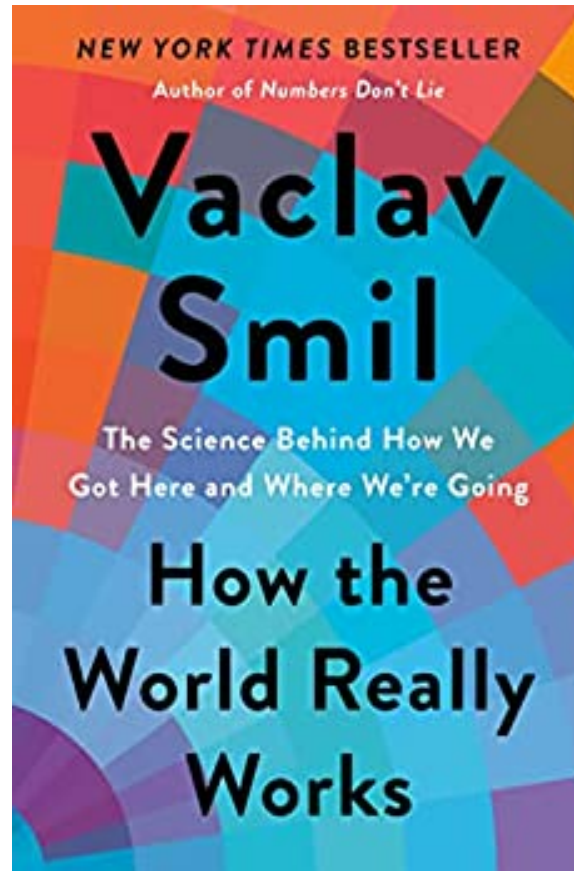
Read more [here](#).

Recommended: 'How the World Really Works'

[Campbell Gardett](#) - I'd like to recommend a book: "How the World Really Works," by Vaclav Smil.

Smil identifies himself as a scientist who has spent a lifetime gathering and integrating facts. This book puts his lifetime of fact-gathering into digested form. He writes this book now to show what is really at stake in moving away from fossil fuels: the degree to which we live off them, even eat them, and the scale of change needed if we are at all to live otherwise. He also seems to want to write this book as a counter to the chaotic state of our information.

He has the scientist's faith that aggregated factual information should help us manage things better; and likewise, he has the scientist's disdain and almost bafflement at the degree to which information today is soaked by hype and wishful thinking (not to mention misinformation and disinformation.) What, materially, really makes our world work? Spoiler: The "four pillars of civilization" are ammonia, plastics, steel and concrete – all of them tied to fossil fuels, the pillar of the pillars. None of the book is a surprise, but it was indeed surprising to me the impact and muscle of the numbers when assembled and laid out.



The chaotic state of our information is not a theme of the book, even though it is constantly running in the background. Smil seems to assume that news media are incapable of perspective or follow-up. These are not new problems to anyone who has been in news, but they certainly have a new urgency. Couldn't we do better? How? There is a real sense that we are upstairs arguing in the bedroom while the fire has started downstairs. Smil is careful to be neither alarmist nor despairing. He has a lot of faith in incrementalism, if it is informed. But in my own case, as the book lingers in my mental digestive tract, I have to say it has had the power to turn my perception of the world and my place in it inside out.

Superb example of what AP does best

[John Wylie](#) - I probably won't be the only one sending this as an offering for Connecting Monday, but [this weekend AP preview](#) of the upcoming Oath Keepers seditious conspiracy trial which I just received in advance of Sunday's Tulsa World is a superb example of what AP has always done best and what it is getting ever-better at doing at a time when such work is vital. I have followed these political, attitudinal and literally revolutionary events very closely and was amazed at how much new I learned,

and how much better I understood how threads of fabric I had known came together as a glaring tapestry that spoke strongly.

I was also impressed at how well the story walked the fine line between exposing clear-cut lies, inconsistencies or implausibilities without showing bias. I fall into the group who has increasingly feared for the future of American Democracy since the dawn of the Trump era. But I've also been concerned about some who shared my feelings writing stories that appeared to go beyond the facts.

To show my age and respect for a truism, I have always tried to follow Joe Friday's famous maxim about witness statements, "Just the facts, ma'am," in writing these detailed wrapup pieces of trials, nuclear power plant accident investigations, etc. This piece was far more important, complex and with much far-more flung sources, documents and events to include and it handled that huge challenge superbly.

Connecting Name Game



[Hilmi Toros](#) - Not mine, unfortunately...

Me? My time at The AP began at NY Bureau and involved assignments in Miami, World Desk in New York, United Nations and Rome between 1964 and 1980.

They were all rewarding, including offer in Miami in likely belief that anyone with a last name like that surely spoke Spanish to help in covering Cuban exiles (this Toro did not) transfer to Rome in exaggeration that interest in Italian was ability to speak and, once in the Eternal City, memorable bylined stories declaring Pope John Paul healthy after attending his audience . He died a few hours later. And after declaring that the

next is Pope unlikely to be from either the West or the East, a Polish Cardinal elected a few hours later.

Both stories had proper attributions, enabling the byline to survive as presumed fill-in Vaticanista although he hardly knew anything about any religion.

Regret none, enjoyed all...

Thanks and cheers from seaside town of Fethiye along the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye.

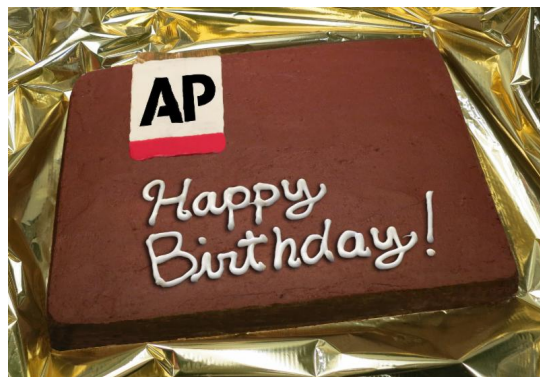
Nick Ut in Vietnam near China border





Nick Ut - I am here in Cao Bang, Vietnam, near China border. Vietnamese fishing at Lake Cao Bang.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jay Perkins

Stories of interest

“THERE’S NO WAY TO BRUSH IT TO THE SIDE”: CNN INSISTS JANUARY 6 COVERAGE WON’T BE SIDELINED UNDER NEW REGIME (Vanity Fair)

BY CALEB ECARMA

Jake Tapper hopes to dispel some doubts about his place of work. “I just want to reassure anybody out there that CNN’s commitment to standing up for democracy remains as strong as ever,” he told me over the phone this week, with Congress preparing for another public hearing on its investigation into the January 6 Capitol attack. “Jeff Zucker was a powerful voice in favor of it, and Chris Licht is too.”

Licht’s commitment to Tapper was evident Thursday, as the network announced that the Sunday morning and weekday afternoon host would shift to 9 p.m. through the 2022 midterms. The prime-time programming move, on the heels of a weekday morning shake-up, comes as Licht, who took over as CNN’s chief executive in May, puts his stamp on the network. It also comes amid concerns that CNN, under a new regime, is abandoning its unflinching coverage of assaults on the democratic process to appear more Republican-friendly. Brian Stelter’s firing was the first shot, which coincided with canceling Reliable Sources. Then veteran White House correspondent John Harwood announced he was leaving the network too, just hours after telling viewers that President Joe Biden was correct in calling out the threat of the MAGA right. “I really hope that we don’t both-sides democracy,” one staffer told Vanity Fair amid the fallout.

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

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LinkedIn Ran Social Experiments on 20 Million Users Over Five Years (New York Times)

By **Natasha Singer**

LinkedIn ran experiments on more than 20 million users over five years that, while intended to improve how the platform worked for members, could have affected some people's livelihoods, according to a new study.

In experiments conducted around the world from 2015 to 2019, LinkedIn randomly varied the proportion of weak and strong contacts suggested by its "People You May Know" algorithm — the company's automated system for recommending new connections to its users. Researchers at LinkedIn, M.I.T., Stanford and Harvard Business School later analyzed aggregate data from the tests in a study published this month in the journal *Science*.

LinkedIn's algorithmic experiments may come as a surprise to millions of people because the company did not inform users that the tests were underway.

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

-0-

Michigan Radio News Anchor Jim Matthews Killed in an Attack at Home Leaving 3 of His Family Members Injured (People)

Shafiq Najib

A radio news anchor in Detroit, Michigan was found dead on Friday morning following an attempted murder-suicide that left three of his family members injured and hospitalized, multiple outlets confirmed. The unidentified suspect was located in the basement of the home by police.

Jim Matthews, employed as an evening anchor at a local radio station WWJ-AM (950) was killed during an attack in his residence in Chesterfield Township, according to the Associated Press, NBC News, and The Detroit News.

Authorities said that a 35-year-old woman — who was stabbed multiple times during the dispute — escaped the residence with her injured 5-year-old daughter before signaling a driver to call 911.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

Today in History – Sept. 26, 2022



Today is Monday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2022. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 26, 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1888, poet T.S. Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1954, the Japanese commercial ferry Toya Maru sank during a typhoon in the Tsugaru Strait, claiming more than 1,150 lives.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Arizona, called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill ensuring two-day hospital stays for new mothers and their babies.

In 2003, President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tih) opened a two-day summit at Camp David.

In 2005, Army Pfc. Lynndie England was convicted by a military jury in Fort Hood, Texas, on six of seven counts stemming from the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal. (England was sentenced to three years in prison; she ended up serving half that time.)

In 2008, Hollywood screen legend and philanthropist Paul Newman died in Westport, Connecticut, at age 83.

In 2016, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton participated in their first debate of the presidential campaign at Hofstra University in New York; Clinton emphatically denounced Trump for keeping his personal tax returns and business dealings secret from voters while Trump repeatedly cast Clinton as a "typical politician."

In 2020, President Donald Trump nominated judge Amy Coney Barrett, a former clerk to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, to the Supreme Court, to fill the seat left vacant by the death of liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (Barrett would be confirmed the following month, days before the November election.) More than 150 people gathered in the Rose Garden for Trump's introduction of Barrett; few in the crowd wore masks to protect against the coronavirus, and in the days that followed, a succession of attendees reported that they had contracted COVID-19.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney both campaigned in the battleground state of Ohio. Egypt's new President Mohammed Morsi, making his debut on the global stage at the United Nations, said he would not rest until the civil war in Syria was brought to an end.

Five years ago: Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee announced that he would not seek reelection. Former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore won the state's Republican primary for U.S. Senate, defeating incumbent Sen. Luther Strange, who'd been backed by President Donald Trump. (Moore would lose the December special election to Democrat Doug Jones.) Amid criticism that the federal response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico was insufficient, the administration said it was sending a flotilla of ships and thousands more military personnel to the island to address the growing humanitarian crisis there. Saudi Arabia announced that women would be allowed to drive there for the first time, starting in the summer of 2018.

One year ago: The Rolling Stones launched their pandemic-delayed "No Filter" tour in St. Louis without their drummer of nearly six decades, Charlie Watts, who had died in

August at age 80. "Moulin Rouge! The Musical," a jukebox adaptation of Baz Luhrmann's hyperactive 2001 movie, won the best new musical crown at the Tony Awards as Broadway looked back to honor shows that were shuttered by COVID-19; "The Inheritance" by Matthew Lopez was named the best new play. George Frayne, whose band Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen enjoyed a cult following in the 1970s with songs including "Hot Rod Lincoln," died at 77.

Today's Birthdays: Former baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 97. Country singer David Frizzell is 81. Actor Kent McCord is 80. Television host Anne Robinson is 78. Singer Bryan Ferry is 77. Actor Mary Beth Hurt is 76. Actor James Keane is 70. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 68. Country singer Carlene Carter is 67. Actor Linda Hamilton is 66. R&B singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 61. Actor Melissa Sue Anderson is 60. Actor Patrick Bristow is 60. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 60. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 60. TV personality Jillian Barberie is 56. Contemporary Christian guitarist Jody Davis (Newsboys) is 55. Actor Jim Caviezel (KUH-VEE'-zuhl) is 54. Actor Tricia O'Kelley is 54. Actor Ben Shenkman is 54. Actor Melanie Paxson is 50. Singer Shawn Stockman (Boyz II Men) is 50. Music producer Dr. Luke is 49. Jazz musician Nicholas Payton is 49. Actor Mark Famiglietti (fah-mihl-YEH'-tee) is 43. Singer-actor Christina Milian (MIHL'-ee-ahn) is 41. Tennis player Serena Williams is 41. Actor Zoe Perry is 39. Singer/songwriter Ant Clemons is 31.

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!



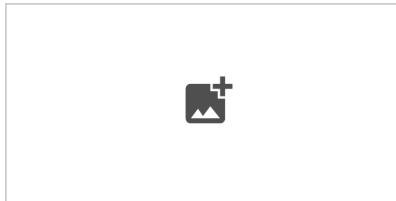
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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